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Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization



Report of the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)

5-7 May 2014 Copenhagen, Denmark

NAFO Dartmouth, N.S., Canada 2014

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Report of the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)

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1. Opening by the Chair, Gene Martin (USA)

The Chair opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, May 5, 2014 at the Nordatlantens Brygge (North Atlantic House) in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Chair welcomed the representatives of the following Contracting Parties (CPs): Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, France (in respect of Saint-Pierre-and-Miquelon), Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Japan, and the United States of America (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Daniel Orchard (United States) was appointed Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The following amendments were made to the agenda:

- Under agenda item 11, the Russian Federation postponed presentation of STACTIC WP 14/5 concerning Return Error Numbers (NCEM Annex II.D.D.2.B) until September's Annual Meeting.
- EU the following proposals:
 - o STACTIC WP 14/8: Directed Fishery and By-Catch Rules in Case of Creation of a Quota By Transfer, which was added under agenda item 11.
 - o STACTIC WP 14/9: Simplification and Clarity on Calculation of By-Catch Limits, which was added under agenda item 11.
 - o STACTIC WP 14/10: Observer Program Article 30 of NCEM, which were added under agenda items 11 and 14.
- Canada added the following proposals:
 - o STACTIC WP 14/13: Provision of Haul by Haul Logbook Data to the Secretariat, which was added under agenda item 11
 - o STACTIC WP 14/12: Length of a Trial Tow in Accordance with By-catch Provisions under Article 6.6(b)(iii), which was added under agenda item 11.
- France (in respect of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon) asked to add a request for interpretative guidance concerning the use of "Others" quota under a chartering arrangement, which was added under agenda item 14.

The agenda was adopted, as amended (Annex 2).

4. Port State Measures Review

The Chair opened the agenda item and reminded representatives that at the September 2013 Annual Meeting NAFO decided it did not have to wait for Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) to complete implementing FAO Port State Control (PSC) measures.



Iceland provided an update on the status of the measures of NEAFC implementation. STACTIC representatives had originally recommended awaiting NEAFC deliberations on this issue to benefit from the considerable work already underway. NEAFC has adopted a recommendation to incorporate the FAO Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA) and it is scheduled to become effective in July 2015. Iceland pointed out that it was very helpful to have a small working group to work on adopting the FAO port state measures for NEAFC.

The Chair stated that NAFO is now at a point to decide how it should go forward in implementing the FAO PSMA and indicated that NAFO can benefit from the NEAFC exercise. The Chair asked for suggestions on next steps.

Canada stated that PSC is a complex and important issue, and that NAFO does not need to wait until NEAFC completes its scheme to move forward. Although there are a lot of similarities between NAFO and NEAFC, there are also some distinctions due to the different fisheries. Canada recommended that STACTIC form a subgroup to compare and synchronize its current PSC scheme with NEAFC and FAO schemes.

Iceland requested that if there is a working group, it should remain as small as possible to remain effective. Iceland thought it would be useful for the Chair of STACTIC to serve as Chair of the working group.

Norway and US support a working group.

EU requested an explanation of the major changes that NEAFC is considering that are different than its current system.

Iceland responded that the differences relate to the scope of the inspection, the information required prior to port entry, and other issues related to fresh versus frozen product.

DFG added that the PSC in NEAFC applies to the entire Convention Area, whereas NAFO applies only to the Regulatory Area.

The Chair summarized to say that there is general agreement to form a working group to incorporate the FAO PSMA into the NCEM. It should be small enough to be effective but large enough to consider the broad interests in NAFO. The Chair suggested a "Friends of the Chair" group with a nucleus of the EDG group be formed to develop a draft of a paper establishing a mandate and terms of reference for the PSC working group. This draft would be made available at least 30 days prior to the next Annual Meeting so all CPs have a chance to review. At the Annual Meeting, STACTIC will finalize the draft paper for recommendation to Fisheries Commission for adoption. The Chair suggested that any other CPs interested in joining this informal group should communicate their interest to him. If a CP decides not to participate in the working group, it should remain attentive to the working group's progress so that the progress is not delayed unnecessarily. The working group's information will be provided to all CPs before the September meeting so that they have time to comment.

It was agreed that STACTIC would recommend a working group to integrate the FAO PSMA into the NCEM as appropriate and as soon as possible. It was also agreed that a "Friends of the Chair" group would draft a paper to establish the mandate and terms of reference for the working group and that this paper would be finalized at the next Annual Meeting so that it can be presented to the FC for adoption.

5. Compilation of fisheries reports for compliance review (2004-2013), including review of Apparent Infringements

Under this agenda item, the Secretariat presented the 2013 profiles and trends of fisheries in the NAFO Regulatory Area (Annex 3). Accompanying the presentation was the circulation of the draft *Table 1* – Overview of 2013 Fishing Trips in the NRA, and *Table 6* – Details of the 2013 Apparent Infringements, which



constitute the Compliance Tables on which the STACTIC Compliance Review document is based. The following is a summary of the specific items discussed by the Secretariat and CP representatives concerning ways to clarify or improve the tables and the document.

General Issues / Observations reported by the Secretariat

- More vessels went to the NRA from 2012 (54 up from 44), but they spent less days there (4778 down from 5510).
- Groundfish dominated landing; pelagic redfish and shrimp totals have dramatically decreased.

Observations and Changes to Table 1

- Table 1 is now arranged by fishing trip start dates (to avoid identifying the vessel).
- Secretariat removed four columns (e.g. COE- Catch on Entry and COX Catch on Exit, ENT and EXI)) because there were no compliance issues.
- EU supports the changes to Table 1. Additionally, there are some differences apparent in the data between declared catch and actual landings. EU requested information that indicates whether transhipment or some other event occurred that explains this change. Iceland agreed.
- Canada clarified that the information in Table 1 is declared information, not landed.

The Secretariat will re-label the "Total Catch (logbook)" column as "declared Catch".

Breakdown of groundfish statistics

- Canada asked whether the groundfish statistics on slide 6 can be broken down further into the directed fisheries by species. Canada suggests that the highest catch of the day could be used for this purpose.
- DFG stated that the catch report already requires the vessel to declare the directed species. EU clarified that the NAFO definition of "directed species" is in Article 5.
- US stated that the confidentiality clause appears to be inhibiting NAFO's ability to effectively evaluate control of the fishery. Domestically, the U.S. has working groups that review "confidential" information, but does not release it to the public.

The Secretariat will expand the column "Total Catch from CAT's" to present the catches of the directed species and their by-catch by species.

AI Issued At Sea

- Secretariat reported that eleven out of twelve AIs issued at sea related to the retention of 3M redfish after closure notification.
- In two cases, no follow-up information was provided.
- Follow-up information is required under Article 40.
- One case involved a move away provision. Resolution is pending.
- EU stated that many of the redfish AIs were due to the timeliness of the closure notifications; a problem that has been rectified.

"No Infringement" vs. "No Prosecution"

- Canada disagreed with the phrase "no infringement" in Table C6 as it implies that no infringement occurred, but may mean that an infringement occurred, but the CP decided not to prosecute.
- EU clarified that Table C6 should say "No Prosecution" instead of "No Infringement".

Agreed that EU would submit an updated version of the annual report on infringements and that the Secretariat would update Table C6 accordingly.



By-catch Data

• Canada requested that the Secretariat explore analytical methods on the CAT reports and determine whether compliance on by-catch regulations can be inferred.

The Secretariat will analyze the CAT reports as requested.

