

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

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PART I

Report of the General Council (GC Doc. 10/5)

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

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

1. Opening by the Chair

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

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

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

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

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated (Annex 16).

4. Admission of Observers

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

5. Publicity

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9. Status of the NAFO Headquarters Agreement

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

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

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

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

11. Administrative Report

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

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

12. Report of the Executive Secretary on External Meetings

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

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

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

13. International Relations

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

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

IV. Finance (Agenda items 14-15)

14. Report of STACFAD at the Annual Meeting

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

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

15. Adoption of the Budget and STACFAD recommendations for 2010

STACFAD made the following recommendations to the General Council:

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

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

General Council adopted the first six recommendations presented by STACFAD.

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

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

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

16. Election of Vice-Chair

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

17. Time and Place of Next Annual Meeting

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

18. Other Business

There were no other matters raised under this item.

19. Press Release

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

20. Adjournment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This is why NAFO is so important.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I wish you a successful and productive meeting.

Thank you.

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

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Annex 4. Opening Statement by the Representative of Canada

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

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

Mr Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Finally, the United States wishes to bring attention to the upcoming Fifth International Marine Debris Conference that will take place March 20-25, 2011, in Honolulu, Hawaii. The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United Nations Environment Programme are co-sponsoring this conference. International cooperation is needed to increase public awareness and develop ways to reduce the serious and growing impacts of marine debris on oceans and sea life. Please consider attending the conference and visiting its website, www.5imdc.org.

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

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

Mr Chairman, distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

Annex 8. Opening Statement by the Representative of Cuba

Good morning.

Mr. President, Dear delegates,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you very much.

Annex 9. Opening Statement by the Representative of Japan

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

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

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

Concerning recovery of southern Grand Banks cod:

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

Concerning protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you.
Bruce Chapman

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

Mister Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Fellow Observers and guests,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

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

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

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

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

Thank You.

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

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

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

Halifax, Canada
20 September 2010

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹ <http://www.climatefish.org>

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

Annex 16. Agenda

I. Opening Procedure

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

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

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

III. Coordination of External Affairs

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

IV. Finance

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

V. Closing Procedure

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

Annex 17. 2010 Annual Meeting Press Release

NAFO Takes Stock Further Progress made on International Fishery Management

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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2010 Annual Meeting Press Release

24 September 2010

Backgrounder

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Meetings

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

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

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

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

Species Division/Contracting Party	Cod			Redfish				American plaice		Yellowtail 3LNO		
	3L	3M	% of 3M Cod TAC	3NO	3LN	% of 3LN Redfish TAC	3M	3O	Sub-Area 2 and Div. 1F+3K		3LNO	3M
Canada		80	0.80	0	2556	42.60	500	6000	385 ^{2,4}	0	0	16575 ⁵
Cuba		370	3.70	-	588	9.80	1750		385 ^{2,4}	-	-	-
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		2235	22.35	-	-		69 ¹⁹		9627 ^{2,3}	-	-	-
European Union		5703 ^{2,5}	57.03	0 ¹¹	1094 ^{2,6}	18.23	7813 ¹²	7000	9627 ^{2,3} 2503 ^{2,15}	0	0 ¹¹	-
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-		-	-		69 ¹⁹		385 ^{2,4}	-	-	340 ⁵
Iceland		-		-	-		-		9627 ^{2,3}	-	-	-
Japan		-		-	-		400	150	385 ^{2,4}	-	-	-
Korea		-		-	-		69 ¹⁹	100	385 ^{2,4}	-	-	-
Norway		925	9.25	-	-		-		9627 ^{2,3}	-	-	-
Russia		647	6.47	0	1726	28.77	9137	6500	9627 ^{2,3}	-	0	-
Ukraine								150	385 ^{2,4}			
United States of America		-		-	-		69 ¹⁹		385 ^{2,4}	-	-	-
Others		40	0.40	0	35	0.60	124	100	-	0	0	85 ⁵
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	*9	10000 ²³	100.0	*9,20	6000 ^{16,24}	100.0	10000 ⁸	20000	12516 ^{10,17}	*21	*9	17000 ^{21,22}

Species	Witch		White hake	Capelin	Skates	Greenland halibut	Squid (Illex) ¹	Shrimp	
	3L	3NO						3L	3NO
Division/Contracting Party	3L	3NO	3NO	3NO	3LNO	3LMNO	Sub-areas 3+4	3L	3NO
Canada		0	1765	0	2000	1910	N.S. ⁶	15991	
Cuba		-		0		-	510	214	
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		-		-		221	-	214	
European Union		0 ¹¹	3529	0 ¹¹	7556	7466 ¹⁸	N.S. ⁶ 611 ¹³	1069 ¹⁴	
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-		-		208	453	214	
Iceland		-		-		-	-	214	
Japan		-		0		1305	510	214	
Korea		-		-		-	453	214	
Norway		-		0		-	-	214	
Russia		0	353	0	2000	1624	749	214	
Ukraine						-		214	
United States of America		-		-		-	453	214	
Others		0	353	-	444	0 ⁷	794	0	
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	^{*9,20}	^{*9}	6000	^{*16,9}	12000	12734	34000 ²⁰	19200 ²⁷	^{*9}

* Ban on fishing in force.

