

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization



Report of the General Council

32nd Annual Meeting, 20-24 September 2010
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

NAFO
Dartmouth, N.S., Canada
2010

Report of the General Council and its Subsidiary Body (STACFAD)
32nd Annual Meeting, September 20-24, 2010
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

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PART I
Report of the General Council
32nd Annual Meeting, 20-24 September 2010
Halifax, NS, Canada

I. Opening Procedure (*Agenda items 1-6*)

1. Opening by the Chair

The 32nd Annual Meeting of NAFO was convened on 20 September 2010 at 0900 hrs at the World Trade and Convention Centre, Halifax, NS, Canada, with 180 delegates present from all NAFO Contracting Parties (Annex 1). The NAFO President and GC Chair, Terje Lobach (Norway) introduced the Honourable Gail Shea, P.C., M.P., Canadian Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, who made an opening address to all delegates. The GC Chair also made a welcoming speech to the participants, followed by statements by Canada, the European Union, the United States of America, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), Cuba, Japan and the Russian Federation. (Annexes 2-10).

Opening statements were also made by Observers from the Ecology Action Centre (EAC), the International Coalition of Fisheries Association (ICFA), the Atlantic Chapter of Sierra Club Canada, and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) (Annexes 11-14). The opening statement by the FAO was distributed to participants later (Annex 15).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Vladimir Shibanov, the NAFO Executive Secretary was appointed as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted as circulated (Annex 16).

4. Admission of Observers

In accordance with the Rules for Observers and in advance of the meeting, the Executive Secretary had invited the following intergovernmental organizations to attend: FAO, CCAMLR, CPPS, ICCAT, ICES, NAMMCO, NASCO, NEAFC, NPAFC, PICES, SEAFO. FAO was present, EU observed on behalf of CCAMLR, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) on behalf of NEAFC and Iceland on behalf of NAMMCO. Furthermore, the following NGOs which had been granted observer status were also present: the Ecology Action Centre (EAC), the International Coalition of Fisheries Association (ICFA), the Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club of Canada (SCC) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

5. Publicity

The meeting agreed that no public statements would be made until after the conclusion of the meeting when a Press Release would be prepared by the Executive Secretary in collaboration with the Chairs of the General Council, Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council.

6. Guidance to STACFAD necessary for them to complete their work (Monday)

In addition to its regular tasks, STACFAD was asked to consider the budgetary implications related to the agreed Performance Review.

STACFAD was also asked to make a special effort to look to opportunities for cost savings in order that any increases to Contracting Parties' contributions are kept to a minimum.

II. Supervision and Coordination of the Organizational, Administrative and other Internal Affairs (*Agenda Items 7-11*)

7. Review of membership of the General Council and Fisheries Commission

The membership has not changed since 2008. All twelve NAFO Contracting Parties were present: Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, and the United States of America.

8. Status of Ratification process resulting from the adoption of the amended Convention

To date Norway and Canada have completed the ratification process. Other Contracting Parties reported on progress made in their internal processes.

9. Status of the NAFO Headquarters Agreement

Canada reported that its domestic approval process for the Headquarters Agreement is proceeding, and will be ready for signature in the coming months.

10. Report of the Performance Assessment Working Group, April 2010

The Chair gave an overview of the PAWG report (GC Doc. 10/1), and opened the floor for discussion. A few amendments were made to the recommendation to the Working Group based on these discussions. The amended framework for the Performance Review was presented as GC Doc. 10/4 which was adopted by the General Council.

The General Council agreed that the Secretariat will establish a "Performance Assessment" Area on the NAFO web-pages in order to allow stakeholders to submit their comments and contributions to the Panel. In addition, it was noted that there would be other usual ways for stakeholders to submit comments and contributions.

11. Administrative Report

The Executive Secretary presented the Administrative and Financial report (GC Doc. 10/3 (Revised)). The Report was accepted with no comments. He expressed his appreciation to the Scientific Council Coordinator, Dr Anthony Thompson, for the excellent job done during his time with the Organization.

III. Coordination of External Affairs (*Agenda items 12-13*)

12. Report of the Executive Secretary on External Meetings

Since the last Annual Meeting, the Executive Secretary was involved in the following UN activities in an observer capacity: Ninth Round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (March 2010), Resumed Review Conference (May 2010) and the 11th Meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and Law of the Sea (June 2010).

As well, members of the Secretariat also actively participated in the following external meetings: Advisory Group (AGDC October 2009), D4Science World User Meeting (November 2009), Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP, February 2010), Fishery Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS, February 2010), International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS) (April 2010), Deep-sea Fisheries Guidelines Workshop (FAO, May 2010), and Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) Advisory Board Meeting (July 2010).

Staff members also took part in two outside activities: World Oceans Day 2010 at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, in Halifax, NS (June 2010) and the International Ocean Institute (IOI) round-table discussion at Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS (August 2010).

13. International Relations

At the last Annual Meeting (September 2009), it was agreed that the following Contracting Parties will act as NAFO Observers at upcoming meetings: Norway at SEAFO and NAMMCO, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) at NEAFC, and USA at NPAFC. Reports by NAFO Observers were presented.

For 2010-2011, Norway will represent NAFO at meetings of the South East Atlantic Fishery Organisation (SEAFO) and the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO), Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) will represent NAFO at the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) and the United States of America will represent NAFO at the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC).

IV. Finance (Agenda Items 14-15)

14. Report of STACFAD at Annual Meeting

The STACFAD Chair, Bob Steinbock (Canada), presented the STACFAD Report (Part II of this Report). He noted that there were a few additional items that the Committee had dealt with during the week, and these included expenses related to the Performance Assessment and the process for replacing the Scientific Council Coordinator.

With regards to the timing of the 2013 NAFO Annual Meeting, a proposal that the date be moved to the subsequent week (23 – 27 September) from the usual third full week in September, on a one time basis only, was made. Concerns were expressed that this may conflict with other international meetings.

15. Adoption of the Budget and STACFAD recommendations for 2011

STACFAD made the following recommendations to the General Council:

1. that the 2009 Auditors' Report be adopted;
2. that the amount maintained in the accumulated surplus account be set at \$285,000 of which \$200,000 would be sufficient to finance operations during the first three months of 2011, and of which \$85,000 would be available for use in emergency situations;
3. that the Report of the STACFAD Working Group, April 2010 be adopted noting that the issue of the submission deadline for proposals for the NCEM stated in Rule 4.5 of the Rules of Procedure could be revisited;
4. that Staff Rule 5.3 be amended as follows (changes underlined and in italics): The Executive Secretary may appoint a Coordinator *or the Senior Finance and Staff Administrator* to be the Deputy Executive Secretary for the term of one or two years (renewable). This appointment will be compensated with 10% of the *Coordinator's or the Senior Finance and Staff Administrator's* annual salary;
5. that the budget for 2011 of \$1,886,000 (Annex 3) be adopted;
6. that the General Council re-appoint the three nominees to the Staff Committee (Bill Brodie, Deirdre Warner-Kramer and Bob Steinbock);
7. that the dates of the 2013 Annual Meeting (to be held in Halifax, N.S., Canada, unless an invitation to host is extended by a Contracting Party and accepted by the Organization) are as follows:

Scientific Council	-	[16 – 20] or [23 – 27] September
General Council	-	[16 – 20] or [23 – 27] September
Fisheries Commission	-	[16 – 20] or [23 – 27] September

General Council adopted the first six recommendations presented by STACFAD.

General Council agreed to revisit the potential dates for the 2013 Annual Meeting during the 2011 Annual Meeting.

Canada expressed appreciation to STACFAD for their work. As well, Canada complimented the NAFO Secretariat for their work throughout the year and also complimented all Contracting Parties for submitting the required funds for the financial stability of NAFO.

V. Closing Procedure (*Agenda Items 16-20*)

16. Election of Vice-Chair

Vincent Grimaud (EU) was elected as the General Council Vice-Chair for a term of two years.

17. Time and Place of Next Annual Meeting

The next annual meeting will be held 19-23 September 2011 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

18. Other Business

There were no other matters raised under this item.

19. Press Release

It was agreed that the Executive Secretary and the NAFO President finalize the Press Release from this meeting (Annex 17) and circulate it to the press. The Chairs of Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council were also invited to give their input for inclusion in the Press Release.

20. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned on Friday, 24 September 2010 at 1700 hours.

Annex 1. List of Participants

NAFO President/GC Chair:

Lobach, Terje, Senior Legal Adviser, Directorate of Fisheries, P. O. Box 2009 Nordnes, NO-5817 Bergen, Norway
Phone: +47 55 23 80 00 / 8139 – Fax: +47 55 23 80 90 – E-mail: terje.lobach@fiskeridir.no

CANADA

Head of Delegation

Baird, James W., Regional Director General, Newfoundland and Labrador Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada,
P. O. Box 5667, St John's, NL A1C 5X1
Phone: +709 772 4417 – Fax: +709 772 6306 – E-mail: james.baird@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Alternate

Pearson, Michael, Director General, International Affairs, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent St., Ottawa,
Ontario K1A 0E6
Phone: +613 993 1914 – Fax: +613 990 9574 – E-mail: michael.pearson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Representatives

Baird, James W. (see address above)

Pearson, Michael (see address above)

McCurdy, Earle, President, Fishermen, Food and Allied Workers Union/CAW, P. O. Box 10, St. John's, NL A1C 5H5
Phone: +709 576 7276 – Fax: +709 576 1962 – E-mail: emccurdy@ffaw.nfld.net

Andrews, Ray, Andrews Port Services Limited, Fisheries and Community Consultants, 5 McPherson Avenue,
St. John's, NL A1B 2B8

Phone: +709 754 0444 – Fax: +709 754 0444 – E-mail: raymondandrews@me.com

Advisers

Anderson, Kevin, Director, Conservation and Protection (C&P), NL Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, P. O. Box
5667, St. John's, NL A1C 5X1

Phone: +709 772 4494 – Fax: +709 772 3628 – E-mail: kevin.anderson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Belle-Isle, Alain, Senior Communications Advisor, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, International Fisheries and Seals,
200 Kent Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6

Phone: +613 990 0298 – Fax: +613 990 1866 – E-mail: alain.belle-isle@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Boudreau, Cyril, Marine Adviser – Groundfish, Marine Services, Fisheries and Aquaculture Nova Scotia, 1741
Brunswick Street, 3rd Floor, P. O. Box 2223, Halifax, NS B3J 3C4

Phone: +902 424 2677 – Fax: +902 424 1766 – E-mail: boudrecy@gov.ns.ca

Brodie, Bill, Senior Science Coordinator/Advisor on NAFO, Science Br., NL Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada,
80 East White Hills Rd., P. O. Box 5667, St. John's, NL A1C 5X1

Phone: +709 772 3288 – Fax: +709 772 4105 – E-mail: bill.brodie@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Chapman, Bruce, Executive Director, Groundfish Enterprise Allocation Council, 1362 Revell Dr., Manotick, ON
K4M 1K8

Phone: +613 692 8249 – Fax: +613 692 8250 – E-mail: bchapman@sympatico.ca

Couture, Estelle, Senior Science Adviser, Fish Population Science, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent
Street (Stn. 12S45), Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6

Phone: +613 990 0259 – Fax: +613 954 0807 – E-mail: couturee@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Docherty, Verna, Senior Advisor, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Resource Management, 176 Portland Street, P. O. Box
1035, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4T3

Phone: +902 426 4669 – Fax: +902 426 9683 – E-mail: verna.docherty@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Dooley, Tom, Director, Resource Policy, Dept. of Fisheries and Aquaculture, P. O. Box 8700, St. John's, NL A1B 4J6

Phone: +709 729 0335 – Fax: +709 729 6082 – E-mail: tdooley@gov.nl.ca

Gilchrist, Brett, Senior International Fisheries Officer, International Fisheries Management Bureau, International Affairs Directorate, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent St., Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6
 Phone: +1 613 991 0218 – Fax: +1 613 993 5995 – E-mail: brett.gilchrist@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Greig, Neil, Department Head, Fisheries Division and Economic Development, Makivik Corporation, P. O. Box 179, Kuujuaq, QC J0M 1C0
 Phone: +819 964 2925 ext. 225 – Fax: +819 964 2613 – E-mail: n_greig@makivik.org

Jenkins, Randy, Director, Enforcement, Conservation and Protection (C&P), Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6
 Phone: +613 990 0108 – Fax: +613 941 2718 – E-mail: randy.jenkins@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Kenchington, Ellen, Research Scientist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, 1 Challenger Dr., P. O. Box 1006, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 4A2
 Phone: + 902 426 2030 – E-mail: ellen.kenchington@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Knight, Morley, Regional Director, Fisheries and Aquaculture Management, NL Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, P. O. Box 5667, St. John's, NL A1C 5X1
 Phone: +709 772 4543 – Fax: +709 772 2046 – E-mail: morley.knight@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Lambert, Bob, Chief, Enforcement Operations, Conservation and Protection (C&P) NCR, NL Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, P. O. Box 5667, St. John's, NL A1X 5X1
 Phone: +709 772 5482 – Fax: +709 772 3628 – E-mail: robert.lambert@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Lester, Brian, Manager, Atlantic Fisheries, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6
 Phone: +613 990 0090 – Fax: +613 990 7051 – E-mail: brian.lester@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Koen-Alonso, Mariano, Science Br., NL Region, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, P. O. Box 5667, St. John's, NL A1C 5X1
 Phone: +709 772 2047 – Fax: +709 772 4105 – E-mail: bmariano.koen-alonso@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Lapointe, Sylvie, Director, International Fisheries Management Bureau, International Affairs Directorate, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6
 Phone: +613 993 6853 – Fax: +613 993 5995 – E-mail: sylvie.lapointe@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

McNamara, Brian, President, Newfound Resources Ltd., 90 O'Leary Ave., P. O. Box 13695, St. John's, NL
 Phone: +709 726 7223 – E-mail: nrl@nfld.com

Napier, Brent, International Fisheries Officer, International Affairs Directorate, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent St., Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6
 Phone: +613 998 3805 – Fax: +613 941 2718 – E-mail: napierb@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

O'Rielly, Alastair, Deputy Minister, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Fisheries and Aquaculture, P. O. Box 8700, St. John's, NL A1B 4J6
 Phone: +709 729 3707 – Fax: +709 729 4219 – E-mail: aorielly@gov.nl.ca

Orr, Dave, Science Br., Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Newfoundland & Labrador Region, 80 East White Hills Rd., P. O. Box 5667, St. John's, NL A1C 5X1
 Phone: +709 772 7343 – E-mail: david.orr@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Penney, Christine, Director of Corporate Affairs, Clearwater Seafoods Limited Partnership, 757 Bedford Highway, Bedford, Nova Scotia B4A 3Z7
 Phone: +902 457 2348 – Fax: +902 443 8443 – E-mail: cpenney@clearwater.ca

Sheppard, Beverley, Manager, Harbour Grace Shrimp Co. Ltd., P. O. Box 580, Harbour Grace, NL A0A 2M0
 Phone: +709 596 8000 – Fax: +709 596 8002 – E-mail: bsheppard@hgsc.ca

Singh, Jamie, International Fisheries Adviser, International Fisheries Management Bureau, International Affairs Directorate, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent St., Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6
 Phone: +613 990 1733 – Fax: +613 993 5995 – E-mail: jamie.singh@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Steinbock, Bob, Assistant Director, Straddling and Salmon Fish Stocks, International Affairs Directorate, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, 200 Kent St., Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6
 Phone: +613 993 1836 – Fax: +613 993 5995 – E-mail: steinbob@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Stirling, Roger, President, Seafood Producers Association of Nova Scotia, P. O. Box 991, Dartmouth, NS B2Y 3Z6
 Phone: +902 463 7790 – Fax: +902 469 8294 – E-mail: spans@ns.sympatico.ca

Strowbridge, Leo, Director, International Programs and Corporate Services, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, P. O. Box 5667, St. John's, NL A1C 5X1
 Phone: +709 772 8021 – Fax: +709 772 2046 – E-mail: leo.strowbridge@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Sullivan, Loyola, Ambassador, Fisheries Conservation (JLX), Suite 210, 354 Water Street, St. John's, NL A1C 5W8
 Phone: +709 772 8177 – Fax: +709 772 8178 – E-mail: Loyola.Sullivan@international.gc.ca

Sullivan, Martin, President & CEO, Ocean Choice International L.P., 1315 Topsail Rd., P. O. Box 8274, Stn. A, St. John's, NL A1B 3N4

