

SECTION II
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**Report of the General Council and its Subsidiary Body
(STACFAD), 33rd Annual Meeting
19-23 September 2011
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada**

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PART I

Report of the General Council (GC Doc. 11/3)

33rd Annual Meeting, September 19-23, 2011 **Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada**

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

1. Opening by the Chair

The 33rd Annual Meeting of NAFO was convened on 19 September 2011 at 0900 hrs at the Westin Hotel, Halifax, NS, Canada, with 180 delegates present from all twelve NAFO Contracting Parties (Annex 1). The NAFO President and GC Chair, Terje Lobach (Norway) welcomed all delegates to the meeting. Statements followed by Canada, the European Union, the United States of America, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), Cuba, Japan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Republic of Korea. (Annexes 2-10).

Opening statements were also made by the observer from the FAO and NGO observers from the Ecology Action Centre (EAC)/Pew Environmental Group, the Atlantic Chapter of Sierra Club Canada, and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) (Annexes 11-14).

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 15).

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 Norway on behalf of NAMMCO. Furthermore, the following NGOs which had been granted observer status were also present: the Ecology Action Centre (EAC), the Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club of Canada (SCC), the Pew Environment Group 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 items of agenda General Council recommended to investigate the Recommendations addressed by the NAFO Performance Review Panel relevant to STACFAD only.

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. All twelve NAFO 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, Canada and EU have completed the ratification process. Other Contracting Parties reported on progress made in their internal processes. In light of the recommendations made by the Performance Review Panel, Contracting Parties were encouraged to ratify the Amended Convention as soon as possible.

9. Status of the NAFO Headquarters Agreement

Canada reported that its domestic approval process for the Headquarters Agreement is proceeding, and NAFO will be informed of any developments.

10. NAFO Performance Review

The Report of the NAFO Performance Review Panel was presented by Dr Denzil Miller, Panel Member in absence of the Panel Chair. Contracting Parties thanked the Panel for their comprehensive report. The NAFO Secretariat was thanked for their administrative and information support given to the Panel. The list of recommendations was compiled in GC WP 11/2 (Rev). It was decided to divide the recommendations into two groups. Panel recommendations that pertained to individual NAFO Constituent Bodies were forwarded to the Bodies for their review during this meeting. A General Council Working Group on the future of NAFO on the development of plans of action necessary for the implementation of the recommendations of the NAFO Performance Review Panel was established. This Working Group will investigate the second group of recommendations that involve policy issues and more than one Constituent Body. The Working Group Terms of Reference, composition, chair, timing and venue were adopted (GC WP 11/11, Rev. + GC WP 11/8, Rev.) (Annex 16).

11. Administrative Report

The Executive Secretary presented the Administrative and Financial Report (GC Doc. 11/1 (Rev)). The Report was accepted with no comments.

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

12. Report of the Executive Secretary on External Meetings

The Executive Secretary presented a report on his recent activity at the UN Workshop on the implementation of UNGA Resolutions 61/105 and 64/72 during 15-16 September 2011 on sustainable fisheries, addressing the impacts of bottom fishing on VMEs and long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks. This matter was referred to the Fisheries Commission.

The following meetings were attended by various members of the NAFO Secretariat (GC Doc. 11/1, Revised):

- PECCOE of NEAFC (October 2010 and May 2011)
- Advisory Group on Data Communications (AGDC) of NEAFC (October 2010 and May 2010)
- PICES Annual Meeting (October 2010)
- FAO By-catch technical consultations (December 2010)

- COFI (January - February 2011)
- RSN (February 2011)
- International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS) (April 2011)
- vTrack User Group Meeting (May 2011)
- 5th International Symposium on GIS/Spatial Analyses in Fishery and Aquatic Sciences (August 2011)

13. International Relations

Reports by the following nominated NAFO observers were presented: Norway from the annual 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) from the annual meeting of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) and the United States of America from the annual meeting of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC). These Contracting Parties all agreed to continue to observe the next meetings on behalf of NAFO.

IV. Finance (*Agenda items 14-15*)

14. Report of STACFAD at the Annual Meeting

The STACFAD Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA), presented the STACFAD Report (Part II of this Report). She noted particular items dealt with this week which included the adoption of the budget for 2012, the Auditor's Report for 2010, personnel matters, the formalization of a NAFO Internship Program, discussions on the accessibility by observers to attend NAFO meetings, the increase to the unfunded status of the NAFO pension plan requiring additional payments and reviewing the future action plan to deal with the NAFO Performance Review Panel recommendations relating to finance and administrations issues.

15. Adoption of the Budget and STACFAD recommendations for 2012

Based on recommendations by STACFAD, the General Council:

- (1) adopted the 2010 Auditors' Report;
- (2) appointed WBLI Chartered Accountants to audit NAFO's records for the 2011, 2012 and 2013 fiscal periods;
- (3) agreed 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 2012, and of which \$85,000 would be a contingency fund available for use in emergency situations;
- (4) agreed the NAFO Internship Program be established as outlined in the STACFAD Report (Annex 3) effective January 2012, with corresponding funds to be included in the 2012 budget and following years;
- (5) adopted the budget for 2012 of \$1,875,000 (STACFAD Report, Annex 5);
- (6) appointed the three nominees, Bill Brodie, Estelle Couture and Deirdre Warner-Kramer, to serve as Staff Committee members for September 2011-2012;
- (7) agreed that the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chairs of the NAFO bodies, Contracting Parties and outside experts as appropriate, conduct an overall analysis of the Secretariat's structure and needs to ensure that it can continue to meet its growing workload into the future. The analysis should review the staff structure, position descriptions, performance management systems, training and skills development programs, office space needs, and any other relevant issues. The results of this analysis and any resulting proposals should be reported annually by the Secretariat to STACFAD for its consideration; and,
- (8) agreed further that this work be considered by any body established by General Council to devise action plans and timetables for implementation of the other recommendations of the Performance Review Panel.

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

Veronika Veits (EU) was elected as the General Council Chair for a term of two years. It was noted that the Vice-Chair position is now vacant.

17. Time and Place of Next Annual Meeting

The Russian Federation kindly offered to host the next annual Meeting during 17-21 September in 2012 in St. Petersburg. The invitation was gratefully accepted. The dates for future annual meetings were decided to be 23-27 September 2013 and 22-26 September 2014. These meeting will take place in Halifax, NS, Canada unless an invitation is received by a Contracting Party.

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 Chair thanked the participants for their cooperation over the last four years of his tenure and thanked the Secretariat for their support.

The Chair was thanked on behalf of all Contracting Parties for his excellent, efficient and impartial work on advancing the work of this Organization, particularly in regards to the Convention reform and the Performance Assessment.

The meeting was adjourned on Friday, 23 September 2011 at 1600 hours.

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Annex 2. 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 once again welcome you all back to Halifax, and I wish to thank the Executive Secretary and his staff for their excellent work in coordinating and arranging this meeting.

NAFO has in recent years taken numerous steps to rebuild fish stocks, and this year we'll have additional discussions on conservation plans and rebuilding strategies, management strategy evaluation. NAFO has recognized the need for a good and strong science base as fundamental for proper management of marine living resources. Management could further benefit from the newly adopted FAO International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards. Despite considerable management effort, the status of many fish stocks continues to be on very low levels. But there are also some promising signs, and the spawning biomass increase for some of the stocks is of course very encouraging.

Protection of ocean habitats and deep sea biodiversity has become an important item on the international agenda. NAFO has put a lot of effort into addressing issues related to vulnerable marine ecosystems, both from a scientific and management angle. NAFO has, based on current scientific knowledge adopted a comprehensive framework in response to the calls from the United Nations General Assembly to address bottom fishing and vulnerable marine ecosystems. A summary of the actions taken by NAFO in response to these calls, was given by the Executive Secretary in New York last week at the UNGA Workshop to discuss the resolutions addressing the impact of fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems and long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks, and I would like to use this opportunity to thank him for an excellent contribution to that workshop. 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. In this regard the Executive Secretary will give a brief later this morning from the UNGA Workshop.

Significant progress has also been made in improved actions to be taken to ensure that conservation and management measures are implemented and complied with. NAFO has been in the lead combating IUU fishing. The importance of coordinated port State measures has been recognised by the international community as a cost-effective way of fighting IUU fishing, and the FAO agreement from 2009 is a milestone in this regard. Consequently NAFO should consider the impact that agreement may have on its system of port State measures.

Four years ago a new convention was adopted, incorporating modern principles concerning management of living marine resources. This new legal framework has been acclaimed by the Performance Review Panel. But ratifications are very slow and only 3 ratifications have been deposited. WE still have a long way to go as 9 ratifications are required for the amended Convention to come into force. I reminded all Contracting Parties earlier this year about their obligations, and we'll hear later in this meeting about their respective internal processes.

In response to several calls from the international community, a NAFO Performance Review has now been undertaken, and a comprehensive report has been prepared by the panel. The report will be presented late today, and then we'll have to decide how to respond to the panel's assessments and recommendations.

Close cooperation and collaboration are essential to achieving our common goals of stock recovery, conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources. 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 3. Opening Statement by the Representative of Canada

Mr. President, distinguished delegates, observers, ladies and gentlemen. On behalf of Canada, it is a great pleasure to offer you a warm Atlantic Canadian welcome to Halifax for the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization.

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.

Halifax is the capital of a province where the fishery has long been a cornerstone of everyday life.

Throughout Nova Scotia, and the Atlantic region as a whole, our economy and our communities were founded on the wealth of the fishery. Our prosperity is still directly linked to its abundance.

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.

NAFO's governing principles have been modernized and enforcement measures are developed and implemented in a co-operative manner.

Recent patrol missions have paired our own enforcement personnel with representatives of the United States, Russia and the European Union and we have collaborated with French officials on in-port inspections. We are open to more of those types of missions with other NAFO partners.

There remains work to be done, but the significant improvements in monitoring, control and surveillance have resulted in a decline in serious infractions in the regulatory area.

We are pleased to see that substantial progress has been made on the conservation and protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems. NAFO made important progress in identifying vulnerable marine ecosystems in the NAFO Regulatory Area and in taking action to protect them.

We have already implemented several important measures, including ground-breaking deep-sea research through the NIERIDA program to better understand our ecosystems. 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.

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 key stocks, including 3NO cod, 3LNO American plaice and 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut. 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.

One of the highlights of this year's meeting will be consideration of the final report of the NAFO Performance Review Panel.

The performance review has taken over a year to complete, and offers us a comprehensive look at NAFO's strengths, weaknesses, challenges and successes.

Canada believes the review accurately reflects the history of this organization and we support the panel recommendations. At this years meeting we need to decide how to put these recommendations into action.

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. Our collective commitment to putting conservation as the number one priority in managing fisheries resources is a tremendous step.

In closing, let us mark the occasion of this 33rd annual meeting of NAFO by rededicating ourselves 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 4. Opening Statement by the Representative of the European Union

Mr Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour and a pleasure for me to head for the first time the delegation of the European Union at this Annual Meeting in beautiful Halifax and I would like to thank the NAFO Secretariat for their excellent preparation of this meeting.

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

Our record of the past year is heartening. At the last Annual Meeting in September 2010, NAFO adopted a range of management measures for its stocks as well as agreed provisions aimed at protecting Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems strictly in line with scientific advice. This has made NAFO a frontrunner amongst RFMOs for the protection of the VMEs and implementation of UNGA Resolutions 61/105 and 64/72. NAFO also made a ground-breaking decision regarding one of its most important stocks, Greenland halibut, by adopting a new management procedure that was refined and finalised just a few weeks ago.

In the course of the past year, NAFO has undergone the process of Performance Review. The work of the review panel has materialised in a comprehensive report which we have before us. The EU is convinced that this document will be instrumental in addressing any shortcomings in the performance of the Organisation in the months and years to come and we are very keen on getting this work started as soon as possible.

Thanks to the efforts of various Working Groups of NAFO Fishery Managers and Scientists this year, the Organisation will be able to take concrete steps for the rebuilding of two of its important stocks – American Plaice in Divisions 3LNO and cod in Divisions 3NO. On the basis of the preparatory work of the respective Working Group we should also be able to make further progress in relation to the protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems.

The report of the Scientific Council includes both encouraging and worrying signs for a range of stocks. The EU hopes that NAFO will continue the path of taking responsible management decisions for conservation and sustainable use of NAFO resources in line with scientific advice.

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

Thank you.

