

PART II

Report of the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)

**31st Annual Meeting, 21-25 September 2009
Bergen, Norway**

1. Opening of the Meeting (Chair: Mads Nedergaard, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Island and Greenland))

The Chair opened the meeting at 1400 hours on Monday, 21 September at the Radisson SAS Royal Hotel in Bergen, Norway and welcomed representatives of Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), EU, France (in respect of St. Pierre-et-Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Norway, the Russian Federation, the United States and the NAFO Secretariat to the STACTIC meeting.

No opening statements were made.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Mr. Peter DeCola (United States) was appointed rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Chair introduced the agenda and opened the floor to comments. The following comments were made:

- The representative from Canada suggested adding the following discussion items under agenda item 5, but then later agreed to bring these issues up during course of meeting as appropriate:
 - Product labeling
 - Duration of an inspection
 - Documentation of permits
 - Inspection Party composition
 - Shrimp strengthening bags
- The Chair noted that Fisheries Commission (FC) had approved STACTIC's recommendation to establish an editorial board to review and better organize the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEMs).
- Representatives from Canada and the EU both stated that the points on bycatch and shared quotas referred back to STACTIC by the FC are not appropriate issues to be addressed by STACTIC, but are policy issues that should be handled by the FC. The Chair agreed with their comments and decided to place these two items under agenda item 10.
- The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) requested to add a proposal to its working paper on catch reporting under agenda item 8iii.

The agenda was adopted with these modifications (Annex 1).

4. Compliance Review 2008 including review of reports of apparent infringements

The Chair introduced the agenda item and requested that the Chair of the Compliance Report Drafting Group (DG) made a presentation on the compilation of fisheries reports and the 2008 annual compliance review process (STACTIC Working Paper 09/18).

Consensus of the representatives was that the report:

- Needed to summarize the enforcement data presented (with full data set in the background on the NAFO secure website or made available at the Contracting Party's (CP) request);
- Needs to focus on assessing the effectiveness of specific conservation and enforcement issues to determine success; and
- Should be able to show trends (i.e. fishing vessel effort) as well as historical statistics.

It was agreed that a wider mandate for the DG was necessary to expand upon what is currently included in compliance report to make it more useful. It was also noted that information in several STACTIC working papers could be combined into the report (specifically, STACTIC Working Papers 09/10, 09/12, 09/14, and FC Doc. 09/05), and DG explored how to best consolidate this information. The representative of Canada suggested to STACTIC that the working paper on objectivity be consolidated in some fashion into the compliance report, but that specific formula used to assess objectivity be eliminated since several representatives noted that this measure was not particularly useful. Chair agreed with this approach, and noted that more detailed CP level information should not be included in the compliance report, but that this report should only contain summary information. The DG also suggested that the working papers containing detailed information on inspections and apparent infringements be eliminated since this information is available in summary form in FC DOC 09/05 and in the compliance report. This information could be made available on secure portion of NAFO website instead, or upon request of CPs.

It was agreed that the DG will continue to brainstorm potential metrics for measures of effectiveness to include in future compliance reports and will also liaison with Secretariat concerning additional information needed to make such changes to the compliance report. Recommendations regarding changes to the compliance report will be presented at the intercessional meeting.

To begin addressing concerns raised by several representatives concerning quality of COE/COX/observer reports, STACTIC agreed to include a summary of Secretariat's experience with various reports received from CPs such as catch, observer, and inspection reports in the this year's compliance report. After further thought and discussion, the Chair requested that the Secretariat look further into this matter and work with Canada to share their experiences and identify where the breakdown is and recommend appropriate solutions.

The Chair thanked the Compliance Report Drafting Group for its work to date and directed it to continue working closely with the Secretariat to prepare another draft for the 2010 NAFO intercessional meeting.

It was agreed to adopt and submit STACTIC Working Paper 09/18 Rev2 to the Fisheries Commission.

