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**Notification process for the closure of the redfish fishery in
NAFO Division 3M**

Explanatory memorandum

The closure of the 3M redfish fishery relies heavily on timely notifications from the NAFO Executive Secretary.

In its July 2015 meeting, the Working Group on Bycatch, Selectivity and Discards (WG BDS) adopted a recommendation (recommendation no. 4 in NAFO/FC Doc. 15/06) that requests the Fisheries Commission to consider amendments to Article 5.12 of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEM). Those amendments should ensure a speedy closure of the 3M redfish fishery by relying on NAFO notifications based on projected catches, not actual catches. The WG BDS also recommended that STACTIC reviews the modifications prior to their possible adoption by the Fisheries Commission; notably in order to ensure consistency with other existing rules in the NCEM.

The amendments outlined below establish a system whereby, at 100% of the Redfish 3M TAC, the current 5-day notification becomes a closure notice. This would allow Contracting Parties to initiate closing procedures promptly and in advance to the exhaustion of the TAC.

The text proposed includes two new subparagraphs:

- A new edit of Art 5.12 (d) for clarification and to regulate the 100 % closure of redfish 3M separately. No changes in the substance of the 5-day notification process for the other notifications that currently exists.
- A new subparagraph (e), to convert the 100% redfish 3M notification into a closure notice by which the Executive Secretary, 5 days in advance.

Proposed amendments

1. New edit of Article 5.12 (d) – *Duties of the Executive Secretary*

- d) notifies all Contracting Parties by electronic means 5 calendar days in advance of the date on which the available data indicates that total reported catch, including discards, ~~is estimated~~
 - i. is estimated at 50% of the TAC, for redfish in Division 3M;
 - ii. is equal to 80% and then 100% for any particular stock subject to an "Others" quota, when such quota exists in accordance with Annex I.A;



2. Insert a new subparagraph (e)

- e) establishes and notifies all Contracting Parties, by electronic means, ~~72~~ 96 hours in advance, the date of closure of the fishery for redfish in Division 3M. The date shall be determined on the basis of projections derived from reported catches, including discards, and indicate when those catches may reach 100% of the TAC.

3. Renumber subparagraphs (e) and (f)