

## SECTION I

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## **Report of the Meeting of the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)**

**Copenhagen, Denmark, 18-20 February 1992**

### **1. Opening of Meeting**

The Chairman of STACTIC, E. Lemche, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), welcomed the delegates to the Meeting of STACTIC and to Copenhagen. Representatives of the following Contracting Parties were present: Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Economic Community (EEC), Japan, Norway, Poland and the Russian Federation (Russia) (Annex 1).

### **2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

R. J. Prier (Canada) was appointed Rapporteur.

### **3. Adoption of Agenda**

The Chairman, before requesting adoption of the agenda, proposed to approach the agenda with two conditions:

- i) To concentrate on the terms of reference STACTIC received from the Fisheries Commission as outlined in FC Doc. 90/9.
- ii) For those items on the agenda for which proposals and documents had not been received from Contracting Parties prior to 1 January 1992, get approval of meeting to introduce such proposals.

There being no objections to this approach, the agenda was accepted as presented to the Meeting (Annex 2).

### **4. Evaluation of Operation of the Hail System**

#### **a) Proposed assessment methodology**

The representative of Canada indicated the methodology should be developed to report on the effectiveness of the hail system, and that Contracting Parties with an enforcement presence in the Area should have a better chance to evaluate the system and may be able to report at the Special Meeting of the Fisheries Commission in May. This does not exclude other Contracting Parties from reporting. The Chairman stated that since no Contracting Party has a report ready for this meeting one would be required by the September meeting. The meeting decided the Executive Secretary should request Contracting Parties to submit written reports on their assessments.

b) **Incorporation of a catch reporting feature into the hail system**

- b).1 The representative of Canada presented a proposal in Working Paper 91/4 (Annex 3) and explained that NAFO has had a problem with misreporting of catch and area of capture and the hail system was introduced to get some control over these aspects. By the addition of catch to the hail system we would be adding one more element to our control within the Regulatory Area. The catch system reporting is not new and most countries require the reporting of catch. In addition, by reporting catch we would also be responding to scientific concerns.
- b).2 The Chairman indicated he would like to deal with each point of the Canadian proposal separately and turned to 1(a) of the this proposal. He referred to FC Doc. 91/7 Part I.C.1 which requires Contracting Parties to make a recording of catch on board prior to entering the Regulatory Area. Therefore, Canada is requesting Contracting Parties to report what is already being recorded.
- b).3 The representative of Norway saw the benefits of having the catch report included in the hail system and supports Canada's proposal.
- b).4 The representative of the EEC has reservations with this on a practical as well as a conceptual point. The proposal is requesting information be sent to the competent authority as well as other Contracting Parties and the Executive Secretary. He indicated that if the hail system becomes a useful tool then catch information may not be necessary. The EEC has difficulty with the principle of whether requesting catch reporting is within NAFO's jurisdiction. They indicated they have certain guarantees to their fishermen to protect the location they have caught their fish and are concerned about the confidentiality of the information. He stated that it was the exclusive responsibility of a Contracting Party to maintain catch statistics from their vessels.
- b).5 The representative of Russia shared the concerns of the EEC and again brought up the concerns of confidentiality. The representative of Canada indicated the system would make inspectors job easier and would allow Contracting Parties to utilize resources in a more economical manner. Canada does not see a problem with regard to confidentiality as information is going from government to government and would not be released. By including catch in the hail system it would make our control more effective.

The representative of Denmark supported the Canadian proposal.

- b).6 The Chairman suggested to move to discussion of 1(b) of the Canadian proposal. This requirement would provide better control not only for NAFO but the Contracting Parties who own the vessels as they would know what is on board the vessel prior to its leaving the NAFO zone. He referred to Part I.C 2(a)(ii) which requires Contracting Parties vessels record estimated cumulative catch on a daily basis, and pointed out a difficulty which is reflected in note 2 of Schedule III. Canada is requesting information which is not already being recorded. (Schedule III requires that cumulative information is recorded area by area, not for the Regulatory Area as a whole.)

- b).7 The representative of the EEC pointed out that the Canadian proposal requests all species be reported but Contracting Parties are only required to report regulated species.

The representative of Canada stated we should not be concerned about wording at this time but address the acceptance of the principle.

The representative of the EEC stated it is the principle which they have a problem with.

- b).8 The Chairman summarized the discussion as follows: Canada's proposal is an attempt to expand the rules to prevent misreporting utilizing same rules as applied by Coastal States; the EEC with regard to both 1(a) and (b) have a concern about confidentiality and that catch reporting is the exclusive responsibility of individual Contracting Parties; there is no consensus and it is not his intention to take a vote; both positions are reflected in the minutes and will be forwarded to the Fisheries Commission; we should look further into the pros and cons and perhaps elaborate on point of confidentiality. The representative of the EEC stated it would be difficult to convince skippers that information will be held confidential. The Chairman indicated what is implied re confidentiality in the Regulatory Area also applies in national zones and all nations require their skippers to report catch. It is recognized the more information we require the skippers to report the more concerned the skippers become. He explained that in Greenland logbooks are collected for scientists and confidentiality is maintained.

The representative of the EEC informed that communications system presently used by most fishing vessels is not secure. The use of INMARSAT may not be cost effective and it would have to be to justify installation.

The representative of Canada related requirement of fishing vessels which fish in other countries zones with regard to catch reporting, logbooks and inspections.

- b).9 The representative of Russia stated we should not draw comparisons between national systems and NAFO with regard to the issues being discussed. Further NAFO should be facilitating ways for fishermen to catch their allocation not hindering them. This system if accepted will make messages longer and more costly. This is a serious matter for Russia. Russia sees no advantage to this proposal as Contracting Parties who have concerns can board and inspect Russian vessels as often as they wish.
- b).10 The representative of Canada stated STACTIC is a committee of technical experts and we are not empowered to make decisions but only recommendations. Canada is not trying to impose a Canadian system but attempting to relate experiences gained from Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) within its own zone.

- b).11 The representative of Japan shared concerns expressed by EEC and Russia and suggested that if information on catch is required more often then an additional catch reporting system to 2 weeks or one week should be considered.
- b).12 The Chairman summarized the discussion outlining the pros and cons, and indicating the problems identified are not of a technical nature and will have to be referred to the Fisheries Commission.

The representative of Canada stated they would like to come back to discuss this item in relation to Japanese suggestion.

- b).13 The representative of Japan submitted a compromise paper which is outlined in Working Paper 92/12 (Annex 4). Basically the Japanese proposal is to separate the catch reporting requirement from the hail system. Under our present rules Contracting Parties are required to report their cumulative provisional monthly catches to the Executive Secretary. The Japanese proposal would require vessels of a Contracting Party to report their catch at least 6 hours in advance of each entry into the Regulatory Area to the Executive Secretary through the Contracting Party competent authority and prior to the vessels exit from the Regulatory Area. In addition within 48 hours following the week in which catches were made vessels of a Contracting Party provide provisional weekly catches to the Executive Secretary through the Contracting Party's competent authority.
- b).14 The Chairman indicated this is a compromise and it is important to note that this proposal does not combine the catch reporting requirement with the hail reports but keeps them separate. This proposal has nothing to do with the hail system and is an expansion of the rules contained on page 8 of paragraph 3 of FC Doc. 91/7 (Revised), the Conservation and Enforcement Measures.
- b).15 The representative of Canada while indicating it was a good proposal felt it did not go as far as they would like. They indicated they were preparing an amendment to the Japanese proposal but it was not ready.
- b).16 The representative of the EEC stated that discussing the strengthening of the Japanese proposal was a waste of time as it goes too far and the EEC would not like to treat this as a simple add-on feature. The proposal talks about catch reporting and the EEC is not prepared to go this far. It would add work to the vessels. It is a complete change in principle and not just an add-on. All Contracting Parties are free to require our vessels to report to us as a Contracting Party at whatever interval we require. The legal framework for that exists and we do not need anything in NAFO to tell us we can.
- b).17 The Chairman explained that Contracting Parties should be aware that this proposal does not fit under agenda item 4(b). However, no agreement was reached on agenda item 4(b) and the Japanese came up with the compromise. If this compromise had been presented first, then it would not be discussed under this item; however, it was developed from discussions on 4(b) and the Chair recognizes this compromise as part of item 4(b).

- b).18 The representative of Russia indicated that they generally agree with the EEC comments on the Japanese proposal; although, it is not directly connected with the hail system there is a relation. Russia asked for clarification as to what agenda item we were discussing.
- b).19 The Chairman clarified the Russian request and then summarized the discussion as follows: no agreement was reached on the item and Japan came up with a compromise which was accepted by the Chairman; Canada is working on a revised Japanese proposal and both the Canadian and Japanese proposals will go with the report to the Fisheries Commission (Annexes 3 and 4). This was agreed by the meeting.
- c) **Reports on operation of the hail system as of February 1992**
  - c).1 The **general consensus** was the system has only been in operation for a short period and it is too early to make an assessment of the system. It was **agreed** that all Contracting Parties would be prepared to report on the hail system at the annual meeting in September 1992.
  - c).2 The representative of Denmark indicated they are sending hails to both the Executive Secretary and those Contracting Parties which have an enforcement presence in the Area. The Chairman stated that Denmark is doing more than is required by the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures, Part III.E.2.
  - c).3 The Executive Secretary reported that the system has been in operation for 1-1/2 months with the greatest number of messages coming from the EEC followed by the Faroes and Japan. These reports were all forwarded to Canada as the only Contracting Party with an enforcement presence in the Area. He indicated some messages are being received with incomplete data.
  - c).4 The Chairman explaining the question by Denmark of delays after passing entry message indicated an amended message could be sent where delays are excessive. There was no further discussion on this item.
- d) **Finalization of hail message format for transmission by fax or by radio**
  - d).1 The representative of the EEC indicated they have had a large volume of messages and a change to the format is necessary to reflect the changes in a vessels change of zone. This will be submitted as a proposal later in the meeting.
  - d).2 The representative of Japan raised the question of what messages are required by a vessel moving through the Area but not intending to fish in the Area. The instructions of Part III.E.1a and b are clear that a message for entry and exit of each division is required. It was **agreed** that if it is not the intention of the vessel to fish then one message can be sent indicating the divisions the vessel will be in transit through and the division it is intending to fish.