Phone: +709 782 6244 – Fax: +709 368 2260 – E-mail: msullivan@oceanchoice.com

Walsh, Ray, Resource Manager, Fisheries and Aquaculture Management Br., Fisheries and Oceans Canada, P.O. Box 5667, St. John's, NL A1C 5X1

Phone: +709 772 4472 – Fax: +709 772 3628 – E-mail: walshrp@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Walsh, Rosalind, Executive Director, Northern Coalition, P. O. Box 6421, 189 Water St., Suite 301, St. John's, NL

Phone: +709 722 4404 – Fax: +709 722 4454 – E-mail: rwalsh@nfld.net

Ward, Jerry, Chief Executive Officer, Baffin Fisheries Coalition, P. O Box 6008, Iqaluit, NU XOA 0HO

Phone: +867 979 3066 – Fax: +867 979 3068 – E-mail: jward@bfcoalition.ca

Wareham, Alberto, Managing Director, Icwater Seafoods Inc., P. O. Box 89, Arnold's Cove, NL A0B 1A0

Phone: +709 463 2445 – Fax: +709 463 2300 – E-mail: awareham@icwaterseafoods.com

CUBA

Head of Delegation

Torres Soroa, Martha, International Relations Specialist, Ministry of the Food Industry, Municipio Playa, Havana

Phone: +53 7 207 9484 – Fax: +53 7 204 9168 – E-mail: marthat@minal.cu

Adviser

Pardinas Fernandez, Virginia, Directora General, Pesport, Avenida la Pesquera y Atares, Habana Vieja, La Habana

Phone: +53 7 862 4024 – Fax: +53 7 862 5794 – E-mail: virginia@pesport.telemar.cu

DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF THE FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND)

Head of Delegation (FC)

Mortensen, Elin, Adviser, Department of Oceans and Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tinganes, FO-110 Torshavn, Faroe Islands

Phone: + 298 306142 – Fax: +298 30 61 05 – E-mail: elinm@mfa.fo

Head of Delegation (GC)

Feldthaus, Sonja, Head of Unit, Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture, Government of Greenland, Postbox 269, DK-3900 Nuuk, Greenland

Phone: +299 34 53 15 – Fax: +299 32 52 87 – E-mail: sofe@nanoq.gl

Advisers

Fuglholt, Rasmus, Head of Section, Government of Greenland, Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture, Postbox 269, DK-3900 Nuuk, Greenland

Phone: +299 34 53 16 – Fax: +299 32 52 87 – E-mail: rafu@nanoq.gl

Gaardlykke, Meinhard, Adviser, Faroe Islands Fisheries Inspection, Yviri við Strond 3, P. O. Box 1238, FO-110 Torshavn, Faroe Islands

Phone: +298 311065 – Fax: +298 313981 – E-mail: meinhardg@fve.fo

Jørgensbye Hansen, Helle I. Ø. Head of Section, Gronlands Fiskerilicenskontrol, Government of Greenland, Postbox 501, DK-3900Nuuk, Greenland

Phone: +299 345000 – Fax: +299 324704 – E-mail: hhan@nanoq.gl

Joensen, Jóhan, Faroe Shipowners Association, Gongin 10, P.O. Box 361, FO-110 Torshavn, Faroe Islands

Phone: +298 311800 – Fax: +298 320380 – E-mail: shipown@post.olivant.fo

Joensen, Jogvan Martin F., Project Development Manager, P/F Thor, FO 420 Hosvik, Faroe Islands

Phone: +298 42 25 03 – Fax: +298 42 23 83 – E-mail: jm@thor.fo

Sanderson, Kate, (NAFO FC Chair), Director, Department of Oceans and Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tinganes, FO-110 Torshavn, Faroe Islands

Phone: + 298 30 61 37 – Fax: +298 30 61 05 – E-mail: kates@mfa.fo

Trolle Nedergaard, Mads, Fiskerilicensinspektør, Head of Department, Gronlands Fiskerilicenskontrol, Postbox 501, DK-3900 Nuuk, Greenland

Phone: +299 345377 – Fax: +299 323235 – E-mail: mads@nanoq.gl

Wang, Ulla Svarrer, Special Adviser, Ministry of Fisheries, Heykavegur 6, P. O. Box 347, FO-110 Torshavn, Faroe Islands

Phone: + 298 35 32 42 – Fax: +298 35 30 37 – E-mail: ulla.svarrer.wang@fisk.fo

EUROPEAN UNION

Head of Delegation

Grimaud, Vincent, Head of Unit, International Affairs, Law of the Sea and Regional Fisheries Organisations, European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Rue Joseph II, 99, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Phone: +32 2 296 3320 – Fax: +32 2 295 5700 – E-mail: vincent.grimaud@ec.europa.eu

Alternate

Kordecka, Aleksandra, International Relations Officer, International Affairs, Law of the Sea and Regional Fisheries Organizations, European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE.B.1), 200 Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Phone: +32 2 297 4070 – Fax: +32 2 295 5700 – E-mail: aleksandra.kordecka@ec.europa.eu

Advisers

Nielsen, Rikke, International Relations Officer, European Commission, International Affairs, Law of the Sea and Regional Fisheries Organisations, Directorate General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, Rue Joseph II, 99 (03/34), B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Phone: + 32 2 299 9711 – Fax: +32 2 297 95 42 – E-mail: rikke.nielsen@ec.europa.eu

Gray, Alan, International Relations Assistant, International and Regional Agreements, European Commission, Directorate General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs (DG MARE.B.1), Rue Joseph II, 99, BE-1000 Brussels, Belgium

Phone: +32 2 299 0077 – Fax: +32 2 295 5700 – E-mail: alan.gray@ec.europa.eu

Duarte, Rafael, European Commission, Directorate General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, Rue Joseph II, 79 (02/217), B-1049, Brussels, Belgium

Phone: +32 2 299 0955 – E-mail: rafael.duarte@ec.europa.eu

Lansley, Jon, European Commission, Directorate General for Fisheries and Maritime Affairs (DG MARE.B.1), Rue Joseph II, 99, BE-1000 Brussels, Belgium

Phone: + 32 2 – Fax: +32 2 – E-mail: jon.lansley@ec.europa.eu

Pagliari, Giuliano, Administration Officer-NAFO Coordinator, Fisheries Control in International Waters, European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Rue Joseph II, 99 (01/062), B-1049, Brussels, Belgium

Phone: +32 2 296 3834 – Fax: +32 2 296 2338 – E-mail: giuliano.pagliari@ec.europa.eu

Spezzani, Aronne, European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, 99 Rue Joseph II, B-1049, Brussels, Belgium

Phone: +32 2 295 9629 – Fax: +32 2 296 2338 – E-mail: aronne.spezzani@ec.europa.eu

Kingston, Fred, Senior Adviser, Economic and Commercial Affairs Section, Delegation of the European Union to Canada, 1900-150 Metcalfe St., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K2P 1P1

Phone: +613 563 6358 – Fax: +613 238 5191 – E-mail: fred.kingston@ec.europa.eu

de la Corte, Gloria, Council of the European Union, General Secretariat, DG-BIII-Fisheries, Rue de la Loi 175, B-1048 Brussels, Belgium

Phone: +32 2 281 6561 – Fax: +32 2 285 6910 – E-mail: gloria.delacorte@consilium.europa.eu

Babcionis, Genadijus, Desk Manager, CFCA, Apartado de Correos 771 – E-36200 – Vigo, Spain

Phone: +34 986 12 06 40 – E-mail: genadijus.babcionis@cfca.europa.eu

Roegiers, Barbara, European Policy Adviser, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Agriculture and Fisheries Policy Division, Flemish Government, Koning Albert II-laan 35 bus 40, B-1030 Brussels

Phone: +32 2 552 7956 – Fax: +32 2 552 7921 – E-mail: barbara.roegiers@lv.vlaanderen.be

Grosmann, Meit, Leading Inspector, Environmental Inspectorate, Dept. of Fisheries Protection, Kopli 76, 10416 Tallinn

Phone: +372 696 2218 – Fax: +372 696 2237 – Email: meit.grosmann@kki.ee

Martin, Kaire, Counsellor, Permanent Representation of Estonia to the European Union, Rue Guimard 11/13, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

Phone: +32 2 227 4356 – E-mail: kaire.martin@mfa.ee

Sirp, Silver, Head of Observers Working Group, Estonian Marine Institute, University of Tartu, 10A Maealuse St., 12618, Tallinn

Phone: +372 529 5396 – E-mail: silver.sirp@ut.ee

Tamme, Toomas, Attorney –at-Law, Alvin, Rödl & Partner, Advokaadibüroo OÜ, Law Office, Roosikrantsi 2, 10119 Tallinn

Phone: +372 6 110 810 – Fax: +372 6 110 811 – E-mail: toomas.tamme@roedl.ee

Vilhjalmsson, Hjalmar, Estonian Long Distance Fishing Association, Veerenni 39, 10138 Tallinn

Phone: +354 588 7663 – Fax: +354 588 7610 – E-mail: hjalmar@reyktal.is

Yngvason, Óttar, Director, Reyktal AS, Veerenni 39, 10138 Tallinn

Phone: +372 6276 552 – Fax: +372 6276 555 – E-mail: ottar@iec.is

Fairise, Nicolas, Chargé de mission, Affaires internationales, Ministère de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture et de la pêche, 3, place de Fontenoy 75700 Paris 07 SP

Phone: +33 1 49 55 53 55 – Fax: +33 1 49 55 82 00 – E-mail: nicolas.fairise@agriculture.gouv.fr

Mahé, Jean-Claude, IFREMER, Station de Lorient, 8, rue Francois Toullec, 56100 Lorient

Phone: +33 2 9787 3818 – Fax: +33 2 9787 3801 – E-mail: jcmahe@ifremer.fr

Renwrantz, Leonie, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Div. 614-Sea Fisheries Management and Control, IWC, Rochusstrabe 1, D-53123 Bonn

Phone: +49 228 99 529 4124 – Fax: +49 228 99 529 4084 – E-mail: leonie.renwrantz@bmelv.bund.de

Gretarsson, Haraldur, Geschäftsführer, Deutsche Fischfang-Union GmbH & Co. KG, Bei der Alten Liebe 5, 27472 Cuxhaven

Phone: +47 21 7079 20 – Fax: +47 21 7079 29 – E-mail: hg@dffu.de

Riekstins, Normunds, Director of Fisheries Department, Ministry of Agriculture, 2, Republikas laukums, LV-1010 Riga

Phone: +371 6732 3877 – Fax: +371 6733 4892 – E-mail: normunds.riekstins@zm.gov.lv

Labanauskas, Aivaras, Deputy Director, Fisheries Department, Ministry of Agriculture, J. Lelevelio str. 6, LT-01031 Vilnius-25

Phone: +370 5 2398 403 – Fax: +370 5 2391 176 – E-mail: aivaras@zum.lt

Dybiec, Leszek, Counsellor to the Minister, Fisheries Dept., Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, 30, Wspolna St., 00-930 Warsaw

Phone: +48 22 623 2214 – Fax: +48 22 623 2204 – E-mail: leszek.dybiec@minrol.gov.pl

Szemioth, Bogslaw, North Atlantic Producers Organization, ul. Parkowa 13/17/123, 00-759 Warsaw

Phone: +48 22 840 8920 – Fax: +48 22 840 8922 – E-mail: szemioth@paop.org.pl

Apolinario, Jose, Director-General, Direccao-Geral das Pescas e Aquicultura, Avenida da Brasilia, 1449-030 Lisbon

Phone: +351 21 303 5886 – Fax: +351 21 303 5965 – E-mail: japolinario@dgpa.min-agricultura.pt

Batista, Emilia, Directora de Servicos, Departamento dos Recursos, Direccao Geral das Pescas e Aquicultura, Avenida da Brasilia, 1449-030 Lisbon

Phone: +351 742 3629 – Fax: +351 21 303 5922 – E-mail: ebatista@dgpa.min-agricultura.pt

Alpoim, Ricardo, Instituto Nacional dos Recuros Biológicos, I. P. INRB/IPIMAR, Av. de Brasilia, 1449-006 Lisbon

Phone: +351 21 302 7000 – Fax: +351 21 301 5948 – E-mail: ralpoim@ipimar.pt

Avila de Melo, Antonio, Instituto Nacional dos Recuros Biológicos, I. P. INRB/IPIMAR, Av. de Brasilia, 1449-006 Lisbon

Phone: +351 21 302 7000 – Fax: +351 21 301 5948 – E-mail: amelo@ipimar.pt

Franca, Pedro, Administrador, Grupo Miradouro, Av Pedro Alvares Cabral, Apart 9, 3834-908 Gafanha da Nazare, Ilhavo

Phone: +934 050 170 – Fax +934 364 450 – E-mail: pedrofranca@frip.pt

Schiappa Cabral, Antonio, Secretario-Geral, A.D.A.P.I., Rua General Gomes d'Araujo, Edificio Vasco da Gama, 1399-005 Lisbon

Phone: +351 21 397 2094 – Fax: +351 21 397 2090 – E-mail: adapi.pescas@mail.telepac.pt

Taveira da Mota, Jose, A.D.A.P.I., Rua General Gomes d' Araujo, Edificio Vasco da Gama, 1399-005, Lisbon
 Phone: +351 21 397 2094 – Fax: +351 21 397 2090 – E-mail: adapi.pescas@mail.telepac.pt

Machado Paiao, Anibal, Director, A.D.A.P.I.-Associacao dos Armadores das Pescas Industriais, Docapesca, Edificio da Gama, Bloco-C, Piso 1, Rua General Gomes d' Araujo, Alcantara-Mar, 1399-005 Lisbon
 Phone: +351 21397 2094 – Fax: +351 21397 2090 – E-mail: adapi.pescas@mail.telepac.pt

Vaz Pais, Luis, A.D.A.P.I., Rua General Gomes d' Araujo, Edificio Vasco da Gama, 1399-005 Lisbon
 Phone: +351 21 397 2094 – Fax: +351 21 397 2090 – E-mail: adapi.pescas@mail.telepac.pt

Augusto Vieira, César, Armador, Apartado 4, Gafanha da Nazare, 3834-908 Ilhavo
 Phone: +351 234 364 355 – Fax: +351 234 364 350 – E-mail: gsv@sapo.pt

Polanco Mata, Alejandro, Director General de Recursos Pesqueros y Acuicultura, Secretaria General del Mar, C/Velázquez, 144, 28006 Madrid
 Phone: +34 91 347 60 30 / 31 – Fax: +34 91 347 60 32 – E-mail: apolanco@marm.es

Alonso Frayle, Mercedes, Subdirectora General de Acuerdos y Organizaciones Regionales de Pesca, Direccion General de Recursos Pesqueros y Acuicultura, Velazquez, 144, 28006 Madrid
 Phone: +34 91 347 6040 – Fax: +34 91 347 6042 – E-mail: malonsof@marm.es

Mancebo Robledo, C. Margarita, Jefa de Area de Relaciones Pesqueras Internacionales, S. G. de Acuerdos y Organizaciones Regionales de Pesca, Direccion General de Recursos Pesqueros y Acuicultura, Secretaria General del Mar, C/Velázquez, 144, 28006 Madrid
 Phone: +34 91 347 61 29 – Fax: +34 91 347 60 42 – E-mail: cmancebo@mapya.es

Chamizo Catalan, Carlos, Head of Fisheries Inspection Division, Secretariat General de Pesca Maritima, Ministerio de Medio Ambiente, y Medio Rural y Marino, Velázquez, 144, 28006 Madrid
 Phone: +34 91 347 8313 – Fax: +34 91 347 1512 – E-mail: cchamizo@mapya.es

de Cardenas, Enrique, Secretariat General del Mar, Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Medio Rural y Marino, Velázquez, 144, 28006 Madrid
 Phone: +34 91 347 6110 – Fax: +34 91 347 6037 – E-mail: edecarde@mapya.es

Gonzalez-Costas, Fernando, Instituto Espanol de Oceanografia, Aptdo 1552, E-36280 Vigo (Pontevedra), Spain
 Phone: +34 9 8649 2239 – E-mail: fernando.gonzalez@vi.ieo.es

Vazquez, Antonio, Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas, Eduardo Cabello 6, 36208 Vigo
 Phone: +34 9 86 23 1930 – Fax: +34 9 86 29 2762 – E-mail: avazquez@iim.csic.es

Morales Vila, Jose, Subdirector General de Ordenacion de los Recursos Marinos, Xunta de Galicia, Conselleria do Mar, Rua do Vilino, 63-65, 15703 Santiago de Compostela
 Phone: +34 981 957 036 – Fax: +34 981 545 025 – E-mail: jose.molares.vila@xunta.es