5. Review and evaluation of NAFO Compliance objectives

The Chair opened the agenda item and asked the representative of Canada to summarize its previously introduced discussion paper presented at the last STACTIC intercessional meeting entitled NAFO Compliance Tools/Measures Possible Discussion Topics (STACTIC Working Paper 09/08). Discussion centered on the following items:

a) Electronic/Satellite/Remote Monitoring

- Two hour intervals for VMS data is insufficient to monitor compliance with respect to closed areas. One hour reporting is necessary to effectively enforce VMEs (small sponge/coral areas).
- Data on course and speed is very helpful from a compliance perspective to determine whether a vessel is fishing or transiting through an area.
- The representative of Iceland noted that the additional polling and data would not be expensive to add.

It was agreed to forward STACTIC Working Paper 09/13 to the Fisheries Commission for adoption.

b) In-Port/Land based Monitoring

- The representative of the EU submitted a checklist for landing procedures STACTIC Working Paper 09/17.

The representatives will reflect on this proposal and provide input at the STACTIC intercessional meeting.

c) At-Sea Monitoring

- The representative of Canada submitted a discussion paper on joint enforcement (STACTIC Working Paper 09/15) to formalize a protocol based on joint inspections with the United States over the past few years to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Joint Inspections and Surveillance Scheme and improve the proficiency of inspectors in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA).

The representatives will reflect on this proposal and provide input at the STACTIC intercessional meeting.

d) Aerial Surveillance

The representatives will reflect on this matter and provide any comments at the STACTIC intercessional meeting.

6. Review of current IUU list pursuant to NAFO CEM Article 57.3

The Chair opened the agenda item and the following discussion points were made:

- The fishing vessel Aquamarine II was delisted from the NEAFC IUU list and several other vessels rendered permanently inoperable are candidates for delisting.
- Discussion ensued as to whether NAFO should have its own procedures for delisting permanently inoperable vessels.

It was agreed to wait until NEAFC addresses this issue at their annual meeting in November (London) and see if their procedures meet NAFO's needs. This item will be addressed at the next STACTIC intercessional meeting.

It was also agreed to adopt STACTIC Working Paper 09/11 (NAFO IUU List Update). The agenda item was closed.

7. Implementation of Port State Measures

The Chair opened the agenda item and the following discussion points were made:

- The FAO is done with their port state measures agreement, but this has not yet gone through the process of being adopted.
- The reporting requirements under NEAFC and NAFO are different and can present challenges to CPs.
- It is desirable to look at the FAO framework and the representative from the EU has the intention to make proposals, if appropriate, that would harmonize Port State measures with other schemes dealing with IUU issues.
- The representative of Canada drafted a discussion paper dealing with the flag state competent authority (STACTIC Working Paper 09/22) as part of a seven working paper submission under agenda item 10.

It was agreed to adopt and submit STACTIC Working Paper 09/22 Rev to the Fisheries Commission. The agenda item was closed.

8. Possible Amendments of Conservation and Enforcement Measures

i. Automated COE/COX comparison between NAFO and NEAFC reports

The Chair opened the agenda item and noted that this has been a long-standing issue. The representative of Iceland noted that they looked into this issue previously, but the COE/COX messages forwarded to NAFO and NEAFC must be improved before these reports can be compared automatically.

As noted in Agenda item 4, the Chair requested that the Secretariat look further into this matter and work with Canada to share their experiences with problematic reporting and identify where the breakdown is and recommend appropriate solutions.

The agenda item will be reviewed when appropriate.

ii. Editorial Changes to the CEM

The Chair opened the agenda item and noted that the Fisheries Commission approved an Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) to make editorial changes to the CEMs.

- It was agreed that three contracting parties (Canada, European Union, and United States) would comprise the EDG.
- The anticipated timeline for this work would be one year.
- It was agreed that most work can be done via e-mail and the EDG can meet a day or 2 before the STACTIC intercessional meeting.
- Representatives not participating in the EDG are encouraged to provide comments to the EDG through the Secretariat.
- The main tasks for the EDG are:
 - Clean up/reorganize text.
 - Remove antiquated comments.
 - Make suggestions for new measures.

It was agreed that the EDG would provide a status report at the next STACTIC intercessional meeting.

iii. Improved catch reporting in the shrimp fisheries

The Chair opened the agenda item and discussed what eventually became a joint proposal by representatives from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) and Iceland contained in STACTIC Working Paper 09/19 to eliminate varying catch reporting requirements by modifying to either a standard weekly or daily catch report requirement. As a general rule, catch reporting was introduced as a weekly requirement for all fisheries and daily reporting in certain fisheries.