- d).3 The representative of the EEC presented their Working Paper 92/7 (Annex 5) in reference to their earlier comments with regard to a need to clarify how vessels conducting trans zonal fisheries would report. There was no objection to addressing this paper. The hail system format was amended subsequent to the adoption of STACTIC of the hail system message format and the EEC stated their amendment addressed this change. The Representatives **agreed** (except Russia) with the EEC proposal.
- d).4 The representative of Japan stated that a vessel captain may not know before crossing the line between the two Areas whether his vessel will conduct trans-zonal operation or move further than 10 miles from the line because the captain decides the fishing ground after he searched for fish school. It was agreed that when a captain cannot decide before crossing the line whether he hails "zone" or "move", he can hail "move" at each time of crossing the line.
- d).5 The representative of Russia provided the following statement:  
  
"Taking in account total fishing resources and setting up total fishing quotas in NAFO regulation regions 3LN and 3NO, masters of ships should inform about their intentions to fish determinate species of fish inside regions 3LN or 3NO and accordingly inform about their finish of fishing in regions 3LN and 3NO one time only."
- d).6 The representative of Japan raised a point whether the position given in the report is the point of crossing the line. The Chairman stated the way the format reads the geographical position is the position at the time of sending a message and if you looked at this requirement from a legal point then you could question the right of NAFO to require a Nation to report positions outside the Regulatory Area. However, we should not look at in a legal sense but take a pragmatic approach. The Japanese and EEC representatives concurred with the Chairman.
- d).7 The representative of Canada agreed with the interpretation of "the geographical position" in a hail report and suggested the message format 1.1 of Working Paper 92/7 be amended by the addition of the word "present" before the word geographical. The representative of the EEC was not sure of this approach but would clarify their position later.
- d).8 The representative of Russia stated they have not yet agreed to the hail system, but stated the common understanding that the position should represent the point of entry. The Chairman ruled we were dealing with two items and both could be accommodated by changing the rules but since there were no proposals on the table it was not possible to accommodate the Russian statement.
- d).9 The Executive Secretary requested direction on how approval of the amendments should be obtained i.e. by mail or wait until the meeting of the Fisheries Commission. He also raised the question of how the elements of the message are to be identified.



- d).10 The meeting agreed that the messages will use the numerical system (sequential) and the elements of the message are to be identified by letters.

#### 5. Implementation of the Hail System by the NAFO Secretariat - Administration and Costs - Report from the Executive Secretary

- 5.1 The Chairman referred to Working Paper 92/2 which describes a system to handle hail messages. He referred to the Attachment to this paper which outlines a proposal for a Communication Study prepared by Sea Link Ltd. and a request for the establishment of a position of a new staff member. Item 5 is on the agenda for information rather than decision and the Executive Secretary had requested comments by 15 February but this has been delayed to allow comments from this meeting to be taken into consideration.
- 5.2 The representative of Canada supported by the EEC indicated they would like to ensure a system set up at NAFO which is compatible with a system of Contracting Parties. He recommended that a small working group be set up to outline what the system requirements should be and that technical experts from concerned Contracting Parties meet to ensure system compatibility.

The Executive Secretary indicated he was requesting approval of the Fisheries Commission to conduct the study.

- 5.3 The representative of the EEC saw this requirement in two parts with elements within each part. The first part would be an evaluation of the technical aspects, administrative requirements and human resource requirements. The second part would be communications broken into short-term requirements such as computer systems, on line systems and refinement of the terms of reference of the study. The long-term would be the review of the terms of reference of the study and tendering of the contract for a system.
- 5.4 The Chairman reiterated that the report from the Executive Secretary was for information purposes only and it will be necessary at some stage for the Executive Secretary and Contracting Parties to sit down and discuss the short-term communications requirements.
- 5.5 The Representatives agreed for a short meeting of experts during this STACTIC Meeting. Then the small group of experts who reviewed communications requirement for the Secretariat, agreed on the following procedure:
- a) Executive Secretary should Chair a small working group in Halifax - open ended and all Contracting Parties are welcome to send representatives.
  - b) The meeting is to take place as soon as possible but **not before mid-April**.
  - c) Before the working group meets the Executive Secretary will draft a working paper to be ready by the **end of March** and send it to all Contracting Parties.
  - d) To ensure system is compatible it is essential national experts are present.

The working group tasks will be:

- a) Develop the terms of reference, i.e. what do we want new system to do - this must be developed in detail.
- b) When terms of reference are developed, these to be sent to Contracting Parties with aim to go to contractors within their own countries to find a contractor to carry out the tasking.
- c) In replies from contractors costs must be identified.
- d) Deadlines will be left to the working group.
- e) In summer of 1992 the replies from the contractors will have to be evaluated.

5.6 There was **general agreement** to these recommendations.

The representative of Japan commented that when the working group got together they should be careful that their work is for the hail system and not for an electronic tracking system.

## 6. Amendments to the Conservation and Enforcement Measures

### a) **Limits on catches of regulated species in fisheries for unregulated species in nets hauled in the presence of an inspector**

- a).1 The representative of Canada stated this item was deferred from the last meeting of STACTIC. It is being recommended to help in deterring misreporting of catch and to reduce the catching of small regulated fish.
- a).2 A brief discussion was held on the Canadian proposal as follows: The Chairman indicated the existing rule is on p. 10 of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures. We do not have to discuss rationale for by-catch rule. However, we do have a rule of 10% or 2 500 kg, whichever is greater, of regulated species. Canadian paper recommends changes in this procedure. The question is what is wrong with present rule. Canada indicated the problem is outlined in the rationale of their proposal paper.

The representative of Russia asked if this proposal means this regulation applies to the case where the inspector is present on the vessel and if that is the case what regulation applies if inspector is not on board. The representative of Canada stated we would add this paragraph. The vessel would be allowed a certain amount of fish on board. This proposal would add the proposed paragraph to those already there. As a result a vessel could be cited for an apparent infringement and it would then be the responsibility of the Contracting Parties to take follow-up action. Russia indicated they could not discuss this proposal further until a revised draft is available. The Chairman deferred this item until the next day.

- a).3 The Canadian representative presented the revised Working Paper 92/3 (Annex 6) and stressed the reasons for their proposal was because of the serious problem with the catching of juvenile fish. It is impossible for vessels to fish for skate and not catch flatfish. This amendment will give inspectors an opportunity to see the amount of juvenile fish being taken. The inspectors can then issue a citation of an apparent infringement for those instances where significant quantities of regulated catch are observed in a small mesh trawl. The apparent violation would then be followed up by dockside inspections by Contracting Party that could determine the composition of the catch.
- a).4 The representative of the EEC stated they had conceptual difficulties on a practical basis with this proposal. It was difficult to understand when inspectors on board could make it an offense for fish caught in a tow. Captains of vessels at present have the authority to discard fish to stay within the rules. Further they cannot see how a skipper can avoid what he is catching and cannot prevent the catching of immature fish. In our discussions yesterday Canada indicated they have no discard rule. The EEC cannot see where the proposal goes anywhere in solving the problem.
- a).5 The representative of Canada stated they did not indicate they had no discard rule but are considering such a rule. When an inspector is on board and sees a lot of flatfish, it alerts the inspector to the fact that maybe a lot of small fish are being caught. He can then cite the skipper for an apparent infringement and the vessel should then be checked when it goes home. It is an opportunity to alert a Contracting Party that one of their boats may have more small fish than is allowed.
- a).6 The Chairman asked Canada to clarify if the proposed rule makes a single haul a violation for which the skipper cannot control. Another possibility would be to give the skipper the option to discard or to move to stay within the rules.
- a).7 The representative of Canada stated the only way you can see if a skipper is fishing for small fish is on a single haul and when using small mesh. The only time an inspector can check this is when he is on board the vessel and observes the haul back. This is an issue raised by the Scientific Council and this proposal was to try and get a handle on it. The present rule is unenforceable.
- a).8 The representative of Russia indicated that if by-catch is more than 2 500 kg the captain would record the catch in his logbook and change position. In this case it would not be illegal. Repeats of excessive by-catch would be illegal. To find a compromise would be very hard for the captain. In this case the captain would be potentially trapped.
- a).9 The representative of Canada indicated they wanted the proposal to stand and forwarded to the Fisheries Commission. Canada stated within their proposal they were attempting to address a serious situation that is the catch and retention of excessive amounts of regulated species juvenile flatfish by vessels that are using small mesh gear and saying they are directing for other species that are not regulated, but would be willing to look at any other proposals.

- a).10 The Chairman appreciated the concerns but stressed that conceptual problems must be addressed and there are ways to get around these problems. He indicated the proposal would be forwarded to the Fisheries Commission for consideration (Annex 6).
- a).11 The representative of the EEC stated they did not want to be seen as unconstructive because if we are to react in a control fashion to concerns of the Scientific Council, then the Scientific Council should make their concerns known, i.e. what about the possibility of extending the minimum mesh size requirements to avoid retention of juvenile fish? It is not our position to dictate the size of mesh or the size of fish but enforcement could be made more effective if the measures which we are trying to control are more rational and make more sense.
- a).12 The representative of Denmark stated in existing rules Contracting Parties permit when fishing for other species primarily to take regulated species up to 2 500 kg or 10%, whichever is greater. We understand the Canadian proposal if the Contracting Party is fishing for unregulated species. Lets say they were fishing for skate but actually fishing for Greenland halibut under the Canadian proposal it should be reported as an apparent infringement. Denmark understands the problem and needs more time to consider the Canadian proposal.

Item 6(a) was closed on provision that future discussions will be held at STACTIC and the Fisheries Commission meeting.

**b) Composition of an inspection party**

- b).1 The Chairman moved to Item 6(b), composition of an inspection party and referred to Working Paper 91/10 submitted by Canada and Working Paper 91/12 submitted by the EEC which were submitted in July 1991. The Chairman again stated it is difficult to discuss these items without current papers. The Contracting Parties should present new papers for agenda items and deferred this item until tomorrow when new papers will be available.
- b).2 The representative of Canada referred to the STACTIC Report for 1991 item 5.15 and indicated the present rules state that only two inspectors can go on board a vessel and carry out an inspection. They would like this expanded to include trainees (Working Paper 92/16). The EEC proposal (Working Paper 92/15) would be for a maximum of two inspectors and up to two trainees but only when prior permission is obtained from the skipper.
- b).3 The representative of Denmark stated this would be difficult because of limited accommodation. Canada indicated there may be a misunderstanding as an inspector can only be on board for 3 hours.
- b).4 The Chairman stated it would be easiest to accept the EEC proposal for 1 year and STACTIC would recommend to the Fisheries Commission the EEC proposal with the understanding it will be reviewed at the annual meeting in 1992.

- b).5 The representative of Canada stated it does not have to go in regulations. Rather than accept the EEC proposal Canada withdrew the proposal.

c) **Identification of NAFO inspectors operating from an aircraft**

The Chairman then turned to agenda item 6(c) the identification of NAFO inspectors operating from an aircraft. The rules for this item are outlined on p. 15 of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures (FC Doc. 91/7, Revised) Part IV, 1(ii,iv,ix) and asked for comments. There being no comments it was assumed everyone was in agreement with existing rules.

d) **Finalization of the format for reports on air surveillance activities**

The Chairman moved on to item 6(d) and stated he would like this item combined with 7(c).

e) **Introduction of production logbooks**

- e).1 The representative of Canada reviewed their proposal (Working Paper 92/4-Annex 7). This item was deferred from the last meeting. The advantages of production log is that it assists the inspector to determine catch on board. It is difficult to establish catch on board from fish in the hold because it is in product form. This is not a system to standardize conversion factors but a useful indicator of catch on board.

