

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization



Report of the NAFO STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group

18-20 October 2016
Hafnarfjörður, Iceland

NAFO
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada
2016

Report of the STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group

18-20 October 2016
Hafnarfjörður, Iceland

1. Opening of the Meeting.....	3
2. Appointment of Rapporteur	3
3. Adoption of Agenda	3
4. Action Plan for the Working Group	3
5. Science Engagement.....	3
6. Review of Article 30	4
7. Code of Conduct for the NAFO Observer Program	5
8. Changes to Annex II.M of the NAFO CEM	5
9. Training and Equipment	5
10. Time and Place of Next Meeting.....	5
11. Adoption of the Report.....	6
12. Adjournment.....	6
Annex 1. List of Participants	7
Annex 2. Agenda.....	9

Report of the STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group

18-20 October 2016
Hafnarfjörður, Iceland

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was opened at 13:00 hrs on Tuesday, 18 October 2016 at the Directorate of Fisheries in Hafnarfjörður, Iceland with representatives from the following Contracting Parties – Canada, Denmark (in Respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, Iceland, and the United States of America (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat was appointed rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted (Annex 2).

4. Action Plan for the Working Group

The Working Group decided that a formal Action Plan should be developed to facilitate specific tasks and timelines that the group need to achieve. The group developed a list of items that would need to be included in the Action Plan and that list is presented in STACTIC WG-OPR WP 16-03. The European Union agreed to take the itemized list and develop the Action Plan from it for presentation at the next meeting of the Working Group. Canada agreed to provide the European Union with examples of other action plans to assist with the development process.

It was **agreed** that:

- **the European Union would use the list presented in STACTIC WG-OPR WP 16-03 as a basis for developing the Action Plan for the NAFO STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group for presentation at the next meeting of the Working Group.**
- **Canada would provide examples of other action plans to the European Union to assist with the development process of the Action Plan for the NAFO STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group.**

5. Science Engagement

The group discussed the issue of science engagement within the Working Group and noted that there is a need for science input, but that the Scientific Council is extremely busy and may not have the time to participate in the Working Group. There was general agreement that there is a need to determine specific issues that need science engagement, and that there will likely need to be a phased approach throughout the development of the new NAFO Observer Program which may require science to answer broad questions in the beginning, and as the program gets refined, the group may require answers to more detailed questions. The group agreed on two questions to go back and ask their own scientists as a starting point, and those are outlined in STACTIC WG-OPR WP 16-04. The group also noted that the Catch Data Advisory Group (CDAG), which is a sub-group of the Ad Hoc Joint FC-SC Working Group on Catch Reporting (WG-CR), has been doing comparisons of the various sources of catch information that are provided to the Secretariat, and that these may also be good groups to involve in the Observer Program review discussions.

There was also discussion on whether the NAFO Observer program could have the capacity to serve both purposes of science and compliance observers. The current information being collected mainly serves a compliance objective, and there were questions as to whether that same observer could also conduct scientific sampling, or if that would be asking too much of the individual. It was noted that NAFO Observers could be required to be trained in biological sampling, but there would have to be a need from Contracting Parties and somewhere for the samples to go to be analyzed. Some flag States are currently doing this on their own with their own scientific observers, so the discussion would have to be had with science to determine if there would be a need for this additional sampling from NAFO Observers.

The group also discussed that the bigger need is for a standard method of data collection rather than looking for the observers to collect more data. It was noted that the European Union Catch Estimates Study (SC WP 16-14) would be addressing catch estimate methodologies and that perhaps NAFO Observers could adopt the estimation strategies put forward in this study. The European Union noted that results from this study would hopefully be available in early 2018.

