

Northwest Atlantic
Fisheries Organization
(NAFO)



Meeting Proceedings
of the General Council and Fisheries Commission
for 2014/2015

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Foreword

This issue of the Proceedings contains the reports of all meetings of the General Council (GC) and Fisheries Commission (FC) including their subsidiary bodies held in the twelve months preceding the Annual Meeting in September 2015 (between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015). This follows a NAFO cycle of meetings starting with an Annual Meeting rather than by calendar year.

This present 2014/2015 issue is comprised of the following sections:

Section I (1–61) contains the Report of the General Council and its Subsidiary Body (STACFAD) 36th Annual Meeting, 22–26 September 2014, Vigo, Spain.

Section II (63 to 204) contains the Report of the Fisheries Commission and its Subsidiary Body (STACTIC) 36th Annual Meeting, 22–26 September 2014, Vigo, Spain.

Section III (205–211) contains the Report of the STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group, 15–16 April 2015, Montreal, Canada.

Section IV (213–223) Report of the Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council Ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting, 20–21 April 2015, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Section V (225–235) contains the Report of the Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council Joint Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS), 22–24 April 2015, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

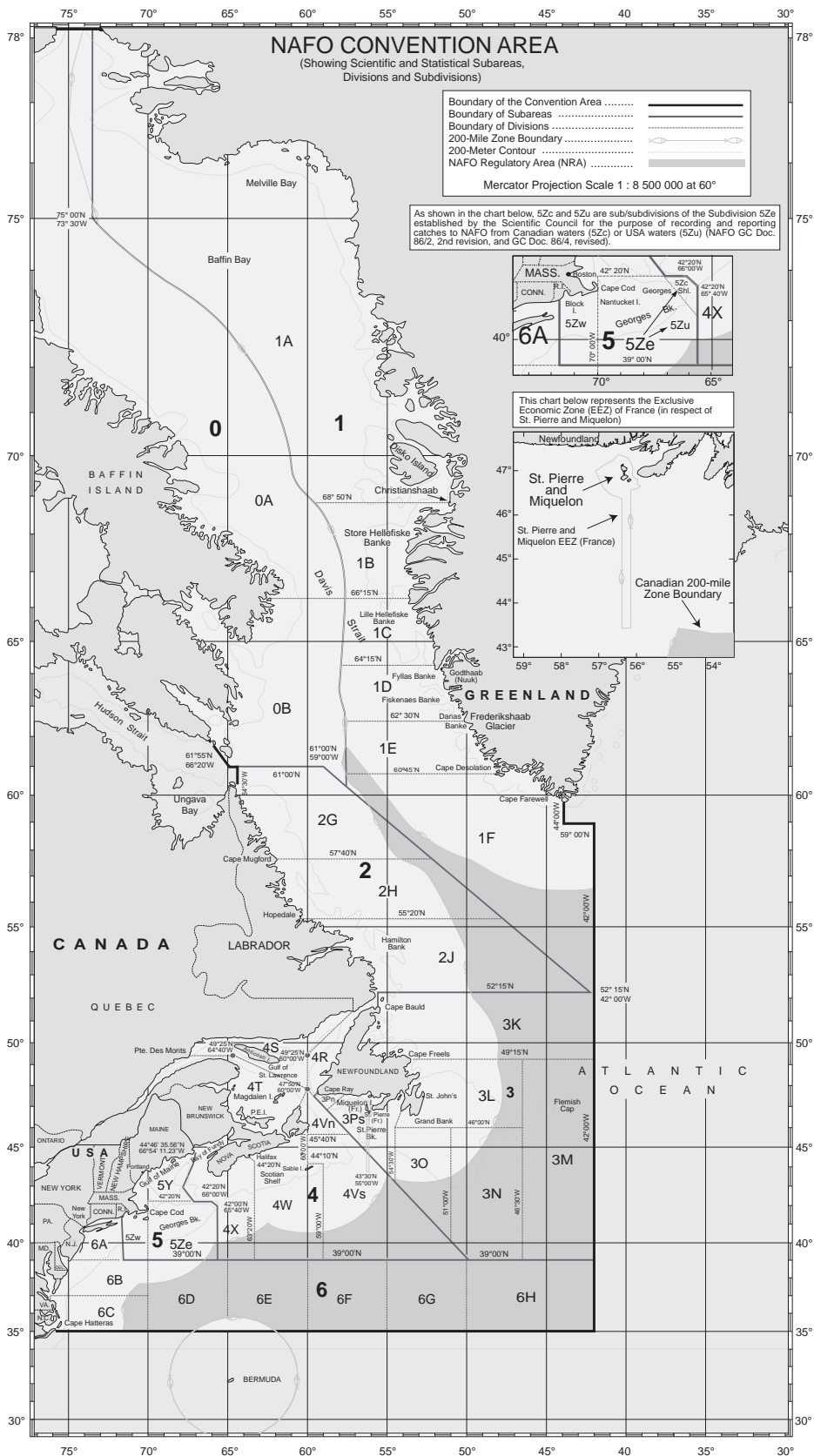
Section VI (237–269) contains the Report of the STACTIC Adhoc Working Group on Port State Control Alignment (PSC), 4–5 May, 2015, Tallinn, Estonia.

Section VII (271–314) contains the Report of the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC), 6–8 May, 2015, Tallinn, Estonia.

Section VIII (315–332) contains the Report of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM) meeting, 20–21 May 2015, NAFO Secretariat, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Section IX (333–347) contains the Report of the Fisheries Commission Ad hoc Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in the NAFO Regulatory Area, 13–14 July 2015, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Section X (349–370) contains the Report of the Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council Working Group on the Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM), 15–17 July 2015, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.



June 2015

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Structure of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)

(as of 01 August 2015)

Contracting Parties

Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union (EU), France (in respect of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, Russian Federation, Ukraine and United States of America (USA).

President

Veronika Veits (EU)

Constituent Bodies

General Council	Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), EU, France (in respect of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, Russian Federation, Ukraine and USA.	<i>Chair</i> – Veronika Veits (EU) <i>Vice-Chair</i> – Stephane Artano (France in respect of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon)
Scientific Council	Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), EU, France (in respect of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, Russian Federation, Ukraine and USA.	<i>Chair</i> – Don Stansbury (Canada) <i>Vice-Chair</i> – Katherine Sosebee (USA)
Fisheries Commission	Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), EU, France (in respect of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, Russian Federation, Ukraine and USA.	<i>Chair</i> – Sylvie Lapointe (Canada) <i>Vice-Chair</i> – Temur Tairov (Russian Federation)

Standing Committees

General Council	Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)	<i>Chair</i> – Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA) <i>Vice-Chair</i> – Elise Lavigne (Canada)
Scientific Council	Standing Committee on Fishery Science (STACFIS)	<i>Chair</i> – Brian Healey (Canada)
	Standing Committee on Research and Coordination (STACREC)	<i>Chair</i> – Katherine Sosebee (USA)
	Standing Committee on Publications (STACPUB)	<i>Chair</i> – Margaret Treble (Canada)
	Standing Committee on Fisheries Environment (STACFEN)	<i>Chair</i> – Andrew Cogswell (Canada)
Fisheries Commission	Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)	<i>Chair</i> – Gene Martin (USA) <i>Vice-Chair</i> – Aronne Spezzani (EU)

Secretariat

Executive Secretary	Fred Kingston
Deputy Executive Secretary / Senior Finance and Staff Administrator	Stan Goodick
Senior Fisheries Commission Coordinator	Ricardo Federizon
Scientific Council Coordinator	Neil Campbell
Executive Assistant to the Executive Secretary	Lisa LeFort
Senior Fisheries Information Manager	Cindy Kerr (to 28 Feb 2015)
Fisheries Information Administrator	Jana Aker (from 23 Feb 2015)
Senior Information Officer	Barb Marshall (to 31 March 2015)
Scientific Information Administrator	Dayna Bell (from 4 May 2015)
IT Manager	Matthew Kendall
Publications Manager	Alexis Pacey
Database Manager	Mark Harley
Office Administrator	Sarah Burton
NAFO Intern	Toni Bartulin (30 July to early October 2015)

Headquarters Location

2 Morris Drive, Suite 100, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, B3B 1K8

SECTION I
(1–61)

Report of the General Council and its Subsidiary Body (STACFAD)
36th Annual Meeting

22–26 September 2014
Vigo, Spain

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Heads of Delegation – left to right; back row: Chungmo Jung (Korea), Dean Swanson (USA), Vladimir Sokolov (Russia), Kenro Iino (Japan), Stéphane Artano (SPM-France), Kevin Stringer (Canada), Nicolas Dross (EU), Fred Kingston (Executive Secretary).

Front row: Jóhanna Lava Køtlum (DFG-Greenland), Elin Mortensen (DFG-Faroe Islands), Sigrun Holst (Norway), Veronika Veits (President of NAFO and GC Chair), Nora Yong Mena (Cuba), Brynhildur Benediktsdóttir (Iceland).



Fred Kingston, Executive Secretary and Veronika Veits, President of NAFO and Chair of General Council.



General Council in session, 36th Annual Meeting, Vigo, Spain

PART I

Report of the General Council

(GC Doc. 14/03)

36th Annual Meeting of NAFO

22–26 September 2014

Vigo, Spain

I. Opening Procedure

1. Opening by the Chair, Veronika Veits (EU)

The 36th Annual Meeting of NAFO was convened on 22 September 2014 at 1000 hrs at the Palacio de Congresos Mar de Vigo, Vigo, Spain, with 180 delegates present from 11 NAFO Contracting Parties (Annex 1). The NAFO President and GC Chair, Veronika Veits (EU) welcomed all delegates to the meeting (Annex 2).

The Mayor of Vigo, Mr. Abel Caballero Alvarez, the Conseilleira do Medio Rural e do Mar of the Xunta de Galicia, Mrs. Rosa Quintana Carballo, and the Secretary General of Fisheries from the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Mr. Andres Hermida Trastoy, also welcomed delegates to Vigo.

Opening statements followed by European Union, Canada, the United States of America (USA), Russian Federation, Norway, Japan, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) and Republic of Korea. (Annexes 3-11).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Fred Kingston, the Executive Secretary, was appointed the rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted as circulated (Annex 2). It was noted that the new Joint Advisory Group on Data Management will report to STACTIC but there may be budget implications associated with its work that need to be considered by STACFAD.

4. Admission of Observers

In accordance with the Rules for Observers and in advance of the meeting, the Executive Secretary had formally invited the following intergovernmental organizations to attend: Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS), Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES), International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network, North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO), North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC), North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) and Southeast Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO).

During the 36th Annual Meeting, CCAMLR was represented by Norway and NEAFC was represented by Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland). Representatives from CPPS, IMCS Network, NPAFC and FAO were also present.

The following NGOs, which had been granted accredited observer status, were also present: Ecology Action Centre (EAC), International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), PEW Environmental Foundation and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

Opening statements were made by the observers from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC), Pew Environmental Group, the World Wildlife Fund - Canada (WWF) and the Ecology Action Centre (EAC) (Annexes 12-16).

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)

With regard to the NAFO budget, STACFAD was advised to consider financial situations of Contracting Parties while maintaining a budget that was reasonable and efficient to allow the Organization to conduct its work.

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

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

The membership of the General Council and Fisheries Commission has not changed since the 2013 Annual Meeting and is currently comprised of twelve (12) Contracting Parties: Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union (EU), France (*in respect of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon*), Iceland, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Ukraine and United States of America (USA).

8. Status of ratification process resulting from the adoption of the amended Convention and presentation of progress reports

To-date, six Contracting Parties have ratified the amended Convention, namely, Canada, Cuba, European Union, Iceland, Norway and Russian Federation. Other Contracting Parties updated the status of their ratification process. Contracting Parties were encouraged to continue their efforts to ratify the amended Convention.

It was noted that Contracting Parties and the Secretariat should begin to consider the implications of the adoption of the Amended Convention.

9. Status of NAFO Headquarters Agreement

Canada reported that it is ready to proceed with finalizing a Headquarters Agreement on the basis of the draft text reviewed at the 31st Annual Meeting in 2009, since the issue of NAFO's immunity before the Canadian courts had recently been resolved by the Supreme Court of Canada. Since the review of the draft text of the Headquarters Agreement was done five years ago, it was felt that it would be beneficial to recirculate to Contracting Parties for a final review by STACFAD before proceeding. STACFAD, in its report to General Council, noted concerns of the Secretariat that the 2009 draft did not contain provisions related to the obligation of the host country, Canada, to provide the premises for the NAFO Headquarters nor the security of these premises, but recommended that alternate instruments could be developed to address these issues. It was also noted that the issue of NAFO's immunity is still a subject of a court proceedings.

10. Status of Implementation of Recommendations of the NAFO Performance Review Panel relevant to GC

At the last Annual Meeting, the Secretariat presented a document (GC Doc. 13/5) which compiled all feedback regarding the implementation of recommendations made by the NAFO Performance Review Panel into a single document. This document was updated this year (GC Doc. 14/08). The Chair reiterated that a regular review of progress was a good way forward. However, to streamline the process, in the future the overall review would be conducted only by the General Council.

It was noted that, as called for by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), that RFMOs should undertake regular performance reviews. While no specific agreement was reached on the timing of the next NAFO Performance Review, the Chair and some Contracting Parties suggested that it could begin in 2015. The next performance assessment could use the 2011 Review as a foundation for this future Review.

11. Administrative Report

The Administrative Report was presented to STACFAD (GC Doc. 14/01).

III. Coordination of External Affairs

12. Report of Executive Secretary on external meetings

Since the last Annual Meeting, the Executive Secretary has participated in the following external activities: International Fisheries Commission Pension Society (IFCPS) (April 2014), FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) (June 2014) and the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN) (June 2014).

Other members of the Secretariat actively participated in the EU Stakeholder Meeting on the Revision of the Data Collection Regulation (January 2014) and the FAO Workshop on the Global Database for Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (May 2014).

An overview of these meetings is available in the Administrative Report (GC Doc 14/01).

13. International Relations

a) Observers to other Organizations

At the last Annual Meeting (September 2013), it was agreed that the following NAFO Contracting Parties would observe at meetings of the following organizations during 2013/2014: Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) would represent NAFO at the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC). European Union would represent NAFO at meetings of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Norway would represent NAFO at meetings of the South East Atlantic Fishery Organisation (SEAFO) and the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO). The United States of America would represent NAFO at the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO). Reports by Observers were presented.

It was agreed that NAFO Contracting Parties would observe at the following meetings of 2014-2015: EU at ICCAT; USA at CCAMLR, NPAFC and NASCO; Norway at SEAFO and NAAMCO; and Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) at NEAFC.

b) Deep-Sea ABNJ Project

In 2013 NAFO was invited to be a partner in the FAO-GEF Project “Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)”. NAFO’s participation will be guided by the activities table which was jointly prepared by FAO and the NAFO Secretariat and which may be modified as the project progresses. The NAFO support to the project would be an estimated in-kind contribution over the period of 2014-2018. This in-kind contribution represents staff time for activities and meeting expenses for work on deep sea fisheries, and administrative expenses for NAFO’s current core activities and operations which are of direct relevance to deep sea fisheries. Almost all of the costs that are being implemented or planned are part of the regular work of NAFO.

FAO gave an update to General Council (GC WP 14/11, Annex 17) and it was agreed that this update would be given annually.

14. Offshore petroleum exploration and production and their impact on fisheries and VMEs in the NAFO Regulatory Area

The Executive Secretary gave a report on developments on the issue (GC WP 14/07)

In 2013 it was agreed NAFO would involve itself in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process being conducted by the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB). NAFO submitted comments to the draft SEA Report to the C-NLOPB and the comments appear to have been considered. One of the SEA Report’s Conclusions was that it should consider the “establishment of a mechanism to share information between the operator/licence holders in the NAFO Regulatory Area and NAFO.

During the previous year, the NAFO Secretariat has also been in contact with an organization called “One Ocean”. One Ocean is a private sector organization, established by the fishing and petroleum industries of the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador, with the objective to “facilitate communication and information exchange” between the two industries.

During 2014, on the research side, information on a Spanish research survey, including details of the research vessel's intended location on a given day, were conveyed to the oil and gas industry through the Secretariat. A direct line of communication was also established between the Spanish research vessel and oil and gas vessels. This ensured that both sides were not in the same area at the same time. On the fishing side, however, there have been a number of incidents in which both oil and gas seismic vessels and fishing vessels tried to operate in the same area at the same time, resulting in some economic loss to one or the other.

A number of Contracting Parties expressed their concern about the potential impact that offshore petroleum exploration and production may have on NAFO's efforts to protect stocks and vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs).

Contracting Parties agreed that the exchange of information is important to promoting coordination and communication between fisheries and hydrocarbons activities and gave a mandate to the Executive Secretary to work with the appropriate Canadian authorities to explore and implement a means for the appropriate and timely exchange of information necessary to avoid overlapping activities and mitigate potential conflicts between fisheries and hydrocarbons activities (GC WP 14/12Rev2, Annex 18). The Executive Secretary will report on this at the next annual NAFO meeting or intersessionally as required.

IV. Finance

15. Report of STACFAD at the Annual Meeting

The report of STACFAD was adopted by the Chair, Deidre Warner-Kramer (USA). The report contained the adoption of the budget for 2015, the Auditor's Report for 2013, financial matters, personnel matters, and an update on the implementation of the Performance Review Panel recommendations.

16. Adoption of the Budget and STACFAD recommendations for 2015

STACFAD recommended:

- **the 2013 Auditors' Report be adopted.**
- **WBLI's proposal to provide audit services to the Organization for the 2014 and 2015 fiscal years be accepted.**
- **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 2015, and of which \$85,000 would be a contingency fund available to be used for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.**
- **the General Council direct it to develop Terms of Reference intersessionally to review the existing NAFO Secretariat classification scheme, including salary scales and relevant employment benefits' to improve efficiency and support the priorities of the Organization and its Contracting Parties. The review will be performed by an external expert to be identified by STACFAD. The Terms of Reference will be completed by the end of November and circulated to General Council for review and approval. Results of the study are to be provided to STACFAD for review which will develop recommendation for consideration at the 2015 NAFO annual meeting.**
- **the Secretariat pursue alternate and additional methods to disseminate program information to prospective interns, particularly to nationals of NAFO member countries that have not yet participated.**
- **no amendment to Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure for Observers is required.**
- **the General Council endorse the progress achieved to implement the Performance Review Panel's recommendations in the area of finance and administration.**

- **the budget for 2015 of \$1,981,000 be adopted.**
- **General Council appoint the three nominees - Emilia Batista (EU); Joanne Morgan (Canada) and Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA).**
- **the dates of the 2017 Annual Meeting (to be held in Halifax, N.S., Canada, unless an invitation to host is extended by a Contracting Party and accepted by the Organization) to be as follows: 18 – 22 September 2017**
- **a new rule be inserted in the NAFO Financial Regulations as outlined in Annex 7 [of the STACFAD Report].**
- (Concerning the Headquarters Agreement:) **to undertake a process that would develop an alternate instrument (e.g. a memorandum of understanding) that would address these issues (provision of premises and security by host country) and be reviewed at the 2015 Annual Meeting.**

All of STACFAD's recommendations were adopted by General Council and the work and report by STACFAD and the Secretariat commended. The budget was adopted with a slight increase.

V. Closing Procedure

17. Election of Vice-Chair

The present Vice-Chair, Mr. Stéphane Artano from France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), who was first elected in September 2012, was re-elected and agreed to continue in this role.

18. Time and Place of Next Annual Meeting

No invitations were received during this meeting and so the 37th Annual Meeting will be in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, during the dates of 21-25 September 2015.

19. Other Business

It was noted that this was Dean Swanson's (USA) last Annual Meeting. The meeting recognized his hard work and various roles he has played throughout his years at NAFO. The Executive Secretary also noted that Barbara Marshall intends to retire before the next Annual Meeting after 36 years working for the Secretariat and expressed his appreciation for her dedication to the Organization.

20. Press Release

The Press Release of the Meeting was developed by the Executive Secretary through consultations with the Chairs of General Council, Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council. The agreed Press Release (Annex 19) was circulated and posted to the NAFO website at the conclusion of the meeting on Friday, 26 September.

21. Adjournment

The Chair noted that NAFO has achieved much this year and should be proud of its achievements. Delegates were thanked for their constructive work and were wished good travels.

The meeting was adjourned at 1430 hrs on Friday, 26 September 2014.

Annex 1. Participant List

NAFO President/GC Chair - Veits, Veronika (EU)

Chair of the Fisheries Commission - Lapointe, Sylvie (Canada)

Chair of Scientific Council - Stansbury, Don (Canada)

Chair of STACFAD - Warner-Kramer, Deirdre (USA)

Chair of STACTIC - Martin, Gene (USA)

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Annex 2. Agenda

I. Opening Procedure

1. Opening by the Chair, Veronika Veits (EU)
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 and presentation of progress reports
9. Status of NAFO Headquarters Agreement
10. Status of Implementation of Recommendations of the NAFO Performance Review Panel relevant to GC
11. Administrative Report

III. Coordination of External Affairs

12. Report of Executive Secretary on external meetings
13. International Relations
14. Offshore petroleum exploration and production and their impact on fisheries and VMEs in the NAFO Regulatory Area

IV. Finance

15. Report of STACFAD at the Annual Meeting
16. Adoption of the Budget and STACFAD recommendations for 2015

V. Closing Procedure

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

Annex 3. Opening Statement by the European Union

Distinguished President, Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to say that the EU is extremely honoured to host the 36th Annual Meeting of NAFO in Spain, and we thank our colleagues from the Spanish and Galician government for taking care of the practical arrangements so smoothly.

Vigo, being the biggest NAFO fishing port in Europe is indeed the perfect venue for yet another round of NAFO deliberations and for identifying NAFO priorities in 2015. This brings us closer to the people of the sea, the people who are actually making the effort to implement sometimes tough NAFO decisions.

Since the last Annual Meeting, we have all been working very hard: 4 working groups, 2 Joint NAFO-NEAFC groups on data management, a meeting of the Committee on Control (STACTIC) and a meeting of the Scientific Council.

This substantial intersessional work should allow NAFO to thrive in four key areas:

First of all, the move towards risk based management plans with the continuation of the existing plans and the development of new ones. This approach will help make the management of NAFO stocks more sustainable and predictable;

Secondly, a comprehensive eco-system approach, with extension in time of the current closures of vulnerable marine ecosystems and the consideration of new ones, but also by tackling the need to reduce and preferably eliminate discards in NAFO fisheries; Let me mention in this context our commitment to continue our support for the NEREIDA seabed mapping project. Its outcome will be crucial for the VME review in 2016.

Thirdly, better science as basis for sound management, through more and better data and the continuation of a strong dialogue between fisheries managers and scientists; Better science is crucial for sound management decisions and thus the performance of NAFO.

And finally an even stronger and more efficient control and enforcement system, in particular by launching a process for bringing NAFO's port state control in line with the FAO Port State Measures Agreement and for reinforcing NAFO's observer system.

Further to these key issues on our agenda, setting Total Allowable Catches or TACs will take the centre stage. In line with the EU's new Common Fisheries Policy adopted by the end of last year, the EU is firmly committed to following scientific advice and hopes that NAFO will take well balanced and responsible decisions that will address environmental, economic and social considerations.

We will also push once again for the introduction of a shark fins attached policy in NAFO, in line with the EU internal policy and global efforts to end the wasteful practice of shark finning.

As a last point, the EU is hopeful that progress will be made on the ratification of the Amended Convention so as to allow NAFO to use the new provisions as soon as possible. This goal seems within reach. The EU therefore calls on strengthened efforts from Contracting Parties concerned to accelerate their ratification process.

The EU delegation looks forward to working with all Parties around the table in order to achieve the best possible results for NAFO stocks and ecosystems and to make this Annual Meeting a joint success.

Thank you.

Annex 4. Opening Statement by Canada

Good morning, Madame President, distinguished delegates, dignitaries, observers, ladies and gentlemen.

It's a pleasure for the Canadian delegation to participate at this annual meeting in the wonderful city of Vigo, home to Spain's deep sea fleet. I want to commend our hosts, the city of Vigo, the region, Spain, and the EU for selecting this venue, and the excellent arrangements that have been made by the Secretariat.

The rich history of our communities and their dependence on fishing in the North Atlantic places a duty on all of us to ensure our fisheries are managed sustainably. We believe NAFO has shown its capacity to achieve this goal in recent years, based on cooperation and hard work.

As noted in the 2011 NAFO Performance Review, the Organization has made significant improvements over the years, developing into a more robust, consensus-based organization, whose governing principles have been modernized and where enforcement measures are delivered in a co-operative manner.

Among the most recent examples of the evolution of NAFO are the establishment of the joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Groups, which met for the first time in 2014. We also saw greater transparency in these meetings, with the inclusion of observers.

Our commitment to cooperation and sustainable fisheries management can be linked to results in recent years, including the recovery of some groundfish stocks, including 3LN redfish and 3M cod. These are real success stories where we took a principled, science-based and precautionary approach to their re-opening. Another stock on the same road to recovery is 3NO witch flounder. As we move to reopen and as we rebuild we must be prudent, applying precautionary measures to ensure that the very real sacrifices in the past are not wasted, and we allow these stocks to rebuild.

Despite the progress NAFO has made, a number of challenges remain. We must continue to identify opportunities to strengthen our enforcement regime and improve compliance, including through effective follow-up on infringements.

Perhaps the greatest challenge facing NAFO today is the credibility of catch reports. Catch reporting is the foundation for accurate stock assessments and science, and these are the foundation for an effective fisheries management regime. The ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting met earlier this year and provided us with several recommendations that we must now implement. At the same time, there are other tools that have been presented that we must also consider if we want to effectively address this issue, including sharing of tow-by-tow data with the Secretariat, strengthening of the observer program and labelling by date.

The bycatch and discards working group, that met earlier this year, started to assess NAFO's bycatch and discards regime. This working group identified areas of work that need to be addressed. One recurrent theme was utility of having access to data in order to improve our understanding of the issue.

The recommendations of the Working Group on Risk-based management Strategies will add to the suite of precautionary-based rebuilding plans and management strategies for NAFO stocks. We have refined a General Framework on Risk Based management and continue to update existing management plans for a number of stocks. We are now in a position to adopt new risk-based management plans for 3LN redfish and we are looking forward to advancing a risk-based management strategy for 3M cod. Canada also hopes to see a plan developed for 3NO witch flounder in 2015.

Through the recommendations of the Working Group on an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management, NAFO has once again demonstrated that it is a global leader in managing the impacts of fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems. The measures proposed by this working group will help further protect key concentrations of corals, sponges, seapens and other VMEs, and represent NAFO's commitment to its international obligations. The Working Group also made important progress on the identification of priorities through the Ecosystem Roadmap. These priorities will play an increasingly important role in the future of NAFO, as we build a better understanding of interactions within ecosystems. NAFO has been a world leader in many areas, including the development and application of the Precautionary Approach. NAFO has the opportunity to do the same on an ecosystem approach to fisheries management in the NRA.

On administrative matters - we all face financial challenges. As we are all doing domestically, we must ensure that NAFO operates as effectively and efficiently as possible. Canada will be seeking zero nominal growth in our budget, and encourage us all to focus our capacity on our mandate and priorities.

We must also remember the importance of the Amendments to the 1978 NAFO Convention. As you know, at least nine of the twelve Contracting Parties must ratify the Amendments before they can come into force. We congratulate Iceland on their recent ratification of the amendments, bringing the total number to 6. We understand that some others are close to ratification. We are encouraged by this – and we need to start to prepare for the renewed convention.

The 36th annual meeting of NAFO provides an opportunity to build on the progress outlined above. There remain some real challenges but this gives us an opportunity to continue to move NAFO forward. The framework that NAFO has developed, including the communication between managers and scientists provides the mechanism to do this. I trust we will have a successful and productive meeting.

Thank you.

Annex 5. Opening Statement by the USA

Thank you Madame President and Good Morning to everyone.

The United States would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Spain, the Region of Galicia and Vigo, and of course the European Union for bringing us back here for the 36th NAFO Annual Meeting. The beauty and history of this city make it a fitting location for this meeting. We also thank the Secretariat for its sustained excellent support. We are looking forward to a productive meeting.

It is with no small measure of pride that we took part in the outstanding intersessional work that has taken place since the last Annual Meeting. In our opinion the joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council work to develop and improve data and reporting capacity; implement precautionary and risk based management and decision making; address by-catch and related issues and implement ecosystem based fisheries management place NAFO on the cutting edge of regional fisheries management organizations. This uniting of purpose towards sustainability has not been seen in previous years, and although much work remains, the United States is more than satisfied that NAFO is on the right path.

In terms of the specific work before us, the United States is particularly hopeful that we will be able to find solutions to the challenges we face with regard to management of 3M cod, 3LM redfish, witch flounder, 3LNO skates, 3L shrimp and stocks in general. We continue to support the Scientific Council advice with regards to these and other stocks and we are hopeful that Contracting Parties will act in the same manner. We must also further advance NAFOs path breaking work to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems and there are important decisions to be made in this regard that must be made at this meeting.

The United States was particularly pleased with the work undertaken by the Ad hoc Working Group on By-catch, Discards and Selectivity. We were gratified that this work expressed support for the FAO Guidelines on By-catch and use them as a starting point. We feel that this valuable working group should continue to meet in the future working in collaboration with STACTIC and we will be tabling a proposal addressing the underlining foundational needs for by-catch and discard data collection and reporting at this meeting. In the coming days, you will also see a US proposal designed to improve monitoring and enforcement within NAFO through adoption of the use of the IMO numbering scheme. Likewise the United States will propose in STACTIC a consistent approach to address serious infringements detected at sea and in port.

Finally the United States is pleased with the work of the Working Group on Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management in particular the endorsement of the Road Map to EAF which we believe will be a model for all other RFMOs. We look forward to working with other partners this week in adopting the recommendations from that and the other intersessional working groups.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to tell you that this will be my last NAFO meeting. For the past dozen years it has not been impossible for the Regional Administrator of our Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office to lead our NAFO delegation but this situation has changed and so it is my honor to announce that Mr. John Bullard, seated immediately to my right, is expected to be the next US Federal Commissioner. He has the full support of my immediate agency, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and he brings tremendous experience in fisheries management in the North Atlantic along with him. There's no doubt that he will serve NAFO and the United States with great distinction.

Thank you.

Annex 6. Opening Statement by the Russia Federation

Madame President, distinguished delegates, observers, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to represent the Russian Delegation at the 36th Annual Meeting of NAFO.

On behalf of the Russian Delegation, I would like to thank the EU and Spanish authorities for hosting this annual meeting in this beautiful port city of Vigo and for the excellent arrangements. I would also like to extend my thanks to the NAFO Secretariat for the preparations for this meeting.

We would like to commend the excellent work undertaken by different NAFO bodies and working groups during the intersessional period. We are pleased with the work of the Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies and Scientific Council, which focused on development and evaluation of management strategies for the stocks. Together with the MSE approach for Greenland halibut stock currently in place, work to explore optimal management strategies for 3M cod and 3LN redfish is being undertaken. These stocks, along with 3M redfish and 3O redfish, are of the most importance to the Russian fleet.

Russia also supports the recommendations developed by the Ad hoc Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity, and feels that it is necessary to pursue development of measures aimed at reducing discards in fisheries in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

We are supportive of the measures taken by NAFO to conserve vulnerable marine ecosystems, and we believe that a compromise, which allows for efficient protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems without making any considerable changes to the traditional and historically established fishing areas, will be found. There is a need for a balanced approach, which integrates the interests of fishermen while taking due regard of research findings and the best scientific information available. Special attention needs to be given to researches into bottom ecosystems conducted onboard fishing vessels. Russia is exploring the possibility to enhance these researches.

We have a full agenda ahead of us during this week. We are looking forward to a successful and productive work during this session.

Thank you for your attention!

Annex 7. Opening Statement by Norway

Madame President, distinguished delegates and observers,

I would thank the Spanish authorities and the European Union for hosting and organizing this annual meeting. I would also express our sincere appreciation of the warm welcome we have received in this very important fisheries city. I would also thank the Secretariat for their hard work and important support.

NAFO has been faced with a number of challenges over the last years. We have, however, made significant progress in various areas. We are among the leading RFMOs when it comes to protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems from adverse impact from fisheries. It is, however, important that we establish clear rules in this respect so that NAFO can remain at the forefront, committed to complying with our international obligations.

When it comes to resource management, it is true, we have made some progress. But many of the stocks under NAFO's responsibility are still under moratorium while others are just recovering. Despite this it has been decided to fix TACs for stocks in a poor state against the advice given by the Scientific Council. Although some stocks might resist a higher fishing pressure a year or two, and thus provide some short term gains, this is not a viable solution in the long run. In order to provide for more long term sustainability we have initiated work to provide for management plans. When elaborating these plans, it is important that we do not open up for a variety of management options every year. That might lead us in a wrong direction and have the same discussions on the level of the outtake as we have today on the basis of yearly advice. It would be wise if we could strive to take the discussions on what kind of harvest level would optimize the catches in the long run when we elaborate management plans, and then we could hopefully avoid yearly discussions on the level of TACs.

Hopefully we will have fruitful discussions on these issues as well as all other issues on our agenda during this meeting. For our part we are ready to cooperate constructively with all parties with a view to obtaining the best possible results for NAFO.

Annex 8. Opening Statement by Japan

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen.

First of all, on behalf of the Japanese delegation, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the European Union and the government of Spain for having hosted the 36th Annual meeting of NAFO in this beautiful city of Vigo and also thank the NAFO Secretariat for the good preparation and the hard work as always.

Last year, NAFO decided to establish some important joint Working Groups such as Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies, and Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries. This new approaches would be a great help to solve the issues which are difficult to resolve by single Committee. In this annual meeting, we will discuss several agenda items with the outcome of the Joint Working Groups. I hope we can find out solutions on unsolved items and achieve the goal in line with NAFO Convention.

Madam Chair, there are many important agendas in front of us. From Japan's point of view, protection of VMEs is one of the most challenging but important agendas. NAFO has discussed this issue in recent annual meetings and inter-sessional Working Groups, but we clearly need more discussion. Japan fully supports sustainable use of fisheries resources taking into account appropriate protection to VMEs. Madam chair, as Japan expressed in the joint inter-sessional Working Group in July, development of closed areas is not the only means to protect VMEs. NAFO is a fisheries management organization, so we should consider two objectives together, namely sustainable use of fishery resources and appropriate protection of VMEs. In this context, we would like to stress that current "move on rule" which is implemented effectively by other RFMOs, is the proper and realistic way to achieve the two objectives.

Finally Madam Chair, Japan is willing to work with friends for the success of this meeting.

Thank you.

Annex 9. Opening Statement by Cuba

Good morning everybody.

Mr. President, distinguish delegates and observers.

On behalf of the Cuban delegation, let me express our gratitude to the authorities of the European Union, particularly of Spain and the city of Vigo, for the invitation and the opportunity to meet again in this beautiful and friendly place.

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

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

The results of the General Council WG on the development of plans of action necessary for the implementation of the recommendations of the NAFO Performance Review Panel, the Amendment to the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, that we hope and urge the Contracting Parties to approve, are also examples of this important work.

During this week we will have again the opportunity to analyze the situation of stocks in the Convention area, the work developed by the different Commissions of the Organization, the plans for the recovery of several stocks that are still under moratoria or rebuilding process and all this need the compromise of all parties to ensure that those stocks have chance to recover.

We look forward to work with all delegations present at this meeting and that the discussions and decisions to be taken at this 36th Annual Meeting, will be testimonies of the NAFOs serious efforts in responding to the significant changes in the marine ecosystem as a result of adverse impacts of overfishing, climate changes and also a commitment to manage fisheries in a sustainable way for futures generations.

Thank you very much.

Annex 10. Opening Statement by Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Madame Chair, distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The Faroe Islands and Greenland would first of all like to thank EU and Spain for their hospitality to host this Annual Meeting in Vigo, Spain. We appreciate all the hard work our Spanish hosts has put in the practical preparations of this meeting.

The Faroe Islands and Greenland will continue to work constructively with our NAFO partners in order to facilitate the implementation of the Performance Review Report recommendations. Among these the continuing work to address the discrepancies between the STATLANT and the STACFIS catch estimations, which was deemed a matter of great urgency by the Performance Review Panel. It is in the interest of all contracting parties, that the work with the implementation is carried out as soon as possible as the outcome will entail a more up-to-date and effective NAFO in all aspects of the organization's operations and improve the scientific advice on different stocks.

For DFG it is important, that NAFO endeavor to work for transparency in the transmission of data. The data provided for STACTIC must be sound and transparent.

The biological advice on NAFO stocks for the next year and beyond is as usual a mixed advice of stocks to be maintained under moratoria, of stocks in decline and of stocks that are healthy and growing. As last year The Faroe Islands and Greenland still note with increased concern that the shrimp stocks at Flemish Cap and the Grand Banks shows no sign of recovery and cessation in decline. Only a few years ago the shrimp stock at Grand Banks was in a very good shape with TAC's on 30.000 tonnes.

On the other hand we note with satisfaction that the cod stock in Division 3M continue to exhibit biomass improvements. However, the improvement of this stock may to some extent be at the expense of the declining shrimp stocks as cod prey on these stocks. This issue should be thoroughly examined along with other issues such as climate change effects on the stocks straddling patterns.

Madame Chair, 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 Madame Chair, 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 successful conclusion.

Thank you

Annex 11. Opening Statement by the Republic of Korea

Good morning, madam Chair, all distinguished delegates and attendees to the 36th Annual meeting of NAFO.

It is my pleasant honor to extend my cordial greetings to all of you.

First of all, Korean delegation would like to thank the Spain Government and NAFO secretariat for hosting this meeting and inviting us to this beautiful Vigo.

Korea shares the objectives of the NAFO with all other delegations in this room.

And, Korea would like to make contributions to NAFO through actively participating in the process of establishing and enforcing fisheries conservation measures.

In the meantime, it would be also important to implement the conservation measures at a sensible level based on the best available science.

In this regard, I look forward to hearing many diverse and illuminating views and opinions of the delegates on important agendas. I hope this meeting will allow us to have progress and further yield fruitful and constructive results.

Thank you.

Annex 12. Opening Statement by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Thank you, Chair.

It is a pleasure for me to represent FAO at the 36th Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) in the beautiful city of Vigo.

I would like to briefly draw your attention to a few areas of FAO work that may be of interest. FAO continues to work at reducing illegal, unreported and unregulated (or IUU) fishing through a range of instruments, including the 2009 Port State Measures Agreement [FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing] which is now ratified/acceded or approved by eleven parties; the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance which are now endorsed by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), as well as through the continued development of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (or the “Global Record”). FAO is now in the process of conducting a global capacity development programme, through a series of regional workshops, to facilitate accession to the Port State Measures Agreement to bring it into force as soon as possible and ensure that it is accepted internationally in the widest possible manner.

FAO has recently entered into a collaborative programme with the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to support developing countries in meeting the CITES requirements for the newly listed shark and ray species. Please contact me if you would like further information on this project.

FAO looks forward to further collaboration with NAFO through existing partnerships such as the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Systems (FIRMS) network and the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Deep Seas Project which I will present in greater detail this week.

We wish you fruitful deliberations over the course of the week and hope to be able to welcome all of you again to Vigo for the Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries which will take place here in October 2015.

Thank you.

Annex 13. Opening Statement by North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC)

Dear Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission, I would like to extend our appreciation to members of the NAFO General Council and the Executive Secretary Dr. Fred Kingston for inviting NPAFC to attend the 36th NAFO Annual Meeting. The NPAFC considers this meeting as a good opportunity to strengthen our cooperation in fields of information exchange, planning, organizational, and publication activities to further the attainment of the objectives of our Conventions.

The main NPAFC objective is to promote the conservation of anadromous stocks in the Convention Area. The Commission attains its goals through coordination of the NPAFC Parties' enforcement activities, promotion on the national and mutual scientific research on Pacific salmon, and supporting the exchanges of catch, effort and stock enhancement information. NPAFC meets challenges of the 21st century same as the other international fishery management organizations worldwide. The challenges include climate change effects on anadromous stocks, persistence of the illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the high seas, funding restraints, which complicate the Commission's activities, and so on. In this tricky environment, our organizations need to tighten relationships to facilitate exchange of experiences and ideas to conform enforcement and scientific plans to the requirements of global long-term perspectives. The NPAFC hopes to gain many experiences from NAFO such as the method of catch estimation for assessing the incidental catches of Pacific salmon; conservation and enforcement measures; scientific advice on fish stocks; NAFO Internship Program, and other matters of mutual interests.

The NPAFC is busy preparing for the 2015 Annual Meeting and International Symposium, which will be conducted in Kobe, Japan, on May 11-15 and 17-19, 2015. This symposium will review recent research on ecological mechanisms regulating marine distribution and production of anadromous populations, climate change impacts on salmonid populations, retrospective analysis of key populations as indicators of conditions in North Pacific marine ecosystems, and implications of stock identification and model development for management of salmon and steelhead.

As for many previous years, NPAFC looks forward to seeing the NAFO representatives at the 23rd Annual Meeting in Kobe to participate discussion of matters relevant to the conservation of salmon and ecologically related species in ocean habitats.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Annex 14. Opening Statement by WWF (World Wildlife Fund-Canada)

Thank you Madam Chair. Distinguished Delegates and observers, on behalf of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), I would like to thank our EU and Spanish hosts, NAFO Secretariat and Contracting Parties for welcoming us to this meeting in Vigo. It is a great pleasure to be here.

WWF has participated as an observer in NAFO annual and Scientific Council meetings for the past nine years. We are very pleased with the increased transparency in NAFO's decision-making processes. Plenary discussions and working groups' openness to observers have become "the rule" and not the exception in the past few years.

As years go by, we learn more and more about the important role of the Atlantic Ocean and about its associated threats. For example, a recent study has confirmed that the Atlantic Ocean is the biggest heat sink, not the Pacific as previously thought. The IPCC most recent report has also indicated that ocean acidification is more severe in northern parts of the North Atlantic and around the poles. And the Convention on Biological Diversity has produced a report emphasizing that ocean acidification is currently occurring at an unprecedented rate, subjecting marine organisms to an additional, and worsening, environmental stress.

In challenging times like these, it is of utmost importance to join efforts to ensure increased productivity and the long-term sustainability of fishing resources for food security and sustainable livelihoods. These long-term benefits depend upon healthy and resilient marine ecosystems.

It is with this in mind that WWF calls upon NAFO Contracting Parties to continue making progress on the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs). As science evolves, we increasingly learn about the relevant role played by VMEs for marine ecosystems. This is a very important Annual Meeting for VMEs because all current closures will expire at the end of this year, and because of the upcoming UN review of the implementation of the UN General Assembly Resolutions on the protection of VMEs. The Scientific Council conducted a review of the current closures and has identified new VME areas, using best available scientific methods. We hope that in this meeting, NAFO takes appropriate conservation and management measures in line with this scientific information. Therefore, WWF urges NAFO to:

- Incorporate the VME definitions provided by the Scientific Council into NAFO's regulations for consistency;
- Renew all current closures;
- Extend the current closures to areas where VMEs are known to occur, including in areas 4, 30, and the New England and Corner Rise Seamount chains; and
- Create new closures including in proposed areas 15, as well as 13 and 14 combined.
- We also encourage further scientific research to advance our knowledge of VMEs in the NAFO regulatory area.

Another priority for WWF this year concerns catch data accuracy and the need for enhanced reporting procedures – a fundamental issue that underpins NAFO's performance, effectiveness and credibility. We were encouraged to see the steps taken last year towards resolving this complex issue, and we urge NAFO to take further meaningful steps, including through the adoption of a mandatory electronic tow-by-tow reporting system to the Secretariat, as well as a system for cross-verification of different data sources.

We would like to highlight that a world-class Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAF) Roadmap has been developed by NAFO scientists. The roadmap is a milestone along NAFO's journey towards placing a healthy and productive ecosystem at the centre of the complex fisheries management decisions. Therefore we urge NAFO's bodies to prioritize the elements highlighted in the roadmap workplan to further advance its implementation in the Northwest Atlantic.

In addition, WWF would like to call upon all contracting parties to follow scientific advice and in cases where scientific advice may not be conclusive go with a more precautionary TAC or approach. And finally, we'd like to call all Contracting Parties that haven't yet done so, to ratify the 2007 Amendment to the NAFO Convention to enable a true modernization of this RFMO in accordance with international law.

A number of other important elements have been addressed by our WWF position paper. I would be happy to share copies and further discuss WWF's position during the meeting.

Thank you very much.
Muchas gracias.

Annex 15. Opening Statement by Pew Environmental Group

Thank you Madam Chair, and like my colleague from WWF we appreciate the opportunity to attend this meeting as observers and the increasing transparency of NAFO generally to participation from non-governmental organizations.

I'll be brief as the positions of the Pew Environmental Group are reflected in a joint position paper that was put together by the Ecology Action Center and the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition.

I just wanted to say that in light of the 2015 UN General Assembly Review of the Implementation of the Resolutions in relation to the management of deep sea fisheries on the high seas, we will be participating in this meeting and listening with keen interest to the debates and the decisions that will be made by the Commission this year. Our major interest is on the long-term sustainability of deep sea species and fish stocks; and the protection of VMEs. We don't see these as mutually exclusive objectives or goals.

Thank you.

Annex 16. Opening Statement by the Ecology Action Centre

(Member of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition)

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Fellow Observers, on behalf of the EAC as a member of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, we appreciate the opportunity to once again attend NAFO as an official observer. We are also happy to be back in the city of Vigo. We want to make particular note of the welcomed improvement in transparency of NAFO Working Group meetings over the past year.

This meeting is particularly important, given the upcoming review in 2015 of the implementation of the United Nations General Assembly Sustainable Fisheries Resolutions.

Our primary concern continues to be the mitigation of fishing impacts on the marine ecosystem for which NAFO has competence. Over the past several years, NAFO has made good progress in implementing the United Nations General Assembly Sustainable Fisheries Resolutions 61/105 /, 64/72 and 66/68 which outline measures to and stress the urgency of protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems and sustainably managing deep sea fisheries.

This year we urge NAFO to permanently close existing closed areas and to protect all additional areas recommended by the Scientific Council through the work of the WG-EAFM, where significant concentrations of VMEs have been identified. We recommend that NAFO close all areas recommended and ensure that all known VME concentrations, including seamounts, are closed to destructive fishing practices. Full and permanent protection measures will allow NAFO to refocus on other important issues to the improvement of fisheries management in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

While NAFO has made progress on protecting the marine ecosystem upon which all Contracting Parties depend for the provision of valuable fisheries resources, there remain key areas for improvement including accurate catch reporting, ending fishing of unregulated species, improved data collection of bycatch and ensuring best practices for management of all species in the NRA, including sharks. We support NAFO to approve any proposal for fins naturally attached, particularly as this practice is already occurring in the coastal waters of several Contracting Parties.

We also urge Contracting Parties to support efforts to better understand the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on rebuilding efforts of NAFO stocks.

Our specific recommendations will be circulated and are available on the table for observer information. We look forward to this week's meeting and seeing further progress at NAFO, and continued transparency of decision making.

Thank you.

Annex 17. FAO Activities on Deep-sea Fisheries in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

(GC Working Paper 14/11)

This report includes information on upcoming activities under the newly approved project “Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep Sea Living Resources in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)”. This project was approved in June of this year and is one of four under the ABNJ Programme. Components 1, 2, and 3 are led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and Component 4 is led by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation and Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). Recruitment is currently underway for project staff, including the Project Coordinator/Deep Sea Fisheries Specialist and the Area-Based Planner.

Upcoming activities that may be of interest to NAFO and its members are listed below. There are a range of other activities included in the project that promote collaboration and sharing of experiences on deep-sea fisheries and associated biodiversity.

PROJECT COORDINATION/PLANNING

- **Project inception meeting:** In late 2014/early 2015, once the project manager is hired there will be a project inception meeting for the ABNJ Deep Sea project with partners. We would be pleased to invite NAFO or a NAFO member to participate.

GENERAL DEEP-SEA FISHERIES

- **The review of the Northwest Atlantic Ocean chapter in the 2nd edition of the *Worldwide Review of Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas (WWR)*** (November 2014 to February 2015): Working with RFMO/As and other stakeholders, the Worldwide Review of Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas (FAO, 2009) will be updated and expanded. The last review covered deep-sea fisheries for the period 2003-2006 using information acquired from a questionnaire circulated to some 40 countries and regional bodies. The updated review will address information gaps identified in the last review and will take into account progress made on monitoring of data-poor deep-sea stocks, and benefit from updated stock assessment for key species and new advances in assessment technologies. The review will be organized in close collaboration with the relevant regional bodies. As in the first edition, there will be a dedicated chapter on the NAFO region which will also be reviewed by a NAFO expert.
- **Species identification guides for vulnerable deep-sea species:** FAO has a programme on development of identification tools for deep-sea species for those regions that do not yet have their own guide. The main objective of these guides is to assist in the implementation of fisheries management (e.g. bycatch requirements, recording of catches, inspection, etc.) by providing user-friendly guides for use onboard vessels by observers, non-scientists and scientists, and to enhance scientific assessment. The first series covered deep-sea cartilaginous fishes of the Indian Ocean and the South East Atlantic. A online working group on sponges of the Atlantic has been established to discuss the development of tools and capacity development activities. A manual on collection of data on deep-sea species is also being produced and will be published by January 2015. Training workshops for the use of the FAO deep-sea species guidelines are also underway. The first workshop was held last June in on identifying deep-sea cartilaginous fishes in the Indian Ocean. FAO is also developing an application for the identification of shark fins by photograph in collaboration with CITES.
- **Encounter protocols workshop:** this workshop is planned for 2015 in Norway, and will be organized by FAO in collaboration with the Institute of Marine Research (IMR). The overall objective of the workshop will be to facilitate sharing of best practices and effective solutions across regions on VME encounter protocols among RFMOs, the fishing industry, and others. The expected outputs include a technical document containing a global review of current experience and practice with regards to encounter protocols as well a technical guidance for further adaption.
- **Industry symposium 2015:** this symposium will be organized back-to-back with the Conference for the 20th Anniversary of Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in Vigo, Spain in September 2015. This symposium will provide a forum to discuss industry best practices in deep-sea fisheries and to consolidate issues to be brought forward to the industry day of the Conference for the 20th Anniversary of CCRF.

- **Global reviews and best practices on assessment and management of key deep-sea species:** Following up on the Alfonsino Workshop and global review, it is expected a review on another species group will be organized towards the end of 2015, likely focused on orange roughy.

VULNERABLE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

- **VME Portal:** The VME portal will provide general information on VMEs including sections on relevant publications, relevant international instruments, links to VME-related tools and terminology. Both the VME portal and database will be released this in October 2014.
- **VME Database:** The VME Database will be released in October 2014 and will contain comprehensive information on VME-related measures in ABNJ for each regional fisheries body. This database and website will serve as a tool for those involved in RFMOs and also as an informational and awareness building tool for the general public. The information in the VME Database is currently being reviewed by each RFMO and other relevant multi-lateral bodies.
- **Workshop and publication on current practices for identification and management of VMEs** (tentatively February 2015, Swakopmund, Namibia): A review of current practices on the identification of VMEs for each region will be developed as well as a summary of “best practices” that will result from the review of each region’s work in relation to VMEs. The UNGA Resolutions 61/105, as well as subsequent resolutions, and the Deep-sea Fisheries Guidelines, provide recommendations or guidance on how to identify and conserve VMEs, but the application and operationalization of this guidance has posed challenges. This has produced a variety of practices within and among the regions. Scientific progress for the identification of VMEs – including the interpretations of the criteria, selection of indicators and thresholds, ensuring a sound knowledge base and incorporation of new data collection methodologies e.g. through underwater ROV surveys and towed cameras, and in delineating areas containing VMEs – have produced a wide range of best practices which need to be capitalized upon. Therefore, an international workshop will be held to document regional processes and discuss and select the “best practices” in use for different data and information scenarios. The report on best practices will be produced and made available after peer-reviewing by an appropriate group of experts including members of deep-sea RFMO/As and other competent regional organizations. It will include a chapter on NAFO and participants from NAFO will be invited to review the draft chapter as well as participate in the workshop.

COMMUNICATION ON DEEP-SEA FISHERIES

- **DGroups information sharing:** an online discussions forum for fisheries and marine professionals exists to facilitate the sharing of news and information. NAFO members are invited to participate and share relevant information on deep-sea fisheries events, publications or other information. Access to the groups can be requested via <https://dgroups.org/fao/dgroups-deepsea-fisheries-in-the-high-seas>.
- **Common Oceans website** - <http://www.commonoceans.org/>: Information along with the Project Document which details the project work and timing is available on this website. NAFO is invited to share news or press releases with the communications officer of the ABNJ Programme for posting on this website.

	2014			2015			
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	2 nd / _{3rd} Quarter
VME database and portal review and launch							
Inception meeting for the ABNJ Deep Seas Project							
VME practices document development							
VME practices workshop							
Group discussions on deep-sea sponges of the N. Atlantic							
WWR Chapter development							
Encounter protocols workshop							
Industry Symposium (Vigo)							
Deep-sea Species Review workshop							

Annex 18. Proposal for a Mandate to the NAFO Executive Secretary to engage with appropriate Canadian authorities regarding information exchange

(GC WP 14/12 Rev. 2 now GC Doc. 14/02)

Explanatory Note:

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

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

It is recommended:

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

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

Elements to explore include:

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

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

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

Annex 19. Press Release

NAFO CONTINUES IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Vigo, Spain, 26 September 2014

The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) today announced measures to strengthen the scientific basis for management decisions, to increase compliance and to improve the quality of catch data it collects. These decisions were made at NAFO's 36th Annual Meeting held in Vigo, Spain.

A review of closed areas for protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VME) was carried out this year and the current closures were extended until 2020. Two new closed areas were also adopted in the NAFO Area.

Witch flounder on the southern Grand Bank, has now recovered sufficiently to be reopened with a total allowable catch (TAC) of 1 000 t. This stock had been under a 20 year moratorium. Moreover the TAC for redfish on the northern Grand Bank increased by almost 50% to 10 400 t.

Fishery Managers and Scientists will continue to work together on important issues. The mandates of the Joint Working Groups for Risk Based Management Strategies (RBMS), Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (EAFFM) and Catch Reporting (CR) will build on their previous year's work. The working group on By-catches, Discards and Selectivity will also continue.

Maintaining stability in catch opportunities and sustainability of stocks remains a priority for NAFO. A harvest control rule for redfish on the northern Grand Bank was adopted. Development of a management plan for cod on the Flemish Cap is underway.

Based on scientific advice most existing moratoria were extended to allow the rebuilding of stocks, while TACs and quotas for the rest were set. See the attached quota table for details. The Northern shrimp stock continues to decline and in order to be precautionary it has also been placed under moratorium.

Progress continues on recommendations from NAFO's 2011 Performance Review. Most of the actions developed in response to the recommendations have been completed or are ongoing.

PART II.

Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) 36th Annual Meeting of NAFO

22-26 September 2014
Vigo, Spain

1. Opening by the Chair

The first session of STACFAD was opened by the Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA) on 22 September 2014. The Chair welcomed delegates and members of the NAFO Secretariat to the meeting.

Present were delegates from Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, Japan, Norway, 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 as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The provisional agenda (Annex 2) was adopted with the addition of two points under Agenda Item 18 – Other Matters:

- i. Acceptance of voluntary contributions, and
- ii. Review of the draft Headquarters Agreement.

4. Auditors' Report for 2013

The auditing firm of WBLI Chartered Accountants performed the audit of the financial statements of the Organization for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013. The financial statements and report to the General Council were circulated to the Heads of Delegation of the General Council and to STACFAD delegates in advance of the Annual Meeting.

The Senior Finance and Staff Administrator for NAFO presented the Draft Independent Auditors' Report and Financial Statements of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization for the year ended December 31, 2013. As auditing standards do not permit Auditors to sign and date the Auditors' Report until after the statements are reviewed and approved, the financial statements 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 2013 amounted to \$1,910,318, which was \$20,318 over the approved budget of \$1,890,000.

Consistent with prior years, the Independent Auditors' Report noted that the Organization: (1) has not recorded or met all disclosure requirements for employee future benefits, including the pension plan assets, liabilities and unfunded deficit, and (2) has a policy not to capitalize its capital assets. Furthermore, 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, in all material respects, a fair and accurate accounting of the financial affairs of the Organization.

STACFAD recommends that the 2013 Auditors' Report be adopted.

At the 2013 Annual Meeting, the Organization revised Financial Regulation 7.10 to reflect its decision to restrict the length of time a firm carrying out the NAFO audit shall serve to a maximum term of five years. STACFAD proposed that the Secretariat consult with the current Auditors, WBLI Chartered Accountants, to see if the current contract may be extended for an additional two years and at comparable rates. In light of this decision, the Secretariat received a proposal from WBLI Chartered Accountants to provide audit services for the 2014 and 2015 fiscal years. Fees for 2014 were proposed to stay at the same rates as 2013 while the fees for 2015 were proposed to increase by 5%.

STACFAD recommends that WBLI's proposal to provide audit services to the Organization for the 2014 and 2015 fiscal years be accepted.

5. Administrative and Activity Report by Secretariat

Under this item, the Executive Secretary highlighted NAFO administrative matters and activities for the period September 2013 to August 2014 (GC Doc. 14/1).

6. Financial Statements for 2014

Budgetary Expenses

The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that numerous cost saving measures have been implemented at the NAFO Secretariat in an effort to control expenditures. In particular, the hiring of the new Office Administrator was delayed by five months; various meetings have been hosted at the Secretariat to reduce hotel and equipment rental costs; a review of current publications including binding methods and the quantity printed was conducted; monthly phone charges are being reviewed as well as a concentrated attitude towards savings on all purchases.

As a result of the above noted cost savings measures, expenditures for 2014 are projected to be at \$1,839,000 or \$51,000 under the approved budget of \$1,890,000. These savings of \$51,000 will be returned to the accumulated surplus and will be available to reduce Contracting Parties contributions in 2015.

All remaining 2014 operating expenses are anticipated to be on or near budget for the year.

Assessed Contributions

At the beginning of the 2014, the accumulated surplus had \$213,767 which, was deemed to be in excess of the needs of the Organization and was allocated towards the 2014 operating budget. Therefore, in order to meet the 2014 operations budget of \$1,890,000, Contracting Parties were assessed contributions in the amount of \$1,676,233.

Balance Sheet

The Organization's cash position at December 31, 2014 is estimated to be \$582,949. The cash balance should be sufficient to finance appropriations in early 2015 pending the receipt of annual payments by Contracting Parties in the spring of 2015.

It was noted that Ukraine's 2014 contribution of \$41,906 was outstanding.

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, 2014 is estimated to be \$563,000.

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 2015, and of which \$85,000 would be a contingency fund available to be used for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

8. Personnel Matters

The Executive Secretary presented to the Committee a summary report on personnel matters at the NAFO Secretariat. One staff member was eligible for promotion, and the Committee was in agreement with the proposed promotion.

Two proposals were presented under this matter. Canada proposed that a review of the NAFO Staff Classification system be performed. Canada also noted that in the Public Service of Canada, the separation indemnity has

been eliminated and it proposed to amend the separation indemnity provisions under NAFO Staff Rule 9.5 to reflect this.

The Committee agreed to continue working on this intersessionally and to develop recommendations for consideration at the 2015 NAFO Annual Meeting. Canada will be initiating the intersessional process to work with STACFAD members in the coming months.

STACFAD recommends that the General Council direct it to develop Terms of Reference intersessionally to review the existing NAFO Secretariat classification scheme, including salary scales and relevant employment benefits' to improve efficiency and support the priorities of the Organization and its Contracting Parties. The review will be performed by an external expert to be identified by STACFAD. The Terms of Reference will be completed by the end of November and circulated to General Council for review and approval. Results of the study are to be provided to STACFAD for review which will develop recommendation for consideration at the 2015 NAFO annual meeting.

9. Internship Program

The Secretariat presented a report on the activities of the internship program which occurred during the year, including the tasks performed by one intern hosted at the Secretariat in 2014.

The intention of the internship program is to provide an opportunity for nationals from all NAFO member countries a chance to participate. In this context, the Committee recommends the Secretariat pursue alternate and additional methods to disseminate program information to prospective interns, particularly to nationals of NAFO member countries that have not yet participated.

The Committee once again endorsed the continuation of the internship program recognizing the considerable benefits to the Secretariat.

The Committee recommends that the Secretariat pursue alternate and additional methods to disseminate program information to prospective interns, particularly to nationals of NAFO member countries that have not yet participated.

10. Rules of Procedure

During the previous Annual Meetings, the Committee has been reviewing Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure for Observers which states "Observer status shall apply to all non-restricted sessions."

Agreement on the principle of openness and transparency was previously achieved, but there was not consensus on a general rule regarding observer attendance at meetings of the Standing Committees and Working Groups, in addition to plenary sessions of the General Council, Fisheries Commission, and Scientific Council.

The current practice is that in the event of requests by accredited observers to attend a NAFO meeting, other than a plenary session of the NAFO constituent bodies, the Chair of that meeting, through consultation with all Contracting Parties on a consensus basis, shall determine if it could be deemed "non-restricted." Nevertheless, a Contracting Party may still request that any meeting or particular agenda item thereof be restricted to delegates of Contracting Parties only.

The Committee agreed that the current practice is working well and follows the principle of openness and transparency while allowing flexibility when required. STACFAD agreed that there was no need to take this issue up at the next Annual Meeting unless a Contracting Party so requested.

STACFAD recommends that no amendment to Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure for Observers is required.

11. Report of the Annual Meeting of the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS)

The Annual Meeting of the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS) was held 23-25 April 2014 in La Jolla, California, USA, and the Secretariat provided the Committee with an update on the highlights of the meeting. Background information on the pension plan, investment performance, financing/funding

issues, as well as plan design changes which affect employee/employer contribution rates, were distributed for the information of members. A copy of the Annual Statistical Report for NAFO was also included with the information paper.

The latest actuarial valuation of the pension plan's assets and liabilities was performed on 1 January 2014. The report indicates that NAFO's pension fund has a deficiency of \$2,296,000. The majority of this deficit has already been addressed by STACFAD after the two previous valuations in 2008 and 2011. However, the net deficiency which occurred in the current valuation period was \$686,000. Consequently, additional funding of \$72,500 per year, amortized over 15 years, is required to cover this new deficiency.

The 2015 budget estimate includes a provision for this new charge within the Superannuation and Annuities budget line item.

12. Update on implementation of Performance Review Panel recommendations tasked to STACFAD

STACFAD reviewed the progress to date on the implementation of those particular recommendations of the PRP relevant to STACFAD on the basis of a report from the Secretariat.

It was noted of the four outstanding items that two have been implemented, one item has been deferred and one item discussed as summarized in STACFAD WP 14/06 (Annex 3).

The Committee recognized the PRP recommendation to withhold reimbursement of any budget surplus to Contracting Parties in arrears of their full contributions (PRP Recommendation 7.1.9) but determined that such a change was not required.

STACFAD recommends that the General Council endorse the progress achieved to implement the Performance Review Panel's recommendations in the area of finance and administration.

13. Budget Estimate for 2015

The Committee reviewed the 2015 budget estimate as detailed in GC Working Paper 14/01 (Rev3). Keeping in mind the significant efforts undertaken the last three years to keep the budget at or near the previous year's budget, the 2015 budget estimate contained numerous budget categories which were maintained at already reduced levels. Furthermore, costs saving measures introduced by the Secretariat in 2014 have also assisted with keeping budget increases to a minimum.

The Committee noted that the latest actuarial valuation of the NAFO Pension plan showed that the plan is in a deficit or unfunded position of \$2.3 million vs. the unfunded position from three years ago of \$1.8 million. The increase in the unfunded liability requires additional annual payments of \$72,500 for the next 15 years. This supplementary payment has been included in the Superannuation and Annuities budget line item.

The 2015 budget estimate of \$1,981,000 represents an increase of \$91,000 or 4.8% over the prior years approved budget. Bearing in mind that the additional payment towards the increase in the pension plan deficit represents \$72,500 or 3.8% of the proposed budget, the remaining increase to the 2015 budget represents \$18,500 or slightly less than 1%.

<i>Approved Budget 2014</i>	<i>Preliminary Budget Forecast 2015</i>	<i>Budget Estimate 2015</i>
<i>\$1,890,000</i>	<i>\$1,956,000</i>	<i>\$1,981,000</i>

The ES recalled the efforts to reduce NAFO spending in the previous year, which resulted in savings of about \$51,000 from the approved budget. These efforts will continue in the 2015 budget year.

STACFAD recommends that the budget for 2015 of \$1,981,000 (Annex 4) be adopted.

A preliminary calculation of billing for the 2015 financial year is provided in Annex 5. The preliminary calculation of billing is based on the budget estimate of \$1,981,000 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, 2014 is estimated to be \$563,000 and the recommended minimum balance in the accumulated surplus account for operations and emergency use for the 2015 fiscal

year is \$285,000. This allows for \$278,000 (\$563,000-\$285,000) to be applied towards the 2015 billing.

Funds required to meet the 2015 administrative budget and appropriated from Contracting Parties are estimated to be \$1,703,000 (\$1,981,000 - \$278,000).

The Secretariat was also requested to provide additional information indicating those costs that were fixed versus discretionary amounts. The Secretariat was also requested to continue to work to minimize costs to the extent possible and maximize efficiencies. The Secretariat was also requested to work with the International Fisheries Commission Pension Society to ensure costs passed onto the Organization are kept at a minimum.

14. Budget Forecast for 2016 and 2017

STACFAD reviewed the preliminary budget forecast for 2016 (\$2,032,000) and 2017 (\$2,082,000) (Annex 6) and approved the forecast in principle. It was noted that the budget for 2016 will be reviewed in detail at the next Annual Meeting.

15. Adoption of 2014/2015 Staff Committee Appointees

The Secretariat would like to thank Estelle Couture, Rafael Duarte and Deirdre Warner-Kramer for serving on the Staff Committee for the 2013-2014 term.

Furthermore, the Secretariat members nominated the following people to serve as members of the Staff Committee for September 2014 – September 2015: Emilia Batista (EU); Joanne Morgan (Canada) and Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA).

STACFAD recommends that General Council appoint the three nominees.

16. Time and Place of 2015 – 2017 Annual Meetings

As previously agreed, the 2015 and 2016 Annual Meetings will be held 21–25 September and 19–23 September, respectively. The meetings will be held in Halifax, N.S., Canada, unless an invitation to host is extended by a Contracting Party and accepted by the Organization.

STACFAD recommends that the dates of the 2017 Annual Meeting (to be held in Halifax, N.S., Canada, unless an invitation to host is extended by a Contracting Party and accepted by the Organization) to be as follows:

18 – 22 September 2017

17. Election of Chair

Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA) was re-elected Chair, and delegates expressed their gratitude for her fine leadership over the past three years.

18. Other Matters

i. Acceptance of Voluntary Contributions

Currently the NAFO Financial Rules are silent regarding the receipt of voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties. In other RFMOs, rules stipulate that the Executive Secretary can accept payments, provided that voluntary contributions are in line with the organizations policies and objectives. A modification of the NAFO Financial Rules to this end could provide clarity.

The Committee recommended that a new rule be inserted in the NAFO Financial Regulations as outlined in Annex 7.

ii. Review of the draft Headquarters Agreement

STACFAD reviewed the draft Headquarters Agreement (Annex 8). The current draft agreement focuses on the privileges and immunities granted to the Organization, however does not detail the obligation of the host

country, Canada, to provide the premises for the NAFO Headquarters nor the security of these premises.

It was also noted that the issue of NAFO's immunity is still a subject of a court proceedings. Although Canada noted its readiness to move forward with the draft Headquarters Agreement, the conclusion of this process may be delayed until the legal proceedings are resolved.

Canada said that changing the current draft Headquarters Agreement may be a difficult and lengthy process. Canada, in consultation with the Secretariat, will develop an alternate mechanism to address these matters.

The Committee agreed to undertake a process that would develop an alternate instrument (e.g. a memorandum of understanding) that would address these issues and be reviewed at the 2015 Annual Meeting.

19. Adjournment

The final session of the STACFAD meeting adjourned on 25 September 2014.

Gratitude was expressed to the Committee members for its service in dealing with difficult matters this week, and to the NAFO Secretariat for its excellent support.

Annex 1. List of Participants

Name	Contracting Party
Elise Lavigne	Canada
Esben Ehlers	Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
Herbert Schuller	European Union
Masanori Wada	Japan
Guri Male Breigutu	Norway
Yulia Badina	Russian Federation
Deirdre Warner-Kramer Patrick Moran	United States of America
Fred Kingston Stan Goodick Lisa LeFort Alexis Pacey	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 2013
5. Administrative and Activity Report by NAFO Secretariat
6. Financial Statements for 2014
7. Review of Accumulated Surplus and Contingency Fund
8. Personnel Matters
9. Internship Program
10. Rules of Procedure Re: Observers
11. Report of the Annual Meeting of the Fisheries Commissions Pension Society
12. Update on implementation of PRP recommendations tasked to STACFAD
13. Adoption of 2015 Staff Committee Appointees
14. Time and Place of 2015 - 2017 Annual Meetings
15. Budget Estimate for 2015
16. Budget Forecast for 2016 and 2017
17. Election of Chair
18. Other Matters
 - i. Acceptance of Voluntary Contributions
 - ii. Review of the draft Headquarters Agreement
19. Adjournment

Annex 3. STACFAD Responses to PRP Recommendations

PRP Recommendation #	Recommendation Text	Status
7.1.9	Reimbursement of the budget surplus in one year to the following year's contributions is in keeping with many other international organizations. However, the PRP advises that consideration should be given to withholding any reimbursement of budget surplus amounts to Contracting Parties in arrears (see below) of their full contributions.	GC requests STACFAD to consider amending Rule 4.6 of the NAFO Financial Regulations. The Committee recognized the PRP recommendation but determined no change to the NAFO Financial Regulations was required.
7.1.10	The PRP suggests that application of cost-recovery measures could be considered as a way of alleviating potential financial stress on NAFO Contracting Parties.	Cost recovering options being implemented by the Secretariat.
7.2.3	Taking into account the relevant existing best practices, there is a need to amend certain provisions of the NAFO Staff Rules pertaining to the rights and obligations of NAFO Secretariat Staff, particularly dismissal or termination of appointment. In so doing, and given the Organization's intergovernmental nature, special attention should be given the relevant provisions of the prevailing Canadian legislation as well as international law in terms of Secretariat staff employment rights, obligations and conditions.	The Secretariat will present proposed changes to the Staff Rules upon conclusion of the current legal case.
7.2.7	The Executive Secretary's role in disseminating high-quality information about NAFO should be recognized, along with that of other senior Staff. Consideration of an Organizational communications strategy and media policy may also be of merit. The PRP further suggests that it is worth considering clarification of the Executive Secretary's responsibilities, along with those of other office bearers, for the communication of such information.	A new NAFO Communications Strategy has been adopted by the Organization.

Annex 4. Budget Estimate for 2015

NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

Budget Estimate for 2015

(Canadian Dollars)

	Approved Budget 2014	Projected Expenditures 2014	Preliminary Budget Forecast 2015	Budget Estimate 2015
1. Personal Services				
a) Salaries	\$996,000	\$971,000	\$1,032,000	\$1,029,000
b) Superannuation and Annuities	291,000	291,000	291,000	358,000
c) Medical and Insurance Plans	95,000	90,000	99,000	91,000
d) Employee Benefits	77,000	76,000	69,000	67,000
Subtotal Personal Services	1,459,000	1,428,000	1,491,000	1,545,000
2. Additional Help	0	0	15,000	1,000
3. Communications	26,000	25,000	26,000	24,000
4. Computer Services	31,000	31,000	31,000	31,000
5. Equipment	31,000	30,000	31,000	28,000
6. Fishery Monitoring	36,000	36,000	36,000	36,000
7. Hospitality Allowance	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
8. Internship	5,500	5,500	16,000	6,000
9. Materials and Supplies	28,500	27,500	30,000	28,000
10. NAFO Meetings				
a) Sessional	103,000	93,000	101,000	114,000
b) Inter-sessional Scientific	31,000	31,000	40,000	25,000
c) Inter-sessional Other	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Subtotal NAFO Meetings	164,000	154,000	171,000	169,000
11. Other Meetings and Travel	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
12. Professional Services	46,000	46,000	46,000	51,000
13. Publications	13,000	12,000	13,000	12,000
14. Recruitment and Relocation	12,000	6,000	12,000	12,000
	\$1,890,000	\$1,839,000	\$1,956,000	\$1,981,000

Notes on Budget Estimate 2015
(Canadian Dollars)

Item 1(a)	Salaries Salaries budget estimate for 2015.	\$1,029,000
Item 1(b)	Superannuation and Annuities Employer's pension plan which includes employer's contributions, administration costs, actuarial fees and the required annual payment towards previous pension plan deficits. Annual required payment towards pension plan deficit from the January 2014 actuarial valuation	\$358,000 \$285,500 72,500
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.	\$91,000
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.	\$67,000
Item 2	Additional Support Other assistance as required.	\$1,000
Item 3	Communications Phone, fax and internet services Postage Courier/Mail service	\$24,000 \$17,000 4,000 3,000
Item 4	Computer Services Computer hardware, software, supplies and support.	\$31,000
Item 5	Equipment Leases (print department printer, photocopier and postage meter) Purchases Maintenance	\$28,000 \$18,000 5,000 5,000
Item 6	Fishery Monitoring Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) annual maintenance fee including programming changes as required due to changes to CEM	\$36,000

Item 10(a)	NAFO Sessional Meetings Annual Meeting, September 2015, Halifax, Canada SC Meeting, June 2015, Halifax, Canada SC Meeting, September 2015, St. John's, Canada	\$114,000
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.	\$25,000
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. United Nations 	\$35,000
Item 12	Professional Services Professional Services (audit, consulting, legal fees, and insurance) Professional Development and Training Information Systems Audit Public Relations	\$51,000 \$35,000 8,000 5,000 3,000
Item 13	Publications Production costs of NAFO publications, booklets, brochures, posters, etc., 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, Staff Rules, Secretariat Structure, etc.	\$12,000

Annex 5. Preliminary Budget Forecast for 2016 and 2017

NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

Preliminary Budget Forecast for 2016 and 2017

(Canadian Dollars)

	Preliminary Budget Forecast 2016	Preliminary Budget Forecast 2017
1. Personal Services		
a) Salaries	\$1,074,000	\$1,120,000
b) Superannuation and Annuities	358,000	356,000
c) Medical and Insurance Plans	95,000	95,000
d) Employee Benefits	62,000	65,000
Subtotal Personal Services	<u>1,589,000</u>	<u>1,636,000</u>
2. Additional Help	10,000	10,000
3. Communications	24,000	25,000
4. Computer Services	31,000	32,000
5. Equipment	28,000	28,000
6. Fishery Monitoring	37,000	37,000
7. Hospitality Allowance	3,000	3,000
8. Internship	5,500	5,500
9. Materials and Supplies	29,500	29,500
10. NAFO Meetings		
a) Sessional	115,000	116,000
b) Inter-sessional Scientific	25,000	25,000
c) Inter-sessional Other	30,000	30,000
Subtotal NAFO Meetings	<u>170,000</u>	<u>171,000</u>
11. Other Meetings and Travel	35,000	35,000
12. Professional Services	46,000	46,000
13. Publications	12,000	12,000
14. Recruitment and Relocation	12,000	12,000
	<u>\$2,032,000</u>	<u>\$2,082,000</u>

Annex 6

Preliminary calculation of billing for Contracting Parties against the proposed estimate of \$1,981,000 for the 2015 financial year (based on 12 Contracting Parties to NAFO)
(Canadian Dollars)

Budget Estimate	\$1,981,000
Deduct: Amount from Accumulated Surplus	278,000
Funds required to meet 2015 Administrative Budget	<u>\$1,703,000</u>

60% of funds required =	\$1,021,800
30% of funds required =	\$510,900
10% of funds required =	\$170,300

2014 Billing for comparison purposes	
Approved Budget 2014	\$1,890,000
Deduct: Accumulated Surplus	213,767
Funds required 2014 Budget	<u>\$1,676,233</u>

Contracting Parties	% of Total Catch in the Convention Area			2015 Preliminary Billing		
	Nominal Catches for 2012	10%	30%		60%	
Canada	500,305	57.91%	\$104,956.80	\$42,575.00	\$591,724.38	\$739,256.18
Cuba	960	0.11%	-	42,575.00	1,123.98	43,698.98
Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) (1)	156,492	18.12%	32,829.78	42,575.00	185,150.16	260,554.94
European Union	36,198	4.19%	-	42,575.00	42,813.42	85,388.42
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)	1,065	0.12%	223.42	42,575.00	1,226.16	44,024.58
Iceland	-	-	-	42,575.00	-	42,575.00
Japan	-	-	-	42,575.00	-	42,575.00
Republic of Korea	-	-	-	42,575.00	-	42,575.00
Norway	3,140	0.36%	-	42,575.00	3,678.48	46,253.48
Russian Federation	11,806	1.37%	-	42,575.00	13,998.66	56,573.66
Ukraine	-	-	-	42,575.00	-	42,575.00
United States of America	153,919	17.82%	32,290.00	42,575.00	182,084.76	256,949.76
	863,885	100.00%	\$170,300.00	\$510,900.00	\$1,021,800.00	\$1,703,000.00
Funds required to meet 1 January - 31 December 2015 Administrative Budget						<u>\$1,703,000.00</u>

(1) Faroe Islands 3,633 metric tons
Greenland 152,859 metric tons

Annex 7. Voluntary Contributions

Background

Currently the NAFO Financial Rules are silent regarding the receipt of voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties. In other RFMOs, rules stipulate that the Executive Secretary can accept payments provided that voluntary contributions are in line with the organizations policies and objectives. A modification of the NAFO financial rules to this end on basis of the financial rules of ICCAT could provide clarity.