- e).2 The Chairman asked if the suggestion is for a separate logbook or a change to Schedule III of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures to show production figures.

The representative of Canada stated most vessels will have an indication of production weight on board. It would not be necessary to carry a separate production log.

- e).3 The representative of the EEC stated that this item was discussed exhaustively at our last meeting. EEC cannot see this requirement negating requirement to check the hold. The inspector has responsibility to correlate what is in a hold with the logbook. Presently the Captain is required to maintain a record of live weight in a log but does not relieve the inspector of responsibility. In the EEC practice, if production logs are maintained they are maintained from a commercial point not a requirement by the EEC.

- e).4 The representative of Canada stated the inspector is required to check holds and this is easy when you are concerned with only one species but as species increase it makes this task prohibitive unless conversion factors are available. The EEC stated to do a proper inspection the inspector must make calculations but it is not time related.

- e).5 The representative of Russia indicated they would have serious problems with a production log. There are great many conversion factors and there are many various products. There are agreements with many of the shipowners but many are different. It becomes a prohibitive problem to standardize checking of production. We cannot agree with the requirement for production logs.

EEC indicated that inspectors are required to check holds to get back to whole weight.

Russia stated to check holds plus production log will complicate the system even more.

- e).6 The Chairman indicated this is not a new proposal. The Chairman related how this problem is handled in Greenland. The rule is that product is stored separately in the hold for ease of viewing. After complaints, it was modified that different species could be stored in same area but all the same species had to be together. In addition, a storage plan was required so the inspector can determine where fish is stored.

- e).7 The representative of Canada asked if the Chairman would consider presenting what he just related in the form of a proposal.

The EEC would welcome such a paper by Greenland but **without commitment**. Russia would also welcome such a paper **with reservation**.

- e).8 The representative of Japan stated that Japanese fishing vessels keep production logbooks and they can show them to inspectors when requested and that a proposed regulation on storage arrangement is not appropriate because it would add another factor of infringements. The Chairman stated that when production logbooks are available they would not have to comply with this rule.

- e).9 The Chairman presented the Danish proposal (Working Paper 92/17) and explained its rationale (Annex 8). He proposed to keep the proposal for future discussions at STACTIC and the Fisheries Commission.

The representative of Japan pointed out the difficulty in keeping records of storage arrangements as well as the practical difficulty due to its randomness and the effects it may have on balance.

The Chairman pointed out that you can put the product anywhere for balance, but it must be separated from other species. He did not see any concerns re balance.

- e).10 The representative of the EEC welcomed the Danish proposal and stated they do have certain reservations and will expand on these at a later date.

The Chairman stated that in their deliberations they should refer to EEC vessels operating in Greenland waters because they have been complying with these conditions for years.

## 7. Modifications to NAFO Forms

### a) **Monthly Catch Report Forms - inclusion of additional stocks and divisions**

a).1 The representative of Canada presented its proposal in Working Paper 92/8 (Annex 9) to add a number of species that are being fished in the Regulatory Area to the monthly catch report form. These species are reported annually to the Scientific Council but should also be reported monthly.

a).2 The representative of the EEC stated they have no difficulty in principle. They would request an explanation for doing this. Did this request originate from the Scientific Council and if so should it not be originated by the Scientific Council.

The representative of Canada stated the provisional monthly catch report goes back to ICNAF and they were not initiated by the Scientific Council. The EEC asked why the proposal is being posed if it is not for scientific purposes. They questioned requirements for quota management as these additions are unregulated species.

a).3 The representative of Canada stated the report includes stocks that are not managed by NAFO and we are requesting that the stocks be added.

The representative of the EEC enquired if these stocks are presently reported on an annual basis.

The Executive Secretary stated all Contracting Parties agreed with stocks listed on monthly basis. There is no requirement for STACTIC to discuss this item alone. If there is a requirement then a recommendation, in addition, should come from the Scientific Council.

a).4 The representative of Canada indicated logbooks on vessels operating in the Regulatory Area report these stocks and for consistency we should have some stocks reported on the monthly report. The Chairman stated it is basically a matter of how our reporting systems have evolved.

The EEC indicated if no one is using the information there is no reason to include it.

a).5 The representative of Russia indicated it was his understanding of the Executive Secretary's comments it was not responsibility of STACTIC and we should stop discussion and refer it to the Scientific Council. The Executive Secretary stated STACTIC could consider a recommendation to the Fisheries Commission, and Scientific Council to make decisions based on our recommendation.

a).6 The representative of Canada stated the monthly report should be standardized with information inspectors are getting from logbooks. Russia indicated that on p. 48-51 of FC Doc. 91/7 the new list of species is not listed. Therefore, how

can we be required to report them. The Executive Secretary indicated he receives information on catches from Contracting Parties, and such information is compiled for final catches of Contracting Parties annually.

- a).7 The Chairman concluded **the agreement of the Meeting** to recommend the Fisheries Commission to ask the Scientific Council if there is a scientific aspect and let the Scientific Council make a recommendation to the Fisheries Commission.

Canada indicated their proposal is to correct an anomaly re Conservation and Enforcement Measures, Part I.3(a) (FC Doc. 91/7, Revised).

**b) Annual Return of Inspections and Apparent Infringements**

- b).1 The representative of Canada presented their proposal in Working Paper 92/9 (Annex 10) and indicated there are presently two forms being used to report infringements, and Canada's proposal is an attempt to combine these two forms. An infringement is supposed to stay on books until completed; however, this is not happening.
- b).2 The representative of the EEC stated this is more than a reconciliation as it requests more details than exists on present forms. They also indicated the form causes problems with comprehension and could cause more confusion. We have looked at the forms to make improvements but have not been able to date. The proposal is to keep track of apparent infringements, and EEC does not feel it meets this requirement.
- b).3 The representative of Canada indicated the current forms do not reflect requirements of regulations. They are confusing and the proposal is an attempt to combine these and make them easier to complete. It replaces STACTIC Form 1, 2A and 2B.
- b).4 Further discussions were as follows: The EEC stated there was information requested on the form that was not required before i.e. name of vessel. They had a second question on whether it resolves the problem. One form may complicate the situation, and we would like to have an opportunity to see how cross-flow of several Contracting Parties will work. Canada indicated proposal is clear and straightforward. There is a new column for vessels. Canada explained the form. The EEC indicated the intention is clear but we must ensure no information is lost; and questioned whether the form still referred to inspections in port. It may require instructions on the reverse side. Does a form for each Contracting Party have to be filled out.

Canada indicated one form for each Contracting Party should be filled out. The number of port inspections was missed and can be added. With regard to the disposition column this will be filled in by the Contracting Party and maintained by the Contracting Party until all apparent infringements are disposed of.



- b).5 The EEC and Russian representatives proposed that while the efforts of Canada are appreciated we should not rush into this. It was agreed to defer this item to next meeting of STACTIC where a small group will sit down and review the forms and propose changes to the meeting.

c) **Annual Reports on Surveillance and Inspection Activities in the Regulatory Area - inclusion of air surveillance reports**

- c).1 The Chairman moved to cover item 7(c) and 6(d) which refers to annual reports on surveillance activities in the Regulatory Area. He indicated this item was discussed at last STACTIC meeting and Contracting Parties were requested to forward comments to the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary's Working Paper 92/1 (Annex 11) was developed in accordance with Rule 14(i) found on p. 21 and 22 of FC Doc. 91/7 and was reviewed by the Executive Secretary. The Chairman asked for comments and receiving none accepted the proposal submitted by the Executive Secretary and closed this item.

- c).2 The representative of Russia indicated they would like to make a statement regarding air surveillance because of their objection:

"Re: Using aircraft for the purposes of joint international inspection:

It should be underlined that Russian side has no objections for using aircraft as an auxiliary means to increase efficiency of control for fishery in Regulatory Area. At the same time we would like to note that we are against using aircraft as an instrument for inspection of fishing vessels' activities in NAFO Regulatory Area with setting up the report of inspection without boarding of fishing vessels by NAFO inspectors."

**8. Information from IMO on Helicopter Signals - Report  
from Executive Secretary**

The Chairman moved to item 8 regarding information from IMO on helicopter signals. The Executive Secretary indicated this was an information item and that **IMO had confirmed NAFO signals were current** and passed on additional signals for our information. It was decided not to incorporate new signals into the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures.

**9. Implementation of "Long Term" Measures**

a) **An electronic tracking (monitoring) system**

- a).1 The representative of the EEC explained their paper (Working Paper 92/10) on the use of electronic tracking and made the following comments:
- technology is changing rapidly and they guided the study along the lines of latest technology;
  - theoretically the study could be applied to NAFO;
  - the system is technically feasible to provide position of fishing vessels;

- it is expensive and there are various combinations that can be used to adjust cost;
  - there is not a system as described here in operation anywhere in the EEC;
  - EEC is still reviewing system to determine benefits.
- a).2 The representative of Japan indicated they have some experience with a similar system called Argos. The Argos system is more expensive and cannot be used as evidence in a court. However, electronic tracking systems could replace the hail system.
- a).3 The representative of Norway explained they had also used the Argos system. The system is to measure speed, positions, and determine whether vessels were fishing. However they are not considering to adopt the system.
- a).4 The representative of Canada informed they had not tested any system. They have been reviewing literature and been in contact with countries utilizing systems. Canada asked EEC if their system was capable of including catch data. The EEC indicated it was; however, the system is automated and there is not requirement for Captain to input system. This system would be capable of providing a position at any time unlike Argos.
- a).5 The Chairman indicated we are required to report back to the Fisheries Commission on this item and asked for direction. Canada indicated they were not experts in this area and only pilot projects have been run so it is unclear on how to proceed. Russia indicated if we have no proposal we should defer to next meeting. The EEC stated the hail system will provide same information as the satellite system at much less cost. The system tabled in the report is still under evaluation and we should keep it on hold until we see how the hail system develops.
- a).6 The Chairman reminded the Meeting again that STACTIC has the task to look at implementing an electronic tracking system and we **should return** to this item at the next STACTIC meeting to see how it has developed. It was **agreed** to keep this item on the agenda for the next meeting.
- b) **An International Observer Scheme**
- b).1 The representative of Canada presenting their proposal in Working Paper 91/6 (Annex 12) requested Contracting Parties discuss the principle and not the paper and how it is written. Canada indicated they have had an Observer Scheme since 1979 and it is used to accomplish two things:
- i) monitoring compliance;
  - ii) scientific information gathering.

