



**38<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2016**

**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 9 August 2016 in Halifax, Nova Scotia and agreed on the following recommendations (FC Doc. 16/05):

1. **The Fisheries Commission to endorse the continuation of the work by the FC *Ad hoc* WG-BDS to further develop and finalize the Action Plan in time of the 2017 NAFO Annual Meeting;**
2. **The Fisheries Commission to request the Scientific Council, based on analysis of the 2016 H x H data and patterns of fishing activity, to examine relative levels of bycatch and discards of 3M cod/redfish, and stocks under moratoria in the different circumstances (e.g. fisheries, area, season, fleets, depths, timing);**
3. **The Secretariat to continue to analyze data for trends, patterns, anomalies:**
  - **In cases where bycatch thresholds are exceeded or trends are apparent, the analysis should provide additional information on the associated catch weights for the specific stocks (3NO cod, 3M American plaice, 3LNO American plaice);**
  - **Analysis should consider both historical and current CATs (2012 to current); and**
  - **Trend in reported catch of non- Annex I.A species (3M witch flounder and 3M skate).**