Fuertes Gamundi, Jose, Director Gerente, Cooperativa de Armadores de Pesca del Puerto de Vigo, S. Coop. Ltda., ANAMER-ANAVAR-AGARBA, Puerto Pesquero, Apartado 1.078, 36200 Vigo
 Phone: +34 986 43 38 44 – Fax: +34 986 43 92 18 – E-mail: direccion@arvi.org

Liria Franch, Juan Manuel, Vicepresidente, Confederación Española de Pesca, C/Velázquez, 41, 4º C, 28001 Madrid
 Phone: +34 91 432 34 89 – Fax: + 34 91 435 52 01 – E-mail: jmliria@cepesca.com

Lopez, Ivan, Pesquera Ancora S.L., C/Peru, 1-2B, 36202, Vigo
 Phone: +34 986 441012 – Fax: +34 986 229343 – E-mail: ivan.lopez@pesqueraancora.com

Gandon Sotelo, Joaquin, Managing Director, Hermanos Gandon, S.A., Salgueiron, 9, 36940 Cangas
 Phone: + 34 986 39 20 20 – Fax: +34 986 39 26 26 – E-mail: Joaquin@hermanosgandon.com

Iriondo, Miguel, Presidente, ARBAC, Tomas A. Alonso, 285 – 1, Apartado 2.037, 36208 Vigo
 Phone: +34 986 202 404 – Fax: +34 986 203 921 – E-mail: ARBAC@mundo-r.com

Duran Gonzalez, Jose L., Secretario Gral. ARBAC, Tomas A. Alonso, 285 – 1, Apartado 2.037, 36208 Vigo
 Phone: +34 986 202 404 – Fax: +34 986 203 921 – E-mail: ARBAC@mundo-r.com

Molares Montenegro, Jose Carlos, ARBAC, Tomas A. Alonso, 285 – 1, Apartado 2.037, 36208 Vigo
 Phone: +34 986 202 404 – Fax: +34 986 203 921 – E-mail: ARBAC@mundo-r.com

Alvarez, Alejandro, Av. Camelias 52, 4ªA, 3621 Vigo, Spain
 Phone: +34 636481100 – Fax: +34 986 209505 – E-mail: albri@albri.com

Carroll, Andy, Sea Fisheries Conservation Div., Dept. For Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Area D, 2nd Floor, Nobel House, London SW1P 3JR
 Phone: +44 (0)20 7238 4656 – Fax: +44 (0)20 7238 4699 – E-mail: andy.carroll@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Atkins, Nigel (info please)
 E-mail: nigel.atkins@ukfisheries.net

FRANCE (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)**Head of Delegation**

Artano, Stéphane, Président du Conseil Territorial de Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, B.P. 4208, Place Monseigneur-Maurer
97500 Saint Pierre et Miquelon

Phone: + 06 32 384378 – Fax: + 508 41 04 79 – E-mail: president@cg975.fr

Advisers

de Beauregard, Guillaume, Administrateur des affaires maritimes, Chef du service, 1, rue Gloanec, B.P. 4206,
97500 Saint Pierre et Miquelon

Phone: +508 41 15 36 – Fax: +508 41 48 34 – E-mail: guillaume.de-beauregard@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

Bigorgne, Matthias, Ministère de l'alimentation, de l'agriculture et de la pêche, 3, place de Fontenoy 75700 Paris 07
SP

Phone: +33 1 49 55 53 55 – Fax: +33 1 49 55 82 00 – E-mail: matthias.bigorgne@agriculture.gouv.fr

Detcheverry, Bruno, Directeur General, S.N.P.M., 11, rue Georges Daguerre, BP 4262, 97500 St. Pierre et Miquelon

Phone: +508 41 08 80 – Fax: +508 41 0889 – E-mail: bruno.detcheverry@edcmiquelon.com

Goraguer, Herle, IFREMER, Station de St. Pierre, BP 4240, 97500 St. Pierre et Miquelon

E-mail: hgorague@ifremer.fr

Laurent-Monpetit, Christiane, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Ministère de l'Interieur, de l'Outre-Mer et
Des Collectivites Territoriales, 27, rue Oudinot, 75358 Paris 07SP

Phone: +53 69 24 66 – Fax: +53 69 20 65 – E-mail: christiane.laurent-monpetit@outre-mer.gouv.fr

Deschamps, Frederique, Comite des 14urmansk14 halieutiques (CRH), BP 1748, 34, Rue Maréchal Foch, 97500
Saint-Pierre et Miquelon

Phone: +05 08 413697 – E-mail: fredeschamps2001@yahoo.fr

ICELAND**Head of Delegation**

Freyr Helgason, Kristján, Special Advisor, Department of Resource Management, Ministry of Fisheries and
Agriculture, Skulagata 4, 150 Reykjavik

Phone: +354 545 8300 – Fax: +354 552 1160 – E-mail: kristjan.freyr.helgason@slr.stjr.is

Advisers

Thormar, Anna, Quota Allocations Department, Directorate of Fisheries, Dalshrauni 1, 220 Hafnarfjordur

Phone: +354 569 7900 – Fax: +354 569 7991 – E-mail: annatho@fiskistofa.is

Geirsson, Gylfi, CDR Senior Grade, Icelandic Coast Guard, Skogarhlid 14, 105 Reykjavik

Phone: +354 545 2000/545 2071 – Fax: +354 545 2040 – E-mail: gylfi@lhg.is

Gíslason, Hjörtur, Federation of Icelandic Fishing Vessels Owners, Ögurvik Fishing Export Co. Ltd., Týsgata 1 – 101
Reykjavik

Phone : +354 552 5466 – Fax : +354 552 8863 – E-mail : hjortur@ogunvik.is

JAPAN**Head of Delegation**

Iino, Kenro, Special Adviser to the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku,
Tokyo 100-8907

Phone: +81 3 3502 8460 – Fax: +81 3 3591 0571 – E-mail: keniino@hotmail.com

Advisers

Hatori, Tatsuya, Fisheries Inspection Officer, Far Seas Fisheries Division, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8907

Phone: +81 3 3502 8111 ext. 6726 – Fax: + 81 3 3591 5824 – E-mail: tatsuya_hatori@nm.maff.go.jp

Onodera, Akiko, Fishery Division, Economic Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2-2-1 Kasumigaseki,
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8919

Phone: +81 3 5501 8000 ext. 3666; Fax: +81 3 5501 8332; email: akiko.onodera@mofa.go.jp

Takagi, Noriaki, Director, Executive Secretary, Japan Overseas Fishing Association, NK-Bldg., 6F, 3-6 Kanda Ogawa-
cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0052

Phone: +81 3 3291 8508 – Fax: + 81 3 3233 3267 – E-mail: noritakagi@jdsta.or.jp

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Head of Delegation

Yang, Ho Seop, Deputy Director, Distant Water Fishery Industry Division, Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 88, Gwanmum, Gwacheon-si, Gyeonggi-do, 427-719
Phone: +82 2 500 2400 – Fax: +82 2 503 9104 – E-mail: gksekk@korea.kr

Advisers

Cho, Yang Sik, Assistant Manager, International Affairs Dept. 2, Korea Overseas Fisheries Association (KOFA), 6fl, Samho Center Bldg. A, 275-1, Yangja –Dong, SeoCho-Ku, Seoul

Phone: +82 2 589 1617 – Fax: +82 2 589 1630 – E-mail: mild@kosfa.org

Kim, Soo Jin, Senior Researcher, Fisheries Policy Research Dept., Korea Maritime Institute (KMI), BKS Media-Center 13F, #1652, Sangam-Dong, Mapo-Gu, Seoul, 121-270

Phone: +82 2 2105 2907 – Fax: +82 2 2105 2859 – E-mail: soojin@kmi.re.kr

NORWAY

Head of Delegation

Holst, Sigrun M., Deputy Director General, Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs, Dept. of Marine Resources and Coastal Management, P. O. Box 8118 Dep. NO-0032 Oslo

Phone: +47 22 24 65 76 – Fax: +47 22 24 95 85 – E-mail: sigrun.holst@fkd.dep.no

Advisers

Barstad, Webjørn, Head of Department, Norwegian Fishing Vessel Owners Association, P.O. Box 67 Sentrum, 6001 Aalesund

Phone: +47 70 10 14 60 – Fax: +47 70 10 14 80 – E-mail: webjorn@fiskebat.no

Hvingel, Carsten, Research Scientist, Institute of Marine Research, P. O. Box 6404, N-9294 Tromsø

Phone: +47 77 60 9750 – +47 77 60 9701 – E-mail: carstenh@imr.no

Johnsen, Stein-Aage, Senior Legal Adviser, Resource Management Dept., Directorate of Fisheries, P. O. Box 2009 Nordnes, NO-5817 Bergen

Phone: +47 55 23 80 00 / 8124 – Fax: +47 55 23 80 90 – E-mail: stein-age.johnsen@fiskeridir.no

Palmason, Snorri Runar, Adviser, Fisheries Regulations Section, Directorate of Fisheries, P. O. Box 2009 Nordnes, NO-5817 Bergen

Phone: +47 55 23 80 00 / 8394 – Fax: +47 55 23 80 90 – E-mail: snorri.palmason@fiskeridir.no

Pedersen, Richard, Royal Norwegian Embassy, 2720-34th Street NW, Washington, DC, 20008, USA

Phone: +47 9161 3157 – E-mail: richard.pedersen@mfa.no

Sira, Inger Helene, Higher Executive Officer, Ministry of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs, Dept. of Marine Resources and Coastal Management, P. O. Box 8118 Dep. NO-0032 Oslo

Phone: +47 22 24 64 68 – Fax: +47 22 24 95 85 – E-mail: ih@fkd.dep.no

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Head of Delegation

Terpelyuk, Grigoriy, Head of Fish Protection Dept., Russian Federation, Federal Agency for Fisheries, Rozhdestvensky blvd. 12, Moscow 107996

Phone: +7 495 621 3512 – Fax: +7 495 628 7644 – E-mail: terpelyuk@fishcom.ru

Advisers

Agalakov, Vadim, Chief State Inspector, State Port Control and Convention Areas Div., Barents-Belomorsk Territorial Directorate of the Federal Agency for Fisheries of the Russian Federation, str. Kominterna 7, 183038 Murmansk

Phone: +7 815 2 798 116 – Fax: +7 815 2 451 945 – E-mail: 15urmansk@bbtu.ru

Babayan, Vladimir, Head, Fisheries Bioresources System Analysis Research Laboratory, Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO), 17, V. Krasnoselskaya, Moscow 107140

Phone/Fax: +8 499 264 8974 – Fax: +8 499 264 8974 – E-mail: vbabayan@vniro.ru

Egochina, Victoria, Chief Interpreter, International Cooperation Dept., Polar Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (PINRO), 6, Knipovich Street, Murmansk 183031

Phone: + 7 815 247 4963 – Fax: + 7 8152 47 33 31 – E-mail: egochina@pinro.ru

Gorchinsky, Konstantin, Senior Expert, Barents-Belomorsk Territorial Directorate of the Federal Agency for Fisheries of the Russian Federation, str. Kominterna 7, 183038 Murmansk

Phone: +7 815 2 450 268 – Fax: +7 815 2 451 945 – E-mail: k_gor@rambler.ru

Mishin, Vasily, First Deputy Director, Polar Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (PINRO), 6, Knipovich Street, Murmansk 183038

Phone: +7 8152 47 36 66 – Fax: +7 8152 47 33 31 – E-mail: mishin@pinro.ru

Pavlenko, Alexander, Polar Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (PINRO), 6, Knipovich Street, Murmansk 183038

Sedykh, Olga, Deputy Head of International Law Division, International Cooperation Department, Russian Federation, Federal Agency for Fisheries, Rozhdestvensky blvd. 12, Moscow 107996

Phone: + 7 495 621 3180 – Fax: +7 495 621 9594 – E-mail: so@fishcom.ru

Skryabin, Ilya, Scientist, North Atlantic Laboratory, Polar Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (PINRO), 6 Knipovich St., Murmansk 183763

Phone: +7 8152 45 0568 – E-mail: skryabin@pinro.ru

Tairov, Temur, Representative of the Federal Agency for Fisheries of the Russian Federation in Canada, 47 Oceanview Drive, Bedford, NS, Canada B4A 4C4

Phone: +902 832 9225 – E-mail: rusfish@ns.sympatico.ca

Volkov, Victor, Deputy Head, Western Branch of FGU “Center for Fisheries Monitoring”, Tralovaya str., 43, Murmansk, 183038

Phone: +7 8152 474626 – Fax: +7 8152 474852 – E-mail: volkov@mrcm.ru

UKRAINE

Head of Delegation

Saldo, Irina, Head of the International Integration Division, International Cooperation Dept., State Committee for Fisheries of Ukraine, 45A Artema str., Kyiv 04053

Phone/Fax: +38 044 482 0984 – E-mail: Irina.saldo@gmail.com

Advisers

Moshkola, Yaroslav, Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Second Territorial Dept., Second North American Division, 1, Mykhaylivska sq., Kiev 01018

Phone: + 38 044 238 1696 – E-mail: y.moshkola@mfa.gov.ua

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Head of Delegation

Swanson, Dean, Chief, International Fisheries Affairs Div., F/IA1, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Phone: +301 713 2276 – Fax: +301 713 2313 – E-mail: dean.swanson@noaa.gov

Representatives

Swanson, Dean (see above)

Preble, Dave, US Commissioner, 64 Courtland Drive, Narragansett, RI 02882

Phone: +401 789 7596 – E-mail: fishearlybird@cox.net

Raymond, Maggie, US Commissioner, Associated Fisheries of Maine, P. O. Box 287, So. Berwick, ME 03908-0287

Phone: +207 384 4854 – E-mail: maggieraymond@comcast.net

Advisers

DeCola, Peter, Captain, United States Coast Guard, Maritime Law Enforcement Branch, First Coast Guard District (dre), 408 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, MA 02110- 3350

Phone: +617 223 8685 – Fax: +617 223 8074 – E-mail: Peter.N.DeCola@uscg.mil

Fordham, Sonja, Shark Advocates International, Rue Franz Merjay 14, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

Phone: +32 495 10 14 68 – E-mail: sonja@sharkadvocates.org

Warner-Kramer, Deirdre, Senior Foreign Affairs Officer, Office of Marine Conservation, United States Department of State (Rm 2758), 2201 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20520-7878

Phone +1 202 647 2883 – Fax: +1 202 736 7350 – E-mail: warner-kramerm@state.gov

McHale, Allison, Fishery Policy Analyst, Sustainable Fisheries Div., US Dept. of Commerce, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

Phone: +978 281 9103 – Fax: +978 281 9135 – E-mail: allison.mchale@noaa.gov

Martin, Jr., Gene S., Attorney, Office of the General Counsel Northwest, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Northeast, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930

Phone: + 978 281 9242 – Fax: + 978 281 9389 – E-mail: gene.s.martin@noaa.gov

Moran, Patrick, Foreign Affairs Analyst, Office of International Affairs, F/IA-2, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 1315 East-West Hwy., Silver Spring, MD 20910

Phone: +301 713 2276 – Fax: +301 713 2313 – E-mail: pat.moran@noaa.gov

Quinby, William, Director, Mayflower Shipping Ltd., 5 Yeamans Road, Charleston, SC 29407

Phone: +857 222 6664 – E-mail: mayflower@mindspring.com

Sosebee, Katherine, National Marine Fisheries Service, NEFSC, 166 Water Street, Woods Hole, MA 02543

Phone: +508 495 2372 – E-mail: katherine.sosebee@noaa.gov

Szymanski, Luke, Marine Projects Manager, A.I.S., Inc., 89 North Water Street, New Bedford, MA 02746

Phone: +774 265 0596 – Fax: +508 990 9055 – E-mail: lukes@aisobservers.com

OBSERVERS

FAO

Sanders, Jessica, Fishery Officer, Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy and Economics Division (FIP), Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, Room F-418, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy

Phone: +39 06 57054610 – Fax: +39 06 57056500 – E-mail: jessica.sanders@fao.org

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

Kordecka, Aleksandra, International Relations Officer, International Affairs, Law of the Sea and Regional Fisheries Organizations, European Commission, Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE.B.1), 200 Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Phone: +32 2 297 4070 – Fax: +32 2 295 5700 – E-mail: aleksandra.kordecka@ec.europa.eu

North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)

Freyr Helgason, Kristján, Special Advisor, Department of Resource Management, Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Skulagata 4, 150 Reykjavik