Canada is basically recommending NAFO adopt a similar scheme as an Observer Scheme is a cost effective method of ensuring compliance and the gathering of scientific information. The principle of how it would operate can

be worked out later. That is Contracting Parties only putting their own observers on their own vessels or on other Contracting Parties vessels. The Chairman reminded the delegates that the Fisheries Commission requested STACTIC to look at an International Observer Scheme. Canada indicated the original proposal was to place your own observers on your own vessels.

b).2 The Chairman stated if we stay within the original proposal the concerns would be:

- clarification as to the principle;
- draw attention to Fisheries Commission directive and answer questions regarding:

- i) feasibility;
- ii) type of observer scheme - enforcement and/or scientific;
- iii) cost effective.

b).3 The representative of Canada outlined some of the following advantages of adopting an Observer Scheme: would not have to inspect fishing vessels as often; assist in enforcement as resources are limited at this time; cheaper to have observers than patrol vessels; observers can monitor ongoing operations such as discards and misreporting, and provide biological sampling.

b).4 The representative of the EEC classified the Canadian advantages as not advantages but as the reasons for feasibility of the Observer Scheme. They have a concern re the cost effectiveness of the Observer Scheme and calculate it would cost the equivalent of a patrol vessel. In addition, the scientific terms of reference should be left to the Scientific Council.

b).5 The representative of Canada stated that before we can do a feasibility study we must determine what we want the Observer Scheme to do. Therefore, we suggest a pilot program be set up.

b).6 The representative of Russia asked if the main purpose of the Observer Scheme was to collect scientific information or to improve inspection. Canada indicated it was a dual role and it was not to improve inspection but to monitor compliance. The function of the observers is to observe, record and report.

b).7 The Chairman proposed to break the Scheme down into four functions - observes; records; reports information back to Contracting Parties/Executive Secretary; reports on scientific data;

and go through the four functions to get the opinion of delegations.

The representatives had no problem accepting the observer functions with regard to observing and recording providing the observers were only on their own vessels.

With regard to reports going to Contracting Parties as well as the Executive Secretary, **Russia would have reservations** regarding this procedure. With regard to calling in a patrol vessel of another nationality, **Japan would have reservations** with this procedure.

- b).8 The representative of the EEC requested the Chairman return to address the cost effectiveness of the proposal because they are not convinced whether the Scheme is worthwhile.

The Chairman stated before we can do a cost effectiveness evaluation we must identify the observer scheme we are talking about and what we want in a system.

The representative of the EEC agreed to this "hypothetically" for continuance of the discussion on the system.

- b).9 The Chairman returned to Item 9 (b) and recapped what Contracting Parties had agreed to in previous discussions:

- to a simplified model of an Observer Scheme that would have observers from same nation on their own vessels and reporting only to their own Contracting Parties;
- to discuss the feasibility of cost of such a model.

He indicated it must be kept in mind any recommendations to the Fisheries Commission will be for a model system with a life term.

- b).10 The representative of Denmark felt that NAFO should try to implement an Observer Scheme as a long term measure based on the concerns expressed by the Scientific Council regarding the lack of information for stock assessment and that an Observer Scheme can improve the control measures. It has also been noted as expressed by the Canadian delegation that NAFO shall include the possibility of increasing minimum coverage levels to 15% in 1993 and 20% in 1994.

One can see the benefit of an International Observer Scheme in the Regulatory Area but as a Contracting Party Denmark also will be responsible for ensuring that a minimum of 10% of days on ground for 1992 are observed. When we are participating in the NAFO Scheme of Joint International Inspection with two inspection vessels 28 days in 1992 (two periods) and if the observer cannot at the same time be an inspector we do feel some problems to ensure coverage of 10% of the effort in 1992. Therefore, Denmark needs more time to look at the feasibility of an Observer Scheme.

- b).11 The representative of Japan stated that they foresaw some problems on logistics as well as cost effectiveness and require more time to consider the program.

- b).12 The Chairman stated he understood the Danish delegate supported the establishment of an Observer Scheme but the level of coverage will have to be determined. We are at a point where Contracting Parties are not against a pilot project and we now need to outline the tasks of the observer. One task would be to monitor compliance. Before we make a recommendation to the Fisheries Commission we will have to add to these tasks or we may only want the single task. The coverage levels may not be reached but we will have to wait and see how it works out.
- b).13 The representative of the EEC requested clarification. The EEC is under the understanding that we are having a hypothetical discussion to arrive at some conclusions. Once we arrive at that point a summary would be made and we would then review the scheme again looking at the feasibility and the cost effectiveness of the Observer Scheme.
- b).14 The representative of Russia indicated it also shares the concern voiced by Denmark, Japan and the EEC. He stated these are still areas that need to be clarified and we should be careful not to make any decisions. He recognizes the concern of the Scientific Council with regard to the requirement for additional information, and suggested that we might accept the system on a voluntary basis using our own observers on our own vessels for the purpose of collecting data for the Scientific Council. The information collected would be forwarded to the Scientific Council through the Executive Secretary without commitment. However it may be used later for further development of an International Observer Scheme.
- b).15 The Chairman's question for the rationale of putting scientific observers into the scheme resulted in the following discussions: Canada indicated there is already a Scientific Observer Scheme within NAFO. The recommendation is to have the Observers do both. This would be an expansion of the present Scheme. The recommendation made by Russia is already being done with regard to the scientific side but that program does not address what Canada is requesting with regard to monitoring control and surveillance. The Chairman stated it may not be necessary to discuss further the Scientific Observer Scheme as it is already in place and we should concentrate on the MCS side of the Observer Scheme. Canada would not want to rule it out but would like to indicate to the Fisheries Commission that if Observer Scheme goes forward scientific observers would be available. The EEC stated it was not possible to have a dual system and they should be done by separate observers. They recommended to divorce the scientific requirement from this proposal.
- b).16 The Chairman raised the question of financing the Observer Scheme and asked the delegates if they anticipated each Contracting Party paying for their own observers or the cost being picked up within the NAFO budget. In addition, what levels of coverage are anticipated during the trial period. We will require commitment and asked for comments on these questions.

Canada stated each Contracting Party would pay for their own expenses. Russia stated that all Contracting Parties do not fish in the Regulatory Area and therefore how would these Contracting Parties pay for costs of an Observer Scheme. Canada does not fish in the Regulatory Area. Canada agreed they do not fish to any great extent in the Regulatory Area but did not want to get into a discussion on cost. The Chairman stated cost should be at Contracting Parties expense. The EEC referred to the system in the Canadian zone where foreign vessels pay the cost of observers. If this procedure was adopted in the Regulatory Area it would be costly to some Contracting Parties. However if Contracting Parties contribute to a generalized scheme to establish a MCS Observer Scheme it would not be an undue burden on Contracting Parties carrying observers.

The Chairman asked if it was the EEC's proposal to take money out of NAFO funds. The EEC stated affirmative.

Japan referred to rules regarding the special consideration for minor fishing countries fishing in the Regulatory Area not being required to provide patrol vessels and suggested this same rule should be applied to observers. Japan stated a shared cost by all Contracting Parties would not be acceptable because they have only a few vessels fishing in the Regulatory Area.

Canada stated that STACTIC is not competent to decide this and we should spend our time discussing the program. The EEC felt it was appropriate to give it consideration as costing and funding are key elements for establishing a Scheme. The Chairman stated both Canada and the EEC are correct. Russia stated no one has instructions on payment for the Observer Scheme but Russia would have problems with either way. He suggested to return to this item after discussions with our governments.

- b).17 The Chairman turned to coverage levels indicating reservations have been voiced but asked for suggestions on coverage and to remember this is for a trial period. Canada proposed 10% for 1992. Since this is likely unable to be obtained due to time remaining they recommended this be reduced to 5%. The Chairman suggested the earliest a program could go into effect would be 1993 due to approvals required from the Fisheries Commission and the General Council. The EEC stated this was more reason why we should be looking at a volunteer scheme and it may not be appropriate to fix levels of coverage. Russia agreed with the EEC stating that last year Canada proposed in Working Paper 91/3 to put observers on board primarily for scientific collection and for a 3-year pilot project. We should, therefore, concern ourselves with the length of the pilot project.
- b).18 The Chairman specified Canada's proposal was a recommendation for a dual project. We should concern ourselves not with what Canada said last year but what Canada has said this year. He invited representatives to discuss this issue. Canada does not agree with EEC statement that observers cannot do a dual role. Canada is not at this stage ready to agree that observers will only do MCS. The Chairman agreed but stated we are only talking about a volunteer system on our own vessels. It would be within competence of Contracting Parties to allow

observers to do dual roles. The EEC stated it may be possible to establish a dual role for the observers provided terms of reference are laid down for the dual role. You could conceivably have a conflict of interest and the quality of scientific information will deteriorate. If dual role is established then tasks must be established. Canada stated scientific collection of data is laid down by the scientific community. This would be laid down by the Scientific Council. With regard to EEC comment about 50/50 utilization of observers it would be difficult to indicate the time but would be predicted on fishery patterns. The dual role is practical and observers can do the two functions. The EEC stated it was not a question of whether observers are capable of doing two roles. It is recognized in the Scientific community the scientific observer is working on trust and information is confidential. Working on the hypothesis we are under in this discussion the scientific data will deteriorate. We do not think the observers will be accepted on board the vessels.

- b).19 The representative of Canada stated they were not looking for a voluntary system but a commitment by NAFO to an Observer Scheme. We did not look at a reciprocal scheme because of the time it would take to develop such a system. All we have to do is agree to an Observer Scheme and outline functions. The legal basis of putting observers on board vessels would be left with each Contracting Party.
- b).20 The representative of Russia stated the constant reference to Canadian experience is not acceptable. The observer program creates many problems for the Russian skipper. It will cause delays of up to 10 days in fishing to exchange observers. Shipowners would not agree to such a scheme and captains will not understand such an approach.
- b).21 The representative of Denmark referred to their previous comments and added observers can be useful and suggested cost should be the responsibility of the Contracting Parties. They would agree to a coverage but of 5% for 1992. They asked if other Contracting Parties had observer schemes within the Regulatory Area. Finally he indicated cost will have to be considered as it was the shipowner who will eventually pay for the system.
- b).22 In response to Denmark's question, the following information was provided:

Norway indicated they have tried observers on special boats (seal boats) as well as some larger vessels this year. They drew no conclusions on their use but he indicated unofficially the cost will likely preclude Norway from continuing with such programs. Greenland has 10 observers on vessels for one month and they are exchanged at sea. Japan has observers for particular fisheries but not for all fisheries. The EEC indicated they have no observers in EEC internal waters. However, observers may be used on EEC vessels under fishing agreements with certain third countries. Russia has no observer system on Russian vessels. However they do have observers on foreign vessels fishing within their 200 mile zone. Poland generally supports the observer scheme. They use observers in the Bering Sea but only for scientific purposes.

