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34th ANNUAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2012

Administrative Report for the period September 2011 to August 2012
and Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending 31 December 2012

by

NAFO Secretariat

1. The Contracting Parties of NAFO (12) constitute the following membership to the NAFO three main bodies:

General Council (12)

Canada
Cuba
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) (DFG)
European Union (EU)
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)
Iceland
Japan
Republic of Korea
Norway
Russian Federation
Ukraine
United States of America (USA)

Scientific Council (12)

Canada
Cuba
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) (DFG)
European Union (EU)
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)
Iceland
Japan
Republic of Korea
Norway
Russian Federation
Ukraine
United States of America (USA)

Fisheries Commission (12)

Canada
Cuba
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) (DFG)
European Union (EU)
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)
Iceland
Japan
Republic of Korea
Norway
Russian Federation
Ukraine
United States of America (USA)

2. NAFO Officers

Position	Name (CP)	Term
President of NAFO and Chair of the General Council	Veronika Veits (EU)	Sep 2011-Sep 2013
Vice-Chair of the General Council	Vacant	Sep 2011-
Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)	Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA)	Sep 2010-Sep 2012
Vice-Chair of STACFAD	Olga Sedykh (Russian Federation)	Sep 2010-Sep 2012
Chair of the Scientific Council	Carsten Hvingel (Norway)	Sep 2011-Sep 2013
Vice-Chair of the Scientific Council	Don Stansbury (Canada)	Sep 2011-Sep 2013
Chair of the Standing Committee on Fisheries Science (STACFIS)	Jean-Claude Mahé	Sep 2011-Sep 2013
Chair of the Standing Committee on Research Coordination (STACREC)	Don Stansbury (Canada)	Sep 2011-Sep 2013
Chair of the Standing Committee on Publications (STACPUB)	Margaret Treble (Canada)	Sep 2011-Sep 2013
Chair of the Standing Committee on Fisheries Environment (STACFEN)	Gary Maillet (Canada)	Sep 2011-Sep 2013
Chair of the Fisheries Commission	Sylvie Lapointe (Canada)	Sep 2011-Sep 2013
Vice-Chair of the Fisheries Commission	Vacant	Sep 2011-
Chair of the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)	Gene Martin (USA)	Sep 2010-Sep 2012
Vice-Chair of STACTIC	Stein-Åage Johnsen (Norway)	Jun 2010-Sep 2012

3. NAFO Meetings

September 2011 – August 2012:

- FC Working Group on Greenland Halibut Management Strategy Evaluation (WGMSE), by WebEx, 7 September 2011
- Scientific Council Meeting to update shrimp advice, by correspondence, 1-12 September 2011
- NAFO 33rd Annual Meeting, Halifax, NS, Canada, 19-23 September 2011
- Scientific Council/NIPAG Meeting on Shrimp Assessment, Dartmouth, NS, Canada, 19-26 October 2011
- Scientific Council WGEAFM, Dartmouth, NS, Canada, 30 November-09 December 2011
- Scientific Council Ad hoc Working Group on Exceptional Circumstances (by correspondence), January-March 2012
- GC Working Group on the Development of Plans of Action for the Implementation of the Recommendations of the NAFO Performance Review Panel, Halifax, NS, Canada, 20-22 March 2012
- Joint NAFO/ICES Working Group on Deep-water Ecology (WGDEC), Copenhagen, Denmark, 26-30 March 2012
- International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, USA, 19-20 April 2012
- Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC), Brussels, Belgium, 2-4 May 2012
- Scientific Council Working Group on Reproductive Potential (by correspondence and ad hoc meetings)
- Scientific Council and its Standing Committees, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, 1-14 June 2012

Reports of all NAFO meeting are finalized following the meeting end and are posted on the public NAFO website. Reports from General Council and Fisheries Commission (and Standing Committees) can be accessed at <http://www.nafo.int/publications/frames/fish-proc.html> and Scientific Council Reports at <http://www.nafo.int/science/frames/sci-rep.html>.

