



Serial No. N 6261

NAFO/FC Doc. 13/28  
(Adopted)

**35<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2013**

**Proposal for a Decrease in Mesh Size for Redfish in Div. 3LN**

**Background:**

In 2007, Fisheries Commission adopted a decision to decrease mesh size in mid-water trawls from 130 mm to 90 mm in the redfish fishery in **Div. 3O**.

The decision to decrease mesh size in trawls from 130 mm to 90 mm for redfish pelagic fishery in **Div. 3M** was adopted by Fisheries Commission in 2012.

In September 2013, *“Scientific Council concluded that the reduction of mesh size from 130 mm to not less than 90 mm for the pelagic redfish fishery appears not to be harmful to the Div. 3LN redfish stock.*

*However, measures should be taken to ensure one source of unaccounted mortality i.e. escape mortality at the surface is not replaced by another, i.e. discarding and/or high-grading” (FC Working Paper 13/24).*

To harmonize regulation measures for the mid-water trawl fishery for redfish in the NAFO Regulatory Area, the Russian Federation proposes an amendment to Article 13.2.f) of the NAFO CEM.

**Proposed Amendment:**

New text of Article 13.2.f):

90 mm for redfish (RED) in the fishery using mid-water trawls in Division 3O, 3M **and 3LN**. Within this fishery mid-water trawl means trawl gear that is designed to fish for pelagic species, no portion of which is designed to be or is operated in contact with the bottom at any time. The gear shall not include discs, bobbins or rollers on its footrope or any other attachments designed to make contact with the bottom. The trawl may have chafing gear attached.