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37TH ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2015

SCOPE OF THE REVIEW OF THE NAFO PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH FRAMEWORK (PAF)

Explanatory memorandum

1. Upon the recommendation of the Scientific Council (SC), the Fisheries Commission (FC) adopted a Precautionary Approach Framework (PAF) to guide fisheries management decision making back 2004.
2. In 2014 a joint working group of Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council on Risk-based Management Strategies was formed (WG-RBMS). The main objective of this joint working group is to make recommendations to the Fisheries Commission and feedback to Scientific Council on the development and effective implementation of management strategies, based on the application of the precautionary approach including conservation plans and rebuilding strategies, and to facilitate dialogue between SC and FC (NAFO/FC Doc. 13/18).
3. In its April 2015 meeting, the WG-RBMS adopted a recommendation (recommendation no. 1 in NAFO FC/SC Doc. 15/02) that envisages the creation by the Scientific Council of a technical working group. This technical group should explore the revision of the NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework in order to ensure coherence.
4. The working group also recommended that Fisheries Commission identifies the scope and priorities for such a review (recommendation no. 2 in NAFO FC/SC Doc. 15/02)

Proposal

It is proposed that the Fisheries Commission adopts the following scope for the Scientific Council technical working group when reviewing the NAFO PAF.

- To clarify the following elements:
 - To confirm/review the NAFO PA reference points definition in page 3 NAFO/FC Doc. 04/18.
 - To confirm/review the NAFO Management strategies and courses of action, including risk levels, on page 3 NAFO/FC Doc. 04/18
 - Distinction between MSY and limit/target related reference points.
 - Analysis in support of the development of other reference points (e.g. targets, buffers).



- To review the methods for the calculation and interpretation of risk and the quantification and qualification of uncertainties related to them.
 - For stocks where risk analyses are not possible, provide options on how to establish buffer reference points on a stock by stock basis.
 - Determine the conditions for when/if reference points should change and / or be re-evaluated.
- Consider how a revised PA can fit within an Ecosystem Approach.
 - In reviewing the NAFO PAF the WG will also take into consideration other Precautionary Approach Frameworks with a focus in the North Atlantic.