

Serial No. N6405NAFO/GC Doc. 14/0236<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2014**Proposal for a Mandate to the NAFO Executive Secretary to engage with appropriate Canadian authorities regarding information exchange****Explanatory Note:**

Noting the interactions that have occurred between research, fishing and seismic vessels operating in the NRA;

Noting that the exchange of information is important to promoting coordination and communication between fisheries and hydrocarbons activities,

**It is recommended:**

That the General Council give the NAFO Executive Secretary the following mandate:

The Executive Secretary work with Canada to explore and implement a means for the appropriate and timely exchange of information necessary to avoid overlapping activities and mitigate potential conflicts between fisheries and hydrocarbons activities.

Elements to explore include:

- a) the sharing of information on oil and gas activities, research and fishing activities and the channels for doing so, including the role of the NAFO Secretariat; and
- b) notification to the NAFO Secretariat, NAFO Contracting Parties and, where appropriate, vessels authorized to fish in the NAFO Regulatory Area of planned seismic activities, noting the desirability of providing information (such as area and date) well in advance and updating it as appropriate to allow fishing operators to plan their activities.

The means of communication should be sufficiently flexible to be applied to other NAFO Coastal States should they undertake these activities in the NRA in the future.

The Executive Secretary will report on this to the next annual NAFO meeting or intersessionally as required.