Phone: +354 545 8300 – Fax: +354 552 1160 – E-mail: kristjan.freyr.helgason@slr.stjr.is

North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)

Feldthaus, Sonja, Head of Unit, Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture, Government of Greenland, Postbox 269, DK-3900 Nuuk, Greenland

Phone: +299 34 53 15 – Fax: +299 32 52 87 – E-mail: sofe@nanoq.gl

Ecology Action Centre (EAC)

Fuller, Susanna, Marine Conservation Coordinator, Ecology Action Centre, 2705 Fern Lane, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3K 4L3

Phone: +902 442 0199 – Fax: +902 405 3716 – E-mail: marine@ecologyaction.ca

Arnold, Shannon, Ecology Action Centre, 2705 Fern Lane, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3K 4L3

Phone: +902 442 0199 – Fax: +902 405 3716 – E-mail: marine@ecologyaction.ca

Gianni, Matthew, Independent Advisor, Fisheries/Oceans Marine Biodiversity, Cliostraat 29-2, 1077 KB Amsterdam, Netherlands

Phone: +31 20 670 1666 – E-mail: matthewgianni@netscape.net

Sierra Club Canada (SCC)

Fitzgerald, Gretchen, Director, Atlantic Canada Chapter, Sierra Club Canada, , Suite 533, 1657 Barrington Street, Halifax, NS B3J 2A1

Phone: +902 444 3113 – Fax: +902 444 3116

Winsor, Fred, Chair, Atlantic Canada Chapter, Sierra Club Canada, Suite 533, 1657 Barrington St., Halifax, N.S. B3J 2A1

E-mail: winsorf@nl.rogers.com

WWF

Rangeley, Robert, Vice President, Atlantic, WWF-Canada, Atlantic Region, 5251 Duke St., Suite 1202, Halifax, NS, Canada B3J 1P3

Phone: +902 482 1105 ext. 23 – Fax: +902 482 1107 – E-mail: rrangeley@wwfcanada.org

Diz, Daniela, Consultant, Conservation Approaches, WWF-Canada, Atlantic Region, 5251 Duke St., Suite 1202, Halifax, NS, Canada B3J 1P3

Phone: +902 482 1105 ext. 23 – Fax: +902 482 1107 – E-mail: ddaniela@wwfcanada.org

Dwyer, Shelley, Advisor, Fisheries Conservation, WWF-Canada, TD Place, Suite 305, 140 Water St., St. John's, NL A1C 6H6

Phone: +709 722 9453 – Fax: +709 726 0931 – E-mail: sdwyer@wwfcanada.org

Saier, Bettina, Director, Oceans Program, WWF-Canada, Atlantic Region, 5251 Duke St., Suite 1202, Halifax, NS, Canada B3J 1P3

Phone: +902 482 1105 – Fax: +902 482 1107 – E-mail: bsaier@wwfcanada.org

McCarthy, Stacey, Communications Specialist, WWF-Canada, Atlantic Region, 5251 Duke St., Suite 1202, Halifax, NS, Canada B3J 1P3

Phone: +902 482 1105 ext. 41 – Fax: +902 482 1107 – E-mail: smccarthy@wwfcanada.org

NAFO Secretariat

Vladimir Shibanov, Executive Secretary

vshibanov@nafo.int

Stan Goodick, Senior Finance and Staff Administrator

sgoodick@nafo.int

Ricardo Federizon, Fisheries Commission Coordinator

rfederizon@nafo.int

Anthony Thompson, Scientific Council Coordinator

athompson@nafo.int

Bev McLoon, Senior Personal Assistant to the Executive Secretary

bmcloon@nafo.int

Barbara Marshall, Information Officer

bmarshall@nafo.int

Cindy Kerr, Fisheries Information Manager

ckerr@nafo.int

George Campanis, IT Manager

gcampanis@nafo.int

Lisa Pelzmann, Office Manager

lpelzmann@nafo.int

Alexis Pacey, Publications Manager

apacey@nafo.int

**Annex 2. Opening Address by The Honourable Gail Shea, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Fisheries and Oceans**

Mr. President, distinguished delegates, observers, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, it is a great pleasure to welcome you to Halifax for the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization.

If you have the opportunity, I invite you to experience some of the beauty and warmth that Halifax and Nova Scotia have to offer.

We all know how important the fishery is to all of our countries, and this is why NAFO's work is so important to us.

Here in Atlantic Canada, our economy and our communities were founded on the wealth of the fishery. And today, our prosperity is still directly linked to its abundance.

I come from a fishing family and community myself — in Prince Edward Island. So I know from experience the importance of fisheries, and I recognize the need to focus on the long-term economic viability of this important resource.

Here in Nova Scotia, the fishery has long been a cornerstone of everyday life. One third of our total Atlantic landings comes from just off this province's coast.

The global economic downturn has had a significant impact on the fishing industry and other sectors in recent years. Here in Canada, we have made strategic investments to strengthen our financial system, to support development and growth, and to stimulate spending. We are beginning to see signs of recovery.

Over the years, we have also invested to diversify and strengthen our fishery. We continue to work hard to help individuals and communities adjust and to transform our fishery — to better match capacity to supply, and to bring more stability and predictability.

And we have made progress. Today, we have a smaller, more viable fleet — one that is better matched to the state of our fish stocks. We have also learned an important lesson — conservation must always come first.

We have worked hard with people throughout the fishing industry to promote responsible fishing and processing practices.

We have adopted strict conservation measures for Canada's fisheries, to protect and rebuild our fish stocks, and secure a brighter future for the thousands of people who rely on them.

And we have not shied away from making tough decisions in the name of conservation.

For example, I reduced the 2010 quota for shrimp in the area adjacent to Newfoundland and southern Labrador, in Canadian waters, by close to 30 per cent for conservation reasons. These are not easy decisions on any level. But as leaders, we must be willing to make decisions that may be unpopular in order to ensure the health of our fish stocks for generations to come.

Canadian harvesters have made sacrifices to rebuild our fish stocks, but we also know that we cannot do it alone. Rebuilding our stocks means ensuring sustainability both inside and outside Canada's 200-mile limit.

This is why NAFO is so important.

To Canada, NAFO is an essential institution that has to work and work well. Our fishers and coastal communities depend on healthy and sustainable fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic for their economic future.

In this regard, I am pleased that NAFO has made significant progress in a number of important areas:

- Conservation,
- Improving enforcement and compliance,
- Commitment to reform, and
- Progress in protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems.

Our collective commitment to putting conservation as the number one priority in managing fisheries resources is a tremendous step. NAFO decisions to maintain moratoria on a number of fish stocks, consistent with the scientific advice, have clearly demonstrated its commitment to protecting stocks over the long term.

These efforts have brought recovery to two important groundfish stocks — 3M cod and 3LN redfish. These fisheries were reopened at last year's annual meeting. Those who have sacrificed during the moratoriums can look forward with optimism to resuming their traditional fisheries with a renewed sense of stewardship and conservation.

The commitment to improving enforcement and compliance is a key achievement and complements conservation efforts. In this regard, Canada has made a considerable investment in the Joint Inspection Scheme in the NAFO Regulatory Area. There is increasing enforcement collaboration with a number of Parties in the form of joint patrols and inspections.

In 2006, NAFO adopted a number of enforcement-related amendments to its conservation and enforcement measures. Consequently, for the most part, the rules of the fishery are now being followed. There are still cases involving NAFO citations for serious infringements, but they are increasingly the exception. We must continue this process, for although there has been a significant improvement in compliance in the NAFO Regulatory Area, parties recognize the need for continued vigilance to ensure the continued recovery and growth of important NAFO stocks.

I am also pleased to see that NAFO has adopted the amendments to the 1978 Convention and decided last year to undertake a Performance Review of the organization. Norway and Canada have ratified the amendments to date. I encourage all parties to pursue ratification to ensure a strengthened NAFO Convention comes into force as early as possible.

Lastly, I would like to applaud the progress that NAFO has made in protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems in the NAFO Regulatory Area, in response to the United Nations General Assembly Sustainable Fisheries Resolution. Last year, NAFO decided to close eleven additional areas of coral and sponge concentrations equivalent to an area the size of my home province of Prince Edward Island — in other words, more than five thousand square kilometres. Now that is significant.

In closing, let us mark the occasion of this 32nd annual meeting of NAFO by rededicating ourselves to this goal: Let us demonstrate our shared commitment to the future of our precious fisheries and oceans resources, and the future of those who rely on them.

I wish you a successful and productive meeting.

Thank you.

Annex 3. Opening Statement by the Chair of General Council – Terje Lobach (Norway)

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour and a pleasure for me to serve as your Chair also at this year's annual meeting.

First of all, I would like to welcome you all back to Canada after three successive annual meetings in Europe, and I wish to thank the Executive Secretary and his staff for their excellent work in coordinating and arranging this meeting.

Although NAFO in recent years taken has numerous steps to rebuild fish stocks, many stocks continue to be at very low levels. But there are also some promising signs, and the improved status of some of the stocks is encouraging. Last year NAFO reopened a fishery that had been under moratoria for many years, and it seems that the status of this stock continues its move in the right direction. There are also positive indications for other stocks that may allow for reopening of additional fisheries.

Protection of ocean habitats and deep sea biodiversity has become an important item on the international agenda. NAFO has adopted a comprehensive framework in response to the calls from the United Nations General Assembly to address bottom fishing and vulnerable marine ecosystems. These responses have been examined in New York and elsewhere with some positive results. Although NAFO now has a set of regulations in place, there are still work to be done, both in the Scientific Council and the Fisheries Commission, to refine the details of this important framework.

Three years ago a new convention was adopted, taking into account modern principles concerning management of living marine resources. But ratification seems slow, and I would urge all Contracting Parties to speed up the internal processes. Significant progress has been, through the NAFO Reform process, also made in improved conservation measures and actions taken to ensure that these measures are implemented and complied with. NAFO has also recognized the need for a good and strong science base as fundamental for proper management of marine living resources.

In response to several calls from the international community, the annual meeting last year agreed that a Performance Review shall be undertaken. We will in the coming days discuss the recommendations from the Working Group that met in April and developed terms of reference, assessment criteria, panel composition as well as considered budgetary and administrative implications.

NAFO has been in the forefront in the fight against IUU fishing. The importance of coordinated port State measures has been recognised by the international community, and members of FAO agreed last November on the global, binding agreement. This is a milestone in the fight of IUU fishing, and NAFO should probably, like other regional fisheries management organisations consider the impact this Agreement may have on its system of port State measures.

Close cooperation and collaboration are essential to achieving our common goals of stock recovery, conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources, as well as control that agreed measures are adhered to. I am confident that together we will manage to meet these challenges.

Thank you. I would now like to open for statements by Contracting Parties, followed by possible statements by others.

Annex 4. Opening Statement by the Representative of Canada

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Representatives, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen

It's a pleasure for the Canadian delegation to participate at this annual meeting in Halifax. I want to commend the Secretariat for selecting this venue and the excellent arrangements that have been made.

NAFO has made significant progress in moving from words to action, in reforming the Organization to ensure that together we can responsibly address the conservation challenges before us.

NAFO's progress can be attributed, in large part, to the strengthened collaboration among Contracting Parties to make NAFO work.

As a result, we have seen improved compliance in the NAFO Regulatory Area and in the coordinated responses by Contracting Parties to address infringements.

Our cooperation has also enabled NAFO to take significant steps towards protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems in response to the calls by the United Nations General Assembly. Canada would like to highlight the ongoing collaborative research initiatives by Contracting Parties to verify the locations of vulnerable marine ecosystems in the NAFO Regulatory Area. Research undertaken by the Spanish vessel *Miguel Oliver* and the Canadian vessel the *Hudson* during the past two years has been instrumental and recognized internationally.

While significant progress has been achieved, we must recognize that there are a number of outstanding issues that require further cooperation.

We must now commit to a responsible path forward to ensure the rebuilding of the 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut stock. We need to take action to reduce bycatch in all NAFO-managed fisheries, especially bycatch of moratorium species. We need to adhere to a precautionary approach for NAFO-managed stocks, and in particular those fisheries that have established reference levels.

Canada is encouraged by the continuing signs of recovery of important groundfish stocks. Contracting Parties that made enormous sacrifices can now look forward to the possibility of re-engaging in their traditional fisheries. However, it is critical that we treat these fisheries with a renewed sense of stewardship and conservation. To do this, effective and cautionary controls must be implemented to allow these stocks to continue their recovery.

We also need to remain vigilant to ensure compliance by fleets operating in the NAFO Regulatory Area to help to protect stocks that remain under moratorium, such as American plaice and 3NO cod, and to ensure that recently reopened stocks continue to recover.

Above all, we must not lose sight of our ultimate goal of conserving the NAFO-managed stocks for future generations.

We look forward to working with all Contracting Parties this week so we can achieve our common goals of stock recovery, conservation and sustainable use of the marine living resources.

Thank you.

Annex 5. Opening Statement by the Representative of the European Union

Mr Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour and a pleasure for me to head the delegation of the European Union at this Annual Meeting in beautiful Halifax.

This year, probably like most years, we are facing issues that are crucial both to the performance of NAFO as a regional fisheries management organization but also key to its success and its ability to execute and carry out its mandate.

The report of the Scientific Council includes both encouraging and worrying signs for a range of stocks. We have been pleased to see that the stocks for which the fishery was reopened last year are in an increasingly good shape which shows the success of the painful management decisions taken in the past. This should serve as an encouragement for NAFO to take difficult decisions for stocks which today are in a poorer shape, in order to allow them to rebuild.

The consideration of the Greenland halibut stock is probably one the most important matters facing NAFO this year. This year however, we have the advantage of the results of the Working Group on the Greenland Halibut Management Strategy Evaluation. Considerable amount of resources and energy have been invested in the work of this Group, so let us reap the benefits of this work and take the right decisions.

This year, we will again face decisions concerning the Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems. The EU believes that we have a sound basis for discussions on this issue, thanks to the work of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists and the recommendations of the Scientific Council and that we will continue to make progress to fully implement the UNGA Resolution 61/105 in this respect.

Finally, the EU expects NAFO to launch a Performance Review of the Organisation at this Annual Meeting to ensure that NAFO can systematically identify and address any shortcomings in its performance.

The EU delegation looks forward to working with all Parties around the table in order to achieve the best possible result for the conservation and management of stocks under the NAFO purview.

Thank you.

Annex 6. Opening Statement by the Representative of the United States of America

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, observers, ladies and gentlemen:

The United States is pleased to be here with our colleagues in beautiful Halifax, Nova Scotia, for the 32nd NAFO Annual Meeting. We look forward to an interesting and productive week and would like to take this opportunity to communicate our thoughts regarding the work before us.

First, we would like to express strong support for the work currently underway in the Greenland Halibut Management Strategy Evaluation Working Group. After three intersessional meetings during 2010, we feel that the alternative management approach developed by the GHMSE offers an excellent tool for NAFO to increase the effectiveness of Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO Greenland halibut management. The Scientific Council advice for 2010 reflects increased optimism for this stock; this is the perfect time for NAFO to adopt a new management procedure and get this stock back on track. We are also encouraged that this work can be a useful model for how NAFO can improve its management overall. We note that, although its current terms of reference expire at this annual meeting, the United States supports continued work by the GHMSE WG.

The United States also looks forward to continuing discussions that will further ensure that conservation and management measures for all NAFO-managed stocks are consistent with scientific advice and the precautionary approach. These discussions take on significant importance in light of new SC recommendations regarding Div. 3M shrimp. Additionally, we remain particularly concerned that the TACs set for NAFO thorny skate and white hake remain in excess of scientific advice.

Five years after the requirements to submit data on shark catches in Article 17.1 of the NCEM were adopted, we are very concerned that few CPs are fully complying. NAFO still lacks a clear picture of the extent and nature of shark bycatch in its fisheries. It is our further hope that NAFO will commit to work with other RFMOs as necessary to address the management of relevant Atlantic shark species. For instance, the United States continues to support a joint meeting of the Chairs or representatives of the RFMOs concerned in the fisheries of Atlantic porbeagle, to examine the possibility of adopting compatible management measures, in accordance with the FAO International Plan of Action on sharks.

The United States also supports on-going efforts by NAFO Contracting Parties to address the impacts of bottom fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs). The Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists (WGFMS) on VMEs continues to move this issue forward, and we support an extension of this WG for 2011 and beyond. We must continue to improve and update the current NAFO encounter procedures and also agree on the necessary components for a VME impact assessment. We welcome the new advice of the Scientific Council regarding assessments. Additionally, we would like to examine the viability of developing and implementing a GIS-based procedure for predicting the presence of VMEs in advance of fishing operations. The June 2010 Scientific Council Report contains a reference to such a process and other information on implementing such an approach is available from other sources. We look forward to discussions on this topic during this meeting.

