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Provision of Haul by Haul Logbook Data to the Secretariat

Background

Pursuant to Article 28.2 (a), the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures require that fishing vessels record the catch of each tow/set and complete the fishing logbook according to Annex II.A. The adoption of this provision has proven to be very beneficial in ensuring compliance with various reporting requirements in the NCEM. At the February meeting of the Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council Ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting, there was general consensus that haul by haul logbook data would be extremely useful if submitted to the Secretariat. In addition, the Ad-Hoc Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing By-catches, Selectivity and Discards noted that the provision of tow by tow data to the Secretariat would allow for more precise by-catch and discard analysis. In June, 2014, Scientific Council stated that it considers the provision of haul by haul data to be of critical importance in the auditing process for the reliability of STATLANT data. The SC further recommended that such data be submitted to the Secretariat for use by the SC for assessment purposes.

The information can be provided in electronic format containing at a minimum the information contained in Annex II.N. As most vessels fishing in the NRA have some form of electronic reporting capacity, this should not be a problem. In the case where vessels have paper logbooks, the information may be provided in the current observer program data format.

All information must be treated according to the rules of confidentiality contained in Article II.B

Proposed Amendments

Replace Article 28.8 with the following:

Each Contracting Party shall:

(a) report its provisional monthly catches by species and stock area, and its provisional monthly fishing days for the 3M shrimp fishery, whether or not it has quota or effort allocations for the relevant stocks. It shall transmit these reports to the Executive Secretary within 30 days of the end of the calendar month in which the catch was taken.

(b) ensure that logbook information is submitted in an electronic format to the Executive Secretary containing at a minimum the information outlined in Annex II.N within 60 days following the completion of each fishing trip. If the information is not available electronically, it may be provided in the current observer program data format, as outlined in Annex II.M. Part 2.

Add the following text to Article 28.9

(f) makes the logbook data specified in Article 28.8 (b) available to Scientific Council upon their request, without the vessel's and flag State identification, in line with the data confidentiality rules as specified in Annex II.B. If the request includes VMS data under Article 29.10 (d), a vessel codification should permit the cross analysis of both catch and VMS data by vessel and this way allow the Scientific Council to carry out their mandated responsibilities. Data made available shall be used only for the purpose of research within the functions of the Scientific Council and publication of scientific results should be in an aggregated format without any detailed information regarding individual vessels or flag States.