Annex 5. 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 back in beautiful Halifax, Nova Scotia, once again for the 33rd 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 our appreciation for the efforts undertaken by those involved in the NAFO Performance Assessment. We are pleased with the quality and thoroughness of this work and fully support the recommendations of the Assessment Panel. Now we must decide how to best use this information. Along these lines, the United States would strongly support the development of an implementation plan at this meeting. We believe such a plan should both identify Panel recommendations that could be implemented immediately and also describe a process for prioritization and implementation in the longer term.

In terms of other work undertaken during the recent intersessional period, the United States was pleased with the progress made in both the Greenland Halibut Management Strategy Evaluation Working Group (relative to exceptional circumstances) and the Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies Working Group. We remain concerned about the status of the Greenland halibut resource and it is our hope that issues relating to overages in this fishery can be resolved in the near term. We look forward to further progress on these issues at this meeting.

The United States was also pleased to participate in the discussions of the Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists (WGFMS) on VMEs. During the Working Group meeting, the United States raised a number of substantive issues that we would like to discuss in greater detail this week. First, we feel strongly that NAFO should set a timetable for assessment (or reassessment) of all of its fisheries relative to their impacts on VMEs. Second, NAFO should take appropriate steps to increase available fishery-dependant data for use in assessments. Finally, based on recent discussions within the SC, there is a need to greatly reduce the encounter clause threshold for sponges. We would also note that there appears to be a lack of consensus among Parties regarding the how and when scientific information and advice should be considered by this Working Group. In our opinion, this question must be resolved in a way that ensures that the Working Group –which was purposely designed to include both NAFO fisheries managers and scientists -- is empowered to develop integrated, scientifically based management recommendations for consideration by the Fisheries Commission. If necessary, the WG terms of reference should be modified to allow this to happen.

Finally, the United States would again like to state our opinion that conservation and management measures for all NAFO-managed stocks should be consistent with scientific advice and the precautionary approach. As we have noted in the past, we remain particularly concerned regarding the TAC set for NAFO thorny skate in excess of scientific advice. However, skates are not the only NAFO stock in this situation --and we would urge Parties to agree on appropriate action to address this problem.

I thank you all for your attention and look forward to working with you.

**Annex 6. Opening Statement by the Representative of Denmark
(in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)**

Mr Chairman, distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen

Greenland and the Faroe Islands are pleased to be back in beautiful Halifax for the second consecutive year for the 33rd Annual Meeting of NAFO.

The Performance Review Panel has now successfully completed its work and submitted a comprehensive report, including a large number of recommendations. We look forward to discussing here this week how we can best organise our efforts to take the necessary action on these recommendations. The aim is of course for the performance review to guide us in continuing to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of fisheries conservation and management in NAFO

We would like to thank the Performance Review Panel warmly for the hard work they have all put into this task.

We have noted with satisfaction that the advice from the Scientific Council for cod in Division 3M in 2012 is similar to last year's advice. Our delegation recognises that last year's increase or almost doubling of the TAC did not result in adverse impacts on the stock. Certainly, this demonstrates that the precautionary approach that we have adopted is succeeding in practice, and we hope to see similar positive trends for other stocks in the Convention area in the coming years.

With respect to shrimp we are concerned about the declining trend of the stocks in both Divisions 3L and 3M. We need appropriate measures in place in order to rebuild these stocks, but we are also aware that factors other than fisheries may have even greater significance for the rapid changes we see in these shrimp stocks.

The important work of protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems in the Northwest Atlantic is an area in which NAFO can be proud of its achievements to date. This progress was noted by the North Atlantic Fisheries Ministers at their annual Conference this year, which was hosted in Tórshavn by the Faroese Fisheries Minister to coincide with World Oceans Day on the 8th of June. I would like to refer to you to the joint Communique from that meeting which will be circulated as an information document.

Our delegation hopes that the progress to address UN resolutions on sustainable fisheries will be duly acknowledged in all relevant contexts. In addition to improving measures to minimise the impacts of fisheries on the marine ecosystem, we must also keep a strong focus on the vital role of sustainable fisheries in providing healthy food and economic development.

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 looking forward to working constructively with all delegations in the week ahead of us to bring the many issues on our agenda to a successful conclusion.

Thank you.

Annex 7. Opening Statement by the Representative of Cuba

Good morning everybody.

Mr. President, distinguish delegates and observers.

On behalf of the Republic of Cuba and the Cuban delegation to this 33rd Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, let us express our gratitude to the Canadian authorities for the opportunity to meet once again in this beautiful city of Halifax.

The Organization has made significant progress in ensuring that all together, compromise ourselves in addressing the conservation challenges before us, but still we have a lot of work ahead.

The adoption of the amended Convention constitutes the first step to achieve more credibility of the Organization among the other Regional Fisheries Organizations. Cuba is making real efforts to complete the process of ratification before the end of the year and urge Contracting Parties to do the same as a sign of their commitment to the Organization.

This year we will again face and discuss important matters resulting from the work of NAFO Performance Review Panel and working Groups of Fishery Managers and Scientists on Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies, Greenland Halibut Management Strategy Evaluation and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems.

The Cuban delegation looks forward to work with all Contracting Parties in an understanding atmosphere to achieve the common goal which is the recovery of stocks, the conservation and sustainable use of the marine resources in the Convention Area for the sake of future generations.

Thank you very much.

Annex 8. Opening Statement by the Representative of Japan

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like, first of all, to express my sincere appreciation to the Government of Canada for hosting the 33rd Annual Meeting of NAFO and to the Chair of the Commission, Mr. Terje Lobach, Executive Secretary Dr. Vladimir Shibanov and his staff for coordinating and arranging this meeting.

I would also like to thank you all, on behalf of the Government and people of Japan, for the condolences conveyed and assistance extended to the victims of the earthquake and subsequent tsunami which hit the Northeast coastal area, one of the key areas of fishing industry of Japan March this year.

A fishing company which was planning to send its vessel to NAFO area this year was among those hit hardest in the region. The company lost several employees and its processing factory was destroyed and therefore it had no choice but to abandon its plan to engage in fishing activities in the convention area this year.

However we are pleased to note that the people in the region are making strenuous efforts to recover from the unprecedented devastation and the company in question is determined to come back to the Convention area early part of next year so that Japan will be able to work with Contracting Parties of NAFO, which, I am sure everyone around the table will agree, has been and continues to be playing a leading role among the RFMOs in the conservation and reasonable utilization of marine living resources.

Lastly, Mr. Chairman, I am looking forward to working with you and all the colleagues for the success of this meeting.

Thank you.

Annex 9. Opening Statement by the Representative of the Russian Federation

Mr Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure for the delegation of the Russian Federation to be here in Halifax, Nova Scotia, for the 33rd NAFO Annual Meeting.

Let me express our gratitude to Canada for its hospitality as the hosting country and convey special thanks to the NAFO Secretariat led by Dr. Vladimir Shibanov, the Executive Secretary, for professional performance in the intersessional period and the excellent arrangements provided for organizing of this Annual Meeting.

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

NAFO activities in the period from the last annual meeting are marked by a number of important events. First of all, in line with the UN General Assembly Resolutions and following to the decision of the 32nd NAFO Annual Meeting, the Performance Review of the Organization was undertaken. It was an honour and pleasure for the Russian side to have its representative as the internal expert of the Performance Review Panel. The panel has fulfilled a very important task on reviewing and assessment of NAFO performance during the period from adoption of the 1978 Convention until present days.

In the final report of the Panel it is noted that NAFO has proved to be one of the most efficient and effective global fisheries organizations which can be commended for its achievements in application of precautionary and ecosystem approaches, strengthening of monitoring, control and surveillance scheme, effective management of stocks, by-catch reducing measures, multi-year stocks protection plans, enhanced transparency of the Organization and other activities.

The final Report of the Performance Review Panel not only highlights the successes and achievements of NAFO, but also draws attention to the challenges or issues of concern in the performance of the Organization, which should be addressed by the Contracting Parties. We hope that in the coming days we will discuss the recommendations developed by the Performance Review Panel and agree on the most adequate and effective decisions in this regard.

Mr.Chair, in 2007 the Parties adopted the Amendment to the 1978 Convention. To enhance effectiveness of the Organization performance it is very important that the strengthened NAFO Convention comes into force as soon early as possible. We believe that Contracting Parties have made considerable progress in carrying out the procedures necessary for ratification of the new Convention by their authorities.

Dear delegates, the North West Atlantic remains one of the most productive global fishing grounds important both to coastal communities and international fisheries. Russian fishermen show increasing interest in exploitation of fishery resources of this region and this is why NAFO's work is so important to us.

It is worth noting that while significant progress has been achieved, there are a number of outstanding issues related to sustainable management and conservation of fish stocks, scientific research and protection of living marine resources under NAFO purview, solving of which require further multilateral cooperation.

With this in mind we are fully prepared and look forward to working with all Contracting Parties in the week ahead of us in a constructive way to find the best solutions to the matters on our agenda, thus proving the leading role of NAFO in contemporary sustainable fisheries management.

We look forward to an interesting and productive week, and wish every success to our meeting.

Thank you.

Annex 10. Opening Statement by the Representative of Ukraine

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

On behalf of the Ukrainian delegation, let me express our gratitude to Canada for its hospitality as the hosting country and the NAFO Secretariat for its professional work and excellent organization of the 33rd NAFO Annual Meeting in the marvelous city of Halifax.

The Organization together with the other regional organizations on fisheries management contributes a lot not only to ensure responsible use of aquatic living resources but also to stock replacement. Not many RFMO managed to achieve such impressive results as NAFO did in respect of cod. I believe this experience should be extended as the one that really proves the possibility for responsible fishing in principle, herewith regulated on the level of organization with multiple members.

I would like also to dwell on such a sore subject as methodology of determination (allocation) of catch quotas between certain members of organizations. Most of them take into account so called historical experience. In our opinion, giving high priority to this factor leads to reasonable questions concerning justice from both fishermen and governmental structures. Thus, those who ask refer to the provisions of Agreement on implementation of the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, relating conservation of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks and its management (known as the Agreement on straddling stocks), under which the states, that are not members of the organization, are called to registration of such membership, and on the other hand organizations are encouraged to cooperate with such states. Currently, the prevalence of exclusively historical approach, interests of relatively new members of organizations actually are not taken into consideration. This does not allow the fishermen of these countries to perform more or less profitable fishing.

I think, we should continue the discussion on this subject considering the changing status of some stocks of the regulation zone and changes in Ukrainian policy aimed at the modernization of Ukrainian fleet.

I hope for productive work during the session and wish all of you courage and cheerfulness, so that our fishermen do not reproach us with our decisions' adoption.

Thank you.

**Annex 11. FAO Statement to the 33rd Annual Meeting
of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)
19-23 September 2011, Halifax, NS, Canada**

Matthew Camilleri
Fishery Liaison Officer
Fisheries and Aquaculture Department
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Rome, Italy

It is FAO's pleasure to be present at the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and would like to thank the Secretariat for having extended its invitation to the Organization. FAO cherishes the relationship it has developed over the years with NAFO and looks forward to further strengthening collaboration in the promotion and implementation of responsible fisheries management and conservation of living marine resources and ecosystems.

FAO will follow your deliberations over the next few days with interest and is particularly keen to hear about the results of the completed Performance Review for NAFO which will surely pave the way for its reinforcement, placing it in a better position to face the demanding challenges of fisheries management, conservation, enforcement and control in the coming years. FAO notes with satisfaction that a good number of management and technical measures for fish stocks in the Regulatory Area and those straddling national fishing limits will be discussed along with more general conservation plans and management strategies. The special focus on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems, climate change and the International Guidelines on By-catch Management and Reduction of Discards is also extremely appreciated by FAO.

Earlier this year, the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) held its twenty-ninth session and registered a record number of participants. The Committee acknowledged that progress was being made in the implementation of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (Code of Conduct) and its instruments, including through the significant efforts of Regional Fisheries Bodies which generally recognize that the Code of Conduct provides a comprehensive set of principles upon which they could elaborate their own management strategies. However, in view of the continued threats posed to sustainable fisheries and the maintenance of productive and healthy ecosystems by Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and fleet overcapacity, COFI called for further initiatives to promote the implementation of the FAO International Plans of Action and stressed the importance of monitoring, control and surveillance, including vessel monitoring systems, to improve fisheries conservation and management. In this regard, the Committee also emphasized the importance of the coming into force, as soon as possible, of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing which is considered to be a key, potent and cost-effective tool to combat IUU fishing. FAO is encouraged by the fact that several of its Members have commenced, and some concluded, internal procedures for the ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to this Agreement¹. Within the context of Article 21 of the Agreement, FAO has already initiated steps for capacity development programmes in developing countries to combat IUU fishing through port State measures.

