

Northwest Atlantic
Fisheries Organization
(NAFO)



Meeting Proceedings
of the General Council and Fisheries Commission
for 2015/2016

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Foreword

This issue of the Proceedings contains the meeting reports of the General Council (GC) and Fisheries Commission (FC) including their subsidiary bodies and working groups held in the twelve months preceding the Annual Meeting in September 2015 (between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016). This follows a NAFO cycle of meetings starting with an Annual Meeting rather than by calendar year.

This present 2015/2016 issue is comprised of the following sections:

SECTION I (1–56) contains the Report of the General Council and its Subsidiary Body (STACFAD), 37th Annual Meeting, 21–25 September 2015, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

SECTION II (57–178) contains the Report of the Fisheries Commission and its Subsidiary Body (STACTIC), 37th Annual Meeting, 21–25 September 2015, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

SECTION III (179–194) contains the Report of the STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group, 8–10 December 2015, Reykjavik, Iceland.

SECTION IV (195–208) contains the Report of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM) meeting, 15–16 March 2016, London, UK.

SECTION V (209–225) contains the Report of the NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies (RBMS), 4–6 April 2016, Tórshavn, Faroe Islands.

SECTION VI (227–270) contains the Report of the STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, 9–11 May 2016, London, England.

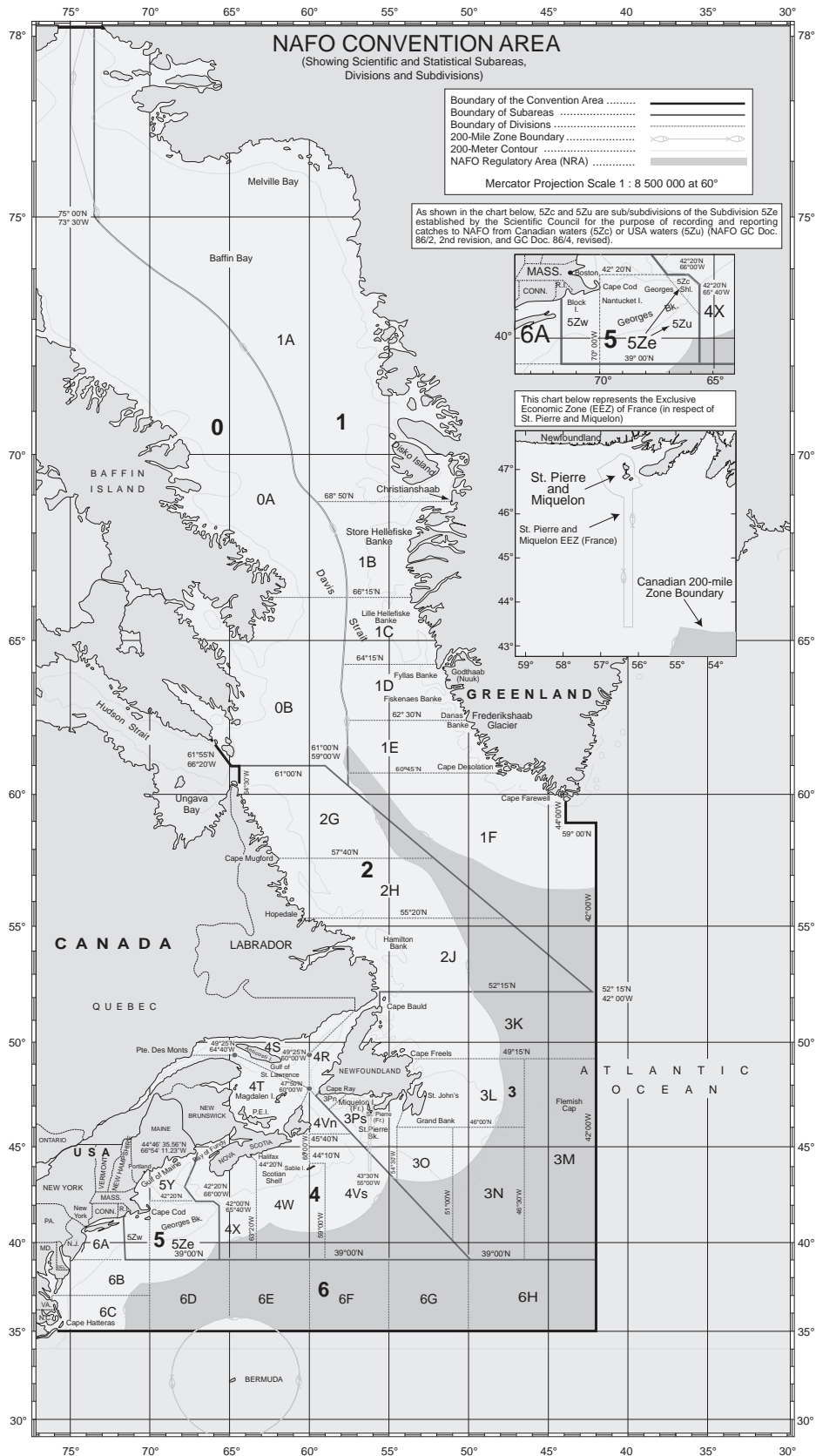
SECTION VII (271–280) contains the Report of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM) meeting, 31 May–1 June 2016, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