- b).23 The Chairman put together a report, Working Paper 92/18 (Annex 13), with elements which he hoped were not controversial. The EEC welcomed the paper however expressed certain reservations concerning mixing science and enforcement. This Committee should ask the Scientific Council if they have any objections to mixing scientific and enforcement requirements. The risk may be there that we could jeopardize our scientific information. The Chairman agreed we should not mix science and enforcement but this is not scientists but individuals who take samples. The EEC stated they saw a problem and needed the assurance of the Scientific Council that they agree to a mix. The Chairman agreed and stated that in our report to the Fisheries Commission this question will be raised and we will request the Fisheries Commission to put the question to the Scientific Council in June. Therefore, the Fisheries Commission would take note of this proposal and pass it on to the Scientific Council. Then the Scientific Council will provide answer to the Fisheries Commission and STACTIC during the September meeting. Canada requested the Canadian proposal (Annex 12) and the proposal Working Paper 92/18 be presented to the Fisheries Commission.

c) **A NAFO Licensing System**

- c).1 The representative of Canada presented the proposal in Working Paper 92/13 (Annex 14) and explained its rationale. The reason for its proposal is basically to address limited quotas of fish and to control the effort against these limited quotas. Most nations put into effect control systems such as licensing systems. Under present rules Contracting Parties are required to send a list of vessels which intend to fish in the Regulatory Area. This list is much longer than that required to fish their allocations. Contracting Parties are required to come up with a system to control the number of vessels which will be authorized to fish in the Regulatory Area. The proposal is straight forward a methodology presented to limit the number of vessels authorized to come to the Regulatory Area. The Chairman asked that the proposal does not imply NAFO will be responsible for licensing the vessels but for each Contracting Party to establish methods of their own to license their vessels. Canada stated that is correct but does not exclude NAFO from having a licensing system of their own in the future.
- c).2 The Chairman asked if the delegations agree that there should be a balance between quota and fishing capacity of the Contracting Parties which send vessels to the Regulatory Area. There **was general agreement** on this point.
- c).3 The Chairman asked the Executive Secretary if a paper is put out which relates vessels to quotas. The Executive Secretary said no such paper is issued.
- c).4 The Chairman stated we agree there should be a balance but no one knows what actually takes place. Canada stated the list of vessels submitted by some Contracting Parties far exceeds the required number of vessels to catch the quotas granted to those Contracting Parties. What Canada is attempting to do is to more realistically match the number of vessels to the quotas. The Chairman said it is obvious to everyone that if all vessels which are registered



actually fished it would be an unmanageable system. My question is do we know the number of vessels which actually fish in the zone. Canada indicated through their surveillance they have a good indication of the number of vessels in the Area. Through a system of limiting the number of vessels will provide for better management.

- c).5 The representative of the EEC stated we started off outlining a lengthy list of Contracting Party vessels. Then we looked at actual situations as not all vessels go to the Regulatory Area. We are not certain of the number of vessels which go to the Regulatory Area or how long they stay or the actual catch. We should look at other means of controlling i.e. reducing the list. The extent of the problem is not adequately defined in terms of the length of stay by the vessels. We should refine the overview of the present situation before we look at the Canadian proposal. Various reasons for being on the list but we are not in a position to define extent of stay of vessels in area. The EEC asked Canada if a limited license system is in use in the Canadian zone.
- c).6 The representative of Canada explained the Canadian license system for foreign vessels fishing within the Canadian zone. As for domestic vessels, the number of licenses are limited.
- c).7 The representative of Russia indicated from a practical point they have small quotas in the NAFO area. The number of vessels operating in the area is based on capacity and this system could require reducing allocations to vessels. Canada does not have experience outside the zone. The Russian vessels fish in many zones and they schedule their vessels to be in the zones when it will be most productive. Therefore, the suggested scheme proposed by Canada would not be acceptable to Russia. It would be very difficult for Russia to assign only certain vessels to the Regulatory Area as they fish in many areas throughout the year and it would be difficult to manage them in this manner.
- c).8 The representative of Japan stated that Japan has substantially reduced the number of vessels fishing in the Regulatory Area and they believe that the current number of Japanese vessels is balanced with their quota. The reduction of number of vessels is not such a simple mathematics as shown in the Canadian proposal. It is impossible to control the number of vessels before the fishing season starts because operational patterns of vessels vary each year.
- c).9 The representative of Canada requested delegates to consider the terms of reference received from the Fisheries Commission (FC Doc. 90\9) which outlined both short term and long term measures. Therefore, when we attempt to come up with a proposal we looked at the paragraph where both Norway and the EEC stated the list of vessels was too great.
- c).10 The Chairman returned to the 2nd paragraph of Canada's proposal and indicated he was proposing to develop parameters for a licensing scheme and a methodology, so that Contracting Parties can determine acceptable limitations on their fishing effort, based on quota levels and legitimate fishing possibilities.

All representatives agreed with this approach. The Chairman then reemphasized it was up to Contracting Parties to develop this and there was a methodology suggested in the Canadian proposal and requested comments on this methodology.

- c).11 The representative of Denmark referred to the last sentence of methodology and indicated it is the system Denmark uses. He stated they indicate to the Executive Secretary the number of vessels and then Denmark issues certificates to the vessels which indicate authorization to fish in the Regulatory Area and amount of fish authorized.
- c).12 The representative of Canada indicated few of her vessels fish in the Regulatory Area as they fish NAFO allocations within the Canadian zone. Canada establishes boat and fleet quotas and their vessels are restricted by them.
- c).13 The representative of the EEC stated they have their own system, a National Member State Licensing System. They do not have individual boat quotas but quotas are subdivided amongst Member States, and they license their vessels to catch allocations.
- c).14 The representative of Norway informed that Norwegian vessels have not fished in the NAFO area in the past year. They do not have a requirement for a license but vessels wishing to fish in the Regulatory Area must apply to the Norwegian Government to get on a list.
- c).15 The representative of Japan stated they foresaw technical difficulty to implement a licensing scheme utilizing all these conditions and reserve judgement. Japanese government issues licenses to Japanese vessels.
- c).16 The representative of Russia indicated the shipowners distributed quotas to ships in each case. A large number of vessels operate in the Regulatory Area and shipowners control these vessels. It would be difficult to control fishery by effort. Possibility would exist that large quotas would not be realized.
- c).17 The Chairman summarized the discussions as follows: It is not the time to get into the mathematics but only to look at quota on one side and effort on the other. Canada's proposal outlines five points under methodology and Canada is recommending Contracting Parties consider these points especially the first three. Do Contracting Parties have any comments on using these points to establish a licensing system? Each Contracting Party could consider a methodology at home. We can then look at this again at the next STACTIC meeting in September. Each Contracting Party to submit a paper by 15 July which would reflect that Contracting Party's examination of how it would handle its own vessels.
- c).18 The representative of Canada stated this should not preclude to address the issue at the Fisheries Commission meeting in May.

- c).19 The Chairman stated the Fisheries Commission will determine whether it will be discussed; however, that does not change our requirement. Russia agrees with the Chairman's proposal. The EEC requested confirmation that the Chairman would like to see Contracting Parties prepare a paper of possible methodology they might adopt on limiting the number of vessels of its own Contracting Parties authorized to fish in the Regulatory Area.
- c).20 The representative of Canada suggested the date could be moved up for delegation heads to have paper available at May meeting of the Fisheries Commission.

The EEC stated we are speaking of Contracting Parties being asked to devise their own methodology for limiting vessels in the Regulatory Area. Russia indicated the papers should be presented to STACTIC for discussion prior to being submitted to Fisheries Commission for consideration. The Chairman agreed with the Russian suggestion.

- c).21 The representative of Canada asked if there was general agreement that a license system might be acceptable.
- c).22 The representative of the EEC stated the document presented requests to discuss a NAFO restricted licensing system. However, we have talked about what Contracting Parties do presently. Contracting Parties are to develop a paper to seek how to reduce vessels authorized to fish in the Regulatory Area. We do not have any information to provide the Fisheries Commission; therefore, we have not discussed the proposal. If the Canadian proposal is to be presented to the Fisheries Commission, it would stand alone because we have not discussed it.
- c).23 The Chairman requested representatives to develop a paper to reduce their fishing effort in the Regulatory Area by 15 July at the latest and if they can by 1 May. These papers to be submitted to the Executive Secretary by dates above.

## 10. Other Matters

Under this item the delegations agreed to discuss the issue concerning minimum cod size and Canadian proposal for reciprocal arrest.

- 10.1 The Chairman indicated the question was raised by the EEC, Working Paper 92/6 (Annex 15). In the Danish paper, Working Paper 92/14 (Annex 16), it indicates there are three length measures that can be taken of cod. However, in 1965 ICNAF and ICES discussed the possibility of using total length. The EEC indicated their preference was to adopt a system based on total length. However there are three related questions:

- method of measure;
- tolerance;
- applicability to NAFO.

- 10.2 The representative of the EEC referred to the Executive Secretary's letter to Contracting Parties. The EEC letter was appended to this letter and the Executive Secretary's letter GF/92-017 requested comments. No comments were received other than the EEC comments and, therefore, Working Paper 92/6 was produced (Annex 15).
- 10.3 The Chairman referred to the three questions raised by the EEC and stated there should be agreement on the method.
- 10.4 The representative of Canada indicated they use fork length but also have procedures for measuring fish with head and or tail removed. Therefore, Canada would have to **reserve decision** on this procedure.
- 10.5 The Chairman indicated all Contracting Parties except Canada **agree** to method of measuring. The question of undersized fish has to be clarified. It is not wise to have a rule that applies to only one part of the total area.
- 10.6 The representative of the EEC stated they made a proposal at the last Fisheries Commission Meeting (September 1991), and it had become binding on 6 November 1991. The wording is poorly formulated and we should ask for clarification. EEC is not sure whether a vote was taken on the way the recommendation is worded. We should not have a recommendation as well as a question.
- 10.7 The Executive Secretary indicated the report from the Fisheries Commission was sent to Contracting Parties for comments and no comments were received. The proposals for international measures were sent to the Contracting Parties for the objection period of 60 days during which no objection to this proposal was received. Then the measure became binding on all Contracting Parties.
- 10.8 The Chairman asked the feelings on the other two questions. Denmark stated any fish that does not meet minimum requirements should be returned to the water and we should follow the direction of the Fisheries Commission. It is controllable and total length should be the method of measuring. The Chairman indicated it was the common opinion of delegates that undersized fish should be discarded.
- 10.9 The representative of Canada stated that because of straddling stocks we would have two sets of regulations. We are considering putting in a regulation that prohibits discards. The Chairman indicated Canada voted on this measure. Russia indicated Canada voted against the measure for 3M cod and referred to paragraph 7.18 of the Fisheries Commission Report (FC Doc. 91/14).
- 10.10 The Chairman indicated common opinion except for Canada on method of measuring and discards and now asked opinion on question three. Canada indicated it was not up to STACTIC to make this recommendation and stated that cod stocks for which NAFO has a management responsibility within the Regulatory Area are being managed in accordance with minimum size rule.
- 10.11 The representative of the EEC stated this question is within competence of NAFO as it would be unenforceable if it is not for all areas. It is the responsibility of this group to advise the Fisheries Commission of the same.