Additionally, in relation to IUU fishing, a Technical Consultation on Flag State Performance was held in May 2011 with the main aim of drafting criteria to assess flag state performance with respect to their compliance with their duties under international law to achieve sustainable fisheries and in combating IUU fishing. A second Technical Consultation is scheduled to take place in March 2012 in order to complete the exercise and produce a complete set of criteria for onward submission to COFI for endorsement. Moreover, during its last session, COFI reiterated its support for the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record) as another useful tool to combat IUU Fishing and proposed that FAO continues to work on the matter, on the basis of the results of the Technical Consultation on the Global Record held in November 2010, in consultation with, *inter alia*, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs).

¹ 23 Signatures (including European Union), 1 Ratification, 1 Approval (European Union) and 2 Accessions (as at 14th September 2011).

FAO is striving to raise the profile of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in international fora and programmes dealing with climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation, including in the preparations for the seventeenth Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). FAO's programme for fisheries, aquaculture and climate change is expanding, with the valuable collaboration of other international partners, and focuses on supporting its Members to respond and adapt to the impacts of climate change on fisheries and aquaculture and to benefit from any emerging opportunities. As recommended by COFI, this programme is executed in harmony and compliance with the Code of Conduct and the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) and the Ecosystem Approach to Aquaculture (EAA).

FAO continues to play a central role in the integration of fisheries development and management, biodiversity conservation and environmental protection, in collaboration with other international organizations, non-governmental and inter-governmental organizations, as well as Regional Fisheries Bodies. It promotes the EAF as the most appropriate framework to apply this integration and considers activities related to the establishment of MPAs, restocking programmes, protection of fish refugia, impact assessments, together with the implementation of the FAO guidelines on deep sea fisheries as highly relevant biodiversity conservation tools.

As mentioned earlier, FAO is pleased to see that NAFO will be reviewing the International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards which were endorsed at COFI's 29th Session. As you are aware, the Guidelines have been drawn up to assist States and RFMOs to effectively manage bycatch and reduce discards as called for by the Code of Conduct and the EAF. Large quantities of unwanted species are caught, and often unreported, annually by fisheries throughout the globe and millions of tonnes, including commercially important species, are discarded; these practices pose a serious threat to sustainable fisheries. We believe that NAFO has the capacity to act as a role model in the implementation of these guidelines and to develop management plans to minimize the capture and mortality of unwanted species and sizes, reduce discards and improve reporting of any bycatch and discard quantities which may persist.

In conclusion, FAO would like to express its appreciation for the sterling work being carried out by NAFO and its commitment to enhance the sound management of responsible fishing activities and the conservation of fisheries resources and ecosystems in the Region. We wish you a fruitful meeting and we look forward to welcoming you at the 30th Session of COFI and the fourth meeting of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network in July 2012.

**Annex 12. Opening Statement by the Ecology Action Centre /
Pew Environment Group to the NAFO 33rd Annual Meeting
Halifax Nova Scotia, September 19th, 2011**

Mister Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Fellow Observers, welcome to Halifax.

On behalf of the Ecology Action Centre and the Pew Environment Group we appreciate the opportunity to once again attend NAFO as observers.

Our primary concern is the mitigation of fishing impacts on the marine ecosystem for which NAFO has competence. 2011 is an important year for the deep-sea as the UNGA will review the progress taken over the past five years to implement UNGA resolutions 61/105 and 64/72.

It was noted last week at the UN Review Workshop that efforts to implement these resolutions have resulted in a regime shift in RFMOs. We commend NAFO and its Contracting Parties for progress to date – including closing 18 areas to fishing activity and conducting significant research to further identify VME areas.

We expect NAFO to continue these closures, and to alter their boundaries as further scientific information becomes available. We also encourage NAFO to adopt more stringent encounter thresholds to reflect scientific advice of between 30-50kgs for sponges. We expect similar scientific simulations for other VME species groups, and as well as an examination of other VMEs not currently protected through management measures. NAFO often provides a precedent for other RFMOs in this regard, and as such has an impact on conservation measures in other areas of the high seas.

Full implementation of the resolutions includes the submission of assessments of individual bottom fishing activities in order for bottom fishing activities to proceed. We remind NAFO Contracting Parties that any assessments that have been completed, even if they are viewed as data poor, must be made public as per paragraph 84 of the UNGA 61/105.

We understand the capacity challenges involved and believe that these capacity challenges can be partially dealt with by having clear protocols and data management and sharing systems for both assessments and encounters.

On the issue of deep-sea species, we urge NAFO to adopt precautionary measures for species that are caught, but for which NAFO does not have current TACs. The example of the decline of grenadiers, which have never been managed, is one that should not be repeated. NAFO needs to ensure that non-target species are managed through appropriate measures.

We encourage NAFO to continue its trajectory – to rebuild straddling stocks and protect marine diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. We support the timely implementation of the recommendations from the NAFO performance review as well as the ask of WWF for NAFO to take a leading role in coordinating workshops to identify Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas, as part of obligations to the Convention on Biodiversity.

We look forward to this week's meeting and seeing progress on our specific recommendations.

Thank you.

Susanna Fuller on behalf of the EAC and PEW

**Annex 13. Opening Remarks by the Sierra Club Canada to the 33rd Annual Meeting
of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)
September 19, 2011, Halifax, Canada**

Hello my name is Fred Winsor and I am Conservation Chair of Sierra Club Canada Atlantic.

Thank you all very much for attending. I hope we have a productive meeting. Every year we are invited to make submissions. This year is no exception. In that context we propose that the existing Marine Protected Area located near the South-west Slope of the Grand Bank be expanded to include the Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems near them and the groundfish spawning grounds bordering on the 90 metre contour line. This Marine Protected Area would extend from the zone managed by France, across the ocean shelf managed by Canada and into the NAFO zone. We understand this would provide protection for recovery of ocean habitat and commercial species. It would offer a safe stable place where all species can recover. Copies of this submission will be available later today.

Thank You.

Annex 14. Opening Remarks from WWF at the 33rd NAFO Annual Meeting September 19, 2011, Halifax, Canada

Dr. Bettina Saier
Director Oceans, World Wildlife Fund Canada
Representing WWF (global)

The World Wildlife Fund would like to thank our Canadian hosts and NAFO for welcoming us here in Halifax. We have participated in NAFO annual and scientific council meetings for the past six 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 objective: the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources while safeguarding the marine ecosystems in which these resources are found. This is in accordance with the new amendment to the NAFO convention that will hopefully be ratified soon by all contracting parties.

At this Annual Meeting, the World Wildlife Fund will measure NAFO success through addressing four priorities:

Priority 1: Southern Grand Banks cod

NAFO took an important step last year in creating a new scientist-management working group with terms of reference that are in line with best practices for a rebuilding strategy.

The strategy is exactly what WWF has been advocating for cod recovery.

To allow further stock growth, NAFO should approve the following during the 2011 annual meeting:

1.1 Adopt the Interim 3NO Cod Conservation Plan and Rebuilding Strategy contingent on the development of 3NO bycatch mitigation measures by no later than the 2012 Annual Meeting.

1.2 Amend Article 12 (1) (b) of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures, so that in cases where a ban on fishing is in force, bycatch of the species concerned **shall** not exceed 625 kg or **2.5 %**, whichever is the **lowest** for 3NO cod.

1.3 Maintain the Fishery Commission working group through 2014 to allow for further updates and development of the Interim 3NO Cod Conservation Plan and Rebuilding Strategy, including the development of a mathematically explicit harvest control rule.

1.4 Ensure that bycatch requirements for all fisheries are consistent with the newly adopted **FAO International Guidelines** on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards. 2

Priority 2: Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) and Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs)

The World Wildlife Fund applauds steps NAFO has taken in recent years towards meeting the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolutions on Sustainable Fisheries (61/105 and 64/72).

In order to maintain progress and meet commitments, NAFO should:

2.1 Establish a new process for reporting and reviewing **all** possible VME encounters (e.g. through the development of reporting guidelines). The proposed reporting and review system should be applied regardless of whether or not bycatch levels meet the thresholds indicated in the encounter protocols for corals and sponges, **and** should encompass **all** possible VMEs (as classified by NAFO's Conservation and Enforcement Measures, Art. 1 bis paragraph 5 and paragraph 42 of the FAO Guidelines), which might include, but are not restricted to corals and sponges.

2.2 Amend Articles 37 and 38 of NAFO's Conservation and Enforcement Measures to **include as a serious infringement: "bottom fishing without prior submission to the Fisheries Commission of impact assessments** in compliance with NAFO's requirements on impact assessments under Article 4 bis paragraph 2.

2.3 Develop and adopt a **multi-year standardized impact assessment schedule** to fulfil the need for re-assessments in case no VMEs are found in the first instance, as provided for by the FAO Guidelines.

2.4 **Reduce the Encounter protocol threshold for sponges fished with bottom trawl gear from 800kg to 30-50 per tow**, as suggested by the NAFO Working Group on Ecosystem Approach on Fisheries Management, and **request this working group to review the encounter threshold for corals**.

2.5 **Renew all the 11 Coral and Sponge Protection Zone closures and extend the lower boundary of Area 5 (Northeast Flemish Cap) closure to the 2500m contour**.

2.6 **Co-organize a scientific regional workshop to identify EBSAs**, as requested by the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Priority 3: NAFO's performance

In order to meet its commitment to improving performance, NAFO should:

3.1 Establish a process (e.g. create a working group) for **addressing and prioritizing the recommendations from the 2011 Performance Assessment Review**.

3.2 **By 2016, conduct a transparent and independent review** of the implementation of the 2011 Performance Assessment's recommendations, as well as of NAFO's performance in light of applicable international policy and legal frameworks.

Priority 4: Transparency

Last, by not least, NAFO should

Adopt a more transparent decision-making process by providing rationale for all adopted measures, particularly when those are not entirely consistent with scientific advice.

In closing I would like to invite you to our Panda Room to further discuss our conservation approach and to attend the Census of Marine Life Presentation by Professor Ron O'Dor co-hosted by WWF, the Ecology Action Center and PEW Environment Group on Wednesday at 6:30 PM at the Westin's Mezzanine.

In July of this year, a study by Ken Frank and co-authors was published in Nature magazine. It showed that Atlantic cod off Nova Scotia is recovering from the dramatic collapse two decades ago, and that the ecosystem is recovering with them. Even though the two ecosystems are not identical by any means, this is a good indicator for the future of fisheries on the Grand Banks.

Annex 15. 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 NAFO Headquarters Agreement
10. NAFO Performance Review – Panel Report (Monday)
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 2012

V. Closing Procedure

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

Annex 16. General Council Decision regarding the establishment of NAFO General Council Working Group on the Future of NAFO on the development of Plans of Action necessary for the implementation of the Recommendations of the NAFO Performance Review Panel
(GC WP 11/11 Rev. and GC WP 11/8 Rev. now GC Doc. 11/2)

1. Terms of Reference

A General Council Working Group is established to address the recommendations in the context in which they were made by the Performance Review Panel as outlined in Annex 1 to this document.

These recommendations shall be prioritized and Plans of Action and solutions be formulated.

The Working Group shall designate which recommendations can be addressed immediately and for which Plans of Action can be established in the short, medium and long-term. The Working Group shall also recommend concrete courses of action to implement the recommendations of the Performance Review Panel in particular for the areas identified as priority.

2. Composition and Chairing of the Working Group

The Working Group shall be composed of representatives of Contracting Parties and shall be chaired by the President. Chairs of the Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council shall serve as resource persons to the Working Group.

3. Timing and Venue of the Meeting

The meeting shall take place in late March of 2012 as appropriate at the NAFO Headquarters in Dartmouth, NS, Canada. The use of electronic means should be considered for the completion of its work if necessary.

4. Administration

The Secretariat shall provide the administrative and information support to the Working Group.

5. Report

The report from the Working Group shall be provided to the Secretariat for distribution to Contracting Parties at least 45 days before the 2012 Annual Meeting. The report shall be presented by the Chair at that meeting.