SECTION VIII (281–298) Report of the NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Catch Data Advisory Group (CDAG), 2016, WebEx.

SECTION IX (299–316) contains the Report of the NAFO Fisheries Commission Ad hoc Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in the NAFO Regulatory Area 9 August 2016, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada

SECTION X (317–356) contains the Report of the Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council Working Group on the Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM), 11–12 August, 2016, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

SECTION XI (357–372) contains the Report of the NAFO Performance Review Virtual Working Group, 2016



Contents

Foreword		iii
Map		iv
Structure of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO).....		ix
Secretariat		x
SECTION I	Report of the General Council and its Subsidiary Body (STACFAD), 37 th Annual Meeting of NAFO, 21–25 September 2015, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada	1
PART I.	Report of the General Council.....	5
	Annex 1. Participant List	11
	Annex 2. Agenda.....	23
	Annex 3. NAFO Opening Speech by the NAFO President/GC Chair	24
	Annex 4. Opening Statement by Canada	25
	Annex 5. Opening Statement by Cuba	26
	Annex 6. Opening Statement by Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland).....	27
	Annex 7. Opening Statement by European Union.....	28
	Annex 8. Opening Statement by Japan.....	29
	Annex 9. Opening Statement by the Republic of Korea.....	30
	Annex 10. Opening Statement by the Russian Federation.....	31
	Annex 11. Opening Statement by the United States of America	32
	Annex 12. Opening Statement by the Environmental Information: Use and Influence (EIUI) Research Program – Dalhousie University.....	33
	Annex 13. Opening Statement by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC)	34
	Annex 14. Joint Opening Statement by the Ecology Action Centre (EAC) and the World Wildlife Federation (WWF)	35
	Annex 15. Terms of Reference for a NAFO Performance Review Working Group.....	36
	Annex 16. FAO Activities on Deep-sea Fisheries in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	38
	Annex 17. Press Release	42
PART II.	Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD).....	43
	Annex 1. List of Participants.....	50
	Annex 2. Agenda.....	51
	Annex 3. Budget Estimate for 2016.....	52
	Annex 4. Preliminary Budget Forecast for 2017 and 2018 Budget Estimate for 2016	55
	Annex 5. Preliminary calculation of billing for Contracting Parties	56
SECTION II	Report of the Fisheries Commission and its Subsidiary Body (STACTIC) 37 th Annual Meeting of NAFO, 21–25 September 2015, Halifax, Canada.....	57
PART I.	Report of the Fisheries Commission.....	61
	Annex 1. Participant List	69
	Annex 2. Summary of decisions and actions taken by the Fisheries Commission	81
	Annex 3. Agenda.....	83
	Annex 4. Scientific Council responses to requests received from the Fisheries Commission during the annual meeting.....	85
	Annex 5. Fisheries Commission’s Request for Scientific Advice on Management in 2017 and Beyond of Certain Stocks in Subareas 2, 3 and 4 and Other Matters.....	87
	Annex 6. Recommendations from the WG-RBMS to forward to FC and SC.....	93

