

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

Serial No. N2333

NAFO/GC Doc 93/6

15TH ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 1993

**AIDE MEMOIRE**

(for joint diplomatic demarche)

The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) was established in 1979 inter alia to implement the obligations of states under international law regarding conservation and management of fishery resources in the Northwest Atlantic beyond the areas in which coastal states exercise fisheries jurisdiction, referred to as the "Regulatory Area" of NAFO.

Eleven states and regional economic integration organizations with long histories of fishing in the Regulatory Area are currently Contracting Parties to NAFO and exercise their duties under the relevant provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to co-operate with each other in the conservation and management of living resources in the areas of the high seas.

The Contracting Parties of NAFO have made very substantial reductions in their permitted catches and are deeply concerned at the fact that vessels flying the flags of states which do not comply with their obligations to cooperate with other states in conservation and management are taking a substantial share of the living marine resources of the NAFO Regulatory Area when those resources are at historically depleted levels. The Government of \_\_\_\_\_ has stated that it does not wish to join NAFO nor to undermine the effectiveness of NAFO's conservation and management regime. The Contracting Parties of NAFO have collectively and individually taken diplomatic initiatives to urge states which do not cooperate with NAFO to withdraw their vessels from the Regulatory Area. Several states have already complied. NAFO again urges the Government of \_\_\_\_\_ to withdraw its vessels forthwith. There is now a real urgency for the immediate withdrawal of these vessels given the critical state of many of the NAFO-managed fish stocks.

The Contracting Parties of NAFO are prepared to offer any assistance needed by the Government of \_\_\_\_\_ to effect the withdrawal of its vessels from the NAFO Regulatory Area and in the interim meeting its other obligations of cooperation with NAFO. In particular NAFO is convinced that a minimum degree of interim cooperation is the provision of statistical data concerning catches of fish in the Regulatory Area, since such data are essential to rational decision-taking on conservation and management measures.

The Government of \_\_\_\_\_ has not responded to previous NAFO requests to provide statistical data. The Contracting Parties to NAFO have, however, agreed in the attached Resolution that for fish landed directly by \_\_\_\_\_ vessels into their ports, they are prepared on an interim basis to assist the Government of \_\_\_\_\_ by collecting landing declaration forms and forwarding them to the Government of \_\_\_\_\_ for verification and discharge of all relevant obligations. These statistical data are essential for the NAFO Scientific Council to give appropriate advice on the conservation and management of the living marine resources of the NAFO Regulatory Area. Such willingness by the Contracting Parties to assist in the collection of statistics does not, however, supercede the urgent request of NAFO that the Government of \_\_\_\_\_ withdraw its vessels from the Regulatory Area forthwith.