PA Report Chapter/Numbers	Recommendations for more than 1 body	NAFO body responsible				
		GC	FC	SC	SECR	CPs
Chapter 3, 3.2.5	Urges NAFO to consider policy measures to bolster its commitment to ensuring the compatibility of measures adopted for the conservation and management of straddling stocks within the Convention Area. Consideration should also be given to clarifying the respective responsibilities of the coastal State and the Fisheries Commission in coordinating their respective measures and actions, so as to ensure that compatibility.		✓			✓
Chapter 6, 6.4	Notes that the provisions addressed in Part VII of the UNFSA have not been taken into account in the 2007 NAFO Amended Convention. While recognizing that this has not been an issue for NAFO, NAFO should, as appropriate, take into account the special requirements of developing States, in accordance with relevant international instruments, including UNFSA. It is suggested that the General Council may wish to further reflect on the matter.	✓				
DATA						
Chapter 6, 6.3	Encourages NAFO to continue developing, strengthening and enhancing cooperation with other RFMOs and international organizations where appropriate.	✓				
Chapter 4	Notes that high priority should be given to encouraging the timely submission of data essential for stock assessment purposes. The PRP therefore urges Contracting Parties to ensure the accuracy of the data and information collected and the timeliness their submission to NAFO. In this regard, the potential introduction of sanctions for data submission infringements, including the denial or reduction of fishing opportunities until outstanding data submissions are supplied, should be considered.	✓				✓
Chapter 4	Careful consideration should be given to developing and consolidating NAFO fishery resources data-access and utilization rules. These should take into consideration intellectual property rights related to scientific analyses as well as industrial confidentiality provisions to be attached to certain categories of data (e.g. detailed fishing location).		✓	✓	✓	
Chapter 4	Encourages NAFO to continue to address the data requirements attached to implementation of UNGA Resolution 61/105, with some urgency. All efforts should be expended to encourage the timely submission of marine living resources information to expedite the comprehensive collection of essential data to improve knowledge of the benthos, and benthic environment, in the NAFO Convention Area as a whole.			✓		✓
MANAGEMENT						
Chapter 4, 4.2.2	Suggests that NAFO consider enhancing its application of risk-based assessment approaches (e.g. the <i>Greenland Halibut Management Strategy Evaluation</i> and <i>Kobe Matrix</i>) when evaluating management strategies.		✓	✓		

PA Report Chapter/Numbers	Recommendations for more than 1 body	NAFO body responsible				
		GC	FC	SC	SECR	CPs
Chapter 4, 4.2.3	Encourages NAFO to consolidate its policy to address ecosystem management considerations, including by compiling the information necessary for evaluating trends in the status of dependent, related and associated species specifically. A consolidated list of bycatch species, for instance, should be included in the NCEM to assist monitoring of bycatch during directed fishing.		✓	✓		
Chapter 4, 4.3	Recommends that NAFO consider augmenting its efforts to implement a more EAF friendly management approach as well as to embrace the PAF more widely. If bycatch continues to be a problem, then NAFO ecosystem-based management and its EAF may fall short of best practice.		✓	✓		
Chapter 4, 4.3	Strongly encourages the development, and consolidation, of the Scientific Council's <i>EAF Roadmap</i> . It also encourages NAFO as a whole to give strategic consideration as to how the <i>Roadmap</i> may assume a more holistic focus so that it addresses ecosystem components more widely, not just those for harvested, or associated, species alone. In these terms, NAFO should focus on the sustainable use of the entire ecosystem for which it is responsible rather than just fishery-target species.		✓	✓		
Chapter 4, 3, and 4.6.2	Endorses NAFO's continuing execution of its customary (target species-directed) management requirements and assessments for the stocks that it manages. It should also strive to address new challenges associated with further development of the EAF (Section 4.3) and increased formalization of the PAF (Section 4.6.2) etc. The use of standardized, well-understood and scientifically robust approaches must continue while the needs of fishery-directed and broader ecosystem management should remain balanced.		✓	✓		
Chapter 4, 4.6.3	Encourages NAFO to review the Exploratory Fisheries Protocol with a view to developing a strategic framework for conservation and management measures for all potential new and exploratory fisheries. In this respect, NAFO may wish to take account of the way in which CCAMLR has approached the issue in terms of developing a unified regulatory framework.		✓	✓		
Chapter 4, 4.6.6	Encourages NAFO to broaden consideration of MSE-type approaches to managing other fisheries for which it is responsible.		✓	✓		
Chapter 4, 4.6.4	Recognizes that a NAFO strategic imperative should be to articulate a specific plan aimed at developing ways to conserve biodiversity. NAFO, in general, and the Scientific Council in particular, are also encouraged to formally determine the potential effects that areas closed to fishing are likely to exert in terms of affecting fishing, protecting habitats and conserving biodiversity in the <i>NAFO Convention Area</i> .		✓	✓		
Chapter 4, 4.6.4	Encourages NAFO to consider whether activities other than fishing in the <i>NAFO Convention Area</i> may impact the stocks and fisheries for which NAFO is responsible as well as biodiversity in the <i>NAFO Regulatory Area</i> . Such activities might include oil exploration, shipping and recreational activities.		✓	✓		

PA Report Chapter/Numbers	Recommendations for more than 1 body	NAFO body responsible			
		GC	FC	SC	SECR CPs
Chapter 4, 4.7	Urges the Fisheries Commission to further consider how the management of fishing, particularly of excess capacity, may augment stock sustainability and the meeting of the Convention's objectives.		✓	✓	
Chapter 4, 4.6.5	Urges NAFO to deal with lost or abandoned fishing gear in a more consistent manner. It should also consider efforts to introduce management measures to deal more widely with environmental protection issues (e.g. pollution, discarding of packaging bands etc.) likely to arise from fishing activities in the NAFO Convention Area.		✓	✓	
SCIENTIFIC ADVICE					
Chapter 4, 4.4.1	Recommends that the Fisheries Commission and the Scientific Council promptly resolve any discrepancies between STATLANT 21A catch estimates and those of STACFIS, if possible, or at least provide some guidance on how they arise, including underlying assumptions made and/or consequences anticipated.		✓	✓	✓
Chapter 4, 4.5	Consideration should be given on how dialogue between the Scientific Council and the Fisheries Commission could be strengthened, while still maintaining the intended 'philosophical' separation between them. The content of any such dialogue should be considered in terms of providing both groups with the best information available so that decisions, or actions, are based on interpretable, unambiguous and informed understanding. The detailed recommendations in Section X outline two possible areas to be considered in the interests of improving the use of the Scientific Council's advice by the Fisheries Commission. These include: Tabular presentation of key management decisions to be taken rather than decisions being obscured in other documentation. This would serve as a 'targetted framework' and could extend the use of standardized management procedures by providing more risk-based, or risk-determined scientific advice. Developing consolidated descriptions of the scientific approaches models and underlying assumptions used by the Scientific Council. This could be in the form of a users' manual outlining, with attached lay explanations, the various assessment being undertaken. Suggests that NAFO as a whole may wish to reflect on the use, and allocation, of its scientific capacity from time-to-time, although the burden of scientific input appears to be shared by all NAFO Contracting Parties in proportion to their respective fishery activities.		✓	✓	✓
COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT					
Chapter 5, 5.1	Notes that there is a need to further address the issues of equitable sharing between Contracting Parties of inspection coverage (and/or related costs - as was suggested at the		✓		✓

PA Report Chapter/Numbers	Recommendations for more than 1 body	NAFO body responsible				
		GC	FC	SC	SECR	CPs
	2003 Annual Meeting), as well as the timeliness and quality of data submitted by Contracting Parties. There is also a need to address the timely and effective follow-up of infringements.					
Chapter 5, 5.2	Recommends further harmonization of relevant NAFO rules with applicable provisions of the FAO Port States Measures Agreement. Considering that NEAFC is currently undertaking similar work, the PRP suggests that the NEAFC experience in this regard be taken into account by NAFO. To the extent possible, NAFO should also cooperate with other RFMOs to enhance the efficiency of its Port State Measures.	✓	✓			
Chapter 5, 5.1	Urges that the quality and timeliness of Contracting Party infringement follow-up reporting be improved so that Contracting Parties better meet their obligations under the Convention and NCEM. In this respect, the situation where reports are only available for 12 out of 88 citations between 2006 and 2010 is not only unsatisfactory, but should be urgently addressed.		✓			✓
Chapter 5, 5.5	Encourages NAFO to continue to cooperate with other RFMOs in the establishment and dissemination of the NAFO IUU fishing vessel list.	✓	✓			
Chapter 5, 5.5	Encourages Contracting Parties to further consider possible improvements to NAFO trade or market-related measures, in accordance with the requirements of international law. In the PRP's view this is crucial for the prevention, deterrence and elimination of IUU fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area. To the extent possible, NAFO efforts for trade related measures should take into consideration similar measures being implemented elsewhere.		✓			✓
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION						
Chapter 6, 6.3	Encourages NAFO to continue developing cooperative relationships with other RFMO/As and International Organizations, as appropriate, to achieve its objectives and facilitate its work.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES						
Chapter 7, 7.1	Urges NAFO to apply the provision contained in Article XVI of the 1978 Convention, whereby a Contracting Party which has not paid its contributions for two consecutive years, shall not enjoy the right of casting votes and presenting objections until it has fulfilled its obligations.	✓				✓
Chapter 7, 7.1	Notes that although reimbursement of the budget surplus in one year to the following year's contributions is in keeping with many other international organizations, consideration should be given to withholding any reimbursement of budget surplus amounts to Contracting Parties which are in arrears of their full contributions.	✓				✓

PA Report Chapter/Numbers	Recommendations for more than 1 body	NAFO body responsible				
		GC	FC	SC	SECR	CPs
Chapter 7, 7.5	Highlights the point that, reports should be as succinct as possible and confined to matters of substance only to improve documentation of meeting outcomes. Technical details can be provided in appendices and as far as possible reports should represent a distillation of collective views, unless otherwise decided for controversial/high priority subjects. Executive summaries of key conclusions and decisions should be provided if possible.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS						
Chapter 4, 4.4.1	The PRP noted the potential utility of VMS information in verifying stock assessment input data. It suggested that this potential should be further investigated and, in particular, possible rules should be considered to govern the use of VMS data. Such rules would be in the interests of reaching a common understanding on how and why VMS data should be used as well as on avoiding overly-restrictive usage conditions.		✓			
Chapter 4, 4.4.3	From the information available, the PRP noted that it was largely unable to determine to what extent Contracting Parties directly share fishing and research vessel data. However, the manner in which such data are used by the Scientific Council for assessment purposes strongly suggests close cooperation and significant sharing/ exchanging of such data by the NAFO body corporate.			✓		✓
Chapter 4, 4.6.4	NAFO's efforts to address potential threats to biodiversity in the <i>Convention Area</i> are largely linked to the management of relevant fisheries and their likely impacts. In this respect, NAFO has not articulated any specific plans aimed at developing ways to conserve biodiversity. The PRP sees the development of such plans as a strategic imperative for NAFO.		✓			
Chapter 4, 4.6.4	The PRP notes that NAFO has not yet attempted to formally determine the potential effects that areas closed to fishing are likely to exert in terms of affecting fishing, protecting habitats and conserving biodiversity in the <i>Convention Area</i> . NAFO in general, and the Scientific Council in particular, are encouraged to consider such matters.		✓			
Chapter 4, 4.6.4	The PRP encourages NAFO to consider whether activities other than fishing in the <i>Convention Area</i> may impact the stocks and fisheries for which NAFO is responsible as well as biodiversity in the <i>NAFO Regulatory Area</i> . Such activities might include oil exploration, shipping and recreational activities.		✓			

Annex 17. 2011 Annual Meeting Press Release

NAFO Performing Well

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Halifax, NS, Canada, 23 September 2011

An independent review by an international panel of experts assessed the performance of Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and their findings and recommendations were presented at NAFO Annual Meeting in Halifax this week. NAFO has been commended for its performance, particularly in recent years with the introduction of the Precautionary Approach, Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management and protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs).

The Panel's recommendation for further improvements to the effectiveness of NAFO as a Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) will be addressed in a working group which will formulate Plans of Action for the short-, medium- and long-term.

At this week's annual meeting of NAFO a range of conservation and fisheries management measures were adopted for twenty commercial fish stocks managed by NAFO in international waters and straddling national fishing limits based on the precautionary approach. Moratoria were continued for eight stocks and TACS established for all others. TACs have been reduced for five NAFO stocks.

To ensure the implementation of effective measures to prevent significant adverse impacts of bottom trawl activities on vulnerable marine ecosystems in the NAFO Regulatory Area based on the best available scientific information, closures of 18 areas to bottom fishing including seamounts and coral and sponge protected areas and review dates have been extended to 2014. The NAFO Scientific Council continues its work to improve knowledge on marine ecosystem in the Northwest Atlantic.