It was **agreed** that:

- **to help facilitate the beginning of science engagement for the NAFO Observer Program, participants would take the questions outlined in STACTIC WG-OPR WP 16-04 back to their own scientists, and the responses would be discussed at the next meeting.**
- **NAFO Catch Data Advisory Group (CDAG) members would arrange to put the question of the utility of observer data on the agenda for the next meeting of CDAG or the NAFO Ad Hoc Joint FC-SC Working Group on Catch Reporting (WG-CR).**

6. Review of Article 30

The group reviewed the draft Article 30 presented in WG-OPR Draft Article 30 - Version 3. Some changes were made to the draft and are reflected in WG-OPR Draft Article 30 - Version 4, but the discussion was halted because there needed to be a clear understanding from a compliance perspective exactly what was expected of the observer before the changes to the program could be drafted. The group walked through a timeline of what would be expected of an observer from a compliance perspective and that is outlined in STACTIC WG-OPR WP 16-05. It was felt that outlining the process of what would be required from a compliance perspective was a very useful exercise to facilitate the discussion of data collection requirements. Knowing the minimum requirements for compliance could then facilitate the discussion with science in terms of adding to those data collection requirements to enhance scientific function of the observer program within NAFO.

Part of the discussions revolved around requiring the electronic observer reports (OBRs) on a daily basis for all observers. Contracting Parties noted that there have been instances when the observer reports submitted have different catch amounts than those that are recorded in the daily catch reports (CATs). The timeline for submitting the observer report is 30 days following when the vessel lands in port, so by the time the report is received and the data sources are compared, it is too late to investigate the discrepancy. Having mandatory daily electronic observer reports for all vessels would lead to a more real time comparison of these catch data sources and may allow inspectors to detect incidences of discrepancies while the vessel is still operating within the NAFO Regulatory Area. The NAFO Secretariat agreed to do a comparison of the catch amounts in the OBR messages and the daily CATs for review at the next meeting.

The group also questioned what the difference was between the terms program and scheme. Chapter V of the 2016 NAFO CEM is titled Observer Scheme and Article 30 is titled Observer Program.

It was **agreed** that:

- **the NAFO Secretariat would prepare a comparison between the catch amounts in the OBR messages that have been received so far and the daily CATs for presentation at the next meeting of the NAFO STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group.**

7. Code of Conduct for the NAFO Observer Program

The European Union presented STACTIC WG-OPR WP 16-01 which was a draft Code of Conduct for the NAFO Observer program. The group reviewed the draft and felt that many of the points within the document were already covered under the NAFO CEM, domestic or international legislation, or domestic observer programs. It was decided that each Contracting Party would take the information presented in STACTIC WG-OPR WP 16-01 and divide it into 4 categories: 1. Covered under domestic observer programs, 2. Covered under domestic regulations or international law, 3. Covered under the current NAFO CEM, 4. Not covered by the above and should be incorporated into the NAFO CEM. Contracting Parties agreed to have their lists completed by 14 February 2017, and the Working Group would decide from there how to proceed with reviewing the lists. The NAFO Secretariat agreed to set up a SharePoint site for the Working Group to facilitate the sharing of this information as well as set up a discussion board to use between meetings.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties would review the information presented in STACTIC WG-OPR WP 16-01 and divide the information into the following four categories: 1. Covered under domestic observer programs, 2. Covered under domestic regulations or international law, 3. Covered under the current NAFO CEM, 4. Not covered by the above and should be incorporated into the NAFO CEM.**
- **Contracting Parties would have their lists completed by 14 February 2017, and the NAFO STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group would decide from there how to proceed with reviewing the lists.**
- **the NAFO Secretariat would set up a SharePoint site for the NAFO STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group to facilitate the sharing of information and discussions.**

8. Changes to Annex II.M of the NAFO CEM

The European Union prepared draft changes to Annex II.M in STACTIC WG-OPR WP 16-02, however this discussion was deferred to the next meeting.

9. Training and Equipment

As per the agreement, Contracting Parties started submitting their list of equipment and training for inspectors and observers. The NAFO Secretariat agreed to set up a SharePoint site for the Working Group to facilitate the sharing of this information between members of the group.