Proposal - New Rule to be inserted in Financial Regulations

Rule 6 - Trust funds

The Executive Secretary may accept on behalf of NAFO voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties, or from other sources subject to agreement by the Contracting Parties, provided that the purposes for which such voluntary contributions have been made are consistent with the policies, aims and activities of NAFO.

The Executive Secretary shall establish trust funds to cover such voluntary contributions and shall report on their receipt and use to the General Council/STACFAD.

Proposed amendments (in bold) to current Rule 6 (to be re-numbered Rule 7)

Books of Accounts

Rule 7

7.1 Appropriate separate accounts shall be kept for:

- i. the receipts and expenditures of the Organization;
- ii. and for the contributions and disbursements for each scientific research project established under the Scientific Research Fund; and
- iii. trust funds.

7.2 The Executive Secretary shall establish detailed financial procedures in order to ensure financial administration and the exercise of economy.

7.3 The Executive Secretary shall maintain such accounting records as are necessary for each financial year, including:

General Operating Budget

- a) income and expenditures;
- b) the status of appropriations, including:
 - i) the original budget appropriations;
 - ii) transfers between appropriation categories;
 - iii) amounts charged against appropriation categories;
- c) the status of the accumulated surplus account;
- d) funds held in currencies other than Canadian dollars.

Scientific Research Fund

- a) contributions and disbursements for each scientific research project;
- b) the status of the funds for each scientific research project.

Trust Funds

- a) contributions and disbursements for each trust fund;
- b) the status of the funds for each trust fund.

- 7.4 The annual financial statements shall be submitted by the Executive Secretary to the Auditors no later than 30 days following the end of the financial year.
- 7.5 The Executive Secretary may, after full investigation, authorize the writing off of losses of cash, stores, and other assets, provided that a statement of all such amounts written off shall be submitted to the General Council and the Auditors with the annual financial statements.

Re-numbering of subsequent Rules.

Annex 8. Draft Headquarters Agreement

The Government of Canada and the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, wishing to conclude an agreement respecting the headquarters of the Organization in Canada, have agreed as follows:

Article 1

Definitions

For the purposes of the present Agreement:

- a) “Convention” means the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, signed on 24 October 1978 in Ottawa, Canada.
- b) “NAFO” means the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, established under Article II of the Convention.
- c) “Representative of members of NAFO” means a representative of a Contracting Party to the Convention and shall be deemed to include all delegates, deputy delegates, advisers, technical experts and secretaries of delegations.
- d) “Officials of NAFO” means the President, the Executive Secretary and internationally recruited staff of NAFO.

Article 2

NAFO shall have in Canada the legal capacities of a body corporate, including the capacity to contract, to acquire and dispose of property, and to institute legal proceedings.

Article 3

NAFO, its property and its assets, wherever located and by whomsoever held, shall enjoy immunity from every form of judicial process except in so far as in any particular case the Executive Secretary of NAFO has expressly waived its immunity. Such waiver shall be understood not to extend to any measure of execution, save with the express consent of the Executive Secretary. NAFO shall establish guidelines as to the circumstances in which the Executive Secretary may waive any immunity of NAFO, and as to the method in which any such waiver shall be made.

Article 4

The premises of NAFO shall be inviolable. The property and assets of NAFO, wherever located and by whomsoever held, shall be immune from search, requisition, confiscation, expropriation and any other form of interference, whether by executive, administrative, judicial or legislative action, except with the consent of and under the conditions agreed to by the Executive Secretary of NAFO. This Article shall not prevent the reasonable application of fire protection regulations.

Article 5

The archives of NAFO, and in general all documents belonging to it or held by it, shall be inviolable wherever located.

Article 6

NAFO, its assets, income and other property shall be:

- a) exempt from all direct taxes except for charges for public utility services;
- b) exempt from customs duties and taxes in respect of articles imported or exported by NAFO in the furtherance of its function; articles imported under such exemption shall not be sold or disposed of in Canada except under conditions agreed to by the Government of Canada.
- c) exempt from customs duties and prohibitions and restrictions on imports and exports in respect of its publications.

Article 7

NAFO shall enjoy in Canada, for its official communications, treatment not less favourable than that accorded by the Government of Canada to any other Government including its diplomatic mission in the matter of priorities, rates and taxes on mails, cables, telegrams, radiograms, telephotos, telephone and other communications; and press rates for information to the press and radio. No censorship shall be applied to the official correspondence and other official communications of NAFO.

Article 8

NAFO shall have the right to use codes and to despatch and receive its correspondence by courier or in bags, which shall have the same immunities and privileges as diplomatic couriers and bags.

Article 9

Representatives of members of NAFO shall, to such extent as may be required for the performance of their functions, enjoy the following privileges and immunities:

- a) immunity from personal arrest or detention and from seizure of their personal baggage, and, in respect of words spoken or written and all acts done by them in their capacity as representatives, immunity from legal process of every kind;
- b) inviolability for all papers and documents;
- c) the right to use codes and to receive papers or correspondence by courier or in sealed bags;
- d) exemption in respect of themselves and their spouses from immigration restrictions, alien registration or national service obligations in the state they are visiting or through which they are passing in the exercise of their functions;
- e) the same facilities in respect of currency or exchange restrictions as are accorded to representatives of foreign governments on temporary official missions;
- f) the same immunities and facilities in respect of their personal baggage as are accorded to diplomatic envoys; and also,
- g) such other privileges, immunities and facilities not inconsistent with the foregoing as diplomatic envoys enjoy, except that they shall have no right to claim exemption from customs duties on goods imported (otherwise than as part of their personal baggage) or from excise duties or sales taxes.

Article 10

In order to secure, for the representatives of members of NAFO complete freedom of speech and independence in the discharge of their duties, the immunity from legal process in respect of words spoken or written and all acts done by them in discharging their duties shall continue to be accorded, notwithstanding that the persons concerned are no longer the representatives of members of NAFO.

Article 11

Privileges and immunities are accorded to the representatives of members of NAFO, not for the personal benefit of the individuals themselves, but in order to safeguard the independent exercise of their functions in connection with NAFO. Consequently a member not only has the right but is under a duty to waive the immunity of its representative in any case where in the opinion of the member the immunity would impede the course of justice, and it can be waived without prejudice to the purpose for which the immunity is accorded.

Article 12

Officials of NAFO shall:

- a) be immune from legal process in respect of words spoken or written and all acts performed by them in their official capacity;
- b) be exempt from taxation on the salaries and emoluments paid to them by NAFO;

- c) be immune from national service obligations;
- d) be immune, together with their spouses and relatives dependent on them, from immigration restrictions and alien registration;
- e) be accorded the same privileges in respect of exchange facilities as are accorded to the officials of comparable ranks forming part of diplomatic missions to the Government concerned;
- f) be given, together with their spouses and relatives dependent on them, the same repatriation facilities in time of international crisis as diplomatic envoys;
- g) have the right to import free of duty their furniture and effects at the time of first taking up their post in the country in question.

Article 13

Privileges and immunities are granted to officials in the interests of NAFO and not for the personal benefit of the individuals themselves. The Executive Secretary shall have the right and the duty to waive the immunity of any official in any case where, in his opinion, the immunity would impede the course of justice and can be waived without prejudice to the interests of NAFO. In the case of the Executive Secretary, the General Council shall have the right to waive immunity.

Article 14

NAFO shall co-operate at all times with the appropriate authorities in Canada to facilitate the proper administration of justice, secure the observance of police regulations and prevent the occurrence of any abuse in connection with the privileges, immunities and facilities mentioned in this Agreement.

Article 15

Nothing in this Agreement exempts a Canadian citizen, residing or ordinarily resident in Canada, from liability for any taxes or duties imposed by any law in Canada.

Article 16

Any dispute between NAFO and the Government of Canada concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement or any supplementary agreement, which is not settled by negotiation or other agreed mode of settlement, shall be referred to a tribunal of three arbitrators for final decision. One arbitrator shall be designated by the President of NAFO, and another by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada. The two arbitrators shall appoint a third arbitrator.

Article 17

1. This Agreement shall enter into force in accordance with an Exchange of Notes between the Executive Secretary of NAFO and the Government of Canada.
2. This Agreement may be revised at the request of either Party, through consultations on the modifications in question.
3. This Agreement may be renounced by either Party, upon provision of two years notice.

Done at ____ [location] _____, on __ [date] _____, in the English and French languages, each version being equally authentic.

[representative of Canada]

[representative of NAFO]

SECTION II
(63–203)

**Report of the Fisheries Commission and its Subsidiary Body (STACTIC)
36th Annual Meeting of NAFO**

**22–26 September 2014
Vigo, Spain**

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Fisheries Commission Chair, Sylvie Lapointe and Senior Fisheries Commission Coordinator, Ricardo Federizon

PART I

Report of the Fisheries Commission 36th Annual Meeting of NAFO (FC Doc. 14/35)

22-26 September 2014
Vigo, Spain

I. Opening Procedure

1. Opening by the Chair, Sylvie Lapointe (Canada)

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Sylvie Lapointe (Canada), at 1415 hrs on Monday 22 September 2014. Delegations from the following Contracting Parties were in attendance: Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union (EU), France (in respect of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, Russian Federation, and the United States of America (USA). The delegation from Ukraine was absent (Annex 1).

The presence of observers was acknowledged. They represented the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS), North Pacific Anadromous Fisheries Commission (NPAFC), International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network (IMCS), Ecology Action Centre (EAC), International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), PEW Environmental Foundation, and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Ricardo Federizon, Fisheries Commission Coordinator (NAFO Secretariat), was appointed Rapporteur. The summary of decisions and actions taken by the Fisheries Commission (FC) is presented in Annex 2.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The provisional agenda as previously circulated was adopted (Annex 3).

4. Review of Commission Membership

It was noted that the membership of the FC is currently twelve (12). All Contracting Parties (CPs) have voting rights.

5. Guidance to STACTIC necessary for them to complete their work

The Chair of the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC), Gene Martin (USA) presented the results of the STACTIC May 2014 Intersessional Meeting which was held in Copenhagen, Denmark (FC Doc. 14/3). He reported on the status of the proposals on changes in the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEM). The STACTIC advised that it would continue at the meeting the discussions and deliberations on Port State Measures, Annual Compliance Review, bycatch, availability of haul-by-haul data, information security and data management and the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management.

FC **accepted** the report and commended STACTIC for its hard work. It acknowledged the work of STACTIC on the catch reporting issues and encouraged STACTIC to continue working on the pending issues, specifically on observer scheme, port State measures, and the provision of haul-by-haul data.

II. Implementation Review of the Performance Review Panel (PRP) Recommendations

6. Implementation review of the 2011 PRP Recommendations addressed to the Fisheries Commission and its subsidiary body STACTIC

The Secretariat introduced FC WP 13/03 presenting the status of implementation of PRP recommendations addressed to FC and STACTIC.

In this review, three recommendations identified last year as action items were highlighted. They relate to framework for the presentation of key management decisions, management of fishing capacity, and allocation of fishing rights to new members. Concerning presentation of key management decisions, it was noted that FC decisions have been clearly documented in meeting reports and that no further action is necessary except to continue the practice. Concerning management of fishing capacity, no action is being undertaken as this recommendation did not garner unanimous support. Concerning allocation of fishing rights to new members, there has been no opportunity to act on it and it is unlikely that there will be one in the near future.

7. Implementation review of 2011 PRP Recommendations addressed to more than one NAFO Body including the Fisheries Commission

The Secretariat introduced FC WP 13/04 presenting the status of implementations of PRP addressed to more than one NAFO Body including the FC.

It was noted that the implementation statistics (the number of completed and on-going) remain practically unchanged from last year as the implementation of the PRP recommendations is meant to be continuing or on-going on a medium- or long-term basis. Nonetheless, FC continues to address major PRP recommendations covering FC-Scientific Council (SC) dialogue, catch estimate discrepancies, catch reporting and data sharing, conservation plans and rebuilding strategies, ecosystem approach to fisheries management, Precautionary Approach, etc. through the newly established FC ad hoc working group (WG) and three joint FC-SC WGs. In 2014, the new WGs met for the first time. The recommendations from these WGs and actions taken by FC are reflected in various sections of this report (see items 10, 14, 17, 18).

It was decided that next year's implementation review of all PRP recommendations would be conducted by the General Council (GC).

III. Scientific Advice

8. Presentation of scientific advice by the Chair of the Scientific Council

The SC Chair, Don Stansbury (Canada), presented the comprehensive and detailed scientific advice. The scientific advice on fish stocks and on other topics were mainly formulated during the June 2014 SC meeting (SCS Doc. 14/17). The multi-year advice provided in the previous year was also reviewed or updated at that meeting. Advice on shrimps was formulated during its meeting in September 2014 (SCS Doc. 14/19). The scientific advice represents the response of SC to the request from FC. The FC request was formulated at the 35th annual meeting (FC Doc. 13/22).

The following represents an overview of the scientific advice on the fish stocks which were fully assessed or monitored at the SC meetings. For brevity, only selected topics from special request items on fish stocks, Risk-based Management Strategies (including Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies), Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (including Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems) are presented here. The complete list of requests and the advice thereon are documented in FC Doc. 13/22 and in the above-mentioned SC meeting reports. The advice may contain special comments and caveats. The SC Chair urged FC to consult the details in the relevant SC meeting reports when considering conservation and management measures.

8.1 Scientific advice on fish stocks

- **Shrimp in Div. 3M.** No directed fishery.
- **Shrimp in Div. 3LNO.** No directed fishery as there is a very high probability that the stock is below B_{lim} .
- **Witch flounder in Div. 3NO.** Future removals, if allowed to increase, should only increase in an adaptive, gradual manner.
- **American plaice in Div. 3LNO.** No directed fishery in 2015 and 2016.
- **Redfish in Div. 3LN.** Fishing mortality up to $1/3 F_{msy}$ corresponding to a catch of 10 200 t in 2015 and 2016 has low risk (<10%) of exceeding F_{lim} .
- **Thorny skates in Div. 3LNO.** The stock has shown little improvement at recent catch levels (approximately 5 000 t, over 2006-2013). SC advises no increase in catches.
- **American plaice in Div. 3M.** For 2015- 2017 no directed fishery. Bycatch should be kept at the lowest possible level.



- **Redfish in Div. 3M.** For 2014-2015, recommends not increasing current TAC (6 500 t).
- **White hake in Div. 3NO.** For 2014-2015, catches of white hake should not exceed their current levels of 100-300 t.
- **Greenland halibut in 2+3KLMNO.** The TAC for 2015 derived from the Harvest Control Rule (HCR) is 15 578 t.
- **Cod in Div. 3M.** In the short term the stock can sustain values of F up to F_{max} , however any fishing mortality over F_{max} will result in an overall loss in yield in the long term. Yield at F_{max} = 10838 t.

8.2 Scientific advice on Risk-based Management Strategies (RBMS) including Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies (CPRS)

- **Reference points B_{msy} and F_{msy} for 3M cod.** $F_{30\%}$ (the fishing mortality which reduces Spawner Per Recruit (SPR) to 30% of its value at $F=0$) is the best F_{msy} proxy at this moment.
- **Reference points B_{lim} , B_{msy} and F_{msy} for 3NO witch flounder.** The average of the two highest Canadian spring research vessel survey points from 1984-2013 is considered to be a proxy for B_{msy} . 30% of this average is considered to be a proxy for B_{lim} . Following the same logic, a proxy for F_{msy} ($=F_{lim}$) can be derived as 0.26 (based on catch/biomass ratio).
- **3M Cod reference points.** $B_{lim} = 14000t$; $F_{lim} = F_{msy}$ ($F_{30\%}$) = 0.13; $F_{max} = 0.145$.
- **Development of Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) workplan for 3M cod.** SC suggests some changes in the proposed MSE proposed by FC-SC WG-RBMS to reduce the high number of scenarios.
- **Development of MSE for 3LN Redfish.** The Management Strategy proposed by FCSC WG-RBMS was tested and found to meet the specified management objectives and performance statistics. The SC also tested three other harvest control rules (HCR) two of which were found to meet the specified management objectives and performance statistics.

8.3 Scientific advice on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (EAFFM) including Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs)

- **Risk assessment for SAI on VME elements and species.** SC noted that work on significant adverse impacts (SAI) is on-going. Good progress has been made and the final results are expected to be available in 2016. Preliminary results indicated the important fractions of the recent effort are exerted in relatively small regions within the fishing footprint, and at least for some areas, this fishing effort seems to be concentrated in the near neighborhood of VMEs, suggesting a potential functional connection between some VMEs and commercially exploited fish species.
- **VMEs.** VMEs inside and outside existing closures were identified using scientific data obtained through the NEREIDA program. A set of priorities was established on the basis of VME presence and the proximity to high fishing activity and areas with no current protection measures. Considered high priority are Area 3 (Beothuk Knoll), Area 4 (Eastern Flemish Pass), Tail of the Grand Bank and Candidate Areas 13 and 14 (East Flemish Cap).

Concerning seamounts, SC advises that polygons of closure for New England and Corner Seamounts be revised to include all peaks that are shallower than 2000 meters. For seamount fisheries in areas where fishing has not historically taken place, Exploratory Fishing Protocol should be expanded to include all types of fishing, specifically mid-water trawl gears. For seamount fisheries in areas where fishing has historically taken place, such as mid-water trawl fishing on splendid alfonsino, precautionary regulations such as special and temporal limitations should be put in place.

8.4 Other issues (as determined by SC Chair)

Last year the former SC Chair informed FC of SC's increasing workload within the last few years such that it is reaching the limits of its resources and capabilities. The increase was due to the increasing amount of request items and the diversity of the requests.

This issue was re-iterated by the SC Chair and was further discussed at the joint FC-SC session where FC and SC representatives had an open dialogue. Some SC representatives provided examples to illustrate the problem. It was noted that SC also has to accommodate requests from coastal States. The amount of request items and the

diversity of the requests were compounded by delayed availability of some scientific data from the flag States and CPs to the scientists. SC appealed to FC to be more mindful in the formulation of requests for scientific advice and to CPs to send more scientists and experts to the SC meetings as well as to make scientific data available to scientists in a timely manner.

8.5 Feedback to the Scientific Council regarding the advice and its work during this meeting

The SC Chair's presentation engendered questions and enquiries for further clarification to which the SC prepared responses during the meeting. The questions from FC and the responses from SC are compiled in Annex 4. These concern 3M Cod, 3LNO Redfish, 3LNO Skates, Seamount Fisheries, and Significant Adverse Impacts (SAI) on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs).

9. Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for Scientific Advice on the Management of Fish Stocks in 2016 and on other matters

Katherine Sosebee (USA) replaced Rafael Duarte (EU), who has moved on, in the steering committee. The committee is tasked to coordinate with FC and SC in drafting the FC request (see FC Doc. 12/26). The other two committee members are Neil Campbell (SC Coordinator) and Estelle Couture (Canada).

FC **adopted** FC WP 14/16 Rev.3 containing its request to SC for scientific advice on management in 2016 and beyond of certain stocks in Subareas 2, 3, and 4 and on other matters (Annex 5).

IV. Conservation of Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area

10. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the Joint Fisheries Commission – Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies, February 2014

The presentation of the report and the recommendations was done in a joint plenary session with SC. The joint session was in an open-discussion format.

The co-Chairs Kevin Anderson (Canada) and Carsten Hvingel (Norway) presented the meeting report (FC-SC Doc. 14/02) and forwarded the recommendations addressed to FC and SC for consideration and adoption (Annex 6).

FC **adopted** the FC-specific recommendations — Recommendation 2 regarding amendments to the interim management plan for 3NO Cod and Recommendation 3 regarding amendments to the General Framework on Risk-based Management Strategies in Annex 6.

11. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area, 2015

The Quota Table for 2015 and the Effort Allocation Scheme for the shrimp fishery in Division 3M are presented in Annex 7. Allocation schemes for the fish stocks mentioned in items 11 and 12 are the same as in 2014 (but see item 12.4).

11.1 Cod in Division 3M

It was **decided** that the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) be set at 13 795 t, representing a 5% reduction from the 2014 TAC.

The decision was reached through a voting procedure in accordance with Article XIV of the NAFO Convention. Two proposals were brought forward for consideration:

1) TAC of 10 838 t representing the Yield at F_{max} . Canada, Iceland, Norway, and the USA voted in favour of the proposal; which they believe reflects the advice of the SC for the stock. Cuba, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), EU, France (in respect of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation voted against it. With a majority opposing the proposal it was thus rejected.

2) TAC of 13 795 t representing a 5% reduction from the 2014 TAC. Cuba, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), EU, France (in respect of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation voted in favour of the proposal, which they believe reflects the advice of the SC for the stock. Canada, Iceland, Norway, and the USA voted against it. With a majority in favour, this proposal was **adopted**.

There was considerable debate in the interpretation of the SC advice. CPs which voted for Proposition 1 believe that any TAC above F_{max} would constitute a divergence from the SC advice. Norway issued a statement expressing regret that SC advice was not followed and that the adopted TAC level was not sustainable in the long run (Annex 8). CPs which voted for Proposition 2 believe that a 5% reduction would still be within the realm of the SC advice.

11.2 Redfish in Division 3M

It was **agreed** to set the TAC at 6 700 t, with a closure of the directed fishery at 6 500 t. The remaining portion of the TAC can be retained as bycatch and is limited to 5% of catches of cod in Division 3M. Enforcement measure to this effect is reflected in the newly **inserted** footnote 8 of the Quota Table (see Annex 7).

The old footnote 8 which states that no more than 50% of the TAC should be fished by midyear was **deleted** (Annex 9). This footnote was seen as redundant as the provision was already covered by Article 5.5 of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEM).

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) stated its concern on the decision on bycatch of redfish in 3M (Annex 10).

11.3 American plaice in Division 3M

It was **agreed** to extend the moratorium, applicable in 2015-2017.

11.4 Shrimp in Division 3M

It was **agreed** that the moratorium continues.

Iceland expressed that notwithstanding the moratorium, it maintains its position against an effort allocation scheme applied to this stock.

12. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks Straddling National Jurisdictions, 2015

12.1 Redfish in Divisions 3LN

It was agreed to **adopt** the risk-based management strategy for redfish 3LN as outlined in HCR 2 presented by the SC (Annex 11). This means that the TAC will be set at 10 400 t for 2015 and 2016 and at 14 200 t for 2017 and 2018 and at 18 100 t for 2019 and 2020. The SC will monitor the performance of the HCR by examining the trends in the survey indices and by conducting a full assessment every 2-3 years and for the first time in 2016. It will conduct a full review/evaluation of the management strategy at the end of the 7 year implementation period.

12.2 Pelagic *Sebastes mentella* (oceanic redfish) in the NAFO Convention Area

It was **agreed** to rollover the TAC which is set at zero, noting that the TAC might be adjusted in accordance with footnote 10.

The Russian Federation issued a statement regarding its position on this stock (Annex 12).

12.3 American plaice in Divisions 3LNO

It was **agreed** to continue the moratorium, applicable in 2015 and 2016.

12.4 Witch Flounder in Divisions 3NO

It was **agreed** to re-open the fishery with a TAC of 1 000 t.

The **adopted** management measures are presented in Annex 13. The allocation scheme is based on the quotas as in effect in 1994, the year before the moratorium was declared. A new footnote 28 was **inserted** in the Quota Table to this effect (see Annex 7).

USA expressed that the allocation scheme did not consider the input and contributions of all CPs during the time before and after the declaration of the moratorium and that all CPs should have opportunities to the re-opened fishery. In this regard, USA expressed its reservation on the allocation scheme.

12.5 White hake in Divisions 3NO

It was **agreed** to set the TAC at 1 000 t, same as in 2014.

12.6 Thorny skate in Divisions 3LNO

It was **agreed** to set the TAC at 7 000 t, applicable in 2015 and 2016. Footnote 29 was **inserted** (see Annex 7).

12.7 Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO

Consistent with the Management Strategy Evaluation approach and applying the HCR, it was **agreed** to set the TAC at 15 578 t, 11 543 t of which in Divisions 3LMNO.

12.8 Shrimp in Division 3LNO

It was **agreed** to set the TAC at zero.

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) expressed that notwithstanding the TAC decision, it maintains its reservation to the quota allocation scheme applied to this stock.

13. Other matters pertaining to Conservation of Fish Stocks

A proposal by EU and the USA requiring all sharks to be landed with their fins still naturally attached (FC WP 14/10) did not attain consensus. It was eventually withdrawn by the proponents.

The issue of the alfonsino fishery being conducted in one of the closed seamounts was brought forward. It was Norway's view that this unregulated fishery should not take place in the NAFO Regulatory Area and that precautionary actions should be taken. Norway's full statement is presented Annex 14.

V. Ecosystem Considerations

14. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the Joint Fisheries Commission – Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management, July 2014

The presentation of the report and the recommendations was done in a joint plenary session with SC. The joint session was in an open-discussion format.

The co-Chairs Robert Day (Canada) and Andrew Kenny (EU) presented the meeting report (FC-SC Doc. 14/03) and forwarded the recommendations addressed to FC and SC for consideration and adoption (Annex 15). FC **adopted** all FC-specific WG recommendations.

Two follow-up proposals were deliberated.

One proposal related to the revision of Article 16 in the NCEM (Annex 16). Regarding Recommendation 1 in Annex 16, the area closures identified in Article 16.1, 16.4, and 16.5 of the NCEM were **extended** to 31 December 2020. Regarding Recommendation 2 on the proposal to delete Article 16.2, 16.3 and 16.6, it was **decided** to forward this matter relating to Articles 16.2, and 16.3 to the WG (the proposal to delete Article 16.6 was addressed in Recommendation 4 in Annex 15). Articles 16.2 and 16.3 were related to exploratory fisheries in the seamounts. Regarding Recommendation 3, the New England Seamount map was **revised** with new coordinates (Annex 17). The new map and coordinates will be reflected in Article 16.1.

Norway expressed disappointment that FC could not arrive at the decision to delete Articles 16.2 and 16.3. These articles allow exploratory fisheries in the seamounts which according to Article 16.1 should be closed to bottom fishing activities. In Norway's view, seamounts should also be closed to exploratory fisheries since there are VME elements highly likely to have VMEs. Norway's full statement can be found in Annex 18.

The other proposal was to revise the coordinates of the currently closed Area 4 and establish a new closed area (candidate Area 15) in consideration of Recommendation 6 in Annex 15 (Annex 19). The proposal concerns the protection of significant concentrations of sponge and large gorgonians on the Southeastern Flemish Cap and large gorgonians on the Beothuk Knoll.

FC decided to **adopt** the proposal outlined in Annex 19. The decision was reached through a voting procedure in accordance with Article XIV of the NAFO Convention. Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), EU, France (in respect of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Republic of Korea, Norway and USA voted in favour. Japan and the Russian Federation voted against.

Three CPs issued statements in reaction to FC's decision on the VME closures (Annex 20).

15. Other matters pertaining to Ecosystem Considerations

No other matter was discussed.

VI. Conservation and Enforcement Measures

16. Review of Chartering Arrangements

A report on chartering arrangements was presented by the Secretariat (FC WP 14/2 Rev). There were four (4) arrangements made in 2013, one of which was not implemented. In the period of January – August 2014, there were three (3) arrangements. The Secretariat noted full compliance with all the chartering requirements, specifically with regards to documentation, notification of implementation date, and reporting of charter catches, as stipulated in Article 23 of the NCEM.

17. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the Joint Fisheries Commission – Scientific Council ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting, February 2014

The presentation of the report and the recommendations was done in a joint plenary session with SC. The joint session was in an open-discussion format.

Don Stansbury (SC Chair and co-Chair of the WG) presented the meeting report (FC-SC Doc 14/1) and forwarded the recommendations addressed to FC and SC for consideration and adoption (Annex 21).

FC **adopted** all the FC-specific WG recommendations. The WG will continue for at least another year with the same goals and objectives (see FC Doc. 13/24).

In consideration of the recommendations, FC **adopted** a proposal for a collaborative approach in catch validation (Annex 22). The WG would develop a framework for the validation of NAFO catch data and generation of catch estimates by looking at data requirements, data confidentiality, transparency, participation of NAFO bodies and governance.

18. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the ad hoc Working Group on Bycatches, Discards, and Selectivity, July 2014

The presentation of the report and the recommendations was done in a joint plenary session with SC. The joint session was in an open-discussion format.

Sylvie Lapointe (FC and WG Chair) presented the meeting report (FC Doc. 14/6) and forwarded the recommendations addressed to FC for consideration and adoption (Annex 23).

FC **adopted** all the WG recommendations. The WG will continue for at least another year. Regarding Recommendation 3, 3M cod fishery was added.

In consideration of the recommendations, FC **adopted** a proposal to extend and expand the WG's terms of reference for bycatch and discard reporting (Annex 24). The WG would *inter alia* develop and recommend a comprehensive strategy relative to bycatch and discards in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA) that is consistent with the ecosystem approach to fisheries management and takes into account all bycatch and discard species.

19. Reports of STACTIC (May 2014 intersessional meeting and current Annual Meeting)

The May 2014 intersessional meeting report was presented under item 5. The STACTIC Chair presented the results of the STACTIC meeting. The following NCEM recommendations coming from both meetings were forwarded to FC.

- a) *Amend Annex II.D.D.2.B "Return error numbers" (Annex 25),*
- b) *Proposed changes to Chapter II – Bottom Fisheries in the NRA (Annex 26),*
- c) *Proposed changes to Chapter VIII – Non-Contracting Party Scheme (Annex 27),*
- d) *Provision of haul-by-haul logbook data to the Secretariat,*
- e) *The use of the two letter code DS (Directed Species) in the NCEM (Annex 28),*

- f) *Closure of the RED 3M “directed fishery”* (Annex 29),
- g) *Consistent approach to address Serious Infringements detected at sea and in port* (Annex 30),
- h) *Amendment to Article 14 of the NCEM* (Annex 31),
- i) *Notification to Inspecting CPs regarding additional procedures for Serious Infringements* (Annex 32)

FC **adopted** Recommendations a) – i). Regarding Recommendation d), the proposal was revised. The **adopted** version is presented in Annex 33.

In addition, FC **accepted** the Annual Compliance Review 2014, for the fishing year 2013 (Annex 34). FC also **endorsed** the creation of a WG to review the observer scheme (Annex 35) and a WG on Port State Control Alignment (Annex 36) and the implementation of the NAFO Information Security and Management System (ISMS) (Annex 37).

FC **adopted** the STACTIC Report as presented in Part II of this Report.

20. Other matters pertaining to Conservation and Enforcement Measures

A proposal requiring NAFO fishing vessels to use the IMO numbering scheme beginning 1 January 2016 was adopted (Annex 38). Canada requested that in the transition period STACTIC reviews the implication of this requirement as some NAFO fishing vessels may not be eligible to obtain an IMO number.

France (in respect of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon) tabled a proposal relating to access to the “Others” quota by a flag State Contracting Party (FC WP 14/20). It did not gain consensus. The proponent indicated that he would pursue this matter again at the next Annual Meeting.

VII. Closing Procedure

21. Election of Vice Chair

Temor Tairov (Russian Federation) was re-elected to the position.

22. Time and Place of Next Meeting

This item was deferred to the General Council.

23. Other Business

No other matter was discussed

24. Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 1315 hrs on Friday 26 September 2014.

Annex 1. Participant List

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Chair of Scientific Council - Stansbury, Don (Canada)

Chair of STACFAD - Warner-Kramer (USA)

Chair of STACTIC - Martin, Gene (USA)

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Annex 2. Record of Decisions and Actions by the Fisheries Commission

(Annual Meeting 2014)

Substantive Issues (Agenda item):	Decision/Action:
8. Presentation of scientific advice by the Chair of the Scientific Council	Noted Scientific Council Chair's presentation of the scientific advice and the SC Meeting Reports that contained the scientific advice.
9. Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for Scientific Advice on the Management of Fish Stocks in 2016 and on other matters	Adopted the FC Request to the SC for scientific advice.
10. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the Joint FC-SC WG on Risk-based Management Strategies, February 2014	Adopted all FC-specific recommendations. Adopted the revised interim plan for 3NO Cod. Adopted the revised <i>General Framework on Risk-based Management Strategies</i>
11. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area, 2015	(see 2015 Quota Table)
11.1 Cod in Division 3M	Set the TAC at 13 795 t.
11.2 Redfish in Division 3M	Set the TAC at 6 700 t. Deleted old footnote 8 which stated that no more than 50% of the TAC should be fished by midyear. Inserted new footnote 8 detailing specific enforcement measures.
11.3 American plaice in Division 3M	Agreed to continue the moratorium, applicable in 2015-2017.
11.4 Shrimp in Division 3M	Agreed to continue the moratorium.
12. Management of Technical Measures for Fish Stocks Straddling National Fishing Limits, 2015	(see 2015 Quota Table)
12.1 Redfish in Divisions 3LN	Set the TAC at 10 400t, applicable in 2015 and 2016. Adopted a Risk-based Management Strategy (HCR 2 presented by SC) to be applied on this stock.
12.2 Pelagic <i>Sebastes mentella</i> (oceanic redfish) in the NAFO Convention Area	Agreed to continue the moratorium.
12.3 American plaice in Divisions 3LNO	Agreed to continue the moratorium, applicable in 2015 and 2016.
12.4 Witch flounder in Divisions 3NO	Re-opened the fishery and set the TAC at 1000 t. Inserted new footnote 28 specifying the allocation key.
12.5 White hake in Divisions 3NO	Set the TAC at 1 000 t.
12.6 Thorny skate in Divisions 3LNO	Set the TAC at 7 000 t applicable in 2015 and 2016. Inserted new footnote 29 regarding adoption of new measure to further restrain in 2016 should catches exceed 5 000 t.
12.7 Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO	Set the TAC at 15 578 t (11 543 t in Divisions 3LMNO).
12.8 Shrimp in Division 3LNO	Set the TAC at zero.
14. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the Joint FC-SC WG on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management, July 2014	Adopted all FC-specific recommendations. Extended area closures to 31 December 2020. Adjusted the boundaries of the closed New England Seamounts. Adjusted the boundaries of the closed Area 4. Established a new closed area (Candidate Area 15).
17. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the Joint FC-SC ad hoc WG on Catch Reporting, February 2014	Adopted all FC-specific recommendations. Adopted a collaborative approach in catch validation.



18. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the ad hoc WG on Bycatches, Discards, and selectivity, July 2014	Adopted all FC –specific recommendations. Adopted a strategy for bycatch and discards reporting.
19. Reports of STACTIC (from May 2014 intersessional meeting and this Annual Meeting)	<p>Adopted the STACTIC May 2014 Intersessional Meeting Report (FC Doc. 14/3) and the current meeting report (see Part II of this Report).</p> <p>Adopted Amend Annex II.D.D.2.B “Return error numbers”.</p> <p>Adopted Proposed changes to Chapter II – Bottom Fisheries in the NRA.</p> <p>Adopted Proposed changes to Chapter VIII – Non-Contracting Party Scheme.</p> <p>Adopted Provision of haul-by-haul logbook data to the Secretariat.</p> <p>Adopted The use of the two letter code DS (Directed Species) in the NCEM.</p> <p>Adopted Closure of the RED 3M “directed fishery”.</p> <p>Adopted Consistent approach to address Serious Infringements detected at sea and in port.</p> <p>Adopted Amendment to Article 14 of the NCEM.</p> <p>Adopted Notification to Inspecting CPS regarding additional procedures for Serious Infringements.</p> <p>Accepted Annual Compliance Review 2014, for fishing year 2013.</p> <p>Endorsed the creation of a WG to review the NAFO Observer Scheme.</p> <p>Endorsed the creation of a WG on Port State Control Alignment.</p> <p>Endorsed the implementation of the NAFO Information Security and Management System (ISMS).</p>
20. Other matters pertaining to Conservation and Enforcement Measures	Adopted Proposal to require the use of the IMO numbering Scheme for NAFO Vessels, applicable beginning 1 January 2016.
21. Election of Vice Chair	Re-elected Temor Tairov as the Vice Chair of FC.

Annex 3. Agenda

I. Opening Procedure

1. Opening by the Chair, Sylvie Lapointe (Canada)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of Commission Membership
5. Guidance to STACTIC necessary for them to complete their work

II. Implementation Review of Performance Review Panel (PRP) Recommendations

6. Implementation review of 2011 PRP Recommendations addressed to the Fisheries Commission and its subsidiary body STACTIC
7. Implementation review of 2011 PRP Recommendations addressed to more one than one NAFO Body including the Fisheries Commission

III. Scientific Advice

8. Presentation of scientific advice by the Chair of the Scientific Council
 - 8.1 Scientific advice on fish stocks
 - 8.2 Scientific advice on Risk-based Management Strategies (RBMS) including Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies (CPRS)
 - 8.3 Scientific advice on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (EAFFM) including Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs)
 - 8.4 Other issues (as determined by SC Chair)
 - 8.5 Feedback to the SC regarding the advice and its work during this Meeting
9. Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for Scientific Advice on the Management of Fish Stocks in 2016 and on other matters

IV. Conservation of Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area

10. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the Joint Fisheries Commission – Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies, February 2014
11. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area, 2015
 - 11.1 Cod in Div. 3M
 - 11.2 Redfish in Div. 3M
 - 11.3 American plaice in Div. 3M
 - 11.4 Shrimp in Div. 3M
12. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks Straddling National Jurisdictions, 2015
 - 12.1 Redfish in Div. 3LN
 - 12.2 Pelagic *Sebastes mentella* (oceanic redfish) in the NAFO Convention Area
 - 12.3 American plaice in Div. 3LNO
 - 12.4 Witch flounder in Div. 3NO
 - 12.5 White hake in Div. 3NO
 - 12.6 Skates in Div. 3LNO
 - 12.7 Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Div. 3KLMNO
 - 12.8 Shrimp in Div. 3LNO
13. Other matters pertaining to Conservation of Fish Stocks

V. Ecosystem Considerations

14. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the Joint Fisheries Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management, July 2014
15. Other matters pertaining to Ecosystem Considerations

VI. Conservation and Enforcement Measures

16. Review of Chartering Arrangements
17. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the Joint Fisheries Commission – Scientific Council ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting, February 2014
18. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the ad hoc Working Group on Bycatches, Discards, and Selectivity, July 2014
19. Reports of STACTIC (May 2014 intersessional meeting and this Annual Meeting)
20. Other matters pertaining to Conservation and Enforcement Measures

VII. Closing Procedure

21. Election of Vice-Chair
22. Time and Place of Next Meeting
23. Other Business
24. Adjournment

Annex 4. Answers to Questions to SC

(FC Working Paper 14/21)

The following requests were received during the current meeting (FC WP 14/09 and 12). Scientific Council noted that these responses are only for the clarification of the advice and do not in any way alter or change the advice published in the previous reports of the Scientific Council.

Cod in Div. 3M

1. It is noted that the stock of cod in 3M is rebuilding following the reduction in fishing mortality and improved recruitment and that SSB is currently estimated to be well above B_{lim} with a high probability.

The EU Flemish Cap survey taking place every year in June/July is the only fishery independent information available for the assessment of cod in Division 3M since 1988. This survey is the only tuning information used in the assessment for the years 1988-2013, since no fishing fleet catch/effort is used for tuning. The assessment of cod in Division 3M is therefore highly dependent on the data quality obtained from the EU Flemish Cap survey. In 2013, the survey was impacted by activity of oil and gas prospection by a seismic exploration vessel (see letter of 1 July 2013 of the Head of the scientific campaign to the Scientific Council Chair) and the estimates of Div. 3M cod 1 year olds and biomass decreased substantially in relation to 2012. The increasing trend of biomass observed since 2006 and projected by last year's assessment for 2014 and 2015 was this way inverted.

The Scientific Council is requested to:

- a) *Provide an opinion on the possible impact that the oil and gas prospection activity might have had in the abundance index of Div. 3M cod.*
- b) *Compare the abundance indices of different demersal stocks of the 2013 EU Flemish Cap survey in order to assess if decreases were also observed for other demersal species in Div. 3M and if there might have been a year effect in the survey of 2013, possibly consequence of the oil and gas prospection.*
- c) *Provide any preliminary information available of the 2014 Flemish Cap survey regarding cod in order to assess if the decrease in the abundance index is confirmed also in 2014.*

Scientific Council responded:

- a) Scientific Council cannot evaluate at this moment the impact of the activity of the seismic vessels on the abundance index of Div. 3M cod.
 - b) With the exception of cod none of the declines were substantial, and in general were a continuation of recent trends. At present it is not clear whether the 2013 survey results are due to a year-effect.
 - c) Preliminary information indicates the abundance decline has been confirmed, however, biomass has increased. SC will fully review these survey results during the next assessment.
2. *The Scientific Council reviewed document NAFO SCR Doc. 14/018 where different assumptions over the natural mortality parameter (M) are analysed. The adopted stock assessment of 3M cod assumes a constant M over age, time and gender (estimate around 0.15) while the document indicated that M variable over three age classes and three periods of time provides estimates of around 0.2, which are more consistent with natural mortalities assumed for other cod stocks in the NAFO and ICES areas, Therefore, despite all the uncertainty around M , the constant M assumption adopted for scientific advice seems highly unlikely when considering the biology of the stock.*

The Scientific Council is requested to:

- a) *Compare the estimated natural mortality value for Div. 3M cod to M values used in other cod stocks in the Atlantic and explain the rationale for a divergence and possible bias introduced due to cannibalism and other natural mortality factors.*

- b) Provide the value of F_{max} if $M = 0.2$. Please provide the Biomass, Spawning Stock Biomass and yield projections for these values of F_{max} .
- c) A frequent approach to estimate F_{max} is by taking the mean of the last three years for the mean weights and exploitation pattern by age (PR). However, the SC decided to take only the values of the last year to estimate F_{max} . Explain what would have been the value of F_{max} if the mean of the last three years had been used for the mean weights and PR.
- d) Estimate the projected biomass (B and SSB) and the resulting fishing mortality in 2015 and 2016 with a TAC in 2015 of 14 521 tons. What is the probability of the biomass to fall below B_{lim} in 2016? Please compare with the projected biomass in 2015 and 2016 for the scenario $F_{2015} = F_{max}$.
- e) Assuming that the TAC is set at 10 838 t for 2015 and is fished entirely, that the biomass evolves in accordance with the projections and F_{max} is constant, provide the foreseen yield at F_{max} (=0.145) for 2016

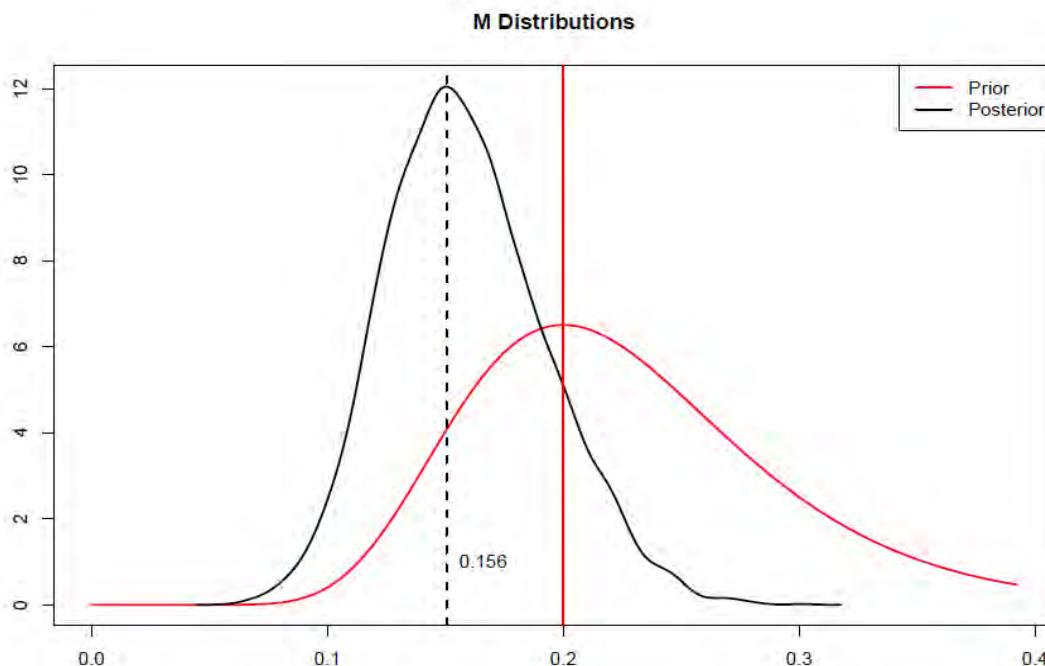
Scientific Council responded:

- a) Mortality (F and Z) used in some assessments of cod are as follows:

Cod Stocks	M	Z
Northern Cod (Div. 2J3KL)		0.57*
Flemish Cap (Div. 3M)	0.16*	
Southern Grand Bank (Div. 3NO)	0.2	
Southern Newfoundland (Div. 3Ps)		0.44*
Gulf of St. Lawrence (Div. 3Pn4Rs)	0.2-0.4	
Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence (Div. 4TVn)	0.66*	
Eastern Scotian Shelf (Div. 4VsW)	0.36*	
Southern Scotian Shelf and the Bay of Fundy (Div. 4X5Yb)	0.76*	
Eastern Georges Bank (Div. 5Zjm)	0.8	
Gulf of Maine	0.2-0.4	
Georges Bank	0.2	
Norwegian Coastal Waters (ICES Subarea I and II (inshore))	0.2	
North-East Arctic (ICES Subareas I and II (offshore))	0.2	
Faroe Plateau (ICES Subdiv. Vb1)	0.2	

*estimated values – others are fixed

The following figure shows the input (prior) and estimated (posterior) values of M for Div. 3M cod from the 2014 assessment. The probability that $M \leq 0.2$ is 88.1%.



Scientific Council was not able to address divergence and possible bias introduced due to cannibalism and other natural mortality factors at this meeting.

- b) Scientific Council reiterates that the median value of M in Div. 3M cod is estimated to be 0.156 in the 2014 assessment. The $M=0.2$ scenario constitutes a new assessment. Scientific Council thus considers these figures to be illustrative only and not a basis for management advice. If a higher value of M is assumed, yield is increased.

		F _{max} 2013 input data	
		M=0.156	M=0.2
5%		0.085	0.100
50%		0.145	0.165
95%		0.235	0.265

	M=0.156			M=0.2		
	Total Bio	SSB	Yield	Total Bio	SSB	Yield
2014	66953	44869	14521	74246	48902	14521
2015	85528	58341	10838	94311	62277	13073
2016	134970	79646		145070	81554	

- c) Scientific Council took only the values for the mean weight-at-age and exploitation pattern by age in 2014 due to the strong trends seen in these values over recent years. This approach was consistent with the approach taken for mean weights in the 2013 Div. 3M Cod assessment.

F _{max}		
	SC Assessment	3-Year Average
5%	0.085	0.095
50%	0.145	0.130
95%	0.235	0.180

	SC Assessment			3-Year Average		
	Total Bio	SSB	Yield	Total Bio	SSB	Yield
2014	66953	44869	14521	76021	42770	14521
2015	85528	58341	10838	99414	61049	11962
2016	134970	79646		150535	81507	

Scientific Council considers the figures from the “3-year average” scenario to be illustrative only and not a basis for management advice.

- d) Estimate the projected biomass (B and SSB) and the resulting fishing mortality in 2015 and 2016 with TAC in 2015 of 14 521 t. What is the probability of the biomass to fall below B_{lim} in 2016? Please compare with the projected biomass in 2015 and 2016 for the scenario $F_{2015} = F_{max}$.

	F=F _{max}			Constant Catch = 14521		
	Total Bio	SSB	Yield	Total Bio	SSB	F
2014	66953	44869	14521	66953	44869	0.260
2015	85528	58341	10838	82450	58314	0.199
2016	134970	79646		120584	75315	

	P(B<B _{lim})		
	2014	2015	2016
Constant catch	<5%	<5%	<5%
Catch=F _{max}	<5%	<5%	<5%

- e) Due to uncertainty in recruitment of the 2010 and 2011 years classes, Scientific Council considers that projection of management options can be provided for 2015 only. Scientific Council considers the figures for 2016 yields, SSB and biomass are illustrative only and not a basis for management advice.

	Total Bio	SSB	Yield
2014	66953	44869	14521
2015	85528	58341	10838
2016	134970	79646	18588

Redfish in Div. 3LNO

3. The Population Structure of *Sebastes mentella* and *Sebastes fasciatus* in NAFO Divisions 3LNO has been studied in the past, including the genetic markers. A conclusion is that redfish in Division 3LN and 3O are part of a same biological stock. However, at the moment, redfish in these Divisions is managed through two separated stocks. The scientific Council is therefore requested to:

- a) Indicate if there is any biological reason to define two different redfish management areas in NAFO Divisions 3LNO.
- b) Assess the consequence of merging the 3O and 3LN redfish stocks into a single management area with a single TAC, taking into account the possibility that the fishing effort could be more concentrated in Divisions 3LN.

a) In 2005, SC responded to a similar question from FC as follows:

“Regarding redfish in Divisions 3L, 3N and 3O, Scientific Council is requested to: review all available information and provide advice regarding whether the current management units (3LN and 3O) or any alternative may be the most appropriate.”

In 2005, **SC responded as follows:**

“The Council noted that results were available from a study of redfish population structure pertinent to the long standing recommendation on the appropriateness of Div. 3LN and Div. 3O as management units (SCR Doc. 05/50). The study compared genetic and morphometric characteristics of *S. fasciatus* and *S. mentella* based on samples within Div. 3LNO and Div. 3P area. For *S. fasciatus*, the results obtained suggested no difference in the biological characters studied amongst Div. 3L, Div. 3N and Div. 3O. It further suggested that *S. fasciatus* from Div. 3LNO and from the Subdiv. 3Ps area adjacent to Div. 3O form a population that exchanges individuals with redfish in the Laurentian Channel (Div. 3P4V). Therefore Div. 3O could be influenced by migration events originating from or towards the Laurentian Channel area (Div. 3P4V). For *S. mentella*, the results suggested Div. 3L is different from the Laurentian Channel area. These results confirmed the findings of a study by Roques *et al.* (2001).

The latter study also found no genetic difference among samples of *S. mentella* from Div. 3LN, Div. 3O and Subarea 2 + Div. 3K. The Council noted statistically non-significant genetic differences between areas could be obtained from a relatively low mixing rate between these areas.

Most studies the Council has reviewed in the past have suggested a close connection between Div. 3LN and Div. 3O, particularly between Div. 3O and Div. 3N for both species of redfish. While many of the studies suggested a single management unit, differences observed in population dynamics between Div. 3O and Div. 3LN suggest that it would be prudent to keep Div. 3O as a separate management unit. This is also the suggestion of the 2005 study (SCR Doc. 05/50) with regard to the argument that Div. 3O may act as a buffer zone between surrounding populations.”

There is no new information since 2005. SC reiterates that although there is a genetic connection between Div. 3O and Div. 3LN and other adjacent areas, differences observed in population dynamics, such as length- and age-structure of the populations, between Div. 3O and Div. 3LN suggest that it would be prudent to keep Div. 3O as a separate management unit.

b) **The SC responded:**

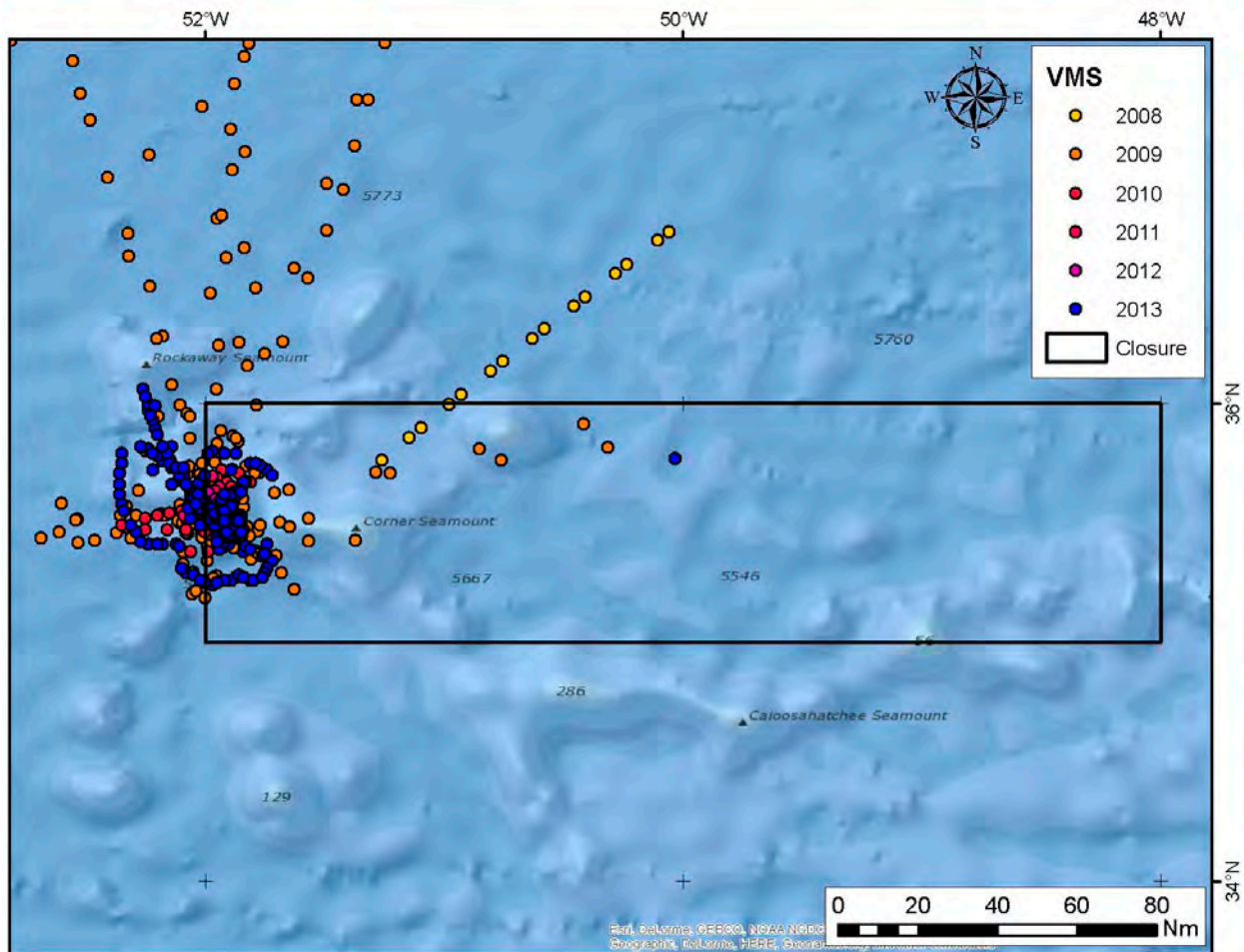
As noted in response to 3.a, the council considers that it would be prudent to keep Div. 3O as a separate management unit due to the differences observed in redfish population dynamics between the two zones and the uncertainty about the stock as a single biological unit. Given these uncertainties there would be a risk in combining the TACs from Div. 3O and Divisions 3LN. Concentrating fishing effort in Div. 3LN, with a combined TAC for Div. 3LNO, would lead to an exploitation level well above what is considered the MSY level for redfish in Div. 3LN.

Seamount Fisheries

4. *The SC is requested to present records of the spatial distribution of past seamount fisheries in the NRA, including seamount fisheries with mid-water trawls, or, if appropriate, confirm that the presentation in FC Working Paper 13/20 of 2013 provides a comprehensive record.*

Existing bottom fishing areas were defined as areas where VMS data and/or other available geo-reference data indicating bottom fishing activities have been conducted at least in two years within a reference period of 1987 to 2007 (SCS Doc. 09-21). At the time footprint was developed there was an assumption that the seamounts were closed to bottom-trawling. The putative footprint polygons on the seamounts were therefore not included in the final footprint definition. As the exploratory protocol and management measures for seamounts evolved the perception that the seamounts were closed persisted but was not reflected in the NCEM.

Scientific Council has no reason to believe the data presented in SCS Doc. 13/21 (FC WP 13/20) is not comprehensive. In addition, the distribution of VMS data from 2008 – 2013 is presented below. Data from 2010 – 2013 is filtered to data at fishing speeds (0.5 – 5.0 knots).



5. The SC is requested to define the use of the term “historical” in the advice statement concerning seamount fisheries.

In this context, “historical” refers to the 20-year period used in the definition of the fishing footprint, although Scientific Council notes that the fishery for Alfonsinos on Corner Rise Seamount began earlier than this, in 1976 (Vinnichenko, 1997).

Significant Adverse Impacts

6. In 2006, UNGA adopted Resolution 61/105 calling for an assessment of the risk of significant adverse impacts (SAI) of fishing activities on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem (VME). Then FAO was invited to develop guidance to support the implementation of the Resolution and adopted international Guidelines for the Management of Deep Sea Fisheries in the High Seas in 2008 taking into account the balance between the protection of VMEs and the rational utilization of fisheries resources.

The guidelines were adopted by NAFO as measures to avoid SAI on VMEs when fishing vessels encounter VME indicator species. Article 15.10 of NCEM states that “the term “encounter” means catch of a VME indicator species above threshold levels as set out in Article 22.3.” It also states that “Any encounter with a VME indicator species or merely detecting its presence is not sufficient to identify a VME.”

Scientific Council (2014) reported that there are high concentrations of VME indicator species in the areas proposed for the establishment of closed areas.

Are there VME indicator species in the areas in excess of the threshold levels stipulated in Article 22.3? Are there any quantified criteria adopted by FC other than the threshold levels stipulated in Article 22.3?

Scientific Council responded:

The threshold levels indicated in Article 22.3 relate to amounts of VME indicator species expected to be observed in a typical commercial tow whose track goes over grounds that contain VME-indicator species at densities that correspond to VME habitats.

The thresholds used to delineate these VME habitats are not those of Article 22 of the CEM, but both reflect equivalent VME densities on the bottom.

Differences in threshold values are associated to their intended purposes: 1) a scientific threshold used to determine areas of significant concentrations of VME indicator species (i.e. VME habitat), and 2) the threshold used for the encounter provision during commercial operations mentioned in Article 22.3.

VME thresholds are determined quantitatively using a kernel density analysis. This analysis provides thresholds to identify “hotspots” in the biomass distribution derived from research vessel trawl survey data, by looking at natural breaks in the spatial distribution associated with changes in local density. These natural breaks allow defining of significant area polygons. The methodology was peer-reviewed and published in the primary literature (Kenchington *et al.*, in press). Current scientific thresholds from this method are:

Sponges:	75 kg
Large gorgonian coral:	0.6 kg
Small gorgonian coral:	0.15 kg
Sea pens:	1.4 kg

The bycatch thresholds for the encounter provision for sponges and seapens were calculated with a GIS model which used the VME indicator species data from research surveys and VMS fishing effort data to generate realistic commercial trawl bycatch. The thresholds generated for the purpose of the encounter provision in the NCEM are:

Sponges:	300 kg
Sea pens:	7 kg

The current bycatch threshold for coral was calculated by scaling up from a scientific threshold to the duration of a commercial tow (FC Doc. 09/06).

Corals:	60 kg
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Thorny Skate in Div. 3LNO

7. For Div. 3LNO Thorny skate, if you were to apply the same method of calculating the reference points as has been recently adopted for 3NO witch flounder (where the two highest points in the time series of the biomass index is used as a proxy for B_{msy}), can you comment on what the likelihood would be that thorny skate biomass index would be below B_{lim} ?

Scientific Council responded:

The method applied to define reference points for witch flounder cannot be directly applied to thorny skate. The rationale to use the two highest points in the survey series as a proxy for B_{msy} for witch flounder in Divs. 3NO was based upon both the survey biomass index as well as the corresponding trends in fishery landings, including those prior to the initiation of the survey. Given the shorter time-series of landings in Div. 3LNO thorny skate, it is unclear if there is justification to assume that this stock was near B_{msy} in the years when the highest survey values were observed. However, it is anticipated that reference points for thorny skate in 3LNOPs may be developed during June 2015.

References

- Kenchington, E., F.J. Murillo, C. Lirette, M. Sacau, M. Koen-Alonso, A. Kenny, N. Ollerhead, V. Wareham and L. Beazley. 2014.** Kernel density surface modelling as a means to identify significant concentrations of vulnerable marine ecosystem indicators. PLOS ONE (accepted).
- Vinnichenko, V.I., 1997.** Russian investigations and deep water fishery on the Corner Rising Seamount in Subarea 6. *NAFO Scientific Council Studies*, **30**, 41–49.

Annex 5. Fisheries Commission’s Request for Scientific Advice on Management in 2016 and Beyond of Certain Stocks in Subareas 2, 3 and 4 and Other Matters

(FC Working Paper 14/16 Rev. 4 now FC Doc. 14/28 Rev. 3)

1. Fisheries Commission requests that the Scientific Council provide advice for the management of the fish stocks below according to the assessment frequency presented below. The advice should be provided as a range of management options and a risk analysis for each option (rather than a single TAC recommendation).

Yearly basis	Two year basis	Three year basis
Northern shrimp in Div. 3LNO	American plaice in Div. 3LNO Cod in Div. 3M Redfish in Div. 3LN Redfish in Div. 3M Northern Shrimp in Div. 3M Thorny skate in Div. 3LNO White hake in Div. 3NO Witch flounder in Div. 3NO	American plaice in Div. 3M Capelin in Div. 3NO Cod in Div. 3NO Northern shortfin squid in SA 3+4 Redfish in Div. 3O Witch flounder in Div. 2J+3KL Yellowtail flounder in Div. 3LNO

To implement this schedule of assessments, the Scientific Council is requested to conduct the assessment of these stocks as follows:

In 2015, advice should be provided for 2016 for Northern Shrimp in NAFO Div. 3LNO

In 2015, advice should be provided for 2016 and 2017 for Cod in Div. 3M and Redfish in Div. 3M, White hake in Div. 3NO.

In 2015, advice should be provided for 2016, 2017 and 2018 for Cod in Div. 3NO, Yellowtail Flounder in 3LNO and Capelin in Div. 3NO.

Advice should be provided using the guidance provided in Annexes A or B as appropriate, or using the predetermined Harvest Control Rules in the cases where they exist.

The Fisheries Commission also requests the Scientific Council to continue to monitor the status of all these stocks annually and, should a significant change be observed in stock status (e.g. from surveys) or in bycatches in other fisheries, provide updated advice as appropriate.

2. The Fisheries Commission adopted in 2010 an MSE approach for Greenland halibut stock in Subarea 2 + Division 3KLMNO (FC Document 10/12). This approach considers a survey based harvest control rule (HCR) to set a TAC for this stock on an annual basis. The Fisheries Commission requests the Scientific Council to:
 - a) Monitor and update the survey slope and to compute the TAC according to HCR adopted by the Fisheries Commission according to Annex 1 of FC Document 10/12.
 - b) Advise on whether or not an exceptional circumstance is occurring.
3. The Fisheries Commission requests the Scientific Council to analyze and provide advice on management measures that could improve selectivity in the 3M cod and 3M redfish fishery in the Flemish Cap in order to reduce possible by catches and discards. The objective is to reduce the mixed fisheries between cod and redfish, the bycatch of non-targeted stocks and to analyze if the selectivity pattern could be improved to reduce the catch of undersized fish.
4. The Fisheries Commission requests the Scientific Council to continue to develop work on Significant Adverse Impacts in support of the reassessment of NAFO bottom fishing activities required in 2016, specifically an assessment of the risk associated with bottom fishing activities on known and predicted VME species and elements in the NRA.
5. Recognizing the work done in NAFO to prevent significant adverse impacts to vulnerable marine ecosystems, and the need for effective stock assessments;

Further recognizing that modifications to survey designs occur on regular basis in fisheries surveys in many cases,

FC requests that SC investigate the impacts of removing the closed areas from the survey design for relevant stock surveys.

6. For the cod stock in Divisions 2J+3KL, the Scientific Council is requested to comment on the trends in biomass and state of the stock in the most recent Science Advisory Report from the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat.
7. The Fisheries Commission requests the Scientific Council to conduct a full assessment of witch flounder in Div. 3NO.
8. Please provide a stock assessment for alfonsino and recommendation.
9. Could the SC liaise with the national institutes of the different CPs to see if – as recommended by STACFIS – acoustic surveys for capelin can be carried out?
10. There are some spatial and depth coverage deficiencies in the Greenland halibut survey. It is suspected that there is a component of the Greenland halibut stock of age-class 14+ that lives in depths under 1 500 meters and is therefore inaccessible to scientific trawling. Please
 - (a) comment on this hypothesis,
 - (b) indicate if information on this part of the stock would be useful for the stock assessment and the understanding of the stock dynamics,
 - (c) indicate if there are techniques available to assess the biomass below 1 500 meters and
 - (d) if useful and possible, implement such techniques in view of the next stock assessment.
11. The NAFO 2011 Performance Review Panel encouraged NAFO to consider whether activities other than fishing in the NAFO Convention Area may impact the stocks and fisheries for which NAFO is responsible as well as biodiversity in the NAFO Regulatory Area. Such activities might include oil exploration, shipping and recreational activities. Some work has been carried out as part of the ecosystem approach.

As the first step in the assessment of such impacts and for the implementation of the priorities of the Ecosystem Roadmap, could the Scientific Council provide a literature survey that would indicate what the risks are to the fish stocks and ecosystems in the NAFO Regulatory Area by looking at comparable situations.
12. The Fisheries Commission requests the Scientific Council to evaluate the impact of mid-water trawls on VME indicator species in those instances when the gear makes contact with or is lost on the bottom.

ANNEX A: Guidance for providing advice on Stocks Assessed with an Analytical Model

The Fisheries Commission request the Scientific Council to consider the following in assessing and projecting future stock levels for those stocks listed above. These evaluations should provide the information necessary for the Fisheries Commission to consider the balance between risks and yield levels, in determining its management of these stocks:

1. For stocks assessed with a production model, the advice should include updated time series of:

- Catch and TAC of recent years
- Catch to relative biomass
- Relative Biomass
- Relative Fishing mortality
- Stock trajectory against reference points
- And any information the Scientific Council deems appropriate.

Stochastic short-term projections (3 years) should be performed with the following constant fishing mortality levels as appropriate:

- For stocks opened to direct fishing: $2/3 F_{msy}$, $3/4 F_{msy}$, $85\% F_{msy}$, $75\% F_{2014}$, F_{2014} , $125\% F_{2014}$,
- For stocks under a moratorium to direct fishing: F_{2014} , $F = 0$.

The first year of the projection should assume a catch equal to the agreed TAC for that year.

Results from stochastic short term projection should include risks of stock population parameters increasing above or falling below available biomass and fishing mortality reference points. The table indicated below should guide the Scientific Council in presenting the short term projections.

		Limit reference points																				
		P(F>F _{lim})			P(B<B _{lim})			P(F>F _{msy})			P(B<B _{msy})			P(B2017 > B2014)								
F in 2015 and following years*	Yield 2015 (50%)	Yield 2016 (50%)	Yield 2017 (50%)	2015			2016			2017			2015			2016			2017			
				%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%				
$2/3 F_{msy}$	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
$3/4 F_{msy}$	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
$85\% F_{msy}$	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
$0.75 \times F_{2014}$	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F_{2014}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
$1.25 \times F_{2014}$	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
$F=0$	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

2. For stock assessed with an age-structured model, information should be provided on stock size, spawning stock sizes, recruitment prospects, historical fishing mortality. Graphs and/or tables should be provided for all of the following for the longest time-period possible:

- historical yield and fishing mortality;
- spawning stock biomass and recruitment levels;
- Stock trajectory against reference points

And any information the Scientific Council deems appropriate.

Stochastic short-term projections (3 years) should be performed with the following constant fishing mortality levels as appropriate:

- For stocks opened to direct fishing: $F_{0.1}$, F_{max} , $2/3 F_{max}$, $3/4 F_{max}$, $85\% F_{max}$, $75\% F_{2014}$, F_{2014} , $125\% F_{2014}$,
- For stocks under a moratorium to direct fishing: F_{2014} , $F = 0$.

The first year of the projection should assume a catch equal to the agreed TAC for that year.

Results from stochastic short term projection should include:

- The 10%, 50% and 90% percentiles of the yield, total biomass, spawning stock biomass and exploitable biomass for each year of the projections
- The risks of stock population parameters increasing above or falling below available biomass and fishing mortality reference points. The table indicated below should guide the Scientific Council in presenting the short term projections.

				Limit reference points												
				P($F > F_{lim}$)			P($B < B_{lim}$)			P($F > F_{0.1}$)			P($F > F_{max}$)			P($B_{2017} > B_{2014}$)
F in 2015 and following years*	Yield 2015	Yield 2016	Yield 2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	2015	2016	2017	
$F_{0.1}$	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F_{max}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
$66\% F_{max}$	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
$75\% F_{max}$	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
$85\% F_{max}$	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
$0.75 \times F_{2014}$	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F_{2014}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
$1.25 \times F_{2014}$	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

ANNEX B Guidance for providing advice on Stocks Assessed without a Population Model

For those resources for which only general biological and/or catch data are available, few standard criteria exist on which to base advice. The stock status should be evaluated in the context of management requirements for long-term sustainability and the advice provided should be consistent with the precautionary approach.

The following graphs should be presented, for one or several surveys, for the longest time-period possible:

- time trends of survey abundance estimates
- an age or size range chosen to represent the spawning population
- an age or size-range chosen to represent the exploited population
- recruitment proxy or index for an age or size-range chosen to represent the recruiting population.
- fishing mortality proxy, such as the ratio of reported commercial catches to a measure of the exploited population
- stock trajectory against reference points

And any information the Scientific Council deems appropriate.

Annex 6. Recommendations from the WG-RBMS to forward to FC and SC

(FC-SC Working Paper 14/03 now FC Doc. 14/26)

The FC-SC Joint WG on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS) met on 5-7 February 2014 in Halifax, Nova Scotia and agreed on the following recommendations (FC-SC Doc. 14/02):

1. In order for the WG to start the process of revising the PA framework the WG **recommends SC provide feedback on the following:**
 - **Discuss the relevance and implications of:**
 - **having F_{lim} at F_{msy}**
 - **F_{msy} as a target**

These analyses should include situations where quantitative analysis of uncertainty are limited and situations where uncertainty has been well incorporated into evaluation of Harvest Control Rules.

 - Consider the utility of buffers (particularly B_{buf}) in the framework and in management plans and provide advice on whether the use of buffers is considered appropriate for stocks which have B_{lim} .

Note: the WG **recommends that B_{isr} is not considered part of the PA (but may be used as an interim milestone to aid decision making).**
 - The working group noted that SC, in its 2013 June report, concluded that reference points can theoretically be constructed for all stocks, and that this work is given high priority. The WG **recommends** SC provide a status report and possible timelines for this work for consideration of Fisheries Commission in September 2014.
 - In its assessments and advisory sheets, the working group **recommends** Scientific Council provide a table or list of reference points available for each stock that includes information on their derivation, and if reference points are missing, explain why.
2. The WG **recommends FC adopt amendments to the interim management plan for Div. 3NO cod (Annex 1).**
3. The WG **recommends FC adopt amendments to the General Framework on Risk Based Management Strategies (Annex 2).**
4. The WG **recommends SC discuss selection of operating models and evaluate the Div. 3LN redfish management strategy relative to the performance statistics prior to the 2014 Annual Meeting (Annex 3).**
5. The WG **recommends SC comment on likely bycatch levels associated with the implementation of the proposed HCR for 3LN redfish (Annex 3).**
6. The WG **recommends SC to discuss selection of operating models and evaluate the Div. 3M cod management strategy prior to the 2015 Annual Meeting (Annex 4).**

Annex 1. Updated 3NO Cod Conservation Plan and Management Strategy Interim 3NO Cod Conservation Plan and Rebuilding Strategy

1. Objective(s):

- (a) **Long-term Objective:** The long-term objective of this Conservation Plan and Rebuilding Strategy is to achieve and to maintain the 3NO cod Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) in the ‘safe zone’, as defined by the NAFO Precautionary Approach framework, and at or near B_{msy} .
- (b) **Interim Milestone:** As an interim milestone, increase the 3NO cod Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) to a level above the Limit Reference Point (B_{lim}). It may reasonably be expected that B_{lim} will not be reached until after 2015.