Future Meetings:

- Scientific Council Meeting to update shrimp advice, by correspondence, 27 August - 7 September 2012
- FC Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists on Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies, by WebEx, 4 September 2012
- FC Working Group of Fishery Manager and Scientists on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems, Bergen, Norway, 11-13 September 2012
- NAFO 34th Annual Meeting, St. Petersburg, Russia, 17-21 September 2012
- Scientific Council/NIPAG Meeting on Shrimp Assessment, Tromsø, Norway, 17-25 October 2012
- Scientific Council WGEAFM, Dartmouth, NS, Canada, 21-30 November 2012
- Joint NAFO/ICES Working Group on Harp and Hooded Seals (WGHARP), venue TBD, 2013
- International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society Annual Meeting, Victoria, BC, Canada, 9-11 April 2013
- World Conference on Stock Assessment Methods, Boston, MA, USA, 16-18 July 2013 (co-sponsored by NAFO)
- NAFO 35th Annual Meeting, venue TBD, 23-27 September 2013
- Joint ICES-NAFO Special Session – “Gadoid Fisheries: The Ecology and Management of Rebuilding”, 15-18 October, 2013, St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada

- Scientific Council WG on Reproductive Potential, St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada, 16-18 October 2013
- Scientific Council/NIPAG Meeting on Shrimp Assessment, Dartmouth, NS, Canada, date to be decided during the October 2012 meeting

4. Expert Panel to review Catch Estimates

In the course of recent years NAFO Fisheries Commission expressed concerns about the fact that the NAFO Scientific Council estimated catch overruns for a number of NAFO stocks, in particular Greenland halibut in SA 2 + Div. 3KLMNO and 3M cod. At the 2011 Annual Meeting, the Fisheries Commission stated that the Total Allowable catch overrun suggested by the Scientific Council estimate of catch remains a big problem and agreed to identify more concrete steps in addressing this issue.

Similarly, the 2011 NAFO Performance Review (PR) expressed concerns about the accuracy and quality of data submitted, particularly data used by the Scientific Council in its catch estimation procedures. The PR report recommended that "the Fisheries Commission and the Scientific Council promptly resolve any discrepancies between STATLANT 21 A catch estimates and those of STACFIS, if possible, or at least provide some guidance on how they arise, including underlying assumptions made and/or consequences anticipated."

The Working Group on the Developments of Plan of Actions for the Implementation of the Recommendations of NAFO Performance Review Panel recommended that "the General Council submit the issue of catch discrepancy between STATLANT 21 A catch estimates and those of STACFIS to an external peer review process".

As a result, a proposal "Assessment of the methodology used by NAFO Scientific Council to estimate catches for NAFO stocks" was adopted. The details are:

1. The General Council tasks the under mentioned scientific experts ("expert panel") to carry out a review of the methodology and sources of information used by the NAFO Scientific Council (STACFIS) to provide overall catch estimates. The review should address the methodology and assumptions being utilized, including the proportion of discards in the estimate. The review will deal with all stocks with a focus on 3M cod and Greenland halibut in SA2 + Div. 3KLMNO. The expert panel will make recommendations as appropriate.
2. The nominated scientific experts are:
 - Michael Sissenwine (Chair*)
 - Christoph Stransky
 - Bruce Atkinson (*subsequently elected chair by expert panel)
3. The expert panel should carry out the work in the period June - August 2012 and report on the outcomes of its analysis at least 15 days before the 2012 NAFO Annual Meeting.
4. The Scientific Council and NAFO Secretariat should provide the expert panel with the necessary information to perform this assessment. Further noting the role of NAFO inspectors in fishery/ catch monitoring as well as the potential utility of control data (including VMS data) for this process, the expert panel should consult the representatives of NAFO bodies and Contracting Parties, as appropriate, to seek information or knowledge in this regard.
5. It is proposed that NAFO General Council approves the necessary funds to conduct the peer review from the contingency fund.

The Expert Panel is expected to report to the General Council at the Annual Meeting.

5. Publications

During the period of September 2011 – August 2012, in addition to the many meeting documents and working papers for NAFO meetings, the NAFO Secretariat prepared, posted to the web and/or printed the publications listed below:

Conservation and Enforcement Measures (for 2012) (176 pages)

Annual Report for 2011 (Online and 8.5"x10" 16 page booklet)

Meeting Proceedings of the General Council and Fisheries Commission for 2011/2012 (237 pages)

Scientific Council Reports for 2011 (389 pages)

Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science Volume 43, 2010–2011 (163 pages – printed and distributed in December 2011)

Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science Volume 44, 2012 (2 articles uploaded online)

Meeting Documentation CD (GC/FC Proceedings 11–12, SC Reports 2011, NAFO Convention, NCEM 2012, Rules of Procedures, Annual Report 2011 and all meeting documents)

Other Projects and Initiatives

The NAFO Secretariat revived the *NAFO Newsletter* Series. No. 17 was published after the 33rd Annual Meeting, which explored meeting highlights and any significant news within the last six months. This will continue to be published after every annual meeting.