AIs Issued in Port

- The Secretariat reported that sixteen infringements occurred. The statistics about these cases were gathered from the port inspection reports, particularly in section E.1B of the PSC-3.
- Secretariat noted the problem that CPs did not report follow-up information for AIs issued in port
- EU pointed out that there is no clear direction on how to report port infringements.
- Canada stated that this appeared to be an oversight and suggested that EDG draft a paper considering a revision of Article 47 to include reporting requirements.
- US highlighted that there is a requirement in Article 47 when it states that the provisions in Article 40(1), (2), and (3) apply, and that contracting parties are responsible for providing information to the executive secretary on AIs detected in port.
- Chair suggested adding the phrase "To Be Clarified" under the headings in the last two columns and removing the question marks. CPs agreed.

The phrase "To Be Clarified" will be added under the headings in the last two columns in Table 6. The question mark will be removed.

Serious or non-Serious Port Violations

- Secretariat reported that the NCEM does not clearly designate whether a port violation was serious or non-serious (not covered by Art. 47).
- U.S. stated that it will attempt to draft a paper to compare the list of "serious" infringements between port and at-sea infringements.

U.S. will draft a paper to compare the list of "serious" infringements between port and at-sea infringements.

Unresolved Cases

Iceland stated that the Annual Compliance Review lists details for each AI case from the past year but that unresolved cases from prior years are not reported. The Secretariat responded that the Annual Compliance Review provides statistics on unresolved cases dating back to 5 years (e.g. Table 5 of the 2013 Annual Compliance Review). Iceland recommended that the Secretariat should include information in its compliance report about the measures taken by each of the flag states against the vessels with an AI for all unresolved whether new or old.

EU stated that each pending case for the EU is reported in the template adopted by STACTIC and asked the Secretariat if that template was used by other CPs.

The Secretariat responded that it does compile the information that CPs submit and it is presented to STACTIC during the Annual Meeting.

Canada added that none of the unresolved cases should come off the list in the Annual Compliance Review until they are resolved.

US concurred.



The Secretariat will modify Table 5 of the Annual Compliance Review document to include more details of the update on the case. AI cases will continue to be reflected in the table until they are resolved.

CAT Reporting

- Secretariat reminded CPs to correctly address errors in reports by cancelling them using the CAN message.
- Additionally, CPs should remind vessels about a potential error. On the last day of trips, vessels must report their catch of the day as well as their total catch on exit.

"Phantom Vessels"

- The Secretariat mentioned that it had discovered a situation where a "phantom" vessel was sighted in the NRA. No VMS and VTI reports had been received for this vessel. Were it not for the alert from the CPs with inspection presence, the Secretariat would not be aware of its presence in the NRA. The concerned flag State eventually corrected the situation by "re-sending" the required VMS and VTI reports of the fishing vessel.
- DFG urged that FMC should monitor the return messages in order to verify whether their reporting had been acknowledged by NAFO.
- DFG further suggested that the Secretariat look into the manual reporting (MAN) from vessels which have faulty VMS units in order to see if there are any trends, such as same vessels, same area, or certain fisheries.

Electronic monitoring when number of trips is less than four

- The Secretariat indicated that the reporting requirements for port States can become problematic when there is a few number of port landings and the inspection coverage requires at least 15%. For example, for a port State with just one PSC-1 received in a year, the coverage would either be 0% or 100%.
- US states that a similar problem can occur for flag States applying Article 30 B.2(a). This would require the flag State to estimate the number of trips that will not carry observers to be able to comply with the minimum 25% observer coverage. This could be a mechanism requiring Flag States to estimate the number of trips. The compliance report should retain evaluation metrics for these measures.
- CPs agreed that NCEM requires port state meet "at least" percentage. Therefore, if a CP expects it will have only one trip landed, it should inspect the vessel at port. And if only one trip will be conducted by a flagged vessel, it should have an observer.
- A similar problem exists for ensuring the compliance with the port state inspection rate in Chapter 7 of the NCEM.

Agreed to have this issue remain on the table for further clarification from the EDG.

Disconnect between the Compilation Tables as prescribed by STACTIC and the Annual Compliance Review drafted by Secretariat.

The Secretariat stated that some Compilation Tables forwarded to STACTIC that are not used in Annual Compliance Review, and vice versa. Secretariat requested that STACTIC reflect on this to bring the two in concurrence.

EU states that Annual Compliance Review has improved significantly over the last few years.

The Chair suggested an ad hoc group be created, as in years past, to draft the Trends and Conclusion section. This group will provide a draft of this section to other CPs before the Annual Meeting.



Canada suggested that the members be at least those CPs with an inspection presence (Canada, EU, and US).

US agreed to participate, but requested clarification for the goal. US stated that annual compliance reviews for other RFMO include conclusions, areas of risk, and recommendations to prevent AIs from occurring again. The review, as drafted by the Secretariat, does a good job of highlighting the trends, but does not include these recommendations. US suggested that a more useful way to use the review is to suggest ways forward or discussion points.

Canada agreed and stated that the review could be used to ensure better compliance and to help inspection resources be deployed in areas of highest risk.

EU stated that STACTIC previously decided that there should not be recommendations included. EU was not against the principle of using the review as a way forward, but if it is, it must be exhaustive and STACTIC must respond to the recommendations the following year. EU suggested that these recommendations be included in a separate document.

The Chair suggested that the working group (consisting of at least Canada, US, and EU) follow the template created in 2013 and present it to STACTIC at the Annual Meeting. CPs agreed.

Some CPs were tasked to use last year's template to draft the Trends and Conclusion section of the Compliance report which will be presented at STACTIC at the Annual Meeting. This group shall provide the draft to other CPs for their review before the Annual Meeting.

6. Review and evaluation of Practices and Procedures

The Chair opened the agenda item noting that this is a standing agenda item. The intention is to provide CPs with the opportunity to share domestic practices and procedures.

The Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 14/2 listing the documents uploaded to the NAFO website. It indicated that the US had added some documents concerning observer practices and procedures. No discussion occurred on this agenda item.

CPs were encouraged to continue to submit relevant documents to the Secretariat to augment the NAFO Members' Pages.

7. Review of current IUU list pursuant to NAFO CEM Article 54.3

The Chair reminded representatives of their responsibility, in accordance with Article 54.3, to review the IUU list and provide evidence related to any vessels that may meet the delisting or listing criteria in order to facilitate updating.

The NAFO Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 14/3, noting that the IUU list was last reviewed at the NAFO Annual Meeting in September, 2013. It was further noted that there have been no changes and the list still includes 8 yessels.

No comments.

8. Half-year review of the implementation of new measures in the 2014 NCEM

The NAFO Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 14/4 (Rev.) related to its experience and observations in the implementation of the new measures that came into force in 2014.