NAFO has refined Conservation Plans and Stock Rebuilding Strategies (CPRS) for protected and recovering fish stocks, Cod Div. 3NO and American plaice Div. 3LNO, based on collaborative work between fishery managers and scientists. Witch flounder in Div. 3NO will be reviewed with a potential to develop a rebuilding plan in the coming year. Under CPRS bycatch issues, which take into consideration interactions between species, will be addressed.

NAFO has implemented an agreed management strategy for fishing on Greenland halibut stocks. This strategy is based on abundance trends in surveys carried out by several Contracting Parties and aims to promote the sustainable exploitation of the resource while removing the year-to-year uncertainty from the fishery.

NAFO continues the implementation of modernizing its information and data sharing platform by developing a new secure Inspector's website and digitizing all NAFO archives and documents.

A NAFO Internship program has been established to give an opportunity for early-career individuals or students from NAFO members countries to gain experience with an international organization.

This year an election of Chairs took place. General Council will be Chaired by Veronika Veits (EU), Fisheries Commission by Sylvie Lapointe (Canada) and Scientific Council by Carsten Hvingel (Norway).

Dr. Vladimir Shibanov, NAFO Executive Secretary

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

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Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization

2011 Annual Meeting Press Release

23 September 2011

Backgrounder

NAFO is an international intergovernmental fisheries science and management body that manages the fishery in the international portion of the Northwest Atlantic. The 33rd Annual Meeting was held during 19-23 September 2011 at the Westin Hotel Nova Scotian, 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 United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO), and Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Ecology Action Centre (EAC), the Sierra Club of Canada (SCC) and Pew Environment Group.

The NAFO Performance Review Panel was established with external and internal experts. The external panel members were experts in the fields of fisheries management (Dr. Fábio Hazin, Brazil), fisheries science (Prof. Denzil Miller, Australia), and the law of the sea (Mr. Milton Haughton, Belize). The internal experts were nominated by NAFO Contracted Parties as follows: Canada (James Baird), Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) (Einar Lemche), the European Union (John Spencer) and the Russian Federation (Olga Sedykh). In addition, the Chair of STACTIC (Gene Martin, USA) acted as an information resource for the Panel. The Panel assessed the performance of NAFO against the objectives set out in the NAFO Convention and other relevant international legal instruments addressing the conservation and management of marine living resources and made recommendations on how NAFO can further improve. Positive outcomes were noted by the Panel. Some recommendations made by the Panel were addressed during the meeting and an internal Working Group has been established by NAFO to develop Plans of Action necessary for the implementation of the other recommendations of the Panel.

Contracting Parties that had not yet ratified the amended NAFO Convention were encouraged to continue their efforts to do so in their respective governments.

The Fisheries Commission agreed on management measures for the 20 fish, shrimp and invertebrate stocks managed by NAFO. The scientific advice was elaborated at meetings held since the last Annual Meeting. Scientific Council fully assessed the status of ten stocks and monitored the status of other fish stocks. Ongoing growth of some stocks poses challenges to managers and scientists, with the continuing recovery of cod on the Flemish Cap being reflected in declines in species on which cod prey, such as redfish and shrimps. Other stocks continue on their long road to recovery, for example although American plaice remain under moratorium, they show promising signs for the future, with indications of improved recruitment being seen in the surveys. Scientific advice was also provided to Coastal States based on their specific requests.

Moratoria are continued for eight NAFO stocks and TACs have been reduced for five stocks. Amendments to the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures were reviewed to enhance organization and structure and clarify existing NAFO Measures.

Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies (CPRS) for important resources within the NAFO Convention Area, including cod in Div. 3NO and American plaice in Div. 3LNO were confirmed in 2011. The plans set out objectives, identify reference points, define re-opening criteria and establish Harvest Control Rules. In 2012 witch flounder in Div. 3NO will be added. Greenland halibut in SA 2+3 will continue to be managed using a management strategy that takes into account trends in survey abundance to determine the direction and size in any quota change. Changes are constrained to 5% per year to ensure stability in the fishery.

The closures of Orphan Knoll, Corner Seamounts, Newfoundland Seamounts, New England Seamounts and Fogo Seamounts (1 and 2), the large coral protection zone in Div. 3O and the eleven areas of higher sponge and coral concentrations near the Flemish Cap and the Flemish Pass will remain closed until 2014. One zone on the Flemish Cap has been expanded. The closed areas will be reviewed in 2014 based on the best available scientific information by the Fisheries Commission. NAFO will take into account the guidance provided by the FAO in the framework of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and any other internationally agreed standards, as appropriate.

NAFO continues to address the protection of VMEs from significant adverse impacts of bottom fishing. In order to provide the best basis for deciding on appropriate measures to protect VMEs, the NAFO Scientific Council continues its work to improve knowledge on marine ecosystem in the Northwest Atlantic.

Commitment by EU and Canada remains for the NEREIDA programme. Further processing of specimens and samples and data analyses are ongoing.

The Fisheries Commission conducts an annual compliance review and this year noted that the same level of inspections is taking place but there are fewer infringements than in the past. Improvements to the analysis of compliance made this report more comprehensive.

NAFO is in the process of developing a data sharing platform for NAFO Fishery Inspectors to access fisheries data in a centralized location on the NAFO Website. The vessel monitoring system continues to provide real-time fisheries information.

The NAFO Secretariat completed a project aimed at digitizing all NAFO meeting documentation and publications back to 1979. The majority of this material is now available on the NAFO web-pages. This project will continue with the digitization of all ICNAF's documentation (NAFO's predecessor).

Elections for most of the bodies were held this year. The General Council Chair will be Veronika Veits (EU). The Fisheries Commission Chair will be Sylvie Lapointe (Canada). For Scientific Council the Chair will be Carsten Hvingel (Norway); Chair of the Standing Committee on Fisheries Science (STACFIS) will be Jean-Claude Mahé (EU-France); Chair of the Standing Committee on Publications (STACPUB) remains Margaret Treble (Canada); Chair of the Standing Committee on Research Coordination (STACREC) and Vice-Chair of Scientific Council will be Don Stansbury (Canada); and Chair of the Standing Committee on Fisheries Environment (STACFEN) remains Gary Maillet (Canada).

The 34th Annual Meeting will be held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation 17-21 September 2012.

Meetings

Prior to the Annual Meeting, the following NAFO meetings were held: (1) Scientific Council and NAFO/ICES (NIPAG) Meeting on Shrimp Assessment, Copenhagen, Denmark, 20 – 27 October 2010; (2) Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (WGEAFM), Dartmouth, NS, Canada, 1-10 December 2010; (3) NAFO Performance Review Panel (First Meeting), Dartmouth, NS, Canada, 28 February-4 March, 2011; (4) Joint NAFO/ICES Working Group on Deep-water Ecology (WGDEC), Copenhagen, Denmark, 28 February - 4 March 2011; (5) Scientific Council Working Group on Reproductive Potential, Aberdeen, Scotland, 12-14 April, 2011; (6) STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, London, UK, 9-10 May 2011; (7) Fisheries Commission Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists on Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies (WGFMS-CPRS), by WebEx, 7 April 2011; (8) NAFO Performance Review Panel (Second Meeting), Dartmouth, NS, Canada, 31 May - 3 June, 2011; (9) Scientific Council and its Standing Committees (June Meeting), Braunschweig, Germany, 3-16 June 2011; (10) Fisheries Commission Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists on Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies (WGFMS-CPRS), Halifax, NS, Canada 26-28 June 2011; (11) Fisheries Commission Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems(WGFMS-VME), Halifax, NS, Canada, 29-30 June 2011; (12) Joint NAFO/ICES WG on Harp and Hooded Seals (WGHARP), Aberdeen, Scotland, 15-19 August, 2011; (13) FC Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists on Management Strategy Evaluations (WGFMS-MSE), by WebEx, 7 September 2011; (14)) Scientific Council and STACFIS for update on shrimp advice, by Sharepoint and WebEx, 1-12 September 2011.

The table of NAFO TACs and quotas agreed at the 33rd Annual Meeting is attached.

Dr Vladimir Shibanov

NAFO Executive Secretary - 23 September 2011, Halifax, NS, Canada

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QUOTA TABLE. Total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tons) for 2012 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		74	0.80	0	2556	42.60	500	6000	0 ^{2,4}	0	0	16575 ⁵
Cuba		343	3.70	-	588	9.80	1750		0 ^{2,4}	-	-	-
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		2074	22.35	-	-		69 ¹⁹		0 ^{2,3}	-	-	-
European Union		5292 ²⁵	57.03	0 ¹¹	1094 ²⁶	18.23	7813 ¹²	7000	0 ^{2,3} 0 ^{2,15}	0	0 ¹¹	-
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-		-	-		69 ¹⁹		0 ^{2,4}	-	-	340 ⁵
Iceland		-		-	-		-		0 ^{2,3}	-	-	-
Japan		-		-	-		400	150	0 ^{2,4}	-	-	-
Korea		-		-	-		69 ¹⁹	100	0 ^{2,4}	-	-	-
Norway		859	9.25	-	-		-		0 ^{2,3}	-	-	-
Russian Federation		601	6.47	0	1726	28.77	9137	6500	0 ^{2,3}	-	0	-
Ukraine								150	0 ^{2,4}			
United States of America		-		-	-		69 ¹⁹		0 ^{2,4}	-	-	-
Others		37	0.40	0	36	0.60	124	100	-	0	0	85 ⁵
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	^{*9}	9280 ²³	100.0	^{*9,20}	6000 ²⁴	100.0	6500 ^{8,16}	20000	0 ^{10,17}	^{*16,21}	^{*9,29}	17000 ^{21,22}

Species	Witch		White hake	Capelin	Skates	Greenland halibut	Squid (Illex) ¹		Shrimp	
	3L	3NO					Sub-areas 3+4	3L	3NO	
Canada		0	1470	0	1417	1814	N.S. ⁶	10000		
Cuba		-		0		-	510	133		
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		-		-		210	-	133		
European Union		0 ¹¹	2940	0 ¹¹	5352	7093 ¹⁸	N.S. ⁶ 611 ¹³	670 ¹⁴		
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-		-		198	453	133		
Iceland		-		-		-	-	133		
Japan		-		0		1240	510	133		
Korea		-		-		-	453	133		
Norway		-		0		-	-	133		
Russian Federation		0	295	0	1417	1543	749	133		
Ukraine						-		133		
United States of America		-		-		-	453	133		
Others		0	295	-	314	0 ⁷	794	0		
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH		^{*9,20}	5000	^{*9,20}	8500 ²⁸	12098	34000 ²⁰	12000 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 2011 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).
- 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 3250 tons may be fished before 01 July 2012. 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 2012 as compared to 2011, 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 133 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 17.85% to Lithuania and 2.15% to Latvia following their accession to the European Union.
16. Applicable to 2012 and 2013.
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 397 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 15% of their total yellowtail fishery as calculated in accordance with Article 12.1 (c). If a Scientific Council projection indicates that this rate is likely to undermine stock recovery or cause an unreasonable delay in reaching B_{lim} , this rate 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 103 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 352 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.
27. For 2013, the TAC will be reduced to 9,350 tonnes. This TAC will be reviewed based on available Scientific Council advice on this stock.
28. This TAC will be reviewed in 2012 in line with the available scientific advice on this stock.
29. Applicable to 2012, 2013 and 2014.

PART II

Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)

33rd Annual Meeting, September 19-23, 2011

Halifax, Canada

1. Opening by the Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA)

The first session of STACFAD was opened by the Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA) on 19 September 2011. The Chair welcomed delegates and members of the NAFO Secretariat to the meeting.

Present were delegates from Canada, European Union, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, the Russian Federation, and the United States of America and members of the NAFO Secretariat (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Stan Goodick (NAFO Secretariat) was appointed Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The provisional agenda was adopted (Annex 2).

4. Auditors' Report for 2010

The auditing firm of Deloitte and Touche LLP, Chartered Accountants performed the audit of the financial statements of the Organization for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2010. The financial statements were circulated to the Heads of Delegation of the General Council and to STACFAD delegates in advance of the Annual Meeting. The financial statements included the auditors' report, the statements of financial position, operations, accumulated surplus, cash flows and the notes to the financial statements.