- 10.12 The Chairman in summary stated they received a letter from EEC with three questions. All delegations agree except Canada on the first two questions. Norway cannot support a proposal that allows discards. With regard to the last question EEC agree if a measure is introduced so that it is for the complete area. Canada indicated this is what the Fisheries Commission had done and the measure applies to all cod stocks managed by the Fisheries Commission. Russia supports Canadian position for the following reasons: if we discard undersized fish, we will not know the size of the problem; if we are required to record by-catch, we would know amount of undersized fish; it is not a good fishing economy to discard cod catches.
- 10.13 The Chairman indicated **everyone except Russia and Canada** agreed to discard undersized fish.
- 10.14 The representative of Canada indicated with respect to the proposal for Reciprocal Arrest that this was not intended as a proposal but only as an information paper because it is on the agenda for the May meeting.
- 10.15 The Chairman asked that a rule of procedure be adopted by STACTIC which would require proposals to be discussed at the annual meeting of STACTIC be distributed to Contracting Parties **by 15 July** or they will not be discussed. Canada with respect to submission of papers and the establishment of rules stated we should not establish new rules until we have had an opportunity to review them. The Chairman agreed but requested that the Executive Secretary take note that the Chairman was officially requesting that **this be an agenda item for our next meeting**.
- 10.16 Canada made concluding remarks which are appended as Annex 17.
- 10.17 The Chairman agreed with some of the remarks and made the following conclusion: While we are proceeding in some respects quite slowly, as Chairman, on the other hand, I say that the way forward is to continue in the good spirit of cooperation which is here. I would think that if delegations with problems, in between meetings, have some contact in the good spirit we have here, there may be things developed which then could be adopted formally at meetings. Such a process in my view would contribute to a much quicker advancement of our tasks then if we are only meeting in the official meetings and putting forward papers we have prepared back home.

### 11. Time and Place of Next Meeting

The Chairman indicated that, subject to the decision of the Fisheries Commission, the next meeting of STACTIC will be during the special meeting of the Fisheries Commission to be held in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada during the week of 11-15 May 1992.

### 12. Adjournment

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1500 hours on 20 February 1992.

## Annex 1. List of Participants

### CANADA

#### Head of Delegation

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#### Head of Delegation

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**SECRETARIAT**

L. I. Chepel, NAFO Executive Secretary

B. Cruikshank, Senior Secretary

**SECRETARIAT ASSISTANCE**

Susan Frydendahl, Groenlands Hjemmestyre, Pilestræde 52, Box 2151, DK-1016, Copenhagen, Denmark

## Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by Chairman, E. Lemche (Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Evaluation of Operation of the Hail System:
  - a) proposed assessment methodology (proposal by Canada)
  - b) incorporation of a catch reporting feature into the hail system (STACTIC Report, 1991, items 5.6-5.12)
  - c) reports on operation of the hail system as of February 1992 (national reports or information)
  - d) finalization of hail message format(s) for transmission by fax or by radio (STACTIC Report, 1991, item 5.20)
5. Implementation of the Hail System by the NAFO Secretariat - Administration and Costs - Report from the Executive Secretary
6. Amendments to the Conservation and Enforcement Measures:
  - a) limits on catches of regulated species in fisheries for unregulated species in nets hauled in the presence of an inspector (STACTIC Report, 1991, item 5.14)
  - b) composition of an inspection party (STACTIC Report, 1991, item 5.15)
  - c) identification of NAFO inspectors operating from an aircraft (STACTIC Report, 1991, item 5.21)
  - d) finalization of the format for reports on air surveillance activities (STACTIC Report, 1991, item 5.17)
  - e) introduction of production logbooks (STACTIC Report, 1991, item 5.12)
7. Modifications to NAFO forms:
  - a) Monthly Catch Report Forms - inclusion of additional stocks and divisions (proposal by Canada)
  - b) Annual Return of Inspections and Apparent Infringements (proposal by Canada)
  - c) Annual Reports on Surveillance and Inspection Activities in the Regulatory Area - inclusion of air surveillance reports (STACTIC Working Group Working Paper 91/15)



8. Information from IMO on helicopter signals - Report from Executive Secretary (STACTIC Report, 1991, item 5.18)
9. Implementation of "Long Term" Measures:
  - a) An electronic tracking (monitoring) system (STACTIC Report, 1991, items 6.1-6.3)
  - b) An international observer scheme (STACTIC Report, 1991, items 6.4-6.10)
  - c) A NAFO Licensing System
10. Other Matters
11. Time and Place of Next Meeting
12. Adjournment

### Annex 3. Canadian Proposal to Amend the Hail System for the Purpose of Incorporating a Catch Reporting Feature (Part III-E.1)

1. A Contracting Party shall ensure that vessels of that Party to which the Scheme of Joint International Inspection applies shall report to their competent authorities:
  - (a) each entry into the Regulatory Area. This report shall be made at least six (6) hours in advance of the vessel's entry and shall include the date, the time, the geographical position of the vessel **and the total cumulative round weight of catch by species onboard.**
  - (b) each exit from the Regulatory Area and each movement from one NAFO division to another NAFO division. This report shall be made prior to the vessel's exit from the Regulatory Area or entry into a NAFO division and shall include the date, the time, the geographical position of the vessel **and the total cumulative round weight of catch by species [taken] in the Regulatory Area.**

#### Benefits

The inclusion of a catch reporting feature in the hail system would:

- (i) ensure a higher level of accountability with respect to the documentation of catch on board a vessel and provide NAFO Inspectors with reported quantities in advance of inspections.
- (ii) improve inspection and control in the Regulatory Area by providing NAFO Inspectors with information that may not be consistent with observations of other vessels, and, hence, may indicate the possibility of an apparent infringement.
- (iii) provide current data on vessels that have not been boarded.
- (iv) provide for better utilization of inspection platforms since they could be targeted to specific problem areas or vessels.
- (v) provide a good measure of deterrence to prevent vessels from misreporting since it would be difficult for Captains to adjust figures later.

#### Rationale

This proposal seeks to increase the overall effectiveness of the Scheme of Joint International Inspection and Surveillance by facilitating the role and responsibilities of NAFO Inspectors and Contracting Parties with an inspection presence in the Regulatory Area.

As log records are required to be kept up-to-date on a daily basis, the catch reporting requirement should not add unduly to the administration entailed for vessels by the hail system.

This proposal further responds, as a first step, to the observations and concerns as raised by the Scientific Council (SCS Doc. 91/19) relative to high levels of unreported catch.

**Annex 4. Japanese Proposal re Additional Catch Report**

- Part I.C.3
- (a) no change
  - (b) no change
  - (c) no change
  - (d) A Contracting Party shall ensure that vessels of that Party report the total cumulative round weight of catch by species on board at least (6) hours in advance of each entry into the Regulatory Area to the Executive Secretary through the competent authority.
  - (e) A Contracting Party shall, within 48 hours following the week in which the catches were made, report provisional weekly (Sunday to Saturday) catches by species on board and by division to the Executive Secretary through the competent authority.
  - (f) A Contracting Party shall ensure that vessels of that Party report the total cumulative round weight of catch by species taken in the Regulatory Area prior to the vessel's exit from the Regulatory Area to the Executive Secretary through the competent authority.
  - (g) The NAFO Executive Secretary shall transmit the information provided by (d), (e) and (f) above to other Contracting Parties with an inspection presence in the Regulatory Area as soon as possible.

## Annex 5. EEC Proposed Modification to the Hail System Message Format

1. The communications described below shall be entitled "NAFO REPORT". The information to be transmitted, which shall be presented in the form specified, is as follows:
  - 1.1 Each entry of the vessel into the Regulatory Area. This report shall be made at least six hours in advance of the vessel's entry and shall contain the following particulars in the following order:
    - Name of vessel,
    - Call sign,
    - External identification letters and numbers,
    - The date, the time and geographical position,
    - Indication of the message code: "ENTRY",
    - The NAFO division into which the vessel is about to enter,
    - The name of the master.
  - 1.2 Each movement from one NAFO division to another NAFO division **except** when moving between divisions 3L and 3N, and 3N and 3O under the conditions provided for in 1.3 below, and each movement from the delimited zone of 10 miles either side of the lines separating divisions 3L and 3N and 3N and 3O when the conditions set out in 1.3 no longer apply. These reports shall be made prior to the vessel's entry into a NAFO division and shall contain the following particulars in the following order:
    - Name of vessel,
    - Call sign,
    - External identification letters and numbers,
    - The date, the time and geographical position,
    - Indication of the message code: "MOVE",
    - The NAFO division into which the vessel is about to enter,
    - The name of the master.
  - 1.3 Vessels conducting trans-zonal fishery between NAFO divisions 3L and 3N or between divisions 3N and 3O which cross the line separating these divisions more than once during a period of 24 consecutive hours, and provided that they remain within the delimited zone (of 10 miles either side of the line between the divisions) shall report when first crossing the line between the divisions and at intervals not exceeding 24 hours thereafter (while remaining in the delimited zone), the following particulars in the following order:
    - Name of vessel,
    - Call sign,
    - External identification letters and numbers,
    - The date, the time and geographical position,
    - Indication of the message code: "ZONE",
    - The name of the master.

- 1.4 Each exit from the Regulatory Area. These reports shall be made prior to the vessel's exit from the Regulatory Area and shall contain the following particulars in the following order:

- Name of vessel,
- Call sign,
- External identification letters and numbers,
- The date, the time and geographical position,
- Indication of the message code: "EXIT",
- The NAFO division from which the vessel is about to leave,
- The name of the master.

## **Annex 6. Canadian Proposal to Amend the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures to Limit the Catch of Regulated Species in Small Mesh Trawls (Part II.B.3a)**

### **II.B.3a Mesh Size**

In order to avoid impairment of fisheries conducted primarily for other species and which take small quantities of regulated species incidentally:

A Contracting Party shall permit vessels of that Party fishing primarily for other species to take regulated species with nets having a mesh size less than specified in Paragraph 2, provided that

- (i) no vessels, in nets hauled in the presence of an inspector, catches regulated species in quantities that exceed 2 500 kg. in total or 10% by weight of the non-regulated species.
- (ii) no vessel has regulated species on board which taken together are in amounts in excess of 2 500 kilograms for each or 10% by weight for each, of all fish on board, whichever is greater.

### **Benefits**

The inclusion of this amendment into the Conservation and Enforcement Measures would ensure that inspectors can effectively deal with vessels that catch excessive quantities of regulated species with small mesh trawls and thereby eliminate or minimize the capture of juvenile fish.

### **Rationale**

The present measure links the allowable regulated catch in a small mesh trawl to the quantity on board a given vessel. Under existing circumstances, this requirement enables master(s) to use small mesh nets and catch significant quantities of regulated species in the presence of an inspector. The inspector cannot "confirm" the composition of regulated vs. non-regulated catch in the hold of a vessel nor can he/she determine whether the catch in the hold was taken with large or small mesh gear.