Advance notification for 50% TAC-uptake of 3M redfish

- Paper provides chronology of notification events.
- Secretariat requested opinion of whether the chronology presented in WP 14/4 (Rev.) follows STACTIC's intent when it revised the date to suspend the directed fishery. Specifically, did the Secretariat appropriately adjust the date to suspend the directed fishery since, after the initial advance notification was released, fishing rates increase significantly?
 - US supported the actions taken by the Secretariat and stated that adjustments should be made to reflect the most accurate catch rates.
 - o Canada stated that the Secretariat acted appropriately in adjusting the date of the closure given the increase in fishing rate.
 - EU recognized that the advanced notification process overall is an improvement from 2013, but still has some concerns. EU raised the possibility of deleting footnote 8 in Annex 1.A because it is confusing and is duplicative when reading Article 5. The Chair and other CPs noted that this change would have to be initiated by the FC.
 - US suggested that the purpose of footnote 8 is to slow down the fishery and thinks it is necessary.
 - DFG stated that the FC created footnote 19 to provide vessels with some ability to plan a trip prior to 1 July.
 - o It was noted that the NCEM is unclear as to whether that the Secretariat must notify the CPs when the total 3M redfish uptake reaches 100% of the TAC. All agreed that the NCEM must be clarified to instruct the Executive Secretary to notify CPs when 100 % of 3M redfish has been taken.

It was agreed that the EDG would clarify that the ES should notify CPs when 100% of 3M redfish TAC has been taken. The Chair and other CPs noted that the deletion of Footnote 8 in Annex 1.A would have to be initated by the FC.

Observer Report template set out in Annex II.M

- US requested clarification to footnote 2 in STACTIC WP 14/4 (Rev.). US understood that trip reports must be submitted at the end of the trip, not the end of a deployment.
 - The Secretariat explained that an observer's assignment sometimes includes multiple trips on the same vessel, and they do not submit their reports until 30 days after the assignment, not the individual trips.
 - o It was agreed that the NCEM requires reports at the end of individual trips. .
- EU suggested removing the reference to OBRs in Table 1 of STACTIC WP 14/4 (Rev.). All parties agreed.
- EU and Canada stated that the compliance rate may be low because the observer report template is new and it will take time to adapt.

No further action on the observer report template needs to be taken at this time. The data will be reviewed again in September at the Annual Meeting.

9. Inspectors Webpage

The Secretariat gave a presentation and gave an update on Phase III – Port State Measures – of the Inspector Webpage project. It noted that there has been minimal use of the first 2 phases of the Inspector's webpage. In summary, the bulk of the development of Phase III involves the Port State Control forms which can now be filled out online. There will be a trial period between now and July for CPs to try out Phase III. The Secretariat invited suggestions from CPs concerning changes to the layout.



Regarding security, the system will use:

- HTTPS connection (SSL)
- Complex Passwords
- Least-privilege user accounts (Functionality will be based on user)

Next Steps include

- Pilot Phase: May-July 2014
- Updates/enhancements
- Ready for release in September, 2014

The Secretariat pointed out that Phase 4 concerning integration of Real Time VMS on the web page is the next step. The Secretariat however believes that before Phase IV is begun, the CPs should become more conversant in the first 3 phases and they should be fully tested.

EU was pleased with the improvements and can participate in the pilot program. EU asked if at sea inspection forms be available through the webpage. Secretariat answered that they could be available, but functionally, it could be difficult to establish connectivity at sea.

Canada was pleased with the progress and will participate in the pilot program. Canada has submitted around ten inspections to the webpage. For consistency, Canada only has one person enter data. Currently the webpage only allows a user to enter reports from the last 60 days. Canada requested to go back further than 60 days so that it can enter more inspections.

Secretariat stated that 60 day limit has been corrected, but has not gone live yet. The Secretariat can set up an "umbrella account" for one person to manage multiple functions/vessels.

DFG was pleased and will participate in the pilot program. Requested clarification on whether there is a process to delete or clean up a form that has not been accepted. Errors are often with catch reporting and master is instructed to make a new form (PSC-1).

Secretariat stated that there is an option to return to the form and modify it before it is signed. But some errors will have to be handled during the pilot phase on a case by case basis so that a process can be developed.

EU requested to know whether improvements were made to the vessel registry system based on the suggestions presented at the Annual Meeting (e.g. hail messages, directed species, etc.).

Secretariat showed the changes were made by displaying information about one vessel as an example.

France-SPM asked if the access to real time VMS in phase 4 would be technically available to all persons duly authorized by each CP or only those CPs with an inspection presence.

The Secretariat said that either is possible, but that STACTIC would have to decide.

Secretariat asked if phase 4 should be postponed until phase 3 is implemented.

DFG stated the phase 4 could be costly, and should wait until after the other phases have more fully tested so that information learned during the first three phases can help shape Phase IV.

The Chair asked the Secretariat whether it needs more guidance on how to develop Phase IV. The Secretariat stated that there are a number of questions concerning scope and usage on how to develop Phase IV.



Canada stated that because this is a multi-phase project, the first phases should be completed before moving on the phase 4. More participation in phases 2 and 3 is needed so that the CPs can answer questions about what will be required in phase 4 which sounds like it will be more complex.

EU noted that Art. 29.10 states that VMS data must be made available to all CPs with an inspection presence in the Regulatory Area. EU sought clarification about the cost of phase 4.

Iceland stated that the FC will need to decide if Art. 29.10 is used, because of its limitation to CPs with an inspection presence.

At the request of the Chair, the Secretariat provided some general questions for phase 4:

- Who will be the users? At sea inspectors?
- What technology will the at sea inspectors be using? Laptops, satellite/internet, bandwidth?
- What will be their scope of authority? Should they be able to modify items at sea or just gather information?

EU suggested that the more complete the site is, for example including observer reports, the more people will want to use it.

DFG stated that the best solution would be for inspection vessels to enjoy full access to the VMS system by direct connection by a VPN to the NAFO VMS system.

The Secretariat indicated that costs for developing Phase IV would have to be identified and brought to STACFAD for consideration.

The Chair encourages CPs to reflect further on what guidance to give to the Secretariat for developing Phase IV

CPs agreed to work through the first three phases before developing phase 4. CPs were encouraged to begin thinking about phase 4 so that they are prepared to discuss the functionality and scope of the VMS-tracking application during the Annual Meeting. CPs with an inspection presence are encouraged to participate in the first three phases so that the Secretariat can determine how well it is working. Finally, the Secretariat is encouraged to prepare any guidance or questions for STACTIC to consider that will guide the development of Phase 4.

10. Editorial Drafting Group of the NAFO CEM (EDG)

US presented an overview of the EDG's progress to date through STACTIC WP 14/6 and STACTIC WP 14/7. The working papers concern editorial revisions of Chapter II – Bottom Fisheries in the NRA and Chapter VIII – Non-Contracting Party Scheme of the CEM, respectively. The EDG's goal was to redraft the NCEM for consistency and clarity as summarized in the working papers and also in a presentation (Annex 4).

Japan thanked the EDG for its hard work. One substantial comment was made concerning Article 55 in STACTIC WP 14/7. As proposed, the EDG replaced "should" with "shall" and deleted the phrases "to the extent possible" and "in accordance with applicable legislation." Japan stated that this will substantially change a CP's obligations and go beyond the scope of the EDG. Specifically, there would be some cases where the government of Japan would not be able to comply. Japan stated that this change would require Fisheries Commission initiation and approval.

Japan has other changes that are not substantive and requested to defer adoption until the Annual Meeting to allow for more time to review and provide feedback.



Russian Federation stated it disagreed with the change to Article 52.1 regarding transhipment "inside or outside" of theRegulatory Area. Russian Federation stated that the current version of the NCEM only controls transhipments inside the RA and is concerned about potential infringements if Russian vessels tranship to non-CPs once outside the RA.

The Chair clarified that this article only concerns IUU vessels and that this prohibition applies only to transhipment with IUU vessels. Russia would still be able to tranship with non-IUU vessels from non CPs outside of the RA.