6. Financial Status Update

The Organization ended the 2011 fiscal year in a very good financial position with operating cash at a high level and with 99% of contributions having been received from Contracting Parties. Actual operating expenses for the year were 1.5% under the Organization's budget of approximately \$1.89 million. W|B|L|I Chartered Accountants were appointed to audit the 2011 financial records for the first year of their three year term.

The 2012 fiscal year is projected to be \$33,000 over the 2012 approved budget of \$1.875 million (see page 11 - Statement I of the Financial Statements) due to additional authorized expenditures to have an external panel review the method of catch estimation of NAFO stocks by STACFIS. The prior year's accumulated surplus balance had \$233,533 deemed to be in excess of the needs of the Organization and that amount was used to reduce 2012 contributions billed to Contracting Parties (see page 12 - Statement II of the Financial Statements). The 2012 fiscal year also looks as if it will end off in good financial status with adequate cash to carry the Organization into the next fiscal year. As of 31 August 2012, one Contracting Party had outstanding partial contribution totaling \$1,033 (see page 13 - Statement III of the Financial Statements).

7. Fishery Statistics

The NAFO statistical databases are compiled by the NAFO Secretariat and published on the NAFO web site <http://www.nafo.int/fisheries/stats/21stats.html>. They are continuously updated as soon as new submissions are received. Table 1 presents an overview of the statistical catch information submitted by Contracting Parties for the last three years as of 1 August 2012.

Table 1. Submission of catch statistics by NAFO Contracting Parties (STATLANT 21) (to 8 Aug 2011). Blank cells indicate no report received, dnf = did not fish.

Country/Component	STATLANT 21A (deadline, 1 May)			STATLANT 21B (deadline 31 August)		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
CAN-CA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
CAN-M						
CAN-SF	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
CAN-G	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
CAN-N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
CAN-Q	✓	✓	✓	✓		
CUB	✓		✓			
E/EST	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
E/DNK	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
E/DEU	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
E/LVA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
E/LTU						
E/POL	dnf	dnf	dnf	dnf	dnf	
E/PRT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
E/ESP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
E/GBR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
FRO	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
GRL	✓	✓	✓		✓	
ISL	dnf	✓	✓	dnf	✓	✓
JPN			dnf			dnf
KOR						
NOR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
RUS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
USA	✓	✓	✓			
FRA-SP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
UKR		dnf				

While the complete catch and effort data are due by 31 August each year, a subset of the data (STATLANT 21A) is required before the SC June meeting (by 1 May since 2005) so that it can be considered in the stock assessments by the Scientific Council. During 2008 - 2010 barely two third of the statistical offices actually submitted this information before the June meeting (see also SC reports), however in 2011 compliance was greatly improved and all countries known to have fished submitted their 21A data before the deadline.

8. The NAFO Web pages

Public Pages

Work on the revamped public pages has been continuing throughout the last year. Significant progress has been made and the current emphasis is on updating the content. The look and feel of the website has been revised and a new navigation has been developed. The website will be published in time for the annual meeting. The website will continue to be refined over the next few months. One major addition is the introduction of a new ICNAF button with historical information on ICNAF displayed.

Inspection Website

At the September 2011 Annual Meeting Fisheries Commission approved the creation of the secure NAFO Inspectors website to allow inspectors assigned to the NAFO Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme to access information relevant to fishing vessels operating in the NAFO Regulatory Area. Phase 1 – Vessel Register has been developed which contains the list of authorized vessels, Greenland halibut authorized vessels, research vessels, and charter arrangements. This independent website was reviewed by STACTIC during the May intersessional meeting and it was agreed that the website be made active. Accessibility has been provided to authorized inspectors and the Inspectors website has been operational since July 2012.

WebEx and SharePoint

The SharePoint continues to be utilized by the Scientific Council and its working groups. In 2012 the SharePoint was used in place of the LAN during the June meeting. This gave the advantage for scientists to be able to access files in the evening. Other NAFO bodies also use the SharePoint. Some members of the Secretariat are continuing to build their skills in SharePoint via training and in the near future all staff will be educated in the use of this collaborative tool.

WebEx continues to be used as well for intersessional meetings. The Secretariat also hosted a WebEx for the FIRMS Technical Working Group.

Digitization of historic NAFO/ICNAF documents

In 2011 the complete NAFO documentation was digitized and uploaded to the website. This year the focus was on digitizing ICNAF documentation. So far all the major ICNAF publications have been scanned and work is ongoing with the ICNAF Meeting documents. Work continues on the inclusion of links to the digitized publications and documents through the public pages.

9. Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

VMS is integral to the MCS measures enforced by NAFO, however its usefulness continues to expand beyond the scope of enforcement. In 2011 this provision of data supplied in 2010 was enhanced, grouping VMS pings into prospective trawl tracks in order to improve the accuracy of a model of interactions between fisheries and VME indicator species.