2. Reference Points:

- (a) Limit reference point for spawning stock biomass (B_{lim}) – 60,000t¹
- (b) An intermediate stock reference point or security margin B_{isr} – [120,000t]
- (c) Limit reference point for fishing mortality ($F_{lim} = F_{msy}$) – 0.30
- (d) ~~B_{msy} – [248,000t]~~ Interim B_{target} – 185 000 t and interim F_{target} of $F_{0.1}$ – 0.19³

3. Re-opening to Directed Fishing:

- (a) A re-opening of a directed fishery should only occur when the estimated SSB, in the year projected for opening the fishery, has a very low⁴ probability of actually being below B_{lim} .
- (b) An annual TAC should be established at a level which is projected to result in:
- (i) continued growth in SSB
 - (ii) low⁵ probability of SSB declining below B_{lim} throughout the subsequent 3-year period, and
 - (iii) fishing mortality < F0.1

4. Harvest Control Rules:

Noting the desire for relative TAC stability, the projections referred to in items (a) through (d) below should consider the effect of maintaining the proposed annual TAC over 3 years. Further, in its application of the Harvest Control Rules, Fisheries Commission may, based on Scientific Council analysis, consider scenarios which either mitigate decline in SSB or limit increases in TACs as a means to balance stability and growth objectives.

- (a) When SSB is below B_{lim} :
- (i) no directed fishing, and
 - (ii) bycatch should be restricted to unavoidable bycatch in fisheries directing for other species

Before SSB increases above B_{lim} , additional or alternative harvest control rules should be developed, following the Precautionary Approach, to ensure the long-term objective is met, such as:

1 The Fisheries Commission shall request the Scientific Council to review in detail the limit reference point when the Spawning Stock Biomass has reached 30,000t.

2 A ‘buffer zone’ (B_{bz}) is not required under the NAFO PA given the availability of risk analysis related to current and projected biomass values; however, SC has advised that an additional zone(s) between B_{lim} and B_{msy} could be considered. An intermediate stock reference point (B_{isr}) is proposed to delineate this zone. The proposed value is set at a level equivalent to twice B_{lim} . Should the SC review of the limit reference point (B_{lim}) result in a change to that value then the intermediate stock reference point (B_{isr}) should also be re-evaluated.

3 ~~B_{target} is a proxy of B_{msy} . The level of F has very low probability of being higher than F_{lim} . The B_{target} is the equilibrium SSB that results from F_{target} . These are interim targets until more stock recruitment and productivity regime information is available to better estimate MSY-based reference points.~~

4 ‘very low’ means 10% or less

5 ‘low’ means 20% or less



- (b) When SSB is between B_{lim} and B_{isr} :
 - (i) TACs should be set at a level(s) to allow for continued growth in SSB consistent with established rebuilding objective(s)
 - (ii) TACs should result in a low probability of SSB declining below B_{lim} throughout the subsequent 3-year period, and
 - (iii) Biomass projections should apply a low risk tolerance
- (c) When SSB is above B_{isr} :
 - (i) TACs should be set at a level(s) to allow for growth in SSB consistent with the long term objective, and
 - (ii) Biomass projections should apply a risk neutral approach (i.e. mean probabilities)
- (d) When SSB is above B_{msy} B_{target} :
 - (i) TACs should be set at a level of F that has a low probability of exceeding F_{msy} , and
 - (ii) Biomass projections should apply a risk neutral approach (i.e. mean probabilities)

5. Ecosystem Considerations:

Considering the importance of capelin as a food source, consistent with the ecosystem approach, the moratorium on 3NO capelin will continue until at least 31 December 2015.

6. Bycatch Provisions

The bycatch provisions in the CEM for 3NO cod should be reviewed periodically, to coincide with scheduled assessments of the stock by Scientific Council, and adjusted to reflect the overall trend in spawning stock biomass.

Annex 2. Revised General Framework on Risk-based Management Strategies

1. Introduction:

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on the development and implementation of risk management strategies based on the application of the Precautionary Approach framework.

While not intended to be a template, the following are recommended elements for the development and implementation of risk based management strategies.

2. Biological Synopsis / Fishery Overview:

A brief overview outlining the main biological characteristics of the stock with emphasis on the aspects which impact rebuilding of the stock, as appropriate, including:

- A species' **life history characteristics** (e.g. growth rates, fecundity, longevity, age-at-maturity, size-at-maturity) - critical elements to consider in determining a stock's response to both fishing pressures and rebuilding measures.
- **Multispecies interactions** – these can have a strong influence on stock recovery potential and ability of all stocks to reach MSY.
- **Environmental conditions** (e.g. temperature, salinity) - will impact the rebuilding dynamics of a stock by affecting life history characteristics, such as fecundity, growth and general productivity. Environmental conditions will also influence predator and prey abundance, which in turn impacts a stocks' overall health and recruitment.

A brief overview of the fisheries in which the stock is captured, including both targeted catch and bycatch, including:

- Impacts of rebuilding on other fisheries - rebuilding efforts for a depleted stock harvested in a mixed-stock or multispecies fishery may have impact on / be impacted by fishing opportunities on targeted stocks/species whose populations are healthy

3. Objective(s):

Objectives (fishery and conservation related) should be clearly stated and direct the development of specific measures. Milestones may also be established as interim steps to achieving objectives.

Objectives and milestones may take into account the following components:

- A target, which is preferably quantifiable (e.g. specified biomass goal)
- A desired time to reach the target (e.g. specified # of years/ generations)
- An acceptable probability level for reaching the target within the specified timeframe

The long-term objective of a Risk-based Management Strategy is to achieve and to maintain the Stock Biomass and the Fishing Mortality in the 'safe zone', as defined by the NAFO Precautionary Approach framework and to ensure that fisheries resources are maintained at or restored to levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yields, according to the Convention objectives (resolution NAFO/GC Doc. 08/3).

4. Reference Points:

The level of information available to perform a quantitative assessment and to define biological reference points may vary considerably between stocks. There are currently stocks with an adopted quantitative assessment and with limit and/or potential target reference points defined but there are stocks with inadequate information to perform a quantitative assessment and for which the definition of reference points is difficult or not possible.

Where limit reference points can be defined, they should be calculated by the Scientific Council (SC).

SC should also provide advice and analysis in support of the development of other reference points (e.g. targets).

5. Guidance on Management Strategies and Harvest Control Rules⁶ :

- a) Stocks below limit reference point
- no directed fishing, and
 - bycatch should be restricted to unavoidable bycatch in fisheries directing for other species

- b) Re-opening to direct Fishing:

A decision to reopen the fishery should only be considered when Biomass is above B_{lim} .

When a stock has recovered beyond B_{lim} , initial TAC levels should be set at conservative levels to allow for continued recovery and growth.

Decisions to reopen a fishery should take into account any available risk analysis.

Where quantitative risk analysis is available, reopening the fishery should only be considered when there is a very low⁷ probability of Biomass actually being below B_{lim} .

In the absence of a quantitative risk analysis, a decision to reopen a fishery would only occur when FC has a high degree of confidence, taking into account any available advice/analysis from SC, that biomass is above B_{lim} or its proxy. Any subsequent increases in TAC should be gradual in order to allow for monitoring of the stock response to the fishery.

- c) Open fisheries:

The NAFO Precautionary Approach framework should be applied and Harvest Control Rules (HCR) should be developed in order to specify actions to be taken.

Fisheries specific harvest control rules should be designed with the objective of keeping the fishery in the safe zone.

There should be a low probability that fishing mortality will exceed F_{lim} .

Scenarios may be considered which mitigate decline in biomass and/or limit increases in TACs as a means to balance fishery socio-economics and long-term conservation objectives.

- d) Closing of Directed Fishing:

{As noted in NAFO's PA Framework, a fishery stock will be closed when it is below B_{lim} . Fisheries Managers will consider the probability and establish risk tolerance taking into consideration short term projections and stock fluctuations.}

- e) Additional management measures

When practical, considerations may be given to specific management measures to reduce fishing mortality associated with bycatch including discards, and/or improve selectivity.

6. Ecosystem Considerations:

Risk-based management strategies should be consistent with the ecosystem approach and take into consideration the associated species.

7. Bycatch provisions:

For a closed fishery, bycatch provisions in the CEM should be reviewed periodically, to coincide with scheduled assessments of the stock by Scientific Council, and adjusted to reflect the overall trend in spawning stock biomass.

8. Monitoring and Review:

Reviews should be completed on a regular basis at intervals such that failures of the plan (e.g. prolonged declining or stagnant stock growth) can be detected, and changes made as required.

⁶ Noting the merits of quantifiable and testable harvest control rules, these aspects should be considered, on a stock by stock basis, in the development of risk-based management strategies.

⁷ The actual level of risk should be specified by managers.

On-going changes in stock status, resulting in implementation of associated harvest decision rules should be continuously examined; trends observed in long-term monitoring are an essential element for consideration in reviewing rebuilding plan performance.

Additional management action may be considered if the stock does not show signs that rebuilding is occurring.

Annex 3. Development of a Risk-Based Management Strategy for 3LN Redfish (FC-SC RBMS WP 14/4 Rev 3)

Preamble

NAFO identified the development of a risk-based management strategy for 3LN redfish as a priority in 2012, and reaffirmed that priority in 2013.

1. Context

This is a recently re-opened fishery and the response of the stock to fishing at higher levels is uncertain at this stage.

In addition, a high percentage of the fish are juveniles. **Implementation of the proposed HCR should allow for an increase in the spawning stock biomass but it is not possible to test this element at this time.**

The proposed management strategy is intended to initially focus on the short to medium term. A review/evaluation would be recommended at the end of the 7 year period (outlined below).

2. Objectives and Performance Statistics:

- a) *Objective(s)*: Maintain the stock at or above B_{msy} , achieve a TAC of 20 000t within 7 years, and maintain a TAC at or above⁸ 20,000t for subsequent years.
 - Rationale for 20 000t is that it represents the approximate average catch for the period 1965-1985 - a prolonged period of relative stability in the TAC/ resource.
 - The current average fish size in the stock and fishery is low and a slow increase in the TAC should promote survival and growth. This should result in an increased SSB.
- b) *Performance Statistics*:
 - i. Low (30%) probability of exceeding F_{msy} in any year
 - ii. Very low (10%) probability of declining below B_{lim} in the next 7 years
 - iii. Less than 50% probability of declining below 80% B_{msy} in the next 7 years

3. Harvest Control Rule:

Increase the TAC in constant increments starting in 2015 – i.e. $TAC_{y+1} = TAC_y + 1900t$ to a maximum of 20 000t. This would provide the following annual TACs:

2015: 8 900
 2016: 10 800
 2017: 12 700
 2018: 14 600
 2019: 16 500
 2020: 18 400
 2021: 20 000

4. Proposed Next Steps:

- The working group request Scientific Council to evaluate this management strategy relative to the performance statistics prior to the 2014 NAFO Annual Meeting.
- **SC is requested to comment on likely bycatch levels associated with the implementation of the proposed HCR for 3LN redfish.**

⁸ Evaluating at 5 000t increments, i.e. 25 000, 30 000, etc.

Annex 4. Development of a Risk-Based Management Strategy for 3M Cod (FC-SC RBMS WP 14/2 Rev2)

Background

The cod stock in Division 3M (Flemish cap) experienced very low biomass levels in the 1990s and was under moratorium to direct fishing between 1999 and 2009. The stock rebuilt and the direct fishery reopened in 2010. The spawning stock biomass increased substantially since mid-2000s and is now well above the limit reference point and among the highest levels observed since the 1970s. The rebuilding of this cod stock was a success for NAFO. NAFO identified the development of a risk-based management strategy for 3M cod as a priority in 2012, and reaffirmed that priority in 2013. The development of such a management plan should be based on scientific advice.

This paper presents the outline of a future 3M cod Risk-based Management Strategy, indicating reference points with associated risks, options of candidate Harvest Control Rules (HCR) and performance statistics and targets to evaluate these HCR. Two candidate HCRs are proposed: 1) a model based HCR, with different options of target fishing mortality (F_{target}) and 2) a model free HCR based on survey trends. The model based HCR would require a stock assessment each year, to estimate the necessary stock parameters, while the model free HCR would only be based on surveys and assessments would not be necessary.

These different HCRs will give managers a wide range of options to choose from, based on the different risk and performances. The Scientific Council should review this plan, propose alternative HCRs and performance statistics and perform a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE).

1. Objective

The objective of this Conservation Plan is to maintain the 3M cod Spawning Stock Biomass in the safe zone as defined by the NAFO precautionary approach framework and to assure the optimum utilization, rational management and conservation of the 3M cod stock.

2. Reference Points:

(a) A limit reference point for spawning stock biomass (B_{lim}) – 14 000 tons⁹

(b) A target reference point for fishing mortality (F_{target})

F_{target} is to be defined by Managers. Several options regarding risks of being above F_{MSY} are indicated in one of the HCRs.

Reference points should be calculated and updated by the Scientific Council (SC).

3. Harvest Control Rule:

(a) When SSB is above B_{lim} , the future total allowable catch (TAC) shall be adjusted each year according to the following harvest control rule (HCR):

- OPTION 1 (Model based HCR): $TAC = \text{Biomass} \times F_{target} \times \text{Probability of SSB above } B_{lim}$

F_{target} : Four different levels of F will be considered as F_{target} , corresponding to probabilities of 20%, 30%, 40% and 50% of exceeding F_{MSY} .

If F_{MSY} is not available, an appropriate proxy (e.g. Fmax, current proxy) should be used.

- OPTION 2 (Model free HCR): $TAC_{y+1} = TAC_y \times (1 + \lambda \times \text{slope})$

Biomass projections should apply a risk neutral approach (i.e. mean probabilities).

(b) When SSB is below B_{lim} , no directed fishing and bycatch should be restricted to unavoidable bycatch in fisheries directing for other species

For this purpose, fisheries managers will consider the probability and establish risk tolerance, noting that the probability of biomass to be above B_{lim} is an integral part of the HCR proposed in option 1.

⁹ STACFIS 2008

(c) Noting the desire for relative TAC stability, TAC should be constraint to a fixed percentage of annual change (+- [XX]%).

Level of constraint is to be defined by Managers. Different scenarios will be tested: 10%, 15% and 20%.

The management objectives, performance statistics (PS) and performance target (PT) are indicated in Annex 1.

4. Bycatch Provisions

The bycatch provisions in the CEM for 3M cod are defined in Article 6.3.

5. Reviews

Reviews should be completed on a regular basis at intervals such that failures of the plan (e.g. prolonged declining stock) can be detected, and changes made as required.

6. Final provisions

The current Risk-based Management Strategy (RBMS) for cod stock in Subarea 3M shall be applied in consistency with the Precautionary Approach Framework and the General Framework on Risk-based Management Strategies.

It shall be in force initially until 2019.

Annex 1: Parameters for the evaluation of the management strategy

The priority regarding management objectives is (ranked from higher to lower priority): 1) low risk of breaching B_{lim} , 2) low risk of overfishing and 3) low risk of steep biomass decline, 4) maximise average catch and 5) limited annual catch variation.

The HCRs, PS and PT are not fully mathematically specified and are left open for the Scientific Council to propose adequate formulation. The length of the evaluation period is to be defined by the Scientific Council.

Management Objectives	Performance Statistics (PS)	Performance Targets (PT)
Low risk of steep decline	SSB_{10}/SSB_0 , where SSB_{10} = spawning stock biomass in year 10 and SSB_0 = spawning stock biomass in year 0, where year 0 is the current year SSB_5 / SSB_0 SSB_{lowest} / SSB_0 , where SSB_{lowest} = lowest spawning stock biomass level during projected evaluation period	The probability of the decline of 25% or more of spawning stock biomass from year 0 to year 5 is kept at 10% or lower.
Very low risk of breaching B_{lim}	SSB / B_{lim}	The probability of a spawning stock biomass under B_{lim} at 10% or lower
Limited annual catch variation	Number of times the constraint (at the lower and at the higher boundaries) has been applied on average during the period.	This will be achieved through the constraint on the TAC variation.
Maximum average catch over the period	Yearly TAC for the period Average TAC over the period	The average TAC over the period should be maximized
Low risk of overfishing	F/F_{MSY} F_{max} is used as a proxy for F_{msy} .	For the model free HCR only: The probability of F exceeding F_{msy} during the evaluation period should be kept at 30% or lower.

Annex 7. Quota Table and Effort Allocation Scheme, 2015

QUOTA TABLE. Total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tons) for 2015 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	Cod			Redfish				American plaice		Yellowtail		
	COD 3L	COD 3M	% of 3M Cod TAC	COD 3NO	RED 3LN	% of 3LN Redfish TAC	RED 3M	RED 30	REB 1F_2_3K (i.e. Sub-Area 2 and Div. 1F+3K)		PLA 3LNO	PLA 3M
Stock Specification												
% of TAC												
Contracting Party												
Canada		110	0.80	0	4430	42.60	500	6000	0 ^{2,4}	0	0	16575 ⁵
Cuba		511	3.70	-	1019	9.80	1750		0 ^{2,4}	-	-	-
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		3083	22.35	-	-		69 ¹⁹		0 ^{2,3}	-	-	-
European Union		7867 ²⁵	57.03	0 ¹¹	1896 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		1276	9.25	-	-		-		0 ^{2,3}	-	-	-
Russian Federation		893	6.47	0	2992	28.77	9137	6500	0 ^{2,3}	-	0	-
Ukraine								150	0 ^{2,4}			
United States of America		-		-	-		69 ¹⁹		0 ^{2,4}	-	-	-
Others		55	0.40	0	63	0.60	124	100	-	0	0	85 ⁵
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	^{*9}	13795 ²³	100.0	^{*20,9}	10400 ^{16, 24}	100.0	6700 ⁸	20000	0 ^{10,17}	^{*16,21}	^{*9,20}	17000 ^{21,22}

Species	Witch		White hake	Capelin	Skates	Greenland halibut	Squid (<i>Illex</i>) ¹		Shrimp	
	WIT 3L	WIT 3NO					SKA 3LNO	GHL 3LMNO	SQI 3_4 (i.e. Sub-areas 3+4)	PRA 3L
Stock Specification										
% of TAC		% of 3NO Witch TAC								
Contracting Party										
Canada		600	294	0	1167	1731	N.S. ⁶	0		
Cuba		-		0		-	510	0		
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		-		-		199	-	0		
European Union		133 ¹¹	588	0 ¹¹	4408	6768 ¹⁸	N.S. ⁶ 611 ¹³	0 ¹⁴		
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-		-		189	453	0		
Iceland		-		-		-	-	0		
Japan		-		0		1183	510	0		
Korea		-		-		-	453	0		
Norway		-		0		-	-	0		
Russian Federation		257	59	0	1167	1473	749	0		
Ukraine						-		0		
United States of America		-		-		-	453	0		
Others		10	59	-	258	0 ⁷	794	0		
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	^{*9,16}	¹⁰⁰⁰ ²⁸	¹⁰⁰⁰ ²⁷	^{*9}	⁷⁰⁰⁰ ^{16,29}	¹¹⁵⁴³	³⁴⁰⁰⁰ ¹⁶	⁰	^{*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.

5. Contracting Parties shall inform the Executive Secretary before 1 December 2014 of the measures to be taken to ensure that total catches do not exceed the levels indicated.
6. The allocation to these Contracting Parties are as yet undetermined, although their sum shall not exceed the difference between the total of allocations to other Contracting Parties and the TAC (= 29,458 tons).
7. In 2005, the previous 935 t "Others" quota was assigned to three Contracting Parties. When the TAC exceeds 30,000 t the next 1,300 t beyond 30,000 will be allocated to an Others quota which can be accessed by those who do not hold Greenland halibut allocation. In deciding the relevant contributions of Contracting Parties to the 1,300 t Others quota, the Fisheries Commission will take into account the fact that some Contracting Parties received a benefit from the 935 t quota which was reassigned in 2005.
8. Notwithstanding Article 5.3(b), in 2015, the Executive Secretary shall inform Contracting Parties by electronic means 5 calendar days in advance of the date on which the available data indicates that total reported catch reaches 6500 t. Subsequently, directed fishery will cease when 6500 t has been taken as determined by the Executive Secretary. The remainder of the TAC can be retained as bycatch and shall be limited to 5% of catches of cod in Division 3M. When 100% of the TAC has been taken as determined by the Executive Secretary, no more redfish in Division 3M shall be retained on board in accordance with Article 5(3)(c).
9. The provisions of Article 6.3 of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures shall apply.
10. In the case of the NEAFC decision which modifies the level of TAC in 2015 as compared to 2014, 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 1.11% each for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland out of the TAC, 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 2015 and 2016.
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 379 tonnes for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union.
19. Notwithstanding the provisions of footnote 8 and Article 5.2 (b) and without prejudice to future agreements on allocations, these quotas may be fished in their entirety by these Contracting Parties.
20. Applicable to 2015, 2016 and 2017.
21. In lieu of Article 6.3 of the CEM, the following bycatch 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 bycatch harvest limit equal to 15% of their total yellowtail fishery as calculated in accordance with Article 6.4. 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 1 January 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 161 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 552 tons for Poland following their accession to the European Union.
26. Including fishing entitlements of 514 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. Should a Contracting Party experience higher than normal catches per unit of effort (CPUE) and conclude that a shift to high availability levels of white hake during the fishing season – such as what was apparently the case in 2002 and 2003 – is taking place, then that Contracting Party shall notify the Executive Secretary and submit a summary of evidence for its conclusion (higher than normal CPUE and any other additional relevant information) within one month. On this basis, a mail vote will be submitted to the Fisheries Commission as to whether an exceptional increase in the availability of fish occurs. The TAC shall remain at 1,000t until the results of the vote are complete and the catch limitation provided for in Annex I. A. of the NCEM will apply. In case of a positive vote, the TAC is confirmed to be 2,000 metric tons. In the case of negative vote, the TAC shall remain at 1,000 metric tons.
28. The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1994 Quota Table. In 1995, a moratorium on witch flounder in Division 3NO was declared.
29. Should catches exceed 5000t, additional measures would be adopted to further restrain catches in 2016.



**Effort Allocation Scheme for Shrimp Fishery in the
NAFO Regulatory Area Div. 3M, 2015**

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

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

Annex 8. Norway’s statement concerning the 3M cod TAC decision

The SC management advice for 2015 could be subject to interpretation. In this context the highest TAC option is 10 838 t. SC is very clear when advising that a fishing mortality over this level will result in an overall loss in yield. SC also pointed out that “yields at F-status quo is not a viable option”. We therefore highly regret that NAFO once again has opted for a TAC at a level which is not sustainable in the long run. This is an approach to fisheries management to which Norway cannot subscribe.

Annex 9. Redundancy of Footnote 8 in CEM Annex I.A
(FC Working Paper 14/08 **now** FC Doc. 14/08)

Preamble

According to CEM Art 5.5 (d), the directed fishery for RED 3M must be closed between the date on which catch is estimated at 50 % of the TAC, to be fixed by the Executive Secretary and communicated 5 calendar days in advance as per CEM Art 5.12 (d), and 1 July.

Footnote 8 in Annex I A duplicates the provision in 5.5 (d) and limits the permanent annual provision to 2014;

Proposal

1. To suppress footnote 8

Annex 10. DFG's statement concerning the decision on bycatch measures on 3M redfish

DFG would have preferred that the working group on bycatch looked at the bycatch rules for redfish in 3M together with the other bycatch rules. It is difficult to see the logic in the need to raise the total TAC of redfish in order to address a bycatch issue in the cod fisheries, when FC has just decided to lower the cod quota. In addition, the bycatch requirements in the NCEM state that when a quota has been allocated to a Contracting Party, bycatch should be within the allocated quota. Therefore a more correct solution on the alleged bycatch issue would have been that CPs who have not agreed on the allocation of redfish in 3M would stop their fisheries when e.g. 90 or 95% of the total TAC in the Olympic fisheries have been reached.

Annex 11. Risk-Based Management Strategy for 3LN Redfish

(FC-Working Paper 14/23 Rev. **now** FC Doc. 14/29)

Recognizing that Redfish in Divisions 3LN is a recently re-opened fishery (2010) and the response of the stock to fishing at higher levels is uncertain at this stage;

Mindful that fishing intensity on redfish has impacts on Div. 3NO cod, Div. 3LNO American plaice and SA 2 + Div. 3KLMNO Greenland halibut through bycatch;

Noting the 2014 Scientific Council advice which indicates that a higher TAC should be reached by a stepwise increase from the current catch level;

Consistent with the NAFO Precautionary Approach and the recently adopted General Framework on Risk-based Management Strategies;

It is recommended that Fisheries Commission:

1. **Adopt the risk-based management strategy for 3LN redfish as outlined in Harvest Control Rule 2 presented by the Scientific Council and implement the associated harvest control rule specified in Annex I;**
2. **Request Scientific Council to monitor the performance of the HCR by examining the trends in the survey indices and by conducting a full assessment every 2-3 years and for the first time in 2016; and**
3. **Conduct a full review/ evaluation of the management strategy at the end of the 7 year implementation period.**

Annex I

3LN Redfish Management Strategy - Harvest Control Rule:

HCR stepwise slow: this HCR is designed to reach 18 100 t of annual catch by 2019-2020 through a stepwise biannual catch increase, with the same amount of increase every two years between 2015 and 2020. 18 100 t is the equilibrium yield in the 2014 assessment under the assumption of an MSY of 21 000 t.

This provides the following annual TACs:

2015: 10 400 t
 2016: 10 400 t
 2017: 14 200 t
 2018: 14 200 t
 2019: 18 100 t
 2020: 18 100 t

Annex 12. Statement of the Russian Federation concerning *Sebastes mentella* in the NAFO Convention Area

The Russian Federation maintains its position that there is a single stock of pelagic *Sebastes mentella* in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters, including the NAFO Convention Area, and expresses the intention to pursue studies into the population structure of pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters until agreed recommendations on the stock structure of this species are accepted within the ICES community.

Annex 13. Reopening of witch flounder in Divisions 3NO

(FC-Working Paper 14/22 now FC Doc. 14/11)

Recalling that Witch flounder in Divisions 3NO has been under moratorium to directed fishing since 1995;

Reaffirming the commitment by Fisheries Commission and Contracting Parties to develop a rebuilding strategy for this stock as noted in the 2013 Recommendations from the WGFMS-CPRS to the Fisheries Commission (FC Doc. 13/29);

Noting the 2014 Scientific Council advice which indicates that the biomass of 3NO Witch flounder has increased since 2010 and has been estimated to be at or above B_{lim} since 2011;

Mindful that recent catch of this stock have been about 300-400t and that SC has advised that increases from the current level should be gradual; and

Recalling the reopening procedures for 3LN redfish and 3M cod, where the allocation scheme was based on the scheme of the Quota Table the year before the moratorium was declared, noting FC WP 07/03.

It is **recommended** that:

1. A TAC for 3NO witch flounder be set at 1 000t* for 2015 only, and with quotas as in effect in 1994, the year before the moratorium was declared;
2. The WG-RBMS undertake, at its meeting in 2015, to develop a RBMS for this stock; and;
3. Article 6.3 (a) be amended to include 3NO Witch flounder.

Contracting Party	2015 TAC (t)	% of 3NO Witch Flounder TAC
Canada	600	60.00
Russian Federation	257	25.73
European Union	133	13.27
Other	10	1

Annex 14. Norway's statement concerning alfonsino fishery in a seamount in the NRA

Norway referred to the recent seamount fisheries in the NRA and noted that these fisheries had been conducted in a single seamount area. Norway therefore looked forward to the results of the future assessments to be conducted in 2015. It was further confirmed that it remains Norway's view that unregulated fisheries should not take place in the NRA and noted that the fishery for alfonsino was such an unregulated fishery. Hence precautionary action should be taken even without a stock assessment. It was recalled that Norway in 2013 had proposed to introduce a precautionary TAC for alfonsino. This remained the Norwegian view on this issue.

Annex 15. Recommendations from the WG-EAFFM to forward to FC and SC

(FC-SC Working Paper 14/04 now FC Doc. 14/27)

The Joint FC-SC WG on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management met on 9-11 July 2014 in Halifax, Nova Scotia and agreed on the following recommendations (FCSC Doc 14/03):

Recognizing the ground-breaking work, significant achievements and ongoing efforts made by NAFO on the identification of VMEs and development of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management, the WG recommends:

1. That the FC maintains the delineated seamounts areas identified in Chapter II, Article 16.1 of the NCEM (Delete or amend “Until 31 December 2014”).
2. That the FC maintains the Div. 3O closure identified in Chapter II, Article 16.4 of the NCEM (Delete or amend “Until 31 December 2014”).
3. That the FC maintains the closures identified in Chapter II, Article 16.5 of the NCEM (Delete or amend “Until 31 December 2014”).
4. That the FC considers deleting Article 16.6 recognizing that the NCEM are regularly updated and the ongoing review envisioned by Article 23.
5. That the FC considers deleting or amending Article 24 (Review) considering the ongoing review and update of the NCEM in general.
6. Recognizing that the scientific advice also noted some gaps in the protection of VMEs, that the FC considers adjustments to Area 4 (Southeastern Flemish Cap – sponge and large gorgonians), and new area 15 (Beothuk Knoll - large gorgonians).
7. That the FC and SC support continuing analysis by the WG of areas on the Tail of the Grand Bank (Div. 3O closure and related areas).
8. That the FC and SC support continuing analysis by the WG of areas 13 and 14 (Eastern Flemish Cap), and FC consider possible closed areas, if proposals are made at the Annual Meeting.
9. That the FC further considers whether to withdraw the encounter thresholds within the fishing footprint, taking into account the scientific advice, the review of VME closures and the review of UNGA 61/105 in 2015.
10. That priority attention by FC and SC and their constituent bodies be given to the areas identified in Annex 5 that include external factors (e.g. climate change and oil and gas development), bycatch and discards, multispecies interactions, and VMEs including concluding the assessment of bottom fisheries for 2016.
11. That FC and SC consider the revised Terms of Reference at their September 2014 joint session and have FC and SC adopt the revisions in their respective meetings. Consideration could also be given to making terms of reference consistent across all joint FC-SC working groups.
12. Request that the SC provide annual updates to the FC-SC Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management pertaining to the 2016 review of significant adverse impacts of NAFO bottom fisheries on VMEs in the NRA.
13. That the FC amend the text of the NCEM to reflect the replacement of the FC WG-VME with the Joint FC-SC WG-EAFFM,
14. Article 23.1 of the NCEM be rephrased such that the “*Fisheries Commission will request Scientific Council...*”.

Annex 16. Revision of NCEM, Article 16 (FC Working Paper 14/06 Rev. **now** FC Doc. 14/07)

Background

In Article 16 of the NCEM concerning ‘Seamount, Coral, and Sponge Protection Zones’, bottom fishing closures defined in 16.1, 16.4 and 16.5 are in force until 31 Dec 2014. Article 16.6. furthermore calls for a review of the closures (at least those of Art. 16.5) by 31 Dec 2014. Recommendations 1-3 from the Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council Working Group on the Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFF, 2014) concerned this issue and advised deletion or amendment of the in force dates.

WG-EAFFM furthermore recommends deleting or amending Article 16.6. This article refers to Article 16.5 only, and furthermore appears superfluous since the NCEM is regularly updated and the review requirements are expressed in Article 23.

The SC recognizes in the 2013 report that at the present time, seamount protection zones referred to in Article 16.1, due to provisions in Article 16.2 and 16.3, provide no additional protection to these areas than the ones afforded by the exploratory fishing protocol for all areas outside the NAFO fishing footprint, i.e. in the ‘unfished bottom areas’. Seamounts, constituting “VME elements” (as defined by NAFO), i.e. areas with a high likelihood to have VMEs, should be closed to bottom fishing. Deleting Article 16.2 and 16.3 would facilitate closing of the selected subset of seamounts to bottom fishing.

The SC recommends extending the seamount closures to encompass neighbouring shallow seamounts. Norway notes that these other seamounts lie in “unfished bottom areas” and are afforded substantial protection by the exploratory fishing protocol.

The SC further remarks that a portion of the seamount closure at Corner Rise encompasses a portion of the EEZ around Bermuda. The coordinates of that closure should be amended to only comprise areas of the NAFO RA.

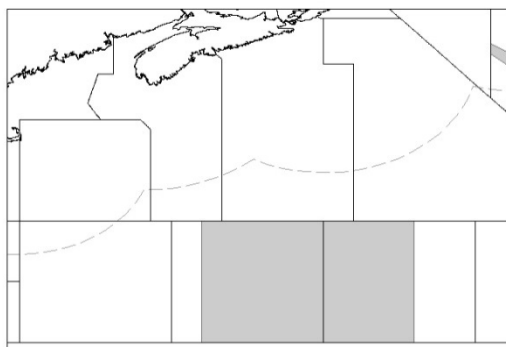
Recommendations

1. **In Article 16.1, 16.4, and 16.5, the text “Until 31 December 2014” is replaced by “Until 31 December 2020”.**
2. **Articles 16.2, 16.3 and 16.6 are deleted.**
3. **Co-ordinates of the New England seamount closure defined in Article 16.1 shall be amended so that the closure is restricted to areas within the NAFO RA.**

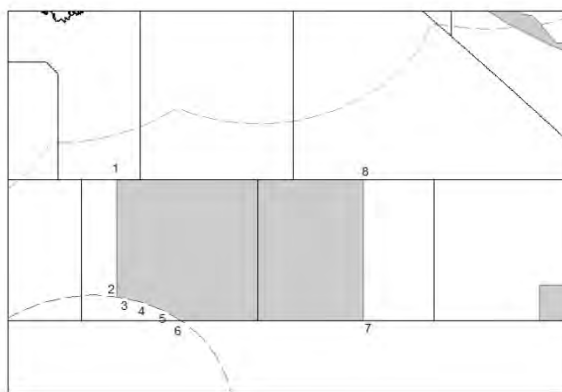
Annex 17. Amendment of New England Seamounts closure defined in Article 16.1
 (FC Working Paper 14/25 now FC Doc. 14/25)

Revised map and new coordinates of New England Seamounts in consideration of Recommendation 3 in FC Working Paper 14/06 which states: **“Co-ordinates of the New England seamount closure defined in Article 16.1 shall be amended so that the closure is restricted to areas within the NAFO RA.”**

Old Map of New England Seamounts closure:



Revised Map of New England Seamounts closure (following the boundary of the Bermudan EEZ through points 2-6):



New coordinates:

Point No.	Latitude	Longitude
1	39°00'00 N	64°00'00 W
2	35°40'19 N	64°00'00 W
3	35°40'08 N	63°57'22 W
4	35°30'43 N	63°16'19 W
5	35°15'29 N	62°37'55 W
6	35°00'00 N	62°14'24 W
7	35°00'00 N	57°00'00 W
8	39°00'00 N	57°00'00 W

Annex 18. Norway’s statement concerning FC’s decision on the proposal to amend Article 16 of the NCEM

Norway had put forward a proposal amending the NCEM (FC WP 14/06) i.a. “in order to remove the inconsistency resulting in the situation where we present “closures” of areas which are in fact not closed”. Norway emphasized that the present Article 16.1 of the NCEM refers to the seamount protection zones as closed to bottom fisheries, whereas the subsequent sub-items essentially allow exploratory fisheries. As an immediate remedy Norway proposed to amend Article 16 so that current seamount protection zones become true closures. As the proposed amendments were not accepted, Norway stated: “We regret that the amendments are not accepted. The result is that seamounts within the so-called protection zones are afforded no more protection than any other areas classified as “unfished areas”. Our strong preference was to close the seamount areas to bottom fishing. They are VME elements highly likely to have VMEs. When these seamounts now remain essentially open, it is our view that the map has to be changed as it is presently misleading and creating a false impression. We regret that the decision not to afford improved protection to seamounts will reflect negatively on the organization. Most seriously, not amending Article 16 will mean that we may report incorrectly to the United Nations General Assembly next year.”

Annex 19. Proposal for the Establishment of two Additional Area Closures to Protect VMEs in the NAFO Regulatory Area

(FC Working Paper 14/19 **now** FC Doc. 14/10)

Recalling commitments made under the United Nations General Assembly resolution 61/105 (and subsequent resolutions), to manage the impacts of bottom contact fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems;

Acknowledging NAFO's commitment to an ecosystem approach to fisheries management;

Mindful of the advice of the Scientific Council from their June 2014 meeting, which noted that the area closures that NAFO has established over the past several years, are effective;

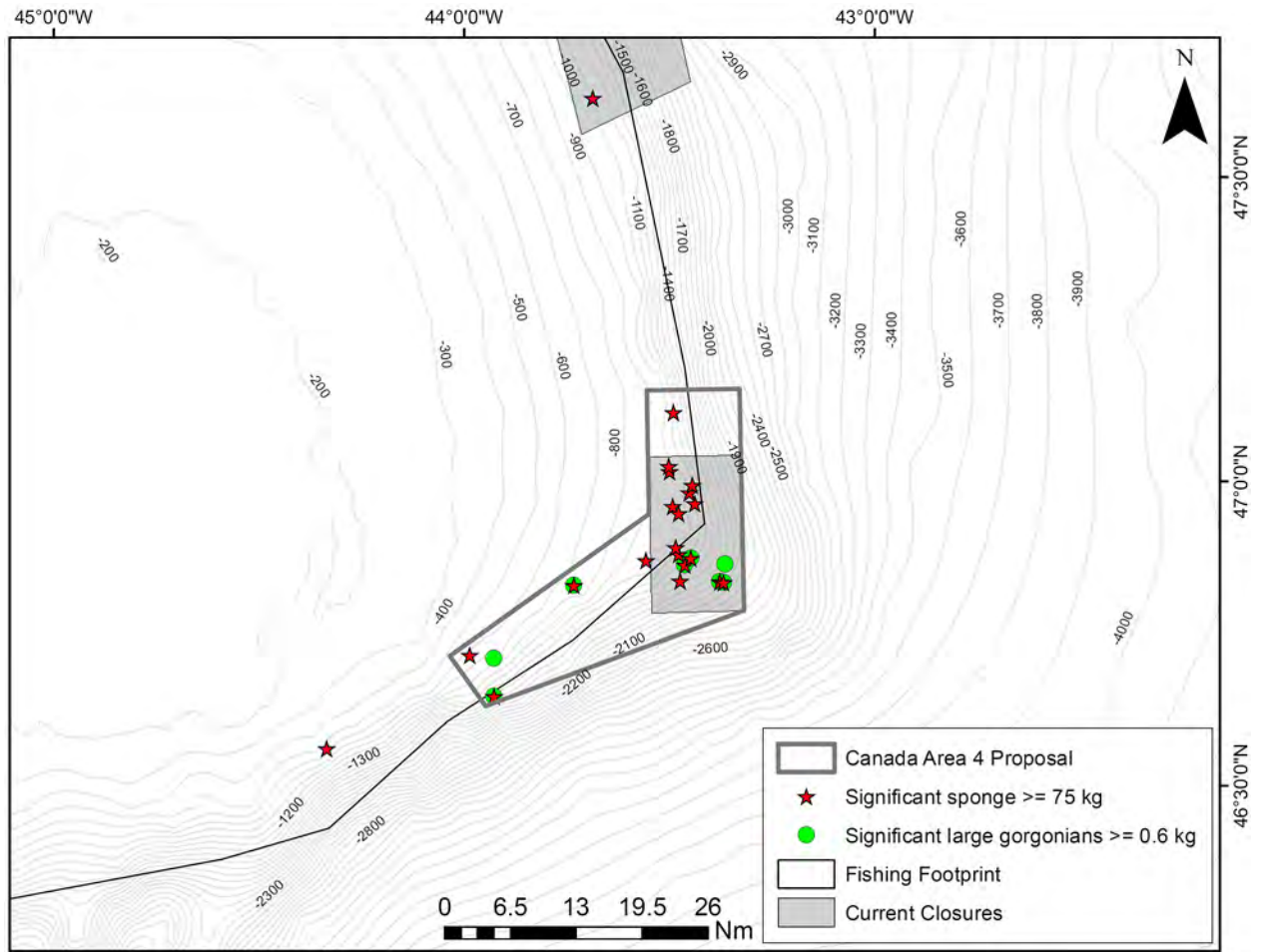
Considering the priority areas noted identified in 2014 Scientific Council advice (NAFO SCS Doc.14/17); and

Noting recommendation 6 of the Report of the Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists on an Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management, regarding significant concentrations of sponge and large gorgonians on the Southeastern Flemish Cap and large gorgonians on the Beothuk Knoll;

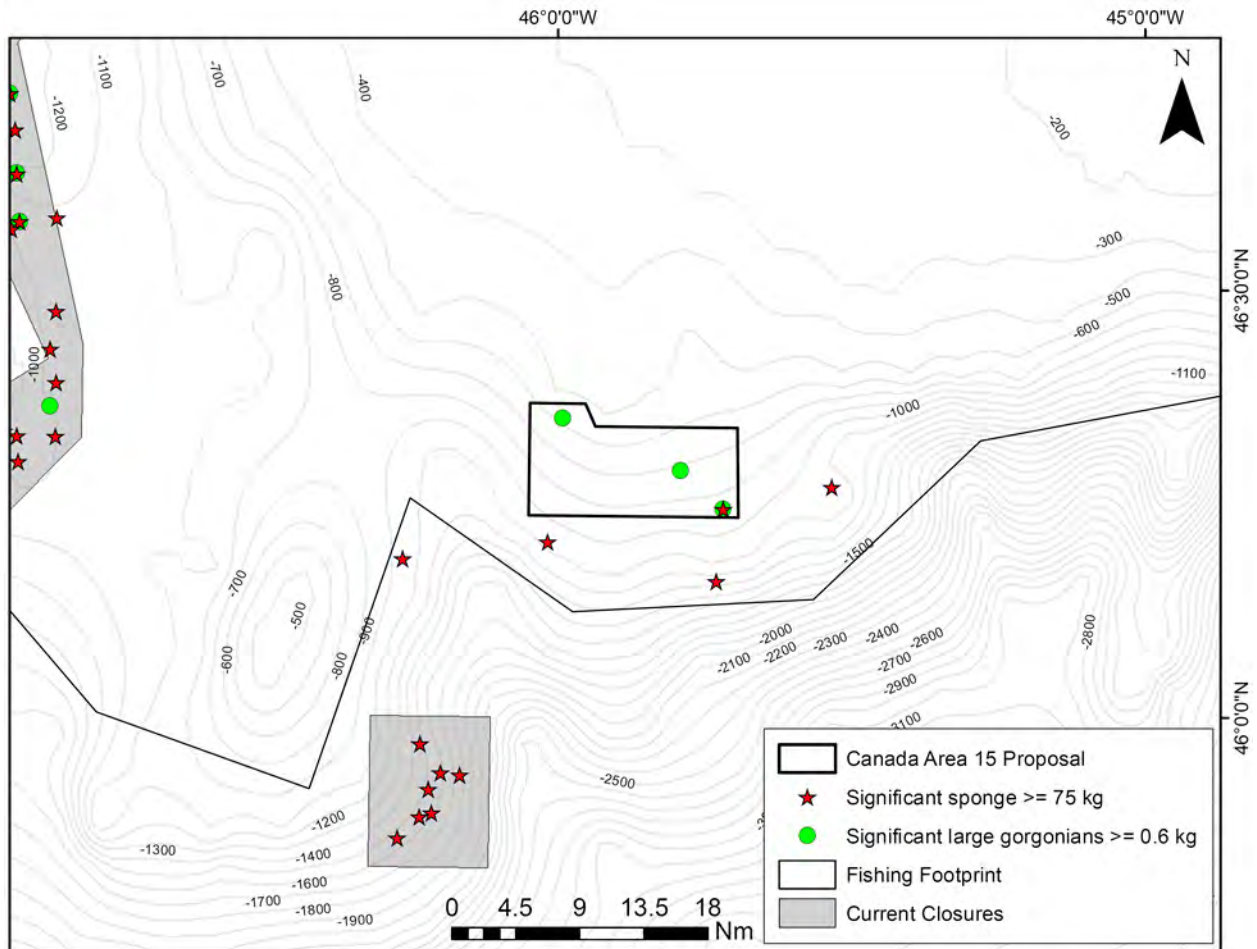
It is proposed that the Fisheries Commission:

- Adjust the current area closure 4 (outlined in Article 16 of the NCEMs), to capture additional significant concentrations of sponge and large gorgonian coral, as outlined in the map in Annex 1;
- Create a new area closure on the Beothuk Knoll to capture significant concentrations of large gorgonian corals, as outlined in the map in Annex 2; and,
- Adjust Article 16.5 of the NCEMs to include the coordinates of the adjustment to area 4 and the creation of a new area closure, as outlined in Annex 3.

Annex 1



Annex 2



Annex 3

Area 4 Point No.	Latitude	Longitude
4.1	46° 44' 34.80" N	44° 03' 14.40" W
4.2	46° 58' 19.20" N	43° 34' 16.32" W
4.3	47° 10' 30.00" N	43° 34' 16.32" W
4.4	47° 10' 30.00" N	43° 20' 51.72" W
4.5	46° 48' 35.28" N	43° 20' 51.72" W
4.6	46° 39' 36.00" N	43° 58' 8.40" W

New Area (15) Point No.	Latitude	Longitude
15.1	46° 13' 58.80" N	45° 41' 13.20" W
15.2	46° 13' 58.80" N	46° 02' 24.00" W
15.3	46° 21' 50.40" N	46° 02' 24.00" W
15.4	46° 21' 50.40" N	45° 56' 48.12" W
15.5	46° 20' 14.32" N	45° 55' 43.93" W
15.6	46° 20' 14.32" N	45° 41' 13.20" W

Annex 20. Statements from CPs concerning FC's decision on the VME closures

Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) expressed its concerns with the process: “It seems that there is a lack of understanding of the diverse views around this table on how to progress on these issues. Closing an area is a serious decision. Future proposals on area closures must be presented in due time before the annual meeting. Such proposals should clearly present relevant information e.g. the specified coordinates, historic fishing activities and the functional significance for the reproduction of fish stocks. There is a need to nuance the discussion e.g. whether closing an area is the only option or whether move on rules can be applied and by sharing information on best available techniques on how to prevent damages on the seabed.”

Japan explained its vote: “Japan voted no to the proposals to establish closed areas 4 and 15 respectively because Japan believes that (1) the scientific threshold used to identify VMEs in the proposed areas was developed arbitrarily without in-depth discussions and recommendation by SC and without formal adoption by the FC as was done for commercial fisheries threshold stipulated in Article 22.3, and (2) move on rules which obliges fishing vessels to move away from areas of encounter with VME indicator species in excess of threshold stipulated in Article 22.3 is a legitimate, practical and effective means to protect VMEs and therefore have been used by such other RFMOs as CCAMLR, SEAFO, NEAFC and so forth.”

Norway referred to the SC report where it is stated that candidate areas 13 and 14 (Northern and Northwestern Flemish Cap) cover seapen VME areas. Norway further stated: “As a matter of principle Norway wishes to follow guidance from the SC. We would need particularly good reasons not to take action with regard to the VME issues. For two subsequent years, the SC highlighted areas 13 and 14 as significant seapen areas. In June 2014, areas 13 and 14 are ranked as “high” priority for further consideration. Using the same methodology as elsewhere, areas 13 and 14 emerge as areas highly likely to have VMEs. The kernel density analysis even suggests that these two areas are connected. Norway accordingly maintains the position that areas 13 and 14, are one area joining the two, should be closed. Our position will remain until the SC provides new guidance that convinces us no VMEs exist in these areas.”

Annex 21. Recommendations from the WG-CR to forward to the FC and SC

(FC-SC WP 14/05 **now** FC Doc. 14/33)

The Joint FC-SC WG on Catch Reporting met on 3-4 February 2014 in Halifax, Nova Scotia and agreed on the following recommendations (FCSC Doc. 14/01):

It is *recommended*

1. that this WG continues, with the same goals and objectives, for another year. At the 2015 Annual Meeting FC and SC give consideration to prolonging this joint working group
2. that this WG should meet, either by correspondence or at another meeting preceding the 2014 Annual Meeting, to continue moving towards a transparent and robust method for producing estimates of catch
3. that if agreed by FC and SC the work would continue on priority stocks for the June 2015 SC meeting, and again report at the 2015 Annual Meeting.
4. that a process for catch estimation be constructed by continuing dialogue within this working group, using a suite of available data considered in Annex 4, and any other data, such as scientific observer reports. The process should be fully documented and transparent, including documentation of data selection and validation and tools for data synthesis.
5. that in a timely manner, SC, with assistance from the Secretariat, conducts a pilot exercise to explore and document the use of all available data, focusing on VMS & VTI for all flag states operating in this fishery, for catch estimation of Div. 3M Cod.

Results of this exercise may guide the work of this group in the future, especially on other priority stocks, e.g. 2 + 3KLNMO Greenland halibut and Div. 3LNO American plaice.

6. to encourage Contracting Parties to reflect upon the discussions of this working group and be prepared to offer revisions to the existing CEM to improve catch reporting at future FC meetings.

The WG *recommends* FC give further consideration to:

7. the need for development of best practice/guidelines for data collection and clarification of roles/responsibilities for observers
8. make NAFO Observer catch and biological sampling information, in anonymized form, available to Scientific Council and working groups of FC and SC to support catch validation and development of catch estimates for stock assessment.
9. the provision of NAFO logbook data (NCEM Annex II.A) to the Secretariat by electronic means, and to making it available to Scientific Council and working groups of FC and SC for the purpose of supporting catch validation and development of catch estimates for stock assessment.
10. the available data for straddling stocks which may contribute to the assessment of catch estimates.
11. exchange of catch on entry and exit information with NEAFC to improve reliability, noting the specific role of Joint NEAFC-NAFO Advisory Group on Data Management in this matter.

Annex 22. Catch Validation – A Collaborative Approach (FC-SC WP 14/01 Rev. **now** FC Doc. 14/30)

Reminded that an objective of the NAFO convention is to ensure that complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities within the Regulatory area are collected and shared among Contracting Parties in a timely manner (NAFO/GC Doc. 08/3);

Mindful that the availability of accurate catch data is critical for scientific assessment and the sustainable management of NAFO stocks;

Concerned that the reliability of catch data continues to be one of the most significant issues facing NAFO;

Recognizing the importance of communication between the Fisheries Commission and the Scientific Council and recent efforts to enhance this dialogue and information exchange through the establishment of joint working groups;

Recalling that the Peer-Review Expert Panel highlighted the need for a more coordinated analysis of data (GC Doc 13/4);

Noting the positive steps taken by NAFO to improve data accuracy and data-sharing including sharing daily catch reports with the Scientific Council, as well as the establishment of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting;

Further noting the positive steps taken by the Ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting during its initial meeting in February 2014, in particular, its review and evaluation of NAFO data sources which may be of utility for the validation of catch data;

Convinced of the need for a collaborative approach (FC and SC) to validate STATLANT data and where necessary generate catch estimates for use in assessments and overall management of NAFO stocks;

Recognizing that the NAFO Secretariat can play an active support role in the provision of data and analyses.

It is **recommended** that:

1. **The Ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting remain in place for 2015, and report to the Scientific Council in June 2015;**
2. **The Ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting provide advice to Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council at the 2015 Annual Meeting by developing a framework for the validation of NAFO catch data and generation of catch estimates - ensuring the best available science is used for management decisions. The elements in such an approach should consider, inter alia:**
 - i. **Data Confidentiality Requirements(e.g. use of aggregate and/ or anonymized data);**
 - ii. **Transparency, in particular, the need to be able to subject decisions to external/ peer review;**
 - iii. **Participation, including the roles and responsibilities of Contracting Parties, Fisheries Commission, Scientific Council, and the Secretariat;**
 - iv. **Governance, including reporting and mechanisms for decision making; and,**
 - v. **Data requirements.**

Annex 23. Recommendations from the WG-BDS to forward to the FC

(FC WP 14/24 now FC Doc. 14/32 Rev.)

The Ad hoc Working Group on Bycatches, Discards, and Selectivity (WG-BDS) met on 7-8 July 2014 in Halifax, Nova Scotia and agreed on the following recommendations (FC Doc. 14/06):

Noting the negative impacts that bycatch and discards may have on regulated species in the NAFO Regulatory Area, it is **recommended**:

1. that the Fisheries Commission continue to address this issue by inter alia allowing this WG to continue;
2. that the objectives of this Working Group focus on effective management of bycatch and minimization of discards in the NAFO Regulatory Area, to the extent practicable, by recommending appropriate policy and regulatory changes that recognize the diverse factors influencing and incentivizing bycatch and discards in each fishery, the current biological status of affected species, and domestic legislation affecting bycatch and discards;
3. that the Fisheries Commission consider amendments to the management measures and approach for managing 3M cod and redfish fishery-fisheries that address factors promoting discards;
4. that the FC task STACTIC to support the WG as necessary including the development of standardized language for bycatch and discards throughout the CEM, including clarifying ambiguous or inconsistent terminology;
5. that the FC include SC on this issue as necessary through this WG. To start with the FC-SC dialogue will give specific consideration to the discussions of this WG;
6. that the Secretariat continue to analyze data about bycatch and discards in NAFO fisheries. The analysis in particular should identify areas and fisheries of concern; identify anomalies and trends regarding bycatch and discards; and give priority to species under moratorium or instances where there may be conservation issues;
7. that Contracting Parties continue to share available information on domestic practices and/or policies to address bycatch and discards;
8. that the FC give further consideration to improving bycatch and discards data availability and quality, including options already identified in other NAFO bodies. This would be made available to the Secretariat, SC and the WGs of the FC and SC for the purpose of undertaking bycatch and discard analysis;
9. that the FC work jointly with SC to task appropriate NAFO bodies to develop a draft definition of bycatch and to compile a draft list of bycatch species per GC Action Plan (GC Doc 12/1).

Annex 24. Bycatch and Discard Reporting in NAFO Fishing Operations

(FC WP 14/15 Rev. **now** FC Doc. 14/31)

Background/Explanatory Memorandum:

The United States commends the outcomes of the first meeting of the Ad hoc Working Group to Reflect on Rules Governing Bycatch, Discards and Selectivity and believes that the Working Group should continue to meet. Additionally, the United States supports building upon the WG's original objectives to enable the development of recommendations on appropriate policy and regulatory changes for consideration by both the Fisheries Commission (FC) and the Scientific Council (SC).

Within that expanded mandate, the United States notes the need to examine the efficacy of current bycatch and discard reporting requirements. NAFO members have recognized the importance of ensuring robust data collection on all catches and discards throughout NAFO managed fisheries. The Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM) have several relevant reporting requirements generating bycatch data that are made available to the Secretariat and the Scientific Council, including:

- Article 28.6(c): Daily catch reports documenting the amount of each species kept and discarded;
- Article 28.8: Monthly catch reports submitted by each Contracting Party (CP) to the Secretariat; and
- Article 30.2(c): Observer reports recording each species kept and discarded on a haul-by-haul basis.

In addition, in 2006, NAFO adopted the Resolution to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in NAFO Fishing Operations (FC Doc. 06/7). The Sea Turtle Resolution and the CEM require that the Secretariat compile and submit this information to the FC and the SC for their consideration. The United States has been disappointed in the implementation of this Resolution, and sees the Ad-Hoc Working Group (WG) as an opportunity to renew and expand NAFO's responsibility to manage bycatch and discards, consistent with the relevant provisions of the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

The Ad-hoc WG notes the lack of information available on discards. Furthermore, the WG recommends the FC improve bycatch and discard data availability and quality. To that end, the United States contends that the WG should evaluate the collection of bycatch and discards data, the sharing and use of that data by relevant NAFO bodies, and the improvement of these activities.

Proposal:

Proposal to Improve Bycatch and Discard Data Reporting

Preamble:

Recognizing NAFO's commitment to implementing an ecosystem based approach to fisheries management;

Recalling the commitments in Articles 6 and 28 of the NAFO CEM to effectively manage, reduce and report on bycatch and discards in NAFO fisheries;

Further recalling 2006 adoption by NAFO of the Resolution to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in NAFO Fishing Operations (FC Doc. 06/7), which urged NAFO CPs to report sea turtle fishery interaction data to the NAFO Secretariat, including data collected by national observer programs and sea turtle-specific training provided to these observers;

Taking into account the need to improve collection of data and other relevant information relating to bycatch and discards;

It is resolved that:

1. NAFO recognizes and endorses the FAO's International Guidelines on Bycatch Management and Reduction of Discards.
2. The FC agree to renew the mandate of the Ad Hoc WG to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity in the NAFO Regulatory Area, and authorize it to meet between the 36th and 37th Annual Meetings of NAFO.

3. The FC agree to direct the WG to develop and recommend a comprehensive strategy relative to bycatch and discards in the NAFO Regulatory Area that is consistent with the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries management and takes into account all bycatch and discard species.
4. To support this strategy, the FC agree to also direct the WG to review current bycatch and discard data recording and reporting, including observer data, taking into account other ongoing NAFO initiatives, with the objective to develop an action plan to improve the effectiveness of the collection and use of this data for FC's consideration prior to the Annual Meeting in 2015.
5. NAFO CPs continue to implement the FAO Guidelines to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality in Fishing Operations, and enhance the implementation of their existing turtle mitigation measures (including relevant observer training) using best available scientific information.

Annex 25. The proposal to amend Annex II.D.D.2.B “Return error numbers” of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures to prevent loss of correct VTI reports

(STACTIC Working Paper 14/05 now FC Doc. 14/12)

Background

In the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures there are some Return error numbers relating to communication of VTI reports and requiring a follow-up action:

302 - “Transshipment” prior to “Catch on entry”

303 - “Catch on exit” prior to “Catch on entry”

304 - No “Position” received (TRA, COX)

The first two Return error numbers (302 and 303) means that if TRA or COX report was transmitted to the NAFO database before COE report these reports are rejected by database. In other words, these correct reports will be lost.

The return error number 304 means that if POS messages do not reach the NAFO database (e.g., satellite device onboard is out of order) all following correct reports TRA, COX will be rejected by database and will be lost.

To prevent the loss of correct VTI reports in the NEAFC the similar Russian proposal was considered by PECCOE and AGDC during 2012-2013. As a result of those discussions at the AGDC meeting in 2013 the table of return error numbers has been restructured. The updated table of return error numbers was approved at the NEAFC annual meeting in 2013 (see NEAFC Recommendation 13:2014).

In order to:

- prevent the loss of correct VTI reports transmitted by FMCs to NAFO database;
- improve the quality of information exchange between FMCs and NAFO Secretariat;
- harmonize with the return error codes adopted by NEAFC

We are submitting the following proposal.

Proposal

Add two new codes into NAFO table of Return error numbers (the same as in NEAFC):

301 – Catch prior to Catch on Entry

252 – Species not AUT or SUS.

Replace the table of Return error numbers (Annex II.D.D.2.B) “Return error numbers” with the following one:

Subject/Article	Error Numbers			Error cause
	Rejected (NAK) Follow-up action required	Accepted and Stored (ACK) Follow-up action required	Accepted and Stored (ACK) with warning	
Communication	101			Message is unreadable
	102			Data value or size out of range
	104			Mandatory data missing
	105			This report is a duplicate; attempt to re-send a report previously rejected
	106			Unauthorized data source
			150	Sequence error
			151	Date / Time in the future
			155	This report is a duplicate; attempt to re-send a report previously accepted
Article 25			250	Attempt to re-notify a vessel
		251		Vessel is not notified
		252		Species not AUT or SUS
Article 28		301		Catch prior to Catch on Entry
		302		Transshipment prior to Catch on Entry
		303		Catch on Exit prior to Catch on Entry
		304		No position received (CAT, TRA, COX)
			350	Position without Catch on Entry

Recommendation 13:2014

Recommendation to Amend Annex IX D 2b) of the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement on Return Error Numbers

The Commission hereby adopts the following recommendation pursuant to Article 5 of the Convention

Annex IX D 2b) Return error numbers:

Subject/Annex	Error Numbers			Error cause
	Rejected (NAK) Follow-up action required	Accepted and Stored (ACK) Follow-up action required	Accepted and Stored (ACK) with warning	
Communication	101			Message is unreadable
	102			Data value or size out of range
	104			Mandatory data missing
	105			This report is a duplicate; attempt to re-send a report previously rejected
	106			Unauthorised data source
				150 Sequence error
Annex II			151 Date / Time in the future	
			155 This report is a duplicate; attempt to re-send a report previously accepted	
			250 Attempt to re-Notify a vessel	
		251 Vessel is not Notified		
		252 Species not AUT, or LIM or SUS		
Annex VIII		301 Catch prior to Catch on Entry		
		302 Transshipment prior to Catch on Entry		
		303 Catch on Exit prior to Catch on Entry		
		304 No Position received (CAT, TRA, COX)		
			350 Position without Catch on Entry	
Annex X	401 Surveillance Exit prior to Surveillance Entry			
		450 Observation without Surveillance Entry		
		451 Inspectors or craft not notified		

Annex 26. Proposed Changes to NCEM Chapter II – Bottom Fisheries in the NRA (STACTIC Working Paper 14/06 Rev. 2 **now** FC Doc. 14/13)

Introduction

This working paper proposes revisions to Chapter II (vulnerable marine ecosystem (VME) measures) of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM). This is part of an ongoing effort by the Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) to revise the existing CEM to enhance article organization, structure, and format; eliminate redundancy; and clarify ambiguous or unclear measures to more accurately reflect the original intent of such measures.

This revised working paper includes revisions to the original EDG proposal (STACTIC WP 14/6 (Rev)) based on comments provided by several Contracting Parties following the May 2014 STACTIC intersessional meeting.

A brief description of the proposed revisions to the existing CEM is provided below. The proposed revisions to the CEM are organized based on their current structure. Cross-references to the corresponding article and paragraph, based on the 2014 CEM, and a brief description of any changes have been placed in the right column of the attached addendum for ease of reference.

Proposed Changes to Existing CEMs:

- Article 15 – Revised definitions for consistency and placed them in alphabetical order
- Article 16 – Renumbered Article 17 as Article 16 and inserted table/figure headings
- Article 17 – Switched Articles 16 and 17 and added subtitle and table/figure headings
- Article 18.2(c) – Replaced term “scientific observer” with “observer with sufficient scientific expertise”
- Article 18.2(d) – Replaced “fishing trip” with “exploratory bottom fishing activities”
- Article 19 – Reorganized, revised format, and incorporated Article 20.1
- Article 20 – Reorganized and revised format
- Article 21 – Reorganized and revised format
- Article 22 – Eliminated “interim” from title, reorganized format, and inserted subtitles
- Article 22.1(b) – Replaced term “scientific observer” with “observer with sufficient scientific expertise”
- Article 22.5 – Deleted last sentence, as encounter thresholds can be revised in any year
- Article 23 – Reorganized Article 23.1 into two sub-paragraphs

Paragraph	Text	Old reference/ comments
	PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS (VMEs) IN THE REGULATORY AREA FROM BOTTOM FISHING ACTIVITIES	Change title for clarity on the scope of this chapter
	Article 15 – Definitions	Revised subtitle for clarity because existing paragraph 1 was removed due to redundancy. Definitions rearranged into alphabetical order.
	In addition to the definitions listed in Article 1, the following definitions apply to this Chapter.	Added for clarity.
		Deleted term “Bottom fishing activities” because it is already defined in Article 1
1	“Encounter” means catch of a VME indicator species above threshold levels as set out in Article 22.1. Any encounter with a VME indicator species or merely detecting its presence is not sufficient to identify a VME. That identification should be made on a case-by-case basis through assessment by relevant bodies.	Revised reference to reflect reorganization.
2	“Exploratory bottom fishing activities” means bottom fishing activities conducted outside the footprint, or within the footprint with significant changes to the conduct or in the technology used in the fishery;	Revised for clarity and replaced “unfished bottom areas” with “outside the footprint” for consistency
3	“Footprint”, otherwise known as “Existing bottom fishing areas”, means that portion of the Regulatory Area where bottom fishing has historically occurred, and is defined by the coordinates shown in Table 4 and illustrated in Figure 2;	Revised for clarity and update table/figure references
		Removed definition of “unfished bottom area” and replaced throughout text with “outside the footprint”
4	“Significant adverse impacts” refers to paragraphs 17 to 20 of the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep Sea Fisheries in the High Seas;	Revised for concision
5	“Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME)” refers to paragraphs 42 and 43 of the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas;	Revised for concision
6	“VME indicator element” refers to topographical, hydrophysical or geological features which potentially support VMEs, as specified in Part VII of Annex I.E;	Revised for concision
7	“VME indicator species” refers to species that signal the occurrence of a vulnerable marine ecosystem, as specified in Part VI of Annex I.E;	Revised for concision

	Article 16 - Map of Footprint (Existing Bottom Fishing Areas)	Switched articles 16 and 17 to improve flow
	The map of existing bottom fishing activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area illustrated in Figure 2 is delimited on the western side by the Canadian EEZ boundary and the eastern side by the coordinates shown in Table 4. The map shall be revised regularly to incorporate any new relevant information. Contracting Parties may propose revising the map on the basis of any information available, in particular on the haul by haul catch data. Table 4. Boundary Points Delineating the Eastern Side of the Footprint [insert current table of coordinates] Figure 2. NAFO Regulatory Area footprint map (shaded).	Revised for clarity and consistency and to update table and figure references.
	Article 17 - Areas Restrictions for Bottom Fishing Activities	Article 16 renumbered, with new title for clarity
	Seamount Closures	New subtitle for clarity
1	Until December 31, 2014, no vessel shall engage in bottom fishing activities in the areas illustrated in Figure 3 and defined by connecting the coordinates specified in Table 5 in numerical order and back to coordinate 1, except to conduct exploratory bottom fishing activities, in accordance with Article 18 and the Exploratory Protocol in accordance with Annex I.E. Table 5. Boundary Points Delineating the Seamount Closures in the NAFO Regulatory Area Referenced in Article 17.1 [insert current table of coordinates] Figure 3: Polygons Delineating Seamount Closures Referenced in Article 17.1	Art. 16.1 with updated table and figure references and headings Revised reference to just Annex I.E to minimize confusion.
2	A request to conduct exploratory bottom fishing activities in any of the areas defined in paragraph 1 shall be in accordance with Article 18 and the Exploratory Protocol (Annex I.E).	Article 16.2
3	If a vessel fishing in the areas defined in paragraph 1 encounters a VME indicator species, as defined in Article 22.5, the encounter provisions set out in Article 22 shall apply.	Art. 16.3 renumbered and revised for concision
	30 Coral Area Closure	New subtitle for clarity
4	Until December 31, 2014, no vessel shall engage in bottom fishing activities in the area of Division 30 illustrated in Figure 4 and defined by connecting the coordinates specified in Table 6 in numerical order and back to coordinate 1: Table 6. Boundary Points Delineating the 30 Coral Area Closure in the NAFO Regulatory Area Referenced in Article 17.3 [insert current table of coordinates] Figure 4. Polygon Delineating Area of 30 Coral Closure Referenced in Article 17.3	Art. 16.4 renumbered and inserted table reference and heading and correct figure number.
	High Sponge and Coral Concentration Area Closures	New subtitle for clarity
5	Until December 31, 2014, no vessel shall engage in bottom fishing activities in the areas illustrated in Figure 5 and defined by connecting the coordinates specified in Table 7 in numerical order and back to coordinate 1: Table 7. Boundary Points Delineating the High Sponge and Coral Concentration Area Closures in the NAFO Regulatory Area Referenced in Article 17.4 [insert current table of coordinates] Figure 5. Polygons Delineating Areas of High Sponge and Coral Concentrations Referenced in Article 17.4	Article 16.5 renumbered with inserted table reference and heading and correct figure number. Deleted existing 16.6 because redundant with Article 24
6	Contracting Parties are encouraged to the extent possible to record all catch of corals and sponges in their annual government and/or industry research programs and to consider non-destructive means for the long-term monitoring of corals and sponges in the closed areas.	Article 16.7 renumbered

Article 18 – Exploratory Bottom Fishing Activities	
1	<p>Exploratory bottom fishing activities shall be subject to a prior exploration conducted in accordance with the exploratory protocol set out in Annex I.E.</p>
2	<p>Contracting Parties whose vessels wish to engage in exploratory bottom fishing activities shall, for the purpose of the evaluation referred to in Article 20:</p> <p>(a) communicate to the Executive Secretary the “Notice of Intent to Undertake Exploratory Bottom Fishing” in accordance with Annex I.E together with the assessment referred to in Article 19.1;</p> <p>(b) require vessels flying their flag to start exploratory bottom fishing activities only after they have been authorized in accordance with Article 20;</p> <p>(c) have an observer with sufficient scientific expertise on board for the duration of the exploratory bottom fishing activity; and</p> <p>(d) provide to the Executive Secretary an “Exploratory Bottom Fishing Trip Report” in accordance with Annex I.E. within 3 months of the completion of the exploratory bottom fishing activities.</p>
3	<p>Duties of the Executive Secretary</p> <p>The Executive Secretary:</p>

	(a) promptly forward the documents referred to in paragraph 2(a) of this Article to the Scientific Council and the Fisheries Commission; and	Article 19.1 (b) revised to insert reference to documents in paragraph 2(a).
	(b) circulates the “Exploratory Bottom Fishing Trip Reports” to the Scientific Council and to all Contracting Parties.	Article 18.5
	Article 19 - Preliminary Assessment of Proposed Exploratory Bottom Fishing Activities	Revised title
		Deleted chapeau as unnecessary
1	Any Contracting Party proposing to participate in exploratory bottom fishing activities shall submit, in support of their proposal, a preliminary assessment of the known and anticipated impacts of the bottom fishing activity which will be exercised by the vessels flying their flag on VMEs.	Article 19.1 reformatted
2	The preliminary assessment referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall:	
	(a) be sent to the Executive Secretary no less than two weeks in advance of the opening of the June meeting of the Scientific Council;	Article 19.1(a) Clarified reference to identify to whom the preliminary assessment should be submitted.
	(b) be in accordance with guidance developed by the Scientific Council, or, in the absence of such guidance, to the best ability of the Contracting Party; and	Article 19.2
	(c) address the elements in accordance with Annex I.E.	Article 19.1(a) Revised reference to just Annex I.E to minimize confusion.
3	The Scientific Council:	
	(a) shall undertake an analysis of the preliminary assessment submitted in accordance with Article 19.1 at its meeting immediately following the submission by the Contracting Parties, according to procedures and standards it develops, and taking into account the risks of significant adverse impacts on VMEs;	Article 19.3 Clarified reference to identify what documents will be reviewed by the SC.
	(b) may consider any available additional information, including information from other fisheries in the region or similar fisheries elsewhere; and	
	(c) in line with the precautionary approach, shall provide advice to the Fisheries Commission on possible significant adverse impacts on VMEs and on the mitigation measures to prevent them.	Article 19.4.
4	The Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management shall:	Article 20.1
	(a) examine the advice of the Scientific Council delivered in accordance with Article 19.3; and	

	(b) make recommendations to the Fisheries Commission in accordance with its mandate.	
	Article 20 – Management of Exploratory Bottom Fishing Activities	
1	The Fisheries Commission shall adopt conservation and management measures to prevent significant adverse impacts of the exploratory fishing activities on VMES, taking account of advice and recommendations provided by the Scientific Council and the Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management, including data and information arising from reports pursuant to Article 22. These measures may include:	Article 20.2 Inserted reference to correct working group.
	(a) allowing, prohibiting or restricting bottom fishing activities;	Article 20.2.(a)
	(b) requiring specific mitigation measures for bottom fishing activities;	Article 20.2.(b)
	(c) allowing, prohibiting, or restricting bottom fishing with certain gear types, or changes in gear design and/or deployment; and	Article 20.2(c)
	(d) any other relevant requirements or restrictions to prevent significant adverse impacts to vulnerable marine ecosystems.	Article 20.2(d)
	Article 21 – Evaluation of Exploratory Bottom Fishing Activities	
1	The Scientific Council shall:	
	(a) evaluate the results of the exploratory bottom fishing activities at its meeting immediately following the reception of the ‘Exploratory Bottom Fishing Trip Report’ circulated in accordance with Article 18.2; and	Article 21.1 Revised reference.
	(b) in line with the precautionary approach, provide advice to the Fisheries Commission on the decision to be taken in accordance with Article 21.3, taking into account the risks of significant adverse impacts on VMES.	
2	The Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management shall examine the advice of the Scientific Council delivered in accordance with Article 21.1 and shall make recommendations to the Fisheries Commission in accordance with its mandate.	Article 21.2 Updated reference to correct renamed Working Group.
3	The Fisheries Commission shall, taking account of advice and recommendations provided by the Scientific Council and Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management either to:	Unchanged
	(a) authorize the bottom fishing activity for part or all of the area in which exploratory bottom fishing was carried out, and include this area in the footprint; or,	Updated reference to correct renamed Working Group.
	(b) discontinue the exploratory bottom fishing activity and, if necessary, close part or all of the area where exploratory bottom fishing was carried out; or,	
	(c) authorize the continued conduct of exploratory bottom fishing activity, in line with Article 18, with a view to gather more information.	

