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36TH ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2014

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

The Joint FC-SC WG on Catch Reporting met on 3-4 January 2014 in Halifax, Nova Scotia and agreed on the following recommendations (FCSC Doc 14/01):

It is recommended

1. that this WG continues, with the same goals and objectives, for another year. At the 2015 Annual Meeting FC and SC give consideration to prolonging this joint working group
2. that this WG should meet, either by correspondence or at another meeting preceding the 2014 Annual Meeting, to continue moving towards a transparent and robust method for producing estimates of catch
3. that if agreed by FC and SC the work would continue on priority stocks for the June 2015 SC meeting, and again report at the 2015 Annual Meeting.
4. that a process for catch estimation be constructed by continuing dialogue within this working group, using a suite of available data considered in Annex 4, and any other data, such as scientific observer reports. The process should be fully documented and transparent, including documentation of data selection and validation and tools for data synthesis.
5. that in a timely manner, SC, with assistance from the Secretariat, conducts a pilot exercise to explore and document the use of all available data, focusing on VMS & VTI for all flag states operating in this fishery, for catch estimation of Div. 3M Cod.

Results of this exercise may guide the work of this group in the future, especially on other priority stocks, e.g. 2 + 3KLNMO Greenland halibut and Div. 3LNO American plaice.

6. to encourage Contracting Parties to reflect upon the discussions of this working group and be prepared to offer revisions to the existing CEM to improve catch reporting at future FC meetings.

The WG recommends FC give further consideration to:

7. the need for development of best practice/guidelines for data collection and clarification of roles/responsibilities for observers
8. make NAFO Observer catch and biological sampling information, in anonymized form, available to Scientific Council and working groups of FC and SC to support catch validation and development of catch estimates for stock assessment.
9. the provision of NAFO logbook data (NCEM Annex IIA) to the Secretariat by electronic means, and to making it available to Scientific Council and working groups of FC and SC for the purpose of supporting catch validation and development of catch estimates for stock assessment.
10. the available data for straddling stocks which may contribute to the assessment of catch estimates.
11. exchange of catch on entry and exit information with NEAFC to improve reliability, noting the specific role of Joint NEAFC-NAFO Advisory Group on Data Management in this matter.