The Canadian proposal enables inspectors to issue citations of apparent infringements for those instances where significant quantities of regulated catch are observed in a small mesh trawl. Such a measure may result in the issuance of citations of apparent infringements when vessels inadvertently catch regulated species with small mesh gear during legitimate non-regulated fisheries, however, these exceptional cases could be dealt with through dockside inspections that would determine the composition (i.e. percentage of non-regulated versus regulated) on board a given vessel. Such a process would then clearly identify vessels that frequently use non-regulated fisheries as a means to fish regulated species with small mesh nets.

## Annex 7. Canadian Proposal to Introduce the Requirement to Complete Production Logbooks for Fisheries in the NAFO Regulatory Area (Part I.C.2(a) and Schedules)

### Part I.C.2 - Recording of Catch

For fish taken subject to Commission measures, a Contracting Party shall ensure that all vessels of that Party fishing in the Regulatory Area record:

- i. their catches on a daily basis. All logbook entries listed in Schedule II shall be completed in accordance with its instructions and using the codes specified therein, and
- ii. the estimated cumulative catch on a daily basis in the form prescribed in Schedule III.
- iii. the cumulative production by species and product form as prescribed in Schedule \_\_ (subject to final format).

### Benefits

The inclusion of this amendment into the Conservation and Enforcement Measures will enhance an inspector's ability to determine the quantity of fish on board a given vessel in relation to reported or logged catch and thereby more effectively determine if vessels are operating in accordance with Commission measures.

### Rationale

Production logbooks are a common control mechanism required in most jurisdictions and completed, in some form, by all fishing masters. Production logbooks, or records of daily production by species and product type improve the inspector's ability to ascertain product weight on board and, consequently, total round weight taken by a given vessel. During vessel inspections, inspectors must complete two (2) related exercises:

1. Volumetric hold measurements including the application of stowage factors to determine product weight on board.
2. Comparison of his/her determination of product weight (and round weight through the application of conversion factors) with the master's record of catch.

The introduction of production logbooks in the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures will ensure a higher level of accountability with respect to documentation of catch on board a vessel. Presently, inspectors must deal with the many variables associated with reconciling a round weight(s) recorded in fishing logs in relation to a volume of product on board. One of these variables (conversion factors) could be eliminated through the introduction of production logbooks as this would enable inspectors to draw a **direct** comparison between his/her estimation of production and the master's record of production **prior** to the application of appropriate conversion factors



to determine total round weight. Any significant discrepancies could result in the issuance of citations of apparent infringements or product weight discrepancies.

The Canadian proposal will result in a **standard** production record format for a process that is used by all fishing masters that operate in the NAFO Regulatory Area. This standard format will provide inspectors with access to information that will enhance their ability to determine the catch taken by a given vessel.

**Annex 8. Proposal by Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland)  
re Stowage of Products**

Catches processed shall be stowed so that each species is stowed separately. Products of the same species may be stowed on several places in the hold, but only when visibly separated from products of other species.

The master shall maintain a stowage plan showing the location of the products in the hold.

## Annex 9. Canadian Proposal to Amend the Provisional Monthly Catch Reports

The monthly provisional catch reports for the current year do not include catches of all species that are fished in the NAFO Regulatory Area. Examples are: skate in all divisions in the Regulatory Area and Greenland halibut in Div. 3M.

Catches of these species are included in the annual reports on provisional nominal catches produced in the subsequent year in preparation for the June meeting of the NAFO Scientific Council. Such catches may also be mentioned in the monthly reports of logbook catch statistics for the current year.

The omission of certain catches from the monthly provisional catch reports means that no cumulative total catches by Contracting Party are maintained throughout the year although catches of the omitted species may be significant. High catches of the omitted species may also indicate significant by-catches of regulated stocks.

It is proposed that catch reports for the following species be added to the monthly provisional catch reports for the current year:

|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Catfish -           | 3L, 3NO, 3M |
| White hake -        | 3NO, 3M     |
| Witch flounder -    | 3M          |
| Skate -             | 3L, 3NO, 3M |
| Flounder NES -      | 3L, 3NO, 3M |
| Greenland halibut - | 3NO, 3M     |

NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION  
CONSERVATION AND ENFORCEMENT MEASURES  
ANNUAL RETURN OF INSPECTIONS, CATCH RECORD DISCREPANCIES,  
APPARENT INFRINGEMENTS AND DISPOSITION AS APPROPRIATE

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, CATCH RECORD DISCREPANCIES AND APPARENT INFRINGEMENTS

Total Number of Catch Record Discrepancies: \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

\_\_\_\_\_

## Annex 11. Annual Return of Surveillance Information in Compliance with the Hail System

### NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

Annual Return of Surveillance Information in  
Compliance with the Hail System  
(to be used by Authorities of Contracting Parties  
conducting surveillance)

Contracting Party: \_\_\_\_\_

1. General surveillance record

| Number of air hours<br>flown on NAFO patrol | Total number<br>of sightings |
|---|------------------------------|
|   |                              |

2. Surveillance record balanced by Contracting Parties

| Contracting Party<br>whose vessels are<br>surveyed in the<br>Regulatory Area | Number of surveillance<br>reports/established with<br>the date, time, position<br>of sightings | Number of surveillance<br>reports which do not<br>correspond with "hail<br>system" reports |
|--|--|--|
| Bulgaria   |  |  |
| Canada   |  |  |
| Cuba   |  |  |
| Denmark (on behalf<br>of Faroes & Greenland)                                 |  |  |
| European Community   |  |  |
| Iceland  |  |  |
| Japan  |  |  |
| Norway   |  |  |
| Poland   |  |  |
| Romania  |  |  |
| Russia   |  |  |
| TOTAL  |  |  |

Date of Return: \_\_\_\_\_

Reported by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

## NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

Annual Return of Surveillance Information in  
Compliance with the Hail System  
(to be used by Authorities of Contracting Parties  
conducting surveillance)

Contracting Party: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Details of established discrepancies of surveillance and "hail system" reports

[illegible]

Date of Return:

Reported by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Annex 12. Canadian Proposal re NAFO Observer Scheme

### Recommendation

That the Fisheries Commission endorse initiation of a possible international Observer Scheme to monitor fishing by Contracting Party vessels in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

That the Fisheries Commission direct STACTIC to meet as soon as possible following the 1991 Annual Meeting of NAFO to discuss implementation in 1992 of a pilot project to test operation of an international Observer Scheme in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

That STACTIC report to the Fisheries Commission with a report and recommendations for implementation of a pilot project by **31 December 1991**.

That the Fisheries Commission assess the operation of the pilot project at the 1992 Annual Meeting of NAFO, including the possibility of increasing minimum coverage levels to 15% in 1993 and 20% in 1994.

### Benefits of an International Observer Scheme in the Regulatory Area

The use of fisheries observers on board Contracting Party vessels fishing in the Regulatory Area would be a cost-effective method of monitoring compliance with NAFO management decisions and the provisions of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures.

It would provide a way to obtain biological sampling data from Contracting Party fisheries in the Regulatory Area as required by the Scientific Council.

### Principles

Each Contracting Party would be responsible for:

- deploying on their vessels fishing in the Regulatory Area trained individuals to observe fishing operations in accordance with criteria agreed by STACTIC and approved by the Fisheries Commission;
- ensuring that a minimum of 10% of its total estimated fishing effort (days on ground) for 1992 are "observed" in such a way as to ensure coverage across as many NAFO managed stocks and NAFO divisions as possible;
- paying all costs associated with their obligations under the pilot project;
- advising the Executive Secretary of the scheduling and movement of their vessels on which observers are deployed for subsequent transmission to Contracting Parties with an inspection presence in the Regulatory Area;
- tabling with the Fisheries Commission at the 1992 Annual Meeting of NAFO a detailed report assessing the operation of the pilot project on their vessels and outlining administrative and operational problems that should be addressed by the Fisheries Commission.

**Functions of the Observers**

- To monitor their assigned vessel's compliance with NAFO management decisions and the provisions of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures.
- To report their observations to Contracting Party authorities and to send a copy of their reports to the NAFO Executive Secretary for onward transmission to Contracting Parties with an inspection presence in the Regulatory Area.
- To conduct biological sampling in accordance with guidelines and a work plan established by the Scientific Council.



### Annex 13. Chairman's Proposal re Trial Observer Scheme

STACTIC recommends to the Fisheries Commission that a Trial Observer Scheme be applied, containing following elements:

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Duration:           | 12 months   |
| Vessels observed:   | Only vessels from the same Contracting Party as the Observer.   |
| Initiative:         | Up to each Contracting Party  |
| Task:               | Monitoring compliance with NAFO rules. In addition (if the Contracting Party so prefers) scientific sampling.   |
| Observers' reports: | To be sent only to own Contracting Party.   |
| Coverage:           | Up to each Contracting Party  |
| Financing:          | NAFO budget   |
| Evaluation:         | Each Contracting Party submits a report to NAFO within 2 months after end of trial period. Reports should also address the questions of feasibility and cost-effectiveness. |

## Annex 14. Canadian Proposal re NAFO Licensing Scheme

### Recommendation

That STACTIC endorse implementation of a licensing scheme for vessels of Contracting Parties fishing in the Regulatory Area.

That STACTIC develop the parameters for such a scheme and propose methodology so that Contracting Parties can determine acceptable limitations on the numbers of vessels each Contracting Party should have as a maximum operating in the Regulatory Area, based on quota levels and legitimate fishing possibilities.

### Rationale for Licensing Scheme

Licensing schemes are used around the world as fisheries management tools. There are basically two ways a licensing scheme can operate. First, it could just be a means of generating revenue or of collecting statistics on how many vessels are fishing. Secondly, it can be used as a method to control the number of vessels (i.e., limited entry), that have access to a given resource, to a level that can harvest that resource without risk of exceeding quotas.

Article II of the **Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries** notes that:

The Contracting Parties agree to establish and maintain an international organization whose object shall be to contribute through consultation and cooperation to the optimum utilization, rational management and conservation of the fishery resources of the Convention Area.

The concept of licensing is but one of a number of management tools available to manage fisheries resources on a rational basis as stated in the NAFO Convention.

The basic reason for "limited entry" licensing is to balance resource availability with fishing capacity.

Part III, Section D of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NAFO/FC Doc. 91/7, Revised) states that each year each Contracting Party shall notify the Executive Secretary of all vessels of that Party of more than 50 gross tons engaged in fishing or in processing of fish in the Regulatory Area. In the past, it appears that many have viewed this as merely an administrative requirement and have dutifully complied by submitting long lists of vessels that **could possibly** fish in that year. However, in many cases, the lists of vessels from a Contracting Party are considerably greater than the number of vessels required to fish their quota.

The presence of, or potential presence of so many vessels from one Contracting Party can lead to considerable overfishing of a particular stock.