	Article 22 – Provisions in Case of Encounter	Revised title to eliminate “interim”
	Encounter Threshold	New sub-title.
1	An encounter with VME indicator species is defined as catch per set (e.g. trawl tow, longline set, or gillnet set) of more than 7 kg of sea pens and/or 60 kg of other live coral and/or 300 kg of sponges.	Article 22.3.
2	Each Contracting Party shall:	
	Duties of the Master	New subtitle
	require that masters of vessels flying their flag and conducting bottom fishing activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area abide by the following rules, where evidence of VME indicator species, in accordance with Annex I.E, are encountered during the course of fishing operations:	Revised chapeau to reference duties of masters instead of vessels
	(1) quantify the catch of VME indicator species; and	Revised reference to just Annex I.E to minimize confusion.
	(2) if the quantity of VME indicator species caught in a fishing operation (such as trawl tow or set of a gillnet or longline) is beyond the threshold defined in paragraph 1 of this Article:	Article 22.1(a) and 22.2(a) merged
	(i) report the encounter without delay to the flag State Contracting Party, including the position that is provided by the vessel, either the end point of the tow or set or another position that is closest to the exact encounter location, the VME indicator species encountered, and the quantity (kg) of VME indicator species encountered; and	Article 22.1.(b) and 22.2.(b) merged and revised to make the move-on requirement consistent with similar measures in Article 6.6(b) (i).
	(ii) cease fishing and move at least two nautical miles away from endpoint of the tow/set in the direction least likely to result in further encounters. The master shall use his best judgment based on all available sources of information.	STACTIC notes that the use of “endpoint” is inconsistent with the use of “any position” to reflect how vessels must move away from excessive bycatch events in Article 6.6(i).
	Duties of the observer	New subtitle

	<p>(b) require that an observer with sufficient scientific expertise deployed in accordance with Article 18.2(c) for areas outside the footprint:</p>	<p>Article 22.2(a) revised to update reference and revise term for scientific observer to state “an observer with sufficient scientific expertise” to avoid using an undefined designation for an observer and allow the SC to evaluate if an exploratory fishing proposal has sufficient scientific expertise aboard to record catch accurately.</p>
	<p>(1) identifies corals, sponges and other organisms to the lowest possible taxonomical level, using the “Exploratory Fishery Data Collection Form” in accordance with Annex I.E (templates); and</p>	<p>Revised reference to just Annex I.E to minimize confusion.</p>
	<p>(2) delivers the results of such identification to the master of the vessel to facilitate quantification referenced in paragraph 1(a) of this Article;</p>	<p>New paragraph to ensure accuracy of VME catch data and to provide a gender-neutral reference.</p>
	<p>Duties of the Contracting Party</p>	<p>New subtitle</p>
	<p>(c) forward, without delay, the encounter information reported by the master to the Executive Secretary if the quantity of the VME indicator species caught in a fishing operation (such as trawl, tow, set, or a gillnet or longline) is beyond the threshold defined in paragraph 1 of this article. The Contracting Party may allow the master of their vessels to also report the encounter directly to the Executive Secretary;</p>	<p>Article 22.1(b) and 22.2(b)</p>
	<p>(d) issue an immediate alert of the encounter to all fishing vessels flying their flag; and</p>	
	<p>(e) consider temporarily closing a two mile radius around any reported VME encounter location outside of footprint upon notification by the Executive Secretary in accordance with Article 23.2(c). Contracting Parties may reopen temporarily closed areas upon notification from the Executive Secretariat in accordance with Article 22.3(e).</p>	<p>New paragraph added for clarity</p>
	<p>Duties of the Executive Secretary</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>The Executive Secretary:</p>	
	<p>(a) archives the information on incident information reported by masters and without delay transmits it to all Contracting Parties;</p>	<p>Article 22.1(b) and 22.2(b) merged</p>
	<p>(b) makes an annual report to the Scientific Council on single and multiple encounters in discrete areas within the footprint. This report should also include reports from the exploratory bottom fishing activities conducted in the last year;</p>	

	(c) requests all Contracting Parties to implement a temporary closure of a two mile radius around the reporting position of an encounter with VME indicator species outside the footprint, as identified in accordance with paragraph 2(c) of this Article. The reporting position is that provided by the master;	Article 22.2(b) and revised for clarity
	(d) requests Contracting Parties to maintain the temporary closure until such time that the Fisheries Commission has adopted conservation and management measures in accordance with paragraph 5 of this Article if the Scientific Council concludes that the area covered by a temporary closure consists of a VME;	
	(e) inform the Contracting Parties that they may reopen the area to their vessels if the Scientific Council does not conclude that the area covered by a temporary closure consists of a VME; and	
	(f) makes an annual report to the Scientific Council on archived reports from encounters in areas outside the footprint. This report shall also include reports from the exploratory bottom fishing activities that were conducted in the last year.	
	Duties of the Scientific Council	
4	The Scientific Council shall:	
	(a) analyze the information received from the Executive Secretary pursuant to paragraph 3(b) and (f) of this Article;	Article 22.1(b) and 22.2(b)
	(b) examine any temporary closures implemented in accordance with paragraph 3(c) of this Article at the meeting immediately following the implementation of such closures; and	Article 22.2(b) revised for clarity
	(c) provide advice to the Fisheries Commission on whether a VME exists following encounters with VME indicator species on a case-by-case basis and on the appropriateness of the temporary closures or other measures. The advice shall be based on annually updated assessments of the accumulated information on encounters as well as other scientific information. The Scientific Council's advice on the need for action, using FAO guidelines as a basis.	Article 22.1(b) and 22(b) merged and clarified.
	Duties of the Fisheries Commission	
5	The Fisheries Commission shall:	Article 22.1(b) and 22(b)
	(a) consider the advice provided by the Scientific Council pursuant to paragraph 4(c) of this Article; and	
	(b) adopt conservation and management measures in accordance with Article 21;	Paragraph moved to paragraph 1.
	Article 23 – Reassessment of bottom fishing activities	Article 23.1 reformatted
1	The Scientific Council shall:	Text clarified to reference updated name of Working Group.
	(a) identify VMEs, on the basis of best available scientific information and with the co-operation of Contracting Parties;	
	(b) map sites where these VMEs are known to occur or likely to occur; and	
	(c) provide such data and information to the Executive Secretary for circulation to all Contracting Parties.	
2	The Fisheries Commission shall:	
	(a) conduct a reassessment of bottom fishing activities in 2016 and every 5 years thereafter, or when there is new scientific information indicating a VME in a given area, in collaboration with the Scientific Council and the Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management; and	

	(b) take the necessary actions to protect VMEs following the reassessment specified in paragraph 2(a) of this article.	
	Article 24 - Review	
	The provisions of this Chapter shall be reviewed by the Fisheries Commission at its Annual Meeting in 2014.	

Annex I.E**Templates for the conduct of exploratory bottom fishing activities****I. Exploratory Protocol for New Fishing Areas**

[INSERT EXISTING TEXT FROM PART IV]

II. Notice of Intent to Undertake Exploratory Fishing

[INSERT EXISTING TEXT FROM PART I]

III. Exploratory Fishing Trip Report

[INSERT EXISTING TEXT AND FOOTNOTES FROM PART II]

IV. Exploratory Fishery Data Collection Form

[INSERT EXISTING TABLE FROM PART III]

V. Assessment of Bottom Fishing Activities

[INSERT EXISTING TEXT]

VI. List of VME indicator species

[INSERT EXISTING LIST]

VII. List of Physical VME Indicator Elements

[INSERT EXISTING LIST]

Annex 27. Proposed Changes to NCEM Chapter VII – Non-Contracting Party Scheme (STACTIC Working Paper 14/07 Rev. 2 **now** FC Doc. 14/14)

Introduction

This working paper proposes revisions to Chapter VIII (non-Contracting Party measures) of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM). This is part of an ongoing effort by the Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) to revise the existing CEM to enhance article organization, structure, and format; eliminate redundancy; and clarify ambiguous or unclear measures to more accurately reflect the original intent of such measures.

This revised working paper includes revisions to the original EDG proposal (STACTIC WP 14/7 (Rev)) based on comments provided by several Contracting Parties following the May 2014 STACTIC intersessional meeting.

A brief description of the proposed revisions to the existing CEMs is provided below. The proposed revisions to the CEMs are organized based on their current structure. Cross-references to the corresponding article and paragraph, based on the 2014 CEMs, and a brief description of any changes have been placed in the right column of the attached addendum for ease of reference.

Proposed Changes to Existing CEMs:

- Article 1.11 – Revised “IUU List” to “IUU Vessel List” to use term consistently
- Article 26.2(d) – Eliminated “activities” to reflect use of “IUU Fishing” throughout
- Article 48.1 – Deleted reference to “RA” and added reference to IUU
- Article 48.2(b) – Replaced “investigation” with “inspection” for consistency with FAO
- Article 48.3(a) – Deleted reference to UNCLOS and WTO
- Article 49 – Revised formatting and for clarity, and title to reference IUU activity
- Article 49.1(c) – Removed unnecessary justification to integrate the NEAFC IUU list
- Article 50 – Reorganized and reformatted
- Article 51 – Reorganized and reformatted
- Article 53.1 – Merged several other paragraphs and reference updated from GC to FC
- Article 54 – Reorganized and reformatted
- Article 55 – Reorganized and reformatted

Paragraph	Text	Old reference/ comments
	Article 1 – Definitions	
11	“IUU Vessel List” means the list, established in accordance with Articles 52 and 53;	Revised “IUU List” to “IUU Vessel List” for consistent use of terms.
		STACTIC notes that while the current definition of “IUU fishing” in Article 1.10 does not explicitly refer to other activities such as transshipments referenced in the term “Fishing Activities” in Article 1.5, STACTIC interprets “IUU fishing” to also include transshipments.
	CHAPTER III – VESSEL REQUIREMENTS AND CHARTERING	
	Article 26 – Chartering Arrangements	
2	(d) the authorized vessel is not a vessel that has previously been identified as having engaged in IUU fishing.	Article 26.2(d) revised to remove reference to “activities” per STACTIC’s interpretation of the definition of “IUU fishing” in Article 1.10.
	CHAPTER VIII – NON-CONTRACTING PARTY SCHEME	
	Article 48 - General Provisions	
1	The purpose of this Chapter is to promote compliance with non-Contracting Party vessels with recommendations established by NAFO and to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by non-Contracting Party vessels (hereinafter referred to as “NCP” vessels) that undermine the effectiveness of the CEM established by the Organization.	Article 48.1 revised include reference to IUU.
2	Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to: (a) affect the sovereign right of any Contracting Party to take additional measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by NCP vessels or, where evidence so warrants, take such action as may be appropriate, consistent with international law; or	Articles 48.2 + 50.2 merged and reformatted Replaced “IUU fishing activities” with “IUU fishing” throughout to reflect consistent use of term.

	(b) prevent a Contracting Party from allowing an NCP vessel entry into its ports for the purpose of conducting an inspection of, or taking appropriate enforcement action against the vessel.	Article 48.3 Reformatted, changed “investigation” to “inspection” as per the FAO PSMA (article 9.5)
3	This Chapter shall be: interpreted in a manner consistent with international law, including the right of port access in case of force majeure or distress; and (b) applied in a fair and transparent manner.	Article 48.4 revised to remove duplicative reference to UNCLOS and WTO Article 48.4 Article 52.1
4	Each Contracting Party shall ensure that vessels entitled to fly its flag do not engage in joint fishing activities with NCP vessels referred to in Article 49, including receiving or delivering transshipments of fish to or from a NCP vessel.	
	Article 49 - Presumption of IUU fishing	Revision of title for congruence with existing concept in 53.2 Replaced “IUU fishing activities” with “IUU fishing”.
1	An NCP vessel is presumed to have undermined the effectiveness of the CEM, and to have engaged in IUU fishing, if it has been: sighted or identified by other means as engaged in fishing activities in the Regulatory Area; involved in transshipment with another NCP vessel sighted or identified as engaged in fishing activities inside or outside the Regulatory Area; and/or included in the IUU list of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC).	Replaced “IUU fishing activities” with “IUU fishing”. Article 49.1 revised for reformatting Article 49.1 revised for reformatting and clarity Article 49.2 revised formatting and eliminated unnecessary justification
	Article 50 - Sighting and Inspection of NCP Vessels in the NRA	
1	Each Contracting Party with an inspection and/or surveillance presence in the Regulatory Area authorized under the Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme that sights or identifies an NCP vessel engaged in fishing activities in the NRA shall: (a) transmit immediately the information to the Executive Secretary using the format of the surveillance report set out in Annex IV.A; attempt to inform the Master that the vessel is presumed to be engaged in IUU fishing and that this information will be distributed to all Contracting Parties, relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and the flag State of the vessel;	Edits to reflect that not all Contracting Parties have an inspection presence. Article 49.3 Revised annex order and title Article 49.4 Replaced “IUU fishing activities” with just “IUU fishing”.

	(c) if appropriate, request permission from the Master to board the vessel for inspection; and	Article 50.1 revised for formatting
	(d) where the Master agrees to inspection: (i) transmit the inspector's findings to the Executive Secretary without delay, using the inspection report form set out in Annex IV.B; and (ii) provide a copy of the inspection report to the Master.	Article 50.1 revised for formatting Revised annex order & title
	Duties of the Executive Secretary	
2	The Executive Secretary, within one business day, posts the information received pursuant to this Article to the secure part of the NAFO website and distributes it to all Contracting Parties, other relevant RFMOs, and to the flag State of the vessel as soon as possible.	Articles 49.3 merged with Article 50.1
	Article 51 - Port Entry and Inspection of NCP vessels	
	Duties of the Master of a NCP vessel	
1	Each Master of a NCP vessel shall notify the competent authority of the port State Contracting Party of its intention to call into a port in accordance with the provisions of Article 45.	Article 51.1 Revised to reinsert the first sentence of the original Article 51.1.
	Duties of the Port State Contracting Party	Added "Port State" for clarity
2	Each port State Contracting Party shall: forward without delay to the flag State of the vessel and to the Executive Secretary the information it has received pursuant to Article 45; refuse port entry to any NCP vessel where: (i) the Master has not fulfilled the requirements set out in Article 45 paragraph 1; or (ii) the flag State has not confirmed the vessel's fishing activities in accordance with Article 44 paragraph 2; (c) inform the Master the flag State of that vessel, and the Executive Secretary of its decision to refuse port entry, landing or transhipment of any NCP vessel; and (d) where it permits entry, ensure the vessel is inspected by duly authorized officials knowledgeable in the CEM and that the inspection: (i) includes an examination of log books, fishing gear, catch on board, and any other matter relating to the vessel's activities in the Regulatory Area; and (ii) is documented in the format set out in Annex IV.C; and (e) send a copy of the inspection report and details of any subsequent action it has taken to the Executive Secretary without delay.	Article 51.1 revised for concision and formatting. Article 51.2 revised for formatting Article 52.3 revised to clarify combination of Art 51 & 52 Article 51.3 revised for formatting Article 51.4 revised for formatting

3	Each Contracting Party shall ensure that no NCP vessel engages in landing or transshipment operations in its ports unless the vessel has been inspected by its duly authorized officials knowledgeable in the CEM and the Master establishes that the fish species on board subject to the NAFO Convention were harvested outside the Regulatory Area or in compliance with the CEM.	Article 51.3 & Article 52.2 revised for formatting
	Duties of the Executive Secretary	
4	The Executive Secretary without delay posts the information received pursuant to this Article to the secure part of the NAFO website, and distributes it to all Contracting Parties, relevant RFMOs, and the flag State of the vessel.	Article 51.4 revised for formatting
	Article 52 – Provisional IUU Vessel List	
1	In addition to information submitted from Contracting Parties in accordance with Articles 49 and 51, each Contracting Party may, without delay, transmit to the Executive Secretary any information that may assist in the identification of any NCP vessel that might be carrying out IUU fishing in the Regulatory Area.	Article 53.2 revised for concision
2	If a Contracting Party objects to a NEAFC IUU-listed vessel being incorporated into or deleted from the NAFO IUU Vessel List in accordance with Article 53, such vessel shall be placed on the Provisional IUU Vessel List.	Article 54.8
	Duties of the Executive Secretary	
3	The Executive Secretary:	
	(a) establishes and maintains a list of NCP vessels presumed to have engaged in IUU fishing in the Regulatory Area referred to as the Provisional IUU Vessel List;	Replaced “IUU fishing activities” with just “IUU fishing”.
	(b) upon receipt, records the information received pursuant to paragraph 1, including, if available, the name of the vessel, its flag State, call sign and registration number, and any other identifying features, in the Provisional IUU Vessel List;	Article 53.1 revised for clarity
	(c) posts the Provisional IUU Vessel List and all updates to the secure part of the NAFO website; and	Article 53.1
	(d) advises the flag State of the NCP vessel listing, including:	Article 53.3
	(i) the reasons and supporting evidence;	Article 53.3a
	(ii) a copy of the CEM and a link to its place on the NAFO website;	Article 53.3(b) with new text regarding electronic copy of CEM
	(e) requests that the flag State of the NCP vessel:	
	(i) take all measures to ensure that the vessel immediately ceases all fishing activities that undermine the effectiveness of the CEM;	Article 53.3c revised for formatting; fishing added for clarity
	(ii) report within 30 days from the date of the request on the measures it has taken with respect to the vessel concerned; and	Article 53.3d moved to Article 52.2(d)
	(iii) state any objections it may have to including the vessel in the IUU Vessel List;	New paragraph to establish congruence with existing 53.6

	(f) transmits to the flag State of the NCP vessel any additional information received pursuant to Articles 49-51 in respect of vessels flying their flag that have already been included in the Provisional IUU Vessel List;	Articles 53.2 + 53.4 combined and revised
	(g) distribute any information received from the flag State to all Contracting Parties;	Article 53.5
	(h) advises the flag State of the NCP vessel of the dates STACTIC and the General Council will consider listing the vessel in the IUU Vessel List, and invites the flag State to attend the meeting as an observer where it will be given the opportunity to respond to the report submitted in accordance with paragraph 2(e)(ii);	Article 53.3e revised for formatting and insert reference to NCP vessel
	(i) transfers the vessel from the Provisional IUU Vessel List to the IUU Vessel List in accordance with Article 53 if the flag State does not object; and	Article 53.6
	(j) places all vessels included in the NEAFC IUU List on the IUU Vessel List unless a Contracting Party objects to such inclusion, in which case it places the vessel on the Provisional IUU Vessel List. Article 53 shall not apply to vessels placed on the Provisional IUU Vessel List in accordance with this paragraph.	Article 54.8
	Article 53 - IUU Vessel List	
	Listing a Vessel on the IUU Vessel List	Revised for clarity
1	STACTIC recommends to the Fisheries Commission whether each vessel listed in the Provisional IUU Vessel List should be: (a) deleted from the Provisional IUU Vessel List; (b) retained in the Provisional IUU Vessel List, pending receipt of further information from the flag State, or (c) transferred to the IUU Vessel List only upon expiration of the period referred to in Article 52.2(e)(ii).	Articles 54.1 + 54.2 + 54.4 are merged, with reference updated from GC to FC and include the expiration of the comment period to reflect when STACTIC may act following the timing of the report required under the current Article 52.2(e)(ii).
		Article 54.4 moved to Article 53.3
	Deleting a Vessel from the IUU Vessel List	
2	STACTIC may advise that the Fisheries Commission recommend that General Council delete a vessel from either the Provisional IUU Vessel List or the IUU Vessel List where it is satisfied that the flag State of a vessel concerned has provided sufficient evidence to establish that: (a) it has taken effective action to address the IUU fishing of such vessel, including prosecution and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity; (b) it has taken measures to prevent such vessel from engaging in further IUU fishing under its flag;	Article 54.3 revised for formatting and for clarity Article 54.3a Article 54.3b Replaced "IUU fishing activities" with just "IUU fishing".

	<p>(c) such vessel has changed ownership, and</p> <p>(i) the previous owner no longer has any legal, financial or real interest in such vessel, or exercises no control over it; or</p> <p>(ii) the new owner has no legal, financial or real interest in, nor exercises control over, another vessel listed in the IUU Vessel List or any similar IUU list maintained by an RFMO;</p> <p>(d) such vessel did not take part in IUU fishing; or</p>	<p>Article 54.3c revised for formatting</p> <p>Article 54.3d</p> <p>Replaced “IUU fishing activities” with just “IUU fishing”.</p>
	<p>(e) such vessel has sunk, been scrapped or been permanently reassigned for purposes other than fishing activities.</p>	<p>Article 54.3(e) revised for clarity.</p> <p>STACTIC notes that the last sentence of Article 54.3 is included in the chapeau for this paragraph.</p>
3	<p>The Fisheries Commission may recommend to the General Council any changes to listings in the IUU Vessel List. The General Council determines the final composition of the IUU Vessel List.</p>	<p>Article 54.4 moved from Article 53.2.</p>
	<p>Duties of the Executive Secretary</p>	
4	<p>The Executive Secretary:</p> <p>(a) posts the IUU Vessel List on the NAFO website, including the name and flag State and, if available, the call sign, hull number, IMO number, previous name(s) and flag(s) or any other identifying features for each vessel;</p> <p>(b) notifies the flag State of the name of each vessel entitled to fly its flag listed in the IUU Vessel List;</p> <p>(c) transmits the IUU Vessel List and any relevant information, including the reasons for listing or de-listing each vessel, to other RFMOs, including, in particular, the NEAFC, the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO), and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR);</p> <p>(d) transmits the amendments to the NEAFC IUU list, upon receipt, to all Contracting Parties and amends the IUU Vessel List consistent with amendments to the NEAFC IUU List, within 30 days of such transmittal; unless within the 30 days the Executive Secretary receives from a Contracting Party a written submission establishing that:</p> <p>any of the requirements in paragraph 3 have been met with regard to a vessel placed on the NEAFC IUU List; or</p> <p>none of the requirements in paragraph 3 have been met with regard to a vessel taken off the NEAFC IUU List; and</p> <p>(e) advises STACTIC of any action taken pursuant to this Article.</p>	<p>Article 54.5 revised to include “hull number” as another ID. This is consistent with the Provisional IUU Vessel List in Article 52.3(b).</p> <p>Article 54.7</p> <p>Article 54.6 revised for clarity and to insert “de-listing.”</p> <p>Article 54.6 deleted to integrate “de-listing” into Article 53.4(c).</p> <p>Article 54.8 reformatted and revised for clarity.</p>

Article 54 - Action against vessels listed in the IUU Vessel List		
1	<p>Each Contracting Party shall take all measures necessary to deter, prevent, and eliminate IUU fishing, in relation to any vessel listed in the IUU Vessel List, including:</p> <p>(a) prohibiting any vessel entitled to fly its flag, from, except in the case of force majeure, participating in fishing activities with such vessel, including but not limited to joint fishing operations;</p> <p>(b) prohibiting the supply of provisions, fuel or other services to such vessel;</p> <p>(c) prohibiting entry into its ports of such vessel, except in the case of force majeure;</p> <p>(d) prohibiting change of crew, except as required in relation to force majeure;</p> <p>(e) refusing to authorize such vessel to fish in waters under its national jurisdiction;</p> <p>(f) prohibiting chartering of such vessel;</p> <p>(g) refusing to entitle such vessels to fly its flag;</p> <p>(h) prohibiting landing and importation of fish from onboard or traceable to such vessel;</p> <p>(i) encouraging importers, transporters and other sectors concerned, to refrain from negotiating transshipment of fish with such vessels; and</p> <p>(j) collecting and exchanging any appropriate information regarding such vessel with the other Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties and RFMOs with the aim of detecting, deterring and preventing the use of false import or export certificates in relation to fish or fish product from such vessels.</p>	<p>Article 55</p> <p>Added paragraph numbering to maintain consistency of format.</p>
Article 55 – Action Against Flag States		
1	<p>Contracting Parties shall, jointly and/or individually request the cooperation of the flag State of each NCP vessel listed in the IUU Vessel List with a view to prevent, deter and eliminate future IUU activities by such vessel.</p>	<p>Article 56.1</p>
2	<p>The Fisheries Commission shall review annually the actions taken by the flag States referred to in paragraph 1 with a view to identifying for follow-up action any that has not taken action sufficient to prevent deter and eliminate IUU activities by any vessel entitled to fly its flag listed in the IUU Vessel List.</p>	<p>Article 56.2</p>
3	<p>Each Contracting Party should, to the extent possible and consistent with its international obligations and in accordance with applicable legislation, restrict the export and transfer of any fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag to any State identified pursuant to paragraph 2.</p>	<p>Article 56.3</p>

Annex 28. The use of the two-letter code DS (Directed Species) in the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures

(STACTIC Working Paper 14/23 Rev. 2 now FC Doc. 14/16)

Background

At the Annual Meeting in 2012 NAFO approved an “authorization” message (AUT), which contains the data-element DS. This has raised some implementation issues since the Observer Report (OBR) already had a DS field with a different content.

Description of the current format mismatch

Occurrence of the code DS in reports for electronic data exchange:

Annex II.G Observer report TM = OBR

Data Element	Code	Mandatory/Optional	Requirements for the field
Directed Species ⁶	DS	M	Activity detail; FAO code species code

⁶ Directed species is the species which represents the greatest catch for that day.

Annex II.C 3) Format for authorization to conduct fishing activities TM = AUT

Data Element	Code	Mandatory/Optional	Requirements for the field
Directed Species	DS	M6	License detail; species allowed for directed fishery. Regulated species of Annex I.A or I.B must refer to the stock. Allow for several pairs of fields species and divisions e.g. //DS/GHL 3LMNO COD 3M RED 3LN RED 3M//

⁶ For transport vessels the DS field is optional

Occurrence of the code DS in format descriptions:

Annex II.D C. Format for electronic exchange of fisheries monitoring information (NAF)

Category	Data Element	Code	Type	Content	Definition
Authorization details	Directed Species	DS	Char*3 Num*6	FAO Species Code Area Code	License detail; species for which the authorization applies. In case of regulated species from Annex I.A or I.B the content must refer to the stock (format GHL 3LMNO)
Activity details	Directed Species	DS	Char*3	FAO species codes	Code for species the vessel is targeting. Allow for several species, separated by a space. E.g. //DS/ species species species//

This issue was discussed by the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM) in June 2014. JAGDM agreed that it is important that the description of data-elements in Annexes of the NCEM is detailed and unique enough to easily be used in IT systems, and that a duplicated use of code will create implementation problems. The group further agreed that there should be a more consistent use of coding and that some changes should be made to the relevant annexes of the NCEM.

This proposal seeks to incorporate the comments given by JAGDM, and at the same time make as few changes as possible to the current NCEM.

Since the OBR-report is generated by the observers onboard the vessels, and the data-element Directed Species with the code DS has been used for many years in this report, no changes in the format of the OBR report are proposed.

The AUT report is however generated by the Contracting parties, and amendments will not affect any vessel systems. Thus, it is proposed that the current DS field in the AUT report be replaced by a new data element

Targeted species and Area with the two-letter code ***TA***.

The 2014 Annual Quota Table (Annex I.A) and the Effort Allocation Scheme for the Shrimp Fishery in NAFO Regulatory Area Div. 3M (Annex I.B) describe in text the information to be sent in the proposed new data element. The current listing in Annexes I.A and I.B is not specified enough to be implemented into an IT system. It is therefore proposed adding the necessary specifications in the headings of these tables.

Proposed amendments:

Annex I.A – Annual Quota Table

QUOTA TABLE. Total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tons) for 2014 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. (Stock specifications are to be used in the electronic Authorization report.)

Species	Cod			Redfish				American plaice		Yellowtail
	COD 3L	COD 3M	COD 3NO	RED 3LN	RED 3M	RED 3O	REB 1F_2_3K (that is Sub-Area 2 and div 1F+3K)	PLA 3LNO	PLA 3M	VEL 3LNO
Stock specification										
% of TAC			% of 3M Cod TAC				% of 3LN Redfish TAC			
Contracting Party										

Species	Witch		White hake	Capelin	Skates	Greenland halibut	Squid(IIlex)☒	Shrimp	
	WIT 3L	WIT 3NO	HKW 3NO	CAP 3NO	SKA 3LNO	GHL 3LMNO	SQI 3_4 (that is Sub-areas 3+4)	PRA 3L	PRA 3NO
Stock specification									
% of TAC									
Contracting Party									

Annex I. B

Effort Allocation Scheme for Shrimp Fishery in the NAFO Regulatory Area Div 3M, 2014

(In the electronic Authorization report, use PRA 3M.)

The table remains unchanged

Annex II.C 3) Format for authorization to conduct fishing activities.

The data element *Targeted species and Area (TA)* replaces the current *Directed species (DS)*.

Data Element	Code	Mandatory/Optional	Requirements for the field
Targeted species and Area	TA	M ⁶	License detail; species and area allowed for directed fishery. Regulated species of Annex I.A or I.B must refer to the stock specification. For unregulated species use Sub Area or division or "ANY". Allow for several pairs of fields. e.g. //TA/GHL 3LMNO COD 3M RED 3LN RED 3M HER ANY//

⁶ For transport vessels the TA field is optional

Annex II.D C. Format for electronic exchange of fisheries monitoring information (NAF)

Category	Data Element	Code	Type	Content	Definition
Authorization details	Targeted species and Area	TA	Char*3 Char*10	Stock specifications, FAO Species code and NAFO defined area code or "ANY"	Species and area allowed for directed fishery. Regulated species of Annex I.A or I.B must refer to the stock specification. For unregulated species use Sub Area or division or "ANY". Allow for several pairs of fields. e.g. //TA/GHL 3LMNO COD 3M RED 3LN RED 3M HER ANY//

Annex 29. Closure of the RED 3M “directed fishery”
(STACTIC Working Paper 14/26 now FC Doc. 14/17)

Preamble

- a. According to CEM Art 5.5 (e), the directed fishery for RED 3M is closed “*once*” the catch is estimated to reach 100 % of the TAC. To avoid confusion, it is proposed to replace the word “*once*” by “*on the date*”;
- b. According to CEM Art 5.12 (d), the NAFO Secretariat must notified in advance the date on which 50 % of the RED 3M TAC is reached, but nothing is stated for the date when 100 % of that TAC is reached.

Proposal

1. in CEM Art 5.5 (e) - to replace the word “*once*” by the words “*on the date*”
2. In CEM Art 5.12 (d) - to insert “*and then 100%*” after 50%

Annex 30. Consistent Approach to Address Serious Infringements Detected At Sea (STACTIC Working Paper 14/28 now FC Doc. 14/18)

Introduction:

At the May 2014 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, the Secretariat presented a summary of serious and non-serious infringements recorded during 2013, including those detected during at-sea and in-port inspections. The Secretariat noted that there was not a clear distinction between serious and non-serious infringements, and that some apparent infringements were not adequately covered in Article 47. Further, the Secretariat indicated that the process for how to record apparent infringements detected by port inspectors, especially non-serious infringements, is not clear in the current NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM).

The United States recognizes that differentiating serious and non-serious infringements in the CEM can be an effective deterrent to non-compliance, especially the follow-up procedures and implications for further inspection associated with the detection of a serious infringement. The United States also believes that detecting, recording, and disseminating infringements are critical components of the control regime established by NAFO.

To address the concerns noted by the Secretariat, the United States proposes several revisions to Articles 38 and 47 of the CEM. These revisions are intended to consolidate all serious infringements under Article 38, and to clarify in Article 47 that serious infringements detected during in-port inspections should be handled consistent with the process for addressing serious infringements detected at sea.

The United States is not proposing any additional changes to improve the process by which infringements detected in port are recorded and submitted, noting that Article 43.14 and the associated Port State Control Inspection Report (PSC-3 form) specified in Annex IV.C provide adequate opportunity to record both serious and non-serious infringements detected in port.

Proposed Changes to Existing CEM:

1. Move the serious infringements outlined in Article 47(b)¹⁰ – (d) to Article 38.1(p) – (r) as follows:

List of Serious Infringements

1. Each of the following violations constitutes a serious infringement::
 - (a) fishing an “Others” quota without prior notification to the Executive Secretary contrary to Article 5;
 - (b) fishing an “Others” quota more than seven working days following closure by the Executive Secretary contrary to Article 5;
 - (c) directed fishing for a stock which is subject to a moratorium, or for which fishing is otherwise prohibited, contrary to Article 6;
 - (d) directed fishing for stocks or species after the date of closure by the flag State Contracting Party notified to the Executive Secretary contrary to Article 5;
 - (e) fishing in a closed area, contrary to Article 9.6 and Article 11;
 - (f) fishing with a bottom fishing gear in an area closed to bottom fishing activities, contrary to Chapter II;
 - (g) using an unauthorized mesh size contrary to Article 13;
 - (h) fishing without a valid authorization issued by the flag State Contracting Party contrary to Article 25;
 - (i) mis-recording of catches contrary to Article 28;
 - (j) failing to carry or interfering with the operation of the satellite monitoring system contrary to Article 29;
 - (k) failure to communicate messages related to catch contrary to Article 10.6 or Article 28;
 - (l) obstructing, intimidating, interfering with or otherwise preventing inspectors or observers from performing their duties;

¹⁰ The type of infringement identified in Article 47(a) is already included in the list of serious infringements under Article 38.1(l).

- (m) committing an infringement where there is no observer on board;
- (n) concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence related to an investigation, including the breaking or tampering of seals or gaining access to sealed areas;
- (o) presentation of falsified documents or providing false information to an inspector that would prevent a serious infringement from being detected;
- (p) landing or transshipping in a port not designated in accordance with the provisions of Article 43.1;
- (q) failure to comply with the provisions of Article 45.1; and
- (r) landing or transshipping without authorization of the port State as referred to in Article 43.6.

2. Revise the title of Article 47 to read:

“Serious Infringements Detected During In-Port Inspections”

3. Reorder, revise, and number the paragraphs under Article 47 to read:

1. The provisions in Articles 39 and 40 shall apply to any serious infringements listed in Article 38 detected during in-port inspections.
2. Serious infringements detected during in-port inspections shall be followed up in accordance with domestic law.

Annex 31. Amendment to Article 14 of the NCEM
(STACTIC Working Paper 14/29 now FC Doc. 14/19)

Background

Currently, Article 14 of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEM) contains the following provision that allows Canadian vessels to comply with domestic regulations requiring the landing of all catch:

3. Notwithstanding paragraphs 1 and 2, Canadian vessels shall abide by their equivalent national regulations which require landing of all catch.

A recent amendment to Canadian legislation was effected to more closely align Canadian domestic law with the spirit of the NCEM. This amendment now authorizes, under the conditions of a commercial fishing licence, Canada to require Canadian vessels to release groundfish that are subject to minimum size requirements found in Article 14 of the NCEM.

Accordingly, it is proposed that Article 14 (3) be removed from the measures to allow for the consistent application of *Minimum Fish Size Requirements* for all Contracting Parties when fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area. Article 14 would be renumbered and the current 14.4 would become 14.3.

Proposed amendment

It is proposed that Article 14 be edited as follows:

Article 14 – Minimum Fish Size Requirements

1. No vessel shall retain on board any fish smaller than the minimum size established in accordance with Annex I.D, which it shall immediately return to the sea.
2. Processed fish which is below a length equivalent prescribed for that species in Annex I.D is considered to derive from fish that is smaller than the minimum fish size prescribed for that species.
3. ~~Notwithstanding paragraphs 1 and 2, Canadian vessels shall abide by their equivalent national regulations which require landing of all catch.~~
3. Where the number of undersized fish in a single haul exceeds 10% of the total by number of fish in that haul, the vessel shall for its next tow maintain a minimum distance of 5 nautical miles from any position of the previous tow.

Annex 32. Notification to Inspecting Contracting Party Regarding Additional Procedures for Serious Infringements

(STACTIC Working Paper 14/34 Rev. 2 **now** FC Doc. 14/20)

Background

Currently the NCEM specify that in the case of a serious infringement, a flag state that does not order a vessel to port must provide written justification to the Executive Secretary no later than 3 working days following the notice of infringement.

As the inspecting Contracting Party often has inspectors remaining on the vessel to provide information to the Flag State Contracting Party to support the investigation, it is necessary for the Inspecting Contracting Party to know whether or not the infringement has been dealt with in order to better understand which information needs to be collected for investigation purposes.

Proposed Amendment

Add the following text to Article 38.10

1. The Executive Secretary:

(a) informs without delay the Contracting Parties having an inspection presence in the Regulatory Area of the serious infringement referred by its inspectors;

(b) informs without delay to the inspecting Contracting Party, the justification provided by the flag State Contracting Party , where it did not order its vessel to port in response to the finding of a serious infringement; and

~~(b)~~ **(c)** makes available to any Contracting Party, on request, the justification provided by the flag State Contracting Party where it did not order its vessel to port in response to the finding of a serious infringement.

Annex 33. Provision of Haul by Haul Logbook Data to the Secretariat (STACTIC Working Paper 14/13 Rev. 3 now FC Doc. 14/15)

Background

Pursuant to Article 28.2 (a), the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures require that fishing vessels record the catch of each tow/set and complete the fishing logbook according to Annex II.A. The adoption of this provision has proven to be very beneficial in ensuring compliance with various reporting requirements in the NCEM. At the February meeting of the Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council Ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting, there was general consensus that haul by haul logbook data would be extremely useful if submitted to the Secretariat. In addition, the Ad-Hoc Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Selectivity and Discards noted that the provision of tow by tow data to the Secretariat would allow for more precise bycatch and discard analysis. In June, 2014, Scientific Council stated that it considers the provision of haul by haul data to be of critical importance in the auditing process for the reliability of STATLANT data. The SC further recommended that such data be submitted to the Secretariat for use by the SC for assessment purposes.

The information can be provided in electronic format containing at a minimum the information contained in Annex II.N. As most vessels fishing in the NRA have some form of electronic reporting capacity, this should not be a problem. In the case where vessels have paper logbooks, the information may be provided in the current observer program data format.

All information must be treated according to the rules of confidentiality contained in Article II.B

Proposed Amendments

Replace Article 28.8 with the following:

Each Contracting Party shall:

- (a) report its provisional monthly catches by species and stock area, and its provisional monthly fishing days for the 3M shrimp fishery, whether or not it has quota or effort allocations for the relevant stocks. It shall transmit these reports to the Executive Secretary within 30 days of the end of the calendar month in which the catch was taken.
- (b) ensure that logbook information is submitted in an electronic format to the Executive Secretary containing at a minimum the information outlined in Annex II.N within 60 days following the completion of each fishing trip. If the information is not available electronically, it may be provided in the current observer program data format, as outlined in Annex II.M. Part 2.

Add the following text to Article 28.9

- (f) makes the logbook data specified in Article 28.8 (b) available to Scientific Council upon their request, without the vessel's and flag State identification, in line with the data confidentiality rules as specified in Annex II.B. If the request includes VMS data under Article 29.10 (d), a vessel codification should permit the cross analysis of both catch and VMS data by vessel and this way allow the Scientific Council to carry out their mandated responsibilities. Data made available shall be used only for the purpose of research within the functions of the Scientific Council and publication of scientific results should be in an aggregated format without any detailed information regarding individual vessels or flag States.

**Annex 34. Annual Compliance Review 2014
(Compliance Report for Fishing Year 2013)**
(STACTIC Working Paper 14/17 Rev. now FC Doc. 14/21Rev.)

1. Introduction

This compliance review is being undertaken in accordance with Rules 5.1 and 5.2 of the Fisheries Commission Rules of Procedure. The scope of the review is to determine how international fisheries complied with the annually updated NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEM) when fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA), and assess the performance of NAFO Contracting Parties with regard to their reporting obligations.¹¹

This review utilizes information for the years 2004 to 2013 from the following sources: vessel monitoring system (VMS) and hail messages delivered by the vessels (Vessel Transmitted Information – VTI), Port Inspection Reports, At-sea Inspection Reports and Reports on Dispositions of Apparent Infringements provided by the Contracting Parties, and Observer Reports sent to the Secretariat.

2. Fishing effort and fishing trends in the NAFO Regulatory Area

NAFO identifies three main fisheries in its Regulatory Area: the groundfish (GRO - primarily in Div. 3KLMNO), shrimp (PRA - primarily in Div. 3LM) and pelagic redfish fisheries (REB - primarily in Div. 1F and 2J). Shrimp and pelagic redfish fisheries utilize shrimp trawls and midwater trawl gears, respectively. In the groundfish fisheries, trawling and longlining operations account for 94.8% and 5.2%, respectively.

In 2013, there were 64 fishing vessel spending a total of 4 779 days in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA) (Table 1). 160 trips were identified. Groundfish fishery accounted for 94.3% of the total fishing effort, shrimp for around 4.0%, and the pelagic redfish fishery for around 1.7%.

An overall 13.3% decrease of the total fishing effort was observed (Table 1) compared to 2012. The net decrease could be attributed largely to the pelagic redfish fishery and shrimp fishery in 2013. Shrimp fishing effort has continued its decline since the 3M shrimp moratorium in 2010. The groundfish fishery effort decreased 10.7% (Table 1).

Table 1. 2012-2013 Comparison of Fishing Effort in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

Number of fishing vessels					Fishing effort (days present)				
Year	Groundfish (GRO)	Shrimp (PRA)	Pelagic Redfish (REB)	TOTAL	Year	Groundfish (GRO)	Shrimp (PRA)	Pelagic Redfish (REB)	TOTAL
2012	44	5	8	57	2012	5050	250	210	5510
2013	54	7	4	64	2013	4510	190	79	4779
% change	22.70%	40.00%	-50.00%	12.30%	% change	-10.70%	-24.00%	-62.40%	-13.30%

For the period 2004–2013, the overall fishing activities in the NRA show a declining trend, from 134 active vessels in 2004 to 64 in 2013, representing a 53% decrease. The decline in terms of overall fishing days was a 71% decrease for the same period from 16 480 days in 2004 to 4 779 days in 2013. The average number of days each vessel operates in the NAFO Regulatory Area also declined from 123 days in 2004 to 75 days in 2013.

¹¹For the purpose of this compliance analysis, only fishing trips which ended in 2013 were considered. Fishing trip for a fishing vessel includes “the time from its entry into until its departure from the Regulatory Area and continues until all catch on board from the Regulatory Area is unloaded or transhipped” (NCEM Art. 1.7).

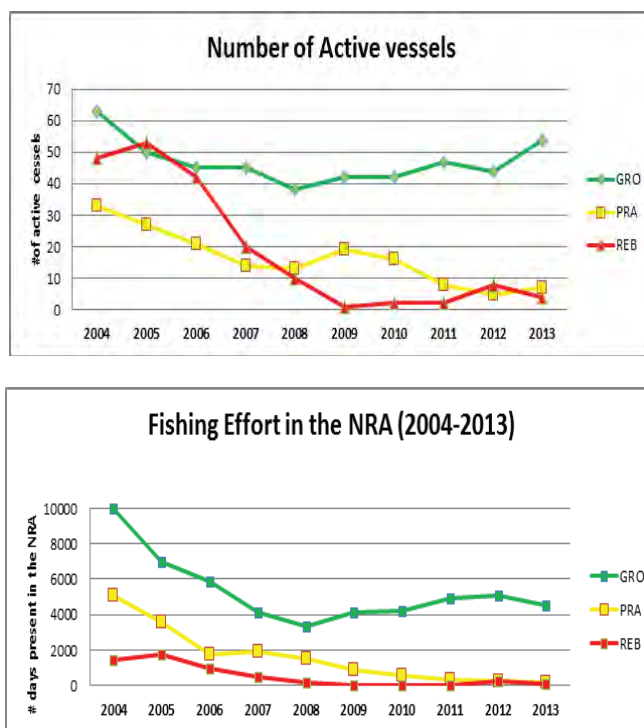


Figure 1. The trend of fishing effort in the NAFO Regulatory Area in the period 2004-2013.

Figure 1 illustrates the changes described above for each of the major fisheries. NAFO fisheries remain dominated by the groundfish category. After five years of steep decline, the groundfish effort has been stable since 2009. Figure 2 illustrates the current effort distribution compared to the historical average. By 2013, the fishing effort contribution of shrimp fisheries was reduced to 4% largely due to the shrimp fishing moratorium established in 2011.

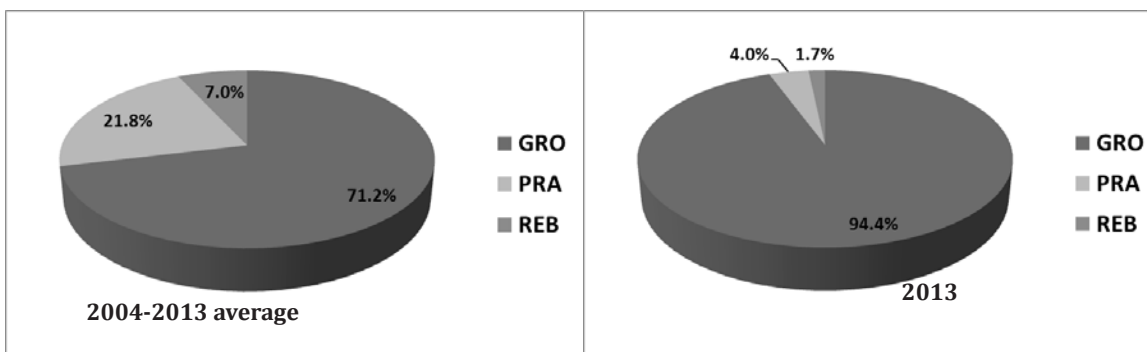


Figure 2. Comparative fishing effort (days present) in the NAFO Regulatory Area

Effort distribution by depth of groundfish vessels

The requirement of providing the speed and course information in the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) reports facilitated the estimation of fishing effort in terms of fishing hours. Speeds between 1 and 5 knots were considered fishing speeds. In Figure 3, the distribution of fishing effort in hours of groundfish vessel is presented. Figure 3 shows that about half of all groundfish effort is at depths 400 meters and below (skates, redfish and cod).

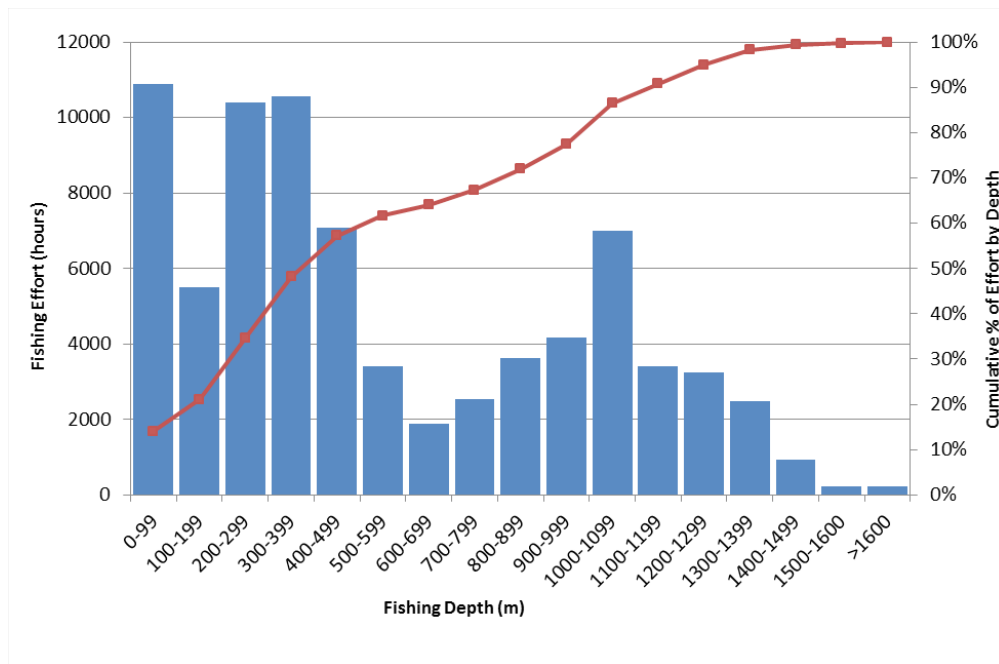


Figure 3. Distribution of groundfish fishing effort by depth in the NRA in 2013 (Divisions 3L, 3M, 3N, and 3O).

3. Compliance by Fishing Vessels

Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) measures are spelled out in Chapters III-VII of the NCEM. Through the at-sea and port inspections, NAFO monitors, controls and conduct surveillance of the fisheries in the NRA exposing infringements of the NAFO regulations and collecting evidence for the following prosecution within the legal system of each NAFO flag State Contracting Party.

Position reporting – Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

Vessels in the NRA are required to transmit position reports at one hour intervals. In addition, the course and speed information must be included in the position reports. Examination of the position reports revealed that vessels were compliant to this requirement. The position reports were received by the Secretariat in practically real-time through the Fisheries Monitoring Centres (FMC) of individual flag States. When technical difficulties were encountered by the vessels in complying with the position reporting requirements, the position reports were transmitted electronically by email and promptly entered into the VMS database by the Secretariat. In cases of technical difficulties, VMS reports can be sent at least once every four hours. Generally, the technical issues were resolved at most within a few days through the coordination and communication between the Secretariat and the FMCs. The timeliness of submission of position reports was not an issue since VMS reports were being received by the Secretariat and CPs with inspection presence in real-time through satellite technology.

With an estimated total fishing effort of 4 779 vessel-days, the expected number of VMS reports is 114,696. A total of 128 158 VMS position reports within the vessel-days were received in 2013 fishing trips. This amount suggests that some vessels transmitted their positions at intervals less an one hour. Some vessels which were landing or calling on Canadian ports continued to transmit VMS reports. This also contributed to the higher-than-expected number of VMS reports received in the Secretariat.

Activity and catch reporting – Vessel Transmitted Information (VTI): Catch-on-Entry, Catch-on-Exit, Daily Catches

Catch quantities on board upon entry to (COE) and exit from (COX) the NRA must be reported for each fishing trip. While fishing in the NRA, fishing vessels are required to transmit daily catch reports (CAT) detailing catch quantities by species and division. Catch reports are transmitted through the same technology and communication channel as the transmission of VMS (positions) reports. (See section *Vessel Transmitted Information (VTI) – Catch-on-Entry (COE), Catch-on Exit (COX), Daily catch reports (CAT)* below.)

Daily catch reports are not limited to regulated (under TAC or moratorium) species. Vessels are required to report catches (and discards) at the species level to the extent possible. The catches of regulated and selected non-regulated species are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. *Total reported catches (in tons) of regulated and selected non-regulated species in 2013 (Source: CAT reports).*

Division	1F	2J	3L	3M	3N	3O	6G	?
Species (FAO-3- alp:Hha code)								
Regulated								
COD			130.8	14801.0	641.3	263.5		13.9
GHL			6201.7	1653.6	767.4	9.9		2.2
HKW			1.2	0.1	14.2	132.8		0.1
PLA			78.1	248.8	1065.6	233.4		
PRA			1733.3					17.4
REB	1383.9	5.6						65.5
RED			1757.7	7538.6	1748.1	8146.8		28.5
SKA			36.7	72.4	3530.9	797.0		0.3
WIT			35.0	177.2	108.1	188.7		
YEL			1.2	7.8	4385.9	59.3		
Unregulated								
ALF							113.9	
ANG				0.0	20.0	26.3		
CAT			28.2	256.8	18.5	1.0		
HAD				74.9	68.1	103.6		
HAL			91.0	74.9	128.2	69.5		2.1
HKR			17.1	4.8	4.0			
HKS			0.1			82.5		
RHG			212.5	146.1	47.7	0.1		0.0
RNG			70.9	170.0	24.2	0.1		

Vessel activity after 3M redfish 100%-TAC-uptake notification

The fish stock 3M redfish is the only regulated stock which Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is considerably less than the sum of the quotas. The Secretariat monitors the TAC uptake through the daily catch reports (CATs) it receives from the fishing vessels. Contracting Parties are updated with the total accumulated catch (50%, 80% and 100% of the TAC) with the aim of preventing the TAC to be exceeded. When the TAC is reached, Contracting Parties are required to instruct their vessels to cease directed fishery on the stock.

According to Footnote 8 of the Quota Table (Annex I.A of the NCEM), not more than 50% of the TAC may be fished before 1st July. On 2nd May 2013, a 50%-TAC uptake notification was circulated by the Secretariat, on



Figure 4. Daily 3M redfish catches of all vessels in 2013.

Shrimp vessels

Shrimp in Division 3M has been under moratorium since 2011. Examination of the VMS and VTI reports revealed that the moratorium is being respected. All fishing were confined in Division 3L. According to NCEM Art. 9.7, no vessel shall fish at the depth less than 200 meters. Figure 5 confirms that shrimp vessels complied with this regulation. Majority of fishing took place at depths 200-400m.

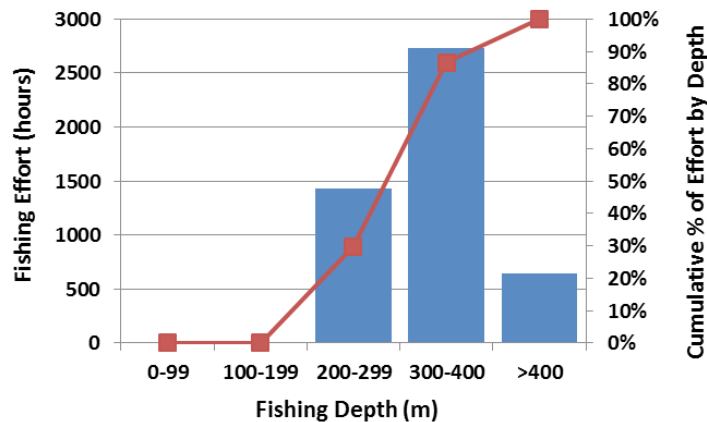


Figure 5. Distribution of shrimp fishing effort by depth in the NRA in 2013.

Closed areas and Exploratory Fisheries

Since 2007, in total 19 areas in NAFO have been closed to bottom fishing including 12 significant coral and sponge areas, one coral protection zone and six seamounts. The conservation and enforcement measures concerning the protection of the VMEs are stipulated in Chapter II of the NCEM.

An examination of the VMS position reports revealed that the closed areas were respected (Fig. 6). Fishing activities were confined within the footprint, except for one vessel which fished in Division 6G (in the environs of the closed Corner Seamounts) for a total of 17 days in February and March 2013 (Fig. 6.D). According to the observer report of this fishing trip in Division 6G, the fishing gear that was used was a mid-water trawl. The main species caught was the unregulated splendid alfonsinos. With the use of non-bottom fishing gear, NCEM Chapter II provisions (more specifically relating to Exploratory Fisheries) would not apply. Possible management measures concerning fishing stocks associated with seamounts are currently under discussions at the Joint FC-SC Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management.

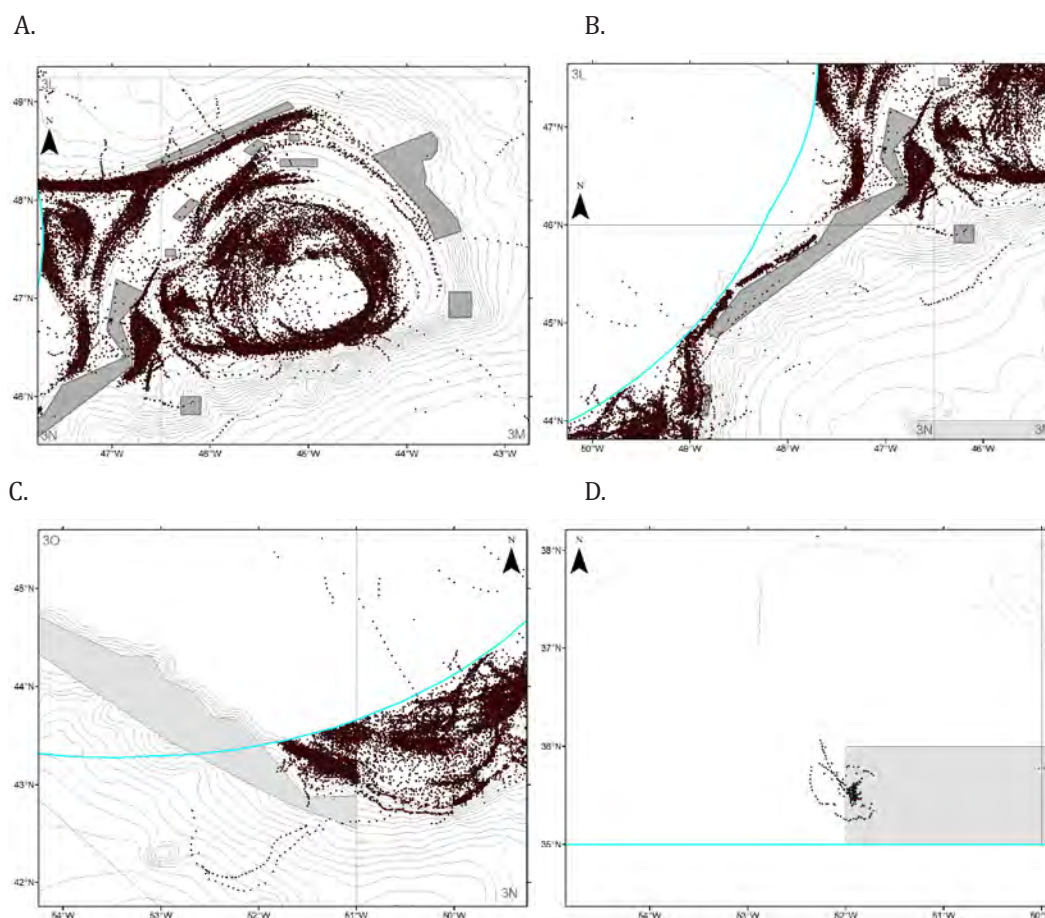


Figure 6. VMS position plots of all vessels in the NAFO Regulatory Area in 2013 in relation to the VME closed areas and Corner Seamount. A: Flemish Cap, B: Flemish Pass, C: Division 30 Coral Zone, D: Corner Seamount

Catch reporting on sharks

Fishing for the purpose of collecting shark fins is prohibited under NCEM Art. 12. Shark species taken in NAFO fisheries are not associated with shark finning practices, and there has never been an incident of shark finning observed in the NRA.

It has been noted that there has been a lack of species-specific reporting of shark catches in the NRA. In this regard, it became a requirement in 2012 to report, the extent possible, all shark catches at the species level (NCEM Art. 28.2.g).

All 2013 CAT reports were examined. Not all shark catches were reported to the species levels. 70% of all shark catches were reported as dogfishes (Table 4). It is not known how many species of shark were lumped into DGX.

Table 4. Amount of shark catches (in tons) as reported in CATs.

FAO 3- Alpha Code	English name	Reported catches in 2013 (from CATs)	Percentage
DGX	DOGFISHES (NS)	63.5	69.97%
GSK	GREENLAND SHARKS	22.2	24.48%
POR	PORBEAGLE	3.6	4.00%
SMA	SHORTFIN MAKO	1.4	1.54%

At-sea inspections

The NAFO Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme is implemented to ensure management and enforcement measures are complied with by fishing vessels fishing in the NRA. Inspectors are appointed by Contracting Parties and assigned to fishery patrol vessels tasked to carry out NAFO inspection duties at sea (Chapter VI of NCEM).

The total number of at-sea inspections dropped from 193 in 2012 to 169 in 2013. With the decrease of total fishing effort (from 5510 days in 2012 to 4779 days in 2013), inspection rate (number of inspections/fishing effort) remained steady at 3.5% (Fig. 7).

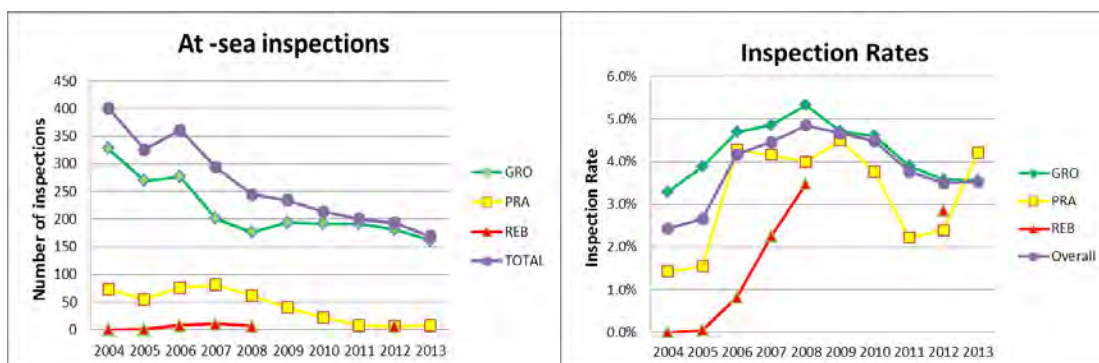


Figure 7. Number of At-Sea Inspections and Inspection rates (number of at-sea inspection/vessel-days) in the NAFO Regulatory Area by fishery type.

Port inspections

Prior to 2009, port State Contracting Parties were required to conduct port inspections on *all* vessels landing or transshipping fish species from the NRA, i.e. 100% coverage. Since the adoption of the Port State Control measures in 2009, the 100% coverage has been maintained for vessels landing NAFO species under recovery plans, in particular Greenland halibut. When landing catch species not under recovery plans, port inspections are not required if the vessel flag State Contracting Party and the port State Contracting Party are the same; if the flag State and the port State are different, the latter is required to conduct port inspections only 15 % of the total fish landing port of call in a year.

Traditionally, port inspections also serve to confirm AIs that were detected by at-sea inspections. In some occasions port inspectors issue citations of AIs to vessels, which were not detected by the at-sea inspectors. In 2013, 98 port inspection reports were received by the Secretariat, 89 of which were associated with groundfish (e.g. Greenland halibut and Atlantic cod) landings.

Apparent infringements

Each citation issued by at-sea or port inspectors can list one or more apparent infringements (AI). NCEM Art. 38 lists fifteen kinds AI's considered serious. In 2013, sixteen vessels were issued with apparent infringement/s either at sea or at port. There were twenty nine AIs issued, the nature of the AIs ranges from expired capacity plans (considered non-serious) to evidence tampering (considered serious). Inspectors determine during the time of inspection whether the AI is considered non-serious or serious.

In cases of at-sea inspections, there were only two types of AI issued, concerning: move-away requirements when bycatch thresholds are reached, and retaining 3M redfish after 100%-TAC-uptake notification. The year 2013 saw the least number of distinct AIs detected at sea (two). In cases of port inspections, there were seven different types of AIs ranging from the non-serious AI involving expired capacity plans to a serious AI of breaking or tampering of seals. Table 5 gives details of the AIs issued at-sea and at ports in 2013 (See Section 5 for follow-up actions and disposition of the AI cases).

Table 5. *Details of Apparent Infringements (AI) detected in 2013 by at-sea inspectors and port authorities. AIs detected at sea*

Vessel Code	CP	FS	Inspecting CP	Inspection Date	Division in NRA or Port Location	Directed Fish. (according to COE)	Apparent Infringement	Serious AI? As considered by inspectors	Article (2013 NCEM)	Disposition/Followup/ update as of May2014, as reported by flag State Contracting Party
10	EU	ESP	CAN	04-Mar-13	3N	GHL	Failure to maintain 10 nmiles from previous tow after exceeding allowable bycatch in previous tow	No	Art. 6.2.a	Case pending
7	EU	ESP	CAN	30-Jul-13	3M	SKA	3M Redfish retained after 100%-uptake notification	No	Art. 5.2.b	Case pending
4	EU	PRT	CAN	31-Jul-13	3M	COD, GHL	3M Redfish retained after 100%-uptake notification	No	Art. 5.2.b	No prosecution. Vessels were not notified in due time of area closure.
13	EU	EST	CAN	01-Aug-13	3M	RED, COD	3M Redfish retained after 100%-uptake notification	No	Art. 5.2.b	National proceedings initiated and case pending.
14	RUS	RUS	CAN	01-Aug-13	3L	RED	3M Redfish retained after 100%-uptake notification	No	Art. 5.2.b	Decided not to prosecute the master due to timeliness of the closure notification.
15	RUS	RUS	CAN	02-Aug-13	3M	RED, SKA	3M Redfish retained after 100%-uptake notification	No	Art. 5.2.b	Decided not to prosecute the master due to timeliness of the closure notification.
5	EU	PRT	CAN	02-Aug-13	3L	COD, RED	3M Redfish retained after 100%-uptake notification	No	Art. 5.2.b	No prosecution. Vessels were not notified in due time of area closure.
1	EU	PRT	CAN	04-Aug-13	3L	RED	3M Redfish retained after 100%-uptake notification	No	Art. 5.2.b	No prosecution. Vessels were not notified in due time of area closure.
11	EU	ESP	CAN	04-Aug-13	3M	COD	3M Redfish retained after 100%-uptake notification	No	Art. 5.2.b	Case pending
9	EU	ESP	CAN	07-Aug-13	3L	GHL, SKA	3M Redfish retained after 100%-uptake notification	No	Art. 5.2.b	Case pending
3	EU	PRT	CAN	10-Aug-13	3L	RED, GHL	3M Redfish retained after 100%-uptake notification	No	Art. 5.2.b	No prosecution. Vessels were not notified in due time of area closure.
2	EU	PRT	CAN	19-Aug-13	3O	RED, COD	3M Redfish retained after 100%-uptake notification	No	Art. 5.2.b	No prosecution. Vessels were not notified in due time of area closure.
12	EU	EST	CAN	21-Aug-13	3N	GHL, RED	3M Redfish retained after 100%-uptake notification	No	Art. 5.2.b	No prosecution. Vessels were not notified in due time of area closure.

AIs detected at ports

Call Sign	CP	FS	Inspecting CP	Inspection Date	Division in NRA or Port Location	Directed Fish. (according to COE)	Apparent Infringement	Serious AI? As considered by inspectors	Article (2013 NCEM)	Disposition/Followup/ update as of May2014, as reported by flag State Contracting Party
13	EU	EST	EU	14-Nov-13	Cangas do Morrazo	COD	Incomplete labelling of PLA and YEL	No	Art. 27	to be clarified
8	EU	ESP	EU	12-Feb-13	Vigo	SKA	Product labelling	No	Art. 27	to be clarified
8	EU	ESP	EU	12-Feb-13	Vigo	SKA	Capacity Plans	No	Art. 25.9	to be clarified
8	EU	ESP	EU	12-Feb-13	Vigo	SKA	Bycatch	No	Art. 6.2.a	to be clarified
16	DFG	FRO	EU	19-Mar-13	Vigo	GHL, RED	Product labelling	No	Art. 27	to be clarified
16	DFG	FRO	EU	19-Mar-13	Vigo	GHL, RED	Catch recording	No	Art. 28	to be clarified
13	EU	EST	EU	15-Apr-13	Cangas-Galicia	COD, RED	Capacity Plans	No	Art. 25.11	to be clarified
8	EU	ESP	EU	02-Jul-13	Vigo	GHL	Capacity Plans	No	Art. 25.10.b	to be clarified
1	EU	PRT	EU	12-Apr-13	Cangas do Morrazo	RED	Mis-recording	?	Art. 28.1, 38.1	to be clarified
1	EU	PRT	EU	12-Apr-13	Cangas do Morrazo	RED	Product labelling	No	Art. 27.1	to be clarified
1	EU	PRT	EU	12-Apr-13	Cangas do Morrazo	RED	Tampering of seals	?	Art. 38.1.n	to be clarified
6	EU	ESP	EU	16-Jul-13	Rande-Galicia	GHL	Misrecording of catches	?	Art. 38.1.i	to be clarified
6	EU	ESP	EU	16-Jul-13	Rande-Galicia	GHL	Obstructing inspectors	?	Art. 38.1.i	to be clarified
6	EU	ESP	EU	16-Jul-13	Rande-Galicia	GHL	Falsified documents	?	Art. 38.1.o	to be clarified
6	EU	ESP	EU	16-Jul-13	Rande-Galicia	GHL	Product labelling	No	Art. 27.1.b	to be clarified
6	EU	ESP	EU	16-Jul-13	Rande-Galicia	GHL	Capacity Plans	No	Art. 25.10.b	to be clarified

In Fig. 8, the composite list of AIs and the frequency of the cases since 2004 are shown. The black and the blue dots represent AIs issued by at-sea inspectors and port authorities, respectively. Product mis-labelling, expired vessel capacity plans, and mis-recording of catches are the most frequent AI. Three kinds of AI were issued for

the first time in 2013: bycatch: move-away requirement (NCEM Art. 6.2.a); bycatch: retention of 3M redfish after 100%-TAC-uptake notification (NCEM Art. 5.2.b), and falsification of documents (NCEM Art. 38.1.o). Regarding the retention of 3M redfish after 100 % notification, causes were identified and actions were initiated to avoid repetition of this type of infringement.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Greenland halibut measures				•					•	
Mis-recording of catches -stowage		•••••	•••••••	•••••	••	•••••	•	•••••	•	
Product labelling	•	•••	•••••••	•••••	••	••		•	•••••	•••••••
Vessel requirements - capacity plans	•••	••	•	•••••••	•••	•••••••	••	•	•••	•••••
Bycatch - move-away										•
Bycatch - retaining 3m Redfish										••••••• •••••••
Bycatch requirements	•••••	•••••••	•••••	•••••	•	•		•		•
Catch communication violations			•	•••••						
Fishing without authorization	••	•								
Gear requirements - illegal attachments	•	•••	•••••••	••			•			
Gear requirements - mesh size	•••••••	•••••	•			•	•	•		
Inspection protocol	••	•••••••	•			•••			•	•
Mis-recording of catches - inaccurate recording	•••••••	•••••••	••••••• •••••	••••••• ••••••• •••••	••	•••	••		••	•••
Observer requirements	•	•								
Quota requirements	•		•						••	
VMS requirements	••	•							•	
Falsification of documents										•
Evidence tampering									•	•

Figure 8. Frequency of AI cases detected by NAFO at-sea and port inspectors in 2004 -2013(black and blue dots represent AIs issued at sea and at port, respectively).

4. Reporting obligations by NAFO Contracting Parties and Observers

The NCEM obliges vessels and Contracting Parties to provide reports on their activity within a determined time frame. The completeness and regular delivery of those reports in time are of key importance to evaluating overall compliance. In evaluating the completeness, reports were examined to determine which fishing trips were covered by the reports. Each fishing trip must have VTI and Observers reports; vessels landing Greenland halibut must have port inspection reports. The percentage coverage is computed as a ratio of fishing days accounted for by the reports and total fishing days effort in the NRA. Less than 100% coverage suggests that there were missing reports that should have been received by the Secretariat.

Vessel Transmitted Information (VTI) – Catch-on-Entry (COE), Catch-on Exit (COX), Daily catch reports (CAT)

The FMCs of flag States are responsible in transmitting the VTI reports to the Secretariat (see also section *Activity and catch reporting* above). The COE and COX are transmitted signifying the start and end of a fishing trip. A 100% coverage would mean that all expected COEs are paired up with all expected COXs. A trip with a missing COE or COX would not account for the number of days of a fishing trip in the NRA.

In Table 6, the number of COE, COX, and CAT, as well as of the fishing trips and fishing effort-day in the NRA, is presented. Ideally, the number of COE and COX should correspond to the number of fishing trips. The higher-than-expected numbers suggest that duplicates and erroneous reports are occasionally sent. The VMS-VTI system features a cancel report (CAN) which allow vessels and FMCs to withdraw or correct previously sent VTI report but this feature is not widely used. Nonetheless, all identified fishing trips had the corresponding COE and COX report, representing a 100% coverage (see also Fig. 9).

Table 6. Fishing effort and VTI statistics in the NRA, 2013.

Number of fishing trips identified	160
Days Present in the Regulatory Area	4779
Number of Daily Catch Reports (CATs)	5248
Number of Catch on Entry Reports (COEs)	205
Number of Catch on Exit Reports (COXs)	196

5248 CATs were received, more than the total effort of 4779 vessel days. This indicates that vessels which fished in two or more Divisions in a day transmitted multiple reports, consistent with the requirement that fishing vessels shall report daily their catches by species and by Divisions. The CAT reports have proven to be useful in monitoring quota uptakes of the Contracting Parties.

Port inspection reports

When vessels land their catches, the port inspectors report on the quantity of catches as well as the fishing trip details. However, the port inspection is not mandatory for all landings from NAFO fisheries (see *Port Inspections*).

In evaluating the compliance of port State authorities in conducting inspections, only trips with Greenland halibut onboard were considered. The identification of these trips was done by examining COX reports. Of the 160 fishing trips identified, COXs of 71 fishing trips indicated Greenland halibut on board. Of the 71 fishing trips (3465 days effort), 57 (2855 days effort) have corresponding port inspection reports --- an 82% coverage (see Fig. 9).

Observer reports

Under the “traditional” scheme, vessels are required to have an independent observer on board at all times (i.e. 100% coverage) in every fishing trip (NCEM Art. 30.A). Observers in this “scheme” are committed to deliver within 30 days after their assignment period their observer report, which contains information on date of fishing trip as well as catch and effort.

Since 2007, Contracting Parties have the option of the electronic reporting scheme. Under this “electronic” scheme, CPs may allow their vessels in a single year to have observers onboard at least 25% of the time the vessels are on a fishing trip (NCEM Art. 30.B). CPs must give prior notification to the Secretariat which vessels participate in the electronic scheme. Observers under this scheme are required to report daily the catches and discards (OBR) while the fishing master transmits the daily catch reports (CAT) every trip. The CAT and OBR reports are transmitted through the same technology and communication channels as the VMS. In 2013, sixteen vessels participated under this scheme.

In evaluating compliance of observer reports submission, only reports from vessels under the “traditional” scheme were considered. As in the port inspection reports, percentage coverage was computed as the ratio of the fishing days accounted for by the observers and the total fishing days (of the trips under this scheme) in the NRA. In 2013, the percentage was 78%, i.e. only 3 489 out of 4 456 days were covered by observer reports (Fig. 9).

Catch information in observer reports may be crosschecked with other data sources (e.g. port inspection reports and CATs). According to NCEM Art. 30.A.2.c, the observers shall record, among others, the catch, effort, and discard information *for each haul*. The Secretariat has noted that not all observers’ reports contain the required information on catch and effort on a haul by haul basis. Out of 94 observer reports received, only 12 coming from three flag States contained detailed haul-by-haul catch information. The rest provided only trip summaries of the catch.

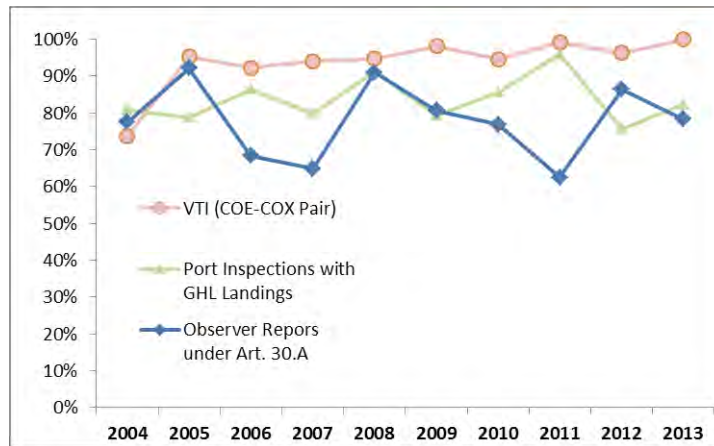


Figure 9. Percentage coverage of fishing effort by VTI (COE-COX Pairs), Port Inspection and Observer Reports as a measure of compliance to report submission requirements.

Timeliness of submission of reports

The timeliness of reports submitted to the NAFO Secretariat is an important issue. VMS messages are required to be provided every hour; hail messages at each entry and exit from the NRA as well catch reports on a daily basis (VTI); observers and at-sea inspection reports are expected to be submitted within 30 days and port inspection reports (PSC3 forms) should be sent to the Executive Secretary “without delay.” For the purpose of timeliness analysis, PSC 3 forms, as well as at-sea inspection reports received more than 30 days after the date of inspection were considered late. VMS and VTI messages were not included in the timeliness analysis as they are received practically in real time through satellite technology.