10. Secretariat Staff

For the period of September 2011 – August 2012, the Secretariat was comprised of the following employees:

Executive Secretary	Vladimir Shibanov
Deputy Executive Secretary and Senior Finance and Staff Administrator	Stan Goodick
Senior Fisheries Commission Coordinator	Ricardo Federizon
Scientific Council Coordinator	Neil Campbell
Senior Personal Assistant to the Executive Secretary	Beverly McLoon
Information Officer	Barbara Marshall
Senior Fisheries Information Manager	Cindy Kerr
IT Manager (to 13 July 2012) (from 18 June 2012)	George Campanis Matthew Kendall
Office Manager	Lisa Pelzmann
Publications Manager	Alexis Pacey

11. Staff Committee

The Secretariat would like to thank Bill Brodie, Deirdre Warner-Kramer and Estelle Couture for serving on the Staff Committee for the 2011-2012 term.

12. Secretariat Activities

NAFO Internship Program

Erica Kidd

Erica became the first intern under the formal NAFO internship program, working at the Secretariat between February and April 2012. Erica hails from the USA and was completing her second year of a Master's program on Conservation Biology in New Hampshire, from which she graduated in May. Erica worked with the Science team, documenting NAFO's implementation of the precautionary approach since 2004. She also had the opportunity to learn some of the techniques used in fish stock assessment, observe a NAFO meeting and develop her GIS skills, helping to convert NAFOs VME closures into a Google Earth format.

Geneviève Scott

Geneviève joined the NAFO Secretariat in May for a 6-month internship. She recently graduated from Memorial University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. A Canadian citizen, she moved to Newfoundland from Ottawa to be closer to the ocean and learn about marine biology. Geneviève applied to the NAFO internship program to gain experience in fisheries, to learn how a fishery operates and how it is managed. Geneviève is splitting her time at NAFO between a science and a fisheries focus.

Local Activities

International Oceans Day

The NAFO Secretariat celebrated World Oceans Day by participating in the annual activities held in Halifax, Nova Scotia on Friday, 8 June 2012. The annual exhibition was open to the public on the Halifax Waterfront at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. Participants included the general public; colleagues in other areas of interest; university students and children from local pre-school to high school groups. Members of the media were also present to capture the event. NAFO was represented by – Dr. Vladimir Shibanov, Lisa Pelzmann, Alexis Pacey and intern Geneviève Scott.

Dalhousie University Research Project

In 2012 NAFO became a partner in a project investigating the use and policy relevance of marine scientific information, led by Prof. Bertrum MacDonald of the School for Information Management at Dalhousie University, and funded by the Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council. This project aims to foster partnership and design new approaches for research into best practice models of information flow, particularly involving “grey literature”, and how the scientific information contained within informs marine environmental policy decisions. Other partners in this initiative include the Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the FAO and WWF Canada. This project is funded for three years.

Information Requests

Throughout the year the NAFO Secretariat regularly responds to requests from various international sources. During the last year the Secretariat has responded specifically to:

- Response to request for information on assessment of small pelagics from the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Request form Dalhousie University re protection of VMEs
- UN General Assembly Resolution 66/68 – RFBs were asked to report on any recent or major developments that they have made recently.
- FAO Questionnaire for Monitoring the Implementation of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the International Plans of Action on Capacity, Sharks, Seabirds, and Illegal, unreported and Unregulated Fishing and the Strategy for Improving Information on Status and Trends of Capture Fisheries.
- Report to the RSN 4th Meeting

Throughout the year various simple and informal requests are made to the Secretariat regarding specific information, procedures of NAFO, etc. by students, educational institutes, RFMOs, CP's representatives or other organizations.. These are answered to the best of the ability and as time permits by various members of the NAFO Secretariat.

Participation by Secretariat at external meetings

Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA)

The 40th Annual Meeting of the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) meeting took place from 5 to 9 September 2011 in Guayaquil, Ecuador. The Instituto Nacional de Pesca (INP) hosted the ASFA meeting with Pilar Solis, Director of INP, Mr. Nikita Gaibor (INP) chair of the ASFA meeting, and Dr. Richard Grainger, and Chief of the FAO service responsible for ASFA. The meeting was attended by Alexis Pacey, Publications Manager at the NAFO Secretariat.

A tour of the facilities at INP began the week long meeting. The meeting covered many topics ranging from software and technical information, ASFA partnership status, ASFA's publishing partner PROQuest, the ASFA trust fund, training activities and demos, new products, and discussion around the future direction of ASFA. The next meeting will be held in Galway, Ireland, 25-29 June, 2012.