Therefore, in order to effectively deal with Article II of the NAFO Convention, STACTIC recommends that the Fisheries Commission approve a licensing scheme to control the number of vessels of any Contracting Party operating in the Regulatory Area each year.

### Methodology

Recognizing that each Contracting Party has different size vessels, fishing patterns, etc. each Contracting Party should consider the following in developing a licensing system to limit the number of vessels sufficient to harvest its quotas and consistent with its ability to control its fleet:

- Division of its allocation (of a particular stock) between the various gear types/fleets;
- Establishment of a catch rate for the various vessels and gear types;
- Determination of the appropriate number of vessels with associated periods of time relating to the assigned quotas;
- This information is then forwarded to the Executive Secretary for distribution;
- Inspectors boarding a vessel would confirm that the vessel is fishing in accordance with a license.

### **Annex 15. Implementation of the Minimum Cod Size (40 cm) for the Regulatory Area**

Information on implementation of the minimum cod size (40 cm) in the Regulatory Area presented to the NAFO Secretariat by the EEC was distributed to the Contracting Parties on 15 January 1992 (GF/92-017). In the EEC presentation the following concerns were expressed:

- a minimum size which is only applicable in certain parts of the Regulatory Area would be almost impossible to control;
- consideration should be given to the specific rules which may be required for the implementation of this measure; and, with respect to this:
- a uniform method to be used for measuring the fish;
- it should be decided whether the retention on board of vessels of any undersized fish should be absolutely prohibited or whether it should be permitted as by-catch.

The Contracting Parties were requested to provide their proposals to the NAFO Secretariat no later than 5 February 1992 for presentation of the summary of proposals to STACTIC. As a result, by 7 February comments were received from the EEC only and those comments are attached to this paper.

Directorate-General for Fisheries  
XIV/C/3

Dear Dr. Chepel,

Introduction of a minimum 40 cm length for Cod  
in the NAFO Regulatory Area

I refer to your letter of 15 February 1992, Ref GF/92-017 seeking the views of Contracting Parties on the implementation of a minimum size for cod in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

I can confirm the Community's position which, as stated at the 13th Annual Meeting is that we fully support the introduction of this measure provided it applies to the whole of the Regulatory Area. To apply it only in certain divisions would not allow for effective control.

Concerning enforcement of minimum fish sizes, the Community takes the view that no tolerance should be allowed. The 40 cm minimum length should be regarded as an absolute minimum and there should be no provision made for permissible "by-catches" of undersize fish.

With regard to measurement used to determine fish size, the Community favours the standard ICES method related to total length, whereby the size of a fish is measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail fin.

Yours sincerely,

(original signed by)

A. LAUREC  
DIRECTOR

Dr. L. I. Chepel, Exec. Sec.  
Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization  
P. O. Box 638  
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B2Y 3Y9  
CANADA

## **Annex 16. Length Measurements for Fish Resource Appraisal by the Danish Delegation**

### **Fish**

Length measurements of fish are standardized into three different methods: Total length, Fork length and Standard length, for definition of these measures see the attached drawings. In resource appraisal studies only the two first methods are applied and total length is used whenever feasible. This is also the case for fish in the North Atlantic and more specific in the NAFO region. ICES and ICNAF in 1965 jointly agreed to use total length except for tunas and salmonids, where fork length is used. The length measurement should be made on fresh fish, fish will shrink when frozen.

### **Shrimp**

Length measurements of shrimps, prawns and nephrops are made on the carapace (see drawing).

### **Units**

Lengths are to be recorded in metric units (m or cm). Further, length is usually recorded to "the centimeter" or "the half centimeter" below, which means that a fish of 20.7 cm is recorded as 20.5 cm when measured to the "half cm below" or 20 cm when measured to the "cm below" and often reported as such. That is for practical reasons when recording data. Cod is recorded to the cm below, but when analyzing for selectivity, the appropriate 1/2 cm is added.

The following pages are copies from two standard text books on marine resource appraisal.

# Introduction to tropical fish stock assessment Part 1—Manual

by  
**Per Sparre**  
Marine Resources Service  
Fishery Resources and Environment Division  
FAO Fisheries Department  
Rome, Italy

**Erik Ursin**  
Consultant  
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**Siebren C. Venema**  
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FAO  
FISHERIES  
TECHNICAL  
PAPER

306/1

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FOOD  
AND  
AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION  
OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS  
ROME 1989

## 1.5 Definitions of body length

In the present context, "body length" means the average body length of a cohort. Individual fish are not considered in the models. When talking about "the length of an animal" in connection with a model it is always tacitly assumed that it is the "average length of the animals of a cohort". The estimate of average length, however, is derived from averaging the length measurements of individual specimens. The actual measure used for body length is not important as far as the theory behind the growth model is concerned. It is common practice to use the "total length" measured to the "nearest unit below" unless anatomical details make it not practicable (see Fig. 1.5.1). "Fork length" may be used for fish with stiff caudal fins (tunas) or special fin shapes (Nemipteridae). The "standard length" is not recommended for length frequency sampling. Ron or Barry

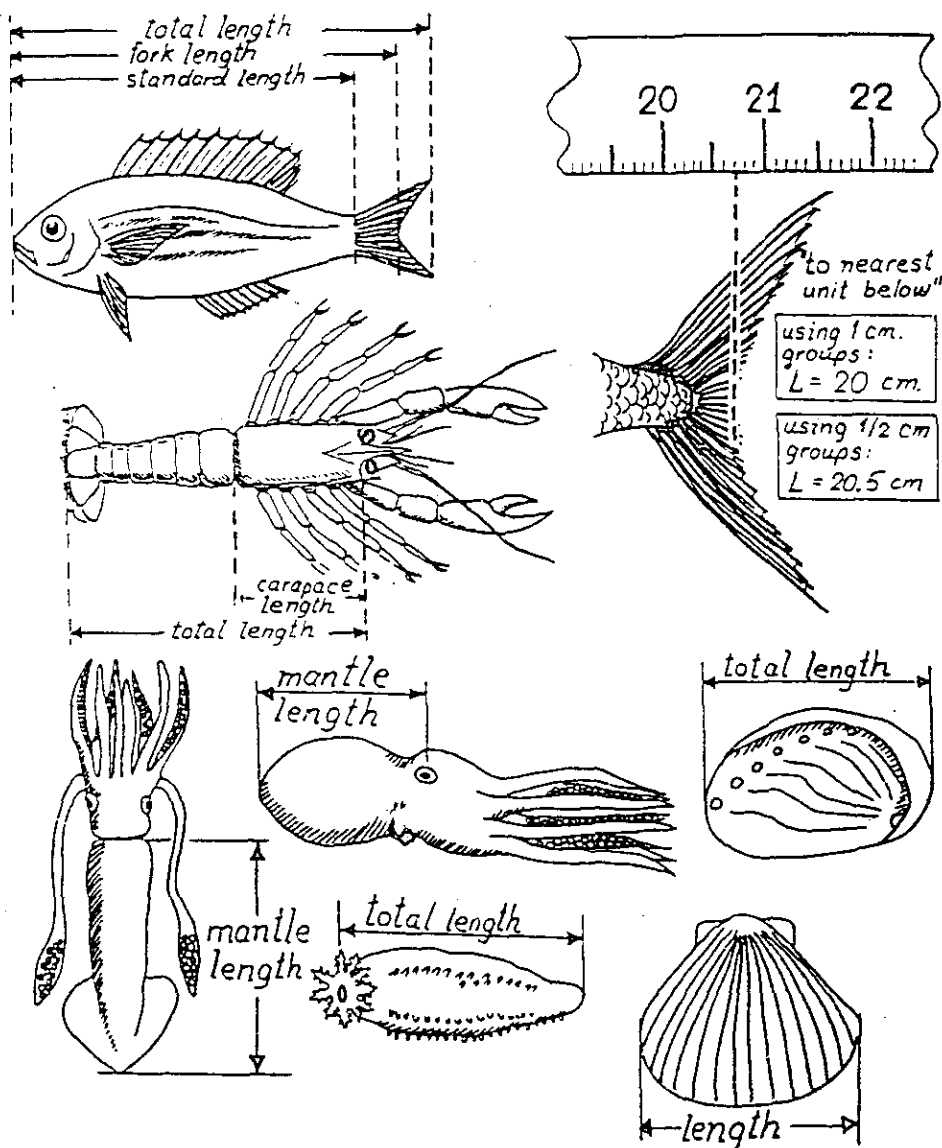


Fig. 1.5.1 Definitions of body length



## Annex 17. Concluding Remarks by the Canadian Delegation

For the most part we have had very constructive discussions of the various papers and issues that have been tabled at the meeting. I would particularly like to express our appreciation to you Mr Chairman for your efforts to focus our discussion and point to relevant issues and identify where there may be common views. We have examined both points of principle and technical aspects. It has been a useful meeting but I must express Canada's concern that we have failed to recognize the very real urgency of the issues we are discussing. Last June and at the annual meeting our scientific colleagues issued a warning and a challenge. They concluded that unreporting and misreporting of catches are so prevalent that they are no longer able to conduct proper scientific assessment of NAFO managed stocks. What they were certain of was the depletion of fish stocks is continuing. The state of 3M cod is particularly relevant indeed our current mandate very much reflects the decision of the Fisheries Commission in 1990 where it agreed to lift the moratorium. The decision to do so was contingent on the implementation of more effective surveillance and control measures.

STACTIC was instructed to proceed with immediate action on designing a hail system which was originally to be in place in January of 1991. We were also told to consider a number of longer term measures. In 1991 several further NAFO quotas were further reduced and I have mentioned the Scientific Council has highlighted what was in effect a control problem.

Despite real efforts to make the existing system work estimates of catches in the Regulatory Area for 1991 by Canadian surveillance authorities suggest that no real reduction has occurred. As you all know this is a problem which Canada's Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has been raising and highlighting in the International forum for the last little while. We therefore are concerned about the lack of urgency which perceive to find ways and means to introduce additional measures which will address this serious problem.

Canada is not wedded to any of our proposals we are conscious that there may be various ways to achieve the same management objectives. In our view a package approach can serve to address the various constraints which different Contracting Parties face. Obviously real effort limitation will greatly reduce the cost involved in the control problem for the remaining vessels. The cost of a 10 percent observer coverage depends on whether you have 149 vessels or a number which more approximates the resources available. But effort limitation as one of our colleagues has observed has significant political dimensions. For this reason we accept that any NAFO licensing system must have some flexibility and we recognize the competence of Contracting Parties. We are and continue to be always open to alternate suggestions. In a couple months time we will be advising our heads of delegations at the Special Fisheries Commission meeting which Canada has requested to provide for an authoritative debate and to make decisions on effective International Control Measures, decisions which we have not been able to make here today or this week.

Canadian stock holders, Canadian industry, Canadian government, Provincial government, are all watching NAFO very closely and we recognize that the effectiveness of International bodies is improved by slow gradual incremental steps, but our patience is running out and the special meeting must produce some concrete results. Thank-you.