We would like to express our pleasure regarding the outcomes of the recent meeting of the NAFO Performance Assessment Working Group. Although some details remain to be resolved, we think that the recommendations of this group put NAFO in an excellent position to undertake this very important task during 2011.

Finally, the United States wishes to bring attention to the upcoming Fifth International Marine Debris Conference that will take place March 20-25, 2011, in Honolulu, Hawaii. The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United Nations Environment Programme are co-sponsoring this conference. International cooperation is needed to increase public awareness and develop ways to reduce the serious and growing impacts of marine debris on oceans and sea life. Please consider attending the conference and visiting its website, www.Simdc.org.

Thank you all for your attention. We look forward to working with you.

**Annex 7. Opening Statement by the Representative of Denmark
(in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)**

Mr Chairman, distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen

After our last three years of successful annual meetings in the European cities of Lisbon, Vigo and Bergen, the Faroe Islands and Greenland are very pleased to be back here on this side of the North Atlantic in beautiful Halifax for the 32nd Annual Meeting of NAFO.

Last year we agreed to reopen fisheries on cod in 3M and redfish in 3LN. We are pleased to see that our precautionary measures over the last decade have allowed these stocks to grow and that we can benefit from the further development of these fisheries.

With respect to the shrimp fishery, we have noted with concern a rather pessimistic trend in the biological advice, especially for 3M. Our delegation acknowledges that we have a difficult and important task ahead of us to design and agree appropriate management measures for both of these stocks.

We have made a lot of progress in designing measures to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems in the NAFO regulatory area from significant adverse impacts from bottom trawling. This includes the useful mapping of existing fishing areas. Our delegation favours a pragmatic approach to the system we have in place. We need now to gain further experience from its implementation in practice, so that we can make sure it is both effective, and realistic in relation to the actual risks to VMEs from fishing operations. The main emphasis in this regard should therefore be on the collection of data.

Work is well under way to begin a performance assessment review of NAFO, in line with similar initiatives taken by other RFMOs, including NEAFC, our sister organisation in the Northeast Atlantic, which was the first RFMO to have such a review done. We look forward to reaching agreement this week on the necessary details for the assessment panel to be appointed, so that we can have a report in time for next year's annual meeting.

Mr Chairman, our delegation would like to take this opportunity to convey our sincere appreciation and warm thanks to the Secretariat for once again having prepared this annual meeting so well.

Finally Mr. Chairman, the Faroe Islands and Greenland can assure you that we are fully prepared to work in a constructive way with all delegations in the week ahead of us to bring the many issues on our agenda to a successful conclusion.

Thank you.

Annex 8. Opening Statement by the Representative of Cuba

Good morning.

Mr. President, Dear delegates,

On behalf of the Cuban delegation, let me express our gratitude to the authorities of Canada for the opportunity to meet again in this beautiful city of Halifax.

We are looking forward to a constructive meeting and, of course, we all know that we have ahead of us a very busy week.

Throughout the last decades, NAFO has achieved important milestones to become a modern, efficient and strong fisheries organization and to this end has been taking some measures such as the precautionary and ecosystem approaches, strengthened the monitoring, control and surveillance scheme, the fishing moratoria on a large number of stocks, by-catch reducing measures, multi-year protection plans and enhanced the transparency of the Organization.

The Amendment to the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries constitutes the first formal step towards a reformed Convention for NAFO and we hope that in the near future it will be ratified by all Contracting Parties as a sign of their commitment with the Organization and the responsibility for the effects of fisheries on the marine ecosystems in the Convention area.

As a result of all these efforts, the compliance of fishing vessels with the NAFO regulations has increased, whereas illegal, unreported and uncontrolled fishing has decreased and some fish stocks are already showing signs of recovery, example of what is that for 2010 two stocks under moratoria for more than 10 years have been reopened for directed fishing.

However, the abundance of many traditional stocks continues to be low which is an indication that the rebuilding process will take time and compromise of all parties involved to ensure that those stocks have a chance to recover.

We look forward to work with all delegations present at this meeting and that the discussions and decisions to be taken at this 32nd Annual Meeting will be testimonies of the NAFO's serious efforts in responding to the significant changes in the marine ecosystem as a result of adverse impacts of overfishing, climate changes and also a commitment to manage fisheries in a sustainable way for futures generations.

Thank you very much.

Annex 9. Opening Statement by the Representative of Japan

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, observers/ Ladies and Gentlemen,

Japanese delegation is very pleased to be able to visit this beautiful city of Halifax for the thirty-second Annual Meeting of NAFO. We would like to express our appreciation for the hospitality extended by the Canadian Government and for the excellent preparations done by our new Executive Secretary and his staff members.

NAFO has made a significant progress over the last few years. Particularly we are pleased to note that at the last annual meeting two stocks that had been under moratoria for more than ten years were reopened for direct fishing, demonstrating the successful management of our important fisheries resources done by this organization.

There still remain several outstanding issues, including the management of Greenland Halibut. This is a controversial issue and has been discussed among the countries concerned for a long period of time. But, the message we received from the Working Group on Greenland Halibut Management Strategy Evaluation which met last week is encouraging. I do hope that we would be able to find responsible and workable solution based on the best possible scientific advice during this week. I take this opportunity to thank all the participants of the Working Group for their effort.

Finally Mr. Chairman, we look forward to working with all the delegations around the table so that NAFO remains at the forefront of good management in international fisheries.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Annex 10. Opening Statement by the Representative of the Russian Federation

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Let me first of all express our sincere gratitude to Canada for its hospitality as the hosting country and the NAFO Secretariat for its highly professional preparatory work and excellent organization of the 32nd NAFO Annual Meeting in the beautiful city of Halifax.

On behalf of the Russian fishermen I am pleased to greet all the participants of this meeting.

The Russian Federation takes active part in the international fisheries cooperation at bilateral, regional and global level. Having joined a number of international agreements on fisheries and conservation of living marine resources of the World Ocean, we consider the NAFO activities, aimed at sustainable and long-term exploitation of fishery resources of the Northwest Atlantic, to be very important.

The Russian Federation has always focused serious efforts on implementation of decisions adopted by NAFO. In particular special attention is paid to scientific research in the North West Atlantic area, which has been historically very important and still remains of great significance for the Russian fishery.

During the week ahead we shall address a number of issues related to long-term conservation of stocks and efficient management of fisheries in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

In recent years the NAFO Scientific Council reported positive trends in status of stocks, which had been closed to fishing, such as 3LN Redfish and 3M Cod. We believe that thanks to our joint efforts the situation with fishery resources, the status of which does not allow to conduct sustainable fishing today, will improve in the nearest future. I hope that our productive work in the coming days will result in taking the necessary decisions and wish every success to the 32nd NAFO Annual Meeting.

Thank you.

**Annex 11. Opening Remarks from WWF at the 32nd NAFO Annual Meeting
by Dr. Bettina Saier, Director for Oceans, WWF-Canada,
representing the global organization**

- The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) would like to thank our Canadian hosts and NAFO for welcoming us here in Halifax.
- We've participated in these meetings for the past five years because we are committed to the vision of a rebuilt Grand Banks ecosystem and its valuable fisheries.
- We are also committed to helping NAFO achieve its objectives: optimum utilization and conservation of fishery resources in its regulatory area.
- At this Annual Meeting, WWF will measure NAFO's success using 4 priorities:
 1. Allowing further stock growth of Southern Grand Banks cod through minimizing bycatch and through a rebuilding strategy that is compliant with the United Nations Fish Stock Agreement's Precautionary Approach.
 2. Applying further protection to vulnerable marine ecosystems in accordance with FAO guidelines.
 3. Increasing the transparency and accountability of NAFO's decision-making processes.
 4. Addressing the need for transparent and independent performance reviews.

Concerning recovery of southern Grand Banks cod:

- NAFO took an important step three years ago in adopting a Rebuilding Strategy that included a voluntary cod bycatch reduction target of 420 tonnes.
- The bycatch target has been greatly exceeded in every year since implementation.
- This year, the Scientific Council reported an increase in Grand Banks cod stocks.
- NAFO should recognize that an increase in 3NO spawning cod represents a great opportunity for establishing a cod recovery strategy incorporating robust management tools such as those implemented with success in the Barents Sea cod fishery.
- NAFO will be able to demonstrate success this week by:
 1. Not increasing the current bycatch target of 420 tonnes and ensuring that all Contracting Parties abide to it
 2. Establishing a **Fisheries Commission Working Group** to draft a rebuilding strategy in line with the Precautionary Approach. Such a rebuilding strategy includes target and limit reference points, and harvest control rules that incorporate reference points. The strategy should be adopted at the 2011 Annual Meeting.

Concerning protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems:

- WWF applauds steps NAFO has taken in recent years towards meeting the 2006 United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries (61/105).
- In order to continue the progress:

1. Standardized impact assessments in accordance with the FAO guidelines will be needed;
 2. Fishery management plans in accordance with FAO Guidelines would be essential tools for ensuring long-term sustainability of deep-sea stocks and further protection of VMEs;
 3. Orphan Knoll, Fogo Seamounts 1 and 2, Corner seamounts, Newfoundland Seamounts, and New England Seamounts should have long-term protection with VME status;
 4. The adoption of non-intrusive sampling methods to monitor and delineate the extent of VMEs will have considerable ecological benefits.
- In addition to Grand Banks cod recovery and the protection of VMEs, WWF is recommending that NAFO improve transparency and accountability of its decision-making processes, and ensures that independent and transparent performance review are conducted on a regular basis.
 - The need for precautionary and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management is incorporated in NAFO's amended convention. It is also an issue of concern to an increasing number of retailers pledging to source only sustainable seafood.
 - To highlight the business case for sustainable seafood and smart oceans management, WWF would like to invite all of you to our **reception on Wednesday, September 22nd from 6pm to 8pm, Room 100 on the lower level in this building**. The reception is co-hosted by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), and locally produced sustainable seafood will be served.
 - WWF would also like to invite you to meet with us anytime this week to further discuss our priorities and conservation approaches. You are also welcome to visit us in our WWF office just across the street in Duke Tower (Suite 1202).

This is the first year in many that there has been a glimmer of light on the horizon for Grand Banks cod. We believe there is a future in this fishery and that NAFO can play a major role in making sure that there will indeed be a shining future.

**Annex 12. Opening Statement of the International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA)
to the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)
September 20, 2010, Halifax, Canada**

The International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA) is a coalition of the national fish and seafood industry trade associations from the world's major fishing nations. ICFA members represent countries harvesting more than 85% of the globe's fish. The group was formed in 1988 to provide decision-makers a unified voice on global fish and seafood issues.

ICFA is a recognized Non-Governmental Organization observer for United Nations agencies. We appreciate the opportunity to attend this Annual Meeting of NAFO for the first time, as an official observer. While commercial interests have had effective input to NAFO through the delegations of respective contracting parties, it seems appropriate for ICFA to join the increasing ranks of official observers at NAFO, to provide a collective commercial fishing perspective where it may be appropriate to do so.

ICFA members advocate policies for the long-term sustainable use of living marine resources for the benefit of global food security and prosperity. ICFA members are deeply committed to science-based and fully participatory fishery conservation and management processes.

NAFO ranks among the leading and more long-standing regional fisheries management organizations in the world. Among with other international and national jurisdictions, NAFO has experienced various difficulties in the past, as it struggled to address declining abundance in groundfish resources associated in large part with shifting productivity regimes, complex surveillance and enforcement issues, and quota sharing disputes. These types of challenges will ebb and flow depending on changing circumstance. However, past experiences have served to inform all participants about how to balance and manage both conservation priorities and economic objectives within evolving international standards and frameworks.

It is noteworthy to observe the significant progress that NAFO has achieved towards implementing effective measures to conserve vulnerable marine ecosystems. It is also gratifying to observe that significant recovery is taking place with some of the groundfish stocks in the NAFO Regulatory Area. However, while progress has been made, more progress needs to be made. Examples of this might be the need to implement modern dispute resolution processes, and to implement reasonably the precautionary approach framework that was adopted by NAFO at the policy level some years ago. There is a need for TAC-setting to evolve towards a more effective risk management process that addresses both conservation priorities and economic objectives. In this regard, and as one version of this process, we look forward to seeing how the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) initiative for Greenland Halibut comes to fruition.

We urge NAFO and its contracting parties to continue to make effective strides with these and other important matters, and commit the collective cooperation of commercial interests among the major fishing nations of the world.

Thank you.
Bruce Chapman

**Annex 13. Opening Statement by the Ecology Action Centre to the 32nd Annual Meeting
of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)
September 20, 2010, Halifax, Canada**

Mister Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Fellow Observers and guests,

On behalf of the Ecology Action Centre, Nova Scotia's oldest and most established environmental organization, we welcome you to Halifax, the city and we have called home for the past 40 years.

I am Susanna Fuller, the Marine Conservation Coordinator at the Centre. We are honored to be observers at this meeting, as we have been at past NAFO meetings.

As a member of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, an organization of over 60 groups across the globe, we have been encouraged at the progress of NAFO since 2006 in implementing the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 61/105. We recognize that NAFO and Contracting Parties have cooperated through science and management measures to protect fragile elements and unique ecosystems that make up the valued and historic fishing areas of the Grand Bank, the Flemish Cap and surrounding waters. The research that has gone on in the past three years on corals and sponges in particular has renewed a sense of wonder for all those involved in seeing the diversity of marine life on the sea floor.

However, we remind you that at the time of its adoption, the UNGA Resolution was considered a compromise, and many of you here today, hoped for a stronger Resolution in New York in 2006. We also remind you that the VME protection provisions of the UNGA 61/105 were to have been implemented by December 31st, 2008. In 2009, States unanimously passed the UNGA Sustainable Fisheries Resolution 64/72 which further urged the implementation of 61/105 and in particular environmental impact assessments of all bottom fisheries. Therefore, at this meeting, we ask that NAFO require these assessments by December 31, 2010 or not allow fisheries to proceed.

We also note that the current encounter protocols for corals and sponges are also far above biologically meaningful limits, and we hope these will be revisited at this meeting.

Additionally, we encourage NAFO and its working groups to re-visit the FAO Guidelines on Deep Sea Fisheries and implement conservation measures for all VMEs, including long-lived fish species.

64/72 also calls for increased protection and reporting on shark landings in the NRA, which has been raised repeatedly at NAFO meetings in the past 4 years.

In September 2011, the implementation of these two Resolutions will be reviewed at the UN and we hope that NAFO will be awarded top marks, by the UN and by NGOs.

We encourage Contracting Parties to make decisions in full plenary at this meeting. Transparency and accountability are key principles in the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement.

As one of the most established RFMOs, NAFO has the opportunity to continue its leadership to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) on the high seas and regulating the impacts of bottom fisheries. Indeed, the benefits of past conservation measures – which were not necessarily popular at the time – are now being realized with some fisheries formerly under moratoria showing continued signs of recovery.

We invite you to review our complete recommendations to NAFO for which are supported by 10 conservation organizations from Canada, the European Union, the United States and Iceland.

We look forward to the meetings this week and further progress in building NAFO's conservation reputation.

Thank you.

**Annex 14. Opening Statement by the Sierra Club Canada to the 32nd Annual Meeting
of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)
September 20, 2010, Halifax, Canada**

On behalf of Sierra Club Canada I wish to say thank you to NAFO and its contracting parties for granting us observer status at these meetings. I know we will learn a good deal here, but I also hope we are able to make positive contributions to NAFOs deliberations. As the oldest environmental organization in North America, we possess a wealth of information, and experience, concerning the dynamics of sustainable human interaction with natural environments. We understand the importance of employing the "precautionary principle" and of identifying and using the best science available. These are vital tools needed to re-establish healthy marine environments and abundant stable commercial fisheries. We also believe that contracting parties in NAFO must meet their international obligations to protect biodiversity and fish stocks. In Canada we also have to meet the requirements of our Oceans Act and our Fisheries Act.

As Canadians, the lack of ocean habitat recovery and commercial fishery recovery in the North-west Atlantic is of grave concern to us. Many of our members and supporters have deep fishery related connections with this part of the world often going back several centuries.