FAO Workshop for the development of a database for vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs)

The workshop took place in Rome, Italy, 7 – 9 December 2011 and was attended by several RFMOs, the fishing industry and various national agencies. The Fisheries Commission Coordinator (Ricardo Federizon) and the Information Officer (Barbara Marshall) represented the NAFO Secretariat. The workshop discussed the requirements for a global database information system on VMEs and associated areas in the high seas deepwater areas. This information system is specified in the UNGA resolution 61/105.

The VME database will capture information on VMEs and associated areas which have been identified by RFMOs and VME-related data form areas which are not presently covered under the jurisdiction of a RFMO/A. The VME database would assist in outreach, transparency and global awareness, as well as provide comparative regional information on VMEs and management approaches.

The attending agencies and organizations, NAFO included, have indicated their interest in participating in the project. NAFO will develop a case study in conjunction with Canada. There were discussions about adopting the "FIRMS model" in the implementation of the project.

Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) Inter-sessional Fishery Group Meeting

The meeting was held in Rome, Italy, 14-16 December 2011. The Fisheries Commission Coordinator (Ricardo Federizon) and the Information Officer (Barbara Marshall) represented the NAFO Secretariat. The meeting focused on the review of the progress of the update and revision of the CWP Handbook of Fishery Statistical Standards which was first published in 1990. At the CWP-23 Meeting held in Hobart Australia in February 2010, various sections of the Handbook were assigned to CWP members for revision and update. CCAMLR and NAFO were identified and assigned to draft a new section on ecosystem monitoring for the Handbook.

A draft outline of the ecosystem monitoring section was developed at the meeting. It was based on the case studies of CCAMLR and NAFO prepared jointly by Dr. Ramm (CCAMLR) and Dr. Federizon (NAFO). The meeting agreed with the time table for the development of the Handbook. It is envisioned that the final version of the Handbook will be adopted at CWP-24 Meeting in February 2013.

Fishery Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS) Steering Committee

The meeting of the FIRMS Steering Committee was held 12-13, 16 Dec in Rome. Barbara Marshall and Ricardo Federizon represented NAFO at the meeting. NAFO is well established in FIRMS but have recently begun to submit Fisheries information. The Partnership Agreement will be reviewed by GC this year. There were a few items that NAFO will be collaborating on in the upcoming months including developing some new thematic fact sheets and creating PR materials for FIRMS. Barbara Marshall was nominated for Vice-Chair. The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the CWP in Feb 2012, at FAO Headquarters.

NEAFC Advisory Group (AGDC)

A security experts meeting was held at NEAFC Headquarters 13-14 March to establish and evaluate current security and confidentiality procedures and answer specific technical questions posed by PECCOE. George Campanis (IT Manager) presented to the group NAFO Secretariat's current IT infrastructure/topology for network and data connectivity, storage, and access.

Previous to this meeting a few topics were discussed that concern both the NEAFC and the NAFO Secretariat

including the AGDC Mandate and NAFO's role in it; the NAF website; the relationship between NEAFC and NAFO in the development of the NAFO inspection website and the "resource sharing" arrangement; and the development of a harmonized document to update security and confidentiality provisions in the respective schemes of enforcement.

Science and Sustainability Forum

Barbara Marshall was asked to represent FIRMS at The Science Sustainability Forum held in Washington, DC, 29-February – 2 March. The Forum brought together scientists and those that elaborate scientific information and many of the USA seafood retail buyers.

The main questions raised were what exactly is sustainability and where can reliable information on the status of certain species be found. The Forum focused on looking at various types of information from different sources (mostly US and international) and counting on the reliability of the sources to judge the quality of the information.

Many of the seafood buyers were confused by the scientific lingo that described stock status. A point was made that communications and public relations are specialized professions and that scientists are not trained in these techniques. One presentation noted that scientists should not be communicating scientific information any more than PR specialists should be conducting stock assessments!

The presentations made were informative to the buyers and some of the international information like FIRMS was not well known.

International Monitoring Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network

The Fisheries Commission Coordinator (Ricardo Federizon) attended the IMCS business meeting on behalf of NAFO. It was held on 27-29 March 2012 in Valparaiso, Chile. This meeting was designed to reinvigorate the IMCS with a focus on the development of a new constitution, the IMCS business plan, work actions and the election of officers. One significant development is that RFMO/As and other relevant organizations are now eligible to join and become regular members of the IMCS. The meeting results have been presented to STACTIC. Currently under discussion in STACTIC/FC is whether NAFO should join the organization in consideration of the potential benefits and the financial commitments.