- Any quota listed for squid may be increased by a transfer from any "coastal state" as defined in Article 1, paragraph 3 of the NAFO Convention, provided that the TAC for squid is not exceeded. Transfers made to Contracting Parties conducting fisheries for squid in the Regulatory Area shall be reported to the Executive Secretary, and the report shall be made as promptly as possible.
- The Executive Secretary shall notify without delay all Contracting Parties the dates on which accumulated reported catch taken by vessels of Contracting Parties estimated equal to 50% and then 100% of that allocation.
- Quota to be shared by vessels from Denmark (Greenland and Faroe Islands), European Union, Iceland, Norway and Russia. Catches in the NAFO Convention Area shall be deducted from the quotas allocated in the NEAFC Convention Area.
- Quota to be shared by vessels from Canada, Cuba, France (St. Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, Korea, Ukraine and USA.
- Contracting Parties shall inform the Executive Secretary before 01 December 2010 of the measures to be taken to ensure that total catches do not exceed the levels indicated.
- The allocation to these Contracting Parties are as yet undetermined, although their sum shall not exceed the difference between the total of allocations to other Contracting Parties and the TAC (= 29,458 tons).

7. In 2005, the previous 935 t "Others" quota was assigned to three Contracting Parties. When the TAC exceeds 30,000 t the next 1,300 t beyond 30,000 will be allocated to an Others quota which can be accessed by those who do not hold Greenland halibut allocation. In deciding the relevant contributions of Contracting Parties to the 1,300 t Others quota, the Fisheries Commission will take into account the fact that some Contracting Parties received a benefit from the 935 t quota which was reassigned in 2005.
 8. Not more than 5000 tons may be fished before 01 July 2011. The Executive Secretary shall notify without delay all Contracting Parties of the date on which, for this stock, accumulated reported catch taken by vessels of the Contracting Parties is estimated to equal 50% and then 100% of the TAC.
 9. The provisions of Article 12, paragraph 1.b) of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures shall apply.
 10. In the case of the NEAFC decision which modifies the level of TAC in 2011 as compared to 2010, these figures shall be accordingly adjusted by NAFO and formalized through a mail vote.
 11. Including fishing entitlements of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union and in accordance with sharing arrangements of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission at its Annual Meeting in 2003 (FC Working Paper 03/7).
 12. Including allocations of 1571 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania out of a sharing of 20,000 tonnes, following their accession to the European Union.
 13. Allocations of 128 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as well as 227 tonnes for Poland out of a TAC of 34,000 tonnes, following their accession to the European Union.
 14. Including allocations of 214 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland out of a TAC of 19,200 tonnes, following their accession to the European Union
 15. Allocation of 2,234 tonnes for Lithuania and 269 tonnes to Latvia following their accession to the European Union.
 16. Applicable to 2011 and 2012.
 17. The quota shares in footnotes 4 and 15 can only be fished in the NAFO Regulatory Area. If an increase in the overall TAC as defined in footnote 10 leads to an increase in these shares, the first 500 tonnes of that increase shall be added to the quota share referred to in footnote 4.
 18. Including an allocation of 418 tonnes for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union.
 19. Notwithstanding the provisions of footnote 8 and without prejudice to future agreements on allocations, these quotas may be fished in their entirety by these Contracting Parties.
 20. Applicable until at least 2013.
 21. In lieu of Article 12.1 (a) and (b) of the CEM, the following by-catch provisions for American plaice only in the 3LNO yellowtail fishery shall apply: Contracting Parties fishing for yellowtail flounder allocated under the NAFO allocation table will be restricted to an overall Am. plaice by-catch harvest limit equal to 13% of their total yellowtail fishery as calculated in accordance with Article 12.1 (c). For 2010, the by-catch percentage will increase to 15% unless a Scientific Council projection indicates that this rate is likely to undermine stock recovery or cause an unreasonable delay in reaching B_{lim} , in which case the increase may be subject to a reassessment by the Fisheries Commission.
 22. Following the NAFO annual meeting and prior to January 1 of the succeeding year, at the request of the USA, Canada will transfer 1000 tonnes of its 3LNO yellowtail quota to the USA.
 23. The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1998 Quota Table. In 1999, a moratorium on cod in Division 3M was declared.
 24. The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1997 Quota Table. In 1998, a moratorium on redfish in Division 3LN was declared.
 25. Including fishing entitlements of 111 tons each for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in accordance with sharing arrangements of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission at its Annual Meeting in 2003 (FC Working Paper 03/7) and allocation of 209 tons for Poland following their accession to the European Union.
 26. Including fishing entitlements of 297 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in accordance with sharing arrangements of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission at its Annual Meeting in 2003 (FC Working Paper 03/7) following their accession to the European Union.
- For 2012, the TAC will be reduced to 17,000 tonnes. This TAC will be reviewed on available Scientific Council advice on this stock.

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

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

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