The serious overfishing of the past 60 years underscores the need to protect Vulnerable marine ecosystems and rebuild the ocean food web. This runs much beyond the narrower scope of determining annual commercial fishing quotas. We see this as part of NAFO's evolving role from managing commercial fish stocks to functioning as stewards and managers of the Northwest Atlantic. The United Nations, the FAO, and many countries recognize this new role for regional fisheries management organizations. The challenge now is to make it happen.

Thank You.

Fred Winsor, PhD.
Conservation Chair
Atlantic Canada Chapter
Sierra Club Canada
Halifax, Nova Scotia

**Annex 15. FAO Statement to the 32nd Annual Meeting
of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)**

Jessica Sanders, Fishery Officer
FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
FAO
Rome, Italy

Halifax, Canada
20 September 2010

The FAO wishes to thank the Secretariat of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) for extending an invitation to attend the Thirty-second Annual Meeting held in the historic city of Halifax. The FAO is thankful for the effective working relationship that the Organization has always enjoyed with NAFO and hopes to continue collaborative work on the many joint topics of common concern.

The FAO would like to emphasize the unique role Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) play in facilitating international cooperation for the conservation and management of shared, straddling and high seas fish stocks. RFBs represent the primary means of governing these stocks. Therefore, strengthening RFBs to ensure effective conservation and management of fish stocks and their associated ecosystems remains a priority in international fisheries governance and, of course, for FAO.

The FAO has undertaken a variety of activities which may be of interest and useful for the discussions over the coming days. Many of you have been involved in the development and adoption of *the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas* which were agreed upon in August 2008. During its 28th Session the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) recognized that regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) are among the primary driving forces in the implementation of the Guidelines and that several RFMOs, including NAFO, and a number of coastal States have been working on the implementation of the Deep-seas Guidelines and United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 61/105. In order to support these efforts, FAO, with the assistance of the Republic of Korea, held a workshop in May 2010 examining the challenges in the implementation of the Deep-sea Guidelines and possible solutions. The results are being published as an FAO report and the recommendations of this meeting will be incorporated into the ongoing FAO Programme on the Implementation of the Deep-Sea Guidelines. This Programme, currently supported by Japan and France includes, among the initial activities, the development of a vulnerable marine ecosystem (VME) information system, guidance on collaboration with the deepwater fishing industry and species identification guides. A discussion group for experts interested in deep-sea fisheries in the high seas has also been initiated to facilitate communication between stakeholders. FAO is committed to the continuation of its activities in support of the important efforts by NAFO and other RFMOs to implement the Deep-sea Guidelines.

Many distinguished delegates may also be aware that the legally-binding FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing was adopted by FAO Members in late 2009 and is now open for signature. As of today a total of 16 countries have now signed the Agreement. Both the Review Conference of the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the UNGA, in resolution 64/72, encouraged States to become parties to the 2009 FAO Agreement and to cooperate to adopt all necessary port State measures consistent with international law.

FAO is in the process of initiating a programme to build human and material capacity through regional capacity-development activities to ensure that countries will be better placed to enhance and harmonize the implementation of the 2009 FAO Agreement.

There are two upcoming technical consultations at FAO which may be of importance to delegates. The first is the Technical Consultation to Identify a Structure and Strategy for the Development and Implementation of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels which will be held from 8 to 12 November 2010 in Rome. A second technical consultation will be held from 6 to 10 December 2010 on the development of International Guidelines for Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards. This meeting was agreed by the twenty-eighth session of COFI in March 2009.

I also wish to touch briefly upon the issue of climate changes and fisheries. A partnership was recently developed – the Global Partnership for Climate, Fisheries and Aquaculture (PaCFA)¹ – comprising 20 organizations and including both ICES and PICES. This group was established out of a mutual desire to draw together potentially fragmented and redundant climate change activities and to address the pressing need to raise the profile of fisheries and aquaculture in the global climate change discussions. PaCFA has been active in raising awareness on the issues facing the sector and actively participated in UNFCCC 15th Conference of the Parties in Copenhagen. Also in regard to climate change, FAO is participating in a symposium on Energy Use in Fisheries to be held November 2010 in Seattle, USA with a focus on improved alternative operational and management strategies to reduce energy use in fisheries and aquaculture.²

With respect to the impacts of fishing on the environment, I wish to draw your attention to the work of FAO with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in revision of MARPOL Annex V and its guidelines, especially those related to marine pollution in general and the specific issues of impacts associated with abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear on the environment.

I would also like to highlight recent FAO work undertaken on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF), in particular the development of a toolbox of suitable methods as a proactive mechanism to assist countries, fishery agencies and the various stakeholder groups to implement the EAF. This “toolbox” is a first attempt at such a guide and will present a large number of tested tools that are already available. In addition to the development of a toolbox, in 2009 FAO with the help of an international expert group reviewed indicators for application of EAF. The report is being finalised and covers ecological, socio-economic and governance indicators for EAF. A workbook on the use of indicators for fisheries management is also underway.

I would also like to advise the meeting that the traditional timing of the COFI has been changed and that the next session will be held from 31 January to 4 February 2011. The meeting of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network will take place immediately after COFI.

In the highly internationalized fisheries arena, it is now almost impossible for FAO to work on global, regional or even national fisheries issues without strong cooperation and collaboration with RFBs. Therefore, I would like to reaffirm FAO’s commitment to work with all RFBs, to encourage their members to strengthen their activities and to implement fully and speedily decisions made by these organizations.

NAFO’s proactive approach to protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems and initiation of the reform process at an early stage in order to strengthen its function and performance is highly appreciated. The FAO hopes that NAFO will continue playing a significant role in regional action to secure sustainable and more responsible fisheries management.

I would like to thank the NAFO Secretariat again for the invitation to observe this important meeting and I assure you that I will follow the discussions over the coming week with much interest. I wish you a very fruitful and productive meeting.

¹ <http://www.climatefish.org>

² <http://www.energyfish.nmfs.noaa.gov/>

Annex 16. Agenda

I. Opening Procedure

1. Opening by the Chair, Terje Lobach (Norway)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Admission of Observers
5. Publicity
6. Guidance to STACFAD necessary for them to complete their work (Monday)

II. Supervision and Coordination of the Organizational, Administrative and other Internal Affairs

7. Review of Membership of the General Council and Fisheries Commission
8. Status of ratification process resulting from the adoption of the amended Convention
9. Status of NAFO Headquarters Agreement
10. Report of the Performance Assessment Working Group, April 2010 (GC Doc. 10/1)
11. Administrative Report

III. Coordination of External Affairs

12. Report of Executive Secretary on external meetings
13. International Relations

IV. Finance

14. Report of STACFAD at the Annual Meeting
15. Adoption of the Budget and STACFAD recommendations for 2011

V. Closing Procedure

16. Election of Vice-Chair
17. Time and Place of Next Annual Meeting
18. Other Business
19. Press Release
20. Adjournment

Annex 17. 2010 Annual Meeting Press Release

NAFO Takes Stock Further Progress made on International Fishery Management

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Halifax, NS, Canada, 24 September 2010

At this week's meeting of NAFO – the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization - a range of conservation and management measures were adopted for fish stocks in international waters and straddling national fishing limits based on the precautionary approach. With a commitment to apply an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, NAFO agreed to further refine its provisions to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems from significant adverse impacts of bottom fisheries, which included the extended closure of 6 seamounts in international waters. To take stock of the effectiveness of NAFO as a regional fisheries management organization, an expert panel will work together over the next year to produce a performance assessment of the work of NAFO.

The meeting agreed on management measures for 20 fish stocks in or straddling the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA) in 2011. Following the reopening of Flemish Cap cod (Div. 3M) and Grand Bank redfish (Div. 3LN) last year and, based on new scientific advice, total allowable catch (TACs) for these stocks were increased. Fisheries for a number of other stocks remain closed. Based on the latest scientific advice on the continued very low level of the shrimp stock on the Flemish Cap, it was agreed that fisheries for shrimp in this area should not be permitted in 2011.

NAFO has agreed upon a progressive strategy to manage Greenland halibut in its Regulatory Area, developed by a working group comprising fishery managers and scientists. The new management strategy provides for the annual adjustment of the TAC according to defined rules and will be implemented for four years.

Over the next year NAFO will begin to develop Conservation Plans and Stock Rebuilding Strategies for protected and recovering fish stocks such as Cod Div. 3NO and American plaice Div. 3LNO. This will be a collaborative effort between fishery managers and scientists.

NAFO continues to develop its enforcement measures by implementing an improved system for recording daily catches of all species in the NRA. This allows for simplified reporting requirements and enhanced monitoring capability and will be incorporated in the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).

NAFO continues to improve its management and conservation regime to fulfil its commitment to prevent significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems, as called for by UN General Assembly (UNGA) by, among other things, agreeing on a map of existing fishing areas.

Furthermore NAFO has agreed to extend the closure of 6 seamounts for the next 4 years; the implementation of impact assessments of bottom fishing; and application of a more comprehensive data collection protocol for coral and sponge species.

In 2011 NAFO will undergo a Performance Review by a panel of experts. The Panel will consist of external reviewers and experts from Contracting Parties. The Panel will assess the performance of NAFO against the objectives set out in the NAFO Convention and other relevant international instruments addressing the conservation and management of marine living resources.

To date the ratification of the amended NAFO Convention has been completed by two Contracting Parties. The internal processes continue and an update will be given during the next Annual Meeting.

Some results from a new joint multidisciplinary scientific survey (NEREIDA) that was successfully conducted by NAFO Contracting Parties to examine fishing resources and vulnerable marine ecosystems within the NRA were presented.

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Additional highlights of the meeting can be found in the attached backgrounder.

For more information contact:

Barbara Marshall, NAFO Secretariat www.nafo.int
Tel: +1-902-468-8598
E-mail: bmarshall@nafo.int

2010 Annual Meeting Press Release

24 September 2010

Backgrounder

NAFO is an international intergovernmental fisheries science and management body that manages the fishery in the international portion of the Northwest Atlantic. The 32nd Annual Meeting was held in the World Trade and Convention Centre, Halifax, NS, Canada and was attended by 180 delegates from all 12 Contracting Parties - Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, Russian Federation, Ukraine and United States of America. The three bodies of NAFO, General Council (chaired by Terje Lobach, Norway), Fisheries Commission (chaired by Kate Sanderson, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) and Scientific Council (chaired by Ricardo Alpoim, EU-Portugal) and their subsidiary bodies met over the course of week to deliberate on management measures and scientific assessment regarding the international fisheries of the Northwest Atlantic. The scientific advice was presented. The meeting was also attended by observers from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Ecology Action Centre (EAC), the International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA) and the Sierra Club of Canada (SCC).

The Fisheries Commission agreed on management measures for the 20 fish stocks managed by NAFO. The scientific advice was elaborated at meetings held in October of 2009 and June of 2010. Scientific Council fully assessed the status of eleven stocks and monitored the status of other fish stocks. The overall picture is one of cautious optimism for the finfish.

NAFO has agreed upon a progressive strategy to manage Greenland halibut in its Regulatory Area. A special working group comprised of fisheries managers and scientists was established in 2009 to address the uncertainty of assessments of the Greenland halibut stock in NAFO Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO. The new management strategy allows for the adjustment of the TAC on an annual basis based on harvest control rules and is to be implemented for four years, followed by a review by Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council.

A new working group of fishery managers and scientists will be established with a mandate to develop Conservation Plans and Stock Rebuilding Strategies for important resources within the NAFO Convention Area, including cod in Div. 3NO and American plaice in Div. 3LNO.

Recognizing the value in protecting its Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME), NAFO continues to improve its management and conservation regime to fulfil its commitment to prevent significant adverse impacts on VMEs, as called for by UN General Assembly resolution 61/105. NAFO adopted a map of existing fishing areas that will identify new fishing areas. NAFO agreed:

- to extend the closure of six seamounts for an additional four years to protect the vulnerable marine ecosystems which live in these areas from impact from bottom fishing gears;
- to implement rigorous impact assessments of bottom fishing occurring outside of the NAFO fishing footprint, or if new scientific information comes to light on the existence of VMEs, or if significant changes occur in fishing conduct or technology; and
- to implement a more comprehensive data collection protocol for coral and sponge species encountered in exploratory and existing fishing areas.

Full-colour pictorial identification guides of deep-sea corals and sponges have been developed to assist in the recognition of these species.

In 2009 and 2010 the “NAFO Potential Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem-Impacts of Deep-sea Fisheries” (NEREIDA) programme conducted new multidisciplinary research surveys on vulnerable ecosystems and the effects of fishing activities. The survey was funded by EU-Spain, Canada, EU-United Kingdom and the Russian Federation. Specific objectives included to identify organisms that constitute Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME), describe ecology of deep-sea habitats studying distinct features in the area and to develop a GIS database. Deep-sea Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) took video footage of both pristine coral areas and areas where corals had been impacted by bottom contact gears.

The Fisheries Commission conducts the annual compliance review and noted the continuing trend of increased compliance. Amendments to the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures were reviewed and revisions were made that strengthen protection of fish stocks. Increased TACs were decided for Flemish Cap cod (Div. 3M), Grand Bank redfish (Div. 3LN) and Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 + Div. 3KLMNO. TACs for other regulated species will be maintained. The biomass of shrimp in Div. 3M (Flemish Cap) continues to be a concern and so it was agreed that that a fishery on this stock will not be permitted. Fisheries for a number of other stocks continue to be closed.

A Performance Review will be conducted during 2011. A Review Panel consisting of experts from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) and from Contracting Parties, Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union and the Russian Federation, will assess the performance of NAFO against the objectives set out in the NAFO Convention and other relevant international instruments addressing the conservation and management of marine living resources. This is similar to assessments conducted by some other RFMOs and has been called for by UN General Assembly.

The 33rd Annual Meeting will be held in Halifax, NS, Canada.

Meetings

Prior to the Annual Meeting, the following NAFO meetings were held: (1) Scientific Council for shrimp assessment (21-19 October 2009); (2) FC WG on Greenland Halibut Management Strategy Evaluation (WGMSE) (28-29 January); (3) SC Study Group on Rebuilding Strategies for Greenland Halibut (1-5 February); (4) GC Performance Assessment Working Group (PAWG) (26-28 April); (5) STACFAD Working Group (29-10 April) (6) Scientific Council (March-April by correspondence); (7) WGMSE (2-4 May); (8) FC WG of Fishery Managers and Scientists on VMEs (WGFMS) (5-7 May); (9) STACTIC (18-20 May) (10) Scientific Council (3-16 June); (11) WGMSE (16-17 September).

The table of NAFO TACs and quotas agreed at the 32nd Annual Meeting is attached.

**Annex I.A.
Annual Quota Table**

QUOTA TABLE. Total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tons) for 2011 of particular stocks in Subareas 1-4 of the NAFO Convention Area. The values listed include quantities to be taken both inside and outside the 200-mile fishing zone, where applicable.

Species Division/Contracting Party	Cod				Redfish					American plaice		Yellowtail
	3L	3M	% of 3M Cod TAC	3NO	3LN	% of 3LN Redfish TAC	3M	3O	Sub-Area 2 and Div. 1F+3K	3LNO	3M	3LNO
Canada		80	0.80	0	2556	42.60	500	6000	385 ^{2,4}	0	0	16575 ⁵
Cuba		370	3.70	-	588	9.80	1750		385 ^{2,4}	-	-	-
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		2235	22.35	-	-		69 ¹⁹		9627 ^{2,3}	-	-	-
European Union		5703 ²⁵	57.03	0 ¹¹	1094 ²⁶	18.23	7813 ¹²	7000	<u>9627^{2,3}</u> 2503 ^{2,15}	0	0 ¹¹	-
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-		-	-		69 ¹⁹		385 ^{2,4}	-	-	340 ⁵
Iceland		-		-	-		-		9627 ^{2,3}	-	-	-
Japan		-		-	-		400	150	385 ^{2,4}	-	-	-
Korea		-		-	-		69 ¹⁹	100	385 ^{2,4}	-	-	-
Norway		925	9.25	-	-		-		9627 ^{2,3}	-	-	-
Russian Federation		647	6.47	0	1726	28.77	9137	6500	9627 ^{2,3}	-	0	-
Ukraine								150	385 ^{2,4}			
United States of America		-		-	-		69 ¹⁹		385 ^{2,4}	-	-	-
Others		40	0.40	0	35	0.60	124	100	-	0	0	85 ⁵
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	^{*9}	10000 ²³	100.0	^{*9,20}	6000 ^{16,24}	100.0	10000 ⁸	20000	12516 ^{10,17}	^{*21}	^{*9}	17000 ^{21,22}

Species	Witch		White hake	Capelin	Skates	Greenland halibut	Squid (Illex) ¹	Shrimp	
	3L	3NO						3NO	3NO
Canada		0	1765	0	2000	1910	N.S. ⁶	15991	
Cuba		-		0		-	510	214	
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		-		-		221	-	214	
European Union		0 ¹¹	3529	0 ¹¹	7556	7466 ¹⁸	<u>N.S.</u> ⁶ 611 ¹³	1069 ¹⁴	
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-		-		208	453	214	
Iceland		-		-		-	-	214	
Japan		-		0		1305	510	214	
Korea		-		-		-	453	214	
Norway		-		0		-	-	214	
Russian Federation		0	353	0	2000	1624	749	214	
Ukraine						-		214	
United States of America		-		-		-	453	214	
Others		0	353	-	444	0 ⁷	794	0	
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	^{*9,20}	^{*9}	6000	^{*16,9}	12000	12734	34000 ²⁰	19200 ²⁷	^{*9}

* Ban on fishing in force.

