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(Adopted)

36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2014

**Recommendations from the WG-BDS to forward to the Fisheries Commission**

The Ad hoc Working Group on Bycatches, Discards, and Selectivity (WG-BDS) met on 7-8 July 2014 in Halifax, Nova Scotia and agreed on the following recommendations (FC Doc 14/06):

Noting the negative impacts that bycatch and discards may have on regulated species in the NAFO Regulatory Area, it is **recommended**:

1. that the Fisheries Commission continue to address this issue by inter alia allowing this WG to continue;
2. that the objectives of this Working Group focus on effective management of bycatch and minimization of discards in the NAFO Regulatory Area, to the extent practicable, by recommending appropriate policy and regulatory changes that recognize the diverse factors influencing and incentivizing by-catch and discards in each fishery, the current biological status of affected species, and domestic legislation affecting bycatch and discards;
3. that the Fisheries Commission consider amendments to the management measures and approach for managing 3M cod and redfish fishery fisheries that address factors promoting discards;
4. that the FC task STACTIC to support the WG as necessary including the development of standardized language for by-catch and discards throughout the CEM, including clarifying ambiguous or inconsistent terminology;
5. that the FC include SC on this issue as necessary through this WG. To start with the FC-SC dialogue will give specific consideration to the discussions of this WG;
6. that the Secretariat continue to analyze data about bycatch and discards in NAFO fisheries. The analysis in particular should identify areas and fisheries of concern; identify anomalies and trends regarding bycatch and discards; and give priority to species under moratorium or instances where there may be conservation issues;
7. that Contracting Parties continue to share available information on domestic practices and/or policies to address bycatch and discards;
8. that the FC give further consideration to improving bycatch and discards data availability and quality, including options already identified in other NAFO bodies. This would be made available to the Secretariat, SC and the WGs of the FC and SC for the purpose of undertaking bycatch and discard analysis;
9. that the FC work jointly with SC to task appropriate NAFO bodies to develop a draft definition of bycatch and to compile a draft list of bycatch species per GC Action Plan (GC Doc 12/1).