

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

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SCHEME TO PROMOTE COMPLIANCE BY NON-CONTRACTING PARTY VESSELS WITH RECOMMENDATIONS ESTABLISHED BY NAFO

(These amendments are intended to replace Chapter VI of the CEM. Numbering of articles in this section will thus be corrected.)

Article 1

Scope and Objectives

1. The purpose of this Scheme is to promote compliance by non-Contracting Party vessels with recommendations established by NAFO and to prevent, deter and eliminate fishing activities by non-Contracting Party vessels that undermine the effectiveness of the Conservation and Enforcement measures established by the Organization.
2. Nothing in this scheme shall affect the sovereign rights of Contracting Parties to impose additional measures to promote compliance by NCP vessels, in accordance with international law.
3. This Scheme shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with international law, including the rights of port access in case of force majeure or distress in accordance with the United Nations Law of the Sea, and the principles, rights and obligations in WTO agreements, and be implemented in a fair and transparent manner.

Article 2

Definitions

(These definitions are to be inserted in Article 2 of the CEM)

1. “non-Contracting Party vessel” means any vessel not flagged to a Contracting Party, including vessels for which there are reasonable grounds for suspecting them to be without nationality.
2. “IUU fishing” means activities as defined in paragraph 3 of the FAO International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.
3. “IUU List” means the list, established pursuant to Articles 7.5 and 8 of Chapter VI, containing the particulars of vessels that have been found by the General Council to have engaged in IUU fishing.
4. “Provisional List” means the list, established pursuant to Article 7 of Chapter VI, containing the particulars of vessels that have been identified as having engaged in fishing activities, according to information received pursuant to Articles 3 to 6 or information received in reports pursuant to Article 8 of Chapter VI.

Article 3

Sightings and identifications of non Contracting Party vessels / Presumption of NCP vessels undermining NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures

1. A non-Contracting Party vessel that has been sighted or by other means identified by a Contracting Party as engaging in fishing activities in the Regulatory Area is presumed to be undermining the effectiveness of Conservation and Enforcement Measures. In the case of any transshipment activities involving a sighted non-Contracting Party vessel, inside or outside the Regulatory Area, the presumption of undermining Conservation and Enforcement Measures applies to any other non-Contracting Party vessel that has engaged in such activities with that vessel.
2. Information regarding such sightings or identifications shall be immediately transmitted to the Secretariat. For sightings, the Surveillance Report provided in Annex XII shall be used. The Secretariat shall then transmit this information to all Contracting Parties and other relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations within one business day of receiving this information, and to the flag State as soon as possible.
3. The Contracting Party shall attempt to inform the vessel that it has been sighted or identified engaging in fishing activities, and is accordingly presumed to be undermining the Conservation and Enforcement Measures, and that this information will be distributed to all Contracting Parties, other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and to the flag State of the vessel.

Article 4

Inspections at sea

1. NAFO inspectors shall, if appropriate, request permission to board non-Contracting Party vessels that are sighted engaging in fishing activities in the Regulatory Area. If the vessel consents to be boarded the inspectors' findings shall be transmitted to the Secretariat without delay. The Secretariat shall transmit this information to all Contracting Parties and other relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations within one business day of receiving this information, and to the Flag State as soon as possible. The non- Contracting Party vessel that is boarded shall be provided with a copy of the findings of the NAFO inspectors.
2. Where evidence so warrants, a Contracting Party may take such action as may be appropriate in accordance with international law.

Article 5

Inspections in port

1. When a non-Contracting Party vessel referred to in Article 3(1) enters a port of any Contracting Party, it shall be inspected by authorized Contracting Party officials knowledgeable of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures (and this Scheme), and shall not be allowed to land or tranship any fish until this inspection has taken place. Such inspections shall include the vessel's documents, log books, fishing gear, catch onboard and any other matter relating to the vessel's activities in the Regulatory Area.
2. Information on the results of all inspections of non-Contracting Party vessels conducted in the ports of Contracting Parties, and any subsequent action, shall immediately be transmitted to all Contracting Parties and other relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations through the NAFO Secretariat, and as soon as possible to the relevant flag State(s).

Article 6

Fishing activities

1. Contracting Parties shall ensure that their vessels do not receive or deliver transshipments of fish to or from a non-Contracting Party vessel referred to in Article 3 or engage in joint fishing operations with such vessels.
2. Landings and transshipments of all fish from a non-Contracting Party vessel referred to in Article 3 shall be prohibited in all Contracting Party ports, unless:
 - a) The vessel establishes that the fish subject to the NAFO convention were caught outside the Regulatory Area; or
 - b) The vessel establishes that it has applied all relevant Conservation and Enforcement Measures.
3. Contracting Parties denying landings or transshipments shall inform the vessel, the flag State of the vessel and the NAFO Secretariat of this decision.