International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS)

The annual meeting of the IFCPS was hosted by the US State Department during 19-20 April 2012 in Washington, DC, USA. The meeting was attended by representatives of the seven International Fisheries Commissions with headquarters located in Canada and the United States of America. Also attending the meeting were the IFCPS directors appointed by the Governments of Canada and the United States. NAFO was represented by Vladimir Shibanov, Executive Secretary and Stan Goodick, Deputy Executive Secretary/Senior Finance and Staff Administrator. The 2013 annual meeting will be hosted by The North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) during 10-11 April 2013 in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

UN Ad hoc Open-ended Informal WG on the issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction

The WG was held 7-11 May 2012 at UN HQ in New York and was attended by the NAFO Executive Secretary, Dr. Vladimir Shibanov, in an observer capacity. The meeting was convened in accordance with the UNGA resolution 66/231 of 24 December 2011, entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea" and focused on the preparation of recommendations to the 67th session of UN General Assembly.

World Fisheries Congress

Neil Campbell (SC Coordinator) and Ricardo Federizon (FC Coordinator) attended the World Fisheries Congress at the Edinburgh International Conference Center, 7-11 May, 2012, where they presented information on NAFO's management measures in place for the conservation and management of deep water fish (*Confronting challenges in the management of deep-water fish stocks and the protection of VME's in the Northwest Atlantic Ocean*), and an e-poster on NAFO's institutional structures which enable closer working of managers and scientists (*Co-working of Managers and Scientists in NAFO: Protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems and stock conservation plans*). This meeting also provided the opportunity to hold discussions and gather information of use to Scientific Council, regarding an upcoming stock assessment conference, and on a global research network on climate change.

EU Conference “RFMO’s – Fit for the Future”

The Executive Secretary attended the Conference held at the European Commission, Brussels, Belgium on 01 June 2012, which was arranged by the EU Commissionaire M. Damanaki. The Conference was attended by the executive secretaries of most RFMOs with EU participation and was aimed at discussing the role of RFMOs in improvement of scientific advice, science capacity building, compliance with management measures adopted, IUU fishing combating, balance between fisheries resources and fishing capacity. Most of the speakers underlined the key role of RFMOs in reaching of the sustainable fisheries.

ICES Training Course

After the June Scientific Council meeting, Neil Campbell, the SC Coordinator, participated in a training course on the presentation of science and advice, run by ICES at their headquarters in Copenhagen and lead by Martin Pastoors and Kristian Teleki. The course covered best practice in presentation of science to diverse audiences, communications skills, the construction of press releases and development of social networking strategies, and will strengthen NAFOs ability to address requests from the media in the future.

Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA)

The 41st Annual Meeting of the Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) took place from 25 to 29 June 2012, in Rinvile, Oranmore, Co. Galway, Ireland. The Irish Marine Institute hosted the ASFA meeting with Anne Wilkinson and Fintan Bracken as the hosts, and with Dr. Richard Grainger, Chief of the FAO service responsible for ASFA. The meeting was chaired by Linda Noble (UK) of the Marine Biological Association (MBA) and Helen Wibley of the ASFA Secretariat performed the duties of Rapporteur. The meeting was attended by Alexis Pacey, Publications Manager at the NAFO Secretariat.

The meeting covered many topics ranging from software and technical information, the ASFA partnership status, ASFA’s publishing partner ProQuest, the ASFA trust fund, training activities and demos, new products, in particular the new ASFA database, and discussion around the future direction of ASFA. The next meeting will be held in October, 2013; location has yet to be determined.

NEAFC Symposium on Bottom Fishing

On 26 June 2012, at the invitation of NEAFC Secretariat, NAFO Executive Secretary attended the NEAFC Symposium as invited speaker with the presentation titled “Bottom trawl fishery management in the NAFO Regulatory Area”. The aim of the Symposium was to collect information necessary for the internal review by PECMAS if NEAFC bottom trawl fishery is in accordance with different international legal instruments with special focus on the Conservation of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems.

30th Session of COFI

The 30th Session of COFI of FAO took place at FAO HQ, Rome, Italy during 09-13 July 2012 and was attended by the Executive Secretary in an observer capacity. In addition to administrative issues of COFI, participants welcomed the new approach in presentation of World Fisheries Statistics (SOFIA). The focus was concentrated on the issues of implementation of the most recent international Agreements by FAO members States, combating of IUU fishing, capacity building, fast grow of aquaculture production etc.