Figure 10 shows the timeliness of submission of at sea inspection, observer and port inspection reports. Less than half of the number of observer reports were received on time (23%). Timeliness in the submission of at-sea and port inspection reports was 89% and 50%, respectively.

At-sea and port inspection reports containing citations of infringements were always transmitted to the Secretariat without delay.

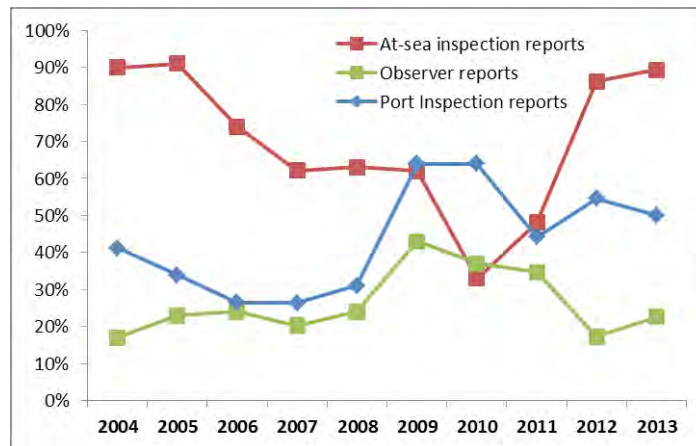


Figure 10. Timeliness of submission of reports.

5. Follow-up to infringements

NCEM Art. 39 spells out obligations of a flag State Contracting Party that has been notified of an infringement. It includes taking immediate judicial or administrative action in conformity with its national legislation and ensuring that sanctions applicable in respect of infringements are adequate in severity. In 2013, thirteen (13) individual citations with a single AI each were issued by at-sea inspectors – twelve of each concerning retaining of 3M redfish after the 100% TAC uptake notification, and another one concerning move-away provision when bycatch thresholds are reached in a tow. At port, sixteen AIs were detected involving eight vessels. The nature of the AI range from a non-serious case of expired capacity plans to a serious AI of obstructing inspectors (See Table 5 for details).

In compliance with NCEM Art. 40, the status of each AI case must be reported to the Secretariat annually until the case is resolved, since the legal procedure can take longer than one year due to of the legal procedures in force in each Contracting Party. During the review of the follow-up actions by CPs at the STACTIC Intersessional Meeting in May 2014, procedural questions arose with regards to dealing with AIs issued at ports. For example, some port AI citations might have been a violation of domestic port measures rather than an infringement of the NAFO regulations. It was agreed that this will be clarified on a later date by the CP concerned. In Table 7, a summary of the status of AI cases in the last five years and their resolution. Pending clarification on follow-up of AIs detected at ports, the statistics for the year 2013 includes only AIs detected at sea. With regards to the resolved cases in 2013 (which all involved 3M Redfish retention after the closure of the fisheries notified by the Secretariat), the CPs concerned determined that no prosecution would proceed as it was determined that the vessels did not received the closure notification in due time.

Table 7. Legal resolution of citations against vessels fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area by year in which the citations were issued (as of August 2013). A citation is an inspection report (from at-sea or port inspectors) that lists one or more infringements. Inspections carried out for confirming a previous citation are not included. For year 2013, only citations at sea are included pending procedural clarifications regarding citations issued by port authorities.

Year	Number of Reports with AI Citation/s	Resolved cases		Pending cases
		Number	%	
2009	13	10	77%	3
2010	7	7	100%	0
2011	8	8	100%	0
2012	11	9	82%	2
2013	13	8	62%	5
Total	52	42	81%	

6. Trends, Conclusions and Recommendations

General Trends

- Although fishing effort has steadily declined since 2004 it has stabilized at 5000 days in the NRA. Overall fishing effort declined by 13.3% in 2013 compared to the previous year. Fishing days in the NRA fell from 5510 days in 2012 to 4779 days in 2013. In contrast the number of vessels has increased by 12.3% from 57 vessels in vessel in 2012 to 64 vessels in 2013. Longline vessels fishing in the NRA have increased and have accounted for 5.2% of Groundfish operations in 2013. It can be concluded that changes in fishing activity has reduced average duration of fishing trips to the NRA
- In the 3L shrimp fishery, although 2013 saw 7 vessels operating in the fishery in 2013, an increase from 5 vessels in 2012, the overall fishing effort has reduced a further 24% from 250 days in 2012 to 190 days in 2013.
- The re-emergence of fishing effort for the Pelagic Redfish Fishery (REB) observed in 2012 has continued but on a reduced scale. Vessel numbers operating in this fishery declined by 50%, with 4 vessels fishing in 2013 compared to 8 in 2012, and furthermore effort has been reduced by 62%, down from 210 days in 2012 to 79 days in 2013

- Observer Reports are consistently untimely and missing critical information. In 2013, only 23% of observer reports were submitted on time, a rate that has been fairly consistent for a decade. Additionally, out of 94 observer reports received, only 12 contained detailed haul-by-haul catch information. The remainder provided only trip summaries of the catch. Catch and effort on a haul by haul basis is required. Since flag State Contracting Parties are responsible for forwarding observer reports to the Secretariat, they should ensure that they are complete, consistent with Article 30, and submitted in a timely manner. The improvements made in 2014 to the observer reporting requirements should increase compliance.
- No analysis is available to determine the observer coverage rate or compliance with the OBR reporting requirements for Contracting Parties employing the electronic reporting protocol under Article 30.B. Additional analysis is necessary to ensure that Contracting Parties are complying with minimum observer coverage levels and submitting the required reports.

Additional data elements compiled provided the following information and recommendations for compliance review:

- Based on VMS reports for 2013, closed areas are being respected.
- Based on VTI reports for 2013, 3M redfish exceeded the TAC of 6500t by 16%. Notifications were circulated to CPs when total accumulated catch reached 95% and again at 103%. Directed fishing continued for a few days following notification at 103%. The coverage was directly related to a delay in notifications to vessels. Contracting Parties should inform the Secretariat if 5 days is insufficient to inform its vessels of a closure.
- Based on VMS and VTI, the 3M shrimp fishery moratorium is being respected.
- Based on water depth, 3L shrimp fishing effort continues to comply with a ban of fishing in depths less than 200m.
- Based on CAT reports the total catches reported by regulated and non regulated species can be used to identify fishing trends.
- Analysis of groundfish activity by water depth has indicated a significant increase of fishing activity in depths < 200metres and a decrease in depths > 700 metres as compared with 2012 figures. This is consistent with increased effort in 3M cod, 3M redfish, and a reduced effort for deep water species such as Greenland halibut.
- There has been a slight increase in effort distribution in the shallower depths. In 2012 50% of fishing effort was conducted in depths below 700 metres and in 2013 50% of fishing effort was conducted in depths below 400 metres. This suggests an increase in the targeting of species found in shallower waters such as skates, cod and redfish despite there being no increase in quota for these species. (3M cod increased TAC).
- Reporting of shark captures by species has been achieved since it became a requirement in 2012 and the quantities of shark captures remain insignificant. However, 70% of all shark catches were reported as dogfishes, a general description that should be more specific. Contracting Parties should explore ways to improve species identification of shark species, as required in the CEM.
- Table 2 of the Compliance Review indicates that catch for both regulated and unregulated species were reported without an associated NAFO division in daily catch (CAT) reports submitted by vessel masters. Contracting Parties should ensure that vessel masters are accurately reporting catch of each species by NAFO division in their daily CAT reports.

Inspections and Apparent Infringements

- The number of at-sea inspections has declined from 193 in 2012 to 169 in 2013. This decline was related to factors such as decreased fishing effort in the NRA. The inspection rate has remained steady at 3.5% compared with 3.3% in 2012.
- In 2013, 98 port inspection reports were received by the secretariat, 89 of which were associated with landings of groundfish species. Port inspections remain high due to the species subject to 100 percent inspection coverage such as the Greenland halibut rebuilding plan. However, based on available data it appears that 100 percent requirement is not being met. This will require additional investigation. CPs should strive to increase inspections for vessels landing Greenland halibut from the current rate of 82% (57 of 71 trips).

- No analysis is available regarding the landings referred in Article 43.10. Additional analysis is needed to determine if the minimum 15% port inspections on such trips is being achieved.
- Only two types of AI were detected at-sea in 2013, and out of a total of 13 AI's, 12 were associated with retaining 3M redfish after closure and 1 with the bycatch move away rule.
- Detection rate of AI's in port has increased markedly. Seven types of AI were detected in port in 2013 with a total of 16 and more than 50% of these AI's were associated with product labelling and capacity plans. This is a large increase compared with 2012, which saw six types of AI's with a total of 6 cases. Prior to 2012 the last AI detected in port was in 2009.
- Contracting Parties have an obligation to resolve reported AIs. Recent resolution has been satisfactory, but there are still pending cases with no additional detail provided on their status.

**Annex 35. To Establish a Working Group of Interested Contracting Parties
to Review the NAFO Observer Scheme and make recommendations to STACTIC
for Improvements**

(STACTIC Working Paper 14/33 now FC Doc. 14/23)

Preamble

This proposal calls for the establishment of a Working Group of STACTIC members to undertake a review of the Observer Scheme in the NAFO Regulatory Area and make recommendations to STACTIC for improvements to the program.

Background

The NAFO observer program was originally part of the program for Observers and Satellite Tracking which was launched in 1996 and has subsequently been modified to occupy a distinct chapter in the NAFO measures that describes the program and incorporate some harmonized reporting templates to seek some consistency in its application.

Proposals for modifications to the program are frequently tabled at STACTIC to help to standardize data collection and provide clarity on the role of observers. However, after almost 20 years of operation, the program is still unable to produce credible data for use by NAFO scientists and managers to make decisions on stock status, conservation measures and harvest levels. Notwithstanding this, the program still represents the best opportunity to acquire independent data on fishing activities in the Regulatory Area.

Proposal

It is therefore proposed that a Working Group of interested Contracting Parties be established to review the Observer Scheme and report to STACTIC on its findings, providing recommendations for potential improvements to the program.

Terms of reference for the review should include all aspects of the scheme as described in Chapter V of the NCEM, propose language to clarify the objectives of the program, identify the strengths and weaknesses of the existing program, and propose suggestions/options to enhance the observer scheme to maximize the benefit it provides to NAFO.

Annex 36. Terms of Reference Ad Hoc Working Group on Port State Control Alignment (AHWGPSCA)

(STACTIC Working Paper 14/35 now FC Doc. 14/24)

Structure:

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Port State Control Alignment (AHWGPSCA) is understood to report directly to STACTIC, and its Chair. The group will take its direction from, report and make recommendations to, STACTIC.

The Working Group shall be comprised of a core of Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) members, augmented by interested Contracting Party representatives, in sufficient number to be effective, and capable of contemplating the broad interests of NAFO, while remaining small enough to remain efficient.

The AHWGPSCA will appoint a Chair from its membership, who will act as groups representative and be responsible to preside over meetings/activities and provide updates to STACTIC.

Objective:

Compare the provisions and spirit of the *FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing – 2012* with the current NAFO Port State Control Measures (Chapter VII) and propose recommendations to STACTIC as necessary to align the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM) with the FAO Agreement.

Duties

The AHWGPSCA's will:

- Compare the NAFO Port State Control provisions against those of the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing – 2012;
- Review the amendments made to the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement (Rec 09 2014: Alignment of NEAFC Scheme with FAO Port State Measures Agreement);
- Identify amendments to the existing NAFO Port State Control scheme necessary to align with the FAO Agreement on Port State Agreement and ensure continued consistency with the NEAFC Port Control Scheme; and
- Make recommendations to STACTIC as appropriate.

Meetings:

Meetings may be held at the discretion of the group, Chair or at the request of STACTIC, in consultation with Contracting Parties and the NAFO Secretariat.

The AHWGPSCA shall communicate regularly through teleconferences and electronically, as required.

Reporting

The AHWGPSCA will issue a written report of its deliberations, and any accompanying recommendations, to STACTIC for consideration.

An oral update will also be provided during the intervening STACTIC intersessional and annual meetings.

Annex 37. Information Security and Management System (ISMS)

(STACTIC Working Paper 14/22 **now** FC Doc. 14/34)

At the STACTIC Intersessional meeting in May 2014 the Secretariat was requested to look into the NEAFC application of an Information Security and Management System (ISMS) as it was technically evaluated by the Joint Advisory Committee on Data Management (JAGDM) and report back to STACTIC on its potential application to NAFO.

At the JAGDM meeting in June 2014 the Secretariat took this up with the participants under agenda item 6.a and it was agreed that the Interim Chair would write a letter, with input from the participants, for the NAFO Secretariat to present to STACTIC in September on why NAFO may need an ISMS. This letter is attached. In her letter, the Interim Chair advises that NAFO proceed with developing an ISMS.

If STACTIC decides that NAFO should follow this advice, it is important to determine guidelines for the work. The ISMS of NEAFC is in line with the ISO 27001:2005, the current version of this standard is ISO 27001:2013. It is important to know if NAFO will start the work in line with the ISO 27001:2013, follow another standard or not follow any standard. The Interim Chair conveyed to the Secretariat the availability of JAGDM to assist in this preliminary determination. If needed a specialised meeting within JAGDM could take place in 2015 to exclusively address developing a possible NAFO ISMS.

If STACTIC decides that NAFO should consider an ISMS, it would also be useful to get a picture of how NAFO's current information technology (IT) system compares with best practices. The Secretariat suggests that this could be addressed by an external audit of NAFO's current IT-system.

The Secretariat thereby suggests that:

1. STACTIC approve in principle that NAFO consider the implementation of an ISMS.
2. STACTIC request the assistance of JAGDM to determine guidelines for any ISMS;
3. The Secretariat consider an external audit of NAFO's current IT-system; and
4. The issue of a NAFO ISMS be an item on the next STACTIC agenda.

To the NAFO Secretariat

Bergen 22 August 2014

From JAGDM

At its June 2014 meeting, JAGDM was asked to give advice to the NAFO Secretariat concerning why NAFO needs an Information Security Management System (ISMS).

When the IT-system of NAFO first was developed many years ago, security and confidentiality aspects were addressed by an annex in the CEM. This covered the needs at that time. However, the handling of IT-information in NAFO is no longer limited to sending data between Contracting Parties and the NAFO Secretariat using secure lines and storing data in the computer at the office of the Secretariat.

Moreover, the NAFO website raises further concerns. People with several needs and wishes may want to access and have information presented on the website, and in some cases may also want to input data into the system.

Without an overview and some formalization of the total information handling within NAFO, it is not possible for the Contracting Parties to know what the security and confidentiality policy of the organization is. Currently the NAFO Secretariat has followed its own policies without any guidelines, other than the Annex II.B of the CEM. Although the NAFO Secretariat tries to follow industry standards, it is not clear whether these standards would be acceptable to all Contracting Parties, particularly those that might have different standards in their own countries. This raises risks that certain confidential data may be accessed incorrectly and the organization get negative reactions.

NAFO does not need to have an ISMS in line with a standard such as NEAFC has done. However if NAFO is going to have an overview and formalize its information security it is beneficial if it is done in line with a standard, specially taking into consideration that NAFO has many Contracting parties that might have very different systems in their own countries.

Data stored on the NAFO IT-system largely contains copies of data also stored by the Contracting Parties so new copies of data could be submitted if ever needed. However, the Port State data is different. The only copy of this data is only stored on the Secretariat's servers.

In a modern IT-world it is very important to be sure that one has a system that is secure enough to give the organization the decided level of business continuity.

Data has to be classified correctly and from that handled according to the risks identified.

Having an ISMS will not necessarily give the organization a higher or lower level of security, but it makes it possible for the Contracting Parties to know what the status is and from that decide if changes are needed. There will be guidelines for many situations that are meant to help the employees to take the correct decisions.

Preparing the ISMS for NEAFC has been a lot of work and if NAFO is planning an ISMS there has to be people in the Secretariat doing the information-finding job. It is important that one starts with an assessment of the current situation.

If NAFO wishes to use an international standard we recommend that NAFO follow the same ISO standard as NEAFC uses. This will help harmonization between the two organizations. If so NAFO should most likely use the latest ISO 27001:2013 standard that NEAFC will be updating their ISMS to presently.

Best regards

For JAGDM

Ellen E. Fasmer

Interim chair

Annex 38. Proposal to require the use of the IMO numbering scheme for NAFO vessels

(FC WP 14/13 Rev. **now** FC Doc. 14/09)

Explanatory Memorandum:

Unique vessel identifiers (UVIs) are useful to quickly and accurately identify vessels and trace and verify their activity over time, irrespective of change of name, ownership, or flag. For that reason, there is a wide recognition that UVIs can be useful in helping combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing (e.g., see <http://www.fao.org/fishery/topic/166301/en>).

There is broad recognition that perhaps the most effective approach to expanding the use of UVIs into the fishery sector is to build on the well-established IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme (<http://www.imo.org/ourwork/safety/implementation/pages/imo-identification-number-scheme.aspx>), operated by IHS Maritime (IHS-M). Under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), UVIs, in the form of IMO numbers, are required for all merchant vessels 300 gross tons (GT) or above and all passenger vessels 100 GT and larger, but vessels solely engaged in fishing are exempt from the requirement, and until recently such vessels were excluded from the IMO numbering scheme altogether. However, in an effort to enable and encourage the use of IMO numbers as UVIs on fishing vessels, in December 2013 the IMO adopted Resolution A.1078(28) specifically to amend the IMO Ship Identification Number Scheme to remove its exclusion of fishing vessels, making it available to fishing vessels at least 100 GT/GRT in size. IHS-M estimates they have issued numbers to more than 23,000 fishing and related vessels globally. Of the 195 NAFO authorized vessels for 2014, only 4 vessels were under 100GT/GRT.

Currently, NAFO does not require vessels to obtain IMO numbers, although the CEM mandates reporting vessels' IMO numbers, if available, under several vessel register forms. Requiring NAFO vessels to obtain an IMO number would enhance NAFO's strong counter-IUU management regime and support effective fisheries management.

Various other RFMOs, including CCAMLR, ICCAT, IATTC, SPRFMO and WCPFC, have recently adopted new or strengthened existing regulations to require that eligible vessels obtain an IMO number or a number in the seven-digit numbering sequence allocated by IHS-M (which have been referred to as Lloyds Register or LR numbers). Furthermore, IMO numbers for fishing vessels has been identified as essential element to the success of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (Global Record), an FAO initiative to improve transparency in the fisheries sector. While participation in the FAO Global Record is voluntary, many NAFO members have noted the importance of such a tool in improving fisheries management globally. Requiring that all NAFO eligible fishing vessels obtain IMO numbers will assist in the effective implementation of the Global Record.

To that end, the United States and the European Union proposes the following, from January 1, 2016:

Amend Chapter II, Article 25.2 "Notification of Fishing Vessels" to read:

No fishing vessel shall conduct fishing activities in the Regulatory Area unless:

- a. **It is listed as a notified vessel; and**
- b. **Eligible vessels have been issued an IMO number.**

This would have consequential changes as follows:

- In Article 1 "Definitions", add the following:
 17. **"IMO Number" means a 7-digit number, which is assigned by IHS-Maritime;**
- In Chapter II, Article 25, paragraph 8, "Vessel Documents to be Carried on Board", add a new sub-paragraph:
 - "c.bis. the IMO number"**
- In Chapter II, Article 26, paragraph 7 amend sub-paragraph (a) to read:
 - "(a) the name, flag State registration, IMO number, and flag State of the vessel"**

- In Annex I.E, amend chapter II to include a bullet point requiring reporting of the IMO number of the vessel
- In Annex II.A, “Recording of Catch (Logbook Entries)”, under “Item of Information”, add a new sub-item:
“3.bis. IMO number”
- In Annex II.C “Vessel Notification and Authorization”, paragraph 1. “Format for register of vessels”, delete footnote 3 and under the section entitled “Vessel IMO Number”, amend the remarks to read “IMO number”, thereby deleting the phrase “in the absence of a side number”.
- Also in Annex II.C, paragraph 2 “Format for withdrawal of vessels from the register”, delete footnote 4 and under the section entitled “Vessel IMO Number”, amend the remarks to read “IMO number”, thereby deleting the phrase “in the absence of a side number”.
- Also in Annex II.C, paragraph 3 “Format for authorization to conduct fishing activities”, delete footnote 5 and under the section entitled “Vessel IMO Number”, amend the remarks to read “IMO number”, thereby deleting the phrase “in the absence of a side number”.
- Also in Annex II.C, paragraph 4 “Format to suspend the authorization to conduct fishing activities”, delete footnote 7 and under the section entitled “Vessel IMO Number”, amend the remarks to read “IMO number”, thereby deleting the phrase “in the absence of a side number”.

PART II

Report of the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) 36th Annual Meeting of NAFO

22–26 September 2014
Vigo, Spain

1. Opening by the Chair, Gene Martin (USA)

The Chair opened the meeting at 14:30h on Monday, September 22, 2014 at Palacio de Congresos Mar de Vigo, Vigo, Spain. The Chair thanked the European Union for hosting the meeting and welcomed the representatives of the following Contracting Parties (CPs): Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, France (in respect of Saint Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United States (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Brent Napier (Canada) was appointed Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The following amendments were made to the agenda:

- The Chair added a presentation by International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network Executive Director (Harry Koster) as agenda item 12 a);
- The working paper “Terms of Reference Ad Hoc Working Group on Port State Control Alignment” (STACTIC WP 14/35) was included under agenda item 4;
- European Union working papers were included as follows:
 - Discussion paper regarding “Development of the NAFO MCS Website and Risk Based Analysis of Inspection Reports” (STACTIC WP 14/27) under agenda item 8;
 - “Observer Report – New Template for Annex II.M” (STACTIC WP 14/10REV) as agenda item 10 b) (ii);
 - “Closure of the RED 3M “directed fishery”” (STACTIC WP 14/26) as agenda item 10 j);
 - “Deletion of the bycatch limit liaised to quotas “others”” (Article 6.2(c) and 6.3(d)) (STACTIC WP 14/24) under agenda item 10 h); and
 - “Clarity on calculation method to evaluate the bycatch limits in any one haul” (Article 6.6 of the NAFO CEM) (STACTIC WP 14/25) as agenda item 10 i).
- The United States working paper “Consistent Approach to Address Serious Infringements Detected At-Sea and In Port” (STACTIC WP 14/28) was added as agenda item 5 b);
- Norway’s working paper “The use of the two-letter code “DS” (Directed Species) in the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures” (STACTIC WP 14/23), was included as agenda item 10 g);
- Canada’s working papers/items were added under the following agenda items:
 - “Provision of Haul by Haul Logbook Data to the Secretariat” (STACTIC WP 14/13 Rev) under agenda item 10 (d);
 - “Amendment to Article 14 of the NCEM” (STACTIC WP 14/29) for inclusion as agenda item 10 k);
 - “Shrimp in Division 3L (Article 9)” (STACTIC WP 14/30) for inclusion as agenda item 10 l);
 - “To Establish a Working Group of Interested Contracting Parties to Review the NAFO Observer Scheme and make recommendations to STACTIC for Improvements” (STACTIC WP 14/33) for inclusion as agenda item 10 b) i);

- “Notification to Inspecting Contracting Party Regarding Additional Procedures for Serious Infringements” (STACTIC WP 14/34) for inclusion as agenda item 10 m);
- “Definitions and Clarifications of Data Elements” (STACTIC WP 14/31) for inclusion as agenda item 11 c);
- “Data Sharing Between NAFO and NEAFC” (STACTIC WP 14/32) for inclusion as agenda item 11 d); and
- Timing of JAGDM meetings for inclusion as agenda item 11 e).

The agenda was adopted, as amended (Annex 2).

4. Port State Measures Review

The Chair opened the agenda item and reminded representatives of the agreement, reached during the STACTIC Intersessional, to create a working group to align the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEM) Port State Control Scheme (Chapter VII) with the FAO Port State Measures Agreement. To this end, a draft Terms of Reference (STACTIC WP 14/35) was presented. The Chair noted the importance of completing this task identified by the Performance Review Panel and opened the discussion. The elements contained within the paper, in particular working group membership, selection of a Chair and objectives were discussed.

DFG commented on the magnitude of the alignment exercise undertaken in NEAFC to address the issue and noted the need to allocate the necessary effort to complete the task in a timely fashion. The EU suggested that the work done in NEAFC could be used to expedite the process and suggested that a NEAFC member involved in this process draft a working paper on the revision of NCEM’s Chapter VII to facilitate the initial work of this group. DFG supported using the work for inspiration, however noted significant differences between the two schemes that would prevent a wholesale copy and paste from the NEAFC process.

It was agreed:

to recommend for adoption STACTIC WP 14/35 to Fisheries Commission (FC) to create a working group with the view to facilitating the completion of the Port State Control alignment exercise in advance of the 2015 NAFO annual meeting with the intent that a NEAFC member involved in this process would draft a working paper on the revision NCEM Chapter VII.

5. Compliance Review 2014 including review of reports of Apparent Infringements

a) Compliance Review 2014

The Chair introduced STACTIC WP 14/17 drafted by the NAFO Secretariat (NS), and associated STACTIC WP 14/17addendum, drafted by the editorial drafting/compliance Working Group. The Addendum was drafted to set forth 2013 trends, conclusions and recommendations based on the Compliance Review.

CPs reviewed the draft compliance review (STACTIC WP 14/17) and the associated trends, conclusions and recommendations found in STACTIC WP 14/17addendum. Both documents were modified to reflect the discussion. As a result of the review, STACTIC requested that the NS assess the feasibility of conducting analysis to determine compliance with a number of elements of interest identified during discussions.

The NS presented STACTIC WP 14/16 REV, containing an updated compilation of 2013 fisheries reports, and STACTIC WP 14/21, a summary of at-sea inspection information. Both documents were reviewed as part of the compliance review process. Some minor edits were identified in STACTIC WP 14/21, which was revised accordingly.

Canada reiterated the importance of following-up on reported infringements to the integrity of the compliance scheme and urged CPs to continue to provide updates on outstanding Apparent Infringements, regardless of the elapsed time, until a final disposition is confirmed.



It was agreed:

To recommend the Compliance Review (STACTIC WP 14/17 Rev) to FC for adoption; and

The NS would assess the feasibility of conducting analysis to determine compliance with the following, and report back at the 2015 STACTIC Intersessional:

- **Observer coverage rates for CPs with vessels operating under Article 30B; and**
- **Inspection rates required pursuant to Article 43.10**

b) Consistent Approach to Address Serious Infringements Detected At-Sea and In Port

The Chair asked the US to present its proposal STACTIC WP 14/28 concerning Serious Infringements detected at-sea and in port. The US explained the working paper was developed to address editorial and procedural inconsistencies identified by the NAFO Secretariat (NS) during the 2013 compliance review discussions held at the 2014 NAFO Intersessional. The CPs discussed the elements of the paper and agreed to the merit of the proposal. The EU suggested that the Port State working group should reflect further on the structure, but supported the adoption of the paper in the interim.

It was agreed to recommend STACTIC WP 14/28 to FC for adoption.

6. Review and evaluation of Practices and Procedures

The Chair observed that this was a standing item intended to provide Contracting Parties with the opportunity to share domestic practices and procedures. The Chair noted the NS had catalogued in paper form the current submissions which were summarized in STACTIC WP 14/18. Canada supported the concept and noted it will provide the NS with a copy of the Canadian Observer Training Manual and material related to Canadian Fishery Officer training program.

The recent submissions, and existing inventory, were noted.

7. Review of current IUU list pursuant to NAFO CEM Article 54.3

The Chair reminded CPs of their responsibility, in accordance with Article 54.3, to review the IUU list and provide evidence related to any vessels that may meet the listing/de-listing criteria in order to facilitate the upkeep of the NAFO IUU list. The NS reported that there were no vessel additions, modifications or removals since the list was last reviewed at the 2014 STACTIC Intersessional, as summarized in STACTIC WP 14/19.

Iceland remarked that NEAFC (PECCOE) would be formally recommending the de-listing of the DOLPHIN, as it had received satisfactory information to establish that the vessel had been scrapped. The Chair noted that, subject to the formal receipt of notification from NEAFC, the issue would be considered at the 2015 STACTIC Intersessional.

8. Inspector's Website

The Chair asked the NS to present STACTIC WP 14/20 summarizing the testing of phase III that had occurred over the summer. The NS noted that only a small number of CP's had participated in the testing, but it had gone well and valuable input had been received.

Participating CPs noted some minor technical issues encountered during the testing process, such as missing fields, but were generally pleased with the system and encouraged greater participation from other CP's.

The EU introduced STACTIC WP 14/27 and explained the proposal was intended to formalize elements discussed at the 2014 STACTIC Intersessional by promoting timely risk assessments, expediting the exchange of control information and reducing administrative burden.

The NS noted the website was currently capable of accepting PSC 1, 2 and 3 forms. Canada suggested that CPs should upload more content to the website to facilitate testing and further discussion on enhancements could

be pursued once technical issues were resolved in the current phases. The US noted some potential limitations about requiring vessels to submit information via a website while at sea due to vessel capacity issues that would need to be considered. The US requested consideration of alternative submission procedures in the future.

The EU circulated a copy of the comments and suggested improvement to the current format of the website that it had provided to the NS and inquired how the NS was processing the technical input it had received, and whether the suggestions it had provided were technically feasible.

The NS expressed its appreciation to all CPs who had provided comments/feedback and noted it was still evaluating the comments, but would report back on its progress at the 2015 STACTIC Intersessional. The NS further noted that, although it was still conducting preliminary feasibility assessments, early indications were that most of the suggestions were feasible. The Chair noted that he was encouraged by the progress but urged CPs to participate more actively in the development of this useful tool. The Chair reiterated STACTIC's understanding that Phase IV of the Inspectors' website would not be initiated until the first 3 phases were up and running well.

It was agreed that:

The NS would continue the work to develop Phase III elements and integrate, where feasible, the comments provided by CPs;

That Phase IV would not be initiated until the first 3 phases were operational;

CPs would engage more actively in the use and testing of this tool with the view to advancing the concepts described in STACTIC WP 14/27.

9. Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) of the NAFO CEM

The Chair introduced the agenda item and asked the EDG to present STACTIC WP 14/6 REV and 14/7 REV. The EDG outlined the work undertaken to evaluate and reflect CP comments received prior to the 2014 NAFO Annual Meeting, and briefly described the changes made to the working papers. The EDG noted its intention to incorporate concerns expressed to the extent possible and the feedback received from CP's since the Intersessional and at this meeting.

STACTIC reviewed the editorial changes and discussed the merits of more substantive changes recommended by the EDG. Representatives discussed the various elements proposed by the EDG and modified the working paper based on discussions.

The Chair agreed to highlight substantive changes identified by the EDG that may require future redress, in presenting the editorial changes to the FC.

The EDG sought clarification regarding its continuing mandate to review newly adopted amendments to the NCEM, and to conclude activities identified at the 2014 STACTIC Intersessional (e.g. annex I.A footnote review). Representatives agreed that the EDG should conclude its remaining work and continue to review NCEM amendments to ensure they are consistent with the agreed formats.

It was agreed:

To recommend the EDG revisions to the NCEM as contained in STACTIC WP 14/6 Rev 2 and STACTIC WP 14/7 Rev 2 to FC for adoption; and

That the EDG would conclude its original mandate by revising footnotes to the NCEM and then continue to meet to review and implement new NAFO measures so that they conform with the format adopted by Fisheries Commission.

10. Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM

a) Directed fishery and bycatch rules in case of creation of a quota by transfer

EU summarized STACTIC WP 14/8 Rev, Quota obtained through transfer Article 5.9 (b) of the NCEM, indicating it had taken into account comments voiced during the 2014 STACTIC Intersessional, particularly in relation to control issues. A number of CPs identified significant concerns related to process, administration and terminology. As there was no consensus on the issue the EU withdrew the paper.

The working paper was withdrawn.

b) Observer Program - Article 30

i. Observer Program Review

Canada introduced STACTIC WP 14/33 with the view to addressing the numerous concerns that have been raised at STACTIC in recent years related to the observer scheme. The proposal suggested the establishment of a working group that would comprehensively review the various elements of the scheme and provide a broad range of recommendations on improvements to augment the program's overall effectiveness.

Representatives supported the proposal, noting the importance of the observer program to stock assessments, quota monitoring and vessel compliance.

It was agreed to recommend STACTIC WP 14/33 to FC to establish a Working Group on Observer Program Review.

ii. Observer Report-New Template for Annex II.M

The EU presented STACTIC WP 14/10 Rev concerning revising the standardized observer report template to bring it in line with more recent provisions of the NAFO CEM, noting the original proposal was revised to address comments received at the 2014 STACTIC Intersessional. Some CPs appreciated the effort, but voiced desire to await conclusion of 2014 fishing season to allow further time to assess the efficacy of the standardized template with the benefit of the experience garnered from a full season of practical implementation. It was further suggested that this assessment would be better done as part of the WG on observer program review proposed under agenda item 10 b) i).

STACTIC agreed not to address the standardized observer report template until after a full year worth of experience with the template and then to assess the template as part of the Observer Program Review Working Group. If established, the template would be submitted to the Working Group on Catch Reporting for consideration.

c) Length of a trial tow in accordance with bycatch provisions under Article 6.6 (b)(iii)

Canada summarized STACTIC WP 14/12 proposing shortening maximum length of trial tows from 3 hours to 1 hour and noted there had been no changes to the paper since the intersessional. Canada reiterated that a reduction in trial tow length would minimize the conservation impact while still allowing for an assessment of catch composition. The EU was not in favour, noting the catch composition results of a shorter trial tow were less conclusive and it could result in a greater degree of manipulation of catch of the tow. Russia alluded to the possibility of manipulation at any trial tow length, with variables such as speed and depth being undefined.

The Chair observed it may be prudent to revisit the trial tow provisions, given the potential for manipulation at any trial tow length. Canada withdrew the paper and noted it would reflect on how to address the concerns raised during the discussion.

Canada withdrew the working paper and agreed to reflect on comments with the view to developing a new proposal to address the concerns raised.

d) Provision of haul by haul logbook data to the Secretariat

Canada summarized the revisions contained in 14/13 Rev to the original document concerning reporting on a haul by haul basis which was introduced at the Intersessional, noting the incorporation of language intended to address comments made during the 2014 STACTIC Intersessional. Although there were some initial concerns voiced regarding standardization, process, utility of resulting data, logistics and security, CPs agreed it was an important step given the value of the information to the stock assessment and catch monitoring processes

and recommendations of the FC/SC Ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting. CPs further agreed that improvements would be required over time to address compatibility and other technical issues. DFG noted some concerns with its capacity to meet the deadlines defined in the proposal.

The EU made it clear they were ready and willing to transmit haul by haul data in electronic format, but advised the data transmission would have to be done by the flag state FMC in the format in use by the CP.

While Canada noted that formatting would likely pose some challenges at first, the proposal is flexible to all noted formats at this time.

The Chair noted that this proposal directly responded to the Working Group on Catch Reporting recommendations and that there was sufficient flexibility with the proposal to address some of the logistical concerns.

It was agreed to recommend STACTIC WP 14/13 rev 2 to FC for adoption.

e) Return error numbers (Annex II.D.D.2.B)

Russia presented STACTIC WP 14/5 concerning revisions to return error numbers which had been deferred from the intersessional meeting. Norway voiced support of the proposal, but noted that this change would impact CP systems and was not simply a change in the NCEM. Norway elaborated that a similar re-structure had already occurred in NEAFC, and systemic changes were required to accommodate the changes. CPs agreed that the outstanding technical issues (e.g. definition/duplicate issue) associated with this proposal should be referred to JAGDM for review, and the list of field codes clarified.

While some CPs expressed concern over the possible systemic implications, the Chair noted that the measure would not be in place until 2015, providing time for CPs to make the necessary systemic adjustments.

It was agreed:

To recommend STACTIC WP 14/5 to FC for adoption;

That the NS would conduct the necessary systemic assessments and liaise with the system service provider to facilitate implementation; and

The outstanding technical issues would be referred to JAGDM for consideration.

f) Use of “Others” quota under chartering arrangement

France-SPM elaborated on STACTIC WP 14/15 seeking clarification as to whether a vessel under a charter arrangement would be eligible to fish the “others” quota. France (in respect of SPM) then prepared a written proposal (STACTIC WP 14/36) that would add a provision to Article 26 that would allow a vessel of a flag state CP to have access to and fish the “others” quota of the chartering CP. Several CPs stated that the intent of the measures in Article 26 was not to allow for a flag state CP to fish for the “others” quota of a chartering CP, and, that should France-SPM wish to pursue this matter, it must be addressed in Fisheries Commission.

There was no consensus on the working paper and the paper was not adopted.

g) The use of the two-letter code “DS” (Directed Species) in the NAFO CEM

Norway presented STACTIC WP 14/23 concerning the need for a new code for authorized directed species. Norway explained that this change was necessary for compatibility with IT requirements and noting that it had been presented at JAGDM. Norway reviewed the recommendations made by JAGDM and synthesized the advice with the view to minimizing the systemic impact on the NS and CPs, while still addressing the primary coding concerns.

Representatives were generally supportive of the proposal, but some questions were raised. The EU collaborated with Norway to revise the proposal to address concerns and re-presented the proposal as STACTIC WP 14/23 Rev and STACTIC WP 14/23 Rev 2.

During the deliberations, it was agreed that area associated with the regulated stocks should be as described in

the heading of the annual quota table (NCEM Annex I.A and I.B). The unregulated species must be associated to an area using a code based on the existing sub-areas/divisions or use the word “ANY” as an area code.

It was agreed to recommend STACTIC WP 14/23 Rev 2 to FC for adoption.

h) Deletion of the bycatch limit liaised to quotas “others” (Article 6.2(c) and 6.3(d))

EU presented STACTIC WP 14/24 concerning the deletion of the bycatch limit liaised to “others” quotas. CPs expressed concern over the possibility that the measure may unintentionally increase actual bycatch levels and suggested that this proposal could be referred to the Working Group on bycatch for further consideration. As there was no consensus on the issue the EU withdrew the paper.

The working paper was withdrawn.

i) Clarity on calculation method to evaluate the bycatch limits in any one haul (Article 6.6)

EU presented STACTIC WP 14/25 to clarify calculation to evaluate bycatch in any one haul, explaining the proposal intended to adapt the NCEM’s provision to the current practice. Some CPs expressed reservations, particularly in relation to the different applicability to vessels of varying capacity. It was agreed that this proposal could be addressed under the working group on bycatch, discards and selectivity. As there was no consensus on the issue the EU withdrew the paper.

The working paper was withdrawn, with the understanding that this issue could be addressed by the WG on Bycatch, Discards and Selectivity.

j) Amendment to Closure of RED 3M “directed fishery”

EU presented STACTIC WP 14/26 concerning the closure of RED 3M directed fishery and explained the objective was administrative in nature and intended to avoid delays in the notification process. CPs all supported the proposal.

It was agreed to recommend STACTIC WP 14/26 to FC for adoption.

k) Article 14 of the NCEM’s

Canada introduced STACTIC WP 14/29 to delete NCEM Article 14.3, noting it is a provision that applies only to Canada, and that the provision was no longer necessary based on amendments to its domestic regulations. This proposal now would align Canadian regulations with the minimum fish size provisions within the NCEM.

It was agreed to recommend STACTIC WP 14/29 to FC for adoption.

l) Shrimp in Division 3L (Article 9)

Canada presented STACTIC WP 14/30 to correct an editorial correction to reflect the language contained within FC Doc. 11/23 concerning the 3L shrimp 200 meter depth restriction line. The proposal is intended to align Article 9 with the originally adopted text of FC Doc. 11/23. Representatives voiced concerns over the appropriateness of the change in the current context, noting the FC had adopted the existing text. Canada agreed to withdraw the proposal with the view to possibly resubmit the proposal at the 2015 STACTIC Intersessional.

The working paper was withdrawn with Canada noting that it may revisit this issue at the 2015 STACTIC Intersessional in a separate proposal.

m) Notification to Inspecting Contracting Party Regarding Additional Procedures for Serious Infringements

Canada presented STACTIC WP 14/34 which was then revised as STACTIC WP 14/34 Rev 2 to require the NS to provide an inspecting Contracting Party with notification without delay as to the justification given by the flag state of a vessel cited for a serious infringement for not requiring such vessel to return to port.

It was agreed to recommend STACTIC WP 14/34 Rev 2 to FC for adoption.

11. Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)

a) Presentation of Meeting Reports of JAGDM (March and June 2014)

The Chair invited the Interim Chair of JAGDM (Ellen Fasmer - Norway) to present the reports of the two 2014 meetings (FC Doc. 14/02 and FC Doc. 14/04). The Interim Chair highlighted key elements, provided a summary of the groups Terms of Reference and informed representatives of JAGDM's role.

Representatives acknowledged the benefits of the technical advisory group, particularly in terms of promoting regional/global standardization within fisheries management systems.

Canada sought clarification on how technical issues would be referred to JAGDM, whether through STACTIC or by directed participation in JAGDM. The Interim Chair advised that it would depend on the issue, but noted that all issues addressed at JAGDM would be reflected in its report to NAFO/NEAFC at their annual meetings and that the submission process was likely to be iterative.

The Chair thanked the Interim Chair of the JAGDM for the report.

b) Information Security Management System (ISMS)

After the Chair noted that JAGDM sent a letter to NAFO recommending that NAFO adopt an ISMS, the NS presented STACTIC WP 14/22 recommending the first steps for implementing an ISMS. The NS noted that the JAGDM was available to assist in determining guidelines for any NAFO ISMS. The Chair noted the cost implications of this proposal and the requirement to refer this issue to STACFAD, should STACTIC support the recommendation.

CPs supported the initiative and endorsed the (4) recommendations found in STACTIC WP 14/22.

It was agreed:

To support the (4) recommendations contained within STACTIC WP 14/22 and refer the issue to FC for adoption, noting that there may be budget considerations for following all of the recommendations; and

Include the NAFO ISMS as an agenda item for the 2015 STACTIC Intersessional.

c) Definitions and Clarification of Data Elements

Canada introduced STACTIC WP 14/31 which outlined some identified technical ambiguities in the measures and sought JAGDM guidance on interpretation and process.

The Interim Chair of JAGDM noted that, given the apparent confusion, JAGDM could reflect on the issue with the view to clarifying the definitions/process.

It was agreed to refer STACTIC WP 14/31 Rev to JAGDM to request guidance and clarity on the relevant data definitions and related technical concerns.

d) Data sharing between NAFO and NEAFC

Canada presented STACTIC WP 14/32 to request that data be shared between NAFO and NEAFC, noting that there is lack of information exchanged between the two organizations related to vessels fishing in both jurisdictions. CPs agreed with the need to enhance data sharing between both organizations, but noted some technical issues that would need to be addressed prior to implementation. It was agreed that JAGDM could provide STACTIC with recommendations on how best to implement this initiative. The NS agreed to provide JAGDM with relevant STACTIC WPs and other reference materials, related to this issue to help it address this issue.

It was agreed that:

STACTIC WP 14/32 revised would be submitted to JAGDM to request advice and recommendations to enhance data sharing between NAFO and NEAFC;

The NS would provide JAGDM with relevant NAFO reference material; and

JAGDM would be requested to provide STACTIC with an update on its deliberations in advance of the 2015 NAFO annual meeting.

e) JAGDM meeting schedule

The Interim Chair of JAGDM advised that JAGDM had planned to meet in June of 2015, although the group was open to different scheduling options should urgencies arise. Canada noted the numerous working groups going to be scheduled and suggested holding JAGDM meetings in conjunction with other NAFO meetings, such as the STACTIC Intersessional. CPs noted that a calendar exercise, similar to one undertaken in NEAFC should be conducted to determine the most appropriate timing.

The Chair recognized the growing commitment required to participate in the numerous NAFO working groups and suggested CPs reflect on other options to address the need to consolidate meetings and to consider such options at the 2015 STACTIC Intersessional.

It was agreed that Representatives would reflect on the possibility of consolidating working group meetings with the view to reducing the growing financial/resource impacts and discuss options at the next STACTIC Intersessional.

12. Other Matters

a) International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network presentation

In response to a request of the Executive Director of the IMCS Network (Harry Koster), the Chair invited Mr. Koster to provide an overview of the IMCS Network. The Executive Director provided a synopsis of the purpose and functions of the IMCS as outlined in the MS PowerPoint presentation attached hereto as Annex 3.

The CPs expressed their appreciation for the presentation and noted the importance of the work being done by the organization and the value of such a forum for the exchange of fisheries control information.

13. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

The Chair noted the end of his term and opened the floor to nominations. Canada inquired as to whether the Chair would be available to Chair for an additional year. The Chair confirmed that he was available to afford sufficient transition time for CPs to find an adequate replacement. CPs fully supported retaining the services of the Chair for an additional year to more smoothly transition to a new Chair.

Aronne Spezzani was nominated by the CPs and agreed to stay on for another term as Vice Chair.

It was agreed that:

Gene Martin (US) would extend his term as Chair for one additional year; and

Aronne Spezzani (EU) would start a new term as Vice Chair.

14. Time and Place of next meeting

The next STACTIC meeting will be held in Tallinn, Estonia, tentatively the week of May 4th, 2015.

STACTIC also considered the tentative time and place for the following working groups, if agreed to be established by the Fisheries Commission:

The ad hoc Working Group on Port State Control Alignment: prior to the STACTIC Intersessional meeting, May 2015.

EDG / Observer Program Review WG: In St. John's, Canada in June 2015.

15. Adoption of Report

The report was adopted by Contracting Parties on Thursday, September 25, 2014.

16. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m. on Thursday, September 25, 2014.

Annex 1. List of Participants

Name	Contracting Party
Judy Dwyer Robert Lambert Brent Napier Chad Ward	Canada
Meinhard Gaardlykke Petur Meinhard Jacobsen Martin Kruse Mads T. Nedergaard	Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
Genadijus Babcionis Carlos Chamizo Meit Grossmann Arunas Jonaitis Jon Lansley Epp Meremaa Giuliano Pagliarani Aronne Spezzani	European Union
Bruno Detcheverry Jean-Marc Philippeau	France (in respect of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon)
Bjorgolfur H. Ingason Anna Thormar	Iceland
Junichiro Okamoto Hyo Suzuki	Japan
Ellen E Fasmer Hanne Ostgard	Norway
Vadim Agalakov	Russian Federation
Scott Bode Doug Christel Gene Martin Dan Orchard Carlos Rafael	United States of America
Mark Harley Cindy Kerr Matt Kendall	NAFO Secretariat
Harry Koster	International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair, Gene Martin (USA)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Port State Measures Review
5. Compliance review 2014 including review of reports of Apparent Infringements
 - a. Compliance Review 2014
 - b. Consistent Approach to Address Serious Infringements Detected At-Sea and In Port
6. Review and evaluation of Practices and Procedures
7. Review of current IUU list pursuant to NAFO CEM Article 54.3
8. Inspectors Website
9. Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) of the NAFO CEM
10. Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM
 - a. Directed fishery and bycatch rules in case of creation of a Quota by transfer
 - b. Observer Program – Article 30
 - i. Observer Program Review
 - ii. Observer Report New Template for Annex II.M
 - c. Length of a trial tow in accordance with bycatch provisions under Article 6.6 (b) (iii)
 - d. Provision of haul by haul logbook data to the Secretariat
 - e. Return error numbers (Annex II.D.D.2.B)
 - f. Use of “Others” quota under chartering arrangement
 - g. The use of the two-letter code “DS” (Directed Species) in the NAFO CEM
 - h. Deletion of the bycatch limit liaised to quotas “others” (Article 6.2 (c) and 6.3(d))
 - i. Clarity on calculation method to evaluate the bycatch limits in any one haul (Article 6.6)
 - j. Amendment to closure of RED 3M “directed fishery”
 - k. Article 14 of the NCEM
 - l. Shrimp in Division 3L (Article 9)
 - m. Notification to inspecting Contracting Party regarding additional procedures for serious infringements
11. Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)
 - a. Presentation of Meeting Reports of the JAGDM (March and June 2014)
 - b. Information Security Management System (ISMS)
 - c. Definitions and Clarification of Data Elements
 - d. Data Sharing between NAFO and NEAFC
 - e. JAGDM meeting schedule
12. Other Matters
 - a. International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network presentation
13. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair
14. Time and Place of next meeting
15. Adoption of Report
16. Adjournment

Annex 3. Purpose and Functions of the IMCS Network



The International Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) Network

Harry KOSTER, Executive Director

36th Annual Meeting of NAFO
22-26 September 2014



History

- 2000 - Responsible Fisheries Declaration
- US, EU, Chile, Peru, Australia, Canada and others
- 2001 – IMCS Network Formed
- Global Reach
- Not Bound by Treaty
- Open Membership – For National Authorities and RFMO's

Initiatives

- Capacity building
 - Register of Vetted Experts
- Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop
- Working With INTERPOL
- Spreading Membership in Key Areas
- Stop IUU Fishing Award Contest

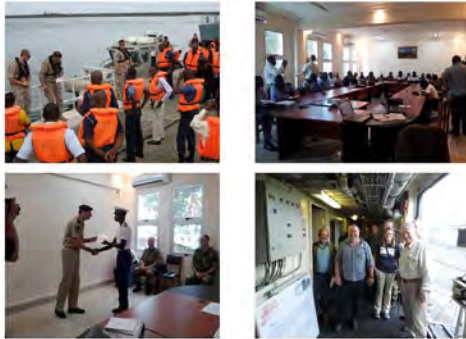
Role of the Network

- Exchange Information
- Raise Awareness
- Strengthen Capacity

Register of Vetted MCS Experts



Africa Winds



4th GFETW



Costa Rican President Laura Chinchilla and Minister Abraham signing ban on fish aggregating devices, February 17, 2014

Exchange of MCS Equipment



4th GFETW Session 10: Capacity Building in Practice

4th GFETW

Protecting Artisanal and Regional Fisheries through the Promotion of Legal, Reported and Regulated Fisheries



February 17-21, 2014
San Jose, Costa Rica

gfetw.org

Report of the

FOURTH GLOBAL FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT TRAINING WORKSHOP San José, Costa Rica, 17-21 February





SECTION III
(pages 205–211)

**Report of the
STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group
15–16 April 2015
Montreal, Québec, Canada**

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Report of the STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group
(FC Doc. 15/05)

15–16 April 2015
Montreal, Québec, Canada

1. Opening

The NAFO STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group convened on Wednesday, 15 April 2015 at the Novotel Hotel in Montreal, Canada. Present were Representatives of Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, and the United States (Annex 1). Members of the Working Group discussed the Terms of Reference for the group and determined that the group would most effectively function informally, in a similar manner to the current EDG Working Group, with an open invitation to all interested Parties to participate in any future meetings.

2. Election of Chair

Judy Dwyer (Canada) was elected as Chair.

3. Appointment of Rapporteur

Given the decision to have the working group operate informally, no Rapporteur was appointed.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Members of the Working Group determined that the official agenda (Annex 2) would not be followed in order to facilitate open discussion.

In accordance with NAFO/FC Doc. 14/23 the WG was tasked with:

- (1) Reviewing all aspects of the NAFO Observer Scheme (Chapter V), including objectives, roles, identification of the strengths and weaknesses, and compliance;
- (2) Proposing language to clarify the objective of the program
- (3) Identifying the Strengths and weaknesses of the existing program,
- (4) Proposing suggestions/options to enhance the observer scheme and maximize the benefit it provides to NAFO

Representatives noted the magnitude of the task the agenda was extremely ambitious, and determined it was unlikely that all objectives could be realized in one meeting; however agreed to proceed and make whatever progress was possible.

5. Review and Discussion of NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEM) provisions (Chapter V and Annex II.M) relating to the Observer Scheme, including objectives, roles, identification of the strengths and weaknesses, and compliance

The WG determined that a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Threats and Opportunities) analysis was the best option to undertake a review of the provisions of the Observer Scheme and began the process. Due to time constraints, the task could not be completed at this meeting but the results of the deliberations will be presented to the STACTIC Intersessional meeting, 6-8 May 2015.

There was unanimous support among the Representatives for the existence of an observer program in the NAFO Regulatory Area, as the value of independent observation of activities in the area was acknowledged as a benefit to NAFO. However, there were diverging views on the objectives of a NAFO observer program, with some Parties supporting a program that would collect monitoring and scientific data for the use of any NAFO body requesting it and other views that the dual role might be irreconcilable.

There was consensus that the NAFO Observer Scheme, as described in Chapter 5, could describe an effective program, however, in practice, the current program is not delivering the results to NAFO that could be realized if it reflected the spirit and intent of language in Chapter 5.

There were a number of areas in which consensus could not be achieved to describe the optimal observer program for the NRA. The primary issue centered on the objective of the program and the role of the observers, with diverging views on the dual (scientific/enforcement) role of observers as well as the value of observer data to the scientific community in NAFO.

Representatives identified the need to ensure that any definitions developed to define the role of observers should be vetted by the existing Fisheries Commission/ Scientific Council Working Groups to ensure that we do not compromise any of the work they have in development.

There was consensus as well that it would be impractical for NAFO to undertake the management of a central program, but would be better positioned to take a central coordinating role for the program and that the WG should explore options for program delivery by Contracting Parties but with standardized training and certification elements.

The Representatives discussed fundamental components and the numerous direct and indirect, issues impacting the scheme. Deliberations centred on major themes and issues, in particular:

- Confidentiality of data
- Science vs. Compliance roles
- Standardization of scheme elements (e.g. training, application)
- Risk-based/ case-by-case deployment of observers
- Coverage rates
- Serious citations (when no observer onboard)
- Cost-effectiveness of the program
- Industry support and incentives/motivation
- Need for increased accountability
- Strengths and weaknesses of existing scheme
- Compliance report monitoring of program obligations
- Rationale/ utility of Article 30 B

6. Development of draft update of NAFO Observer Scheme with a view to maximize the benefit it provides to NAFO

Representatives agreed that further work and analysis was required on this issue prior to the development of recommendations for an updated NAFO Observer Scheme. To this end, the WG agreed:

- Further work was required on the SWOT analysis to allow for a better diagnosis of the current NAFO Observer Scheme;
- A schedule of action items and meeting and/or Conference call dates should be developed to facilitate the planning and development of a draft update of NAFO Observer Scheme.

7. Recommendations to forward to STACTIC

The Observer Program Review Working Group **recommended** the following to STACTIC:

- 1. That STACTIC confirm that the existing NAFO Observer Scheme should remain in place;**
- 2. Contracting Parties should remain vigilant in their respective application of the program and ensure that they adhere to the requirements of the existing Scheme;**
- 3. That the Working Group continue its deliberations to conclude the analysis of the existing program and develop options to enhance the program. Draft SWOT analysis will be completed through email/conference call and distributed to STACTIC Representatives by 17 July 2015.**

4. **That the STACTIC Compliance Review should more thoroughly evaluate Contracting Party compliance with the provision of Chapter V of the NCEM's, in particular the electronic reporting derogation provided for under section B; and**
5. **That any new definitions referring to the role of observers should be vetted through the FC SC Working Groups to ensure compatibility with the work being conducted by those NAFO bodies.**

8. Other Matters

There was nothing discussed under this agenda item.

9. Adoption of the Report

The report was adopted via correspondence following the meeting.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned on 16 April 2015.

Annex 1. List of Participants

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Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening
2. Election of Chair
3. Appointment of Rapporteur
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Review and Discussion of NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEM) provisions (Chapter V and Annex II.M) relating to the Observer Scheme, including objectives, roles, identification of the strengths and weaknesses, and compliance
6. Development of draft update of NAFO Observer Scheme with a view to maximize the benefit it provides to NAFO
7. Recommendations to forward to STACTIC
8. Other matters
9. Adoption of the report
10. Adjournment

SECTION IV
(pages 213–223)

**Report of the Joint Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council
Ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting
20–21 April 2015
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada**

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Report of the Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council
Ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting
(FC/SC Doc. 15/01)

20–21 April 2015
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada

1. Opening

The Working Group co-Chairs Sylvie Lapointe (Fisheries Commission Chair) and Don Stansbury (Scientific Council Chair) opened the meeting at 1000 hrs on Monday, 20 April 2015 at the NAFO Headquarters in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Representatives from Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, Norway, the Russian Federation and USA were in attendance (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Neil Campbell and Ricardo Federizon of the NAFO Secretariat were appointed co-Rapporteurs.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda as previously circulated was adopted (Annex 2).

4. Review of Status of the WG Recommendations from the February 2014 Meeting

The recommendations, documented in FC-SC Doc. 14/01, were adopted by the Scientific Council (SC) during the Scientific Council Meeting held June 2014 in Halifax, Nova Scotia and the Fisheries Commission (FC) during the 36th NAFO Annual Meeting held September 2014 in Vigo, Spain. A broad recommendation is the establishment of a process for catch estimation using a suite of available data housed at the NAFO Secretariat and any other available data.

In addressing this recommendation, a framework for the validation of the NAFO catch data and generation of catch estimates was discussed (see agenda item 5).

5. Development of a framework for the validation of NAFO catch data and generation of catch estimates

A review of the available NAFO fisheries catch databases housed at the Secretariat was conducted. The catch databases (metadata) in their current form and contents, as well as other sources such as dockside monitoring, were evaluated in terms of their potential usefulness and limitations in catch estimation and validation. The tabulated evaluation would be considered a “living document” as it would be used as a guide and would be regularly reviewed and updated during the exercise of catch estimation and validation (see Appendix of Annex 3).

It was noted that among the NAFO data sources, the VMS and CAT database and the haul-by-haul logbook data information are considered the primary source for catch validation information, the latter also for effort validation information.

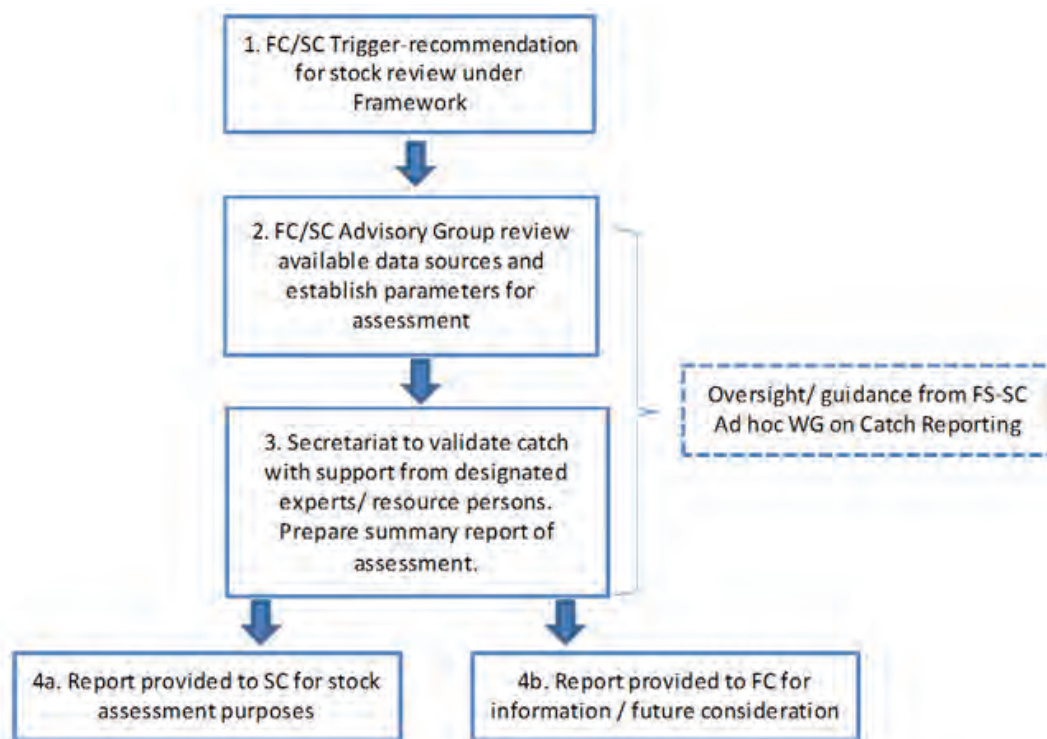
Regarding the VMS and CAT data, the Secretariat reported and the WG noted that this data source can be considered reliable due to the vessels’ high level of compliance to the reporting requirement and to the quality of the reports received.

With regards to the haul-by-haul logbook information, the Secretariat reported that provision of the information to the Secretariat is a new requirement for fishing vessels in 2015. Compliance issues concerning timely submissions and compatibility of the report format with NAFO IT system were observed. The WG emphasized the importance of the format compatibility of the haul by haul reports and considered this as an urgent issue that needs to be resolved as soon as possible. The Secretariat informed the WG that it is working towards an IT solution with the aim of being able to read all report formats. Work should be completed by summer 2015.

Central to the development of the framework is the creation of Catch Data Advisory Group. The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the group is presented in Annex 3. The ToR specifies the composition of the group which comprises technical experts who are knowledgeable in the data sources and/or operational practices of the

NAFO fisheries, including STACTIC experts. Three stocks 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut, 3M cod, and 3LMNO American plaice were initially considered as the priority stocks, noting the scheduled full assessment and development of the Management Strategy Evaluation for these stocks.

In the formulation of the ToR of the advisory group, the WG considered: data confidentiality, transparency, participation including roles and responsibilities of NAFO bodies, governance including reporting mechanism, and data requirements. The operation of the Catch Data Advisory Group is described in the flow chart below. The Catch Reporting WG would function as an overseer of the Catch Data Advisory Group, while trying to minimize overlaps and the proliferation of intersessional work for Contracting Parties.



6. Recommendations to forward to the Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council

It is recommended:

- 1) that the Ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting continues, with the same goals and objectives for at least another year;
- 2) that SC and FC give consideration to the establishment of the Catch Data Advisory Group and adopt its Terms of Reference (Annex 3); and
- 3) that SC and FC or an appropriate subsidiary body review the utility of data collection more generally, noting that some newer data sets provide more reliable and/ or timely information, making others redundant.

7. Other matters

There was no other matter discussed.

8. Adoption of the Report

This report was adopted through correspondence after the meeting.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1200 hrs on Tuesday, 21 April 2015. The Chairs thanked the Secretariat for the support and the meeting participants for their cooperation and input. The participants likewise expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Chairs for their leadership.

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Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of Status of the WG Recommendations from the February 2014 Meeting
5. Development of a framework for the validation of NAFO catch data and generation of catch estimates
6. Recommendations to forward to the Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council
7. Other matters
8. Adoption of the report
9. Adjournment

Annex 3. Proposed Terms of Reference of the Catch Data Advisory Group (FC-SC CR-WP15-04)

Mindful that the availability of accurate catch data is critical for scientific assessment and the sustainable management of NAFO stocks;

Concerned that the reliability of catch data continues to be one of the most significant issues facing NAFO;

Recognizing the importance of communication between the Fisheries Commission and the Scientific Council and recent efforts to enhance this dialogue and information exchange through the establishment of joint working groups;

Recalling that the Peer-Review Expert Panel highlighted the need for a more coordinated analysis of data (GC Doc 13/4);

Noting the positive steps taken by NAFO to improve data accuracy and data-sharing including sharing daily catch reports with the Scientific Council, as well as the establishment of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Catch Reporting

Further noting the positive steps taken by the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Catch Reporting during its initial meeting in February 2014, in particular, its review and evaluation of NAFO data sources which may be of utility for the validation of catch data;

Following on the instructions of the Fisheries Commission to the *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Catch Reporting to develop a framework for the validation of NAFO catch data and generation of catch estimates (FC Doc 14/30)

Convinced of the need for a collaborative approach (Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council) to validate STATLANT data and where necessary, generate catch estimates for use in assessments and overall management of NAFO stocks;

It is **recommended** that:

1. A Catch Data Advisory Group is established subject to the following Terms of Reference:

Objectives:

1. to identify and provide guidance to the NAFO Secretariat on specific data inputs, gaps and parameters, in particular ensuring the representativeness of data for validating catch and/or developing catch estimates;
2. to provide oversight and endorsement of catch estimate methodology prepared by NAFO Secretariat;

Structure:

The Group shall be comprised of technical experts from Contracting Parties, with knowledge of data sources and reliability thereof and/or operational practices within the fishery, and the NAFO Secretariat.

Specific Duties:

In responding to requests from the Fisheries Commission or Scientific Council to undertake an assessment of catch for an individual stock(s), with initial priority given to SA2 + Div. 3KLMNO Greenland halibut, Div. 3LNO American plaice and Div. 3M cod, the Advisory Group shall:

- review available data sources with reference to Appendix 1 and establish parameters for catch data review; propose a methodology to be used by the Secretariat;
- report to the Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council

The NAFO Secretariat shall:

- review the information and derive an estimate (possibly with support from designated experts or agreed upon resource persons), ensuring confidentiality of data;
- provide estimates to the Scientific Council for stock assessment purposes

Meetings:

Meetings of the Catch Data Advisory Group may be held at the request of the Fisheries Commission or the Scientific Council, in consultation with Contracting Parties and the NAFO Secretariat. Timing should be decided on a case by case basis, recognizing the need to conduct catch validation in a time frame that will enable its use for stock assessments;

The Advisory Group shall communicate regularly through teleconferences and electronically (WebEx) as required.

Reporting

A summary report, highlighting data sources, parameters of analysis, and subsequent results shall be produced for broad dissemination. Such reports will be limited to aggregate and/or anonymized data/conclusions.

Detailed analytical data and assessments will remain with the NAFO Secretariat for internal use of the Advisory Group to ensure confidentiality.

Appendix to the Proposed Terms of Reference of the Catch Data Advisory Group: Data Sources Useful for Catch Validation

DATABASE	USEFUL FOR CATCH ESTIMATES?	LIMITATIONS TO USEFULNESS
Monthly Provisional Nominal Catches (MPNC) (NCEM Articles 28.8.a and 28.9.d)	Useful as a secondary tool to supplement CAT reports for straddling stocks. In cases where CAT reports are not available (e.g. in respect of Coastal States fishing within EEZ).	Data is provided monthly rather than in real-time. Potential for human error due to more people involved in manipulating data. Aggregated at CP level rather than flag state. Available by stock/management unit rather than by division. Post-hoc revision of STATLANT data not reflected by this source may complicate its use.
At-Sea Inspection Reports (NCEM Article 36)	Useful as a secondary tool in cases where there may be a problem with particular figures	
Port Inspection Reports (PSC-3) (NCEM Articles 43-46)	Useful as a verification tool to compare reported and observed landings.	Does not include discards and may not include all landings (other than for GHL). Again, data is not reported at a stock/management unit level, only by species and "area of capture" (FAO 21, 3LMNO, etc.).
Observer Reports (Article 30A)	Haul by haul observer data is potentially a very good tool for catch validation,	To date submission of data at the resolution proscribed in the NCEM is not 100%.
VMS and CAT reports (NCEM 28.6.c, 28.8.b, 29.9.e and 29.9.f)	A primary source of catch validation information.	VMS is a proxy for effort and not necessarily reflective of fishing activity, given weather, searching behaviour, etc.
Haul by Haul Logbook Data	The primary source of catch and effort information.	Data is only available from 2015. Work is required to achieve consistency in reporting formats across CPs. Trip duration and the 60-day reporting requirement creates a time lag in data availability.
STATLANT 21	The official NAFO landings database – the baseline statistics which are being validated.	Issues remain around completeness and timeliness of reporting. STATLANT does not include discards.
Other sources of data (e.g. Scientific Observer data, dockside monitoring program, etc.)	Haul by haul observer data is potentially a very good tool for catch validation. Dockside monitoring data is a primary source of catch validation information.	Only covers a limited number of fleets. Data is available from coastal states only. A good source in conjunction with VMS.

SECTION V
(Pages 225-235)

**Report of the NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group
on Risk-Based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS)**

**22-24 April 2015
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada**

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Report of the NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS)

(FC/SC Doc. 15/02)

**22–24 April 2015
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada**

1. Opening

The Working Group co-Chairs Carsten Hvingel (Norway) and Kevin Anderson (Canada) opened the meeting at 1000 hrs on Wednesday, 22 April 2015 at the Prince George Hotel in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Representatives from Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, Norway, the Russian Federation and USA were in attendance (Annex 1). The Scientific Council was represented by its Chair, Don Stansbury (Canada). The Chairs welcomed participants and presented a short summary of the tasks to be addressed during this meeting.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council Coordinators, Ricardo Federizon and Neil Campbell were appointed as co-Rapporteurs.

3. Adoption of Agenda

It was noted that the report of the 2014 WG-RBMS meeting stated that the group deferred giving further consideration to the development of a management strategy for the Div. 3LNO Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) stock until after the 2014 stock assessment was available, and requested this item be retained on the agenda for a future meeting. Consequently, this item was added to the provisional agenda, and the agenda (Annex 2) was adopted.

4. Review of Status of the WG Recommendations from the February 2014 Meeting

The recommendations contained in FC-SC Doc. 14/02 were presented at the joint sessions of Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council during the 2014 Annual Meeting, and were adopted by FC and SC. The Chair of Scientific Council presented the Scientific Council responses as related to the recommendations of this group.

It was noted that Scientific Council had extensive discussions on the recommendations of the working group, and agreed a list of points which were thought to be helpful to its work. The list is presented in Annex 3. It concerns reference points, limits and targets in the Precautionary Approach framework.

Discussion on the implications of this advice for NAFOs Precautionary Approach framework was deferred to agenda item 5.

The Scientific Council Chair then presented progress on the definition of precautionary reference points for stocks assessed by Scientific Council. To date, B_{lim} has been defined for 12 stocks, B_{msy} for 8 and F_{lim} for 9. Definitions of reference points for Div. 3LNO thorny skate, Div. 3NO white hake and Div. 2J + 3KL Witch flounder are expected in June (Annex 4).

The Chairs thanked Scientific Council for their work so far.

5. Discussions on the revision of the NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework

The Chairs presented a summary of the current implementation of the PA framework. It was noted that in some cases the guidelines for management and for making scientific advice, as spelled out in the NAFO PA framework, are ambiguous or do not match NAFO practice.

Discussion followed on whether it was desirable and/or feasible to align the PA framework and its implementation more closely; for this, it was suggested that convergence may have to happen from both sides: from the PA framework and from its implementation side. It was however recognized that the complexity of the technical aspects involved would be better handled by a smaller technical group (agenda item 9) and that FC should identify the scope for this work.

In the discussion of the Scientific Council response to WG-RBMS regarding reference points (agenda item 4) it was noted that the amended NAFO Convention (GC Doc. 08/03) in fact does not explicitly state that F_{msy} should be the limit reference point. In Article 3 subparagraph b it is stated that NAFO shall “adopt measures based on the best scientific advice available to ensure that fishery resources are maintained at or restored to levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield”. In Article 3 subparagraph c it is stated that NAFO shall “apply the precautionary approach in accordance with Article 6 of the 1995 Agreement”. The 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement is not precise when it comes to the technical discussion of reference points and therefore open to interpretation. Some international organizations (e.g. ICES) have not defined F_{msy} as a limit and still consider themselves well aligned with the principles of the precautionary approach. The Working Group considers the NAFO Convention sufficiently general not to complicate possible revisions to the NAFO PA framework as long as the 1995 Agreement is honored.

The Chairs thanked Scientific Council for their work in responding to the recommendations of the working group.

6. Discussions on the development of Div. 3NO witch flounder RBMS

At the 2014 Annual Meeting, the Fisheries Commission instructed the Working Group to undertake, at its meeting in 2015, the development of a risk-based management strategy for this stock (see FC Doc. 14/11 and FC Doc. 14/35). Further development of the assessment model for this stock is ongoing and will be presented to the Scientific Council in June. The Chairs thanked Scientific Council for their work on this topic. It was noted that the development of a management plan for this stock remains a priority and it is expected that more progress toward a management strategy for this stock would be possible after the June Scientific Council meeting.

7. Discussions on the finalization of Div. 3M cod RBMS

According to the workplan for the development of a harvest control rule (HCR) for Div. 3M cod, this Working Group was requested to offer feedback on the results of the work to date, before the 2015 June Scientific Council meeting (SCS Doc. 14/17 Revised, page 28).

The Div. 3M cod management strategy evaluation (MSE) is described in another document (SCR Doc. 14/44) based on the proposals of the Fisheries Commission and this Working Group reached in February 2014 (FC-SC Doc. 14/02).

The management objectives set out for this harvest control rule are:

1. **Very low risk of breaching B_{lim} .** The probability of a spawning stock biomass under B_{lim} at 10% or lower.
2. **Low risk of overfishing.** For the model-free HCR only: The probability of F exceeding F_{msy} during the evaluation period should be kept at 30% or lower.
3. **Low risk of steep decline.** The probability of the decline of 25% or more of spawning stock biomass from year 0 to year 5 is kept at 10% or lower.
4. **Maximum averages catch over the period.** The average TAC over the period should be maximized.
5. **Limited annual catch variation.**

The general aim of the Div. 3M cod MSE is to maintain the SSB in the safe zone as defined by the NAFO precautionary approach framework and to assure the optimum utilization, rational management and conservation of the Div. 3M cod stock. On this basis, the five performance objectives were tested via five different Performance Statistics. Six different operating models (OM) and two HCRs with three different F_{target} values were tested. A 20% constraint of annual variation of TAC was set. Based on this, a total of 24 scenarios were tested and results projected for the period 2014-2033.

Differences in the results come mainly from the assumed spawning stock recruitment relationship (SSR) and in a much lesser extent of assumed M (natural mortality) and the different F_{target} levels tested. The SSB have an increasing trend in all cases reaching a level well above B_{lim} at the end of the projected period (2033).

There are two main trends in yields, one for the scenarios with the model-based HCR and another for the scenarios with the model-free HCR. In the first case, landings decrease to 6 500 t in 2020, and after that increase until 2033 reaching values between 20 500 and 38 500 t, depending on the Stock Recruit Relationship (SRR)

assumed. In the case of the model-free HCR, catches decrease until 2020 and then remain between 6 000 and 9 000 t.

None of the tested HCR achieved all established performance objectives in the 2015-2023 period. Most performance targets were reached in the period 2024-2033.

The Working Group concluded that based on the analyses it could not recommend any of the HCRs tested for cod in Div. 3M. The failure to meet some of the management objectives in the 2015-2023 period is caused primarily by the high initial F and catch levels, in conjunction with the 20% stability constraint of maximum year-to-year changes in TACs. The Working Group noted in particular that it would not be possible to achieve simultaneously the stability requirement and the adopted level of risks (very low risk of breaching B_{lim} , low risk of steep decline). The Working Group also agreed that the level of risks adopted in the study arose from the PA framework and were open to interpretation. It was noted that the element of risk interpretation, along with the starting point and the stability constraint could be examined further in the future work.

In addition some technical questions were brought to the table which the Working Group after some discussions proposed to defer to Scientific Council (agenda item 9).

Recognizing the scale of the work proposed here, and to ensure that the results of these analyses and alternative scenarios are examined, the Working Group requested that the Div. 3M cod RBMS be retained on the agenda for future meetings.

