

Serial No. N4206NAFO/GC Doc. 99/10**Rules for Granting Observer Status at NAFO Meetings**

(adopted at the 21st Annual Meeting, September 1999)

Delete Rule 1.2 of the Rules of Procedure for both the General Council and the Fisheries Commission.
Add Rule 9 and 10 respectively as follows:

Observers

(General Council)

Rule 9

9.1 The Executive Secretary shall invite:

- Intergovernmental organizations that have regular contacts with NAFO as regards fisheries matters or whose work is of interest to NAFO or vice-versa.
- Non-Contracting Parties identified as harvesting fishery resources in the Regulatory Area.

9.2 All non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that support the general objectives of NAFO and with a demonstrated interest in the species under the purview of NAFO should be eligible to participate as an observer in all plenary meetings of the General Council, except meetings held in executive session or meetings of Heads of Delegations.

9.3. Any NGO desiring to participate as an observer in a meeting of the General Council shall notify the Secretariat of its desire to participate at least 100 days in advance of the meeting. This application must include:

- Name, address, telephone, fax number of the organization and the person(s) proposed to represent the organization;
- Address of all its national/regional offices;
- Aims and purposes of the organization and a statement that the NGO generally supports the objectives of NAFO, i.e., optimum utilization, rational management and conservation of the fishery resources of the NAFO Convention Area;
- Information on the organization's total number of members, its decision-making process and its funding;
- A brief history of the organization and a description of its activities;
- Representative papers or other similar resources produced by or for the organization on the conservation, management, or science of fishery resources to which the Convention applies;
- A history of NAFO observer status granted/revoked;
- Information or input that the organization plans to present at the meeting in question and that it would wish to be circulated by the Secretariat for review by Contracting Parties prior to the meeting, supplied in sufficient quantity for such distribution.

9.4 The Executive Secretary shall review applications received within the prescribed time, and, at least 90 days before the meeting for which the application was received, shall notify the Contracting Parties of the names and qualifications of NGOs having fulfilled the requirements stipulated in Rule 9.3. With respect to the plenary meetings of the General Council, if one or more of the Contracting Parties object giving in writing its reasons within 30 days, the matter will be put to a vote by written procedure. Applications will then be considered as accepted in accordance with the procedures laid down in Article V para 2 of the Convention at least 30 days prior to the meeting. The Executive Secretary shall also circulate any reasons given in a preliminary objection as well as any comments that Contracting Parties may include with their vote on this matter.

9.5 Any NGO admitted to a meeting of the General Council may:

- Attend meetings, as set forth above, but may not vote;
- Make oral statements during the meeting upon the invitation of the chairman;
- Distribute documents at meetings through the Secretariat;
- Engage in other activities as appropriate and as approved by the chairman.

Any NGO admitted to a meeting of the General Council may not use films, videos, tape-recording devices etc. to record meeting proceedings.

9.6 Observers will be required to pay a fee, which will cover the additional expenses generated by their participation, as determined annually by the Executive Secretary.

9.7 The Executive Secretary will determine whether, due to conference room capacity, seating limitations require that a limited number of observers per NGO may be present at any meetings. The Executive Secretary will transmit any such determination in the conditions of participation.

9.8 All observers admitted to a meeting shall be sent or otherwise receive the same documentation generally available to Contracting Parties and their delegations, except those documents deemed confidential by a Contracting Party or the Executive Secretary.

9.9 All observers admitted to a meeting shall comply with all rules and procedures applicable to other participants in the meeting. Failure to conform to these rules or any other rules that NAFO may adopt for the conduct of observers may result in removal from the meeting by the presiding officer and revocation of observer status.

9.10 These rules shall be subject to review and revision, as appropriate, at or after the 23rd Annual Meeting (2001), where the Secretariat will prepare a report on the Observers' participation. If any Contracting Party so requests, the adequacy of these rules shall be reviewed and assessed and, if necessary amendments shall be adopted in the light of the need of NAFO to function effectively when conducting its business.