The Senior Finance and Staff Administrator for NAFO presented the Auditors' Report and Financial Statements of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization for the year ended December 31, 2010. Changes to auditing standards during the past year no longer permit Auditors to sign and date the Auditors' Report until after the body responsible for approving the statements has reviewed and approved the statements. The NAFO financial statements as at December 31, 2010 will be shown as draft statements until they are reviewed by STACFAD and approved by the Organization at the Annual Meeting. It was noted that the total expenditures incurred for the fiscal period ending 2010 amounted to \$1,821,977, which was \$39,977 over the approved budget of \$1,782,000. It was also noted that there were no outstanding contributions from Contracting Parties on December 31, 2010.

The balance in the accumulated surplus account at year end amounted to \$520,017. At the 2010 Annual Meeting, General Council approved maintaining the level in the accumulated surplus account for 2011 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. The remaining \$235,017 (\$520,017 - \$285,000) would be used to reduce annual contributions for 2011.

The Auditors' Report noted that the Organization: (1) has not recorded the pension plan assets, liabilities and unfunded deficit, (2) has a policy not to capitalize its capital assets, and (3) has not recorded a liability for separation entitlements, as approved at the annual meeting in September 2007. This liability for separation entitlement would be fully funded by the end of 2011. The audit determined the financial affairs of the Organization had been conducted in accordance with the Financial Regulations and budgetary provisions of NAFO and presented a fair and accurate accounting of the financial affairs of the Organization.

STACFAD recommends that the 2010 Auditors' Report be adopted.

The Organization's Financial Regulation, Rule 7.1, states that the length of time a firm carrying out the NAFO audit shall serve is limited to a maximum of three years. The audit of the 2010 financial records was the third year for Deloitte and Touche LLP, Chartered Accountants to serve as auditors of the Organization.

The Secretariat received proposals from Grant Thornton, KPMG and WBLI to carry out the audit of NAFO's records for the 2011, 2012 and 2013 fiscal periods. A summary of the proposals received, along with the proposal letters, were distributed to the Committee. After reviewing the proposals, **STACFAD recommends that WBLI Chartered Accountants be appointed to audit NAFO's records for the 2011, 2012 and 2013 fiscal periods.**

5. Administrative and Activity Report by Secretariat

Under this item, the Executive Secretary highlighted NAFO administrative matters and activities for the period September 2010 to August 2011 (GC Doc. 11/1-Revised).

6. Financial Statements for 2011

The NAFO Senior Finance and Staff Administrator presented the Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending 31 December 2011.

Budgetary Expenses

The approved operating budget for 2011 was set at \$1,886,000. It was noted in the financial statements that expenditures for the year are projected to be \$1,916,000, over the approved budget by \$30,000. Variances from the approved budget are as follows:

Salaries are projected to be \$12,000 over budget. This includes \$15,000 for staff bonuses to compensate staff for the extraordinary and exceptional work performed in providing support to the Performance Review Panel.

Medical and insurance plans are projected to be \$12,000 below the approved budget. This is attributed to a change in NAFO's Long Term Disability (LTD) insurance provider resulting in savings to LTD premiums.

Fishery Monitoring is anticipated to be \$5,000 over budget due to necessary programming changes to the VMS.

The Professional Services item includes expenses for audit, consulting, insurance, legal fees, professional development and training. The legal fees are associated with a claim made against the Organization regarding the wrongful dismissal suit. STACFAD was informed by the Secretariat on the state of play of the wrongful dismissal suit.

Recruitment and relocation expenses for the newly recruited Scientific Council Coordinator are projected to be \$6,000 under budget.

All remaining 2011 operating expenses are anticipated to be on or near budget for the year.

Assessed Contributions

The 2011 operating budget was set at \$1,886,000. The prior years' accumulated surplus balance had \$235,017 deemed to be in excess of the needs of the Organization which was allocated to the operating budget. As a result, annual contributions issued to Contracting Parties for the 2011 fiscal year were \$1,650,983.

Balance Sheet

The Organization's cash position at December 31, 2011 is estimated to be \$455,180, which is sufficient to finance appropriations in early 2012 pending the receipt of annual payments by Contracting Parties in the spring of 2012. Three Contracting Parties have outstanding contributions for 2011 totalling \$92,407; Cuba - \$41,793, Russian Federation - \$48,308 and USA - \$2,306. Cuba, Russian Federation and USA have communicated that payment would be forthcoming.

7. Review of Accumulated Surplus and Contingency Funds

According to the financial regulations of the Organization, STACFAD and General Council shall review the amount available in the accumulated surplus account during each annual meeting. The accumulated surplus account shall be set at a level sufficient to temporarily finance operations during the first three months of the year, plus an amount up to a maximum of 10% of the annual budget for the current financial year to be used for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses to the good conduct of the business of the Organization.

The Secretariat noted the accumulated surplus account at December 31, 2011 is estimated to be \$465,000.

STACFAD recommends 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 2012, and of which \$85,000 would be a contingency fund available for use in emergency situations.

8. Personnel Matters

The Executive Secretary presented to the Committee an update on human resources and personnel matters at the NAFO Secretariat. It was noted that the current structure of 10 full time staff members adopted in 2004 has been working very efficiently to meet the needs of the Organization. The structure requires the specialization of staff members in their specific field of work as well as sharing of general tasks among all staff. However, one area of work which has expanded beyond what is originally included in the HR Structure is the need for performing data management and analysis, i.e. catch and effort data analysis and presentation services (footprint map, etc.). The responsibility for these tasks, and also the developing and designing NAFO databases, are not properly allocated in the current job descriptions. The Secretariat noted the need to update the current HR Structure for data management and analysis and the realignment of job descriptions. It was noted by the Committee that it may be premature to make considerable changes to the HR Structure at this time as there may be a comprehensive review of the Secretariat performed in the near future as recommended in the Performance Review Panel Report.

The Committee was in agreement for the Secretariat to proceed with the following:

1. All NAFO Secretariat Job Descriptions will be realigned to ensure tasks listed in the job descriptions match the work currently being performed by staff members;
2. Database responsibilities will be removed from the Information Officer's job description;
3. A "Data Management Department"(IT Manager, Information Officer, FC Coordinator, SC Coordinator) be established in addition to the Fisheries Management, Science Support/Publications, Information Dissemination and Finance and Administration teams.

The Executive Secretary asked STACFAD to consider the creation of a Data Manager position, CS Computer Systems Group Payroll Category, to be implemented in 2013. The Committee requested the Secretariat to draft a proposal for a new Data Manager Job Description for presentation at the 2012 annual meeting.

The Executive Secretary also informed the Committee that two staff members are eligible for promotion. The Committee was in agreement with the proposed promotions.

9. Internship Program

The NAFO Secretariat receives numerous inquiries from students looking for work placement to perform research as a mandatory element of their studies. Over the years, the Secretariat has hosted a number of student interns from Contracting Parties and has supported the interns with a nominal compensation to assist with their living expenses while in Halifax. In addition to their research assignment, these interns are also able to perform valuable tasks for the Secretariat. The Secretariat therefore suggested that a NAFO Internship Program be formalized.

The NAFO Internship Program would allow students, post graduates and early career individuals from NAFO member countries to gain experience in the operations of an intergovernmental fisheries management organization by working in the NAFO Secretariat. The NAFO Secretariat would supervise up to one intern at any one time for a period of up to six months. NAFO would benefit from the intern program directly through the performance of an additional individual in the Secretariat and indirectly, over a period of years, by strengthening the capacity of member states to coordinate their involvement in NAFO programs.

The associated cost to the NAFO budget was estimated to be at the level of CDN \$21,000 per year.

Travel/medical insurance costs would not be the responsibility of NAFO and successful interns would be responsible to secure their own travel/medical insurance expenses.

The Secretariat will report to STACFAD each year on the interns selected. The interns will be expected to submit a report on their internship. STACFAD will provide general oversight of this program and periodically recommend adjustments as necessary.

It was noted by the Secretariat that the Performance Review Panel expressed the need to strengthen and enhance cooperation with developing States. The Secretariat proposed that NAFO consider expanding the Internship Program to accept applicants from developing States in fields of fishery science and fish management. In this regard, the Secretariat will develop guidelines, including financial considerations, geographical considerations, etc. for presentation to the Committee at the 2012 annual meeting.

STACFAD recommends that the NAFO Internship Program be established as outlined in Annex 3 effective January 2012, with corresponding funds to be included in the 2012 budget and following years.

10. Rules of Procedure

The Secretariat presented STACFAD Working Paper 11/4 (Annex 4) seeking clarification on the term “non-restricted” sessions used in Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedures for Observers and to identify which meetings observers have access to.

All members of the Committee agreed on the principle of openness and transparency, however, consensus could not be reached on the meetings which accredited observers shall be permitted to attend. It was agreed that this issue will be revisited at next year’s annual meeting. The Secretariat was requested to provide additional information on observer rules and practices of other RFMOs and based on this information, as well as consultation with the other NAFO subsidiary bodies, STACFAD will consider any necessary changes to the Rules of Procedure for Observers.

The Committee also noted that Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure for Observers may also require additional clarity on the issues of confidentiality and media communication during meetings. In the interim, in the event of requests by observers to attend a session other than a plenary session of the NAFO constituent bodies, the Chair of that body, through consultation with all Contracting Parties on a consensus basis, shall determine if that particular session could be deemed “non-restricted” according to Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure for Observers.

11. Budget Estimate for 2012

The Secretariat presented the 2012 budget estimate (GC Working Paper 11/1-Revised) to the Committee highlighting the following items:

<i>Approved Budget 2011</i>	<i>Preliminary Budget Forecast 2012</i>	<i>Budget Estimate 2012</i>
\$1,886,000	\$1,824,000	\$1,875,000

The 2012 budget estimate of \$1,875,000 represents an increase of \$51,000 (2.8%) from the 2012 preliminary budget forecast and a decrease of \$11,000 (0.6%) from the 2011 approved budget.

Variances between the 2011 and 2012 budgets are as follows:

<i>Personal Services:</i>	Budget 2011	\$1,280,000	Budget 2012	\$1,380,000
	Increase	\$100,000	7.8%	

The salaries and remuneration for the members of the Secretariat follow the salary levels and categories of the public sector of the host country (Canada).

Superannuation and Annuities include annual supplementary payment of \$193,200 (\$100,800 + \$92,400) towards the pension fund deficit. The Committee reviewed the latest actuarial valuation of the NAFO Pension plan, which showed that the plan is in a deficit or unfunded position of \$1.8 million vs the unfunded position from three years ago of \$975,000. The increase in the unfunded liability requires additional annual payments of \$92,400 for the next 15 years.

A change in insurance providers has resulted in a \$12,000 (50%) decrease in LTD insurance premiums.

<i>Additional Help:</i>	Budget 2011	\$20,000	Budget 2012	\$20,000
	Increase	\$0	0%	

The additional help budget is for the digitization of ICNAF historical documents and other assistance as required.

<i>Computer Services:</i>	Budget 2011	\$28,000	Budget 2012	\$42,000
	Increase	\$14,000	50%	

Increase due to proposal from STACTIC to implement a secure website area.

<i>Fishery Monitoring:</i>	Budget 2011	\$48,000	Budget 2012	\$35,000
	Decrease	\$13,000	27%	

Decrease due to final year of the VMS annual license fee payments ending December 31, 2011.

<i>NAFO Meetings:</i>	Budget 2011	\$167,000	Budget 2012	\$153,000
	Decrease	\$14,000	8.4%	

The NAFO meetings budget includes travel expenses by the Secretariat to attend meetings, logistical expenses to host a meeting in the headquarters area, invited expert travel costs, etc.

Decrease to sessional meetings budget reflects that the 2012 Annual Meeting will be held in St. Petersburg, Russia and certain costs will be borne by the host country, rather than the Secretariat.

The inter-sessional scientific meetings budget decreased by \$10,000 as there are no workshops or symposium scheduled for 2012. The ad hoc fund, a general provision for unforeseen expenses necessarily incurred by SC for the provision of answering requests for advice from FC, has been returned to its \$20,000

balance. The other budgeted \$10,000 is Secretariat support to Scientific Council inter-sessional meetings and working groups.

<i>Performance Review:</i>	Budget 2011 Decrease	\$75,000 \$0	Budget 2012 100%	\$0
<i>Recruitment and Relocation:</i>	Budget 2011 Decrease	\$52,000 \$0	Budget 2012 100%	\$0

The 2011 performance review and recruitment and relocation budgets were one time only expenses in 2011.

STACFAD recommends that the budget for 2012 of \$1,875,000 (Annex 5) be adopted.

A preliminary calculation of billing for the 2012 financial year is provided in Annex 6. The preliminary calculation of billing is based on the budget estimate of \$1,875,000 and shall be reduced by any amount determined by the General Council to be in excess of the needs of the accumulated surplus account.