Article 7

Notification of presumed IUU activities and establishment of a Provisional List

1. Upon receipt of information from Contracting Parties pursuant to Articles 3 to 6, the Secretariat shall enter the flag State, vessel name and letters and numbers of registration, and other identifying features of the vessel as available, on a Provisional List. The Secretariat shall place the Provisional List on a secure section of the NAFO website.
2. In addition to information submitted from Contracting Parties pursuant to Articles 3 to 6, Contracting Parties may at any time submit to the Secretariat any further information, which might be relevant for the identification of non-Contracting Party vessels that might be carrying out IUU fishing in the Regulatory Area.
3. At the same time, the Secretariat shall, in consultation with the Chair of STACFAC, advise relevant non-Contracting Parties of the vessels flying their flag that have been included in the Provisional List and provide the following information to the non-Contracting party:
 - a) the reasons for the inclusion on the Provisional List and all relevant evidence upon which inclusion of the vessel on the list is based;
 - b) a copy of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures, including this Scheme;
 - c) request that it take measures in accordance with its applicable legislation to ensure that the vessel or vessels in question desist from any activities that undermine the effectiveness of Conservation and Enforcement Measures;
 - d) a request to report back to NAFO within 30 days from the date the letter is sent on the results of enquiries and/or measures it has taken in respect of the vessel or vessels concerned; and,
 - e) the dates when STACFAC and the General Council will be considering recommendations with respect to the composition of the IUU List, and an invitation to the non-Contracting Party to attend the meeting of STACFAC and the General Council as an observer, with the opportunity to further respond to the request specified in sub-paragraph d).

4. The Secretariat shall promptly provide non-Contracting Parties concerned with any additional information received pursuant to Articles 3 to 6 in respect of vessels flying their flag that have already been included on the Provisional List.
5. The Secretariat shall promptly distribute any information received from non-Contracting Parties to all Contracting Parties.
6. If a non-Contracting Party that has received information regarding one of the vessels entitled to fly its flag pursuant to paragraph 2 agrees to a listing the vessel concerned shall be transferred from the Provisional List to the IUU List.

Article 8

Establishment of the IUU list

1. STACFAC shall consider the Provisional List and as appropriate recommend to the General Council that the vessels either:
 - a) be removed from the Provisional List;
 - b) be retained on the Provisional List pending the receipt of further information; or,
 - c) be transferred to the IUU List.
2. STACFAC shall only consider vessels for inclusion on the IUU list if the period referred to in Article 7.3.d) has elapsed.
3. STACFAC shall undertake a review of the current IUU List and as appropriate recommend to the General Council that vessels are maintained thereon or removed. STACFAC shall only recommend that the General Council remove a vessel from either the Provisional or IUU list if the flag State of the vessel concerned provides satisfactory information to establish that:
 - a) it has taken effective action in response to the IUU fishing in question, including prosecution and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity;
 - b) it has taken measures to ensure the granting of the right to the vessel to fly its flag will not result in IUU fishing;
 - c) the vessel has changed ownership and the new owner can establish the previous owner no longer has any legal, financial, or real interests in the vessel, or exercises control over it and that the new owner does not have any legal, financial or real interest in, or exercise control over, a vessel that is on the IUU list or any equivalent type of list established by other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations; or,
 - d) the vessel did not take part in IUU fishing.
4. The General Council shall review the recommendations made by STACFAC pursuant to this Article, and shall determine the composition of the IUU List.
5. The Secretariat shall place the IUU List on the NAFO website. This list shall include the name and flag state of the vessel and, where available, the previous name (s), the previous flag state (s), the radio call sign.

6. The Secretariat shall provide to relevant flag States the names of vessels on the IUU List flagged to that state.

Article 9

Follow-up action

Contracting Parties shall take all necessary measures to the extent possible in accordance with their applicable legislation, in order that:

- a) vessels appearing in the IUU List are not authorized to land, transship, refuel or re-supply, except for reason of majeure or, engage in fish processing operations or in any other activity in preparation for or related to fishing in their ports or waters under their jurisdiction;
- b) fishing vessels, including support vessels, refuel vessels, the mother ships and cargo vessels flying their flag do not in any way assist, or participate in transshipment or any other activity in preparation for or related to fishing or joint fishing activities with vessels appearing on the IUU List;
- c) the issuing of licenses to vessels appearing on the IUU List to fish in waters under their fisheries jurisdiction is prohibited;
- d) the chartering of vessels appearing on the IUU List is prohibited;
- e) the granting of their flag to vessels appearing on the IUU List is prohibited;
- f) importers, transporters and other sectors concerned are encouraged to refrain from negotiating with and from transshipping fish caught by vessels appearing on the IUU List;
- g) appropriate information regarding vessels appearing on the IUU List is collected and exchanged with other Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties and other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations with the aim of detecting, controlling and preventing false import/export certificates regarding fish from such vessels.

Article 10

Actions vis-a-vis Flag States

1. Contracting Parties shall jointly and/or individually request non-Contracting Parties whose vessels appear on the IUU List to co-operate fully with the Organization in order to avoid undermining the effectiveness of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures adopted pursuant to the Convention.
2. The General Council shall review, at subsequent annual meetings as appropriate, actions taken by such non-Contracting Parties and identify those that have not rectified their fishing activities.
3. Contracting Parties should - to the extent possible, consistent with their international obligations and in accordance with applicable legislation - restrict the export and transfer of their formerly licensed fishing vessels to non-contracting parties identified in paragraph 2.