The Russian Federation will review further, but would prefer to leave Article 52.1 unchanged.

Iceland stated that in STACTIC WP14/6, articles 18.2c and 22.1B replace the term "scientific observer" with "an observer with sufficient scientific expertise." Iceland stated that these terms are not defined and do not determine who decides what is "sufficient."

US stated that the EDG had the same discussion. The current NCEM does not define "scientific observer" but could have because that term carries significant implications. The EDG wanted to use less formal terminology to describe someone with some scientific skills until some actual standards could be developed. The US supports more standardized definitions and provided its domestic standards for observers on the shared website.

Iceland thanked the US for the explanation and pointed out, for example, that it would be difficult to train observers to identify all of the species in Annex I.E.

Canada suggested that CPs could differentiate between scientific observers and compliance observers when submitting their lists of observers.

EU stated that this would be a problem because STACTIC should not engage in definitions of scientific observer. EU supported the language drafted by the EDG because it places the burden on the CP to train observers with some level of scientific expertise for the fishery they are involved in. That way, they would not necessarily need to know the entire list of species in Annex I.E.

Canada recommended that CPs take some time to review the working papers and provide comments before a given deadline. Then the EDG would provide another revision of the working papers before the Annual Meeting.

EU and US agreed.

The Chair summarized that because some CPs had concerns about editorial changes and that Japan and Russia objected to substantive changes, this agenda item should be deferred to the Annual Meeting.

The Secretariat also informed STACTIC that the FC/SC WG on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management will meet in July and review the provisions of Chapter II of the NCEM. This could affect STACTIC WP 14/6.

This agenda item was deferred to the next Annual Meeting. CPs agreed to review STACTIC WP 14/6 and WP 14/7 and provide comments to the Secretariat by June 16. The EDG will consider these comment and redraft changes, if necessary, based on the comments for presentation at the Annual Meeting.



11. Possible Revisions of the NAFO CEM

a) Product Labelling by Date of processing

Canada presented STACTIC WP 14/14 (replaces WP 13/27) concerning product labelling by date of processing. Canada presented three case studies indicative of a control problem. These vessels move between Divisions in illogical ways, such as when a vessel moves from an area where it reports having an extremely high catch rate to an area where it has a very low catch rate. In another case, the vessel is in one area for a long period of time with low reported catch rates, but then reports extremely high catch rates while steaming (according to VMS) through another area. Although this information is being reported by the vessel, there is no way for an inspector to determine when or where the fish were caught. Date labelling would allow inspectors to compare the fish on board with the reporting. NAFO previously approved date labelling in the shrimp fishery and Canada is looking to expand that to all fisheries. There are significant indications that some vessels are mis-recording their catches by Division. Labelling by date would allow inspectors to verify at sea the amount of species caught during a specific time.

DFG asked why date labelling for shrimp was different from groundfish.

The original working paper indicated date of capture but that some CPs suggested that date of production might be more appropriate.

EU thanked Canada for the presentation, agreed that misreporting of area is a potential problem, but disagreed on the solution. EU stated that STACTIC has debated the issue for many times before and that STACTIC decided in 2013 not to retain the date of capture/production except for shrimps. There does not appear to be new elements that justify the reopening of that debate. EU does not support a date labelling requirement because it is not in EU legislation and because of the direct impact it has on inspection both at sea and in port. Referring to the NEAFC scheme which requires it, EU referred to port inspection report that demonstrate that this provision is not respected by NEAFC CP vessels. EU argued that there may be other ways to address the problem and STACTIC should confer with other NAFO working groups to explore all of the possible solutions before it moves forward with a new technical measure.

Norway strongly supported Canada's proposal, stating that the date of production is a key piece of information for compliance. Additionally, it is not a burden for the fisherman because it is a simple task of organizing. The labelling information is important for comparing the catch on board with the logbook information and vessel reports.

Iceland agreed with Norway and fully supported the proposal. Regarding date labelling in NEAFC, Iceland stated that the EU cites many of its own vessels for mislabelling boxes of fish, so the rule is respected.

In response to Norway, the EU stated that the burden is not to fix a date in a logbook or a box, but the impact on inspection. To illustrate this burden, the EU underlined a normal fishing trip may last for 100 days and produce more than 60,000 boxes. In response to Iceland, the EU stated that no one under NEAFC follows the rule requiring date labelling and when there are that many infringements, maybe the problem is the provision itself.

Iceland stated if inspectors are not able to differentiate the catch, then date labelling is the simplest way to address this problem.

Russian Federation thanked Canada and supported the provision as well as the comments by Norway and Canada. Date labelling would not be a problem for Russian vessels.

DFG stated that it spoke to the master of one of its fishing vessels who concurred that this would be a positive step forward. What is in logbook and the production log and what is in hold could be linked together.



The Chair recognized that there is not a consensus on this issue.

Canada recognized that STACTIC is the appropriate forum to deal with this issue but as there appears to be an impasse Canada will continue to pursue but perhaps in a different forum.

This proposal was not adopted because there was no consensus.

b) Directed fishery and by-catch rules in case of creation of a Quota by transfer.

EU presented STACTIC WP 14/8 concerning by-catch rules in case of creation of a quota through a transfer. EU proposed that if a mid-year "transfer generates a quota for a CP that had no such quota before, the by-catch rules in Article 6 for the stock concerned cease to be applicable to that CP on the date the transfer enters force." For example, if a CP started the year with no yellowtail quota, the yellowtail bycatch incurred prior to the transfer should not count against the amount of yellowtail quota acquired through a transfer during that year.

DFG stated that it was in favor of the change but requested clearer language in the proposed provision.

Canada agreed with the provision in theory but had concerns about its application. For example, if a vessel acquired quota during the middle of a trip, how could an inspector determine what part of the catch was caught as by-catch and what was caught as quota, especially if there is no date labelling requirement? Also, if this is a temporary quota, how can the FC penalize the CP for going over the quota?

EU stated that if a CP overharvested its quota, then the FC could determine a way to have it penalized, in accordance with the existing NAFO rules.

US shared Canada's concerns about accountability. This provision could make control more difficult.

EU shared the concern with regard to overharvesting a temporary quota and suggested that the provision could be modified to include the ability for the FC to penalize a CP by deducting quota of one of the other species.

It was agreed to defer STACTIC WP 14/8 until the Annual Meeting for further discussion and consideration.

c) Simplification and clarity on calculation of by-catch limits

EU presented STATIC WP 14/9 concerning simplification and clarity on calculation of by-catch limits. This working paper has three parts:

i) The first part involved the deletion of the by-catch limit liaised to "others" quotas. In summary, EU stated that CPs that have no quota benefit from the by-catch rules with a limit of 2500 kg or 10%. However, if these CPs exploit the "others" quota, this limit is reduced to 1250 kg or 5%. EU proposed consolidating the provisions and setting all by-catch limits for CPs without allocation at 2500 kg or 10%.

Iceland stated that this change would be beyond STACTIC's authority and required FC initiation and review.

US agreed it is beyond STACTIC's authority.

Canada agreed that this is an FC issue. Canada also cautioned against making changes to by-catch rules piece by piece because they are complex and need to be viewed in totality before making any changes.



EU agreed that the change might be more appropriate for the FC, but stated that by-catch measures should be simplified and clarified. In this specific case, the purpose was to streamline the rules by reducing the number of scenarios when "others" by-catch limits apply from three to two.