8. Development of a management strategy for Div. 3LNO Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*)

At the 2014 WG-RBMS meeting, the group deferred giving further consideration to the development of a management strategy for the Div. 3LNO Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) stock until after the 2014 stock assessment was available, and requested this item be retained on the agenda for a future meeting. This assessment concluded that the stock was below B_{lim} , recruitment had been poor and recommended there be no directed fishery. The group recommended that the status of the stock continue to be monitored prior to further consideration of the development of a management strategy.

9. Recommendations to forward to the Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council

The Working Group **recommends** that:

- 1. Scientific Council convenes a technical working group which could explore the revision of the precautionary approach.**
- 2. Fisheries Commission identifies scope and priorities for such a review.**
- 3. Scientific Council gives a high priority to development of reference points for all stocks which lack them.**
- 4. Scientific Council performs a review of the Div. 3M cod MSE.**
- 5. Scientific Council discusses the following HCR options for Div. 3M cod:**
 - a. Starting points**
 - i. $F_{status\ quo}$**
 - ii. 40% reduction**
 - b. An HCR which meets management objectives 1 (very low risk of breaching B_{lim}) and 2 (low risk of overfishing) within five years, and within ten years, with:**
 - i. risk calculated for each year in the time series**
 - ii. risk calculated for the end of the periods (final year)**
 - iii. risk averaged over the periods**

The recommendations will be presented to Scientific Council and Fisheries Commission at the 2015 June Scientific Council and Annual Meeting for consideration and adoption.

10. Other matters

There were no other matters.

11. Adoption of the report

Having edited the recommendations in a plenary session, it was agreed that at the close of the meeting the substance of the last version of the report available in the SharePoint website would be considered final, that the report would be formatted thereafter by the rapporteurs, and that this would be circulated to participants for adoption via correspondence

12. Adjournment

The closing session of the meeting was called to order at 1400 hrs on 23 April 2015. The Chairs thanked participants for their positive approach to dialogue, the Secretariat for their support and the Rapporteurs for fulfilling their duties. The Chairs wished participants a safe journey home and the meeting was adjourned at 1435 hrs.

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Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Review of Status of the WG Recommendations from the February 2014 Meeting
5. Discussions on the revision of the NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework
6. Discussions on the development of Div. 3NO witch flounder RBMS
7. Discussions on the finalization of Div. 3M cod RBMS
8. Development of a management strategy for Div. 3LNO Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*)
9. Recommendations to forward to the Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council
10. Other matters
11. Adoption of the report
12. Adjournment

Annex 3. SC Response to Recommendation 1 in FC-SC Doc. 14/02

(Extract from the SC September 2014 Meeting Report, page 15 SCS Doc. 14/20)

4. WG-RBMS Requests and the PA Framework

Scientific Council had extensive discussions and these are the points which were agreed and thought to be helpful to the work of the Working Group.

“Discuss the relevance and implications of having F_{lim} at F_{msy} ”:

1. $F_{lim} = F_{msy}$ is a requirement under the NAFO Convention (GC Doc. 08/3).
2. MSY can only be obtained if uncertainty in the assessments is negligible, i.e. this implies that in general fishing is carried out at a level below MSY.
3. $F_{lim} = F_{msy}$ means that a potential F_{target} should be lower than F_{msy} ; as the uncertainty in estimation of F_{msy} grows, F_{target} must be further reduced from F_{msy} .
4. By analogy (and since F_{msy} and B_{msy} are linked in equilibrium in such a way that, if F_{msy} cannot be a target, neither can B_{msy}), B_{target} should be higher than B_{msy} . As the uncertainty in estimation of B_{msy} grows, B_{target} must be further above B_{msy} .
5. Inconsistent with current management plans that specifies B_{msy} as a target.
6. Inconsistent for some stocks where NAFO TACs imply F greater than F_{lim} .
7. F_{lim} at F_{msy} is a more conservative approach than F_{msy} as a target.

“Discuss the relevance and implications of having F_{msy} as a target”:

1. Not in agreement with the the NAFO Convention (GC Doc. 08/3).
2. Consistent with current management plans that specifies B_{msy} as a target.
3. Consistent with advice for some stocks (e.g. Div. 3M cod) that use F_{msy} proxies as targets.
4. F_{msy} as a target is a less conservative approach than F_{lim} at F_{msy} .

“Consider the utility of buffers (particularly B_{buf}) in the framework and in management plans and provide advice on whether the use of buffers is considered appropriate for stocks which have B_{lim} ”:

1. When uncertainty can be estimated B_{buf} is not needed.
2. When uncertainty cannot be quantified, the buffer can be a useful qualitative measure of uncertainty with respect to limit reference points, and may be useful to delineate stock status zones.

Scientific Council further discussed:

1. Economic optimum B is slightly larger than B_{msy} .
2. In multispecies scenarios MSY is often lower than that calculated in single species analysis.

Annex 4. Progress towards development of precautionary reference points.

Status of reference points and timelines for ongoing work is as follows:

Stock	B_{lim}	F_{lim}	B_{msy}	Comments
1. <i>GHL 0+1</i>	Available	No deadline set	Available	
2. <i>GHL 1A</i>	No deadline set	No deadline set	No deadline set	
3. <i>RNG 0+1</i>	No deadline set	No deadline set	No deadline set	
4. <i>Redfish SA1</i>	No deadline set	No deadline set	No deadline set	
5a. <i>CAT SA1</i>	No deadline set	No deadline set	No deadline set	
5b. <i>PLA SA1</i>	No deadline set	No deadline set	No deadline set	
6. <i>COD 3M</i>	Available	Available	No deadline set	
7. <i>RED 3M</i>	No deadline set	No deadline set	No deadline set	Age base assessment
8. <i>PLA 3M</i>	No deadline set	No deadline set	No deadline set	Not a quantitative assessment
9. <i>COD 3NO</i>	Available	Available	Available	
10. <i>RED 3LN</i>	Available	Available	Available	MSY constrained at 21 000 t
11. <i>PLA 3LNO</i>	Available	Available	Available	
12. <i>YEL 3LNO</i>	Available	Available	Available	
13. <i>WIT 3NO</i>	Available	Available	Available	Developed in 2014 based on survey
14. <i>CAP 3NO</i>	No deadline set	No deadline set	No deadline set	
15. <i>RED 3O</i>	No deadline set	No deadline set	No deadline set	
16. <i>SKA 3LNO</i>	In progress/deadline June 2015	No deadline set	No deadline set	Proxy derived from survey indices
17. <i>HKW 3NO</i>	In progress/deadline June 2015	No deadline set	No deadline set	Proxy derived from survey indices
18. <i>RHG SA2+3</i>	No deadline set	No deadline set	No deadline set	Not a quantitative assessment, Short time series to derive RP
19. <i>WIT 2J+3KL</i>	Available	In progress/deadline June 2015	No deadline set	Proxy derived from survey indices
20. <i>GHL 2+3</i>	No deadline set	No deadline set	No deadline set	YPR ref points available, no assessment at the moment
21. <i>SQI SA 3+4</i>	No deadline set	No deadline set	No deadline set	B_{msy} not appropriate given life history. Reference points based on productivity level.
22. <i>Shrimp 3M</i>	Available	No deadline set	No deadline set	
23. <i>Shrimp 3LNO</i>	Available	No deadline set	No deadline set	
24. <i>Shrimp 0+1</i>	Available	Available	No deadline set	
25. <i>Shrimp EG</i>	No deadline set	No deadline set	No deadline set	
26. <i>Shrimp BS</i>	Available	Available	Available	
27. <i>Shrimp NS</i>	Available	Available	Available	

Available	Available
'date'	In progress/deadline
No deadline set	No deadline set
Not relevant	Not relevant

SECTION VI
(pages 237–269)

**Report of the
STACTIC Ad hoc Working Group on Port State Control Alignment
4–5 May 2015
Tallinn, Estonia**

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Report of the STACTIC Ad hoc Working Group on Port State Control Alignment

(FC Doc. 15/04)

**4–5 May 2015
Tallinn, Estonia**

1. Opening

The Chair of STACTIC, Gene Martin (USA), opened the meeting at 1006 hrs on Monday, 4 May 2015 at the Park Inn by Radisson in Tallinn, Estonia. The Chair of STACTIC welcomed representatives from the following Contracting Parties (CPs): Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, Iceland, Japan, Norway, Russian Federation, and the United States of America (Annex 1).

2. Election of Chair

The Chair of STACTIC agreed to Chair the Working Group with no objections.

3. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat was appointed as Rapporteur.

4. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted with no amendments (Annex 2). The Chair reminded the Contracting Parties of FC Doc. 14/24, which contains the Terms of Reference for the Working Group.

5. Comparison of the NAFO Port State Control provisions against those of the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

Under this agenda item the Chair noted STACTIC PSCA-WP 15/01, which was completed by a NAFO intern in 2011 comparing the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEM) to the FAO Port State Measures (PSM). The Chair noted that this document could be used as a reference document through the meeting. There were no other comments on this WP.

6. Review of the amendments made to the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement (NEAFC Document Rec 09 2014: Alignment of NEAFC Scheme with FAO Port State Measures Agreement)

Iceland explained that the FAO Port State Measures have been integrated into the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement, and the changes will enter into force as of 01 July 2015. The representative explained the process that NEAFC went through and noted that Norway made a large contribution to it.

7. Consideration of amendments to the existing NAFO Port State Control Scheme necessary to align with the FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing

Norway had provided STACTIC PSCA-WP 15/02 prior to the Working Group meeting, which showed the potential changes to the NCEM to facilitate discussion at the meeting. It was decided that the best way to move forward was to review STACTIC PSCA-WP 15/02 line by line and make any necessary edits or changes to the text. The wording was thoroughly reviewed by the group, and best efforts were made to reach consensus on all wording changes.

The group discussed expanding the scope of the port state measures from the Regulatory Area to the Convention Area. However it was agreed not to amend the scope.

Japan made a reservation for their further consideration on the following:

Article 43.1, Article 43.10, Article 43.13.f, Article 43.16, Article 54.1.b, and Annex IV.H.

In addition, Japan also made a reservation on prohibition of “*use of port*” and “*making other port services*” in the entire draft document.

The discussions concluded with a version of the changed text (STACTIC PSCA-WP 15/03) agreed upon by the Working Group, noting the reservations made by Japan, to forward to STACTIC for further consideration (Annex 3).

8. Recommendations to forward to STACTIC

The ad hoc Working Group agreed on the following **recommendations** to forward to STACTIC:

- 1. The EDG to check for consistency through the NCEM on the following terms:**
 - **Entitled to fly its flag**
 - **Entry into port**
 - **Fishing activities**
 - **Fishing vessels**
 - **Master or Agent**
 - **Landing, transshipment, or use of ports**
- 2. STACTIC to accept the draft agreement developed by the working group with reservations noted for purposes of receiving further comment from Contracting Parties by DATE*. (See Annex 3).**
- 3. JAGDM seek to establish electronic communications in the interest of alignment with the PSM and the CEMs of NEAFC and NAFO.**

* 01 July 2015 was decided as the date by STACTIC at the May 2015 Intersessional.

9. Other Matters

There were no discussions under this agenda item.

10. Adoption of Report

A draft of the report will be circulated at a later date for adoption by the participants.

11. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1752 hrs on 05 May 2015. The Chair thanked Norway for its development of the STACTIC PSCA-WP 15/02 and meeting participants for their cooperation and input. The participants likewise expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Chair for accepting the post.

Annex 1. List of Participants

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Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening
2. Election of Chair
3. Appointment of Rapporteur
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Comparison of the NAFO Port State Control provisions against those of the *FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing*
6. Review of the amendments made to the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement (NEAFC Document Rec 09 2014: Alignment of NEAFC Scheme with FAO Port State Measures Agreement)
7. Consideration of amendments to the existing NAFO Port State Control Scheme necessary to align with the *FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing*
8. Recommendations to forward to STACTIC
9. Other matters
10. Adoption of Report
11. Adjournment

Annex 3. Proposed amendments to Chapter VII (Port State Control) and Chapter VIII (Non-Contracting Party Scheme) of the NCEM to align with the FAO Port State Measures Agreement.
(STACTIC PSCA-WP 15/03)

This document was created by accepting all of the changes that were made to the NCEM (Norway's original changes, STACTIC PSCA-WP 15/02, as well as edits made during the meeting) and then performing a document comparison in Word to show the final changes. This may have resulted in some formatting issues.

Reservation of Japan on specific measures noted (see item 7).

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Conservation and Enforcement Measures

Article 1 - Definitions

1. "Bottom fishing activities" means bottom fishing activities where the fishing gear is likely to contact the seafloor during the normal course of fishing operations;

2. "CEM" refers to these Conservation and Enforcement Measures;

3. "Convention" means the 1979 Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, as amended from time to time;

4. "FMC" means a land-based fisheries monitoring centre of the flag State Contracting Party;

5. "Fishing activities" means fishing, fish harvesting or processing operations, transshipment of fishery resources, landings or transshipping of fish/fishery resources or fish products, landings, and derived from fishery resources or any other activity in preparation for, in support of, or related to fishing/the harvesting of fisheries resources in the Regulatory Area, including:

(i) the actual or attempted searching for, catching or taking of fishery resources;

(ii) any activity that can reasonably be expected to result in locating, catching, taking, or harvesting of fishery resources for any purpose, and

(iii) any operation at sea in support of, or in occasion for, any activity described in this definition,

but does not include any operations related to emergencies involving the health and safety of the crew members or the safety of a vessel.

6. "Fishing day" means any calendar day or any fraction of a calendar day in which a fishing vessel is present in any Division in the Regulatory Area;

7. "Fishing trip" for a fishing vessel includes the time from its entry into until its departure from the Regulatory Area and continues until all catch on board from the Regulatory Area has been unloaded/landed or transhipped;

8. "Fishing vessel" means any vessel equipped for, intended for, or engaged in fishing activities, including fish processing, transshipment or any other activity in preparation for or related to fishing activities, including experimental or exploratory fishing activities;

9. "Inspector", unless otherwise specified, means an inspector of the fishery control services of a Contracting Party assigned to the Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme;

10. "IUU fishing" means activities as defined in paragraph 3 of the FAO International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

11. "IUU Vessel List" means the list, established in accordance with Articles 52 and 53;

12. "Non-Contracting Party vessel" means a vessel entitled to fly the flag of a State that is not a Contracting Party or a vessel suspected to be without nationality;

13. "Port" includes offshore terminals and other installations for landing, transshipping, packaging, processing, refining or resubmitting.

14. "Processed fish" means any marine organism that has been physically altered since capture, including fish that has been filleted, gutted, packaged, canned, frozen, smoked, salted, cooked, pickled, dried or prepared for market in any other manner;

14.15. "Research vessel" means a vessel permanently used for research or a vessel normally used for fishing activities or fisheries support activity that is for the time being used for fisheries research;

15.16. "Transshipment" means transfer, over the side, from one fishing vessel to another, of fisheries resources or products.

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Article 2 - Scope

1. The CEM shall, unless otherwise provided, apply to all fishing vessels used or intended for use for the purposes of commercial fishing activities conducted on fisheries resources in the Regulatory Area.
2. Unless otherwise provided, research vessels shall not be restricted by conservation and management measures pertaining to the taking of fish, in particular, concerning mesh size, size limits, closed areas and seasons.

Article 3 - Duties of the Contracting Parties

1. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that every fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag operating in the Regulatory Area complies with the relevant provisions of the CEM; and
2. Each fishing vessel operating in the Regulatory Area shall perform the relevant duties set out in the CEM and comply with the relevant provisions of the CEM.

Article 38 - Additional Procedures for Serious Infringements

List of Serious Infringements

1. Each of the following violations constitutes a serious infringement:

- (a) fishing an "Others" quota without prior notification to the Executive Secretary contrary to Article 5;
- (b) fishing an "Others" quota more than seven working days following closure by the Executive Secretary contrary to Article 5;
- (c) directed fishing for a stock which is subject to a moratorium, or for which fishing is otherwise prohibited, contrary to Article 6;
- (d) directed fishing for stocks or species after the date of closure by the flag State Contracting Party notified to the Executive Secretary contrary to Article 5;
- (e) fishing in a closed area, contrary to Article 9.6 and Article 11;
- (f) fishing with a bottom fishing gear in an area closed to bottom fishing activities, contrary to Chapter II;
- (g) using an unauthorized mesh size contrary to Article 13;
- (h) fishing without a valid authorization issued by the flag State Contracting Party contrary to Article 25;
- (i) mis-recording of catches contrary to Article 28;
- (j) failing to carry or interfering with the operation of the satellite monitoring system contrary to Article 29;
- (k) failure to communicate messages related to catch contrary to Article 10.6 or Article 28;
- (l) obstructing, intimidating, interfering with or otherwise preventing inspectors or observers from performing their duties;
- (m) committing an infringement where there is an observer on board;
- (n) concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence related to an investigation, including the breaking or tampering of seals or gaining access to sealed areas;
- (o) presentation of falsified documents or providing false information to an inspector that would prevent a serious infringement from being detected;
- (p) landing, ~~on~~, transshipping ~~or~~ making use of other port services in a port not designated in accordance with the provisions of Article 43.1;
- (q) failure to comply with the provisions of Article 45.1; and
- (r) landing, ~~or~~, transshipping ~~or~~ making use of other port services without authorization of the port State as referred to in Article 43.6.

Duties and Authority of the Inspectors

2. Where the inspectors cite a vessel for having committed a serious infringement, they shall:

- (a) seek to notify the competent authority of the flag State Contracting Party;
- (b) report the serious infringement to the Executive Secretary;
- (c) take all measures necessary to ensure security and continuity of the evidence, including, as appropriate, sealing the vessel's hold for further inspection;
- (d) request that the master cease all fishing activity that appears to constitute a serious infringement;

3. The inspectors may remain on board to provide information and assistance to the inspector designated by the flag State Contracting Party (designated inspector). During this time, the inspectors shall complete the original inspection provided that, following the arrival of the designated inspector, the competent authority of the flag State Contracting Party does not require the inspectors to leave the vessel.

Duties of the Flag State Contracting Party

4. Where notified of a serious infringement, the flag State Contracting Party shall:

- (a) acknowledge receipt of the notification without delay;
- (b) ensure the fishing vessel does not resume fishing until the inspectors have notified the master that they are satisfied that the infringement will not be repeated; and
- (c) ensure that the vessel is inspected within 72 hours by an inspector designated by the flag State Contracting Party.

5. Where justified, the flag State Contracting Party shall, where authorized to do so, require the vessel to proceed immediately to a port for a thorough inspection under its authority in the presence of an inspector from any other Contracting Party that wishes to participate.

6. Where the flag State Contracting Party does not order the fishing vessel to port, it shall provide written justification to the Executive Secretary no later than 3 working days following the notice of infringement.

7. Where the flag State Contracting Party orders the fishing vessel to port, an inspector from another Contracting Party may board or remain onboard the vessel as it proceeds to port, provided that the competent authority of the flag State Contracting Party does not require the inspector to leave the vessel.

8. (a) Where, in accordance with the inspection referred to in paragraph 3, the designated inspector issues a notice of infringement for:

directed fishing for a stock which is subject to a moratorium (i)

directed fishing for a stock for which fishing is prohibited under Article 6 (ii)

mis-recording of catch, contrary to Article 28 or (iii)

repetition of the same serious infringement during a 100 days period or a single fishing trip, whichever (iv) is shorter

the flag State Contracting Party shall order the vessel to cease all fishing activities and shall forthwith initiate a full investigation.

(b) In this paragraph, “mis-recording of catches” means a difference of at least 10 tonnes or 20%, whichever is greater, between the inspectors’ estimates of processed catch on board, by species or in total, and the figures recorded in the production logbook, calculated as a percentage of the production logbook figures. In order to calculate the estimate of the catch on board, the inspectors shall apply a stowage factor agreed between them and the designated inspector.

9. (a) Where the flag State Contracting Party is unable to conduct a full investigation in the Regulatory Area, or where the serious infringement is mis-recording of catches, it shall order the vessel to proceed immediately to a port where it shall conduct a full investigation ensuring that the physical inspection and enumeration of total catch on board takes place under its authority;

(b) Subject to the consent of the flag State Contracting Party, inspectors of another Contracting Party may participate in the inspection and enumeration of the catch.

Duties of the Executive Secretary

10. The Executive Secretary:

(a) informs without delay the Contracting Parties having an inspection presence in the Regulatory Area of the serious infringement referred by its inspectors;

(b) informs without delay to the inspecting Contracting Party, the justification provided by the flag State Contracting Party, where it did not order its vessel to port in response to the finding of a serious infringement; and

(c) makes available to any Contracting Party, on request, the justification provided by the flag State Contracting Party where it did not order its vessel to port in response to the finding of a serious infringement.

Article 39 – Follow-up to Infringements

1. A flag State Contracting Party that has been notified of an infringement committed by a fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag shall:

- (a) investigate immediately and fully, including as appropriate, by physically inspecting the fishing vessel at the earliest opportunity;**
- (b) cooperate with the inspecting Contracting Party to preserve the evidence in a form that will facilitate proceedings in accordance with its laws;**
- (c) take immediate judicial or administrative action in conformity with its national legislation against the persons responsible for the vessel ~~flyingsentitled to fly~~ its flag where the CEM have not been respected; and**
- (d) ensure that sanctions applicable in respect of infringements are adequate in severity to be effective in securing compliance, deterring further infringements and depriving the offenders of the benefits accruing from the infringement.**

2. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that in proceedings it has instituted, it treats all notices of infringement issued in accordance with Article 38.1 [1] as if the infringement was reported by its own inspector.

3. Each Contracting Party shall take enforcement measures with respect to a vessel ~~flyingsentitled to fly~~ its flag, where it has been established in accordance with domestic law, that the vessel committed a serious infringement listed in Article 38.8.

4. The measures referred to in paragraph 3 and the sanctions referred to in paragraph 1[d] may include the following depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with domestic law:

- (a) fines;**
- (b) seizure of the vessel, illegal fishing gear and catches;**
- (c) suspension or withdrawal of authorization to ~~fishconduct fishing activities~~; and**
- (d) reduction or cancellation of any fishing allocations.**

5. The flag State Contracting Party shall immediately notify the Executive Secretary of the measures taken against its vessel in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4.

CHAPTER VII PORT STATE CONTROL

Article 42 - Scope

Subject to the right of the port State Contracting Party to impose requirements of its own for access to its ports, the provisions in this ~~Article~~Chapter apply to ~~landings or transshipments in port entries and the use of ports of Contracting Parties by fishing vessels flying the flag of another Contracting Party, conducting fishing activities in the Regulatory Area.~~ The provisions apply to ~~landing or transshipment of fish caught in the Regulatory Area, fish or fish products originating from such fish, that have not been previously landed or offloaded/transhipped at a port.~~ This ~~Article~~Chapter also sets out the respective duties of the flag State Contracting Party and obligations of the master of fishing vessels ~~seeking requesting entry to land catch in a port of a Contracting Party.~~

Article 43 - Duties of the Port State Contracting Party

1. The port State Contracting Party shall designate ports to which fishing vessels may be permitted ~~access~~entry for the purpose of ~~landing or, transshipment and/or provision of port services and shall, in the greatest extent possible ensure,~~ that each designated port has sufficient capacity to conduct inspections pursuant to this Chapter. It shall transmit to the Executive Secretary a list of these ports. Any subsequent changes to the list shall be notified to the Executive Secretary no less than fifteen days before the change comes into effect.
2. The port State Contracting Party shall establish a minimum prior ~~notification request~~ period. The prior ~~notification request~~ period should be 3 working days before the estimated time of arrival. However the port State Contracting Party may make provisions for another prior ~~notification request~~ period, taking into account, inter alia, ~~catch product type or the~~ distance between fishing grounds and its ports. The port State Contracting Party shall advise the Executive Secretary of the prior ~~notification request~~ period.
3. The port State Contracting Party shall designate the competent authority which shall act as the contact point for the purposes of receiving ~~notification requests~~ in accordance with Article 45 (1, 2 and/or 3), receiving confirmations in accordance with Article 44.2 and issuing authorizations in accordance with paragraph 6. The port State Contracting Party shall advise the Executive Secretary about the competent authority name and its contact information.
4. The requirements contained in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 do not apply to a Contracting Party that does not permit any ~~landings or transshipment in port entries~~ in its ports by vessels ~~fly~~ing the flag of another Contracting Party.
5. The port State Contracting Party shall forward a copy of the form as referred to in Article 45 (1 and 2) without delay to the flag State Contracting Party of the vessel and to the flag State Contracting Party of similar vessels where the vessel has engaged in transshipment operations.
6. ~~Landing or transshipment operations~~Fishing vessels may only commence ~~after not~~ enter port without prior authorization ~~has been given by~~ the competent authorities of the port State Contracting Party. ~~Such authorization~~Authorization to land or tranship shall only be given if the confirmation from the flag Contracting Party as referred to in Article 44.2 has been received.
7. By way of derogation from paragraph 6 the port State Contracting Party may authorize all or part of a landing in the absence of the confirmation referred to in paragraph 6. In such cases the fish concerned shall be kept in storage under the control of the competent authorities. The fish shall only be released to be sold, taken over, produced or transported once the confirmation referred to in paragraph 6 has been received. If the confirmation has not been received within 14 days of the landing the port State Contracting Party may confiscate and dispose of the fish in accordance with national rules. ~~8. The port State Contracting Party shall without delay notify the master of the fishing vessel of its decision on whether to authorize the landing or transshipment by returning a copy of the form PSC-1 or 2 with Part C duly completed. This copy shall also be transmitted to the Executive Secretary without delay.~~
8. The port State Contracting Party shall without delay notify the master of the fishing vessel of its decision on whether to authorize or deny the port entry, or if the vessel is in port, the landing, transshipment and other use of port. If the vessel entry is authorized the port state returns to the master a copy of the form PSC 1 or 2 with Part C duly completed. ~~This copy shall also be transmitted to the Executive Secretary without delay. In case of a denial the port state shall also notify the flag State Contracting Party.~~
9. In case of cancellation of the prior ~~notification request~~ referred to in Article 45, paragraph 2, the port State Contracting Party shall forward a copy of the cancelled PSC 1 or 2 to the flag State Contracting Party and the Executive Secretary.

10. Unless otherwise required in a recovery plan, the port State Contracting Party shall carry out inspections of at least 15 % of all such landings or transshipments during each reporting year.

In determining which vessels to inspect, port State Contracting Parties shall give priority to:

- a) vessels that have been denied entry or use of a port in accordance with this Chapter or any other provision of the CEM; and
- b) requests from other Contracting Parties, States or RFMOs that a particular vessel be inspected.

11. Inspections shall be conducted by authorized Contracting Party inspectors who shall present credentials to the master of the vessel prior to the inspection.

12. The port State Contracting Party may invite inspectors of other Contracting Parties to accompany their own inspectors and observe the inspection of landings or transshipment operations.

13. An inspection shall involve the monitoring of the entire discharge/landing or transshipment in that port and the port State Contracting Party shall as a minimum:

- (a) cross-check against the quantities of each species landed or transhipped,
 - (i) the quantities by species recorded in the logbook
 - (ii) catch and activity reports, and
 - (iii) all information on catches provided in the prior notification (PSC 1 or 2)
- (b) verify and record the quantities by species of catch remaining on board upon completion of landing or transshipment;
- (c) verify any information from inspections carried out in accordance with Chapter VI;
- (d) verify all nets on board and record mesh size measurements;
- (e) verify fish size for compliance with minimum size requirements;

(f) ensure that inspectors examine all relevant areas, equipment and documents which are relevant to verifying compliance with relevant conservation and management measures, and that inspections are conducted in accordance with the procedures laid down in Annex V.HI

14. Each inspection shall be documented by completing form PSC 3 [port State Control inspection form] as set out in Annex IV.E. The inspectors may insert any comments they consider relevant. They shall sign the report and request that the master sign the report. The master may insert any comment he considers relevant and shall be provided with a copy of the report.

15. The port State Contracting Party shall without delay transmit a copy of each port State Control inspection report and, upon request, an original or a certified copy thereof, to the flag State Contracting Party and to the flag State of any vessel that transhipped catch to the inspected fishing vessel. A copy shall also be sent to the Executive Secretary without delay.

16. Inspections shall be conducted in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner and shall not constitute harassment of any vessel. Inspectors shall not interfere with the master's ability to communicate with the authorities of the flag State Contracting Party.

17. The port State Contracting Party shall make all possible effort to communicate with the master or senior crew members of the vessel, including where possible and where needed, that the inspector is accompanied by an interpreter.

18. The port State Contracting Party shall make all possible efforts to avoid unduly delaying the fishing vessel and ensure that the vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience and that unnecessary degradation of the quality of the fish is avoided.

Article 44 – Duties of the Flag State Contracting Party

1. The flag State Contracting Party shall ensure that the master of any fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag complies with the obligations relating to masters set out in this Article 45.

2. The flag State Contracting Party of a fishing vessel intending to land or tranship, or where the vessel has engaged in transshipment operations outside a port, the flag State Contracting Party or parties, shall confirm by returning a copy of the form, PSC 1 or 2, transmitted in accordance with Article 43.5 with part B duly completed, stating that:

- (a) the fishing vessel declared to have caught the fish had sufficient quota for the species declared;
- (b) the declared quantity of fish on board has been duly reported by species and taken into account for the calculation of any catch or effort limitations that may be applicable;
- (c) the fishing vessel declared to have caught the fish had authorization to fish in the areas declared; and
- (d) the presence of the vessel in the area in which it has declared to have taken its catch has been verified by VMS data.

3. The flag State Contracting Party shall designate the competent authority, which shall act as the contact point for the purposes of receiving [notification requests](#) in accordance with Article 43.5 and providing confirmation in accordance with Article 43.6, and communicate this information to the NAFO Secretariat for dissemination to Contracting Parties.

Article 45 - Obligations of the Master of a Fishing Vessel

1. The master or the agent of any fishing vessel intending to [make a port call](#) shall [notify forward the request for entry](#) to the competent authorities of the port State Contracting Party within the [notification request](#) period referred to in Article 43.2. Such [notification request](#) shall be accompanied by the form provided for in Annex III with Part A duly completed as follows:

- (a) Form PSC 1, as referred to in Annex III.A shall be used where the vessel is [arriving](#), landing or transshipping its own catch; and
- (b) Form PSC 2, as referred to in Annex III.B, shall be used where the vessel has engaged in transshipment operations. A separate form shall be used for each donor vessel.
- (c) Both forms PSC 1 and PSC 2 shall be completed in cases where a vessel is intending to land [or tranship](#) both its own catch and catch that was received through transshipment.

2. A master or the agent may cancel a prior [notification request](#) by notifying the competent authorities of the port they intended to use. The [notification request](#) shall be accompanied by a copy of the original PSC 1 or 2 with the word "cancelled" written across it.

3. The master of a fishing vessel shall:

- (a) co-operate with and assist in the inspection of the fishing vessel conducted in accordance with these procedures and shall not obstruct, intimidate or interfere with the port State inspectors in the performance of their duties;
- (b) provide access to any areas, decks, rooms, catch, nets or other gear or equipment, and provide any relevant information which the port State inspectors request including copies of any relevant documents.

Article 46 - Duties of the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary shall without delay post on the NAFO website:

- (a) the list of designated ports [and any changes thereto](#);
- (b) the prior [notification request](#) periods established by each Contracting Party;
- (c) the information about the designated competent authorities in each port State Contracting Party; and,
- (d) the information about the designated competent authorities in each flag State Contracting Party.

2. The Executive Secretary shall without delay post on the secure part of the NAFO website:

- (a) copies of all PSC 1 and 2 forms transmitted by port State Contracting Parties;
- (b) copies of all inspection reports, as referred to in Annex IV.C [PSC 3 form], transmitted by port State Contracting Parties.

3. All forms related to a specific landing or transshipment shall be posted together.

Article 47 - Serious Infringements Detected During In-Port Inspections

1. The provisions in Articles 39 and 40 shall apply to any serious infringements listed in Article 38 detected during in-port inspections.
2. Serious infringements detected during in-port inspections shall be followed up in accordance with domestic law.

CHAPTER VIII NON-CONTRACTING PARTY SCHEME

Article 48 – General Provisions

1. The purpose of this Chapter is to promote compliance with non-Contracting Party vessels with recommendations established by NAFO and to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by non-Contracting Party vessels (hereinafter referred to as "NCP" vessels) that undermine the effectiveness of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures established by the Organization.

2. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to:

(a) affect the sovereign right of any Contracting Party to take additional measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by NCP vessels or, where evidence so warrants, take such action as may be appropriate, consistent with international law; or

(b) prevent a Contracting Party from allowing an NCP vessel entry into its ports for the purpose of conducting an inspection of, or taking appropriate enforcement action ~~against the vessel, which, if there is sufficient proof of IUU fishing, is at least as effective as denial of port entry in preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing.~~

3. This Chapter shall be:

(a) interpreted in a manner consistent with international law, including the right of port access in case of force majeure or distress; and

(b) applied in a fair and transparent manner.

4. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that vessels entitled to fly its flag do not engage in joint fishing activities with NCP vessels referred to in Article 49, including receiving or delivering transshipments of fish to or from a NCP vessel.

Article 49 – Presumption of IUU fishing

1. An NCP vessel is presumed to have undermined the effectiveness of the CEM, and to have engaged in IUU fishing, if it has been:

(a) sighted or identified by other means as engaged in fishing activities in the Regulatory Area;

(b) involved in transshipment with another NCP vessel sighted or identified as engaged in fishing activities inside or outside the Regulatory Area; and/or

(c) included in the IUU list of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC);

Article 50 – Sighting and Inspection of NCP Vessels in the NRA

1. Each Contracting Party with an inspection and/or surveillance presence in the Regulatory Area authorized under the Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme that sights or identifies an NCP vessel engaged in fishing activities in the NRA shall:

(a) transmit immediately the information to the Executive Secretary using the format of the surveillance report set out in Annex IV.A;

(b) attempt to inform the Master that the vessel is presumed to be engaged in IUU fishing and that this information will be distributed to all Contracting Parties, relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and the flag State of the vessel;

(c) if appropriate, request permission from the Master to board the vessel for inspection; and

(d) where the Master agrees to inspection:

(i) transmit the inspector's findings to the Executive Secretary without delay, using the inspection report form set out in Annex IV.B; and

(ii) provide a copy to the inspection report to the Master.

Duties of the Executive Secretary

2. The Executive Secretary, within one business day, posts the information received pursuant to this Article to the secure part of the NAFO website and distributes it to all Contracting Parties, other relevant RFMDs, and to the flag State of the vessel as soon as possible.

Article 51 – Port Entry and Inspection of NCP vessels

Duties of the Master of a NCP vessel

1. Each Master of a NCP vessel shall ~~not~~**request permission to enter port from** the competent authority of the port State Contracting Party ~~of its intention to sail into a port~~ in accordance with the provisions of Article 45.

Duties of the Port State Contracting Party

2. Each port State Contracting Party shall:

(a) forward without delay to the flag State of the vessel and to the Executive Secretary the information it has received pursuant to Article 45;

(b) refuse port entry to any NCP vessel where:

(i) the Master has not fulfilled the requirements set out in Article 45 paragraph 1; or

(ii) the flag State has not confirmed the vessel's fishing activities in accordance with Article 44 paragraph 2;

(c) inform the Master ~~or agent~~, the flag State of that vessel, and the Executive Secretary of its decision to refuse port entry, landing ~~or transshipment or other use of port~~ of any NCP vessel;

~~(d) withdraw denial of port entry only if the port State has determined there is sufficient proof that the grounds on which entry was denied were inadequate or erroneous or that such grounds no longer apply;~~

~~(e) inform the Master or agent the flag State of that vessel, and (d) the Executive Secretary of its decision to withdraw denial of port entry, landing, transshipment or other use of port of any NCP vessel;~~

~~(f) where it permits entry, ensure the vessel is inspected by duly authorized officials knowledgeable in the CEM and that the inspection is carried out in accordance with Article 43 paragraphs 11 – 18; and~~

~~includes an examination of log books, fishing gear, catch on board, and any other matter relating to the (f) vessel's activities in the Regulatory Area; and~~

~~is documented in the format set out in Annex IV G; and (g)~~

~~(g) send a copy of the inspection report and details of any subsequent action it has taken to the Executive Secretary without delay.~~

3. Each ~~port State~~ Contracting Party shall ensure that no NCP vessel engages in landing, or transshipment operations ~~or other use of port~~ in its ports unless the vessel has been inspected by its duly authorized officials knowledgeable in the CEM and the Master establishes that the fish species on board subject to the NAFO Convention were harvested outside the Regulatory Area or in compliance ~~with the CEM.~~***Duties of the Executive Secretary***

Duties of the Executive Secretary

4. ~~In~~ The Executive Secretary ~~shall~~ without delay ~~post~~**post** the information received pursuant to this Article to the secure part of the NAFO website, and distributes it to all Contracting Parties, relevant RFMDs, ~~and the flag State of the vessel and the state of which the vessel's master is a national, if known.~~

Article 52 – Provisional IUU Vessel List

1. In addition to information submitted from Contracting Parties in accordance with Articles 49 and 51, each Contracting Party may, without delay, transmit to the Executive Secretary any information that may assist in identification of any NCP vessel that might be carrying out IUU fishing in the Regulatory Area.

2. If a Contracting Party objects to a NEAFC IUU-listed vessel being incorporated into or deleted from the NAFO IUU Vessel List in accordance with Article 53, such vessel shall be placed on the Provisional IUU Vessel List.

Duties of the Executive Secretary

3. The Executive Secretary:

(a) establishes and maintains a list of RCP vessels presumed to have engaged in IUU fishing in the Regulatory Area referred to as the Provisional IUU Vessel List;

(b) upon receipt, records the information received pursuant to paragraph 1, including, if available, the name of the vessel, its flag State, call sign and registration number, and any other identifying features, in the Provisional IUU Vessel List;

(c) posts the Provisional IUU Vessel List and all updates to the secure part of the NAFO website; and

(d) advises the flag State of the RCP vessel listing, including:

the reasons and supporting evidence; (i)

a copy of the CEM and a link to its place on the NAFO website; (ii)

(e) requests that the flag State of the RCP vessel:

take all measures to ensure that the vessel immediately ceases all fishing activities that undermine the (i) effectiveness of the CEM;

report within 30 days from the date of the request on the measures it has taken with respect to the (ii) vessel concerned; and

state any objections it may have to including the vessel in the IUU Vessel List; (iii)

(f) transmits to the flag State of the RCP vessel any additional information received pursuant to Articles 49-51 in respect of vessels fly-sighted to fly their flag that have already been included in the Provisional IUU Vessel List;

(g) distributes any information received from the flag State to all Contracting Parties;

(h) advises the flag State of the RCP vessel of the dates STACTIC and the General Council will consider listing the vessel in the IUU Vessel List, and invites the flag State to attend the meeting as an observer where it will be given the opportunity to respond to the report submitted in accordance with paragraph 3(e)(i);

(i) transfers the vessel from the Provisional IUU Vessel List to the IUU Vessel List in accordance with Article 53 if the flag State does not object; and

(j) places all vessels included in the NEAFC IUU List on the IUU Vessel List unless a Contracting Party objects to such inclusion, in which case it places the vessel on the Provisional IUU Vessel List. Article 53 shall not apply to vessels placed on the Provisional IUU Vessel List in accordance with this paragraph.

Article 53 - IUU Vessel List

Listing a Vessel on the IUU Vessel List

1. STACTIC recommends to the Fisheries Commission whether each vessel listed in the Provisional IUU Vessel List should be:

(a) deleted from the Provisional IUU Vessel List;

(b) retained in the Provisional IUU Vessel List, pending receipt of further information from the flag State, or

(c) transferred to the IUU Vessel List only upon expiration of the period referred to in Article 52.3(e)(ii).

Deleting a Vessel from the IUU Vessel List

2. STACTIC may advise that the Fisheries Commission recommend that General Council delete a vessel from either the Provisional IUU Vessel List or the IUU Vessel List where it is satisfied that the flag State of a vessel concerned has provided sufficient evidence to establish that:

- (a) it has taken effective action to address the IUU fishing of such vessel, including prosecution and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity;
- (b) it has taken measures to prevent such vessel from engaging in further IUU fishing under its flag;
- (c) such vessel has changed ownership, and the previous owner no longer has any legal, financial or real interest in such vessel, or exercises no (i) control over it; or the new owner has no legal, financial or real interest in, nor exercises control over, another vessel listed (ii) in the IUU Vessel List or any similar IUU list maintained by an RFMO, and has not otherwise been engaged in IUU activities;
- (d) such vessel did not take part in IUU fishing; or,
- (e) such vessel has sunk, been scrapped, or been permanently reassigned for purposes other than fishing activities.

3. The Fisheries Commission may recommend to the General Council any changes to listings in the IUU Vessel List. The General Council determines the final composition of the IUU Vessel List.

Duties of the Executive Secretary

4. The Executive Secretary:

- (a) posts the IUU Vessel List on the NAFO website, including the name and flag State and, if available, the call sign, hull number, IMO number, previous name(s) and flag(s) or any other identifying features for each vessel;
- (b) notifies the flag State of the name of each vessel entitled to fly its flag listed in the IUU Vessel List;
- (c) transmits the IUU Vessel List and any relevant information, including the reasons for listing or de-listing each vessel, to other RFMOs, including, in particular, the NEAFC, the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO), and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR);
- (d) transmits the amendments to the NEAFC IUU list, upon receipt, to all Contracting Parties and amends the IUU Vessel List consistent with amendments to the NEAFC IUU List, within 30 days of such transmittal; unless within the 30 days the Executive Secretary receives from a Contracting Party a written submission establishing that:
 - any of the requirements in paragraph 2(a)-(d) of this Article have been met with regard to a vessel (i) placed on the NEAFC IUU List; or
 - none of the requirements in paragraph 2(a)-(d) of this Article have been met with regard to a vessel (ii) taken off the NEAFC IUU List; and
- (e) advises STACTIC of any action taken pursuant to this Article.

Article 54 - Action against vessels listed in the IUU Vessel List

Each Contracting Parties shall take all measures necessary to deter, prevent, and eliminate IUU fishing, in relation to any vessel listed in the IUU Vessel List, including:

- (a) prohibiting any vessel entitled to fly its flag, from, except in the case of force majeure, participating in fishing activities with such vessel, including but not limited to joint fishing operations;
- (b) prohibiting the supply of provisions, fuel or other services to such vessel, both at sea and in port;
- (c) prohibiting entry into its ports of such vessel, and if the vessel is in port, prohibiting use of port, except in the case of force majeure, distress, for the purposes of inspection, or for taking appropriate enforcement action;
- (d) prohibiting change of crew, except as required in relation to force majeure;
- (e) refusing to authorize such vessel to fish in waters under its national jurisdiction;
- (f) prohibiting chartering of such vessel;
- (g) refusing to entitle such vessels to fly its flag;

- (h) prohibiting landing and importation of fish from onboard or traceable to such vessel;
- (i) encouraging importers, transporters and other sectors concerned, to refrain from negotiating transshipment of fish with such vessels; and
- (j) collecting and exchanging any appropriate information regarding such vessel with the other Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties and RFMOs with the aim of detecting, deterring and preventing the use of false import or export certificates in relation to fish or fish product from such vessels.

Article 55 - Action Against Flag States

1. Contracting Parties shall jointly and/or individually request the cooperation of the flag State of each NCP vessel listed in the IUU Vessel List with a view to prevent, deter and eliminate future IUU activities by such vessel.
2. The Fisheries Commission shall review annually the actions taken by the flag States referred to in paragraph 1 with a view to identifying for follow-up action any that has not taken action sufficient to prevent deter and eliminate IUU activities by any vessel entitled to fly its flag listed in the IUU Vessel List.
3. Each Contracting Parties should, to the extent possible and consistent with its international obligations and in accordance with applicable legislation, restrict the export and transfer of any fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag to any State identified pursuant to paragraph 2.

a) The fishing vessel declared to have caught the fish had sufficient quota for the species declared.							
b) The quantities on board have been duly reported and taken into account for the calculation of any catch or effort limitations that may be applicable.							
c) The fishing vessel declared to have caught the fish had authorization to fish in the area declared.							
d) The presence of the fishing vessel in the area of catch declared has been verified according to VMS data.							
Flag State confirmation: I confirm that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.							
Name and Title:				Date:			
Signature:				Official Stamp:			
PART C: For official use only – to be completed by the Port State							
Name of Port State:							
Authorization:		Yes:		No:		Date:	
Signature:				Official Stamp:			
<p>1. Fishing vessels not assigned an IMO number shall provide their national registration number</p> <p>2. If necessary an additional form or forms shall be used</p> <p>3. YAC Species Codes – NEAFC Annex V - NAFO Annex IIC Annex IC</p> <p>4. Product presentations – NEAFC Appendix 1 to Annex I to Annex IIE</p>							

B-PSC- 2

FOUR STATE CONTINUED FORM - FIG 2				
PART A: To be completed by the Master of the Vessel. A separate form shall be completed for each donor vessel. Please use block ink.				
Name of Vessel:	IMCI Number: ¹	Radio Call Sign:	Flag State:	
Email Address:	Telephone Number:	Fax Number:	Internet Number:	
<u>Vessel master's name</u>	<u>Vessel _____ master's nationality</u>	<u>Vessel owner</u>	<u>Certificate of Registry ID</u>	
<u>Vessel dimensions</u>	<u>Length (m):</u>	<u>Breadth (m):</u>	<u>Depth (m):</u>	
<u>Port State:</u>	<u>Port of Landing or Transshipment:</u>			
<u>Last part of call:</u>	<u>Date:</u>			
<u>Port of Landing or Transshipment:</u>				
<u>Date and location of transshipment</u>		<u>Transshipment authorization (if relevant)</u>		
<u>Estimated Time of Arrival:</u>		<u>Date:</u>	<u>Time UTC:</u>	
<u>Net wet weight (kg)</u>	<u>Net wet weight (kg)</u>	<u>Net and Gross weight (kg)</u>		
Catch Information for Donor Vessels: *A separate form shall be completed for each Donor Vessel*				
Name of Vessel		IMCI Number ¹	Radio Call Sign	Flag State
		Total catch on board - all areas		Catch to be landed ²
Species ³	Product ⁴	Area of catch		Commodity Code
		NEAFC CA	NAFO EA	Product weight (kg)
		(ICES subarea and division)	(sub Division)	Product weight (kg)
			Other areas	

PART B: For official use only - to be completed by the Flag State

The Flag State of the vessel must respond to the following questions by marking in the box "Yes" or "No" NEAFC CA NAFO EA

	Yes	No	Yes	No
a) The fishing vessel declared to have caught the fish had sufficient quota for the species declared				
b) The quantities on board have been duly reported and taken into account for the calculation of any catch or effort limitations that may be applicable				
c) The fishing vessel declared to have caught the fish had authorization to fish in the area declared				
d) The percentage of the fishing vessel in the area of catch declared has been verified according to VMS data				
Flag State confirmation: I confirm that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.				

Name and Title:

Date:

Signature:	Official Stamp:

PART C: For official use only - to be completed by the Port State

Name of Port State:

Authorisation:

Ver:

Nr:

Date:

Signature:	Official Stamp:

1. Fishing vessels not assigned an IMO number shall provide their external registration number

2. If necessary an additional form or forms shall be used

3. FAO Species Codes – NEAFC Annex V – NAFO Annex II

4. Product presentations – NEAFC Appendix 1 to Annex IV – NAFO Annex XX (C)



Annex IV c

Report on Port State Control inspection (PSE 3)
(Please use black ink)

Inspection report number

A. INSPECTION REFERENCE.

Landing	Yes	No	Transshipment	Yes	No	<u>Other reasons for port entry</u>
Part State			Part of landing or transshipment			
<u>Vessel name</u>		<u>Flag State</u>		<u>IMO Number¹</u>		<u>International Radio call sign</u>
Landing/transshipment started		Date		Time		
Landing/transshipment ended		Date		Time		
<u>Vessel Type</u>		<u>Certificate of Registry ID</u>		<u>Port of registry</u>		<u>VMS</u>
<u>Vessel master's name</u>		<u>Vessel master's nationality</u>		<u>Fishing master's name</u>		<u>Fishing master's nationality</u>
<u>Vessel Classification</u>		<u>Vessel Classification²</u>		<u>Vessel Length</u>		<u>Date</u>
<u>Last port of call</u>						
B. INSPECTION DETAILS						
Name of donor vessel ³		IMO Number ⁴		Radio call sign		Flag State

¹ Fishing vessels not assigned an IMO number shall provide their national registration number

² If known and if different from vessel's owner

³ In case where a vessel has engaged in transshipment operations, a separate form shall be used for each donor vessel.

B.2. FIVE LANDED-OR TRANSHIPPED <input type="checkbox"/>													
<input type="checkbox"/> In case where a vessel has engaged in transshipment operations a separate form shall be used for each donor vessel.													
Species ⁵	Product ⁶	Area of catch	Product weight landed in kg	Conversion factor	Equivalent live weight kg	Diff between weight declared in the logbook and the live weight landed	(kg)	Diff between live weight declared in the logbook and the live weight landed	(%)	Diff between Product weight landed and PSC 1/2	(kg)	Diff between Product weight landed and PSC 1/2	(%)
RELEVANT TRANSHIPMENT AUTHORIZATIONS:													
B.3. INFORMATION ABOUT LANDINGS AUTHORIZED WITHOUT CONFIRMATION FROM THE FLAG STATE													
Ref. NEAFC art. 23.2 / NAFO art. 45.6													
Name of Storage:													
Name of Competent Authority:													
Deadline for receiving Confirmation:													

⁵ FAO Species Codes — NEAFC Annex V — MWFO Annex II.C

⁶ Product presentations — NEAFC Appendix 3 to Annex IV — MWFO Annex II.E

B.4. FIVE RETAINED ON BOARD									
Species ⁷	Product ⁸	Area of catch	Product weight in kg	Conversion factor	Live weight kg	DGE (kg) product weight on board and PSC 1/2	Instant	DGE (%) product weight on board and PSC 1/2	Instant

C. RESULTS OF INSPECTION

C1. GENERAL

Inspection started	Date	Time
Inspection ended	Date	Time

States in other RFMD areas where fishing activities have been undertaken, including any EIU vessel listing

<u>RFMD</u>	<u>Vessel identifier</u>	<u>Flag State status</u>	<u>Vessel on authorized vessel list</u>	<u>Vessel on EIU vessel list</u>
-------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	---	----------------------------------

Observations

C2. GEAR INSPECTION IN PORT (in accordance with Annex IV.B)

A. General data

Number of gear inspected	Date gear inspection		
Has the vessel been cited?	Yes	No	IF yes, complete the full "verification of inspection in port form. IF no, complete the form with the exception of the NAFO seal details

B. Other Trawl details

NAFO Seal number	Is seal unchanged?	Yes	No
Gear type			

<u>Attachments</u>	
Goto Her Spacing area	
Mesh type	
Average mesh size (mm)	

⁷ FAO Species Codes – NEAFC Annex V – MWFO Annex III
⁸ Product presentations – NEAFC Appendix 3 to Annex IV – MWFO Annex III.C

Trawl port
 Wings
 Body
 Lanching Piece
 Codend

B. OBSERVATIONS BY THE MASTER

I, _____ the undersigned, Master of the vessel _____ hereby confirm that a copy of this report has been delivered to me on this date. My signature does not constitute acceptance of any part of the contents of this report, except my own observations, if any.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

E. INFRINGEMENTS AND FOLLOW-UP

E1. NAFO

E1 A Sea Inspection

Infringements resulting from
Inspections inside NAFO R.A.

Inspection Party	Date of insp.	Division	NAFO CRM infringement legal reference

E1 B Port Inspection Infringements results

(a) - Confirmation of Infringements found at sea inspection

NAFO CRM infringement legal reference	National Infringement legal reference

(b) - Infringements found at sea inspection and not possible to be confirmed during the Port Inspection.

Comments :		
(c) - Additional infringements found during the Port Inspection		
NAFO CEM infringement legal reference:	National Infringement legal reference:	
<p>E2. NEAFC</p> <p>INFREEMENT NOTED</p> <p>Article NEAFC provision(s) violated and summary of pertinent facts</p>		
Inspection observations:		
Action taken		
Inspecting authority / agency		
Inspector's Name	Inspector's signature:	Date and place
F. DISTRIBUTION		
Copy to flag State	Copy to NEAFC Secretary	Copy to NAFO Executive Secretary

ANNEX I/B

Part State inspection procedures

Inspectors shall:

- a) verify, to the extent possible, that the vessel identification documentation on board and information relating to the owner of the vessel is true, complete and correct, including through appropriate contacts with the flag State or international records of vessels if necessary;
- b) verify that the vessel's flag and markings (e.g. name, external registration number, International Maritime Organization (IMO) ship identification number, international radio call sign and other markings, main dimensions) are consistent with information contained in the documentation;
- c) verify, to the extent possible, that the authorizations for fishing activities are true, complete, correct and consistent with the information provided in accordance with the CEM provisions including but not limited to Articles 25, 44, 45 and 51;
- d) review all other relevant documentation and records held onboard, including, to the extent possible, those in electronic format and vessel monitoring system (VMS) data from the flag State or RFMDs. Relevant documentation may include logbooks, catch, transshipment and trade documents, crew lists, stowage plans and drawings, descriptions of fish holds, and documents required pursuant to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora;
- e) examine, to the extent possible, all relevant fishing gear onboard, including any gear stowed out of sight as well as related devices, and to the extent possible, verify that they are in conformity with the conditions of the authorizations. The fishing gear shall, to the extent possible, also be checked to ensure that features such as the mesh and twine size, devices and attachments, dimensions and configuration of nets, pots, dredges, hook sizes and numbers are in conformity with applicable regulations and that the markings correspond to those authorized for the vessel;
- f) determine, to the extent possible, whether the fish on board was harvested in accordance with the applicable authorizations;
- g) examine the fish, including by sampling, to determine its quantity and composition. In doing so, inspectors may open containers where the fish has been pre-packed and move the catch or containers to ascertain the integrity of fish holds. Such examination may include inspections of product type and determination of animal weight;
- h) evaluate whether there is clear evidence for believing that an RCP vessel has engaged in IUU fishing;
- i) provide the master of the vessel with the report containing the result of the inspection, including possible measures that could be taken, to be signed by the inspector and the master. The master's signature on the report shall serve only as acknowledgement of the receipt of a copy of the report. The master shall be given the opportunity to add any comments or objection to the report, and, as appropriate, to contact the relevant authorities of the flag State in particular where the master has serious difficulties in understanding the content of the report. A copy of the report shall be provided to the master; and
- j) [arrange, where necessary and possible, for translation of relevant documentation.]

SECTION VII
(273–314)

Report of the STACTIC Intersessional Meeting

6–8 May 2015
Tallinn, Estonia

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Report of the STACTIC Intersessional Meeting (FC Doc. 15/02)

**6–8 May 2015
Tallinn, Estonia**

1. Opening by the Chair, Gene Martin (USA)

The Chair opened the meeting at 10:05hrs on Wednesday, May 6th, 2015 at the Park Inn by Radisson in Tallinn, Estonia. The Chair welcomed representatives from the following Contracting Parties (CPs): Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, Iceland, Japan, Norway, Russian Federation, and the United States of America (Annex 1). The Chair introduced the new NAFO Secretariat staff member, Jana Aker to STACTIC.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Jana Aker (NAFO Secretariat) was appointed Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The following amendments were made to the Agenda under Agenda Item 15 – Other Matters:

- a) Presentation by Canada on examples of data and reporting anomalies
- b) Canada proposed to discuss an editorial correction to the text of Article 9, Shrimp in Division 3L
- c) The NAFO Secretariat added the discussion point on the request for guidance made by the FC WG on Bycatches and discards to STACTIC
- d) The NAFO Secretariat added a discussion point related to a FC request to STACTIC concerning the application and feasibility of the IMO numbering scheme.

The Agenda was adopted, as amended (Annex 2).

4. Compilation of fisheries reports for compliance review (2004–2014), including review of Apparent Infringements.

The Secretariat presented an overview of the fisheries in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA) in 2014 as well as the fishing trends, catches of regulated and selected unregulated species, and details of the Apparent Infringements (AI) issued (Annex 3). Complementing the presentation was the circulation of three draft compilation tables; an Overview of Fishing Trips, Catches in the NRA, and Details of Apparent Infringements. The purpose of circulating the draft tables was to ensure that all the fishing reports submitted by CPs, as required in the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEM), were received by the Secretariat. It was recalled the compilation tables serve as a basis in drafting the STACTIC Annual Compliance Review document. A clarification was made with regards to the submission of port inspection reports for CP vessels landings which do not include Greenland halibut (GHL). Specific suggestions for improvement in the presentation of information on the compilation tables were made:

- Relabel the column “Directed Species” to “Directed Species per Trip” in the Fishing Trip Overview table.
- The columns (W and X) in the overview table describing the at-sea AIs be combined.
- The AI table should cross-reference fishing trips in the overview table.

CPs agreed to defer adding any names to either table for further discussion and consideration.

Canada intends to table a working paper for the Annual Meeting to improve the reporting of AIs.

The Secretariat noted the suggestions and indicated that these would be integrated when the compilation tables will be formally transmitted to CPs on 22 June 2015. CPs were urged to review the draft compilation tables and inform the Secretariat of any necessary corrections and updates.

The Secretariat also presented the following issues that were identified during its preparation of the draft compliance tables:

- Port States are requested to ensure accuracy in completing Section E.1.B. of PSC 3;
- The scope of what follow-up information on AIs issued by port States is required, particularly as it relates to port infringements; and
- The very low compliance rate (7%) with the requirement of submitting observer reports (in accordance with Article 30.A).

Certain parties noted the obligation to comply with the existing NCEM, in particular the submission of the observer reports.

The Chair asked STACTIC to reflect on these issues with the aim that CPs would have ideas and proposed concrete actions in resolving the issues at the coming Annual Meeting.

In addition, the Secretariat was requested to analyze the catch data from the CAT reports and evaluate the trends of catches of species in the NRA for possible inclusion in the STACTIC Annual Compliance Review that will be completed at the Annual Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **the noted recommended changes be made to the columns in the Fishing Trip Overview table and the AI table.**
- **Contracting Parties would reflect on the issues identified by the Secretariat with the view to proposing concrete actions to resolve them at the 2015 Annual Meeting.**
- **any corrections to the compliance review and accompanying tables be submitted to the Secretariat before 22 June 2015.**
- **the Secretariat would develop a pilot chart for trends of species catches for each year, to review at the 2015 Annual Meeting for possible inclusion in future compliance reports.**
- **Contracting Parties commit to the improvement of the compliance rate with regard to the submission of Observer Reports.**

5. Report and Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Port State Control Alignment (WG-PSCA), May 2015

The Chair presented STACTIC WP-15/08 REV (Annex 4) which included the recommendations from the NAFO ad hoc Working Group on Port State Control and Alignment, which met on 4-5 May 2015. The recommendations included the adoption of the draft alignment document based on Norway's STACTIC PSCA-WP 15/02, as amended by the ad hoc STACTIC WG-PSCA, with reservations noted, for purposes of receiving further comment from CPs by 01 July 2015. The draft document proposed changes to Chapters VII and VIII of the CEM to align and harmonize the PSA measures into the NCEM.

US presented draft changes to Annex IV.H so that it could be incorporated into the text of the NCEM, to clearly outline the minimum obligations for port inspections. CPs accepted this draft, with Japan noting a reservation.

The recommendations of the WG also included a request to the EDG WG to check for the consistency through the NCEM of certain terms, in light of the draft document and a request to JAGDM to seek to establish electronic communications in the interest of alignment with the PSA and the CEMs of NAFO and NEAFC.

It was **agreed** that:

- **the draft alignment document, noting the reservations made by Japan during the ad hoc STACTIC WG-PSCA and the reservation made during the STACTIC intersessional meeting concerning the inclusion of the Annex IV.H in the text of the CEM, and Iceland concerning the scope of the draft document being limited to the Regulatory Area, and the separation of CPs and NCPs, shall be accepted for the purposes of receiving further consideration and comments before and during the Annual Meeting.**
- **the written comments on the draft alignment document attached to STACTIC WP -15/08 (Revised) to the Secretariat should be submitted no later than 01 July 2015 for recirculation.**
- **the recommendations 1 and 3 in STACTIC WP -15/08 (Revised) are adopted.**

6. Review and evaluation of Practices and Procedures

The Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 15/01 - Practices and Procedures. The Secretariat noted that there were two additions from Canada on their Observer and Fishery Officer Training since the last STACTIC meeting. It was noted by Canada that a good practice going forward might be for Contracting Parties to share the Practices and Procedures of their Fisheries Monitoring Centres (FMCs) and that Canada was planning on providing the Secretariat with documentation outlining its domestic practices.

It was **agreed** that:

- **CPs should continue to share best practices and procedures with the Secretariat and STACTIC and including in the future FMC Best Practices and Procedures.**

7. Review of current IUU list pursuant to NAFO CEM (NCEM) Article 53

The Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 15/02 - NAFO IUU List update and noted that one vessel, the *Dolphin*, had been removed from the IUU list because information to the satisfaction of NAFO had been received that the vessel had been scrapped. This was confirmed by Russia.

Contracting Parties suggested that it might be useful to have on the NAFO website a compilation of all IUU listed vessels from relevant RFMOs (CCAMLR, SEAFO, and NEAFC) ensuring that there is a clear distinction between the NAFO IUU list and the other RFMOs.

It was **agreed** that:

- **the NAFO Secretariat will complete a draft web page of IUU listed vessels from other relevant RFMOs (CCAMLR, SEAFO, and NEAFC) and provide it to STACTIC members for review at the 2015 NAFO Annual Meeting.**

8. Half-year review of the implementation of new NAFO CEM measures

The Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 15/03 (Revised) - Half-year review of the implementation of the new measures in the 2015 NCEM. The measures adopted by FC in September 2014 which became in force in 2015 are as follows:

- *Article 28.8 (b) and Annex II.N - Fishing Logbook Information by Haul to be submitted to the Secretariat, and*
- *Annex II.C – Format for authorization to conduct fishing activities (AUT report). The data element TA – (Targeted species and Area) – species and area allowed for regulated and un-regulated species.*

The Secretariat noted that the Article 28.8.b has been interpreted in different ways by different Contracting Parties, resulting in the Secretariat receiving the haul by haul information in several different formats. It was also noted that at the present time, the Secretariat is unable to read the XML files submitted by one CP, but a solution is being developed in collaboration with the CP to resolve this issue and to allow the Secretariat to receive all related messages in XML format. CPs discussed these issues at length and decided that they should defer any possible solution until the annual meeting.

The US expressed reservation about reporting consistent with Annex II.N and preferred to retain the ability to report consistent with Annex II.M Part 2.

The Secretariat also noted that there may be an unresolved issue with the replacement of the “DS” field with the “TA” field in the AUT messages.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties would defer the discussion on the wording of Article 28.8.b in the CEM until the Annual Meeting. Contracting Parties will encourage the submission of the information as an Excel file in the form of Annex II.N in the interim if logbook information cannot be submitted electronically.**
- **the Secretariat would look further into the issue of replacing the “DS” with the “TA” field found in the AUT message resulting in error messages and report back to STACTIC at the Annual Meeting.**

9. NAFO MCS Website

The Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 15/04 - NAFO MCS Website and noted that Phase III of the website was completed. Contracting Parties were encouraged to continue testing the website and sending comments and suggestions to the Secretariat.

The EU noted that they had submitted to the Secretariat some suggestions/comments on the technical aspects of the website. The Secretariat indicated that it continues to incorporate the suggestions for improvement. It will review the list to ensure that all comments and suggestions are incorporated to the greatest extent possible. The Secretariat agreed to look into the status of the suggestions that have yet to be incorporated and report back on the issue.

The EU suggested expanding the functionality of the MCS website, including the use of the website as central hub for inspection information with due consideration for access rights of the CPs. The EU also suggested reviewing the scope of phase III of the MCS website for the possible inclusion of all port inspection and observer reports.

Contracting Parties discussed having the MCS website serve as an information sharing platform between NAFO and NEAFC. As an initial step, Contracting Parties suggested that JAGDM focus its advice and recommendations related to integrating and sharing of NAFO and NEAFC data on the technical aspects of sharing of COE/COX messages between NAFO and NEAFC as well as PSC1, 2 and 3 forms. The US reminded CPs that security and confidentiality concerns must be addressed in any sharing of data.

The Secretariat offered to give a demonstration on the functionality of the MCS website at the annual meeting.

Canada provided STACTIC WP 15/11 - Data Sharing between NAFO and NEAFC, which includes precise recommendations to assist JAGDM in completing their task (see Agenda Item 14).

It was **agreed** that:

- **STACTIC WP 15/11 would be forwarded to JAGDM to assist in its deliberations; and**
- **the Secretariat would continue to consider technical improvements to the website suggested by the CPs, and give a demonstration on the current functionality of MCS website at the Annual Meeting.**
- **the use of the website as a central hub be further be considered at the Annual Meeting**

10. Editorial Drafting Group of the NAFO CEM (EDG)

The EDG representative presented STACTIC WP 15/09 - Review of the footnotes associated to Annex I.A – Annual Quota Table. The representative explained the process undertaken to arrive at the recommendations and noted that there were no substantive changes to the existing text. The EU noted that there were several footnotes that state “EU to work on this footnote separately”, and explained that this task was an internal matter and would be undertaken in a separate exercise to be conducted by the EU. Iceland noted concerns about the footnotes (2, 3, 4, 10, 17) pertaining to REB (pelagic redfish) and suggested that these footnotes be reviewed by both the NAFO and NEAFC Secretariats prior to making any changes. The Chair noted that a written proposal should be tabled to provide direction to the Secretariat on how to proceed with this task. The EU suggested moving forward with the review of footnotes other than those pertaining to REB.

It was **agreed** that:

- **CPs would review and comment on the draft working paper, excluding those footnotes pertaining to REB, and submit comments to the NAFO Secretariat no later than 01 July 2015.**
- **the EU would present the results of its internal footnote review at the Annual Meeting.**

11. New and Pending Proposals on Enforcement Measures -- possible revisions of the NAFO CEM

There were no items put forward under this agenda item.

12. Report and Recommendations of the Working Group to Review the NAFO Observer Scheme, April 2015

The representative of the NAFO STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group Canada presented STACTIC WP 15/07 (Revised). The representative noted that WG members had agreed on the ongoing need and utility of an effective observer plan and to that end the WG had discussed many themes and challenges related to the existing scheme. The Working Group provided the following **recommendations** to STACTIC:

- **that STACTIC confirm that the existing NAFO Observer Scheme should remain in place;**
- **Contracting Parties should remain vigilant in their respective application of the program and ensure that they adhere to the requirements of the existing Scheme;**
- **that the Working Group continue its deliberations to conclude the analysis of the existing program and develop options to enhance the program. Draft SWOT analysis will be completed through email/conference call and distributed to STACTIC Representatives by July 17, 2015;**
- **that the STACTIC Compliance Review should more thoroughly evaluate Contracting Party compliance with the provision of Chapter V of the NCEM's, in particular the electronic reporting derogation provided for under section B; and**
- **that any new definitions referring to the role of observers should be vetted through the FC SC Working Groups to ensure compatibility with the work being conducted by those NAFO bodies.**

It was indicated that the WG had initiated a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis of the current NAFO Observer Scheme, but were not able to complete this significant task in the two days that were allotted for this meeting. The working group agreed to conclude the SWOT analysis through virtual discussions and distribute to the STACTIC representatives by 17 July 2015.

It was **agreed** that:

- **all recommendations put forward by the working group in STACTIC WP 15/07 (REV) be adopted.**

13. Information Security Management System (ISMS)

The Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 15/05 - NAFO Information Security Management System (ISMS) and reported on the IT Security Audit that was recently completed, including a list of 27 suggested recommendations. The Secretariat had three suggestions: that STACTIC approve in principle the recommendations table, that STACTIC ponder how to move forward with evaluating and addressing the items designated to them on the recommendations table, and that the NAFO ISMS be an item on the next STACTIC agenda. Contracting Parties discussed the working paper and agreed that they needed time to review the recommendations in detail and to defer the Agenda Item to the Annual Meeting. The Secretariat noted that this item is also on the agenda for the upcoming JAGDM meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

further discussions and actions of this agenda item be deferred to the Annual Meeting.

14. Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)

The Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 15/06 - Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM) and noted that there had not been a JAGDM meeting since STACTIC last met. The Secretariat noted that the next JAGDM meeting will be held 20-21 May 2015 at the NAFO Secretariat and that there were several agenda items of possible interest to STACTIC, including:

- definitions and clarification of data elements,
- data sharing between NAFO and NEAFC,
- NAFO ISMS.

Canada presented STACTIC WP 15/11, and noted in the interest of providing JAGDM with additional direction to inform its deliberations on STACTIC's request for advice to enhance data sharing between NEAFC and NAFO, it is proposed that, as an initial step, JAGDM focus its activity on advice/recommendations related to:

- Automated comparison of COE/COX messages,
- Sharing of PSC-1 and PSC-2 information through the NAFO MCS website,
- Electronic submission, collection and management of PSC-3 forms,
- Security considerations for sharing this information.

It was **agreed** that:

- **as noted in Agenda item 9, STACTIC WP 15/11 would be forwarded to JAGDM to assist in its deliberations.**

15. Other Matters

a) Presentation by Canada on examples of data and reporting anomalies

Canada noted that the improvements in data provisions have allowed for further analyses, previously difficult to compile. Canada provided some actual examples of where there are inconsistencies between position reports and the reported locations of catches. Contracting Parties discussed the information and DFG presented a demonstration of their internal control system and some of the methods they employ to conduct catch and effort comparisons. The Chair noted that the presentations demonstrated the value of having multiple sources of catch information.

Discussion by CPs included recognition that CPs are responsible for the quality of data submitted to the Secretariat.

It was **agreed** that:

- **the Contracting Parties should further reflect on how to address data and reporting anomalies and encourage proposed solutions to improve data quality and reporting.**
- **CPs exchange and share best practices on improving data quality, reporting, and integrating multiple data sources.**
- **STACTIC seek coordination of how to address data quality and reporting problems and possible solutions with other related NAFO WGs.**

b) Canada proposed to discuss an editorial correction to the text of Article 9, Shrimp in Division 3L

Canada presented STACTIC WP 15/10 - Shrimp in Division 3L and referred to FC Doc. 11/23 and STACTIC WP 14/30. Canada noted that current text in Article 9.6 of the CEM does not match the text adopted by the FC in FC Doc. 11/23.

It was **agreed** that:

- **the text in Article 9.6 should be revised to align with the adopted text as follows (Table 3 and Figure 1 will remain unchanged) and forwarded to the Fisheries Commission:**

All fishing for shrimp in Division 3L shall take place in depths greater than 200m. The fishery in the Regulatory Area shall be restricted to an area east of a line bound by the following coordinates described in Table 3 and depicted in Figure 1(3).

c) Clarifying terms on bycatches and discards

The Secretariat referred to a recommendation made by the Working Group on Bycatches and Discards to the Fisheries Commission adopted by the FC at the 2014 annual meeting:

That the FC task STACTIC to support the WG as necessary including the development of standardized language for bycatch and discards through the CEM, including clarifying ambiguous or inconsistent terminology;

CPs discussed this request and noted that there was not any ambiguity or inconsistency in bycatch and discard terminology as used in the CEM for management purposes. It was also noted that STACTIC should contribute to the work of the Working Group on Bycatches and Discards.

It was **agreed** that:

- **STACTIC should respond to the FC request by noting the terms “bycatch” and “discards” as they are now defined in the CEM are not ambiguous or inconsistent because they apply to specific management measures rather than a global definition of the concepts.**
- **STACTIC should contribute to the Working Group on Bycatches and Discards.**

d) IMO Numbering Scheme

The Secretariat highlighted the following from the Fisheries Commission 2014 Annual Meeting:

A proposal requiring NAFO fishing vessels to use the IMO numbering scheme beginning 1 January 2016 was adopted. Canada requested that in the transition period STACTIC reviews the implication of this requirement as some NAFO fishing vessels may not be eligible to obtain an IMO number.

The United States indicated that they were looking into the implications of the adopted proposal and provided an update. The US noted that in 2014 there were only four vessels (of less than 100 gross tonnage) that did not have an IMO number but the US worked with IHS Fairplay (the entity that issues IMO numbers on behalf of the IMO) for those vessels to obtain assurances that they could obtain an IMO number. This would minimize barriers for CP vessels to be issued an IMO number.

The US offered to review the current vessels to determine if they have IMO numbers and provide the information to the Secretariat.

The Chair noted that since the process of obtaining an IMO number is not complicated, there should be no problems for NAFO vessels to have the ability to comply.

It was **agreed** that:

- **CPs would seek to facilitate the use of IMO numbers so that they are not restricted in their eligibility for fisheries activities in the NRA beginning on 01 January 2016.**

16. Time and Place of next meeting

The next STACTIC meeting will be held at the Westin Nova Scotia Hotel in Halifax, Canada, 21-25 September 2015.

17. Adoption of Report

The report was adopted on 08 May 2015.

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned the meeting at 12:28hrs on 08 May 2015. The Chair thanked the host and the Secretariat for their support. He also thanked the meeting participants for their cooperation and input. The participants likewise expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Chair for his leadership.

