



**35<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2013**

**Catch reporting**

Recalling that the NAFO Performance Review Panel recommended that the Fisheries Commission and the Scientific Council promptly resolve any discrepancies between STATLANT 21A catch estimates and those of STACFIS (*Report of the NAFO Performance Review 2011*)

Recalling that the Contracting parties have identified the resolution of this issue as a priority (GC Doc 12/1)

Noting the work of the peer-review panel established to review STACFIS estimates, and their recommendations regarding the methodology used for scientific catch estimates

Mindful that the reliability of catch data continues to be one of the most significant issues facing NAFO

Mindful that accurate reporting and / or estimation of catches is critical for scientific assessment and sustainable management of NAFO stocks

Noting the many valuable recommendations of the peer-review panel, including :

- o The need for a more coordinated analysis of data, including STATLANT data; enforcement data; and scientific information, in particular to help verify the accuracy of STATLANT data;
- o The continued exploration of VMS and other data sources for innovative approaches to verify and compare information, while respecting confidentiality;
- o A transparent accounting of the scientific catch estimates process, including when and they are required, clear justification for lack of faith in STATLANT data, and how estimates can be used more consistently and effectively when necessary; and
- o The need for more coordination of scientific and NAFO observer data, in particular on a tow-by-tow basis

Noting that related work is ongoing in the Fisheries Commission, including STACTIC, and the Scientific Council and the importance that this work be done in a coherent way

Recognizing the importance of ongoing communication between the Fisheries Commission and the Scientific Council

Recognizing that the NAFO Secretariat can play an active support role in the provision of data and analyses

*Recommend that:*

- 1. Based on recommendations received to date from the peer review, an *ad hoc* technical working group be established to provide recommendations on ensuring accurate catch data to support the sustainable management of NAFO stocks and in particular the associated scientific assessments.**
- 2. The *ad hoc* working group be chaired by Chairs of the Fisheries Commission and the Scientific Council and include participants from FC and SC with support from the Secretariat.**
- 3. The *ad hoc* working group would also develop a plan to , *inter alia*:**
  - a. address any outstanding recommendations of the Peer Review,**
  - b. evaluate potential approaches and data sources (e.g., daily catch data, tow by tow data, log books, etc.) to validate STATLANT 21 data and/or provide catch estimates**
  - c. recommend priority stocks for initial consideration**
  - d. provide advice on possible terms of reference (governance, participation) if it is advised that this *ad hoc* group continue.**
- 4. The *ad hoc* working group report back to the Scientific Council and to Fisheries Commission during the Annual Meetings of 2014 on progress and recommendations which may include the continuation of working group.**
- 5. The FC Chair is asked to forward this WP to the SC Chair for SC consideration.**