EU agreed to withdraw this paper at this time.

ii) The second part of STACTIC WP 14/9 sought clarity on the calculation of by-catch limits on board and proposed to redraft Article 6.4. EU stated that the article as currently written is confusing and recommended dropping one of the provisions. The change would avoid an inspector having to choose between fishing logbook figures or fish retained on board when calculating by-catch limits. The EU suggested that the limit should be based only on the logbook.

Canada agreed that if an inspector has the discretion to choose one method of measurement or the other there would be problems. However, the current article as only referring to one, the weight retained on board as recorded in the logbook. The logbook is used to calculate by-catch limits.

US appreciated the EU's effort to clarify the provision. The EDG's intent was to state that the logbook had to reflect the amount retained on board.

EU appreciated the explanation by the US and Canada and agreed with it.

Iceland asked whether discards are measured in this calculation. The fishing logbooks might record them even though they are not retained on board.

Canada stated that "retained on board" has been the standard for a long time. Iceland's question is a good one and by-catch should include discards, but that is a larger issue for FC to consider.

The EU stated that the concept adopted by NAFO is retained on board. After the US and Canada made it clear that the provision refers to what is retained on board determined using the fishing logbook figures, the EU withdrew its request for a change.

EU withdrew changes to 6.4 based on explanations by Canada and US that retained on board is to be determined by logbook figures. EU will communicate that interpretation to its inspectors.

iii) The third part of STACTIC WP 14/9 concerns clarity on by-catch limits in any one haul. The current provision limits by-catch to the greater of a weight limit or a percentage. EU suggested that the provision only include the percentage.

Canada stated that the EU is correct that the previous provision used the term percentage. The EDG changed it to be in line with other provisions that had limits. Inspectors currently do not have discretion.

The Chair asked whether the change clarified the provision or altered it substantively when it removed the possibility for the inspector to use the limit.

EU preferred a single method to prevent two different inspectors from interpreting it in two different ways. However, EU decided to withdraw the change for further examination.

EU withdrew this proposal.



d) Observer Program - Article 30 of NCEM

EU proposed STACTIC WP 14/10 concerning the completion of scientific work by Control Observer and Standard Observer report Template (Annex II.M). [Note: The second section of this working paper, which concerned electronic reporting, was addressed under agenda item 14.] The first section of this paper had four parts.

i) The first part attempts to clarify who is responsible for measuring the length of fish when both a control observer ("observer" as referred to in Article 30) and a scientific observer are aboard a vessel. The EU stated that the Scientific Council disregards the science collected by the observer. Therefore, it suggested clarifying language making the scientific observer responsible for this data collection in situations when both observers are on board. When the observer is alone, then the existing provision remains in place and the observer will take length measurements.

US expressed appreciation for EU's effort to differentiate between the roles of observers. The US asked if the proposed language could be interpreted to imply that if the Scientific Council recognized the scientific program of a flag state, then it automatically endorsed the collections of data.

Canada also sought clarification and did not agree with the premise that the entire SC disregards the data collected by observers.

Norway concurred with Canada concerning the value of the data collected by observers. Norway's scientists use information collected by fishermen, observers and inspectors.

Iceland agreed with Norway and did not understand why the SC rejects observer data. In Iceland, scientists rely heavily on observer data and if they are not happy with data, then they don't use it or change the program. Iceland did not see the risk of having two sets of length measurements.

US attended the ad hoc FC/SC WG on Catch Reporting and conveyed that some SC representatives suggested that length data would be more useful if they had associated age samples. Observers in US programs collect the scales and otoliths necessary for age determinations.

DFG agrees with Iceland, Norway, and US and shared that its observers are trained to take age measurements as well.

EU responded that if the observer is a biologist, there is no problem. But when the observer is not a scientist, there could be a problem by producing two different sets of data for the same fleet. We need a definition of scientific observer, but that must come from the SC. The EU stated that at the ad hoc FC/SC WG on Catch Reporting the SC stated that the scientific data collected by observers is of little value. EU's opinion is to keep observers responsible for compliance, not science.

Canada attended that same FC/SC working group meeting as well and stated that there appeared to be different opinions in that working group. Some say the information from observers is valuable and others say that it is not valuable. Canada did not support the proposal as written because it was part of a broad question about the observer program that will require significant input by CPs.

Canada suggested forming a working group to explore observer functions and duties.

US supported Canada's proposal for a working group.



The first part of the STACTIC WP 14/10 did not have consensus and was not adopted. CPs were encouraged to propose the creation of an observer working group at the Annual Meeting to consider a comprehensive review of the observer program.

ii) The second part of STACTIC WP 14/10 proposed to modernize the observer report template (Annex II.M) which structure was developed in 2000. The working paper provided the changes.

Canada agreed that some of the elements of the form are outdated, but suggested that STACTIC wait to see what data comes back from the observer template before making these changes.

US appreciated the EU's effort to update the template, but cautioned against removing some of the elements from 1A such as trip number or directed species without further explanation. Additionally, the US supported Canada's proposed delay to review information gathered during the fishing year.

Iceland agreed with Canada and expressed a need to review this with the Icelandic government.

DFG stated that it needed more time and guidance with the proposed changes.

Norway stated that some of the information on the form, such as the crew list, might not be as important in fisheries, but could be important to other parts of the government.

The Chair stated that several contracting parties were concerned about the timing of this proposal and need guidance on the proposed changes. He suggested deferring the changes until the Annual Meeting.

EU withdrew the proposed changes and will present a revised draft of Annex II.M at the Annual Meeting.

e) Length of a trial tow in accordance with by-catch provisions under Article 6.6(b) (iii)

Canada presented STACTIC WP 14/12 concerning the maximum length of a trial tow in accordance with the by-catch provisions under Article 6.6(b) (iii). The proposed change reduces the maximum time for a trial tow from 3 hours down to one hour.

Japan stated that it will need more time to consult with the Japanese government concerning this new working paper. Japan asked why three hours was originally established and why Canada proposes to reduce it now.

Canada stated that if a vessel is exceeding by-catch limits it has to leave the zone for a period. When it returns it has to conduct a trial tow. The trial tow is supposed to be a trial, but a vessel can catch a significant amount in three hours. A one hour tow can provide enough information with less potential damage to moratoria species. If it's a clean fishery, then the vessel re-sets the net. But if there's a lot of by-catch, then the vessel can do a lot of damage in three hours to find out something that it could have learned in an hour.

EU appreciated the direction of the working paper, but questioned the technical change. The EU noted that the duration of the trial tow varies according to depth. Furthermore, Canada's proposal implies the creation of two new points in the definition of a tow and subsequent concerns on how to control the effective duration of the trial tow.

Canada stated that the proposed provision accounted for difference in fishing depths by introducing the phrase "time on the bottom." The captain knows when his net is on the bottom, and when he is hauling back.



Iceland agreed with Canada that a vessel does not need to fish for three hours to determine if by-catch is still an issue or not. Iceland stated that if there are foreseeable problems controlling the one hour time we would have the same problems controlling the three hour tow.

The Chair stated that one CP has said that it needs additional time to consult with government officials and therefore the working paper might be deferred until the annual meeting.

It was agreed to defer STACTIC WP 14/12 until the Annual Meeting to give all CPs time for consideration.

f) Provision of haul by haul logbook data to the Secretariat

Canada presented STACTIC WP 14/13 concerning the provision of haul by haul logbook data to the Secretariat. Canada expressed a concern that this valuable information could be lost if it is not provided to the Secretariat. Although the information could be in a different format, Canada expressed confidence someone might be able to use it. The working paper proposed that CPs submit logbook information to Executive Secretary by January 30 for each fishing trip concluded during the previous fishing year.