RSN-4

NAFO Executive Secretary also attended one day meeting (13 July) of Regional Fisheries Management Bodies Secretariats Network held at FAO HQ. Following discussion of the outputs from 30th COFI meeting relevant to RFMOs, RSN-4 discussed current problems of the fisheries management (FAO Agreement on Port State Measures, IUU fishing, Deep-Sea Fisheries, Conservation of VMEs and Marine protected Areas, Aquaculture development). The presentation titled “VMEs conservation: international legal instruments and NAFO experience” was given by the Executive Secretary in order to moderate the discussion on this topic among the participants. Main focus was given on developments relating to the avoidance of an adverse impact on VMEs and their conservation.

13. Financial Statements

STATEMENT I

Budget Appropriations. Obligations Incurred and Unliquidated Balances of Appropriations
For the Year Ending 31 December 2012
(Estimated from 31 July 2012)
(Canadian Dollars)

	Approved Budget 2012	Total Estimated Obligations for Fiscal Year 2012	Estimated Unliquidated Balance of Appropriations
1 Personal Services			
a) Salaries	\$923,000	\$925,000	(\$2,000)
b) Superannuation and Annuities	288,000	288,000	-
c) Medical and Insurance Plans	83,000	83,000	-
d) Employee Benefits	86,000	87,000	(1,000)
Subtotal Personal Services	1,380,000	1,383,000	(3,000)
2 Additional Help	20,000	20,000	-
3 Communications	28,000	29,000	(1,000)
4 Computer Services	42,000	42,000	-
5 Equipment	36,000	35,000	1,000
6 Fishery Monitoring	35,000	35,000	-
7 Hospitality Allowance	3,000	3,000	-
8 Internship	21,000	17,000	4,000
9 Materials and Supplies	34,000	34,000	-
10 NAFO Meetings			
a) Sessional	93,000	96,000	(3,000)
b) Inter-sessional Scientific	30,000	30,000	-
c) Inter-sessional Other	30,000	26,000	4,000
Subtotal NAFO Meetings	153,000	152,000	1,000
11 Other Meetings and Travel	50,000	50,000	-
12 Performance/External Reviews	0	35,000	(35,000)
13 Professional Services	56,000	56,000	-
14 Publications	17,000	17,000	-
Total Ordinary Budget	\$1,875,000	\$1,908,000	(\$33,000)

STATEMENT II

Statement of Assessed Contributions and Expenditures for the Year Ending 31 December 2012 (Estimated from 31 July 2012) (Canadian Dollars)

Contracting Parties Assessed:	
Canada	\$660,099.04
Cuba	42,513.99
Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland)	266,224.78
European Union	83,386.52
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)	42,083.22
Iceland	41,036.68
Japan	41,036.68
Republic of Korea	41,036.68
Norway	44,286.78
Russian Federation	46,847.47
Ukraine	41,430.63
United States of America	291,484.53
	<hr/>
Assessed Contributions for the year ending 31 December 2012	\$1,641,467.00
Transferred from Accumulated Surplus Account	233,533.00 ^a
	<hr/>
Approved Budget for 2012	\$1,875,000.00
Total Estimated Obligations for 2012 - Statement I	1,908,000.00
	<hr/>
Amount to be transferred from Accumulated Surplus Account	\$ (33,000.00)
	<hr/>

^a Excess of revenue over expenditures during the 2011 fiscal year (includes ex gratia grant; staff assessments; sales of publications; bank interest and balance of appropriations not expended).

STATEMENT III**Balance Sheet for the Year Ending 31 December 2012****(Estimated from 31 July 2012)**

(Canadian Dollars)

Assets		Liabilities	
Current		Current	
Cash	\$553,315	Accounts Payable	
Contributions Receivable from		and Accrued Liabilities	\$25,000
Contracting Parties (Note 1)	1,033	Advance Contributions	
Prepaid Expenses	1,778	Current Portion of Employee	
Province of Nova Scotia		Termination Benefits	70,669
Ex gratia grant receivable	55,000	Provision for Accrued Employee	
		Vacation Pay	56,457
	<u>611,126</u>		<u>152,126</u>
Long-Term		Long-Term	
Employee Termination Benefit		Provision for Employee Termination	
Investments	403,678	Benefits	403,678
	<u>403,678</u>		<u>555,804</u>
		Members' Net Assets	
		Accumulated Surplus	459,000
	<u>\$1,014,804</u>		<u>\$1,014,804</u>

Note 1.