1. Any quota listed for squid may be increased by a transfer from any "coastal state" as defined in Article 1, paragraph 3 of the NAFO Convention, provided that the TAC for squid is not exceeded. Transfers made to Contracting Parties conducting fisheries for squid in the Regulatory Area shall be reported to the Executive Secretary, and the report shall be made as promptly as possible.
2. The Executive Secretary shall notify without delay all Contracting Parties the dates on which accumulated reported catch taken by vessels of Contracting Parties estimated equal to 50% and then 100% of that allocation.
3. Quota to be shared by vessels from Denmark (Greenland and Faroe Islands), European Union, Iceland, Norway and Russia. Catches in the NAFO Convention Area shall be deducted from the quotas allocated in the NEAFC Convention Area.
4. Quota to be shared by vessels from Canada, Cuba, France (St. Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, Korea, Ukraine and USA.
5. Contracting Parties shall inform the Executive Secretary before 01 December 2010 of the measures to be taken to ensure that total catches do not exceed the levels indicated.
6. The allocation to these Contracting Parties are as yet undetermined, although their sum shall not exceed the difference between the total of allocations to other Contracting Parties and the TAC (= 29.458 tons).

7. In 2005, the previous 935 t “Others” quota was assigned to three Contracting Parties. When the TAC exceeds 30,000 t the next 1,300 t beyond 30,000 will be allocated to an Others quota which can be accessed by those who do not hold Greenland halibut allocation. In deciding the relevant contributions of Contracting Parties to the 1,300 t Others quota, the Fisheries Commission will take into account the fact that some Contracting Parties received a benefit from the 935 t quota which was reassigned in 2005.
8. Not more than 5000 tons may be fished before 01 July 2011. The Executive Secretary shall notify without delay all Contracting Parties of the date on which, for this stock, accumulated reported catch taken by vessels of the Contracting Parties is estimated to equal 50% and then 100% of the TAC.
9. The provisions of Article 12, paragraph 1.b) of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures shall apply.
10. In the case of the NEAFC decision which modifies the level of TAC in 2011 as compared to 2010, these figures shall be accordingly adjusted by NAFO and formalized through a mail vote.
11. Including fishing entitlements of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union and in accordance with sharing arrangements of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission at its Annual Meeting in 2003 (FC Working Paper 03/7).
12. Including allocations of 1571 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania out of a sharing of 20,000 tonnes, following their accession to the European Union.
13. Allocations of 128 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as well as 227 tonnes for Poland out of a TAC of 34,000 tonnes, following their accession to the European Union.
14. Including allocations of 214 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland out of a TAC of 19,200 tonnes, following their accession to the European Union.
15. Allocation of 2,234 tonnes for Lithuania and 269 tonnes to Latvia following their accession to the European Union.
16. Applicable to 2011 and 2012.
17. The quota shares in footnotes 4 and 15 can only be fished in the NAFO Regulatory Area. If an increase in the overall TAC as defined in footnote 10 leads to an increase in these shares, the first 500 tonnes of that increase shall be added to the quota share referred to in footnote 4.
18. Including an allocation of 418 tonnes for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union.
19. Notwithstanding the provisions of footnote 8 and without prejudice to future agreements on allocations, these quotas may be fished in their entirety by these Contracting Parties.
20. Applicable until at least 2013.
21. In lieu of Article 12.1 (a) and (b) of the CEM, the following by-catch provisions for American plaice only in the 3LNO yellowtail fishery shall apply: Contracting Parties fishing for yellowtail flounder allocated under the NAFO allocation table will be restricted to an overall Am. plaice by-catch harvest limit equal to 13% of their total yellowtail fishery as calculated in accordance with Article 12.1 (c). For 2010, the by-catch percentage will increase to 15% unless a Scientific Council projection indicates that this rate is likely to undermine stock recovery or cause an unreasonable delay in reaching B_{lim} , in which case the increase may be subject to a reassessment by the Fisheries Commission.
22. Following the NAFO annual meeting and prior to January 1 of the succeeding year, at the request of the USA, Canada will transfer 1000 tonnes of its 3LNO yellowtail quota to the USA.
23. The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1998 Quota Table. In 1999, a moratorium on cod in Division 3M was declared.
24. The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1997 Quota Table. In 1998, a moratorium on redfish in Division 3LN was declared.
25. Including fishing entitlements of 111 tons each for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in accordance with sharing arrangements of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission at its Annual Meeting in 2003 (FC Working Paper 03/7) and allocation of 380 tons for Poland following their accession to the European Union.
26. Including fishing entitlements of 297 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in accordance with sharing arrangements of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission at its Annual Meeting in 2003 (FC Working Paper 03/7) following their accession to the European Union.
27. For 2012, the TAC will be reduced to 17,000 tonnes. This TAC will be reviewed based on available Scientific Council advice on this stock.

Annex I.B
Effort Allocation Scheme for Shrimp Fishery in the
NAFO Regulatory Area Div. 3M, 2011

CONTRACTING PARTY	NUMBER OF FISHING DAYS ¹	NUMBER OF VESSELS ¹
Canada	0	0
Cuba	0	0
Denmark		
Faroe Islands	0	0
Greenland	0	0
European Union	0	0
France (in respect of St Pierre et Miquelon)	0	0
Iceland	N/A	N/A
Japan	0	0
Korea	0	0
Norway	0	0
Russia	0	N/A
Ukraine	0	0
USA	0	0

¹ When the scientific advice estimates that the stock shows signs of recovery, the fishery shall be re-opened in accordance with the effort allocation key in place for this fishery at the time of the closure.

PART II

Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)

1. Opening by the Chair

The first session of STACFAD was opened by the Chair, Bob Steinbock (Canada) on 20 September 2010. The Chair welcomed delegates and members of the NAFO Secretariat to the meeting and thanked the Secretariat for the advance preparations for this meeting in Halifax. He noted that there would be a few extraordinary items that the Committee would be dealing with during the week.

Present were delegates from Canada, European Union, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), Japan, Norway, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America and members of the Secretariat (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Stan Goodick (NAFO Secretariat) was appointed Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Executive Secretary noted that a number of staffing issues have transpired since the provisional agenda was circulated and requested the addition of a new agenda item to cover personnel matters and a proposed revision to the staff rules. The provisional agenda with the above noted addition was adopted (Annex 2).

4. Auditors' Report for 2009

The auditing firm of Deloitte and Touche LLP, Chartered Accountants performed the audit of the financial statements of the Organization for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009. The financial statements were circulated to the Heads of Delegation of the General Council in April 2010 and to STACFAD delegates in advance of the Annual Meeting. The financial statements included the auditors' report, the statements of financial position, operations, accumulated surplus, cash flows and the notes to the financial statements.

The Senior Finance and Staff Administrator for NAFO presented the Auditors' Report and Financial Statements of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization for the year ended 31 December 2009. It was noted that the total expenditures incurred for the fiscal period ending 2009 amounted to \$1,463,273, which was \$154,727 below the approved budget of \$1,618,000. It was also noted that outstanding contributions from Contracting Parties on December 31, 2009 was \$66,928.

The balance in the accumulated surplus account at year end amounted to \$675,350. At last year's Annual Meeting, General Council approved maintaining the level in the accumulated surplus account for 2010 at \$325,000 of which \$200,000 would be sufficient to finance operations during the first three months of 2010, and of which \$125,000 would be available for use in emergency situations. The remaining \$350,350 (\$675,350 - \$325,000) would be used to reduce annual contributions for 2010.

It was noted that the 2008 valuation of the pension plan for the employees of the Organization showed that the plan had a significant deficit of \$975,000. To fulfill Canadian regulations, NAFO is required to make annual supplementary payments of \$100,800 per year for 15 years, or until the plan is fully funded. The first of these payments was made in 2009. The valuation of the pension plan, which is scheduled every 3 years, will next take place on January 1, 2011.

The Auditors' Report noted that the Organization: (1) has not recorded the pension plan assets, liabilities and unfunded deficit, (2) has a policy not to capitalize its capital assets, and (3) has not recorded a liability for separation entitlements, as approved at the annual meeting in September 2007. This liability would be fully funded by the end of 2011. The audit determined the financial affairs of the Organization had been conducted in accordance with the

Financial Regulations and budgetary provisions of NAFO and presented a fair and accurate accounting of the financial affairs of the Organization.

STACFAD recommends that the 2009 Auditors' Report be adopted.

The Organization's Financial Regulation, Rule 7.1, states that the length of time a firm carrying out the NAFO audit shall serve is limited to a maximum of three years. The audit of the 2010 financial records will be the third year for Deloitte and Touche LLP, Chartered Accountants having served as auditors of the Organization.

The Secretariat will begin in the summer of 2011 the process of contacting firms and requesting proposals to be considered to carry out the audit of NAFO's records for the 2011, 2012 and 2013 fiscal periods. The proposals will be presented to STACFAD at the next annual meeting.

5. Administrative and Activity Report by Secretariat

Under this item, the Executive Secretary highlighted NAFO administrative matters and activities. Of particular note was the development by the Secretariat of a new STATLANT data extraction tool, a new search feature for the Journal of the Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science (JNAFS) website and the digitization of historic NAFO documents for placement on the web. The complete report is available in GC Doc. 10/3-Revised.

The Secretariat once again expressed the importance of receiving accurate and timely catch reports and urged Contracting Parties to ensure compliance with the NAFO requirement.

6. Financial Statements for 2010

The Senior Finance and Staff Administrator presented the Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending 31 December 2010.

Budgetary Expenses

The approved operating budget for 2010 was set at \$1,782,000. It was noted in the financial statements that expenditures for the year are projected to be \$1,787,000, over the approved budget by \$5,000. Variances from the approved budget are as follows:

Salaries and benefits for the Secretariat staff members are projected to be \$30,000 below its approved budget. This is attributed to the position of Deputy Executive Secretary remaining vacant and the proposed overlap for the transition to a new publications manager was not required.

Four working group meetings held in Halifax during 2010 contributed to the inter-sessional other meetings budget exceeding its approved budget for the year by \$11,000. The inter-sessional scientific meetings budget was under budget by \$23,000 due to the cancellation of a proposed assessment workshop and the limited use of the ad hoc funds.

The Professional Services item includes expenses for audit, consulting, insurance, legal fees, professional development and training. The legal fees are associated with a claim made against the Organization regarding the ongoing wrongful dismissal suit.

Recruitment and relocation expenses are projected to be \$11,000 over budget for the year as there was no provision in the 2010 budget for relocation expenses relating to the unexpected resignation of the Scientific Council Coordinator.

All remaining 2010 operating expenses are anticipated to be on or near budget for the year.

Assessed Contributions

The 2010 operating budget was set at \$1,782,000. The prior years' accumulated surplus balance had \$350,350 deemed to be in excess of the needs of the Organization which was allocated to the operating budget. As a result, annual contributions issued to Contracting Parties for the 2010 fiscal year were \$1,431,650.

Balance Sheet

The Organization's cash position at December 31, 2010 is estimated to be \$492,365, which is sufficient to finance appropriations in early 2011 pending the receipt of annual payments by Contracting Parties in the spring of 2011.

Three Contracting Parties have outstanding contributions for 2010 totalling \$104,000; Cuba - \$36,918, Korea - \$31,291 and Ukraine - \$35,791. Cuba and Ukraine have communicated that payment would be forthcoming. The Committee recommended that these three Contracting Parties be urged to make their respective payments promptly.

7. Review of Accumulated Surplus and Contingency Funds

According to the financial regulations of the Organization, STACFAD and General Council shall review the amount available in the accumulated surplus account during each annual meeting. The accumulated surplus account shall be set at a level sufficient to temporarily finance operations during the first three months of the year plus an amount up to a maximum of 10% of the annual budget for the current financial year to be used for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses to the good conduct of the business of the Organization.

The Secretariat noted the accumulated surplus account at December 31, 2010 is estimated to be \$535,000.

Given a number of significant one time items included in the 2011 budget estimate, the Committee expressed concerns about the need to minimize the increases in contributions by Contracting Parties to the extent possible. In line with these concerns, **STACFAD recommends that the amount maintained in the accumulated surplus account be set at \$285,000 of which \$200,000 would be sufficient to finance operations during the first three months of 2011, and of which \$85,000 would be available for use in emergency situations.** This represents a decrease in the amount available for use in emergency situations in 2011 by \$40,000. The Committee noted its intent to increase the level of this fund if the budgetary situation allows.

8. Report of the STACFAD Working Group, April 2010

In view of the process towards entry into force of the amendments to the NAFO Convention and the resulting merger of General Council and Fisheries Commission, a STACFAD Working Group was established to amend the current Rules of Procedure and to address other elements of an administrative nature related to the entry into force of the amended Convention.

The Chair of the STACFAD presented the report of the STACFAD Working Group held in April 2010 which included recommended revisions to the Rules of Procedure, Rules of Procedure for Observers, Financial Regulations and Staff Rules.

One delegate expressed concern concerning the minimum time requirement for circulating proposals to amend the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEM) in the suggested new provision in Rule 4.5 of the Rules of Procedure. Instead of the thirty day advance notice, the delegate proposed 14 days. It was agreed that this concern could be revisited in the future in advance of the entry into force of the amended Convention. No concerns were expressed on any other aspects of the STACFAD W.G. Report.

STACFAD recommends that the Report of the STACFAD Working Group, April 2010 be adopted noting that the issue of the submission deadline for proposals for the NCEM stated in Rule 4.5 of the Rules of Procedure could be revisited.

9. Personnel Matters and Proposed Revision to Staff Rules

In line with the Staff Rules, the Staff Representative, George Campanis, was invited to join the Committee for discussions under this item.

The Executive Secretary informed the Committee of some recent staffing issues:

- The Scientific Council Coordinator, Dr. Anthony Thompson, announced that he will be resigning from his position in December 2010. As Dr. Thompson was recruited internationally and relocated from Sweden to take on his current position, he is entitled to certain relocation expenses involving the return to his home country. These costs will be incurred during the 2010 fiscal year.

The process of recruiting a new SC Coordinator will be addressed as quickly as possible, and it is expected that a replacement could be in the post by March 2011. The recruitment procedures and timetable, vacancy announcement and job description were provided to the Committee for information purposes. The same information had also been provided to the Scientific Council Executive Committee for its comments. Costs associated with the recruitment and relocation of the new Scientific Council Coordinator have been included in the 2011 budget estimate.

- The Office Manager, Lisa Pelzmann, is expected to give birth in early 2011 and will be entitled to maternity/parental leave for most of 2011 as provided for in NAFO Staff Rule 6.13. Although some duties of the office manager may be shared by other staff members during her absence, it will be necessary to hire a temporary replacement during her leave of absence. An additional amount of \$10,000 has been included in the 2011 budget estimate.

The Executive Secretary informed the Committee of two staff members who are eligible to progress to the next stage of their respective salary classification in accordance with the NAFO Staff Classification System.

The Executive Secretary proposed a change to the NAFO Staff Rules regarding the term appointment of a Deputy Executive Secretary to allow for the Senior Finance and Staff Administrator to be eligible for this appointment.

STACFAD recommends amending (changes underlined and in italics) Staff Rule 5.3 as follows: The Executive Secretary may appoint a Coordinator or the Senior Finance and Staff Administrator to be the Deputy Executive Secretary for the term of one or two years (renewable). This appointment will be compensated with 10% of the Coordinator's or the Senior Finance and Staff Administrator's annual salary.