DFG supported the proposal and believes that the logbook information should be available to science. However, it had some reservation that the time limit might be too short.

US supported the concept.

EU stated that it did not have a problem with the concept. It noted that the ad hoc FC/SC WG on Catch Reporting did not make a precise recommendation but suggested that there should be consideration of the issue. Secondly, the EU would prefer that this provision be implemented through electronic reporting, since the amount of paper logbooks required could be voluminous. When it is adopted, however, it should be real-time, not once a year.

Iceland supported the working paper and agreed that there should be more frequent reporting. An electronic format would be the best and easiest way and many Icelandic vessels already use electronic logbooks so this would not cause an additional burden.

Canada agreed to incorporate CPs comments and redraft the paper including a template for the September meeting.

It was agreed that STACTIC WP 14/13 is deferred until the Annual Meeting. Canada will reflect on comments, redraft the paper, and provide a template.

12.FC/SC Ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting

The Secretariat presented the results of the first meeting of the FC/SC ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting which was held on February, 2014 (FC-SC Doc. 14/01). The meeting report offered five recommendations addressed to FC.

DFG commented generally about the entire meeting report, concluding that it was evident that the SC could be using logbook information to improve its scientific analysis. DFG stated that it is a disgrace that the logbook information is not forwarded to SC.

Iceland echoed the words of DFG, stating that FC is in need of scientific advice of good quality in a timely manner and the SC is in need of the information that produces that advice.

EU stated that STACTIC has made tremendous efforts to improve the reliability of commercial data. On recommendation #5 of the meeting report, EU supported the exchange of catch on entry and exit information



with NEAFC. EU stated that there are differences in the definition of catch elements between the two organizations that need to be rectified before this can happen.

Iceland stated that NAFO must move forward with sharing information with NEAFC and that it should not be difficult for the two databases to communicate with each other.

Canada supported sharing information between NEAFC and NAFO, especially because some vessels operate in both areas on one trip. Canada will consider drafting a proposal to share information.

DFG stated that Greenland and Iceland can include a proposal for sharing info with NEAFC. When an attempt was made several years ago, it was abandoned because the quality of the data was so poor. It was agreed that another effort should be made when the quality improved.

The Chair encouraged CPs to reflect on the recommendations in the meeting report in case the FC forwards them to STACTIC for action.

13. Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)

The Secretariat presented the results of the first meeting of JAGDM which was held on 18-19 March 2014 of the JAGDM (FC Doc 14/02).

In summary, the JAGDM reviewed terms of reference and rules of procedure, developed a webpage and discussed NEAFC's Information Security and Management System (ISMS) for data security.

DFG stated that this group is a great opportunity to harmonize communication and data management and hopes that CPs of NAFO will actively participate.

Canada agreed with DFG.

The Chair suggested that one issue that STACTIC could consider is ISMS because it relates to protecting NAFO data.

DFG agreed and suggested that NAFO should look to implement the same system as NEAFC for compatibility.

CPs support the effort to consider ISMS. The Secretariat was requested to look into the NEAFC application of ISMS as it was technically evaluated by JAGDM and report back to STACTIC on the potential application to NAFO.

14. Other Matters

a) Electronic reporting (Article 30 B)

EU presented the second section of STACTIC WP 14/10 concerning electronic reporting. Currently, any infringement that is discovered on a vessel without an observer will be viewed as a serious infringement. The EU suggested that this should be removed as unnecessary. EU proposes redrafting Article 30 B.3 to remove the automatic designation as serious and replace with a requirement to deploy an observer as soon as possible.

US did not support the change and stated that the threat of a serious infringement served as a deterrent and was an important component of Part B. Without the deterrent, there are a lot of incentives to not take an observer. The US was also concerned with the loose language of "as soon as practicable," because it could be used to extend a timeline for a long period.



Canada concurred with the US and strongly objects to changing this article which was created so there would be ramifications for those that break the law without an observer on board. If the observer program is going to be reviewed, the electronic reporting scheme could be part of the comprehensive review.

Iceland stated that it has never been keen on the observer program because in one way or another, the observers are members of the crew and they cost money. Iceland agreed with the EU that because other parties are not interested in this part of the scheme, the benefits have not been demonstrated. The Icelandic fleet has the same compliance rate whether they have observers on board or not. However, Iceland agreed with US and Canada that when a vessel sails without an observer it is given trust. If that trust is violated there must be consequences. Changing this provision would water down those consequences. Iceland recommended that STACTIC wait for an overall evaluation.

The Chair stated that the working paper did not appear to have consensus because there were process objections to part 3 and substantive objections to part 4.

This specific proposal in STACTIC WP 14/10 was not adopted because of a lack of consensus.

b) Use of "Others" quota under chartering arrangement

FRA-SPM presented STACTIC WP 14/15 concerning the use of "Others" quota under a chartering arrangement. FRA-SPM requested to hear other CPs' interpretation of the sections of the rules pertaining to a vessel's ability to fish under the "others" quota when it is fishing under a chartering arrangement. FRA-SPM provided an example of the situation in question:

If FRA-SPM chartered its yellowtail flounder quota to an EU vessel, is the EU vessel prohibited by NCEM from fishing for an "Others" quota of another stock during the specific charter operation? EU, US, and Canada agreed that even if there is no explicit provision concerning this question, the chartering provisions strongly imply that the EU vessel based on the example could not fish for "Others" quota. All agreed that this could be clarified by the EDG. The Chair asked CPs to reflect further on this question to provide additional insight at the Annual Meeting.

It was agreed to defer this working paper until the Annual Meeting for others to provide interpretations of the NCEM.

15. Time and Place of next meeting

The next STACTIC meeting will be held in Vigo, Spain, September 22-26, 2014.

16. Adoption of Report

The report was adopted on May 7, 2014.

17. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m. on May 7, 2014.



Annex 1. List of Participants

CANADA

Head of Delegation

Lambert, Bob, Chief, Enforcement Operations, Conservation and Protection (C&P) NCR, NL Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, P. O. Box 5667, St. John's, NL A1X 5X1

Phone: +709 772 5482 - Fax: +709 772 3628 - E-mail: robert.lambert@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Advisers

Dwyer, Judy, Director, Enforcement, Conservation and Protection (C&P), Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6

Phone: +613 993-3371 - Fax: +613 941 2718 - E-mail: judy.dwyer@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Ward, Chad, Conservation & Protection Supervisor, Offshore Detachment, Fisheries & Aquaculture, Management Branch, P. O. Box 5667, St. John's, NL, A1C 5X1

Phone: +709 772 4412 -Fax: +709 772-0008 - E-mail: chad.ward@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF THE FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND)

Head of Delegation

Trolle Nedergaard, Mads, Fiskerilicensinspektor, Head of Department, Grønlands Fiskerilicenskontrol, Postbox 501, DK-3900 Nuuk, Greenland

Phone: +299 553347 - Fax: +299 323235 - E-mail: mads@nanog.gl

Advisers

Gaardlykke, Meinhard, Adviser, Faroe Islands Fisheries Inspection, Yviri við Strond 3, P. O. Box 1238, FO-110 Torshavn, Faroe Islands