The Chair noted that hopefully, the e-logbook, which will be introduced as an experiment in the near future, will solve many of the reporting requirements.

It was agreed to adopt and submit STACTIC Working Paper 09/19, Rev. 3 to the Fisheries Commission. The agenda item was closed.

9. Omega Mesh Gauge

The Chair opened the agenda item and asked the representative of the EU to provide a demonstration of the electronic mesh gauge device. A presentation was provided on the history of the electronic gauge project and the current design specifications of the gauge. A demonstration on how to use this equipment was also given.

Several representatives noted that their inspectors were testing the electronic mesh gauge. While there are initial indications of positive performance of this device, there was hesitance to recommend its full scale implementation until more experience with the device is obtained.

This item will be revisited at an appropriate time.

10. Other Matters

The Chair opened the agenda item and the following issues were discussed:

i. Location of STACTIC Intercessional Meetings

The representative of Iceland submitted a proposal under STACTIC Working Paper 09/16 to reduce the costs and rigor of travelling for the STACTIC intercessional meetings by alternating meeting locations every other year.

It was agreed that for planning purposes, the STACTIC intercessional meeting should be held during a fixed period each year (some time in first two weeks in May) and at a more convenient location.

ii. Bycatch Retention and Landing Requirements

The representatives suspended discussion on this matter pending further developments related to the reopening of fisheries under moratorium.

It was agreed that STACTIC would refer the matter back to the Fisheries Commission for further clarification.

iii. Shared Quotas

There is concern regarding the transfer of shared quotas between CPs. There is a need to determine if the Fisheries Commission intended for CPs in a shared quota arrangement to be able to transfer the right to catch shared quota to another CP. By way of further explanation, shared quota (e.g., Sub-Area 2 & Div. 1F+3K Redfish) is allocated to certain CPs on a first-come, first-served basis so that none of these CPs has exclusive right or "ownership" of such quota. It seems inconsistent, therefore, with the concept of "shared" quota for one of these CPs to be able to transfer the right to fish for such quota, up to and including the entire quota, if such CP does not exclusively "own" that quota.

It was agreed to refer this matter to the attention of the Fisheries Commission.

iv. Canadian Discussion Papers

The representative of Canada presented the following discussion items, submitted as STACTIC working papers intended to continue discussions on common compliance matters.

- 09/20 – Duration of an Inspection
- 09/21 – Inspection Party Composition
- 09/23 – Product Labeling
- 09/24 – Verification of Authorization to Fish
- 09/25 – Shrimp Strengthening Bags
- 09/26 – Net retrieval time

It was agreed that further reflection and consultation with industry is necessary. These issues will be deferred to the next STACTIC intercessional meeting.

11. Election of Vice-Chair

Mr. Gene Martin (United States) agreed to serve another term and will serve as Vice Chair for the next two years.

12. Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next meeting of STACTIC will take place in the Faroe Islands in May, 2010.

13. Adoption of Report

The report was adopted by the representatives.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1622 on Wednesday, 23 September 2009.

Annex 1. Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair, Mads Nedergaard (Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Compliance review 2008 including review of reports of apparent infringements
5. Review and evaluation of NAFO Compliance objectives
 - a) Electronic/Satellite/Remote Monitoring
 - b) In-Port/Landing based Monitoring
 - c) At-Sea Monitoring
 - d) Aerial Surveillance
6. Review of current IUU list pursuant to NAFO CEM Article 57.3
7. Implementation of Port State Control Measures
8. Possible Amendments of Conservation and Enforcement Measures
 - i. Automated COE/COX comparison between NAFO and NEAFC reports
 - ii. Editorial changes to the CEM
 - iii. Improved catch reporting in the shrimp fisheries
9. Omega Mesh Gauge
10. Other matters
 - i. Location of STACTIC Intersessional Meetings
 - ii. Bycatch Retention and Landing Requirements
 - iii. Shared Quotas
 - iv. Canadian Discussion Papers
11. Election of Vice-Chair
12. Time and Place of the next STACTIC Meeting
13. Adoption of Report
14. Adjournment