It was **agreed** that:

- **the NAFO Secretariat would set up a SharePoint site to facilitate the sharing of individual Contracting Party training and equipment information.**

10. Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group will take place in conjunction with the STACTIC Intersessional during the week of 08 May 2017.

STACTIC WG-Observer Program Review,
18-20 October 2016

11. Adoption of the Report

The report was adopted via correspondence.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 18:00 hrs on 19 October 2016.

Annex 1. List of Participants

CANADA

Dwyer, Judy. Director, Enforcement, Conservation and Protection (C&P), Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6
Tel.: +613 993-3371 – E-mail: judy.dwyer@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Lambert, Bob. Director, Conservation and Protection (C&P) NCR, NL Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, P. O. Box 5667, St. John's, NL A1X 5X1
Tel.: +709 772 5482 – E-mail: robert.lambert@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Slaney, Lloyd. Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Conservation & Protection, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Centre 80 East White Hills Rd., St. John's, NL A1C 5X1 Email: Lloyd.Slaney@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF THE FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND)

Gaardlykke, Meinhard. Adviser, The Faroe Islands Fisheries Inspection, Yviri við Strond 3, P. O. Box 1238, FO-110 Torshavn, Faroe Islands
Tel: +298 31 1065 – Mobile: +298 29 1006 – Email: meinhardg@vorn.fo

Jacobsen, Petur Meinhard. Head of Section, Greenland Home Rule, Postbox 501, DK-3900 Nuuk, Greenland
Tel: +299 34 5393 – Email: pmja@nanoq.gl

EUROPEAN UNION

Jury, Justine. European Commission, Directorate General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs (DG MARE.B.1), Rue Joseph II, 99, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
Email: justine.jury@ec.europa.eu

Rodríguez Alfaro, Sebastián. International Affairs, Law of the Sea and Regional Fisheries Organizations, European Commission, Directorate General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs (DG MARE.B.1), Rue Joseph II, 99, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
Email: Sebastian.RODRIGUEZ-ALFARO@ec.europa.eu

Spezzani, Aronne. European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, 99 Rue Joseph II, B-1049, Brussels, Belgium
Tel.: +32 2 295 9629 – E-mail: aronne.spezzani@ec.europa.eu

ICELAND

Asgeirsson, Hrannar Mar. Directorate of Fisheries, Surveillance Department, Fiskistofa, Dalshrauni 1, 220 Hafnarfjörður, Iceland
Email: hrannar@fiskistofa.is

Benediktsdóttir, Brynhildur. Senior Expert, Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Ministry of Industries and Innovation, Skúlagötu 4, 150 Reykjavík, Iceland
Tel: +354 545 9700 – Email: brynhildur.benediktstottir@anr.is

Thormar, Anna. Quota Allocations Department, Directorate of Fisheries, Dalshrauni 1, 220 Hafnarfjörður
Tel.: +354 569 7900 –E-mail: annatho@fiskistofa.is

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Heckwolf, Joseph. Attorney, Enforcement Section, NOAA General Counsel, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930, USA
Tel: +1 (978) 281-9241 – Email: joseph.heckwolf@noaa.gov

Martin, Jr., Gene. Attorney, Section Chief, Office of the General Counsel, Northeast Regional Office, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930
Tel.: + 978 281 9242 – E-mail: gene.s.martin@noaa.gov

STACTIC WG-Observer Program Review,
18-20 October 2016

NAFO SECRETARIAT

2 Morris Drive, Suite 100, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada – Tel: +1 902 468-5590
Aker, Jana. Fisheries Information Administrator

E-mail: jaker@nafo.int



Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Action Plan for the Working Group
5. Science Engagement
6. Review of Article 30
7. Code of Conduct for the NAFO Observer Program
8. Changes to Annex II.M of the NAFO CEM
9. Training and Equipment
10. Time and Place of Next Meeting
11. Adoption of the Report
12. Adjournment