Phone: +298 311065 - Fax: +298 313981 - E-mail: meinhardg@vorn.fo

Kruse, Martin, Adviser, FMC-Manager, Faroe Islands Fisheries Inspection, Yviri við Strond 3, P. O. Box 1238, FO-110 Torshavn, Faroe Islands

Phone: +298 291001 - Fax: +298 313981 - E-mail: martink@vorn.fo

Jacobsen, Petur M., Head of Section, Grønlands Fiskerilicenskontrol, Postbox 501, DK-3900 Nuuk, Greenland Phone: +299 345393 – Fax: +299 323235 – E-mail: pmja@nanoq.gl

Casadepax, Herve, Greenland Fisheries Licence Control Authority, Nuuk, Greenland Phone: +45 3283 3860 – E-mail: <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/jeb/herve/h

EUROPEAN UNION

Head of Delegation

Spezzani, Aronne, European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, 99 Rue Joseph II, B-1049, Brussels, Belgium

Phone: +32 2 295 9629 - Fax: +32 2 296 2338 - E-mail: aronne.spezzani@ec.europa.eu

Advisers

Dross, Nicolas, International Relations Officer, International Affairs, Law of the Sea and Regional Fisheries Organizations, European Commission, Directorate General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs (DG MARE.B.1), Rue Joseph II, 99, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Phone: +32 2 298 0855 - Fax: +32 2 295 5700 - E-mail: nicolas.dross@ec.europa.eu

Lansley, Jon, EU Fisheries Inspector, European Commission, Directorate General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs (DG MARE.B.1), Rue Joseph II, 79, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Phone: + 32 2 295 8346 - E-mail: jon.lanslev@ec.europa.eu



Pagliarani, Giuliano, Administration Officer-NAFO Coordinator, Fisheries Control in International Waters,

European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Rue Joseph II, 99 (01/062), B-1049, Brussels, Belgium

Phone: +32 2 296 3834 - Fax: +32 2 296 2338 - E-mail: giuliano.pagliarani@ec.europa.eu

Babcionis, Genadijus, Desk Manager, European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), Apartado de Correos 771 – E-36200 – Vigo, Spain

Phone: +34 986 12 06 40 - E-mail: genadijus.babcionis@efca.europa.eu

Batista, Emilia, Direcao-Geral de Recursos Naturais, Seguranca, Servicos Maritimos, Avenida da Brasilia, 1449-030 Lisbon, Portugal

Phone: +351 742 3629 - Fax: +351 21 303 5922 - E-mail: ebatista@dgrm.mamaot.pt

Chamizo Catalan, Carlos, Head of Fisheries Inspection Division, Secretariat General de Pesca Maritima,

Subdireccion de Control E Inspecion, Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, y Medio Rural y Marino, Velázquez, 144, 28006 Madrid, Spain

Phone: +34 347 1949 - Fax: +34 347 1512 - E-mail: cchamizo@magrama.es

Grossmann, Meit, Department of Fisheries Protection, Environmental Inspectorate of Estonia, Kopli 76 Tallinn 10416, Estonia

Phone: +372 534 68026 - E-mail: meit.grossmann@kki.ee

Santos, Miguel, Direcao-Geral de Recursos Naturais, Seguranca, Servicos Maritimos, Avenida da Brasilia, 1400-038 Lisbon, Portugal

Phone: +351 213 025161 - Fax: +351 213 025101 - E-mail: msantos@dgrm.mam.gov.pt

FRANCE (in respect of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon)

Head of Delegation

Bigorgne, Matthias, Fisheries Control Unit Direction des Peches Maritimes et de l'Aquaculture, Tour Voltaire, 92055 La Defense Cedex, Paris , France

Phone: $+33\ 1\ 40\ 81\ 89\ 46$ – Fax: $+33\ 1\ 40\ 81\ 86\ 56$ – Email: matthias.bigorgne@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

ICELAND

Head of Delegation

Freyr Helgason, Kristján, Special Advisor, Ministry of Industries and Innovation, Skulagata 4, 150 Reykjavík Phone: +354 849 4861 – Fax: +354 552 1160 – E-mail: kristjan.freyr.helgason@anr.is

Advisers

 $Ingason,\,Bjorgolfur\,H,\,Icelandic\,Coast\,Guard,\,JRCC\,Island,\,Skogarhlid\,14,\,105\,\,Reykjavik$

Phone: +354 545 2100 - Fax: +354 545 2001 - E-mail: bjorgolfur@lhg.is

Thormar, Anna, Quota Allocations Department, Directorate of Fisheries, Dalshrauni 1, 220 Hafnarfjordur Phone: +354 569 7900 – Fax: +354 569 7991 – E-mail: annatho@fiskistofa.is

JAPAN

Head of Delegation

Uoya, Toshinori , Assistant Director, Fisheries Management Div. Fisheries Agency, Government of Japan, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100-8907

Phone: +81 3 6744 2363 - Fax: +81 3 3501 1019 - E-mail: toshinori uoya@nm.maff.go.jp



NORWAY

Head of Delegation

Østgård, Hanne, Senior Legal Adviser, Directorate of Fisheries, P. O. Box 185, Sentrum, 5804 Bergen Phone: +47 46 80 52 05 – Fax: +47 55 23 80 90 – E-mail: hanne.ostgard@fiskeridir.no

Schultz, Bjarne, Senior MCS Adviser Control Section, Directorate of Fisheries, Strandgaten 229,P. O. Box 185, Sentrum, 5804 Bergen

Phone: +47 800 30 179 - Fax: +47 55 23 80 90 - E-mail: bjarne.schultz@fiskeridir.no

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Head of Delegation

Agalakov, Vadim E., Chief State Inspector, Barentsevo-Belomorskoe Territorial Department, Federal Agency for Fisheries, str. Kominterna 7, 183038 Murmansk

Phone: +7 815 2 798 116 – Fax: +7 815 2 451 945 – E-mail: <u>murmansk@bbtu.ru</u>

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Head of Delegation

Christel, Doug, Fishery Policy Analyst, Sustainable Fisheries Div., US Dept. of Commerce, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

Phone: +978 281 9141 - Fax: +978 281 9135 - E-mail: douglas.christel@noaa.gov

Advisers

Cygler, Jerry, East West Technical Services LLC, South East Office, P.O. Box 643864, Vero Beach, FL 32964 Phone: +772 226 7964 – E-mail: jerry@ewts.com

Hinrichsen, Britta, Attorney Advisor, Office of General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation Northeast Regional Office, NOAA, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930 Phone: +978-281-9238 – Email: britta.hinrichsen@noaa.gov

Martin, Jr., Gene S., Attorney, Section Chief, Office of the General Counsel Northeast, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930
Phone: + 978 281 9242 – Fax: + 978 281 9389 – E-mail: gene.s.martin@noaa.gov

Orchard, Daniel, U S Coast Guard, First District Enforcement Branch, 408 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, MA 02110 Phone: +617 223 8277 - Email: Daniel.r.orchard@uscg.mil

Warner-Kramer, Deirdre, Senior Foreign Affairs Officer, Office of Marine Conservation (OES/OMC), Department of State, Washington, DC 20520

Phone +1 202 647 2883 - Fax: +1 202 736 7350 - Email: warner-kramerdm@state.gov

NAFO SECRETARIAT

Ricardo Federizon, Senior Fisheries Commission Coordinator rfederizon@nafo.int
Cindy Kerr, Senior Fisheries Information Manager ckerr@nafo.int
Mark Harley, Database Manager mharley@nafo.int