Observers

(Fisheries Commission)

Rule 10

- 10.1 The Executive Secretary shall invite:
- Intergovernmental organizations that have regular contacts with NAFO as regards fisheries matters or whose work is of interest to NAFO or vice-versa.
 - Non-Contracting Parties identified as harvesting fishery resources in the Regulatory Area.
- 10.2 All non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that support the general objectives of NAFO and with a demonstrated interest in the species under the purview of NAFO should be eligible to participate as an observer in all plenary meetings of the Fisheries Commission, except meetings held in executive session or meetings of Heads of Delegations.
- 10.3. Any NGO desiring to participate as an observer in a meeting of the Fisheries Commission shall notify the Secretariat of its desire to participate at least 100 days in advance of the meeting. This application must include:
- Name, address, telephone, fax number of the organization and the person(s) proposed to represent the Organization;
 - Address of all its national/regional offices;
 - Aims and purposes of the organization and a statement that the NGO generally supports the objectives of NAFO, i.e., optimum utilization, rational management and conservation of the fishery resources of the NAFO Convention Area;
 - Information on the organization's total number of members, its decision-making process and its funding;
 - A brief history of the organization and a description of its activities;
 - Representative papers or other similar resources produced by or for the organization on the conservation, management, or science of fishery resources to which the Convention applies;
 - A history of NAFO observer status granted/revoked;
 - Information or input that the organization plans to present at the meeting in question and that it would wish to be circulated by the Secretariat for review by Contracting Parties prior to the meeting, supplied in sufficient quantity for such distribution.
- 10.4 The Executive Secretary shall review applications received within the prescribed time, and, at least 90 days before the meeting for which the application was received, shall notify the Contracting Parties of the names and qualifications of NGOs having fulfilled the requirements stipulated in Rule 10.3. With respect to the plenary meetings of the Fisheries Commission, if one or more of the Contracting Parties objects giving in writing its reasons within 30 days, the matter will be put to a vote by written procedure. Applications will then be considered as accepted in accordance with the provisions laid down in Article XIV para 2 of the Convention at least 30 days prior to the meeting. The Executive Secretary shall also circulate any reasons given in a preliminary objection as well as any comments that Contracting Parties may include with their vote on this matter.

10.5 Any NGO admitted to a meeting of the Fisheries Commission may:

- Attend meetings, as set forth above, but may not vote;
- Make oral statements during the meeting upon the invitation of the chairman;
- Distribute documents at meetings through the Secretariat;
- Engage in other activities as appropriate and as approved by the chairman.

Any NGO admitted to a meeting of the Fisheries Commission may not use films, videos, tape-recording devices etc. to record meeting proceedings.

10.6 Observers will be required to pay a fee, which will cover the additional expenses generated by their participation, as determined annually by the Executive Secretary.

10.7 The Executive Secretary will determine whether, due to conference room capacity, seating limitations require that a limited number of observers per NGO may be present at any meetings. The Executive Secretary will transmit any such determination in the conditions of participation.

10.8 All observers admitted to a meeting shall be sent or otherwise receive the same documentation generally available to Contracting Parties and their delegations, except those documents deemed confidential by a Contracting Party or the Executive Secretary.

10.9 All observers admitted to a meeting shall comply with all rules and procedures applicable to other participants in the meeting. Failure to conform to these rules or any other rules that NAFO may adopt for the conduct of observers may result in removal from the meeting by the presiding officer and revocation of observer status.

10.10 These rules shall be subject to review and revision, as appropriate, at or after the 23rd Annual Meeting (2001), when the Secretariat will prepare a Report on the observers' participation. If any Contracting Party so requests, the adequacy of these rules shall be reviewed and assessed and, if necessary amendments shall be adopted in the light of the need of NAFO to function effectively when conducting its business.