10. Budget Estimate for 2011

The Secretariat presented the 2011 budget estimate (GC Working Paper 10/1, Revision 2) to the Committee highlighting the following items:

<i>Approved Budget 2010</i>	<i>Preliminary Budget Forecast 2011</i>	<i>Budget Estimate 2011</i>
\$1,782,000	\$1,735,000	\$1,886,000

The 2011 budget estimate of \$1,886,000 represents an increase of \$151,000 (8.7%) from the 2011 preliminary budget forecast and an increase of \$104,000 (5.8%) from the 2010 approved budget.

Although the variances will be discussed in detail below, there are three major reasons which have been attributed to the increase in the 2011 budget estimate.

1. A provision for a special item in the amount of \$75,000 to cover the expenses for a performance assessment review process (to cover the external review panel members' fees and travel, printing, etc.) which is under consideration by General Council.
2. Costs associated with hosting NAFO's Annual Meeting in Halifax as well as additional support and meetings of the Scientific Council have increased the NAFO meetings budget item by \$21,000.
3. The other meetings and travel has increased by \$15,000 to cover the Secretariat's representation at a number of international meetings.

<i>Personal Services:</i>	Budget 2010	\$1,290,000	Budget 2011	\$1,280,000
			Decrease (0.8%)	\$10,000

The salaries and remuneration for the members of the Secretariat are in line with the classifications and the salary levels of the public sector of the host country (Canada). Salary increases for 2011 are estimated to

be 1.5%. Personnel changes for 2011 include the hiring of a new Scientific Council Coordinator and a term replacement for the Office Manager.

Superannuation and Annuities include the annual supplementary payment of \$100,800 towards the pension fund deficit.

<i>Additional Help:</i>	Budget 2010	\$20,000	Budget 2011	\$20,000
			Increase (0%)	\$0

The additional help budget is for the continued digitization of historical documents and other assistance as required.

<i>NAFO Meetings:</i>	Budget 2010	\$146,000	Budget 2011	\$167,000
			Increase (14.38%)	\$21,000

The NAFO meetings budget item includes logistical expenses to host a meeting in the headquarters area, invited expert travel costs, travel expenses by the Secretariat to attend NAFO meetings, etc. Increases to the sessional meetings budget include expected higher costs associated with hosting the 2011 Annual Meeting in the Halifax area.

The inter-sessional scientific meetings budget increased by \$10,000 and includes co-sponsorship of an ICES/NAFO Symposium, attendance at a workshop on reproductive potential, provision for an ad hoc fund to cover unforeseen expenses by SC including responding to requests for advice from the Fisheries Commission, and Secretariat support to Scientific Council inter-sessional meetings and working groups.

<i>Other Meetings and Travel:</i>	Budget 2010	\$35,000	Budget 2011	\$50,000
			Increase (42.9%)	\$15,000

The other meetings and travel budget allows the Secretariat to host a meeting in the headquarters area or to participate at various international meetings.

The Committee expressed concerns regarding the considerable increases to the *NAFO Meetings* and the *Other Meetings and Travel* items and a modification was made.

<i>Performance Review</i>	Budget 2010	\$0	Budget 2011	\$75,000
			Increase (100%)	\$75,000

There is a provision for a special item in the amount of \$75,000 to cover expenses for the performance assessment review process (external review panel members' fees and travel, printing, etc.) under consideration by the Organization. Although the budget item includes provision for up to two meetings to be held at the Secretariat, the review panel is encouraged to undertake as much of its work as possible by use of tele- and/or web conferencing and other electronic means (i.e. Sharepoint).

<i>Recruitment and Relocation:</i>	Budget 2010	\$51,000	Budget 2011	\$52,000
			Increase (0.2)	\$1,000

The 2010 recruitment and relocation budget included relocation and installation expenses of the incoming Executive Secretary. The 2011 recruitment and relocation budget is for the hiring of the new Scientific Council Coordinator.

STACFAD recommends that the budget for 2011 of \$1,886,000 (Annex 3) be adopted.

A preliminary calculation of billing for the 2011 financial year is provided in Annex 4. The preliminary calculation of billing is based on the budget estimate of \$1,886,000 and shall be reduced by any amount determined by the General Council to be in excess of the needs of the accumulated surplus account.

The accumulated surplus account at December 31, 2010 is estimated to be \$535,000 and the recommended minimum balance in the accumulated surplus account for operations and emergency use for the 2011 fiscal year is \$285,000. This allows for \$250,000 (\$535,000-\$285,000) to be applied towards the 2011 billing.

The funds required to meet the 2011 operational budget and to be funded by contributions from Contracting Parties is estimated to be \$1,636,000 (\$1,886,000 - \$250,000).

11. Budget Forecast for 2012 and 2013

STACFAD reviewed the preliminary budget forecast for 2012 (\$1,824,000) and 2013 (\$1,835,000) (Annex 5) and approved the forecast in principle. It was noted that the budget for 2012 will be reviewed in detail at the next Annual Meeting.

12. Adoption of 2011 Staff Committee Appointees

The Secretariat nominated the following people to serve as members of the Staff Committee for September 2010-September 2011: Bill Brodie, Deirdre Warner-Kramer and Bob Steinbock.

STACFAD recommends that General Council appoint the three nominees.

13. Time and Place of 2011 – 2013 Annual Meetings

As previously agreed, the dates of the 2011 and 2012 Annual Meetings (to be held in Halifax, N.S., Canada, unless an invitation to host is extended by a Contracting Party and accepted by the Organization), are as follows:

2011:

Scientific Council	-	19 – 23 September
General Council	-	19 – 23 September
Fisheries Commission	-	19 – 23 September

2012:

Scientific Council	-	17 – 21 September
General Council	-	17 – 21 September
Fisheries Commission	-	17 – 21 September

With regards to the timing of the 2013 NAFO annual meeting, one delegate requested that the date be moved to the subsequent week (23 - 27 September) from the usual third full week in September, on a one time basis only. Other delegates expressed concern that this may conflict with other international meetings including SEAFO.

STACFAD recommends that the dates of the 2013 Annual Meeting (to be held in Halifax, N.S., Canada, unless an invitation to host is extended by a Contracting Party and accepted by the Organization) are as follows:

Scientific Council	-	[16 – 20] or [23 – 27] September
General Council	-	[16 – 20] or [23 – 27] September
Fisheries Commission	-	[16 – 20] or [23 – 27] September

For budgetary planning purposes, STACFAD urges that any invitations by a Contracting Party to host an Annual Meeting be issued as early as possible.

14. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA) was elected Chair and Olga Sedkyh (Russian Federation) was elected Vice-Chair. Delegates expressed their gratitude to the outgoing Chair (Bob Steinbock, Canada) for his fine leadership over the past three years.

15. Other issues including any questions referred from the General Council during the current Annual Meeting

The Secretariat provided an update on the wrongful dismissal suit.

16. Adjournment

The final session of the STACFAD meeting adjourned on 22 September 2010.

Annex 1. List of Participants

Name	Contracting Party
Bob Steinbock Jamie Singh	Canada
Rasmus Fugholt	Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland)
Fred Kingston	European Union
Akiko Onodera	Japan
Richard Pedersen	Norway
Olga Sedykh	Russian Federation
Deirdre Warner-Kramer	United States of America
Vladimir Shibanov Stan Goodick Bev McLoon	NAFO Secretariat

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair, Bob Steinbock (Canada)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Auditors' Report for 2009
5. Administrative and Activity Report by NAFO Secretariat
6. Financial Statements for 2010
7. Review of Accumulated Surplus and Contingency Fund
8. Report of the STACFAD Working Group, April 2010 (GC Doc. 10/2)
9. Personnel Matters and Proposed Revision to Staff Rules
10. Budget Estimate for 2011
11. Budget Forecast for 2012 and 2013
12. Adoption of 2011 Staff Committee Appointees
13. Time and Place of 2011 - 2013 Annual Meetings
14. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair
15. Other issues
16. Adjournment

**Annex 3. Budget Estimate for 2011
(Canadian Dollars)**

	Approved Budget 2010	Projected Expenditures 2010	Preliminary Budget Forecast 2011	Budget Estimate 2011
1. Personal Services				
a) Salaries	\$902,000	\$877,000	\$923,000	\$904,000
b) Superannuation and Annuities	191,000	191,000	192,000	196,000
c) Medical and Insurance Plans	96,000	92,000	95,000	91,000
d) Employee Benefits	101,000	100,000	96,000	89,000
Subtotal Personal Services	1,290,000	1,260,000	1,306,000	1,280,000
2. Additional Help	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
3. Communications	26,000	26,000	27,000	27,000
4. Computer Services	28,000	28,000	29,000	28,000
5. Equipment	35,000	35,000	36,000	36,000
6. Fishery Monitoring	48,000	48,000	48,000	48,000
7. Hospitality Allowance	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
8. Materials and Supplies	33,000	33,000	33,000	33,000
9. NAFO Meetings				
a) Sessional	91,000	94,000	86,000	102,000
b) Inter-sessional Scientific	30,000	7,000	30,000	40,000
c) Inter-sessional Other	25,000	36,000	25,000	25,000
Subtotal NAFO Meetings	146,000	137,000	141,000	167,000
10. Other Meetings and Travel	35,000	35,000	35,000	50,000
11. Performance Review	0	0	0	75,000
12. Professional Services	51,000	84,000	41,000	51,000
13. Publications	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000
14. Recruitment and Relocation	51,000	62,000	0	52,000
	\$1,782,000	\$1,787,000	\$1,735,000	\$1,886,000

Notes on Budget Estimate 2011
(Canadian Dollars)

Item 1(a)	Salaries Salaries budget estimate for 2011	\$904,000
Item 1(b)	Superannuation and Annuities Employer's pension plan which includes employer's contributions, administration costs and actuarial fees. Also includes a payment towards the unfunded liability as the latest actuarial valuation of the pension plan showed the plan to be in a deficit position.	\$196,000
Item 1(c)	Group Medical and Insurance Plans Employer's portion of Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, Group Life Insurance, Long Term Disability Insurance and Medical Coverage.	\$91,000
Item 1(d)	Employee Benefits Employee benefits as per the NAFO Staff Rules including overtime, repatriation grant, termination benefits, vacation pay, and travel to home country for internationally recruited members of the Secretariat. Termination Benefits Liability	\$89,000 \$50,000 39,000
Item 2	Additional Support Digitization of historical documents, translation of NAFO Fisheries Information (e.g. Observer Reports), interns and other assistance as required.	\$20,000
Item 3	Communications Phone, fax and internet services Postage Courier/Mail service	\$27,000 \$14,000 10,000 3,000
Item 4	Computer Services Computer hardware, software, supplies and support.	\$28,000
Item 5	Equipment Leases (print department printer, photocopier and postage meter) Purchases Maintenance	\$36,000 \$24,000 8,000 4,000
Item 6	Fishery Monitoring Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) annual license and maintenance fee Lloyd's Register of vessels	\$48,000 \$45,000 3,000

Item 9(a)	NAFO Sessional Meetings Annual Meeting, September 2011, Halifax, Canada SC Meeting, June 2011, Dartmouth, Canada SC Meeting, October 2011, Norway	\$102,000
Item 9(b)	NAFO Inter-sessional Scientific Meetings Provision for inter-sessional meetings, co-organizer and co-sponsor of the ICES/NAFO Symposium on the Variability of the North Atlantic and its Marine Ecosystems during 2000-2009, Workshop on Reproductive Potential, and a general provision for unforeseen expenses necessarily incurred by SC required for the provision of answering requests for advice from FC.	\$40,000
Item 9(c)	NAFO Inter-sessional Other General provision.	\$25,000
Item 10	Other Meetings and Travel International Meetings regularly attended by the NAFO Secretariat: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) 2. Co-ordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP), 3. Fisheries Resources Monitoring Systems (FIRMS) 4. International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS) 5. NEAFC Advisory Group for Data Communication (AGDC) 6. Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN) 7. Secretariats of the North Atlantic Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (NARFMO) 8. Sirius IT Annual vTrack User Group Meeting 9. United Nations Fish Stock Agreement (UNFSA) Other Meetings	\$50,000
Item 11	Performance Review Costs associated with the performance review of the Organization.	\$75,000
Item 12	Professional Services Professional Services (audit, consulting, legal fees, and insurance) Professional Development and Training Public Relations	\$51,000 \$35,000 11,000 5,000
Item 13	Publications Production costs of NAFO publications which may include the following: Conservation and Enforcement Measures, Convention, Inspection Forms, Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science, Meeting Proceedings, Rules of Procedure, Scientific Council Reports, etc.	\$16,000

**Annex 4. Preliminary calculation of billing for Contracting Parties
against the proposed estimate of \$1,886,000 for the 2011
financial year (based on 12 Contracting Parties to NAFO)
(Canadian Dollars)**

Budget Estimate	\$1,886,000
Deduct: Amount from Accumulated Surplus (pending approval from General Council)	<u>250,000</u>
Funds required to meet 2011 Administrative Budget	<u>\$1,636,000</u>
60% of funds required =	\$981,600
30% of funds required =	\$490,800
10% of funds required =	\$163,600

2010 Billing for comparison purposes		
Approved Budget 2010		\$1,782,000
Deduct: Accumulated Surplus		<u>350,350</u>
Funds required 2010 Budget		<u>\$1,431,650</u>
Nominal Catches for 2007	% of Total Catch in the Convention Area	2010 Annual Assessment
550,923	57.31%	\$615,127.47
1,381	0.14%	36,993.84
193,653	20.15%	239,476.05
40,110	4.18%	71,697.03
4,021	0.42%	40,034.35
-	-	35,791.25
1,969	0.20%	37,509.23
-	-	35,791.25
3,653	0.38%	39,055.41
8,101	0.84%	43,006.77
-	-	35,791.25
157,477	16.38%	201,376.10
961,288	100.00%	<u>\$1,431,650.00</u>

Contracting Parties	Nominal Catches for 2008	% of Total Catch in the Convention Area	% of Total Catch in the Convention Area			2011 Preliminary Billing
			10%	30%	60%	
Canada (1)	478,377	52.93%	\$92,249.21	\$40,900.00	\$519,560.88	\$652,710.09
Cuba (2)	500	0.06%	-	40,900.00	588.96	41,488.96
Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) (3)	196,480	21.74%	37,888.79	40,900.00	213,399.84	292,188.63
European Union (1)	43,745	4.85%	-	40,900.00	47,607.60	88,507.60
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)	3,639	0.40%	701.74	40,900.00	3,926.40	45,528.14
Iceland	-	-	-	40,900.00	-	40,900.00
Japan	1,926	0.21%	-	40,900.00	2,061.36	42,961.36
Republic of Korea	-	-	-	40,900.00	-	40,900.00
Norway (1)	2,483	0.27%	-	40,900.00	2,650.32	43,550.32
Russian Federation	6,461	0.71%	-	40,900.00	6,969.36	47,869.36
Ukraine (2)	276	0.03%	-	40,900.00	294.48	41,194.48
United States of America (1)	169,885	18.80%	32,760.26	40,900.00	184,540.80	258,201.06
	903,772	100.00%	\$163,600.00	\$490,800.00	\$981,600.00	<u>\$1,636,000.00</u>
Funds required to meet 1 January - 31 December 2011 Administrative Budget						<u>\$1,636,000.00</u>

(1) Based on 2008 provisional catch reports.

(2) Based on provisional catch reports received from chartering arrangements.

(3) Faroe Islands = 4,325 metric tons
Greenland = 192,155 metric tons

Annex 5. Preliminary Budget Forecast for 2012 and 2013

(Canadian Dollars)

	Budget Forecast	Budget Forecast
1. Personal Services		
a) Salaries	\$923,000	\$947,000
b) Superannuation and Annuities	245,000	247,000
c) Medical and Insurance Plans	102,000	107,000
d) Employee Benefits	81,000	56,000
Subtotal Personal Services	<u>1,351,000</u>	<u>1,357,000</u>
2. Additional Help	20,000	20,000
3. Communications	27,000	28,000
4. Computer Services	29,000	30,000
5. Equipment	36,000	37,000
6. Fishery Monitoring	33,000	33,000
7. Hospitality Allowance	3,000	3,000
8. Materials and Supplies	34,000	34,000
9. NAFO Meetings		
a) Sessional	103,000	105,000
b) Inter-sessional Scientific	40,000	40,000
c) Inter-sessional Other	30,000	30,000
Subtotal NAFO Meetings	<u>173,000</u>	<u>175,000</u>
10. Other Meetings and Travel	50,000	50,000
11. Professional Services	51,000	51,000
12. Publications	17,000	17,000
	<u>\$1,824,000</u>	<u>\$1,835,000</u>