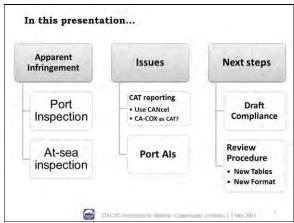
Annex 2. Agenda

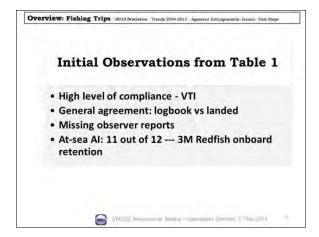
- 1. Opening by the Chair, Gene Martin (USA)
- 2. Appointment of Rapporteur
- 3. Adoption of Agenda
- 4. Port State Measures Review
- 5. Compilation of fisheries reports for compliance review (2004-2013), including review of Apparent Infringements.
- 6. Review and evaluation of Practices and Procedures
- 7. Review of current IUU list pursuant to NAFO CEM Article 54.3
- 8. Half-year review of the implementation of new NCEM measures
- 9. Inspectors Website
- 10. Editorial Drafting Group of the NAFO CEM (EDG)
- 11. Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM
 - a) Product labelling by date of processing (Article 27)
 - b) Directed fishery and by-catch rules in case of creation of a Quota by transfer
 - c) Simplification and clarity on calculation of by-catch limits
 - d) Observer Program Article 30 of NCEM
 - e) Length of a trial tow in accordance with by-catch provisions Article 6.6 (b) (iii)
 - f) Provision of haul by haul logbook data to the Secretariat
- 12. FC/SC Ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting
- 13. Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)
- 14. Other Matters
 - a) Electronic reporting (Article 30 B)
 - b) Use of "Others" quota under chartering arrangement
- 15. Time and Place of next meeting
- 16. Adoption of Report
- 17. Adjournment

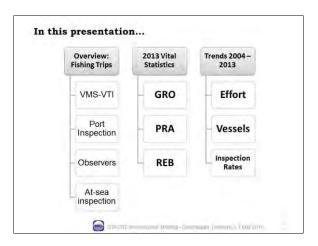


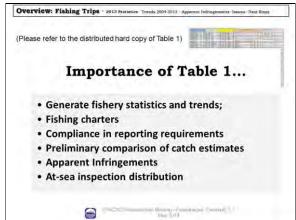
Annex 3. NAFO 2013 Fisheries Profile and Trends

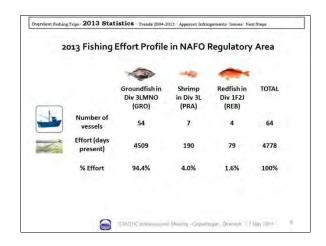




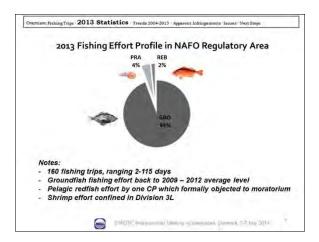


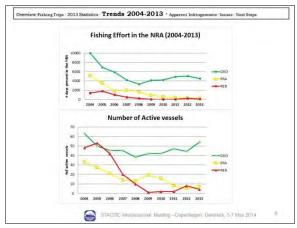


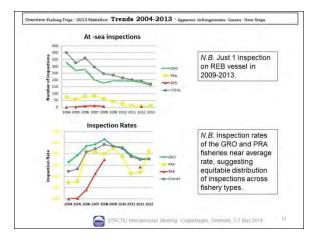


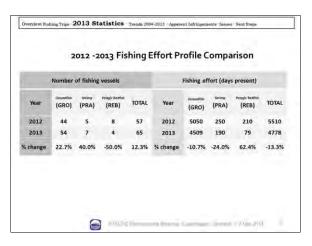


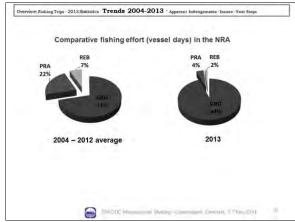


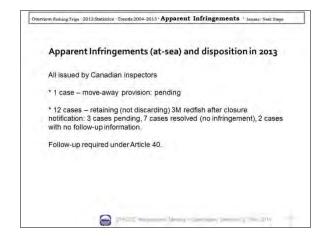




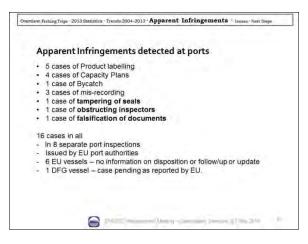




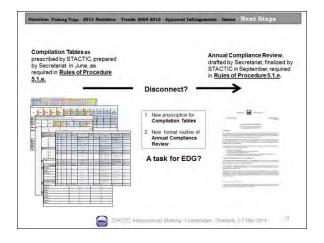


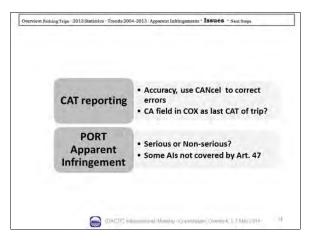


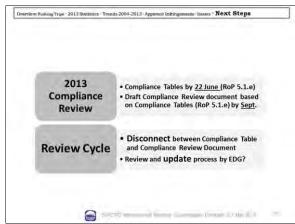


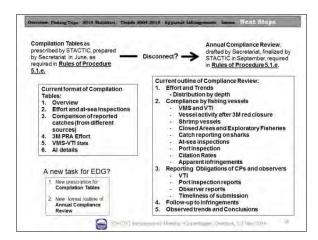














Annex 4. EDG Update

EDG Revisions

2 working papers for consideration:

- 1. STACTIC WP 14/6
 - Revisions to Chapter II (VME measures)
- 2. STACTIC WP 14/7
 - Revisions to Chapter VIII (NCP scheme)

STACTIC WP 14/6

- Article 17.5: Substituted "coral and sponge" with "VME indicator species" to be inclusive of all species
- Replaced term "scientific observer" with "observer with sufficient scientific expertise" (Article 18.2(c) and 22.1(b))
- Replaced "fishing trip" with "exploratory bottom fishing activities" (Article 18.2(d))
- Replaced "unfinished bottom area" with "outside the footprint"

Annual Review of CEM Changes

- 1. Secretariat provides EDG with all adopted WPs
- 2. EDG meets via conference call/webinar (October)
- 3. EDG reviews changes to CEM in adopted WPs
 - · Consistency with updated format/organization
 - · Text that needs further clarification
- 4. EDG provides recommendations to Secretariat
- 5. Secretariat updates CEM prior to publication

STACTIC WP 14/6

- 1. Refined definitions & put in alphabetical order
- 2. Switched Articles 16 & 17
- 3. Added table/figure headings
- 4. Reorganized/reformatted several articles to be consistent with standard format

STACTIC WP 14/7

- · Deleted "in RA" transhipments can occur outside
- Replaced "investigation with "inspection" in Art. 48.2
- · Substituted GC with FC in Article 53.1
- · Reorganized/reformatted several articles to be
- · consistent with standard format
- Article 49.1(c): STACTIC should consider referencing all RFMO IUU lists for consistency
- Article 52.1: Replaced "may" with "shall" share information that can assist with IUU identification

Future EDG Revisions

Revisions for the 2014 annual meeting:

- 1. Integrating some Annex I.A footnotes into CEM
- 2. Additional format/reference corrections
- 3. Further tasking, as necessary

Questions?