The accumulated surplus account at December 31, 2011 is estimated to be \$465,000 and the recommended minimum balance in the accumulated surplus account for operations and emergency use for the 2012 fiscal year is \$285,000. This allows for \$180,000 (\$465,000-\$285,000) to be applied towards the 2012 billing.

Funds required to meet the 2012 administrative budget and appropriated from Contracting Parties are estimated to be \$1,695,000 (\$1,875,000 - \$180,000).

12. Budget Forecast for 2013 and 2014

STACFAD reviewed the preliminary budget forecast for 2013 (\$1,984,000) and 2014 (\$2,069,000) (Annex 7) and approved the forecast in principle. It was noted that the budget for 2013 will be reviewed in detail at the next Annual Meeting.

13. Adoption of 2012 Staff Committee Appointees

The Secretariat nominated the following people to serve as members of the Staff Committee for September 2011-September 2012: Bill Brodie, Estelle Couture and Deirdre Warner-Kramer.

STACFAD recommends that General Council appoint the three nominees.

14. Time and Place of 2012 – 2014 Annual Meetings

As previously agreed, the 2012 Annual Meeting will be held 17-21 September. An invitation to host the 2012 Annual Meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia was presented by the Russian Delegation to the General Council.

STACFAD recommends that the dates of the 2013 and 2014 Annual Meetings (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:

2013	-	23 – 27 September
2014	-	22 – 26 September

For budgetary planning purposes, STACFAD urges that any invitations by a Contracting Party to host an Annual Meeting be issued as early as possible.

15. Other Matters

As instructed by the General Council, the Committee reviewed recommendations of the Performance Review Panel contained in GC Working Paper 11/9 relevant to STACFAD and provided its initial response as shown in Annex 8.

In response to a number of the Performance Review Panels recommendations, STACFAD recommends that the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chairs of the NAFO bodies, Contracting Parties and outside experts as appropriate, conduct an overall analysis of the Secretariat's structure and needs to ensure that it can continue to meet its growing workload into the future. The analysis should review the staff structure, position descriptions, performance management systems, training and skills development programs, office space needs, and any other relevant issues. The results of this analysis and any resulting proposals should be reported annually by the Secretariat to STACFAD for its consideration. STACFAD further recommends that this work be considered by any body established by General Council to devise action plans and timetables for implementation of the other recommendations of the Performance Review Panel.

16. Adjournment

The final session of the STACFAD meeting adjourned on 22 September 2011.

Annex 1. List of Participants

Name	Contracting Party
Robert Day Doug Twining	Canada
Rasmus Fugholt	Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland)
Fred Kingston	European Union
Akiko Onodera	Japan
Hyun Jin Park	Republic of Korea
Odd Gunnar Skagestad	Norway
Olga Sedykh	Russian Federation
Deirdre Warner-Kramer Pat Moran	United States of America
Vladimir Shibanov Stan Goodick Bev McLoon	NAFO Secretariat

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Auditors' Report for 2010
5. Administrative and Activity Report by Secretariat
6. Financial Statements for 2011
7. Review of Accumulated Surplus and Contingency Funds
8. Personnel Matters
9. Internship Program
10. Rules of Procedure
11. Budget Estimate for 2012
12. Budget Forecast for 2013 and 2014
13. Adoption of 2012 Staff Committee Appointees
14. Time and Place of 2012 - 2014 Annual Meetings
15. Other Matters
16. Adjournment

Annex 3. Proposal for a NAFO Internship Program

NAFO Internship Program

A NAFO Internship Program would allow students, post graduates or early career individuals from NAFO member countries to work in the NAFO Secretariat as an intern for periods of up to six (6) months.

Objectives

The individual will gain experience and knowledge in operations of the Organization and other intergovernmental organizations while the NAFO Secretariat will benefit through the presence of an additional professional and his/her capacity and knowledge.

Nature of the Internship

Under the supervision of the Executive Secretary, interns will work on projects at the Secretariat relevant to their professional interests and development needs. Interns may be given a wide variety of tasks related to various aspects of:

- fisheries management and fisheries databases
- science
- administrative
- meeting coordination
- publications; and
- other NAFO activities delegated by the Executive Secretary.

Period of internship: For a period up to a maximum of 6 (six) months.

Qualifications of candidates

Applicants must be a citizen of a NAFO member country and of the academic or government sector, have a minimum of a university degree, very good spoken and written command of the English language, strong computer knowledge, and demonstrated personal initiative.

Guidelines for application and selection procedure

- The NAFO Internship Program will be advertised on the NAFO website. NAFO member countries are encouraged to take additional measures to advertise the NAFO Internship Program within their countries.
- Applicants will apply to the NAFO Secretariat following the procedure described on the NAFO website. Applicants must describe their interests and qualifications; provide a resume delineating their academic and work experience and three professional references.
- The NAFO Executive Secretary will review the applicants and select the successful intern(s). To ensure a balanced distribution of internships among member countries, priority will be given to applicants of Member States which have not been represented in the more recent years.

Financial Support

NAFO will provide a stipend of CDN \$1,750 per month. NAFO will not be responsible for the coverage of travel costs to and from the place of residence and the location of the Secretariat or for the cost of medical insurance.

Annex 4. Non-restricted Sessions: Rule 3 of Rules of Procedure for Observers
(STACFAD WP 11/4 - Prepared by NAFO Secretariat)

At the 2009 Annual Meeting of NAFO, the Rules of Procedure for Observers at NAFO Meetings were revised to apply one common set of rules for the admission and accreditation of observers to General Council, Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council Meetings (Annex 1).

During the past year, the Secretariat received a request from an accredited NGO observer to attend the Fisheries Commission Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (FC WGFMS-VME). Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedures for Observers states “Observer status shall apply to all non-restricted sessions, whether at the Annual Meeting or at intersessional meetings.”

Although the meaning of “non-restricted” session is not clearly defined, it has traditionally meant that in GC and FC observers would have access to plenary sessions only. NGOs have not been permitted to attend GC and FC Working Group meetings (including FC WGFMS-VME). For SC, observers have had access to plenary, committee and working group meetings.

The Secretariat therefore feels there is a need to amend the current Rule 3 to clarify the term “non-restricted” sessions and identify which meetings observers have access to.

- General Council
 - General Council Plenary
 - Standing Committee – STACFAD
 - GC Working Groups
- Fisheries Commission
 - Fisheries Commission Plenary
 - Standing Committee – STACTIC
 - FC Working Groups
 - FC/SC Working Groups (Fisheries Managers and Scientists)
- Scientific Council
 - Scientific Council Plenary
 - Standing Committees – STACFEN, STACFIS, STACPUB, STACREC
 - SC Working Groups

Also, is there a need to distinguish between the meetings an IGO (e.g. FAO, NEAFC, etc.) can attend vs. meetings an NGO can attend? In the past, for example, on a few occasions a NEAFC Observer has attended STACTIC meetings.

**Application for Observer Status to NAFO Meetings
(General Council, Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council)**

Rule 1

The Executive Secretary shall invite, as observers:

- a) intergovernmental organizations that have regular contacts with NAFO as regards fisheries matters or whose work is of interest to NAFO or vice-versa; and
- b) non-Contracting Parties identified as harvesting fishery resources in the Regulatory Area.

Rule 2

Any NGO that supports the general objectives of NAFO and with a demonstrated interest in the species under the purview of NAFO, and desires accreditation as observers to NAFO meetings, shall notify the Secretariat at least 100 days in advance of the first meeting it wishes to attend. This application must include:

- a) name, address, telephone, fax number of the organization;
- b) address of all its national/regional offices;
- c) aims and purposes of the organization and a statement that the NGO fully supports the objectives of NAFO, i.e., optimum utilization, rational management and conservation of the fishery resources of the NAFO Convention Area;
- d) information on the organization's total number of members, its decision-making process and its funding;
- e) a brief history of the organization and a description of its activities;
- f) representative papers or other similar resources produced by or for the organization on the conservation, management, or science of fishery resources to which the Convention applies; and
- g) a history of NAFO observer status granted/revoked;

Rule 3

Observer status shall apply to all non-restricted sessions, whether at the Annual Meeting or at intersessional meetings.

Rule 4

NGO applications shall be reviewed by the Executive Secretary who shall notify the Contracting Parties of the names and qualifications of NGOs having fulfilled the requirements stipulated in Rule 2. If one or more of the Contracting Parties object giving in writing its reasons within 30 days, the matter will be put to a vote by written procedure. Applications will then be considered as accepted in accordance with the procedures laid down in Article V para 2 of the Convention. The Executive Secretary shall also circulate any reasons given in a preliminary objection as well as any comments that Contracting Parties may include with their vote on this matter.

Rule 5

Any NGO with observer accreditation:

- a) is required to register its representatives at the NAFO Secretariat at least fourteen days in advance of the meeting;
- b) may be required to limit the number of their observers at any meeting due to conference room capacity. The Executive Secretary will transmit any such determination in the conditions of participation;
- c) may be required to pay a fee, which will cover the additional expenses generated by their participation, as determined annually by the Executive Secretary;
- d) that has not communicated with the Secretariat or attended at least one meeting in the previous three years shall cease to be an accredited NGO but may reapply in writing to the Executive Secretary; and
- e) will have their accreditation reviewed by the Executive Secretary every five years taking into account any new information or development regarding the NGO since the last accreditation and circulate a summary of the review to Contracting Parties. If one or more of the Contracting Parties object to a renewal of the accreditation of the NGO with NAFO giving in writing its reasons within 30 days, the matter will be put to a vote by written procedure. Renewal of the accreditation will then be considered as accepted in accordance with the procedures laid down in Article V para 2 of the Convention. The Executive Secretary shall also circulate any reasons given in a preliminary objection as well as any comments that Contracting Parties may include with their vote on this matter.

Rule 6

Observers admitted to a meeting:

- a) shall be sent or otherwise receive the same documentation generally available to Contracting Parties and their delegations, except those documents deemed confidential by a Contracting Party or the Executive Secretary.
- b) may attend meetings, as set forth above, but may not vote;
- c) may make oral statements during the meeting upon the invitation of the Chair;
- d) may only distribute documents at meetings via the general information table;
- e) may engage in other activities as appropriate and as approved by the Chair;
- f) may not use film, video, and audio recording devices, etc. to record meeting proceedings; and
- g) may not issue press releases or other information to the media on agenda items under discussion during NAFO meetings.

Rule 7

Observers admitted to a meeting shall comply with the above and all rules and procedures applicable to other participants in the meeting. Failure to conform to these rules or any other rules that NAFO may adopt for the conduct of observers may result in removal from the meeting by the presiding officer and revocation of their observer accreditation status.

Rule 8

These rules shall be subject to review and revision, as appropriate. If any Contracting Party so requests, the adequacy of these rules shall be reviewed and assessed and, if necessary, amendments shall be adopted by General Council in the light of the need of NAFO to function effectively when conducting its business.