Annex 1. List of Participants

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Annex 2. Agenda

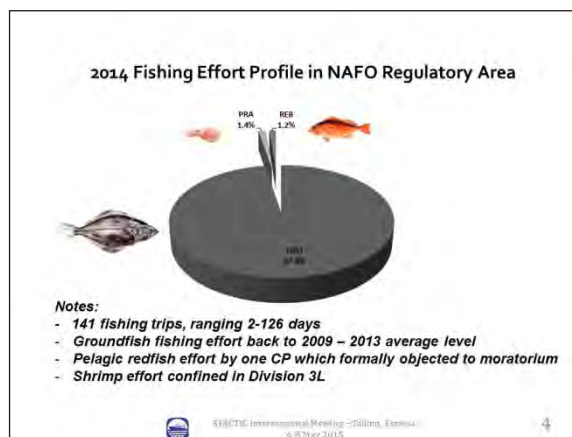
1. Opening by the Chair, Gene Martin (USA)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Compilation of fisheries reports for compliance review (2004-2014), including review of Apparent Infringements.
5. Report and Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Port State Control Alignment, May 2015
6. Review and evaluation of Practices and Procedures
7. Review of current IUU list pursuant to NAFO CEM (NCEM) Article 53
8. Half-year review of the implementation of new NAFO CEM measures
9. NAFO MCS Website
10. Editorial Drafting Group of the NAFO CEM (EDG)
11. New and Pending Proposals on Enforcement Measures -- possible revisions of the NAFO CEM
12. Report and Recommendations of the Working Group to Review the NAFO Observer Scheme, April 2015
13. Information Security Management System (ISMS)
14. Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)
15. Other Matters
 - a) Presentation by Canada on examples of data quality anomalies
 - b) Canada proposed to discuss an editorial correction to the text of Article 9, Shrimp in Division 3L
 - c) The NAFO Secretariat added the discussion point on the request for guidance made by the FC WG on Bycatches and discards to STACTIC
 - d) The NAFO Secretariat added a discussion point related to a FC request to STACTIC concerning the application and feasibility of the IMO numbering scheme.
16. Time and Place of next meeting
17. Adoption of Report
18. Adjournment

Annex 3. Fisheries in the NAFO Regulatory Area in 2014

NAFO 2014 FISHERIES TRENDS and COMPLIANCE

(from the Compilation of NAFO Fishing Reports for
STACTIC Annual Compliance Review)


Presented by the NAFO Secretariat
(Agenda item 4)

Refer to circulated Table 1 (hard copy)


Initial Observations from Table 1

- High level of compliance - VTI
- General agreement: declared vs landed
- Missing observer reports
- AIs issued at sea
- AIs issued at Port




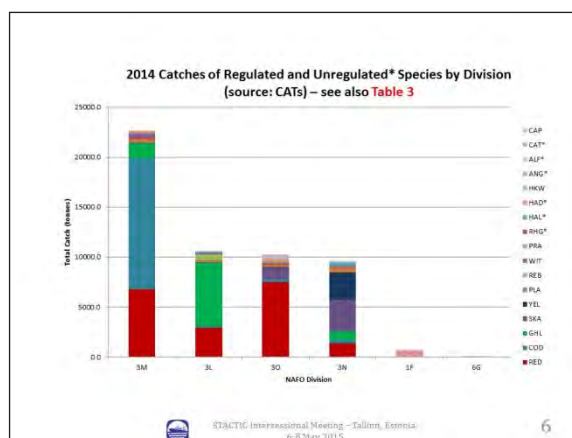
2013 -2014 Fishing Effort Profile Comparison

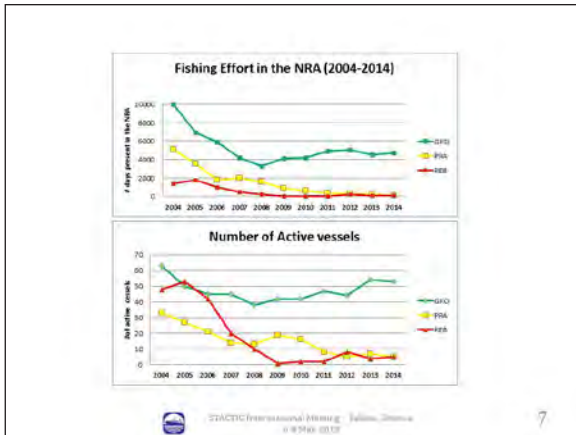
Year	Number of fishing vessels				Year	Fishing effort (days present)			
	Groundfish (GRO)	Shrimp (PRA)	Pelagic Redfish (REB)	TOTAL		Groundfish (GRO)	Shrimp (PRA)	Pelagic Redfish (REB)	TOTAL
2013	54	7	4	64	2013	4509	190	79	4778
2014	53	5	5	60	2014	4685	57	57	4809
% Change	-1.85%	-28.57%	25.00%	-6.25%	% Change	3.90%	-64.74%	-27.85%	0.65%



2014 Fishing Effort Profile in NAFO Regulatory Area

	Groundfish in Div 3LMNO (GRO)	Shrimp in Div 3L (PRA)	Redfish in Div 1F2J (REB)	TOTAL
Number of vessels	53	5	5	60
Effort (days present)	4685	67	57	4809
% Effort	97.4%	1.4%	1.2%	100%

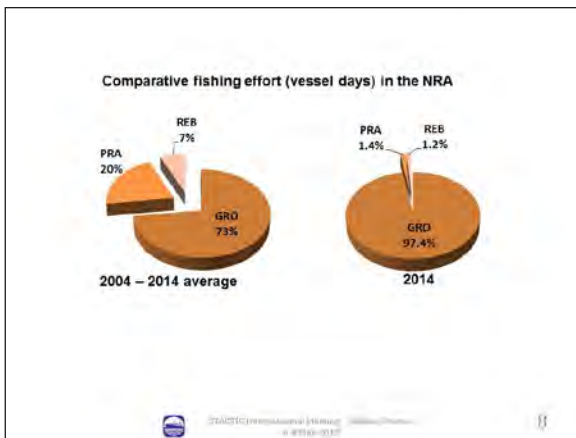





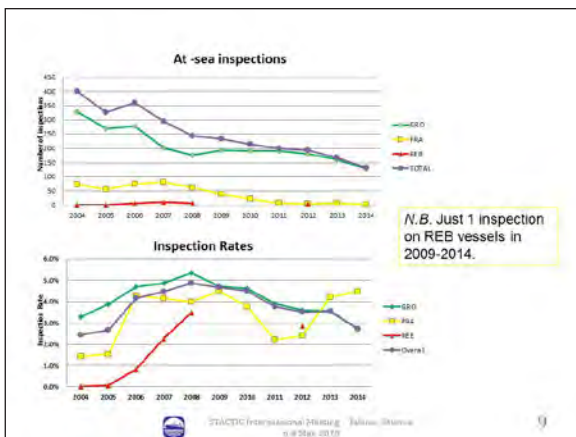
Apparent Infringements 2014 – see Table 6 for details

AI detected at sea	Non-serious	Serious	AI detected at port	Non-serious	Serious
Catch Reporting/ Misrecording (Art. 28)	2	2	Catch Reporting/ Misrecording (Art. 28)		5
Gear requirements - mesh size, illegal attachments (Art. 13)		1	Bycatch provisions (Art. 6)	3	
Storage plans (Art. 28)	2		Product labelling (Art. 27)	2	
AI - electronic observers (Art. 38.1)		1	Evidence tampering (Art. 38.1.n)		1
Capacity plans (Art. 25)	1		Total	5	6
Product labelling (Art. 27)	1				
Total	6	4			

STACTIC International Meeting - Tallinn, Estonia
6-8 May 2015



- Port Inspections**
 - Completion of Section E: see table 1
 - Some AIs have no follow-up info: see table 6
 - Observer Reports**
 - Missing reports: Only 7% coverage
 - Daily catch (CAT)**
 - Ensure accuracy: Used in quota monitoring.
 - Identified by SC, WG as significant data source for catch validation.
- STACTIC International Meeting - Tallinn, Estonia
6-8 May 2015



2014 Compliance Review

- Compliance Tables by **22 June (RoP 5.1.e)**
- Draft Compliance Review document based on Compliance Tables (RoP 5.1.e) by **Sept.**

STACTIC International Meeting - Tallinn, Estonia
6-8 May 2015

**Annex 4. Proposed amendments to Chapter VII (Port State Control) and Chapter VIII
(Non-Contracting Party Scheme) of the NCEM to align with the
FAO Port State Measures Agreement**
STACTIC Working Paper 15/08 (Rev.)

The ad hoc Working Group on Port State Control Alignment (AHWGPPSCA) met on 4-5 May 2015 in Tallinn, Estonia and agreed on the following recommendations:

1. EDG to check for consistency through the NCEM on the following terms:
 - Entitled to fly its flag
 - Entry into port
 - Fishing activities
 - Fishing vessels
 - Master or Agent
 - Landing, transshipment, or other use of ports
 - Fisheries resources
2. STACTIC to accept the draft document developed by the working group with reservations noted for purposes of receiving further comment from Contracting Parties by July 1, 2015. See Annex 1.
3. JAGDM seek to establish electronic communications in the interest of alignment with the PSA and the CEMs of NEAFC and NAFO.

A full draft report of the working group will be circulated following the STACTIC meeting.

Annex 1. Proposed amendments to Chapter VII (Port State Control) and Chapter VIII (Non-Contracting Party Scheme) of the NCEM to align with the FAO Port State Measures Agreement.

Note: The basis of this document was STACTIC PSCA-WP 15/03 with additional changes incorporated during the STACTIC Intersessional meeting, specifically the incorporation of Annex IV.H into Article 43.13 and 43.14.

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Conservation and Enforcement Measures

Article 1 - Definitions

1. "Bottom fishing activities" means bottom fishing activities where the fishing gear is likely to contact the seafloor during the normal course of fishing operations;

2. "CEM" refers to these Conservation and Enforcement Measures;

3. "Convention" means the 1979 Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, as amended from time to time;

4. "FMC" means a land-based fisheries monitoring centre of the flag State Contracting Party;

5. "Fishing activities" means fishing, fish harvesting or processing operations, transshipment of fishery resources, landings or transshipping of fishery resources or fish products, landings, and derived from fishery resources or any other activity in preparation for, in support of, or related to fishing or the harvesting of fishery resources in the Regulatory Area, including:

(i) the actual or attempted searching for, catching or taking of fishery resources;

(ii) any activity that can reasonably be expected to result in locating, catching, taking, or harvesting of fishery resources for any purpose, and

(iii) any operation at sea in support of, or in preparation for, any activity described in this definition,

but does not include any operations related to emergencies involving the health and safety of the crew members or the safety of a vessel.

6. "Fishing day" means any calendar day or any fraction of a calendar day in which a fishing vessel is present in any Division in the Regulatory Area;

7. "Fishing trip" for a fishing vessel includes the time from its entry into until its departure from the Regulatory Area and continues until all catch on board from the Regulatory Area has been unloaded/landed or transhipped;

8. "Fishing vessel" means any vessel equipped for, intended for, or engaged in fishing activities, including fish processing, transshipment or any other activity in preparation for or related to fishing activities, including experimental or exploratory fishing activities;

9. "Inspector", unless otherwise specified, means an inspector of the fishery control services of a Contracting Party assigned to the Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme;

10. "IUU fishing" means activities as defined in paragraph 3 of the FAO International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing;

11. "IUU Vessel List" means the list, established in accordance with Articles 52 and 53;

12. "Non-Contracting Party vessel" means a vessel entitled to fly the flag of a State that is not a Contracting Party or a vessel suspected to be without nationality;

13. "Port" includes offshore terminals and other installations for landing, transshipping, unloading, processing, refueling or resupplying.

14. "Processed fish" means any marine organism that has been physically altered since capture, including fish that has been filleted, gutted, packaged, canned, frozen, smoked, salted, cooked, pickled, dried or prepared for market in any other manner;

14.15. "Research vessel" means a vessel permanently used for research or a vessel normally used for fishing activities or fisheries support activity that is for the time being used for fisheries research;

1516. "Transshipment" means transfer, over the side, from one fishing vessel to another, of fisheries resources or products.

Article 2 - Scope

1. The CEM shall, unless otherwise provided, apply to all fishing vessels used or intended for use for the purposes of commercial fishing activities conducted on fisheries resources in the Regulatory Area.

2. Unless otherwise provided, research vessels shall not be restricted by conservation and management measures pertaining to the taking of fish, in particular, concerning mesh size, size limits, closed areas and seasons.

Article 3 - Duties of the Contracting Parties

1. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that every fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag operating in the Regulatory Area complies with the relevant provisions of the CEM; and

2. Each fishing vessel operating in the Regulatory Area shall perform the relevant duties set out in the CEM and comply with the relevant provisions of the CEM.



Article 38 - Additional Procedures for Serious Infringements

List of Serious Infringements

1. Each of the following violations constitutes a serious infringement:

- (a) fishing an "Others" quota without prior notification to the Executive Secretary contrary to Article 5;
- (b) fishing an "Others" quota more than seven working days following closure by the Executive Secretary contrary to Article 5;
- (c) directed fishing for a stock which is subject to a moratorium, or for which fishing is otherwise prohibited, contrary to Article 6;
- (d) directed fishing for stocks or species after the date of closure by the flag State Contracting Party notified to the Executive Secretary contrary to Article 5;
- (e) fishing in a closed area, contrary to Article 9.6 and Article 11;
- (f) fishing with a bottom fishing gear in an area closed to bottom fishing activities, contrary to Chapter II;
- (g) using an unauthorized mesh size contrary to Article 13;
- (h) fishing without a valid authorization issued by the flag State Contracting Party contrary to Article 25;
- (i) mis-recording of catches contrary to Article 28;
- (j) failing to carry or interfering with the operation of the satellite monitoring system contrary to Article 29;
- (k) failure to communicate messages related to catch contrary to Article 10.6 or Article 28;
- (l) obstructing, intimidating, interfering with or otherwise preventing inspectors or observers from performing their duties;
- (m) committing an infringement where there is no observer on board;
- (n) concealing, tampering with or disposing of evidence related to an investigation, including the breaking or tampering of seals or gaining access to sealed areas;
- (o) presentation of falsified documents or providing false information to an inspector that would prevent a serious infringement from being detected;
- (p) landing, or transshipping or making use of other port services in a port not designated in accordance with the provisions of Article 43.1;
- (q) failure to comply with the provisions of Article 45.1; and
- (r) landing, or transshipping or making use of other port services without authorization of the port State as referred to in Article 43.6.

Duties and Authority of the Inspectors

2. Where the inspectors cite a vessel for having committed a serious infringement, they shall:

- (a) seek to notify the competent authority of the flag State Contracting Party;
- (b) report the serious infringement to the Executive Secretary;
- (c) take all measures necessary to ensure security and continuity of the evidence, including, as appropriate, sealing the vessel's hold for further inspection;
- (d) request that the master cease all fishing activity that appears to constitute a serious infringement;

3. The inspectors may remain on board to provide information and assistance to the inspector designated by the flag State Contracting Party (designated inspector). During this time, the inspectors shall complete the original inspection provided that, following the arrival of the designated inspector, the competent authority of the flag State Contracting Party does not require the inspectors to leave the vessel.

Duties of the Flag State Contracting Party

4. Where notified of a serious infringement, the flag State Contracting Party shall:

- (a) acknowledge receipt of the notification without delay;
- (b) ensure the fishing vessel does not resume fishing until the inspectors have notified the master that they are satisfied that the infringement will not be repeated; and
- (c) ensure that the vessel is inspected within 72 hours by an inspector designated by the flag State Contracting Party.

5. Where justified, the flag State Contracting Party shall, where authorized to do so, require the vessel to proceed immediately to a port for a thorough inspection under its authority in the presence of an inspector from any other Contracting Party that wishes to participate.

6. Where the flag State Contracting Party does not order the fishing vessel to port, it shall provide written justification to the Executive Secretary no later than 3 working days following the notice of infringement.

7. Where the flag State Contracting Party orders the fishing vessel to port, an inspector from another Contracting Party may board or remain onboard the vessel as it proceeds to port, provided that the competent authority of the flag State Contracting Party does not require the inspector to leave the vessel.

8. (a) Where, in accordance with the inspection referred to in paragraph 3, the designated inspector issues a notice of infringement for:

directed fishing for a stock which is subject to a moratorium (i)

directed fishing for a stock for which fishing is prohibited under Article 6 (ii)

mis-recording of catch, contrary to Article 28 or (iii)

repetition of the same serious infringement during a 100 days period or a single fishing trip, whichever (iv) is shorter the flag State Contracting Party shall order the vessel to cease all fishing activities and shall forthwith initiate a full investigation.

(b) In this paragraph, “mis-recording of catches” means a difference of at least 10 tonnes or 20%, whichever is greater, between the inspectors’ estimates of processed catch on board, by species or in total, and the figures recorded in the production logbook, calculated as a percentage of the production logbook figures. In order to calculate the estimate of the catch on board, the inspectors shall apply a stowage factor agreed between them and the designated inspector.

9. (a) Where the flag State Contracting Party is unable to conduct a full investigation in the Regulatory Area, or where the serious infringement is mis-recording of catches, it shall order the vessel to proceed immediately to a port where it shall conduct a full investigation ensuring that the physical inspection and enumeration of total catch on board takes place under its authority;

(b) Subject to the consent of the flag State Contracting Party, inspectors of another Contracting Party may participate in the inspection and enumeration of the catch.

Duties of the Executive Secretary

10. The Executive Secretary:

(a) informs without delay the Contracting Parties having an inspection presence in the Regulatory Area of the serious infringement referred by its inspectors;

(b) informs without delay to the inspecting Contracting Party, the justification provided by the flag State Contracting Party, where it did not order its vessel to port in response to the finding of a serious infringement; and

(c) makes available to any Contracting Party, on request, the justification provided by the flag State Contracting Party where it did not order its vessel to port in response to the finding of a serious infringement.

Article 39 – Follow-up to Infringements

1. A flag State Contracting Party that has been notified of an infringement committed by a fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag shall:

(a) investigate immediately and fully, including as appropriate, by physically inspecting the fishing vessel at the earliest opportunity;

(b) cooperate with the inspecting Contracting Party to preserve the evidence in a form that will facilitate proceedings in accordance with its laws;

(c) take immediate judicial or administrative action in conformity with its national legislation against the persons responsible for the vessel entitled to fly its flag where the CEM have not been respected; and

Article 39 – Follow-up to Infringements

1. A flag State Contracting Party that has been notified of an infringement committed by a fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag shall:

- (a) investigate immediately and fully, including as appropriate, by physically inspecting the fishing vessel at the earliest opportunity;**
- (b) cooperate with the inspecting Contracting Party to preserve the evidence in a form that will facilitate proceedings in accordance with its laws;**
- (c) take immediate judicial or administrative action in conformity with its national legislation against the persons responsible for the vessel ~~flyingsentitled to fly~~ its flag where the CEM have not been respected; and**
- (d) ensure that sanctions applicable in respect of infringements are adequate in severity to be effective in securing compliance, deterring further infringements and depriving the offenders of the benefits accruing from the infringement.**

2. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that in proceedings it has instituted, it treats all notices of infringement issued in accordance with Article 38.1 [1] as if the infringement was reported by its own inspector.

3. Each Contracting Party shall take enforcement measures with respect to a vessel ~~flyingsentitled to fly~~ its flag, where it has been established in accordance with domestic law, that the vessel committed a serious infringement listed in Article 38.8.

4. The measures referred to in paragraph 3 and the sanctions referred to in paragraph 1[d] may include the following depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with domestic law:

- (a) fines;**
- (b) seizure of the vessel, illegal fishing gear and catches;**
- (c) suspension or withdrawal of authorization to ~~fishconduct fishing activities~~; and**
- (d) reduction or cancellation of any fishing allocations.**

5. The flag State Contracting Party shall immediately notify the Executive Secretary of the measures taken against its vessel in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4.

CHAPTER VII PORT STATE CONTROL

Article 42 – Scope

Subject to the right of the port State Contracting Party to impose requirements of its own for access to its ports, the provisions in this ~~Article/Chapter~~ apply to ~~landings or transshipments at port entries and the use of ports of Contracting Parties by fishing vessels flying the flag of another Contracting Party, conducting fishing activities in the Regulatory Area.~~ The provisions apply to ~~landings or transshipment of fish caught in the Regulatory Area, fish or fish products originating from such fish, that have not been previously landed or offloaded/transhipped at a port.~~ This ~~Article/Chapter~~ also sets out the respective duties of the flag State Contracting Party and obligations of the master of fishing vessels ~~seeking requesting entry to land catch in a part of a Contracting Party.~~

Article 43 – Duties of the Port State Contracting Party

1. The port State Contracting Party shall designate ports to which fishing vessels may be permitted ~~admission~~ for the purpose of ~~landing or, transshipment and/or provision of port services and shall [to the greatest extent possible ensure] that each designated port has sufficient capacity to conduct inspections pursuant to this Chapter.~~ It shall transmit to the Executive Secretary a list of these ports. Any subsequent changes to the list shall be notified to the Executive Secretary no less than fifteen days before the change comes into effect.

2. The port State Contracting Party shall establish a minimum prior ~~notification request~~ period. The prior ~~notification request~~ period should be 3 working days before the estimated time of arrival. However the port State Contracting Party may make provisions for another prior ~~notification request~~ period, taking into account, inter alia, ~~catch product type or the~~ distance between fishing grounds and its ports. The port State Contracting Party shall advise the Executive Secretary of the prior ~~notification request~~ period.

3. The port State Contracting Party shall designate the competent authority which shall act as the contact point for the purposes of receiving ~~notification requests~~ in accordance with Article 45 (1, 2 and/or 3), receiving confirmations in accordance with Article 44.2 and issuing authorizations in accordance with paragraph 6. The port State Contracting Party shall advise the Executive Secretary about the competent authority name and its contact information.

4. The requirements contained in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 do not apply to a Contracting Party that does not permit any ~~landings or transshipments at port entries~~ in its ports by vessels ~~flying the flag of another Contracting Party.~~

5. The port State Contracting Party shall forward a copy of the form as referred to in Article 45 (1 and 2) without delay to the flag State Contracting Party of the vessel and to the flag State Contracting Party of similar vessels where the vessel has engaged in transshipment operations.

6. ~~Landing or transshipment operations~~ Fishing vessels may ~~only commence after not enter port without prior~~ authorization ~~has been given by the competent authorities of the port State Contracting Party. Such authorization/authorization to land or tranship~~ shall only be given if the confirmation from the flag Contracting Party as referred to in Article 44.2 has been received.

7. By way of derogation from paragraph 6 the port State Contracting Party may authorize all or part of a landing in the absence of the confirmation referred to in paragraph 6. In such cases the fish concerned shall be kept in storage under the control of the competent authorities. The fish shall only be released to be sold, taken over, produced or transported once the confirmation referred to in paragraph 6 has been received. If the confirmation has not been received within 14 days of the landing the port State Contracting Party may confiscate and dispose of the fish in accordance with national rules. ~~8. The port State Contracting Party shall without delay notify the master of the fishing vessel of its decision on whether to authorize the landing or transshipment by returning a copy of the form FSC 1 or 2 with Part C duly completed. This copy shall also be transmitted to the Executive Secretary without delay.~~

~~8. The port State Contracting Party shall without delay notify the master of the fishing vessel of its decision on whether to authorize or deny the port entry, or if the vessel is in port, the landing, transshipment and other use of port. If the vessel entry is authorized the port state returns to the master a copy of the form FSC 1 or 2 with Part C duly completed. This copy shall also be transmitted to the Executive Secretary without delay. In case of a denial the port state shall also notify the flag State Contracting Party.~~

9. In case of cancellation of the prior ~~notification request~~ referred to in Article 45, paragraph 2, the port State Contracting Party shall forward a copy of the cancelled FSC 1 or 2 to the flag State Contracting Party and the Executive Secretary.

10. Unless otherwise required in a recovery plan, the port State Contracting Party shall carry out inspections of at least 15 % of all such landings or transshipments during each reporting year.

In determining which vessels to inspect, port State Contracting Parties shall give priority to:

a) vessels that have been denied entry or use of a port in accordance with this Chapter or any other provision of the CEM; and

b) requests from other Contracting Parties, States or RFMOs that a particular vessel be inspected.

11. Inspections shall be conducted by authorized Contracting Party inspectors who shall present credentials to the master of the vessel prior to the inspection.

12. The port State Contracting Party may invite inspectors of other Contracting Parties to accompany their own inspectors and observe the inspection ~~of landings or transshipment operations.~~

13. An inspection of a vessel in port by a port State Contracting Party shall involve the monitoring of the entire landing or transshipment of fishery resources in that port, as applicable. During any such inspection, the port State Contracting Party shall, at a minimum:

(a) verify, to the extent possible, that the vessel identification documentation on board and information relative to the owner of the vessel is true, complete and correct, including through appropriate contacts with the flag State or international records of vessels if necessary;

(b) verify that the vessel's flag and markings (e.g. name, external registration number, International Maritime Organization (IMO) ship identification number, international radio call sign and other markings, main dimensions) are consistent with information contained in the documentation;

(c) review all other relevant documentation and records held onboard, including, to the extent possible, those in electronic format and vessel monitoring system (VMS) data from the flag State or RFMOs. Relevant documentation may include logbooks, catch, transshipment and trade documents, crew lists, stowage plans and drawings, descriptions of fish holds, and documents required pursuant to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora;

(d) verify, to the extent possible, that the authorizations for fishing activities are true, complete, correct and consistent with the information provided in accordance with the CEM provisions including, but not limited to, Articles 25, 44, 45 and 51;

(e) determine, to the extent possible, whether any fishery resources on board were harvested in accordance with applicable authorizations for the vessel;

(f) examine any fishery resources on board the vessel, including by sampling, to determine its quantity and composition. In doing so, inspectors may open containers where the fishery resources have been pre-packed and move the catch or containers to ascertain the integrity of fish holds. Such examination may include inspections of product type and determination of nominal weight;

(g) cross-check against the quantities of each species landed or transhipped,

(i) the quantities by species recorded in the logbook;

(ii) catch and activity reports; and

(iii) all information on catches provided in the prior notification (PSC 1 or 2);

(h) verify and record the quantities by species of catch remaining on board upon completion of landing or transshipment;

(i) verify any information from inspections carried out in accordance with Chapter VI;

(j) examine, to the extent possible, all relevant fishing gear onboard, including any gear stored out of sight as well as related devices, and to the extent possible, verify that they are in conformity with the conditions of the authorizations. The fishing gear shall, to the extent possible, also be checked to ensure that features such as the mesh and twine size, devices and attachments, dimensions and configuration of nets, pots, dredges, hook sizes and numbers are in conformity with applicable resolutions and that the machines connected to those authorized for the vessel;

(k) verify fish size for compliance with minimum size requirements;



(l) evaluate whether there is clear evidence for believing that a non-Contracting Party vessel has engaged in IUU fishing activities and

(m) arrange, where necessary and possible, for translation of relevant documentation.

14. Each inspection shall be documented by completing form PSC 3 (port State Control inspection form) as set out in Annex IV.C. The inspectors may insert any comments they consider relevant. The master shall be given the opportunity to add any comments or objection to the report and, as appropriate, to contact the relevant authorities of the flag State in particular where the master has serious difficulties in understanding the content of the report. The inspectors shall sign the report and request that the master sign the report. The master's signature on the report shall serve only as acknowledgement of the receipt of a copy of the report. The master of the vessel shall be provided with a copy of the report containing the result of the inspection, including possible measures that could be taken. A copy of the report shall be provided to the master.

13. An inspection shall involve the monitoring of the entire discharge, landing or transhipment in that port and the port State Contracting Party shall, as a minimum,

(a) cross-check against the quantities of each species landed or transhipped,

(b) the quantities by species recorded in the logbook

(c) catch and activity reports, and

(d) all information as stated provided in the prior notification (PSC 1 to 3)

(b) verify and record the quantities by species of catch remaining on board upon completion of landing or transhipment;

(c) verify any information from inspectors received out in accordance with Chapter III,

(d) verify all nets on board and owned such size measurements;

(e) verify fish size for compliance with minimum size requirements;

(f) ensure that inspectors examine all relevant gear, equipment and documents which are relevant to verifying compliance with relevant conservation and management measures, and that inspections are conducted in accordance with the provisions laid down in Annex IV.B1.

14. Each inspection shall be documented by completing form PSC 3 (port State Control inspection form) as set out in Annex IV.C. The inspectors may insert any comments they consider relevant. They shall sign the report and request that the master sign the report. The master may insert any comment he considers relevant and shall be provided with a copy of the report.

15. The port State Contracting Party shall without delay transmit a copy of each port State Control inspection report and, upon request, an original or a certified copy thereof, to the flag State Contracting Party and to the flag State of any vessel that transhipped catch to the inspected fishing vessel. A copy shall also be sent to the Executive Secretary without delay.

16. Inspections shall be conducted in a fair, transparent and non-discriminatory manner and shall not constitute harassment of any vessel. Inspectors shall not interfere with the master's ability to communicate with the authorities of the flag State Contracting Party.

17. The port State Contracting Party shall make all possible effort to communicate with the master or senior crew members of the vessel, including where possible and where needed, that the inspector is accompanied by an interpreter.

18. The port State Contracting Party shall make all possible efforts to avoid unduly delaying the fishing vessel and ensure that the vessel suffers the minimum interference and inconvenience and that unnecessary degradation of the quality of the fish is avoided.

Article 44 – Duties of the Flag State Contracting Party

1. The flag State Contracting Party shall ensure that the master of any fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag complies with the obligations relating to masters set out in [this Article 45](#).

2. The flag State Contracting Party of a fishing vessel intending to land or tranship, or where the vessel has engaged in transshipment operations outside a port, the flag State Contracting Party or parties, shall confirm by returning a copy of the form, PSC 1 or 2, transmitted in accordance with Article 43.5 with part B duly completed, stating that:

- (a) the fishing vessel declared to have caught the fish had sufficient quota for the species declared;
- (b) the declared quantity of fish on board has been duly reported by species and taken into account for the calculation of any catch or effort limitations that may be applicable;
- (c) the fishing vessel declared to have caught the fish had authorization to fish in the areas declared; and
- (d) the presence of the vessel in the area in which it has declared to have taken its catch has been verified by VMS data.

3. The flag State Contracting Party shall designate the competent authority, which shall act as the contact point for the purposes of receiving [notification requests](#) in accordance with Article 43.5 and providing confirmation in accordance with Article 43.6, and communicate this information to the NAFO Secretariat for dissemination to Contracting Parties.

Article 45 - Obligations of the Master of a Fishing Vessel

1. The master or the agent of any fishing vessel intending to [make a port call](#) shall [notify forward the request for entry](#) to the competent authorities of the port State Contracting Party within the [notification request](#) period referred to in Article 43.2. Such [notification request](#) shall be accompanied by the form provided for in Annex III with Part A duly completed as follows:

- (a) Form PSC 1, as referred to in Annex III.A shall be used where the vessel is [arriving](#), landing or transshipping its own catch; and
- (b) Form PSC 2, as referred to in Annex III.B, shall be used where the vessel has engaged in transshipment operations. A separate form shall be used for each donor vessel.
- (c) Both forms PSC 1 and PSC 2 shall be completed in cases where a vessel is intending to land [or tranship](#) both its own catch and catch that was received through transshipment.

2. A master or the agent may cancel a prior [notification request](#) by notifying the competent authorities of the port they intended to use. The [notification request](#) shall be accompanied by a copy of the original PSC 1 or 2 with the word "cancelled" written across it.

3. The master of a fishing vessel shall:

- (a) co-operate with and assist in the inspection of the fishing vessel conducted in accordance with these procedures and shall not obstruct, intimidate or interfere with the port State inspectors in the performance of their duties;
- (b) provide access to any areas, decks, rooms, catch, nets or other gear or equipment, and provide any relevant information which the port State inspectors request including copies of any relevant documents.

Article 46 - Duties of the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary shall without delay post on the NAFO website:

- (a) the list of designated ports [and any changes thereto](#);
- (b) the prior [notification request](#) periods established by each Contracting Party;
- (c) the information about the designated competent authorities in each port State Contracting Party; and,
- (d) the information about the designated competent authorities in each flag State Contracting Party.

2. The Executive Secretary shall without delay post on the secure part of the NAFO website:

- (a) copies of all PSC 1 and 2 forms transmitted by port State Contracting Parties;
- (b) copies of all inspection reports, as referred to in Annex IV.C [PSC 3 form], transmitted by port State Contracting Parties.

3. All forms related to a specific landing or transshipment shall be posted together.

Article 47 - Serious Infringements Detected During In-Port Inspections

1. The provisions in Articles 39 and 40 shall apply to any serious infringements listed in Article 38 detected during in-port inspections.

2. Serious infringements detected during in-port inspections shall be followed up in accordance with domestic law.

CHAPTER VIII NON-CONTRACTING PARTY SCHEME

Article 48 – General Provisions

1. The purpose of this Chapter is to promote compliance with non-Contracting Party vessels with recommendations established by NAFO and to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by non-Contracting Party vessels (hereinafter referred to as "NCP" vessels) that undermine the effectiveness of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures established by the Organization.

2. Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to:

- (a) affect the sovereign right of any Contracting Party to take additional measures to prevent, deter and eliminate IUU fishing by NCP vessels or, where evidence so warrants, take such action as may be appropriate, consistent with international law; or
- (b) prevent a Contracting Party from allowing an NCP vessel entry into its ports for the purpose of conducting an inspection of, or taking appropriate enforcement action ~~against the vessel, which, if there is sufficient proof of IUU fishing, is at least as effective as denial of port entry in preventing, deterring and eliminating IUU fishing.~~

3. This Chapter shall be:

- (a) interpreted in a manner consistent with international law, including the right of port access in case of force majeure or distress; and
- (b) applied in a fair and transparent manner.

4. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that vessels entitled to fly its flag do not engage in joint fishing activities with NCP vessels referred to in Article 49, including receiving or delivering transshipments of fish to or from a NCP vessel.

Article 49 – Presumption of IUU fishing

1. An NCP vessel is presumed to have undermined the effectiveness of the CEM, and to have engaged in IUU fishing, if it has been:

- (a) sighted or identified by other means as engaged in fishing activities in the Regulatory Area;
- (b) involved in transshipment with another NCP vessel sighted or identified as engaged in fishing activities inside or outside the Regulatory Area; and/or
- (c) included in the IUU list of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC).

Article 50 – Sighting and Inspection of NCP Vessels in the NRA

1. Each Contracting Party with an inspection and/or surveillance presence in the Regulatory Area authorized under the Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme that sights or identifies an NCP vessel engaged in fishing activities in the NRA shall:

- (a) transmit immediately the information to the Executive Secretary using the format of the surveillance report set out in Annex IV.A;
- (b) attempt to inform the Master that the vessel is presumed to be engaged in IUU fishing and that this information will be distributed to all Contracting Parties, relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and the flag State of the vessel;
- (c) if appropriate, request permission from the Master to board the vessel for inspection; and
- (d) where the Master agrees to inspection:
 - (i) transmit the inspector's findings to the Executive Secretary without delay, using the inspection report form set out in Annex IV.B; and
 - (ii) provide a copy to the inspection report to the Master.

Duties of the Executive Secretary

2. The Executive Secretary, within one business day, posts the information received pursuant to this Article to the secure part of the NAFO website and distributes it to all Contracting Parties, other relevant RFMDs, and to the flag State of the vessel as soon as possible.

Article 51 – Port Entry and Inspection of NCP vessels

Duties of the Master of a NCP vessel

1. Each Master of a NCP vessel shall ~~notify~~request permission to enter port from the competent authority of the port State Contracting Party ~~of its intention to call into a port~~ in accordance with the provisions of Article 45.

Duties of the Port State Contracting Party

2. Each port State Contracting Party shall:

(a) forward without delay to the flag State of the vessel and to the Executive Secretary the information it has received pursuant to Article 45;

(b) refuse port entry to any NCP vessel where:

(i) the Master has not fulfilled the requirements set out in Article 45 paragraph 1; or

(ii) the flag State has not confirmed the vessel's fishing activities in accordance with Article 44 paragraph 2;

(c) inform the Master ~~or agent~~, the flag State of that vessel, and the Executive Secretary of its decision to refuse port entry, landing ~~or transshipment or other use of port~~ of any NCP vessel;

~~(d) withdraw denial of port entry only if the port State has determined there is sufficient proof that the grounds on which entry was denied were inadequate or erroneous or that such grounds no longer apply.~~

~~(e) inform the Master or agent the flag State of that vessel, and (the Executive Secretary of its decision to withdraw denial of port entry, landing, transshipment or other use of port of any NCP vessel;~~

~~(f) where it permits entry, ensure the vessel is inspected by duly authorized officials knowledgeable in the CEM and that the inspection is carried out in accordance with Article 43 paragraphs 11 – 18; and~~

~~include an examination of log books, fishing gear, catch on board, and any other matter relating to the vessel's activities in the Regulatory Area; and~~

~~is documented in the format set out in Annex IV C; and (g)~~

~~(g) send a copy of the inspection report and details of any subsequent action it has taken to the Executive Secretary without delay.~~

3. Each port State Contracting Party shall ensure that no NCP vessel engages in landing, or transshipment operations or other use of port in its ports unless the vessel has been inspected by its duly authorized officials knowledgeable in the CEM and the Master establishes that the fish species on board subject to the NAFO Convention were harvested outside the Regulatory Area or in compliance with the CEM. ~~*Duties of the Executive Secretary*~~

Duties of the Executive Secretary

4. ~~In~~ The Executive Secretary ~~shall~~ without delay ~~post~~request the information received pursuant to this Article to the secure part of the NAFO website, and distributes it to all Contracting Parties, relevant RFMDs, and the flag State of the vessel and the state of which the vessel's master is a national, if known.

Article 52 – Provisional IUU Vessel List

1. In addition to information submitted from Contracting Parties in accordance with Articles 49 and 51, each Contracting Party may, without delay, transmit to the Executive Secretary any information that may assist in identification of any NCP vessel that might be carrying out IUU fishing in the Regulatory Area.

2. If a Contracting Party objects to a NEAFC IUU-listed vessel being incorporated into or deleted from the NAFO IUU Vessel List in accordance with Article 53, such vessel shall be placed on the Provisional IUU Vessel List.

Duties of the Executive Secretary

3. The Executive Secretary:

(a) establishes and maintains a list of RCP vessels presumed to have engaged in IUU fishing in the Regulatory Area referred to as the Provisional IUU Vessel List;

(b) upon receipt, records the information received pursuant to paragraph 1, including, if available, the name of the vessel, its flag State, call sign and registration number, and any other identifying features, in the Provisional IUU Vessel List;

(c) posts the Provisional IUU Vessel List and all updates to the secure part of the NAFO website; and

(d) advises the flag State of the RCP vessel listing, including:

the reasons and supporting evidence; (i)

a copy of the CEM and a link to its place on the NAFO website; (ii)

(e) requests that the flag State of the RCP vessel:

take all measures to ensure that the vessel immediately ceases all fishing activities that undermine the (i) effectiveness of the CEM;

report within 30 days from the date of the request on the measures it has taken with respect to the (ii) vessel concerned; and

state any objections it may have to including the vessel in the IUU Vessel List; (iii)

(f) transmits to the flag State of the RCP vessel any additional information received pursuant to Articles 49-51 in respect of vessels [flyquartered to fly](#) their flag that have already been included in the Provisional IUU Vessel List;

(g) distributes any information received from the flag State to all Contracting Parties;

(h) advises the flag State of the RCP vessel of the dates STACTIC and the General Council will consider listing the vessel in the IUU Vessel List, and invites the flag State to attend the meeting as an observer where it will be given the opportunity to respond to the report submitted in accordance with paragraph 3(e)(ii);

(i) transfers the vessel from the Provisional IUU Vessel List to the IUU Vessel List in accordance with Article 53 if the flag State does not object; and

(j) places all vessels included in the REAFC IUU List on the IUU Vessel List unless a Contracting Party objects to such inclusion, in which case it places the vessel on the Provisional IUU Vessel List. Article 53 shall not apply to vessels placed on the Provisional IUU Vessel List in accordance with this paragraph.

Article 53 – IUU Vessel List

Listing a Vessel on the IUU Vessel List

1. STACTIC recommends to the Fisheries Commission whether each vessel listed in the Provisional IUU Vessel List should be:

(a) deleted from the Provisional IUU Vessel List;

(b) retained in the Provisional IUU Vessel List, pending receipt of further information from the flag State, or

(c) transferred to the IUU Vessel List only upon expiration of the period referred to in Article 52.3(e)(ii).

Deleting a Vessel from the IUU Vessel List

2. STACTIC may advise that the Fisheries Commission recommend that General Council delete a vessel from either the Provisional IUU Vessel List or the IUU Vessel List where it is satisfied that the flag State of a vessel concerned has provided sufficient evidence to establish that:

(a) it has taken effective action to address the IUU fishing of such vessel, including prosecution and imposition of sanctions of adequate severity;

(b) it has taken measures to prevent such vessel from engaging in further IUU fishing under its flag;

(c) such vessel has changed ownership, and

**the previous owner no longer has any legal, financial or real interest in such vessel, or exercises no (i) control over it; or
the new owner has no legal, financial or real interest in, nor exercises control over, another vessel listed (ii) in the IUU
Vessel List or any similar IUU list maintained by an RFMO, and has not otherwise been engaged in IUU activities;**

(d) such vessel did not take part in IUU fishing; or,

(e) such vessel has sunk, been scrapped, or been permanently reassigned for purposes other than fishing activities.

3. The Fisheries Commission may recommend to the General Council any changes to listings in the IUU Vessel List. The General Council determines the final composition of the IUU Vessel List.

Duties of the Executive Secretary

4. The Executive Secretary:

(a) posts the IUU Vessel List on the NAFO website, including the name and flag State and, if available, the call sign, hull number, IMO number, previous name(s) and flag(s) or any other identifying features for each vessel;

(b) notifies the flag State of the name of each vessel entitled to fly its flag listed in the IUU Vessel List;

(c) transmits the IUU Vessel List and any relevant information, including the reasons for listing or de-listing each vessel, to other RFMOs, including, in particular, the NEAFC, the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFU), and the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR);

(d) transmits the amendments to the NEAFC IUU list, upon receipt, to all Contracting Parties and amends the IUU Vessel List consistent with amendments to the NEAFC IUU List, within 30 days of such transmittal; unless within the 30 days the Executive Secretary receives from a Contracting Party a written submission establishing that:

any of the requirements in paragraph 2(a)–(d) of this Article have been met with regard to a vessel (i) placed on the NEAFC IUU List; or

none of the requirements in paragraph 2(a)–(d) of this Article have been met with regard to a vessel (ii) taken off the NEAFC IUU List; and

(e) advises STACTIC of any action taken pursuant to this Article.

Article 54 – Action against vessels listed in the IUU Vessel List

Each Contracting Parties shall take all measures necessary to deter, prevent, and eliminate IUU fishing, in relation to any vessel listed in the IUU Vessel List, including:

(a) prohibiting any vessel entitled to fly its flag, from, except in the case of force majeure, participating in fishing activities with such vessel, including but not limited to joint fishing operations;

(b) prohibiting the supply of provisions, fuel or other services to such vessel, both at sea and in port;

(c) prohibiting entry into its ports of such vessel, and if the vessel is in port, prohibiting use of port, except in the case of force majeure, of distress, for the purposes of inspection, or for taking appropriate enforcement action;

(d) prohibiting change of crew, except as required in relation to force majeure;

(e) refusing to authorize such vessel to fish in waters under its national jurisdiction;

(f) prohibiting chartering of such vessel;

(g) refusing to entitle such vessels to fly its flag;

(h) prohibiting landing and importation of fish from onboard or traceable to such vessel;

(i) encouraging importers, transporters and other sectors concerned, to refrain from negotiating transshipment of fish with such vessels; and

(j) collecting and exchanging any appropriate information regarding such vessel with the other Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Parties and RFMOs with the aim of detecting, deterring and preventing the use of false import or export certificates in relation to fish or fish product from such vessels.

Article 55 – Action Against Flag States

1. Contracting Parties shall jointly and/or individually request the cooperation of the flag State of each RCP vessel listed in the IUU Vessel List with a view to prevent, deter and eliminate future IUU activities by such vessel.

2. The Fisheries Commission shall review annually the actions taken by the flag States referred to in paragraph 1 with a view to identifying for follow-up action any that has not taken action sufficient to prevent deter and eliminate IUU activities by any vessel entitled to fly its flag listed in the IJD Vessel List.

3. Each Contracting Parties should, to the extent possible and consistent with its international obligations and in accordance with applicable legislation, restrict the export and transfer of any fishing vessel entitled to fly its flag to any State identified pursuant to paragraph 2.

Annex III
Part State Control Prior Notification Request Forms

A-PSC-1

PART STATE CONTROL FORM – PSC 1							
PART A: To be completed by the Master of the Vessel. Please use black ink.							
Name of Vessel:	MMSI Number: ¹		Radio Call Sign:		Flag State:		
Email Address:	Telephone Number:		Fax Number:		Internet Number:		
Port of Landing or Transshipment:							
International Date of Arrival: _____ Date: _____ Time UTC							
Vessel owner's name		Vessel owner's nationality		Vessel owner		Certificate of Registry ID	
Vessel dimensions		Length (m):		Breadth (m):		Depth (m):	
Port State:				Port of Landing or Transshipment:			
Last port of call:				Date:			
Estimated Time of Arrival:		Date:		Time UTC:			
Frozen products only:		Fresh products only:		Fresh and frozen products			
Total catch on board – all areas						Catch to be landed²	
Species ³	Product ⁴	Area of catch			Conversion factor	Product weight (kg)	Product weight (kg)
		NEAFC CA (ICES subarea and division)	NEAFC EA (Job Division)	Other areas			

PART B: For official use only – to be completed by the Flag State									
The Flag State of the vessel must respond to the following questions by marking in the box "Yes" or "No"						NEAFC CA		NAFO EA	
						Yes	No	Yes	No
a) The fishing vessel declared to have caught the fish had sufficient quota for the species declared									
b) The quantities on board have been duly reported and taken into account for the calculation of any catch or effort limitations that may be applicable									
c) The fishing vessel declared to have caught the fish had authorization to fish in the area declared									
d) The presence of the fishing vessel in the area of catch declared has been verified according to VMS data									
Flag State confirmation: <i>I confirm that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.</i>									
Name and Title:						Date:			
Signature:				Official Stamp:					
PART C: For official use only – to be completed by the Port State									
Name of Port State:									
Authorization:		Yes		No		Date:			
Signature:				Official Stamp:					
1. Fishing vessels not assigned an IMO number shall provide their national registration number 2. If necessary an additional form or forms shall be used 3. FAD Species Codes – NEAFC Annex V - NAFO Annex IC 4. Product presentations – NEAFC Appendix 1 to Annex IV – NAFO Annex E.K									

B-PSC - 2

PORT STATE CONTROL FORM - PSC 2							
PART A: To be completed by the Master of the Vessel. A separate form shall be completed for each donor vessel. Please use block ink.							
Name of Vessel:		IMO Number:¹		Radio Call Sign:		Flag State:	
Email Address:		Telephone Number:		Fax Number:		Homeport Number:	
Vessel owner's name		Vessel owner's nationality		Vessel owner		Certificate of Registry ID	
Vessel dimensions		Length (ft):		Breadth (ft):		Draft (ft):	
Port State:				Port of Landing or Transshipment:			
Last part of call:				Date:			
Port of Landing or Transshipment:							
Date and location of transshipment				Transshipment authorization if relevant			
Estimated Time of Arrival:		Date:		Time UTC:			
From products only		Exch products only		Both and from products			
Catch Information for Donor Vessels - *A separate form shall be completed for each Donor Vessel*							
Name of Vessel		IMO Number ²		Radio Call Sign		Flag State	
		Total catch on board - all areas				Catch to be landed⁴	
Species³	Product³	Area of catch		Conversion Factor	Product weight (kg)	Product weight (kg)	
		NEAFC CA (ICES reference and division)	NAFO RA (Sub-Division)	Other areas			
PART B: For official use only - to be completed by the Flag State							
The Flag State of the vessel must respond to the following questions by marking in the box "Yes" or "No"						NEAFC CA	NAFO RA
						Yes	No
						Yes	No

a) The fishing vessel declared to have caught the fish had sufficient quota for the species declared				
b) The quantities on board have been duly reported and taken into account for the calculation of any catch or effort limitations that may be applicable				
c) The fishing vessel declared to have caught the fish had authorization to fish in the zone declared				
d) The presence of the fishing vessel in the zone of catch declared has been verified according to VMS data				
Flag State confirmation: I confirm that the above information is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.				

Name and Title:

Date:

Signature:	Official Stamp:

PART C: For official use only – to be completed by the Port State

Name of Port State:

Authorization:

Yes:

No:

Date:

Signature:	Official Stamp:

1. Fishing vessels not assigned an IMO number shall provide their external registration number

2. If necessary an additional form or forms shall be used

3. FAO Species Codes – NEAFC Annex V – NAFO Annex II

4. Product presentations – NEAFC Appendix 1 to Annex IV – NAFO Annex XX (C)

Annex IV c

**Report on Port State Control inspection (PSE 3)
(Please use black ink)**

Inspection Reference Number

A. INSPECTION REFERENCE

Landing	Yes	No	Transshipment	Yes	No	Other reasons for port entry
Part State			Part of landing or transshipment			
Vessel name		Flag State		IMO Number ¹		International Radio call sign
Landing/transshipment started			Date		Time	
Landing/transshipment ended			Date		Time	
Vessel Type		Certificate of Registry ID		Port of registry		VMS
Vessel master's name		Vessel master's nationality		Fishing master's name		Fishing master's nationality
Vessel's registration number		Vessel's home port		Vessel's agent		Date
Last part of call						
B. INSPECTION DETAILS						
Name of donor vessel ²		IMO Number ³		Radio call sign		Flag State

¹ Fishing vessels not assigned an IMO number shall provide their national registration number
² If known and if it is not from vessel's owner
³ In case where a vessel has engaged in transshipment operations, a separate form shall be used for each donor vessel.

REL. CATCH RECORDED IN THE LOGBOOK			
Species ⁴	Area of catch	Declared live weight kg	Conversion factor used

⁴ **FAO Species Codes – NEAFC Annex V – MWFO Annex II**

B.2. FISH LANDED-OR TRANSHIPPED

In case where a vessel has engaged in transshipment operations a separate form shall be used for each direct vessel.

Species ^a	Product ^b	Area of catch	Product weight landed in kg	Conversion factor	Equivalent live weight kg	Diff between live weight declared in the logbook and the live weight landed	Diff (%) between live weight declared in the logbook and the live weight landed	Diff between live weight declared in the logbook and the live weight landed	Diff (%) between live weight declared in the logbook and the live weight landed
								Product weight landed and PSC 1/2	Product weight landed and PSC 1/2

RELEVANT TRANSHIPMENT AUTHORIZATION:

B.1. INFORMATION ABOUT LANDINGS AUTHORIZED WITHOUT CONFIRMATION FROM THE FLAG STATE

Ref. NEAFC art. 23.2 / NAFO art. 45.6

Name of Storage:

Name of Competent Authority: Deadline for providing Confirmation:

^a FAO Species Codes — NEAFC Annex V — NWFO Annex I.II
^b Product presentations — NEAFC Appendix 3 to Annex IV — NWFO Annex I.II

B.4. FISH RETAINED ON BOARD									
Species ⁷	Product ⁸	Area of catch	Product weight in kg	Commissary factor	Live weight kg	DWE (kg) product weight on board and PSC 1/2	Instantaneous weight on board	DWE (%) product weight on board and PSC 1/2	Instantaneous weight on board

C. RESULTS OF INSPECTION

C1. GENERAL

Inspection started	Date	Time
Inspection ended	Date	Time

States in other NAFO areas where fishing activities have been undertaken, including any IUU vessel fishing.

ICMD	Vessel identifier	Flag/State status	Vessel on authorized vessel list	Vessel on IUU vessel list
-------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	---	----------------------------------

Observations:

C2. GEAR INSPECTION IN PORT (in accordance with Annex IV.B)

A. General data

Number of gear inspected		Date gear inspection	
Has the vessel been cited?	Yes No	If yes, complete the full "verification of inspection in port form. If no, complete the form with the exception of the NAFO and details	

B. OTTER TRAWL DETAILS

NAFO Seal number	Is seal unchanged?	Yes	No
------------------	--------------------	-----	----

Gear type

Attachments
Grade Her Spacing mm
Mesh type
Average mesh size (mm)

⁷ FAO Species Codes – NEAFC Annex V – MWFO Annex B
⁸ Product presentations – NEAFC Appendix 2 to Annex IV – MWFO Annex B.E

Trawl port
 Wings
 Body
 Lighthouse Piece
 Codend

B. OBSERVATIONS BY THE MASTER

I, _____ the undersigned, Master of the vessel _____ hereby confirm that a copy of this report has been delivered to me on this date. My signature does not constitute acceptance of any part of the contents of this report, except my own observations, if any.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

E. INFRINGEMENTS AND FOLLOW-UP

E1. NAFO

E1 A Sea Inspection

Infringements resulting from
 Inspections inside NAFO R.A.

Inspection Party	Date of insp.	Division	NAFO CEM infringement legal reference

E1 B Port Inspection Infringements results

(a) - Confirmation of Infringements found at sea inspection

NAFO CEM infringement legal reference	National Infringement legal reference

(b) - Infringements found at sea inspection and not possible to be confirmed during the Port Inspection

Comments :

(c) - Additional infringements found during the Port Inspection		
NAFO CRM infringement legal reference:	National Infringement legal reference:	
E2. NEAFC		
INFRENGEMENT NOTED		
Article	NEAFC provision(s) violated and summary of pertinent facts	
Inspector's observations:		
Action taken		
Requesting authority / agency		
Inspector's Name:	Inspector's signature:	Date and place
F. RESTRICTIONS		
Copy to Flag State	Copy to NEAFC Secretary	Copy to NAFO Executive Secretary

ANNEX 12.1**Port State inspection procedures:****Inspection shall:**

- a) verify, to the extent possible, that the vessel identification documentation on board and information relating to the owner of the vessel is true, complete and correct, including through appropriate contacts with the flag State or international records of vessels if necessary;**
- b) verify that the vessel's flag and markings (e.g. name, external registration number, International Maritime Organization (IMO) ship identification number, international radio call sign and other markings, main dimensions) are consistent with information contained in the documentation;**
- c) verify, to the extent possible, that the authorizations for fishing activities are true, complete, correct and consistent with the information provided in accordance with the CSM provisions, including but not limited to Articles 75, 44, 45 and 51;**
- d) review all other relevant documentation and records held on board, including, to the extent possible, those in electronic format and vessel monitoring system (VMS) data from the flag State or RFMOs. Relevant documentation may include logbooks, catch, transshipment and trade documents, crew lists, stowage plans and drawings, descriptions of fish holds, and documents required pursuant to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora;**
- e) examine, to the extent possible, all relevant fishing gear on board, including gear not stowed out of sight as well as related devices, and to the extent possible, verify that they are in conformity with the conditions of the authorizations. The fishing gear shall, to the extent possible, also be checked to ensure that features such as the mesh and twine size, devices and attachments, dimensions and configurations of nets, girths, dredges, hook sizes and numbers are in conformity with applicable regulations and that the markings correspond to those authorized for the vessel;**
- f) determine, to the extent possible, whether the fish on board are harvested in accordance with the applicable authorizations;**
- g) examine the fish, including by sampling, to determine its quantity and composition. In doing so, inspectors may open containers where the fish has been not sealed and move the nets or containers to examine the integrity of fish holds. Such examination may include inspections of product type and determination of nominal weight;**
- h) evaluate whether there is clear evidence for believing that an RFQ vessel has engaged in IUU fishing;**
- i) provide the master of the vessel with the report containing the result of the inspection, including possible measures that could be taken, to be signed by the inspector and the master. The master's signature on the report shall serve only as acknowledgment of the receipt of a copy of the report. The master shall be given the opportunity to add any comments or objections to the report and, as appropriate, to contact the relevant authorities of the flag State in question where the master has serious difficulties in understanding the content of the report. A copy of the report shall be provided to the master; and**
- j) [except where necessary and possible, for translation of relevant documentation].**

SECTION VIII
(pages 315–332)

Report of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM) meeting
20–21 May 2015
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

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**Report of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM) meeting
20–21 May 2015
(FC Doc. 15/03)**

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

1. Opening of the meeting

The interim Chair, Ellen Fasmer (Norway), opened the meeting at 0900 hrs on Wednesday, 20 May 2015 at the NAFO Secretariat Headquarters in Dartmouth, Canada. Participants were welcomed from Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, Iceland, Norway, and Russian Federation (Annex 1). The Executive Secretary of NAFO (Fred Kingston) welcomed everyone to the NAFO Headquarters and the Chair encouraged open discussion throughout the meeting.

2. Appointment of rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat (Jana Aker) was appointed rapporteur.

3. Discussion and adoption of the Agenda

The *adopted* agenda is presented in Annex 2. The EU noted that many of the documents for the meeting were submitted very late allowing insufficient time to adequately review them prior to the meeting. The Chair thanked the EU for their comments and noted that the group should work toward earlier submission of documents prior to the meetings.

4. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Brent Napier (Canada) was elected as Chair for a two-year term.

The interim Chair, Ellen Fasmer (Norway) was nominated and elected as Vice-Chair of JAGDM for a two-year term.

Hereinafter, any reference to the Chair in this report is understood to mean Brent Napier.

5. Data Exchange Statistics

a) NAFO

The NAFO Secretariat presented JAGDM 2015-01-22, which included two summary tables of the messages received by the NAFO Secretariat from flag States for 2014 and a summary of the number of messages stored per year since 2001.

Participants reviewed the tables and noted some discrepancies in the summarized data, including an uneven number of COE/COX and ENT/EXI messages for flag States, and a significantly higher number of CAT messages from certain flag States versus others. The Secretariat noted that the data might not be 100% accurate because it was compiled quickly, however, the high number of CAT messages for some flag States is consistent with the fishing activity of those flag States.

b) NEAFC

The NEAFC Secretariat presented JAGDM 2015-01-12, which included summary tables of the messages accepted by the NEAFC VMS database. Contracting parties noted similar discrepancies to those that were pointed out in the NAFO document.

The Chair encouraged the Contracting Parties to take both the NEAFC and NAFO summary documents back for review and to discuss the submission of the reports and quality control of the submission with the relevant Fisheries Monitoring Centres (FMCs).

It was **agreed** that:

Contracting Parties would investigate the discrepancies for their flag States reporting in both the NAFO and NEAFC Regulatory Areas to determine if they are caused by a compliance issue or a technical issue.

6. NAFO Issues

a) Technical implications of the implementation of recommendations

i) In the 2015 NAFO CEM, new data element Targeted species and Area (TA) was introduced in the Authorization report (AUT), replacing the data element Directed Species (DS).

The Chair referred to JAGDM 2015-01-20 point 2 and opened the discussion regarding the changing of the DS field to the TA field in the AUT messages (JAGDM 2015-01-03). It was noted that the content of the field described in Article 25.5 [a] has not changed from the 2014 version therefore changing the field code should not create extended reporting obligations for Contracting Parties. The format given for TA only gives the Contracting Parties the possibility to know how to report authorization of their **directed** fisheries as already asked for in Article 25.5 [a]. The group was strongly against the creation of new 3-alpha codes as proposed as a way to work around the issue. Authorisation of species for which directed fishery is allowed should be done with FAO 3-alpha codes. The NAFO Secretariat noted that there are issues with the error messages in the database and it is something that the NAFO Secretariat is working to resolve with the service provider.

Discussions continued on JAGDM 2015-01-20 point 1 in regard to the haul by haul submissions. The NAFO Secretariat highlighted some technical challenges with the submissions and noted continuing work with the EU to receive its XML submissions, and with other submissions being received in Excel format. The NAFO Secretariat noted that they are working on getting the formats standardized (in terms of the fields included in the submissions), as they are currently coming in in several different formats which is creating some issues with managing the information. It was noted that it would be desirable to standardize the format and content requirements across RFMOs.

It was **agreed** that:

The NAFO Secretariat will continue working with the service provider to resolve the error issue with the TA field.

JAGDM will recommend to STACTIC that XML and Excel submissions are the best format for receiving haul by haul data within NAFO system, but that STACTIC is the appropriate body to provide guidance on what fields should be included in a standardized submission template.

b) Issues raised by STACTIC

i) Data Sharing Between NAFO and NEAFC

The Chair presented the document JAGDM 2015-01-04 to the group, which included a proposal for JAGDM to review the concept of automated data sharing between NEAFC and NAFO. One of the main objectives of data sharing would be to compare the COE/COX messages that are submitted by vessels moving between the NEAFC and NAFO Regulatory Areas (JAGDM 2015-01-13). It was noted that, before data sharing can occur between the two organizations, the protocols for data collection would have to be aligned. Others noted that alternatively, instead of aligning the protocols, the differences could be taken into account when using the data. A prime example of this is the difference in reporting requirements within the two organizations related to the COX report. In NAFO COX reports, there is a catch on board (OB) field that requires the vessel to report all catch on board the vessel, while in NEAFC there is only a requirement to report the latest catch (net change) since the last report in the COX report.

There was a discussion of possible technical solutions for data sharing. The idea of a future shared database was mentioned. The NEAFC Secretariat noted that a formal measure agreed by the NEAFC Commission would be required prior to sharing data with any other organisation. It was noted that there may also be other confidentiality issues.

The Chair suggested that Contracting Parties review the management measures for both organizations to determine any potential confidentiality issues. The Chair also suggested that a tiered approach may be the best option for advancing data sharing between the organizations and could start with the addition of an OB field to the NEAFC COX reports, followed by a pilot to share the COE/COX reports between the organizations, and eventually working toward a shared database, but with data quality always being an important component. However, there was no consensus reached on this item and future deliberation on this issue will be required.

ii) JAGDM is asked to look at the Annexes of the NCEM and make some clarifications

The Chair presented the document JAGDM 2015-01-05 and opened the discussion. Norway provided background on the document and noted further clarification is needed on some of the data elements presented in the Annexes of the NAFO CEM, noting that the explanation for some fields are on a separate page and some field descriptions are inconsistent across report types. Participants agreed that for both NEAFC and NAFO, further explanation of the data elements is required on the pages that they are found, and that including examples would increase the clarity of the information that needs to be included in the reports.

It was **agreed** that:

Canada and Norway will work collaboratively to develop a proposal with a sampling of some of the suggested changes, and examples for circulation between JAGDM. Contracting Parties are encouraged to submit suggestions to Norway and Canada to assist with this process. This will not be a comprehensive revision, but examples of the types of changes that are necessary, and then JAGDM will provide the examples to the NEAFC and NAFO Secretariats 60 days prior to the respective annual meetings for review.

iii) Any new issues raised at May 2015 STACTIC meeting

The Chair provided background on the discussion that was had at the 2015 STACTIC Intersessional meeting, as outlined in the third point found in JAGDM 2015-01-13. The NEAFC Secretariat explained that its PSC-1 and PSC-2 forms are filled out online and that the PSC-3 forms are submitted as scanned PDFs. The NAFO Secretariat explained that it is working on a similar platform for submitting PSC forms. The platform is available for the electronic submission of the PSC-1 and PSC-2 forms and the user login acting as the electronic signature for submissions has been accepted in principle by Contracting Parties, however further testing is encouraged.

It was noted that further testing and discussions with Contracting Parties are still required to complete the electronic submission of NAFO PSC-3 forms, as a user login may not be a sufficient substitute for physical signatures on these forms. The NEAFC Secretariat believes it will be difficult to provide for online submission of PSC-3 forms without updating the Scheme to describe conditions for the submission of these forms (for such cases as part-completion, time-frame for completion or agreeing changes between parties) and so have not started to develop an electronic PSC-3 form. These forms are different from PSC-1 and PSC-2 as they require multiple signatures.

The Chair was encouraged to learn that the NAFO Secretariat was working on a system for the electronic submission of PSC-1 and PSC-2 forms and encouraged the NAFO Secretariat to communicate with the NEAFC Secretariat on the lessons learned from the implementation of its system.

c) Recommendations for adopting an ISMS for NAFO

i) JAGDM is asked to offer guidance and comments on report from recent IT security audit

The NAFO Secretariat recalled that at the 2014 NAFO Annual Meeting STACTIC had agreed that the NAFO Secretariat “*consider an external audit of NAFO’s current IT system*”. STACTIC also requested “*the assistance of JAGDM to determine guidelines for any ISMS*”. On this basis, NAFO’s current IT system was audited in 2015 by Deloitte. The Audit Report and Recommendations were finalized in April 2015 (JAGDM 2015-01-19). The NAFO Secretariat then prepared a Working Paper with a table of each of the Recommendations that were made in the Audit Report, along with a check list of which group the Secretariat considered to be the most appropriate body to address each of these Recommendations (JAGDM 2015-01-18). This Working Paper was presented at the 2015 STACTIC Intersessional meeting, but a decision to move forward on the basis of this Working Paper was deferred so that Contracting Parties could have more time for review. However, the NAFO Secretariat considered that it would be useful if JAGDM could also consider the Audit Report’s Recommendations.

The Chair suggested that the group consider JAGDM 2015-01-18 by-addressing the Recommendations line by line and providing preliminary comments on each Recommendation to assist the NAFO Secretariat in moving forward. The Chair also noted that a questionnaire to Contracting Parties might be a good way to move forward, but there would need to be some thought put into the content of the questionnaire to take into account NEAFC’s experiences with the process. Iceland suggested that the NAFO Secretariat follow ISO Standards, particularly ISO-27000, as a model for addressing a number of the Recommendations. The specific comments made on the Recommendations are in Annex 3. The NAFO Executive Secretary thanked the participants for their input.

It was agreed that:

JAGDM recommend that STACTIC should revisit the rules of confidentiality (Annex II.B) in the NAFO CEM to see if it is still pertinent, and evaluate what other elements should to be included (in relation to recommendation 1.21/2.2 of Annex 3).

7. NEAFC issues

a) Technical implications of the implementation of recommendation

i) Scheme of Control and enforcement January to June 30

The NEAFC Secretariat noted that this is the first time that NEAFC will have two versions of the Scheme in one year, and this has been done in order to align with the *FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing*.

ii) Scheme of Control and enforcement July to December 31

The NEAFC Secretariat presented the document JAGDM 2015-01-09, which outlines the decision by PECCOE to give the NEAFC Secretariat the ability and authority to develop the PSC application in a practical and functional manner, with the ability to occasionally add options to the system without requiring formal approval from PECCOE and the Commission in advance of adoption. The role of JAGDM would be to monitor any changes made in such a manner and advise PECCOE or the Commission on updates to the Scheme or Management Measures accordingly.

The NEAFC Secretariat presented JAGDM 2015-01-08, which outlined a request from PECCOE to replace the existing Annex V species list with a reference to the full FAO 3-alpha code list (12,600 entries on the full list and 80 on the species list). The NEAFC Secretariat noted that one downfall of replacing the list would be that it would provide the opportunity to report a species that could not possibly be caught in the NEAFC Convention Area. It was noted that it is best to use standards where they are available, but that some historical data may need translation where new codes have been adopted.

It was agreed that:

JAGDM recommend to PECCOE that the best way forward would be to build upon Annex V, with the FAO 3-alpha codes where necessary, allowing the Secretariats to build on the list as needed by adding 3-alpha codes from the full FAO list.

The NEAFC and NAFO Secretariats investigate the need for harmonization of species lists between the two organizations.

The NEAFC Secretariat presented JAGDM 2015-01-15, which outlined the packaging codes used in the NEAFC Port State measures and requested advice on some of the code definitions. The NEAFC Secretariat noted that there may be a need for a new code for “tank”, but that it might get covered under “bulk” and that this is being implemented on 01 July 2015, so advice prior to then would be ideal.

It was agreed that:

Contracting Parties would review their domestic packaging codes to determine if more codes are needed in the NEAFC list.

Moving forward, NEAFC work with the list they have by 01 July 2015 and the list can be reviewed at a later date to determine if it is sufficient.

The NEAFC Secretariat presented JAGDM 2015-01-21 regarding the EPSC testing with the Russian Federation. The system has been tested and there was a question regarding the transshipment location on the PSC-2 forms, and if multiple transshipments occur in one day, or the same catch is transhipped multiple times, which location to include. The group agreed that all transshipment locations should be recorded and that NEAFC would need to develop a method within the system to capture the information so that a catch can be traced back to the original

fishing vessel; however the issue of whether to record all transshipment locations is more of an enforcement issue than a technical one and JAGDM may not be the appropriate body to address it.

It was **agreed** that:

JAGDM recommend to PECCOE that all transshipment locations should be recorded and that NEAFC would need to develop a method within the system to capture the information so that a catch can be traced back to the original fishing vessel.

iii) Implementation of objections to recommendations

The NEAFC Secretariat reported that there have been only two objections, 1) the objection by the EU on daily catch reporting, and 2) the objection by the Russian Federation to the redfish measures.

b) Issues raised by PECCOE

i) ERS questionnaire results

The NEAFC Secretariat presented JAGDM 2015-01-10, which included the results of the ERS questionnaire. Participants noted that the questionnaire was very useful and it was useful to have this information.

ii) ISL proposal on IMO Numbering

The Chair opened up discussions on document JAGDM 2015-01-11 and DFG provided a summary of the document. There was agreement within the group to include the IMO numbers for eligible vessels. The NAFO Secretariat explained that they have made IMO numbers mandatory for eligible vessels, but gave until 01 January 2016 to provide sufficient time for those vessels that currently do not have an IMO number to obtain one. The Chair noted that NEAFC could possibly follow NAFO and allow a period of time (possibly 2 years) before making IMO numbers mandatory. Norway noted that if the IMO number becomes mandatory in all NEAFC messaging, then there would need to be some additional consideration given to transshipment messages, which contain the details of two vessels.

For the TRA report it was suggested two separate NAF codes for IMO numbers, one for the vessel sending the report (IM as in all other reports) and one new field code for the IMO number of either the donor vessel or the receiving vessel. Only one code is needed for these two since there will never be more than one vessel and the Transfer to field code TT or the Transfer from field code TF will show if it is a receiver or a donor.

It was **agreed** that:

Norway would provide text to Iceland to add to the proposal (JAGDM 2015-01-11) to make a revision 1 of the document. This new version has to be uploaded to the JAGDM web page and forwarded to PECCOE by JAGDM.

c) NEAFC Information Security Management System (ISMS)

i) Upgrade to ISO 27001:2013 version (ISMS article 4, last paragraph)

At the last meeting of JAGDM, it was requested that Iceland and the NEAFC Secretariat provide information about the upgrade to the ISO 27001:2013 standards. Iceland shared their experiences with using the new standards and showed some specific examples from the standards on screen. It was noted that while the group saw the updated standards, there was no comparison of the differences between the old version and the new one.

It was **agreed** that:

The NEAFC Secretariat would endeavour to complete a review of the changes between the old (ISO 27001:2005) and new (ISO 27001:2013) ISO standards in advance of the next JAGDM meeting.

ii) The work of the Security systems administrators

The NEAFC Secretariat presented JAGDM 2015-01-07 and explained that the document was originally written

for PECCOE to explain the ISMS, which is based on the ISO 270001 standard. There was no further discussion on this item.

iii) Information Security Incident Management (ISMS Article 13)

The NEAFC Secretariat presented JAGDM 2015-01-06 and noted that this is a first attempt at defining a 'security incident'. There was discussion on the definition of 'incident' versus 'event'. The Chair noted that these definitions are a critical starting point for all other mitigation strategies and that the definitions should be as robust and clear as possible. The NEAFC Secretariat provided updated changes to the definitions based on the discussions, but it was felt it required more reflection.

It was **agreed** that:

JAGDM Representatives will review the document (JAGDM 2015-01-06 Revised) and provide comments on the nuances of the definitions and provide some specific examples for events within 3-4 weeks.

iv) Risk management (ISMS Article 3) status of the work

The NEAFC Secretariat reported that they have yet to make progress on the business case risk assessment of their data, and may require guidance on what the practical risks and consequences might be before they are able to move forward. The NEAFC Secretariat has a plan to move forward by the end of this year to assess some of the practical consequences of a breach of their data, but will not be undertaking their own technical risk assessment.

v) Annual Review of the NEAFC Inventory (ISMS Article 7.1)

The NEAFC Secretariat presented JAGDM 2015-01-14 and noted that under their ISMS, they are required to provide an update to JAGDM on an annual basis. The NEAFC Secretariat noted that though the ISMS was a long process to implement, now that it is in place it is really useful.

d) Status of other NEAFC projects

i) Vessel Transmitted Information (Vti) pilot project

The NEAFC Secretariat presented JAGDM 2015-01-17 while simultaneously walking participants through live examples of how the system works. The NEAFC Secretariat explained that this system will allow the FMCs to have access to the database, but data that isn't specific to their Contracting Party will be hidden. This will allow the FMCs to review their submissions and see if there were any rejected reports, and if so make the appropriate corrections and resubmit. The system maintains a record of all messages submitted or cancelled.

ii) Flux Transport Layer Testing

The NEAFC Secretariat noted that they are still trying to set up the connection with the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE). The EU provided an explanation of the Flux Transportation Layer. The Chair thanked the EU for their explanation.

8. Management of the North Atlantic Format (NAF)

a) Issue raised by NAF users

There was nothing discussed under this Agenda Item.

9. Management of the websites

a) NAFO and NEAFC – How to present JAGDM documents to users other than JAGDM participants

The discussion revolved around access to JAGDM documents on the websites, and whether or not STACTIC and PECCOE members should have access. The Chair noted that it is best to remain transparent and that JAGDM should have a presence on both the NEAFC and NAFO websites. Participants agreed, but noted that if the documents are made available, they should have disclaimers on their use so that discussions at the meetings are not taken out of context. Under the Terms of Reference for JAGDM, there are 8 functions defined, and those

should be made clear. The Chair encouraged participants to further reflect on where and how JAGDM should have a presence within the websites of NAFO and NEAFC.

It was **agreed** that:

JAGDM Representatives will reflect on where and how JAGDM should have a presence within the websites of NAFO and NEAFC.

b) JAGDM

Contracting Parties noted that there is no automatic logout feature on the JAGDM website and that one should be established. Discussions were had regarding document availability, e.g. STACTIC working papers being available to JAGDM participants. The NAFO Secretariat noted that any pertinent documents to the JAGDM meetings are made into JAGDM documents, and any other relevant documents would be printed and made available at the meeting. The Chair suggested that a way forward might be to make all relevant documents available on the JAGDM website prior to the meeting, and following the meeting only keep the JAGDM documents on the website. The Chair encouraged Contracting Parties to consider other ways of moving forward. The NAFO Executive Secretary noted that NAFO is planning on updating the website in the next few years and welcomed suggestions.

It was **agreed** that:

The NEAFC Secretariat will add an automatic log out feature on the JAGDM website that would be initiated if users are idle for an extended period of time.

Any relevant PECCOE or STACTIC Working Papers required for JAGDM deliberations will be made available on the website prior to meetings.

c) NAF

The Chair noted that it had been recently posted that no changes be considered. Norway noted that the website states that it does not contain all of the possible codes, NAFO and NEAFC have new two letter codes and the website should be updated.

It was **agreed** that:

Contracting Parties will submit their active NAF codes to the NAFO Secretariat, who will update the website as necessary.

10. Any other business

a) Official Certificates – Signature algorithm and RSA key strength

Norway provided JAGDM 2015-01-16 as a reference for the group and noted there have been problems with the implementation of the official certificate signature algorithm (SHA256) in 2013, and that they have created a “work around” as a short term solution, but it is still used. The NAFO Secretariat noted that they had a similar issue. Norway asked that the meeting participants review the links that are in the document, and that they please inform their Contracting Parties about the fact that Norway will remove the “work around” in the near future.

b) JAGDM Logo Proposal

The NAFO Secretariat had drafted two possible logo designs for review. Participants made several comments on the possible designs.