Contributions Receivable from Contracting Parties

Cuba \$1,033

STATEMENT IV

Statement of Accumulated Surplus
for the Year Ending 31 December 2012^a
(Estimated from 31 July 2012)
(Canadian Dollars)

Accumulated Surplus - Beginning of 2012		\$518,583
Add:		
Staff Assessments	\$140,000	
Province of Nova Scotia - <i>ex gratia</i> grant	55,000 ^b	
Interest	10,000	
Sales of Publications	1,950	206,950
		<u>725,533</u>
Less:		
Amount appropriated 1 January 2012	\$233,533	
Balance of appropriations over expended in 2012	33,000	266,533
		<u>\$459,000</u>
Accumulated Surplus - End of 2012		
Appropriated to maintain minimum balance (to be authorized by G.C.)		
Minimum balance maintained	\$285,000	
Unappropriated balance available	174,000	
		<u>\$459,000</u>
Total Accumulated Surplus		<u>\$459,000</u>

^a Provisions for the Accumulated Surplus Account from the NAFO Financial Regulations:

Rule 4.2 Within the books of accounts, there shall be established an accumulated surplus account to which shall be credited:

- i) excess of receipts over expenditures at the end of the financial year;
- ii) unexpended balances at the end of the 12-month period specified in Rule 3.2 for prior year obligations, but not disbursed;
- iii) refunds, from any source, of prior year's expenditures of the Organization.

Rule 4.3 Monies available in the accumulated surplus account may be used temporarily to the extent necessary to finance appropriations pending receipt of annual payments by Contracting Parties.

Rule 4.5 The Standing Committee on Finance and Administration and the General Council shall review the amount available in the accumulated surplus account during each annual meeting. Insofar as possible, the General Council shall anticipate unforeseen expenditures during the succeeding three years and shall attempt to maintain the accumulated surplus account at a level sufficient to 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 for use in an emergency in accordance with Rule 4.4.

^b This amount represents the Provincial portion of income tax paid by NAFO employees.

STATEMENT V

Preliminary calculation of billing for Contracting Parties against the proposed estimate of \$1,890,000 for the 2013 financial year (based on 12 Contracting Parties to NAFO) (Canadian Dollars)

Budget Estimate	\$1,890,000
Deduct: Amount from Accumulated Surplus (pending approval from General Council)	<u>\$174,000</u>
Funds required to meet 2013 Administrative Budget	<u>\$1,716,000</u>
60% of funds required =	\$1,029,600
30% of funds required =	\$514,800
10% of funds required =	\$171,600

Contracting Parties	Nominal Catches for 2010	% of Total Catch in the Convention Area	10%	30%	60%	2013 Preliminary Billing
Canada	483,551	57.49%	\$104,723.64	\$42,900.00	\$591,917.04	\$739,540.68
Cuba	821	0.10%	-	42,900.00	1,029.60	43,929.60
Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) (1)	166,618	19.81%	36,084.80	42,900.00	203,963.76	282,948.56
European Union	38,057	4.53%	-	42,900.00	46,640.88	89,540.88
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)	1,190	0.14%	257.72	42,900.00	1,441.44	44,599.16
Iceland	184	0.02%	-	42,900.00	205.92	43,105.92
Japan	-	-	-	42,900.00	-	42,900.00
Republic of Korea	-	-	-	42,900.00	-	42,900.00
Norway	2,755	0.33%	-	42,900.00	3,397.68	46,297.68
Russian Federation	6,580	0.78%	-	42,900.00	8,030.88	50,930.88
Ukraine	334	0.04%	-	42,900.00	411.84	43,311.84
United States of America	140,987	16.76%	30,533.84	42,900.00	172,560.96	245,994.80
	841,077	100.00%	\$171,600.00	\$514,800.00	\$1,029,600.00	<u>\$1,716,000.00</u>
Funds required to meet 1 January - 31 December 2013 Administrative Budget						<u>\$1,716,000.00</u>

2012 Billing for comparison purposes		
Approved Budget 2012		\$1,875,000
Deduct Accumulated Surplus		<u>233,533</u>
Funds required 2012 Budget		<u>\$1,641,467</u>
Nominal Catches for 2009	% of Total Catch in the Convention Area	2012 Annual Assessment
471,942	53.44%	\$660,099.04
1,334	0.15%	42,513.99
171,630	19.44%	266,224.78
37,954	4.30%	83,386.52
815	0.09%	42,083.22
-	-	41,036.68
-	-	41,036.68
-	-	41,036.68
2,948	0.33%	44,286.78
5,175	0.59%	46,847.47
334	0.04%	41,430.63
190,913	21.62%	291,484.53
883,045	100.00%	\$1,641,467.00

(1) Faroe Islands = 4,995 metric tons
Greenland = 161,623 metric tons