Annex 5. Budget Estimate for 2012
(Canadian Dollars)

NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

Budget Estimate for 2012

(Canadian Dollars)

	Approved Budget 2011	Projected Expenditures 2011	Preliminary Budget Forecast 2012	Budget Estimate 2012
1. Personal Services				
a) Salaries	\$904,000	\$916,000	\$923,000	\$923,000
b) Superannuation and Annuities	196,000	196,000	245,000	288,000
c) Medical and Insurance Plans	91,000	79,000	102,000	83,000
d) Employee Benefits	89,000	91,000	81,000	86,000
Subtotal Personal Services	1,280,000	1,282,000	1,351,000	1,380,000
2. Additional Help	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
3. Communications	27,000	27,000	27,000	28,000
4. Computer Services	28,000	28,000	29,000	42,000
5. Equipment	36,000	35,000	36,000	36,000
6. Fishery Monitoring	48,000	53,000	33,000	35,000
7. Hospitality Allowance	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
8. Internship	0	0	0	21,000
9. Materials and Supplies	33,000	33,000	34,000	34,000
10. NAFO Meetings				
a) Sessional	102,000	97,000	103,000	93,000
b) Inter-sessional Scientific	40,000	35,000	40,000	30,000
c) Inter-sessional Other	25,000	25,000	30,000	30,000
Subtotal NAFO Meetings	167,000	157,000	173,000	153,000
11. Other Meetings and Travel	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
12. Performance Review	75,000	75,000	0	0
13. Professional Services	51,000	91,000	51,000	56,000
14. Publications	16,000	16,000	17,000	17,000
15. Recruitment and Relocation	52,000	46,000	0	0
	\$1,886,000	\$1,916,000	\$1,824,000	\$1,875,000

Notes on Budget Estimate 2012
(Canadian Dollars)

Item 1(a)	Salaries Salaries budget estimate for 2012	\$923,000
Item 1(b)	Superannuation and Annuities Employer's pension plan which includes employer's contributions, administration costs and actuarial fees. Also includes a payment towards the unfunded liability as the previous two actuarial valuations of the pension plan showed the plan to be in a deficit position.	\$288,000
Item 1(c)	Group Medical and Insurance Plans Employer's portion of Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, Group Life Insurance, Long Term Disability Insurance and Medical Coverage.	\$83,000
Item 1(d)	Employee Benefits Employee benefits as per the NAFO Staff Rules including overtime, repatriation grant, termination benefits, vacation pay, and travel to home country for internationally recruited members of the Secretariat.	\$86,000
Item 2	Additional Support Digitization of historical documents, translation of NAFO Fisheries Information (e.g. Observer Reports) and other assistance as required.	\$20,000
Item 3	Communications Phone, fax and internet services Postage Courier/Mail service	\$28,000 \$15,000 10,000 3,000
Item 4	Computer Services Computer hardware, software, supplies and support. Inspectors Website (Possible proposal to come from STACTIC to implement a secure website area)	\$42,000 \$29,000 13,000
Item 5	Equipment Leases (print department printer, photocopier and postage meter) Purchases Maintenance	\$36,000 \$21,000 10,000 5,000
Item 6	Fishery Monitoring Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) annual maintenance fee Programming changes as required due to changes to CEM	\$35,000 \$30,000 5,000

Item 10(a)	NAFO Sessional Meetings Annual Meeting, September 2012, St. Petersburg, Russia SC Meeting, June 2012, Dartmouth, Canada SC Meeting, October 2012, Norway	\$93,000
Item 10(b)	NAFO Inter-sessional Scientific Meetings Provision for inter-sessional meetings and a general provision for unforeseen expenses necessarily incurred by SC required for the provision of answering requests for advice from FC.	\$30,000
Item 10(c)	NAFO Inter-sessional Other General provision for GC and FC inter-sessional meetings.	\$30,000
Item 11	Other Meetings and Travel International Meetings regularly attended by the NAFO Secretariat: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) 2. Co-ordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP), 3. Fisheries Resources Monitoring Systems (FIRMS) 4. International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS) 5. NEAFC Advisory Group for Data Communication (AGDC) 6. Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN) 7. Secretariats of the North Atlantic Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (NARFMO) 8. Visma Sirius Annual vTrack User Group Meeting 9. United Nations Fish Stock Agreement (UNFSA) 	\$50,000
Item 13	Professional Services Professional Services (audit, consulting, legal fees, and insurance) Professional Development and Training Public Relations	\$56,000 \$40,000 11,000 5,000
Item 14	Publications Production costs of NAFO publications which may include the following: Conservation and Enforcement Measures, Convention, Inspection Forms, Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science, Meeting Proceedings, Rules of Procedure, Scientific Council Reports, etc.	\$17,000

**Annex 6. Preliminary calculation of Billing for Contracting Parties
against the proposed estimate of \$1,875,000 for the 2012
financial year (based on 12 Contracting Parties to NAFO)**
(Canadian Dollars)

Budget Estimate	\$1,875,000
Deduct: Amount from Accumulated Surplus	<u>180,000</u>
Funds required to meet 2012 Administrative Budget	<u>\$1,695,000</u>

60% of funds required = \$1,017,000
 30% of funds required = \$508,500
 10% of funds required = \$169,500

Contracting Parties	Nominal Catches for 2009	% of Total Catch in the Convention Area			2012 Preliminary Billing
		10%	30%	60%	
Canada	471,942	53.44%	\$42,375.00	\$543,484.80	\$681,626.79
Cuba (1)	1,334	0.15%	-	1,525.50	43,900.50
Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) (2)(3)	171,630	19.44%	34,827.35	197,704.80	274,907.15
European Union	37,954	4.30%	-	43,731.00	86,106.00
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)	815	0.09%	165.38	915.30	43,455.68
Iceland	-	-	42,375.00	-	42,375.00
Japan	-	-	42,375.00	-	42,375.00
Republic of Korea	-	-	42,375.00	-	42,375.00
Norway	2,948	0.33%	-	3,356.10	45,731.10
Russian Federation	5,175	0.59%	-	6,000.30	48,375.30
Ukraine	334	0.04%	-	406.80	42,781.80
United States of America (3)	190,913	21.62%	38,740.28	219,875.40	300,990.68
	883,045	100.00%	\$169,500.00	\$508,500.00	\$1,017,000.00
Funds required to meet 1 January - 31 December 2012 Administrative Budget					<u>\$1,695,000.00</u>

2011 Billing for comparison purposes	
Approved Budget 2011	\$1,886,000
Deduct: Accumulated Surplus	<u>235,017</u>
Funds required 2011 Budget	<u>\$1,650,983</u>

Nominal Catches for 2008	% of Total Catch in the Convention Area		2011 Annual Assessment
	2008	2011	
478,377	52.93%	\$658,687.81	
500	0.06%	41,868.92	
196,480	21.74%	294,864.58	
43,745	4.85%	89,318.18	
3,639	0.40%	45,945.09	
-	-	41,274.58	
1,926	0.21%	43,354.81	
-	-	41,274.58	
2,483	0.27%	43,949.17	
6,461	0.71%	48,307.77	
276	0.03%	41,571.76	
169,885	18.80%	260,565.75	
903,772	100.00%	\$1,650,983.00	

(1) Based on catch reports received from chartering arrangements.
 (2) Faroe Islands = 4,815 metric tons
 Greenland = 166,815 metric tons
 (3) Based on 2009 provisional catch reports.

Annex 7. Preliminary Budget Forecast for 2013 and 2014

NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

Preliminary Budget Forecast for 2013 and 2014

(Canadian Dollars)

	Preliminary Budget Forecast 2013	Preliminary Budget Forecast 2014
1. Personal Services		
a) Salaries	\$1,010,000	\$1,048,000
b) Superannuation and Annuities	295,000	298,000
c) Medical and Insurance Plans	99,000	104,000
d) Employee Benefits	68,000	99,000
Subtotal Personal Services	1,472,000	1,549,000
2. Additional Help	20,000	20,000
3. Communications	28,000	28,000
4. Computer Services	42,000	43,000
5. Equipment	36,000	37,000
6. Fishery Monitoring	35,000	35,000
7. Hospitality Allowance	3,000	3,000
8. Internship	18,000	18,000
9. Materials and Supplies	34,000	35,000
10. NAFO Meetings		
a) Sessional	108,000	113,000
b) Inter-sessional Scientific	40,000	40,000
c) Inter-sessional Other	30,000	30,000
Subtotal NAFO Meetings	178,000	183,000
11. Other Meetings and Travel	50,000	50,000
12. Professional Services	51,000	51,000
13. Publications	17,000	17,000
	\$1,984,000	\$2,069,000

Annex 8. STACFAD Preliminary Responses to PRP Recommendations

PA Report Chapter/Numbers	Recommendations	Preliminary Response: STACFAD...
Chapter 4, 4.4.3	<p>Recommends that the Secretariat develop documentation to outline its data consolidation processes and the steps it takes to check data, including the continuation of communication with data providers after data have been submitted/used, if necessary.</p> <p>The PRP would like to see a user-friendly NAFO data manual being produced and this could also set out a full meta-data record for all NAFO's data holdings and database.</p>	<p>recommends that the Secretariat undertake this work and report back to the Committee on its progress.</p> <p>notes that work on several elements of this recommendation is already underway and the proposed creation of a new Data Management team within the Secretariat will further support it. STACFAD recommends that the Secretariat determine how best to address the financial and human resources implications of this work.</p>
Chapter 4	<p>Concludes that the potential utility of information presented on the NAFO Website could be enhanced by improving the clarity, and user friendliness, of linkages. In this respect, some thought could be given to providing a clear 'information map' on the Website to direct those seeking specific types of information to their source(s) more efficiently.</p>	<p>endorses the Secretariat's ongoing work in this regard and encourages that the Secretariat seek additional feedback from the Contracting Parties as necessary.</p>
Chapter 4, 4.4	<p>Concludes that a clearly designated, and easily accessible, area of the NAFO website should set out a brief history of the PAF's development and a detailed explanation of its key contents and use, particularly in relation to recovery plans as well as new and exploratory fisheries.</p>	<p>notes that the Scientific Council Coordinator has already begun this work in cooperation with the Scientific Council and welcomes its conclusion.</p>
Chapter 7, 7.1	<p>Suggests that application of cost-recovery measures could be considered as a way of alleviating potential financial stress on NAFO Contracting Parties.</p>	<p>recommends that the Secretariat provide to STACFAD's next meeting suggestions for areas where cost recovery measures could be implemented.</p>
Chapter 7, 7.1	<p>Suggests that NAFO apply accrual accounting principles to manage its budget to be in conformity with the international norm as well as to provide a more accurate and contemporary picture of the Organization's financial standing.</p>	<p>requests that the Secretariat provide to STACFAD's next meeting guidance on the pros and cons of this approach.</p>
Chapter 7, 7.2	<p>Suggests developing a <i>NAFO Staff Contract</i> to provide a more formal standing to the various Staff position descriptions, working conditions and appraisal procedures outlined in <i>NAFO Secretariat Staff Structure</i> (Fischer & Goodick, 2009) document, the PRP. In particular, a <i>Contract</i> would provide an opportunity to formally outline procedures for dealing with Staff grievances and dismissal specifically.</p>	<p>*</p>
Chapter 7, 7.2	<p>Concludes that there is a need to amend certain NAFO Staff Rules (NAFO, 2010a) provisions pertaining to the rights and obligations of NAFO Secretariat Staff, particularly for</p>	<p>recognizes the ongoing work to keep the Staff Rules current and requests the</p>

PA Report Chapter/Numbers	Recommendations	Preliminary Response: STACFAD...
	<p>dismissal or termination of appointment conditions. Such amendment should take into account relevant existing best practices. Given the Organization's intergovernmental nature, special attention should be given to relevant, and applicable, Canadian legislative provisions, as well as international law, in terms of Secretariat staff employment rights, obligations and conditions.</p>	<p>Secretariat to compile relevant best practices in this area and provide a report to its next meeting.</p>
Chapter 7, 7.2	<p>Concludes that failure to provide additional Secretariat staff capacity will compromise service delivery in the not-too-distant future and should be addressed as a matter of urgency. The Panel also urges that clear guidance should be given by the General Council to ensure that work priorities can be identified and that the need for any additional resources (human or fiscal) are adequately addressed sooner rather than later.</p>	<p>* Also highlights the recommendations to institute a formal internship program and to create a new Data Management team within the Secretariat. Also consideration could be given to part-time employees or service contracts.</p>
Chapter 7, 7.2	<p>Suggests that metrics be developed for various Secretariat duties/tasks to better determine the efficiency of Secretariat service delivery in particular. The metrics could be based on a schedule of tasks/activities to be undertaken, the completion of tasks against identified guidelines/deadlines, and the final service outputs delivered in terms of delivery efficiency/standards.</p>	<p>* While recognizing the potential benefits of this sort of performance management approach, STACFAD also cautions that any implementation should minimize both resource and bureaucratic burdens.</p>
Chapter 7, 7.2	<p>Concludes that there is a need to ensure that a 'critical mass' of essential Secretariat skills is sustained and that functional continuity should be maintained whenever senior staff leave. To this end, the professional development of Staff and the sharing of essential task skills must continue to be encouraged.</p>	<p>*</p>
Chapter 7, 7.2	<p>Further recommends that NAFO consider enhancing its Organizational communications strategy and media policy. In this context, it should also explicitly clarify the Executive Secretary's responsibilities, along with those of other office bearers, for the communication of such information.</p>	<p>will review and, as appropriate, recommend revisions to the NAFO media policy at its next meeting.</p>
Chapter 7, 7.2	<p>Recommends that the Secretariat be requested to scope and project its future accommodation needs.</p>	<p>*</p>
Chapter 7, 7.4	<p>Recommends timely, and adequate, planning to provide the Secretariat with appropriate human, financial and other resources for its future work.</p>	<p>will continue this process with the input and guidance of the Secretariat.</p>

STACFAD recommends that consideration of the recommendations marked with * be addressed as part of an overall review of the Secretariat's staff structure and needs to ensure that it can continue to meet the growing workload into the future.