It was **agreed** that:

The NAFO Secretariat would take all of the comments into account and develop further design proposals for the JAGDM participants to review.

11. Report to the Annual Meetings

The Chair noted the draft report will be distributed to participants for review before it is finalized. The final report will also be presented at both the NEAFC and NAFO Annual meetings.

12. Date and place of the next meeting

The location of the next JAGDM meeting was tentatively set for the NEAFC Secretariat Headquarters in London, England. The time of the next meeting was tentatively set to follow the next STACTIC and PECCOE meetings, potential the early spring of 2016. It was noted that potential agenda items coming out of STACTIC and PECCOE be discussed between NEAFC, NAFO and the Chair shortly following those meetings. It was also noted that the timing of this meeting, occurring shortly after both the STACTIC and PECCOE meetings, created problems with the size and number of revisions to the agenda and contributed to the late availability of some of the documents.

13. Closure of the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 14:50 hrs on 21 May 2015. The Chair thanked the NAFO Secretariat for hosting the meeting and the meeting participants for a productive meeting.

Annex 1. Participant List

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Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Appointment of the rapporteur
3. Discussion and adoption of the Agenda
4. Election of the Chair and Vice-Chair
5. Data Exchange statistics
 - a. NAFO
 - b. NEAFC
6. NAFO issues
 - a. Technical implications of the implementation of recommendations
 - i. In the 2015 NAFO CEM, new data element *Targeted species and Area (TA)* was introduced in the Authorization report (AUT), replacing the data element *Directed Species (DS)*
 - b. Issues raised by STACTIC
 - i. Data Sharing Between NAFO and NEAFC
 - ii. JAGDM is asked to look at the Annexes of the NCEM and make some clarifications
 - iii. Any new issues raised at May 2015 STACTIC meeting
 - c. Recommendations for adopting an ISMS for NAFO
 - i. JAGDM is asked to offer guidance and comments on report from recent IT security audit
7. NEAFC issues
 - a. Technical implications of the implementation of recommendation
 - i. Scheme of Control and enforcement January to June 30
 - ii. Scheme of Control and enforcement July to December 31
 - iii. Implementation of objections to recommendations
 - b. Issues raised by PECCOE
 - i. ERS questionnaire results
 - ii. ISL proposal on IMO numbering
 - c. NEAFC Information Security Management System (ISMS)
 - i. Upgrade to ISO 27001:2013 version (ISMS article 4 last paragraph)
 - ii. The work of the Security systems administrators
 - iii. Information Security Incident Management (ISMS article 13)
 - iv. Risk management (ISMS article 3) status of the work
 - v. Annual Review of the NEAFC Inventory (ISMS article 7.1)
 - d. Status of other NEAFC projects
 - i. Vessel Transmitted Information (Vti) pilot project
 - ii. Flux Transport Layer Testing
8. Management of the North Atlantic Format
 - a. Issues raised by NAF users
9. Management of the websites
 - a. NAFO and NEAFC – How to present JAGDM documents to users other than JAGDM participants
 - b. JAGDM
 - c. NAF
10. Any other business
 - a. Official Certificates – Signature algorithm and RSA key strength
 - b. JAGDM Logo Proposal
11. Report to the Annual Meetings
12. Date and place of the next meeting
13. Closure of the meeting

Annex 3. NAFO IT Security Audit Recommendations

Annex 3. NAFO IT Security Audit Recommendations is available online at www.jagdm.org







SECTION IX
(pages 333–347)

**Report of the Fisheries Commission Ad hoc Working Group to
Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity in the
NAFO Regulatory Area**

**13–14 July 2015
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada**

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Report of the Fisheries Commission Ad hoc Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity in the NAFO Regulatory Area (WG-BDS)

(FC Doc. 15/06)

**13–14 July 2015
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada**

1. Opening

The Fisheries Commission (FC) Chair Sylvie Lapointe (Canada) opened the meeting at 1000 hrs on Monday, 13 July 2015 at the NAFO Headquarters in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Representatives from Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) (DFG), European Union (EU), Iceland, Japan, Norway, the Russian Federation, and the USA were in attendance. The Scientific Council (SC) is represented by the SC Coordinator. An observer from Ecology Action Centre was also in attendance (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Ricardo Federizon (NAFO Secretariat) was appointed Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

A new agenda item was inserted after agenda item 4 – *Consideration of the SC advice pertaining to the selectivity of the 3M Cod and 3M Redfish fisheries in the Flemish Cap*. The agenda as revised was adopted (Annex 2).

4. Review of Status of the WG recommendations to FC from the July 2014 Meeting

There were nine recommendations that were adopted by FC in September 2014. This meeting presented the opportunity to address or continue to address the recommendations on behalf of FC. Actions and decisions at this meeting that address the recommendations are reflected in this section.

1. *that FC continue to address this issue by inter alia allowing this WG to continue*

Status: This meeting was in response to the recommendation; however, it was decided not to make further recommendations on the future of this WG. There are no new bycatch issues expected to be addressed in the next year. However, with the development of the strategy on bycatch and discards (see agenda item 6), this WG might be instructed by the FC to meet in the future to evaluate the implementation of the strategy.

2. *that the objective of this WG focus on effective management of bycatch and minimization of discards in the NAFO Regulatory Area, to the extent practicable, by recommending appropriate policy and regulatory changes that recognize the diverse factors influencing and incentivizing and discards in each fishery, the current biological status of affected species, and domestic legislation affecting bycatch and discards*

Status: An action plan would be developed at this meeting (see agenda item 6 and Recommendation 5 in agenda item 7).

3. *that the Fisheries Commission consider amendments to the management measures and approach for managing 3M cod and redfish fisheries that address factors promoting discards*

Status: Concerning 3M cod, the SC advice which pertains to gear selectivity in the cod fishery was considered (see agenda item 5) and a recommendation on selectivity experiments with an aim of minimizing discards through the use of sorting grids was formulated (see Recommendation 1 in agenda item 7). Concerning 3M redfish, a recommendation to amend Article 5.12 was formulated (see Recommendation 4 in agenda item 7).

4. *that the FC tasks STACTIC to support the WG as necessary including the development of standardized language for bycatch and discards throughout the CEM, including clarifying ambiguous or inconsistent terminology*

Status: At its intersessional meeting in May 2015, STACTIC discussed this recommendation and noted that there is no ambiguity or inconsistency in bycatch and discard terminology as used in the CEM for management purposes. With the clarity provided by STACTIC, it was decided that there is no need to re-visit this recommendation.

5. *that the FC include SC on this issue as necessary through this WG. To start with the FC-SC dialogue will give specific consideration to the discussions of this WG*

Status: At its first meeting in 2014, it was determined at the onset that this WG deals with bycatch, discards and selectivity which have significant implications for stock assessments. In this regard, the Scientific Council should be adequately represented at this WG. The Scientific Coordinator has been seconded to participate at the WG meetings. Also, Recommendation 2 in agenda item 7 which pertains to a FC request to SC addresses this recommendation.

6. *that the Secretariat continue to analyze data about bycatch and discards in NAFO fisheries. The analysis in particular should identify areas and fisheries of concern; identify anomalies and trends regarding bycatch and discards; and give priority to species under moratorium or instances where they may be conservation issues*

Status: At the first meeting, the Secretariat presented the preliminary results of the bycatch and discard analysis in the NAFO Regulatory Area using the daily catch reports from the fishing vessels (see Annex 5 of FC Doc. 14/06). The WG reviewed the information and decided that the analysis should continue, and priority should be given to certain stocks (see Recommendation 3 in agenda item 7).

7. *that Contracting Parties continue to share available information on domestic practices and/or policies to address bycatch and discards*

Status: There were two presentations, complementing the information from other Contracting Parties from the previous meeting. Iceland gave a presentation on its domestic practices in fisheries management. It highlighted the Individual Transferable Quota System, which works in the context of a discard ban in order to address bycatch and discard issues (Annex 3). The EU presented a study it commissioned regarding possible measures on bycatch and discards. The measures included input and output controls and fishing gear modifications. It was stressed that these do not constitute any advice per se (Annex 4). The WG appreciated the presentations and noted that there were important elements in the presentations that would be useful for the WG in the development of bycatch and discards strategy for NAFO (see agenda item 6).

8. *that the FC give further consideration to improving bycatch and discard data availability and quality, including options already identified in other NAFO bodies. This would be made available to the Secretariat, SC and the WGs of the FC and SC for the purpose of undertaking bycatch and discard analysis.*

Status: One of the overarching objectives of the Action Plan directly relates to this recommendation (see Recommendation 5 in agenda item 7). The importance of data availability and quality was discussed at this meeting and it was noted that this was also being discussed in other fora, e.g. at FC-SC Working Group on Catch Reporting (WG-CR), FC-SC Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM) and STACTIC. Canada indicated that it would draft a new template to assist in the provision of haul-by-haul data, based on the existing Standard Observer Report Template (Annex II.M), for consideration at the annual meeting in STACTIC.

9. *that the FC work jointly with SC to task appropriate NAFO bodies to develop a draft definition of bycatch and to compile a draft list of bycatch species per GC Action Plan*

Status: It was noted that this recommendation was an offshoot of the 2011 Performance Review and that this was already overtaken by events such as the establishment of this WG as well as the development of an Action Plan as outlined in Recommendation 5. The WG decided not to pursue this further.

5. Consideration of the SC advice pertaining to the selectivity of the 3M cod and 3M redfish fisheries in the Flemish Cap

The SC response (formulated in June 2015) to the FC request for advice pertaining to selectivity (formulated in September 2014) is contained in SCS Doc. 15/12. SC advises that the implementation of sorting grids in the

Division 3M cod fishery would reduce catch of undersized cod. These devices would also reduce redfish bycatch and discards. In light of this advice, it was deemed that conducting selectivity experiments in the Flemish Cap would be useful. A recommendation to this effect was formulated (See Recommendation 1 in agenda item 7).

6. Development of a comprehensive strategy relative to bycatch and discards in the NAFO Regulatory Area that is consistent with the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management and takes into account all bycatch and discard species

In September 2014, FC instructed the WG to “develop and recommend a comprehensive strategy relative to bycatch and discards in the NRA that is consistent with the ecosystem approach to fisheries management and takes into account all bycatch and discard species.” As a way to develop the strategy, the WG drafted an Action Plan, which is outlined in Recommendation 5 in agenda item 7 that identifies overarching objectives, as well as key themes.

The effective management and minimization of bycatch and discards represents one of the overarching objectives of that Action Plan. It was stressed that NAFO should strive, to the extent practicable, to attain this objective. In the identification of future priorities the parameters to consider are the bycatch of moratoria species, areas where there is a risk of causing serious harm to bycatch species, and fisheries with a high rate of discard.

7. Recommendations to forward to the Fisheries Commission

The WG agreed to forward to the Fisheries Commission the following **recommendations** for consideration and adoption:

1. **FC to encourage Contracting Parties to carry out selectivity experiments with sorting grids in the Div. 3M cod fishery (SCS. Doc. 15/12, p.21);**
2. **FC to request SC, based on analysis of logbook data and patterns of fishing activity, to examine relative levels of bycatch and discards of 3M cod/redfish, and stocks under moratoria in the different circumstances (e.g. fisheries, area, season, fleets, depth, timing);**
3. **The Secretariat to analyze data for trends, patterns, anomalies:**
 - In cases where bycatch thresholds (NCEM Article 6.3, Annex I.A footnote 21) are exceeded or trends are apparent, the analysis should provide additional information on the associated catch weights for the specific stocks (3NO cod, 3M American plaice, 3LNO A. plaice);
 - Analysis should consider both historical and current CATs (2012 to current);
 - Trends in reported catch of non-Annex IA species (3M witch flounder and 3M skate).
4. **FC to consider a modification of the notification process outlined in NCEM Article 5.12.d to ensure timely closure of the fishery. While there was general agreement on the principle of closing the directed fishery (and the retention of bycatch) based on projected catches, there was recognition that the text modifications proposed below may need to be further refined and that the language should be forwarded to STACTIC for that purpose.**
 - Delete the first “and then 100%”;
 - Insert new paragraph (e) to read: *determines the date of closure of 3M redfish, and notifies all Contracting Parties 72 hours in advance. Closure date will be established by estimating the date on which the reported catch will reach 100% of the TAC, based on projected catches.*
5. **FC to adopt the Action Plan outlined below:**

Action plan

Overarching objectives:

 - **Effective management and the minimization of bycatch and discards, and improvement of selectivity, in fisheries of the NRA**

- **Accurate reporting of target, non-target and incidental catch.**
- **Account for total catch (retained and non-retained) in scientific assessments and management measures**
- **Management regimes are adaptive and address changing fishery conditions over time, or differences among areas and fleets**
- **Management measures reflect the precautionary and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management**
- **Identify priority areas for bycatch management, in particular areas where there is a risk of causing serious harm to bycatch species**
- **Ensure linkage to other NAFO bodies doing work related to bycatch management (e.g. STACTIC, WG-EAFFM, WG-ESA, WG-CR)**

Issues for the Fisheries Commission to consider. These are the key themes of an action plan:

1. Data management

- **IT technical issues and capacity**
- **Standardised formats and transmission (including fixed and mobile gear)**
- **Logbook data**
- **Gap identification**
- **Completeness (retained and non-retained)**
- **Opportunities for data sharing**

2. Analysis and ongoing monitoring

- **Trends, patterns, anomalies**
- **Time, area, depth, fleet-specific issues, fishery-specific issues**
- **Identification of best practices**

3. Identification of priorities

- **Moratoria species**
- **Areas where there is a risk of causing serious harm to bycatch species**
- **High rates of discards**

4. Develop management options

- **Selectivity measures**
- **Time area management**
- **Fishery-specific solutions and identification of best practices**
- **Avoid measures that incentivize bycatch and discards**

8. Other Matters

No other matter was discussed.

9. Adoption of the Report

This report was adopted through correspondence after the meeting.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1400 hrs on Tuesday, 14 July 2015. The Chair thanked the meeting participants for their cooperation and input and the Secretariat for the support. The participants likewise expressed their thanks and appreciation to the presiding Chair for her leadership.

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1. Opening
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7. Recommendations to forward to the Fisheries Commission
8. Other Matters
9. Adoption of Report
10. Adjournment

Annex 3. Iceland's PowerPoint presentation

The Icelandic Fisheries Management System The Individual Transferable Quota System

- For every fishing year (Sep-Aug) the Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture issues a regulation deciding the total allowable catch (TAC) of any species under the ITQ system based on a recommendation from the Marine Research Institute
- 1% quota share = 1% of the annual catch quota
- Quota shares and catch quotas must be bound to fishing vessels or boats
- All economically important species are included in the ITQ system (95-97% of total catch value)

2

Example of quota allocation

- TAC in a specific species allocated on the basis of quota share is 60,000 tons for a given fishing year
- The quota share for our vessel is 1%
- The annual catch quota allocated to the vessel for the fishing year is therefore 600 tons of the species in question

3

The ITQ System

- The Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture decides which species are under the ITQ system
- When "new" species are incorporated into the ITQ-system, individual fishing vessels are allocated a "permanent" *quota share* (% of the TAC), based on their catches of previous 3 years
- Quota shares and annual catch quotas are divisible and transferable
- Permits for commercial fishing
- The allocation of quotas is subject to a certain fishing fee

3

Cod equivalents 2015/2016

- For various reasons, especially quota transfers, cod equivalents for all species are calculated
- Cod equivalent is a price index and based on last year's prices. Cod is always set = 1.0

Cod	1,00		
Haddock	1,23	Plaice	0,81
Saithe	0,77	American plaice	0,26
Redfish	0,79	Lemon sole	1,21
Ling	0,68	Capelin	0,12
Tusk	0,47	Herring	0,23
Blue whiting	0,10	Lobster tails	5,98
Catfish	0,78	Shrimp	1,43
Greenland halibut	2,48	Monkfish	2,05

4

Flexibility options – discards illegal

- Discards are illegal
- Vessels are obliged to have catch quota for their catches in all species, which are subjected to the ITQ system, no bycatch rule
- If vessels don't have sufficient catch quota for all their catches it is required that sufficient catch quota is transferred to them from other vessels
- Vessels are not allowed to commence a fishing trip unless they have sufficient catch quota for their probable catches

5

Flexibility options – discards illegal

- Undersized fish is only partially deducted from catch quotas
- Damaged fish (sealbitten etc) not deducted from quota
- Species conversion – converted by "cod-equivalent kilo"
 - cap on each species and is not allowed to change into cod
- Transfer between years
 - 5% can be caught in excess of a vessel's catch quota - deducted from next year's quota
 - 30% of each vessels unused catch quota can be transferred to the following fishing year

5

Flexibility options – discards illegal

- Vessels can “buy” catch quotas for excess landings – up to 3 days after landing. Are not allowed to continue fishing after that period until quotas have been “fixed”.
- Permission to land up to 5% excessive to quotas of– keep catches separate
 - Sold on auction, 20% of value to vessels (thereof share of crew), 80% of value into a special research and development fund. Divided into four seasons pr. year.

Other Management Measures

- Regulations concerning the type of fishing gear permitted, e.g. minimum mesh size regulations
- Fishing with trawls is prohibited in large areas near the coast
- Grids in fishing gear are obligatory in certain fisheries
- Extensive closures of fishing areas to protect spawning fish
- The MRI has the authority to close fishing areas temporarily
- MRI and Directorate
 - Monitor and use statistical methods to “assess” the discard policy and its effectiveness
 - “Minimum” assessment for 2010:
- Cod – 0.43%
- Haddock – 1.17%



ANALYSIS

POST-RELEASE SURVIVAL RATES

- Very low for the bottom otter trawl fisheries:
 - Muscular fatigue and/or depression increases with haul depth,
 - Little evidence of survival after few days: physiological stress (feeding and predator avoidance).
- Best-guest post-release survival estimates:

Species	NAFO					Reference
	001 GUL	002 MED	003 COD	004 GUL	005 GUL	
Greenland halibut (Reinhardtius hippoglossoides)	Low	Medium	No catches	No catches	Unknown	Frazer et al., 2011; Condit, 2012
Atlantic plaice (Pleuronectes americanus)	Low	Medium	No catches	Medium	No catches	Frazer et al., 2011; Condit, 2012
Cod (Gadus morhua)	Unknown	Low	Low	Low	Unknown	Benoit and Horta (2012)
Yellowtail flounder (Limanda ferruginea)	App catches	Medium	No catches	Medium	No catches	Benoit and Horta (2012)
Atlantic tomcod (Microgadus tomcod)	Unknown	Low	Low	Recreational	Low	Frazer et al., 2011; Condit, 2012
Atlantic herring (Clupea harengus)	No catches	No catches	No catches	No catches	Unknown	

RESULTS

JUSTIFICATION?

- The requirements to discard under Article 5 (catch and effort limitations) and Article 6 (bycatch retention limits) are not justified given the very low level of post-release survival that is expected in all métiers.
- For the same reasons of low survival given above, the requirement to discard under Article 14 is also not justified.

RESULTS

TECHNICAL MEASURES TO REDUCE BYCATCH

- Over-quota and bycatch fish (Articles 5 & 6)**
The quota is one of the most important reasons to discard in NAFO directed fisheries and bycatch regulations is one of the most important reasons to discards species in moratoria.
 - Input & output controls:**
 - Input:** limiting the amount of fishing effort or capacity (limiting vessel numbers of a specified size, prohibiting new entrants, instituting buy-back schemes).
 - Output:** limiting catch through → Total allowable catch, or quotas of target, incidental or discarded bycatch species. Etc.
 - NAFO_001_RED control effort measures could be implemented to prevent the early closed of the fishery and thus prevent discards of bycatch of this species in other fisheries.
 - Individual quotas would help to control catches.
 - Gear modification:**
 - Eliminator trawl → reduce cod, flounder, skate, dogfish, American plaice and lobster bycatch in haddock fisheries.
 - Flexigrid → flexible sorting grid that can improve the selectivity of trawl nets and reduces cod and saithe bycatch in blue-whiting fisheries.

RESULTS

TECHNICAL MEASURES TO REDUCE BYCATCH

- Undersized fish (Article 14)**
Four species with legal minimum landing size (MLS):
Only a problem in NAFO_001_COD.
 - Improvement of the design and use of fishing gear:**
Technological measures to improve selectivity and change fishing methods may reduce the discards of undersized fish.
 - Spatial closures:**
Positive measure to reduce the bycatch of juvenile fish of different species in this fishery and with a minimal or low impact on the fishery:
 - Greenland halibut effort restricting to >700m,
 - Shrimp fisheries effort restricting to >200m,
 - Possibility: SKA and YEL at <150m
 - Temporal closures:**
Closing fisheries for a period of time is another tool that could be explored to reduce the bycatch problem in certain situations:
 - Morgan (2008), study of COD bycatch in the YEL fishery. Conclusion: possibility of reducing discards by closing or reducing the Canadian YEL fishery in the months with highest bycatch.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- COLLECT COMMERCIAL CATCH INDEPENDENT INFORMATION →**
 - ✓ To know the catch composition in the different areas in real time.
 - ✓ The NAFO observer program could be a key tool for discard and bycatch data collection and to control the implementation of the management measures. Assuring independence.
- TO AVOID OR REDUCE DISCARDING OF UNDERSIZED FISH →**
 - ✓ Selectivity studies to well define the legal gear mesh size according to the minimum landing size.
 - ✓ Detailed spatial and temporal mapping of the distribution of juveniles of the different species. Collect fishery-dependent information with fishery independent data to predict discarding hotspot locations.
- TO IMPLEMENT SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL MEASURES →**
 - ✓ Further studies of all fisheries and their bycatch would be needed. In particular, precise spatial and temporal maps of the distribution of the different species would be required to study possible measures (seasonal or area closures) to reduce bycatch.
 - ✓ It is likely that some of the closures would be beneficial for some species and detrimental to others.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- IMPROVING DATA ON DISCARDS →**
 - ✓ Supporting mechanisms to help fishers avoid the need to discard.
 - ✓ Redesigning the management system in a way that will counter the discards → it needs to be in continuous development.
 - ✓ Carrying out analysis of bycatch and discards that provide better policy packages and technical measures in order to achieve an even playing field in the final goal of preventing and reducing unwanted catches.
 - ✓ The CAT provides information on a broad level which is insufficient and misleading (i.e. Division taken and other species caught in the same day). Due to the limited data available the reported quantities may not reflect the true magnitude of the real bycatch and discards.
 - ✓ Using a tow-by-tow data could be a solution but the debate about the confidentiality of the disaggregated information remains unsolved.
 - ✓ Lack of a standard language for bycatch and discards throughout the NCEM, as well as the use of ambiguous or inconsistent terminology.

Disclaimer

Although this study was funded by the European Union under the Framework Contract MARE/2012/21–Specific Contract 5,

the sole responsibility for the content of this report lies with the authors, and it does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union. Neither DG MARE nor the European Commission are responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

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SECTION X
(pages 349–370)

**Report of the NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission–Scientific Council
Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries (WG-EAFFM)**

**15–17 July 2015
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada**

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**Report of the NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission–Scientific Council
Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries (WG-EAFFM)**

FC-SC Doc. 15/03

**15–17 July 2015
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada**

1. Opening

The meeting was called to order at 1000 hrs on 15 July 2015 by Andrew Kenny (EU). He offered apologies on behalf of the other co-Chair, Robert Day (Canada), who was unable to attend the meeting.

Representatives from Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) (DFG), European Union (EU), Iceland, Japan, Norway, the Russian Federation, and the USA were in attendance. The Scientific Council was represented by the SC Vice-Chair. Observers from Ecology Action Centre and World Wildlife Fund Canada were also in attendance (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The Fisheries Commission (FC) and Scientific Council (SC) Coordinators, Ricardo Federizon and Neil Campbell, were appointed as co-Rapporteurs.

3. Adoption of Agenda

With the addition under other matters of two items regarding the “Coral and Sponge Identification Guide – NAFO Area” for observers, and the review clause for Chapter 2 (Article 24) of the NCEM, the agenda was adopted (Annex 2).

4. Consideration of SC advice from 2015

The SC vice-Chair, Kathy Sosebee (USA) presented an overview of the SC response (formulated in June 2015) to the FC Requests for Advice (formulated in September 2014) on topics relevant to the agenda of this Working Group (WG) (Annex 3). The SC Response covers topics including Significant Adverse Impact (SAI) on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem (VME) elements and species, impacts of removing candidate VME closures from survey design, impacts other than fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA), and impacts of mid-water trawls on VME indicator species. Details of the SC advice are documented in SCS Doc. 15/12.

a) Development of work on Significant Adverse Impacts in support of workplan for assessment of bottom fisheries in 2016

The presiding Chair elaborated on the SAI advice (Annex 4). The WG was informed that the SC’s work plan for the assessment of bottom fishing activities by 2016 is progressing as scheduled, and development of a template for the assessment report is underway. An important addition to the template is a review of the current fisheries which summarises the spatial extent of the fisheries (see slides 5-6 in Annex 4). In its approach to assessing SAI, the first three of the FAO criteria (as defined in paragraph 18 of the 2009 FAO *International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas*) are being analysed, namely; intensity/severity of impact, spatial extent of impact, and sensitivity/vulnerability of ecosystem. The subsequent three criteria (recovery, function, and duration) relate to functionality of the ecosystem, rather than the impact of fishing on the structure of the benthic fauna and habitat. They will be addressed at a later stage.

The WG noted the preliminary nature of the work presented and thanked SC for the extensive effort which has gone into the assessment to date. It was noted that benthic fisheries for shellfish on the tail of the Bank were included in the preliminary assessment. It was agreed that these fisheries should be excluded from further analysis as NAFO has no management jurisdiction in this regard. It was also noted that mid-water trawl fisheries should not be included in the description or the analysis of bottom fisheries.

It was noted that 46% of the area of the fisheries closures (as referred to in NCEM Article 17.5) fall outside the footprint (as referred to in NCEM Article 16) and were therefore not at risk of SAI. The remaining 54% of the area of the fisheries closures (within the footprint), represents 6% of the footprint closed to bottom fishing to protect VME. Through a combination of analysing VMS data (2008–2014) and VME indicator species biomass

for sponge, seapen and large gorgonian, the area of VME (outside current closures) likely to be impacted by bottom fishing can be estimated (see Table 1). It was noted that an impact on VME does not necessarily mean it is significant. For example if only 1% of the VME habitat has been impacted it would be assessed as not significant. For illustrative purposes, it was noted that under the EU Habitats Directive¹ some assessments of designated habitat features 25% of the area being impacted as the criteria to determine when the loss of habitat would result in a feature being in an ‘unfavourable’ state. If this approach were to be applied, the provisional assessment of area of VMEs potentially impacted by past activities for each of the assessed VME types fall below this value and the assessment would therefore conclude that there is no SAI to report. However, there could be SAI in the future and therefore possible management measures to minimize the risk of future SAI should be considered in the assessment. In addition, VMEs outside current closures could be under a potential risk of impact should fishing patterns change and in the absence of suitable mitigation measures. It was noted that findings presented (Annex 4 – Slide 13) are preliminary and did not pre-judge the ongoing assessment of SAI to be finalized in 2016.

Table 1. Area (km²) of VME inside and outside current fishery exclusion zones closures. “Cut-off” is the value of VME species biomass which distinguishes between areas of VME which are at potential risk of SAI versus areas of VME which have been subject to possible past or historic SAI. The “cut-off” values between the two conditions of at risk and past SAI are described and defined in SCS Doc. 14-23 and SCS Doc. 15-12.

	Sponges	%	Seapens	%	Coral	%	Notes
Total area of VME	22,439	100	6,983	100	3,725	100	
Total area of VME INSIDE Closed Area	8,042	36	1094	16	1,992	53	Not at risk of SAI
Total area of VME OUTSIDE Closed Area	14,397	64	5889	84	1,733	47	Total area of potential SAI
Area of VME OUTSIDE Closure, above “cut-off”	4,351	30	1,484	25	668	39	“historic” or “past” SAI
Area of VME OUTSIDE Closure, below “cut-off”	10,045	70	4,404	75	1,064	61	At present-day risk of SAI
Proportion of total VME subject to “historic” or “past” SAI	-	20	-	21	-	16	
Proportion of total VME at risk of present-day SAI	-	45	-	63	-	31	

It was felt that the understanding of the SAI analysis would be improved if SC were to compile, define and agree on terminology used in the reassessment of bottom fisheries, with particular emphasis on the definitions of SAI. It was further suggested that the evaluation of SAI would be improved if in addition to considering the VME areas derived from the kernel density analysis, biomass distributions of VME indicator taxa were also taken into account, e.g. assess the proportion of biomass within and outside current closures. In addition, it was suggested that the VME kernel density analysis polygon boundaries could be refined by taking into account current understanding of VME species distribution patterns in relation to environmental variables.

b) Removal of closed areas from scientific surveys

The SC vice-Chair presented the work of SC and the Secretariat on the impacts of removing the closed areas from the survey design for relevant stock surveys. There has been limited progress; however, work is ongoing to quantify the overlap between VME protection areas and RV surveys. It was noted that removing these areas from the survey design could have implications for survey estimates. However, the WG urges SC to consider options to expedite the assessment process. Furthermore, it was suggested that the dialogue between the FC and SC Chairs on priorities and workload should take place at the earliest opportunity, with this task having increased priority.

c) Impact of activities other than fishing on fish stocks and biodiversity in the NRA

1 Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:01992L0043-20070101>

The SC vice-Chair presented the results of the literature review of potential impact from activities other than fishing on fish stocks and biodiversity in the NRA. It was noted that there was limited expertise currently available in the SC on many of these issues. It was recognized that NAFO is not the competent authority for the management of many of these activities. Prioritization of these other activities in terms of their likelihood of impacting upon fish stocks in the northwest Atlantic was mentioned as a possible way to reduce the scale of the work without any conclusion being reached on the way forward. One CP noted that in the SC's response oil and gas activities contained the biggest number of stressors, potential effects and risks; oil and gas activities are also explicitly mentioned as part of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap (Fig. 1). It was also noted that in the northeast Atlantic, non-binding discussion between NEAFC, OSPAR, and the International Seabed Authority takes place, and that this could serve as a model for dialogue in the NAFO context.

On a related note, the Executive Secretary informed the WG that Canada has provided an extensive proposal regarding a mechanism for exchange of information to avoid overlapping and mitigate potential conflict between fisheries and hydrocarbon activity. This was recently circulated to Contracting Parties and Chairs.

d) Impacts of mid-water trawls on benthic VME indicator species

SC focused its response to this request on potential impacts of midwater trawling around seamounts, and advised that midwater trawls around seamounts have the potential to have bottom contact and therefore present a risk of causing SAI. This risk is lower than for a bottom trawl.

SC recommended that midwater trawl fisheries on seamounts report bycatch of all VME indicator species bycatch, regardless of the amount caught. This recommendation was endorsed by the WG. It was requested that at its future meeting(s) that the WG review any available information on bycatch resulting from this enhanced reporting requirement.

5. Consideration of NCEM Articles 17.1 - 17.3 (Seamounts)

At the 2014 Annual Meeting, FC referred the issue of exploratory fisheries in seamount areas to the WG for further consideration (FC Doc. 14/35).

It was noted that two CPs had operated fisheries in these areas over a long period. Current seamount closures in NAFO provide a level of protection identical to that provided by other areas outside the fishing footprint. Opinions within the WG as to the nature of the risk presented by midwater trawls to VME indicator species in NAFO varied. A range of possible ways to proceed was discussed including: *i.* to leave the current situation unchanged, *ii.* to remove the "seamount closures" from the CEM, recognizing that the protection they once provided is now applied to the entire NAFO Regulatory Area outside the footprint, or *iii.* to further control bottom fishing within the seamount areas, for example by removing the provision for exploratory bottom fisheries from Article 17. This third course of action was endorsed by the WG, as was a suggestion to develop a mid-water gear design, to be applied to seamount areas, and ensuring very minimal or no risk of bottom impacts (e.g. use of gear with no discs, bobbins, etc).

It was considered and agreed that it was not necessary to redefine midwater trawls as a bottom gear, but to recognize that midwater trawls in certain defined areas (seamounts) and fisheries (alfonsino) could contact the bottom (see Section 4d). A consensus formed that midwater trawl fisheries in seamounts should be subject to current gear provisions used for midwater trawls for redfish. With this agreement, the need for a definition of midwater trawling that would apply to seamount fisheries was also recognized.

Further, taking into account SC advice which highlighted the potential risk of SAI, the WG agreed to eliminate the provision for exploratory bottom fisheries in the NAFO seamount areas until 2020 when all VME provisions will be subject to review by FC.

6. Discussion of ongoing matters

a) Status of Candidate VME areas 13 and 14 (eastern Flemish Cap)

and

b) Status of Div. 30 Coral Closure

and

c) Significant concentrations of VME indicator species on Tail of the Bank (Div. 3N)

There was no new information or evidence to elaborate the assessment of these areas as reported in the previous meeting of this WG (FC-SC Doc. 14-03), however it was noted that data from a Canadian VME survey in 2015, as well as additional bottom trawl survey bycatch data from the EU-Spain survey, would be available to SC Working Group on Ecosystem Science and Assessment (WG-ESA) later in 2015. It was therefore requested that these topics be retained on the agenda for future discussion pending analysis of new data.

7. Implementation of the “Ecosystem Approach”

a) Review of the “Roadmap to an Ecosystem Approach”

The co-Chair of WG-ESA Mariano Koen-Alonso (Canada) presented a progress report on the work done by SC in further developing the Roadmap (Annex 5), focusing on those elements that SC considered advanced enough to start the discussion of their potential implications and avenues for implementation. These elements included (1) the definition of spatial scales considered relevant and practical for devising ecosystem-level summaries and management plans, (2) the delineation of Ecosystem Production Units (EPUs) that SC endorsed as candidate ecosystem-level management units for pilot implementations of EAF, and (3) the results from Ecosystem Production Potential models for some of these areas. These models provide estimates of Fisheries Production Potential that can serve as basis for developing “Total Catch Ceilings” (the maximum catch allowed across all species in an Ecosystem-level management unit).

The WG broadly welcomed this work, acknowledged that this being the first time these types of analyses have been presented at the WG, and indicated that more time was needed to reflect on them and further consider their management implications and potential mechanisms for implementation. The WG encouraged continued progress toward further developing these analyses and tools towards practical management applications to maintain momentum in this area.

The WG recognized that, as work on the implementation of the roadmap progresses, priorities and tasks may change over time. The WG updated the set of tasks and priorities to be progressed over the next year (Fig. 1). Updates reflect that the review of fishery closures was completed last year and the focus for 2015-2016 is the re-assessment of bottom fisheries.

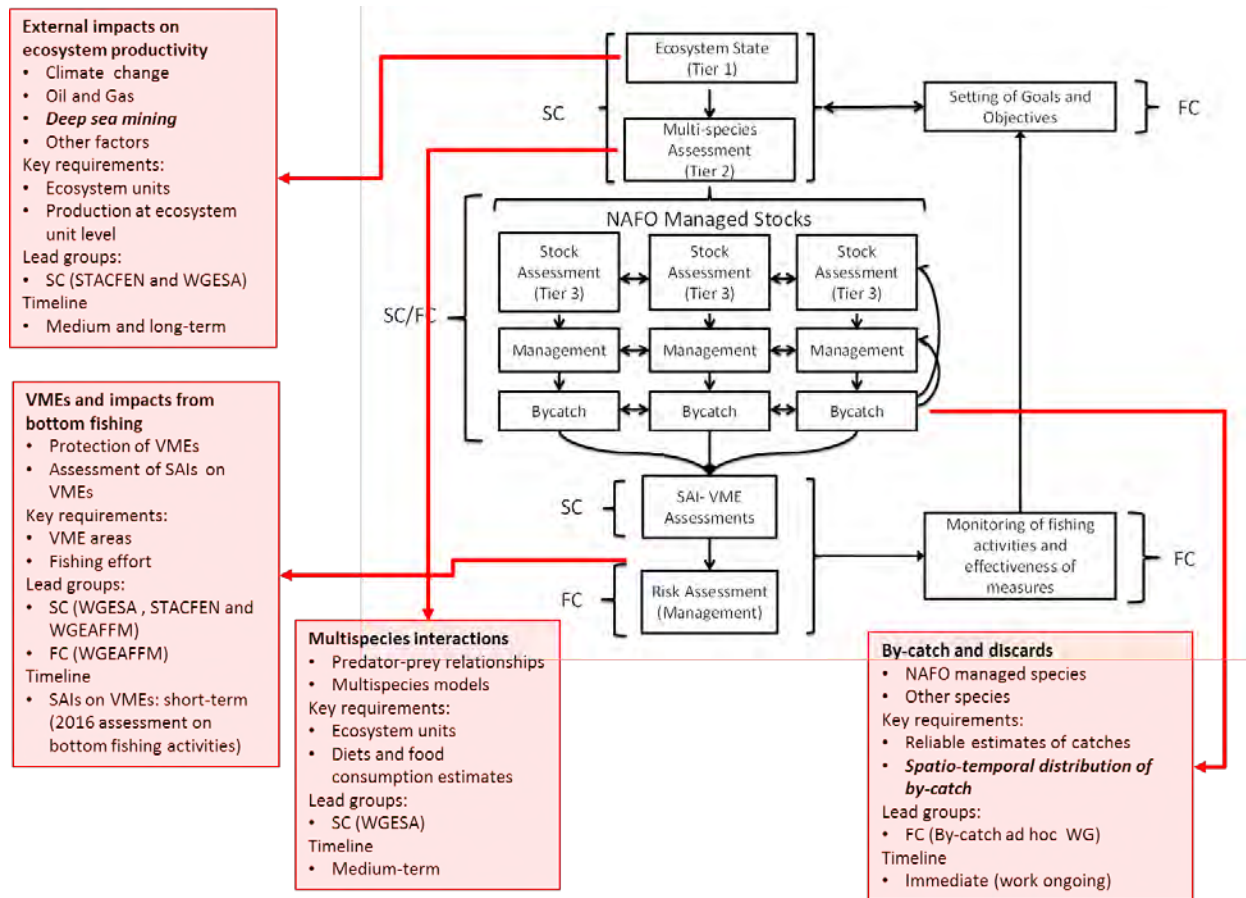


Fig. 1. Updated Workplan and Prioritization of the EAF Roadmap addressing other factors impacting the ecosystem (changes indicated in italic-bold text).

b) Addressing other factors impacting the ecosystem

The WG thanked SC for its thorough overview. It was recognized that if NAFO wishes to give further consideration to any of these issues, it will have to be in partnership with specific competent bodies. The list prepared by SC serves as a useful scoping document, and attempts could be made to prioritize these issues and identify relevant partners. To illustrate, it was noted that deep-sea mining exploration licenses are being issued at the mid-Atlantic ridge regions. Should interest expand to the NAFO Regulatory Area then engagement with the International Seabed Authority might be appropriate.

c) Future direction of FC-SC WG-EAFFM

Participants considered the future role of the WG. Noting the strong synergy between the ad hoc FC Working Group on Bycatch and Discards (WG-BDS), the work being carried out on bycatch in WG-ESA and the role of the FC-SC WG-EAFFM, it was felt that more effective coordination and integration of the outputs and discussion held by these two groups could be achieved so as to avoid duplication of effort. It was noted a similar discussion had taken place in the ad hoc WG-BDS which met immediately before this WG, it was therefore agreed to await the outcome of recommendations arising from that ad hoc group, as they met first.

8. Other matters

a) Coral and Sponge Identification Guide – NAFO Area

Progress by the Secretariat and members of WG-ESA on updating the Coral and Sponge Identification Guide in the NAFO Area to produce a single volume containing all NAFO's recognized VME Indicator Species was

welcomed. Further areas for development, noting the US guides to bycatch species, the FAO Smartforms initiative and the WWF “app”, were discussed.

b) Wording of NCEM Article 24

An outdated reference in Chapter II, Article 24 was noted. A recommendation was made to Fisheries Commission to update this Article and proposed a full review of the VME measures in 2020.

9. Recommendations to forward to the Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council

The Working Group **recommends:**

In relation to Progress of the Workplan on SAI in support of reassessment of bottom fisheries in 2016:

- 1. that Scientific Council should take into account the protection afforded to VME areas outside the NAFO fisheries footprint in the calculation of the VME area and biomass at risk of bottom fishing impact;**
- 2. that Scientific Council refine VME kernel density analysis polygon boundaries, taking into account current understanding of distribution patterns in relation to environmental variables.**

In relation to removal of closed areas from scientific surveys:

- 3. that Scientific Council considers options to expedite a risk assessment of trawl surveys impact on VME in closed areas, and the effect of excluding surveys from these areas on stock assessments.**

In relation to activities other than fishing:

- 4. that Fisheries Commission request the General Council to identify other international organizations (e.g. International Maritime Organization, International Seabed Authority) with areas of mutual interest and instruct the Secretariat to explore the establishment of mechanisms for dialogue and engagement.**

In relation to impacts of mid-water trawls on benthic VME indicator species and habitats:

- 5. that Fisheries Commission or STACTIC amend the NCEM to broaden the scope of application of the meaning of ‘midwater trawl’, as referred to in Article 13.2.f, to apply to midwater trawls in the seamount areas referred to in Article 17.**

In relation to NCEM Articles 17.1 - 17.3 (Seamounts):

- 6. that Fisheries Commission revise Article 17 to remove the possibility of exploratory bottom fishing in seamount areas;**
- 7. that Fisheries Commission revise NCEM to require reporting of all quantities of all VME indicator taxa catches (Annex I.E.VI), in seamount areas (Article 17) for instance through logbooks or observer reports.**

In relation to Other matters:

8. that Scientific Council consider widening the scope of the NAFO coral and sponge identification guides to include other relevant species on seamounts.

9. that Fisheries Commission revise Article 24 as follows:

“The provisions of this Chapter shall be reviewed by the Fisheries Commission at its Annual Meeting no later than 2020”.

These recommendations will be presented to FC and SC at the 2015 Annual Meeting for consideration and adoption.

10. Adoption of the report

It was agreed that the text of the recommendations to Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council agreed in plenary was considered final. A first draft of the remainder of the report would be written up by the Secretariat and circulated firstly to the Chair and then to Contracting Parties in the days following the meeting.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1100 hrs on 17 July 2015. The Chair thanked participants for their positive approach and engagement in the meeting, thanked the Secretariat for their support and hospitality, and wished participants a safe journey home.

Annex 1. List of Participants

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Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Consideration of SC advice from 2015
 - a. Development of work on Significant Adverse Impacts in support of workplan for assessment of bottom fisheries in 2016
 - b. Removal of closed areas from scientific surveys
 - c. Impact of activities other than fishing on fish stocks and biodiversity in the NRA
 - d. Impacts of mid-water trawls on benthic VME indicator species
5. Consideration of NCEM Articles 17.1 - 17.3 (Seamounts)
6. Discussion of ongoing matters
 - a. Status of Candidate VME areas 13 and 14 (eastern Flemish Cap)
 - b. Status of Div. 30 Coral Closure
 - c. Significant concentrations of VME indicator species on Tail of the Bank (Div. 3N)
7. Implementation of the “Ecosystem Approach”
 - a. Review of the “Roadmap to an Ecosystem Approach”
 - b. Addressing other factors impacting the ecosystem
 - c. Future direction of FC-SC WG-EAFFM
8. Other matters
 - a. Coral and Sponge Identification Guide – NAFO Area
 - b. Wording of NCEM Article 24
9. Recommendations to forward to the Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council
10. Adoption of the report
11. Adjournment

Annex 3. Overview of the SC Responses to FC Requests

NAFO FC-SC WGEAFFM
15-17 July 2015, Halifax, NS

SC Responses to FC Requests

SC Vice-Chair

4 FC Requests

- #4. The Fisheries Commission requests the Scientific Council to continue to develop work on Significant Adverse Impacts in support of the reassessment of NAFO bottom fishing activities required in 2016, specifically an assessment of the risk associated with bottom fishing activities on known and predicted VME species and elements in the NRA. (NAFO Regulatory Area, www.nafo.int)
- #5. FC requests that SC investigate the impacts of removing the closed areas from the survey design for relevant stock surveys.
- #11 As the first step in the assessment of such Impacts and for the implementation of the priorities of the Ecosystem Roadmap, could the Scientific Council provide a literature survey that would indicate what the risks are to the fish stocks and ecosystems in the NAFO Regulatory Area by looking at comparable situations.
- #12 The Fisheries Commission requests the Scientific Council to evaluate the impact of mid-water trawls on VME indicator species in those instances when the gear makes contact with or is lost on the bottom

FC Request # 5

Recognizing the work done in NAFO to prevent significant adverse impacts to vulnerable marine ecosystems, and the need for effective stock assessments; Further recognizing that modifications to survey designs occur on regular basis in fisheries surveys in many cases, FC requests that SC investigate the impacts of removing the closed areas from the survey design for relevant stock surveys.

There was limited progress on this request from FC to investigate the impacts of removing the closed areas from the survey design for relevant stock surveys. A GIS analysis prepared by the Secretariat revealed that for Div. 3M, about 15% of the total stratified area overlaps with closed areas. Individual strata overlap ranged from 1% to 61%. Work is ongoing to quantify the overlap between VME protection areas and survey strata, as a first step in assessing the impact of excluding the closed areas from research survey design. Following this work, a comprehensive analysis of the time series of survey indices which include those strata overlapping closed areas will be required for various species.

FC Request # 11

The NAFO 2011 Performance Review Panel encouraged NAFO to consider whether activities other than fishing in the NAFO Convention Area may impact the stocks and fisheries for which NAFO is responsible as well as biodiversity in the NAFO Regulatory Area. Such activities might include oil exploration, shipping and recreational activities. Some work has been carried out as part of the ecosystem approach.

As the first step in the assessment of such impacts and for the implementation of the priorities of the Ecosystem Roadmap, could the Scientific Council provide a literature survey that would indicate what the risks are to the fish stocks and ecosystems in the NAFO Regulatory Area by looking at comparable situations.

Scientific Council outlined the anthropogenic activities other than fishing that are occurring or have the potential of occurring in the NAFO Convention area and listed possible stressors and their possible impact on fish stocks and the ecosystem.

Anthropogenic activity	Stressor	Potential effects	Risk to	
			Fish Stock / Fisheries	Ecosystem
Transportation	Ballast Water Exchange	Risk of introduction of pelagic organisms/larvae with alternative ballast water exchange zones in NAFO area	Fish Health and competition from aquatic invasive species (AIS)	Mostly studied for coastal zones
	Accidental events	Hydrocarbons Dispersants	Fish health; mortality and/or impacts on development, Fishery Disruptions (potential risk to fisheries)	Localized Habitat Disruption
	Ship Strikes	Risk of incidental mortality or injury to e.g. marine mammals and sea turtles	Low	Low
	Noise	Soundscape Modification	Unknown: Muffling of natural sounds and cues	Unknown
	Naval sonar	Marine mammals' hearing loss, disorientation	Low	Possible alter marine mammals' distribution

Anthropogenic activity	Sector	Potential effects	Risk to		
			Fish Stock / Fisheries	Ecosystem	
Oil and gas exploration and exploitation	Drilling wastes	Smothering Hydrocarbon/Heavy metal contamination Increased O ₂ demands	Fish health; mortality and/or impacts on development, Fishery Disruptions (potential risk to fisheries)	Loss of Habitat and species diversity	
	Produced water	Hydrocarbon / Heavy metal contamination / radionuclide contamination	Fish health; mortality and/or impacts on development, Fishery Disruptions (potential risk to fisheries)	Loss of Habitat and species diversity	
	Seismic	Marine mammals – hearing loss, disorientation, mortality, fish behaviour	Unknown long-term effects on fish health; some evidence of non-lethal physiological changes in lab setting.		
		Catchability	Potential for short term displacement of fish aggregations.		
		Shellfish	Low catch rates in the short term (potential risk to fisheries).		
	Accidental events	Bombos	Access to fishing grounds (potential risk to fisheries).		
		Contamination, Taint, Smothering, Hydrocarbons, Dispersants	Fish health; mortality and/or impacts on development, Fishery Disruption (potential risk to fisheries)	Changes in benthic and pelagic community structure, Mortality of sessile communities	
		Structure	Increased habitat complexity in a contaminated environment	Fisheries avoidance zones (potential risk to fisheries)	Reef effect in a contaminated/affected area
		Structure (Mobile)	Ballast water, surface fouling	Fish Health and competition from AIS, Fisheries exclusion zones (potential risk to fisheries)	Reef effect in a contaminated/affected area

Anthropogenic activity	Stressor	Potential effects	Risk to	
			Fish Stock/Fisheries	Ecosystem
Mining	Crust on seamounts	Smoothering	Fisheries exclusion zones (potential risk to Fisheries)	Loss of Habitat and species diversity
	Placer mining	Seabed modification/destruction	Fisheries exclusion zones (potential risk to Fisheries)	Localized Habitat Disruption
	Node dredging	Seabed modification/destruction	Fisheries exclusion zones (potential risk to Fisheries)	Possible widespread Habitat Disruption
Litter	Sunken litter	Habitat modification, smothering	Low	Changes to Benthic community structure
	Ghost fishing	Mortality	Loss of Yield, Fouled gear	Unreported Mortality, Fish Entanglements
	Floating Debris	Ingestion by pelagic organisms and birds	Low	Long range, ubiquitous
	Contaminant Leaching	Endocrine Disruptors, Persistent Organic Pollutants	Fish Health	Long range, ubiquitous
	Accumulation in convergent zones	AIS vector	Competitor or predator to target species	Change in species diversity

Anthropogenic activity	Stressor	Potential effects	Risk to	
			Fish Stock/Fisheries	Ecosystem
Microplastics	Pelagic substrate	Modification of microbial loop, increased sedimentation, Ingestion by organisms	Fish Health	Unknown
	Contaminant absorption and Leaching	Endocrine Disruptors, Persistent Organic Pollutants	Fish Health	Long range, ubiquitous
Cables/Pipelines	Plowing, armouring	Habitat modification	Fisheries exclusion zones, fouled gear	Changes in species Assemblage Composition
	High voltage Alternating and Direct Current	Electro-magnetic fields	Fish Health, Interference with prey detection	Unknown
Defense activities	Sonar, dumping	Marine mammals hearing loss, disorientation	Gear fouling due to dumping	Redistribution of Marine Mammals, Reef effects
Dumping solid waste	Habitat modification/destruction Contaminants	Case specific	Fish Health	Loss of Habitat

FC Request # 12

The Fisheries Commission requests the Scientific Council to evaluate the impact of mid-water trawls on VME indicator species in those instances when the gear makes contact with or is lost on the bottom.

Midwater trawls (pelagic and semi-pelagic) can produce significant adverse impacts (SAI) on VME communities, as per the matter provided by the Scientific Council in 2010 and further addressed here. Such impacts are typically associated with: 1.) Habitat destruction or direct contact with VMEs by the gear when it is fished near the seafloor and 2.) lost gear that becomes entangled in VMEs. Given the slow growth/reproductive rates that characterize VME-forming species, these impacts to VMEs can cumulatively result in Significant Adverse Impact (SAI).

The definition of a midwater trawl is not described in the CFM except for Article 132 (f), the description for reef fish midwater trawls. 'Bottom fishing activities' are described in Article 1 of the CFM as "bottom fishing activities where the fishing gear is likely to contact the seafloor during the normal course of fishing operations". Fisheries are able to deploy midwater trawls anywhere in the water column and studies have shown that midwater trawl fishing meets this definition. Inadvertent bottom contact can occur when fishing with midwater trawls on seamounts due to strong gyres associated with the topography of these geologic features and as a result of fishing midwater trawls close to the bottom.

The SC recommends that midwater trawl fisheries on seamounts record all VME indicator bycatch, regardless of the amount caught.

Annex 4. Presentation on SC Advice pertaining to SAI

FC Request # 4

The Fisheries Commission requests the Scientific Council to continue to develop work on Significant Adverse Impacts in support of the reassessment of NAFO bottom fishing activities required in 2016, specifically an assessment of the risk associated with bottom fishing activities on known and predicted VME species and elements in the NRA.

SC Observations

1. The programme of work to deliver the assessment of bottom fishing activities by 2016 is progressing as intended.
2. Recent developments have included the design of a template for the assessment report, the start of the compilation of background ecological information, a description of the fisheries operating in the NRA, and
3. further advances on the approach to be used for assessing the risk of Significant Adverse Impacts on VMEs.

Progress towards Reassessment of Bottom Fishing Activities by 2016

- Template detailing content of the assessment report
- Compilation of general information
- Initial definition and characterization of fisheries
- Approach for assessing Significant Adverse Impacts (SAIs) on VMEs
- Preliminary analyses for some VME taxa
- Recommendations for refining the SAI method

Template for the assessment of Impacts of bottom fishing activities

Section 1: Introduction
Approach to the section: This section is intended to be a summary of the environmental and general ecosystem background. It is a brief introduction to the larger ecosystems where the VMEs are located.

Section 2: description of VME and VME elements
Approach to the section: This section is intended to be a summary of all VMEs and VME elements in the NRA. It should provide a concise summary of the types, and locations of VMEs and VME elements identified in the NRA. (Already compiled as part of the review of fisheries by areas)

Section 3: Description of the Fisheries
Approach to the section: This section is intended to be a summary of all fisheries operating in the NRA, including their gear types, target species, areas of operation, etc. (New work)

Section 4: Impact Analysis
Approach to the section: This section is expected to be focused on likely impacts on VMEs and, whenever possible, to discriminate likely impacts by fisheries. Depending on how the work develops this section could be merged with Section 5. (New work)

Section 5: Risk Assessment
Approach to the section: This section is intended to integrate the analysis of likely impacts (Section 4) in a framework compatible with standard risk assessment approaches that should allow identifying likely Significant Adverse Impacts (SAIs), as well as providing the basic blocks for potentially developing more comprehensive risk assessments if needed. Depending on how the work develops, this section could be merged with Section 4. (New work)

Description of Fisheries

Fishery	Target Species	Main Area of Operation	Gear
Porcupine Redfish Fishery	Redfish	NAFO Div. 3T	Midwater otter trawl
Greenland Halibut Fishery	Greenland halibut	NAFO Divs 3LMN	Bottom otter trawl
SM Redfish Fishery	Redfish	NAFO Div. 3M	Bottom otter trawl
SM Shrimp Fishery	Shrimp	NAFO Div. 3M	Bottom otter trawl
(in near future)			
SM Trawl Cod Fishery	Atlantic Cod	NAFO Div. 3M	Bottom otter trawl
SM Longline Cod Fishery	Atlantic Cod	NAFO Div. 3M	Longline
Skate Fishery	Skate	NAFO Divs 3NO	Bottom otter trawl
Yellowtail Fishery	Yellowtail	NAFO Div. 3N	Bottom otter trawl
Witch Rounder Fishery	Rounder	NAFO Divs 3NO	Bottom otter trawl
(in response to 2015)		(expected annual)	
3LNO Redfish Fishery	Redfish	NAFO Divs 3LNO	Bottom otter trawl
3LNO Shrimp Fishery	Shrimp	NAFO Div. 3L	Bottom otter trawl
(in near future)			
White Hake Fishery	White hake	NAFO Divs 3NO	Bottom otter trawl
Squid Fishery	Shortfin squid	NAFO Subareas 2+4	Bottom and midwater otter trawl
		(no directed fishing since 1999)	
Alfonsino Fishery	Splendid Alfonsino	NAFO Div. 3G (Corner Rise)	Midwater otter trawl
Snow Crab Fishery	Snow crab	NAFO Divs 3LNO	Traps
(not managed by NAFO)			
Arctic Surfclam Fishery	Arctic surfclam	NAFO Div. 3N	Hydraulic dredge
(not managed by NAFO)			

- A total of 16 operational fisheries have been identified – not all managed by NAFO
- VMS data is used to map their effort

Description of Fisheries

Division	Target Species	Gear	Mesh Size	Predominant Depth Range	Mean Vessel Power (KW, ± range)	Mean Vessel Length (m, ± range)	Commercial Beach Species
Div. 3LMNO	Greenland halibut	OTB	150mm	800 – 1400m	TBD	TBD	Redfish, Greenland

Spatial Distribution (2012)

Spatial Distribution (2013)

Approach for Assessing SAI

FAO 2009 assessment criteria

- i. the intensity or severity of the impact at the specific site being affected;
- ii. the spatial extent of the impact relative to the availability of the habitat type affected
- iii. the sensitivity/vulnerability of the ecosystem to the impact;
- iv. the ability of an ecosystem to recover from harm, and the rate of such recovery;
- v. the extent to which ecosystem functions may be altered by the impact; and
- vi. the timing and duration of the impact relative to the period in which a species needs the habitat during one or more of its life history stages

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SAI criteria

ii. *the spatial extent of the impact relative to the availability of the habitat type affected*

Two considerations:

- i. Estimating SAI caused by past fishing activities – *determine area of impact which has likely occurred.*
- ii. Estimating risk of SAI by present and/or future fishing activities - *determine area at potential risk.*

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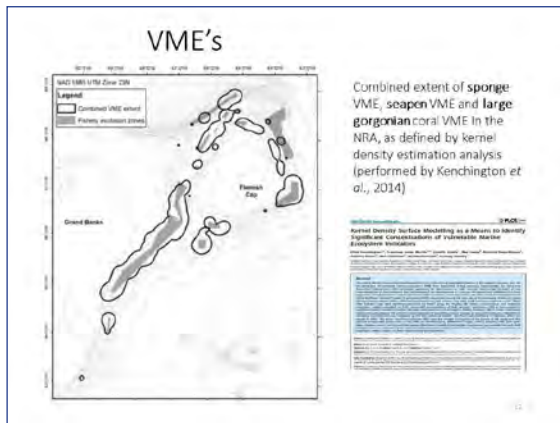
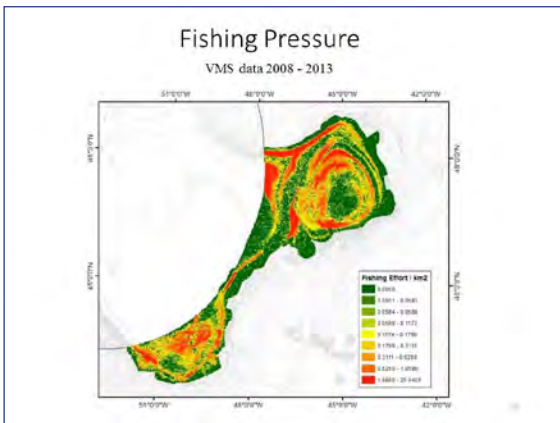
General Approach:

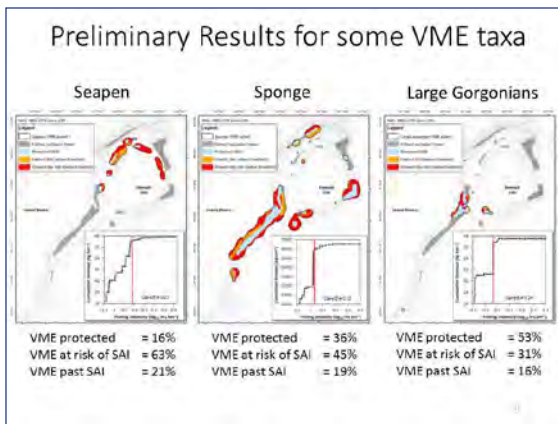
1. Analyse VMS data to generate a fishing activity/intensity layer (2008 – 2012)
2. Create biomass layers of VME species at the same spatial resolution (2000 – 2013)
3. Assess interaction/overlap between fishing activity and biomass layers.
 - Identify areas of possible past SAI and areas of potential risk present day SAI

Conceptual Approach to SAI

Evaluation of VME biomass observations inside area at risk of SAI

- Areas of low fishing intensity yielding high VME biomass – potential risk of SAI
- Areas of high fishing intensity yielding low VME biomass – possible past SAI

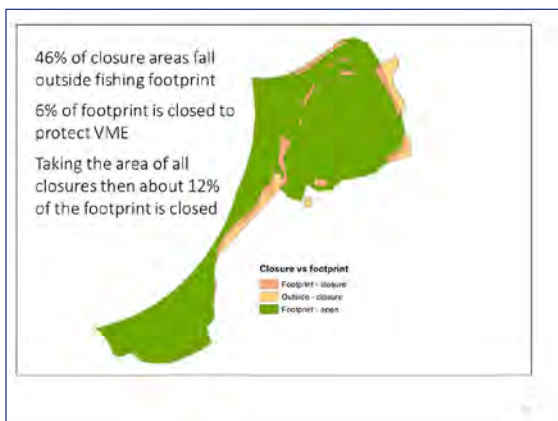




SC Recommendations

1. Further consider the role of environmental variables to define the fine scale features of VME boundaries (whenever possible).
2. Take into account the VME areas outside the NAFO fisheries footprint in the calculation of the VME area not exposed to risk of Significant Adverse Impacts.

Further thoughts to facilitate discussion.....!

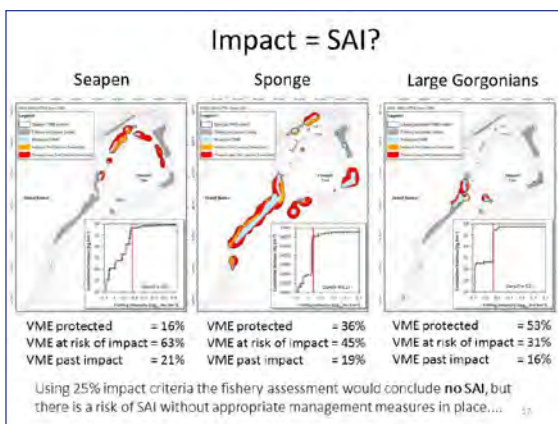


SAI criteria

ii. *the spatial extent of the impact relative to the availability of the habitat type affected*

Implies: not all VME habitat impacted = SAI?
 It depends on how much VME habitat is impacted relative to the area of VME habitat available.

EU Habitats Directive uses a 25% impact cut-off to define when a habitat state becomes "unfavourable".



Annex 5. Progress Report on the “Roadmap”

NAFO FC-SC WGEAFFM
15-17 July 2015, Halifax, NS

Progress on the Roadmap towards implementing and Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries for NAFO

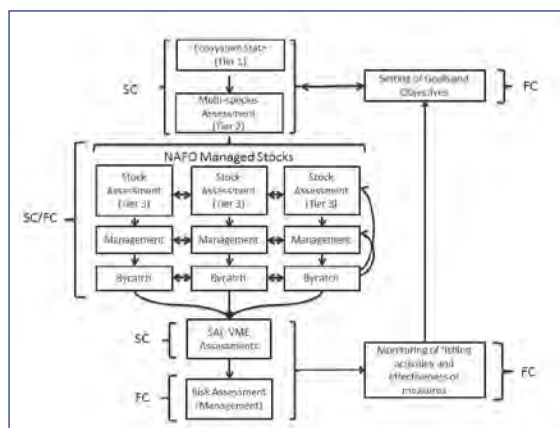
Martina Yoon-Davies

Outline

- Context**
 - Development and Implementation of the Roadmap to EAF
 - Roadmap priorities identified by FC/SC WGEAFFM in July 2014 and endorsed by FC in September 2014.
- Process**
 - WGESA Meeting: 18-27 November 2014, Dartmouth
 - SC June Meeting: May 29 to June 12 2015, Halifax
- Topics**
 - Roadmap progress:
 - Ecosystem scales and candidate management areas
 - Fisheries Production Potential and Guidelines for Total Catch Ceilings.

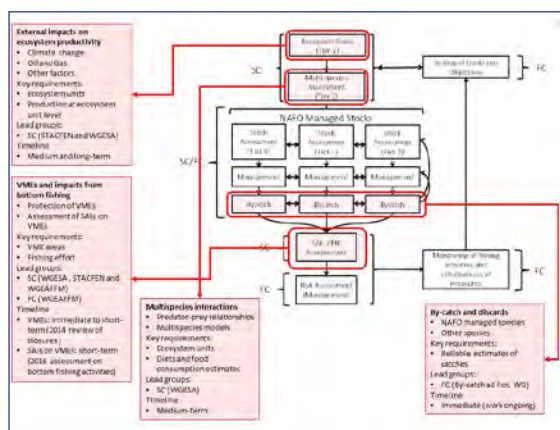
Main Roadmap features

- Core Roadmap premises are:
 - a) the approach is objective-driven,
 - b) it considers long-term ecosystem sustainability
 - c) it is a place-based framework, and
 - d) trade-offs are explicitly addressed.
- Sustainability of exploitation is achieved through a 3-tier hierarchy:
 - Tier 1- ecosystem sustainability (total fisheries production; “TAC” at ecosystem level)
 - Tier 2- multi-species sustainability (multispecies assessments; trade-offs among fisheries)
 - Tier 3- stock sustainability (single species stock assessments; ensures that exploitation rates derived from Tiers 1 and 2 are consistent with stock characteristics).
- Integration of impacts of fisheries on benthic communities (e.g. VMEs)
 - Assessment of Significant Adverse Impact (SAIs) on VMEs by bottom fishing activities
 - Analysis of fishing impacts on benthic ecosystems.



It is not that complicated: the Roadmap in 5 basic conceptual steps

- Identify an Ecosystem level Management Area (only needs to be done once, after that only revisions)
- Tier 1**
Enter are fisheries production in area (and find above and set a global TAC)
- Tier 2**
Taking into account species interactions and other trade-offs, allocate the global TAC to individual stocks (stock TAC)
- Tier 3**
Verify at the single species level that the stock TAC is sustainable
- Identify benthic areas of special concern, and set up management measures to mitigate/avoid fishing impacts on these areas.




Ecoregion Analyses

- A series of ecoregion analyses has been carried out over the last several years.
- These analysis include regional studies (e.g. NL shelves, Flemish Cap, Scotian Shelf, Northeast US continental shelf), as well as an integrated analysis of the East coast of North America.
- These analysis included multiple data layers (e.g. bathymetry, water temperature, satellite derived chlorophyll and primary production, RV derived total fish biomass and diversity).
- On the basis of these studies, as well as expert opinion, and management considerations (e.g. existing NAFO division boundaries), a series of spatial scales and areas for ecosystem summaries and management were identified.

Spatial scales for ecosystem summaries and management

Spatial Scale	Name	Examples
"Large"	Bioregion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NL shelves (2GHJ3KLNOP) • Flemish Cap (3M)
"Medium"	Ecosystem Production Unit (EPU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northeast Newfoundland Shelf (2J3K) • Grand Bank (3LNO) • Flemish Cap (3M)
"Small"	Ecoregion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North region of the Grand Bank (~3L) • Top of the bank in Flemish Cap • Slope areas


Large Scale: Bioregions



General operational description

Large geographical area characterized by distinct bathymetry, hydrography, and which contains one or more reasonably well defined (but still interconnected) major marine communities/food web systems.

Medium Scale: Ecosystem Production Unit

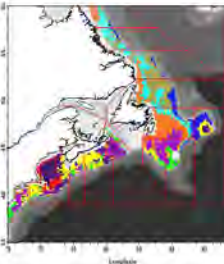


General operational description

Within a bioregion, a major geographical subunit characterized by distinct productivity and a reasonably well defined major marine community/food web system.

The ecosystem Production Unit (EPU) is the proposed scale for Ecosystem-level Management Areas.

Small Scale: Ecoregion



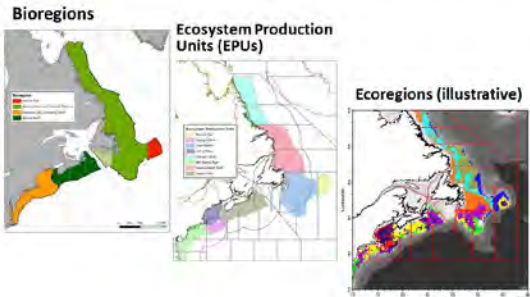
General operational description

Within an EPU, geographical area with consistent physical and biological characteristics. Often corresponds to a broadly defined seascape and/or major habitat type/class. It is within this spatial scales that more precise habitats can be identified (e.g. VMEs).

Precise boundaries at the ecoregion scale can vary with data availability; management at this scale would be better informed by "local" analyses.

Illustrative ecoregions from the integrated analysis of the east coast of North America

Spatial scales for ecosystem summaries and management



Bioregions

Ecosystem Production Units (EPUs)

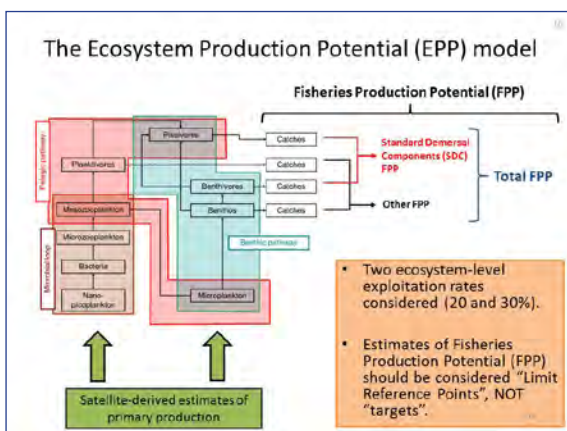
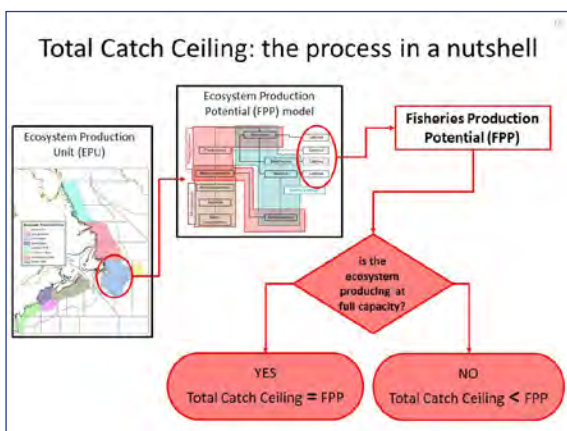
Ecoregions (illustrative)

Ecoregion Analyses: Summary

- Three nested levels of spatial organization were identified as relevant and useful for ecosystem summaries and management plans: **Bioregion**, **Ecosystem Production Unit (EPU)**, and **Ecoregion**.
- The EPU scale is proposed as the level for candidate ecosystem-level management units.
- Precise boundaries at the ecoregion scale can vary with data availability; management at this scale would be better informed by "local" analyses.

Ecosystem-level Management Areas and Total Catch Ceilings

- SC endorsed the Flemish Cap (NAFO Div. 3M), the Grand Bank (NAFO Divs 3LNO), and the Northeast Newfoundland Shelf (NAFO Divs 2J3K) EPUs as Ecosystem-level Management Areas for use in pilot implementations of EAF.
- Tier-1 of the Roadmap requires providing Total Catch Ceilings for defined Ecosystem-level Management Areas.
- In order to start the conversation on these aspects, a set of guidelines for "Total Catch Ceilings" for the above areas were developed.
- At this initial stage this is a "proof of concept". These guidelines are intended to help managers to begin assessing how current catch levels measure up to this additional management dimension, as well as stimulate the dialogue on how best to implement this new ecosystem-level limit reference point.



Fisheries Production Potential

- Total FPP densities were estimated around 2-3 tonne/km², with a general variability ranging around 1-5 tonne/km².
- These figures are remarkably consistent with Maximum Sustainable Yields (MSYs) from aggregate biomass production models for a suite of marine ecosystem, which were in the order of 1-5 tonne/km² (Bundy et al. 2012).
- When only Standard Demersal Components (SDCs) are considered, estimated FPP densities were around 0.6-1 tonne/km², while their variability ranged around 0.4-2 tonne/km².

From FPP estimates to Guidelines for Total Catch Ceilings

The bar chart compares 'Production potential and nominal catches (thousand tonnes)' for three areas: NE Shelf (EPA), Grand Bank (EPA), and Flemish Cap (EPA). The x-axis ranges from 0 to 2000. The legend includes: Total FPP (20%), Total FPP (30%), SDC FPP (20%), SDC FPP (30%), Catch 2012, Catch 2013, and Catch 2014. A text box titled 'Considerations for "Total Catch Ceilings"' states: 'FPP estimates represent a "best case scenario"'. 'If the ecosystem is not producing at full capacity, FPP estimates need to be scaled down to reflect current instead of maximum productivity state.'

Ecosystem Production State: Total biomass and P/B ratio

Flemish Cap (3M) EPU

- Total biomass is currently at or above the levels observed prior to the collapse in the early 1990s.
- Available data provides no indication of erosion in the current production capacity of this system.
- FPP estimates were considered a viable value for "Total Catch Ceiling"

Newfoundland Shelf (2J3K), Grand Bank (3LNO) EPUs

- Current total biomass in the NL Shelf and Grand Bank EPUs is in the order of 40-50% of pre-collapse levels.
- This indicates that the changes experienced by these systems eroded their production capacity, which remains impaired to this date.
- A **penalty factor of 50%** to account for ecosystem erosion was applied to the FPP estimates to generate "Total Catch Ceilings"

Guidelines for Total Catch Ceilings

Guideline values for total catch ceilings for the NL Shelf (NAFO Divs 2J3K), Grand Bank (NAFO Divs 3LNO), and Flemish Cap (NAFO Div. 3M) Ecosystem Production Units (EPUs).

	Median Fisheries Production Potential (FPP) (thousand tonne/yr)				Median Total Nominal Landings (thousand tonne/yr)		
	Total FPP (20%)	Total FPP (30%)	SDC FPP (20%)	SDC FPP (30%)	1990-1993	1980-1985	1990-2012
NL Shelf (2J3K) 50% penalty	253	374	85	121	416	210	102
Grand Bank (3LNO) 50% penalty	357	534	117	171	446	304	119
Flemish Cap (3M)	129	192	43	65	42	34	53

Total Catch Ceilings: we are already there

Guideline values for total catch ceilings for the NL Shelf (NAFO Divs 2J3K), Grand Bank (NAFO Divs 3LNO), and Flemish Cap (NAFO Div. 3M) Ecosystem Production Units (EPUs).

	Median Fisheries Production Potential (FPP) (thousand tonne/yr)				Median Total Nominal Landings (thousand tonne/yr)
	Total FPP (20%)	Total FPP (30%)	SDC FPP (20%)	SDC FPP (30%)	
NL Shelf (2J3K) 50% penalty	253	374	85	121	102
Grand Bank (3LNO) 50% penalty	357	534	117	171	119
Flemish Cap (3M)	129	192	43	65	53

Total Catch Ceilings: Key observations

- Current fishing levels in these three EPUs are at the level of their estimated SDC "Total Catch Ceiling" ranges.
- This suggests that total catches in these ecosystems should not be increased; stock-specific TAC increases should be compensated by a decrease in another stock within the corresponding EPU.
- Total catches in the Flemish Cap currently are at their maximum level.
- The NL shelves ecosystems have the potential of doubling their current Total Catch levels if these systems are allowed to rebuild.