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36TH ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2014

Recommendations from the WG-EAFFM to forward to FC and SC

The Joint FC-SC WG on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management met on 9-11 July 2014 in Halifax, Nova Scotia and agreed on the following recommendations (FCSC Doc 14/03):

Recognizing the ground-breaking work, significant achievements and ongoing efforts made by NAFO on the identification of VMEs and development of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management, the WG recommends:

1. That the FC maintains the delineated seamounts areas identified in Chapter II, Article 16.1 of the NCEM (Delete or amend "*Until 31 December 2014*").
2. That the FC maintains the Div. 30 closure identified in Chapter II, Article 16.4 of the NCEM (Delete or amend "*Until 31 December 2014*").
3. That the FC maintains the closures identified in Chapter II, Article 16.5 of the NCEM (Delete or amend "*Until 31 December 2014*").
4. That the FC considers deleting Article 16.6 recognizing that the NCEM are regularly updated and the ongoing review envisioned by Article 23.
5. That the FC considers deleting or amending Article 24 (Review) considering the ongoing review and update of the NCEM in general.
6. Recognizing that the scientific advice also noted some gaps in the protection of VMEs, that the FC considers adjustments to Area 4 (Southeastern Flemish Cap – sponge and large gorgonians), and new area 15 (Beothuk Knoll - large gorgonians).
7. That the FC and SC support continuing analysis by the WG of areas on the Tail of the Grand Bank (Div. 30 closure and related areas).
8. That the FC and SC support continuing analysis by the WG of areas 13 and 14 (Eastern Flemish Cap), and FC consider possible closed areas, if proposals are made at the Annual Meeting.
9. That the FC further considers whether to withdraw the encounter thresholds within the fishing footprint, taking into account the scientific advice, the review of VME closures and the review of UNGA 61/105 in 2015.
10. That priority attention by FC and SC and their constituent bodies be given to the areas identified in Annex 5 that include external factors (e.g. climate change and oil and gas development), bycatch and discards, multispecies interactions, and VMEs including concluding the assessment of bottom fisheries for 2016.

11. That FC and SC consider the revised Terms of Reference at their September 2014 joint session and have FC and SC adopt the revisions in their respective meetings. Consideration could also be given to making terms of reference consistent across all joint FC-SC working groups.
12. Request that the SC provide annual updates to the FC-SC Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management pertaining to the 2016 review of significant adverse impacts of NAFO bottom fisheries on VMEs in the NRA.
13. That the FC amend the text of the NCEM to reflect the replacement of the FC WG-VME with the Joint FC-SC WG-EAFFM,
14. Article 23.1 of the NCEM be rephrased such that the "*Fisheries Commission will request Scientific Council...*".