	Annex 7. Scope of the Review of the NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework (PAF)	94
	Annex 8. Quota Table 2016 and Effort Allocation Scheme for Shrimp Fishery in the NAFO Regulatory Area Div. 3M, 2016–2017	95
	Annex 9. Statement by the Russian Federation on pelagic <i>Sebastes mentella</i> (oceanic redfish) in the NAFO Convention Area	99
	Annex 10. Recommendations from the WG-EAFFM to forward to FC and SC	100
	Annex 11. Revision of Article 17 of the NAFO CEM	101
	Annex 12. Recommendations from the WG-CR to forward to the FC and SC.....	102
	Annex 13. Recommendations from the WG-BDS to forward to the Fisheries Commission	105
	Annex 14. Revision of Text in Article 9	107
	Annex 15. Review of the footnotes associated to Annex I.A – Annual Quota Table	108
	Annex 16. Improvements in Reporting Apparent Infringements and follow up actions (Article 40)	117
	Annex 17. Improvements in Reporting Apparent Infringements and follow up actions (Article 40.4).....	118
	Annex 18. Format of Haul by Haul Logbook Data to the Secretariat	119
	Annex 19. Seamount Closures: gear specification for the use of midwater trawls and reporting of VMES	121
	Annex 20. Notification process for the closure of the redfish fishery in NAFO Division 3M.....	123
	Annex 21. Annual Compliance Review 2015 (Compliance Report for Fishing Year 2014)	124
	Annex 22. Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process.....	142
PART II.	Report of the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC).....	144
	Annex 1. List of Participants.....	154
	Annex 2. Agenda.....	155
	Annex 3. Status of STACTIC Working Papers	156
	Annex 4. STACTIC WP 15/13 - 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	157
	Annex 5. Japan’s proposal for clarification of and amendments to STACTIC WP 15/13.....	178
SECTION III	Report of the STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group 8–10 December 2015, Reykjavik, Iceland	179
	Annex 1. List of Participants	183
	Annex 2. Agenda.....	184
	Annex 3. Record of Discussion.....	185
SECTION IV	Report of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM) meeting	195
	15–16 March 2016, London, UK.....	195
	Annex 1. Table of Definitions.....	205
	Annex 2. Answer to the NEAFC ERS Working Group:	206
SECTION V	Report of the NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies, 4–6 April 2016, Tórshavn, Faroe Islands	209
	Annex 1. List of Participants.....	214
	Annex 2. Agenda.....	216
	Annex 3. Timeline for the revision of the PA Framework	217

	Annex 4. NAFO Fish Stocks – Status of Reference Points Estimation	219
	Annex 5. Draft Workplan for the GHL MSE Review.....	220
	Annex 6. 3LN Redfish Conservation Plan and Harvest Control Rule – Supplementary Guidance	223
	Annex 7. 3M Cod Work schedule 2016–2018.....	225
SECTION VI	Report of the STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, 9–11 May 2016, London, England	227
	Annex 1. List of Participants	238
	Annex 2. Agenda.....	240
	Annex 3. Fisheries in the NAFO Regulatory Area in 2015.....	241
	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.....	249
SECTION VII	Report of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM) meeting 31 May–1 June 2016, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada	271
	Annex 1. Participant List	278
	Annex 2. Agenda	279
	Annex 3. List of Documents.....	280
SECTION VIII	Report of the NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Catch Data Advisory Group (CDAG).....	281
	Annex 1. Terms of Reference of CDAG.....	286
	Annex 2. List of Participants	288
	Annex 3. Review of the STACTIC Data	291
	Annex 4. Development of Methodology for Catch Estimation in Three Schematic Tables.....	292
	Annex 5. Estimation Strategy.....	295
	Annex 6. Canadian Catch Data Methodology and Dockside Monitoring Program.....	296
SECTION IX	Report of the NAFO Fisheries Commission Ad hoc Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in the NAFO Regulatory Area, 9 August 2016, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada.....	299
	Annex 1. List of Participants	305
	Annex 2. Agenda.....	308
	Annex 3. Analysis of the Daily Catch Reports (CATs) 2012 - 2015.....	309
	Annex 4. Draft NAFO Action Plan on the management and reduction of bycatch and discards (EU proposal).....	313
SECTION X	Report of the NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM) 10–12 August 2016, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada	317
	Annex 1. List of Participants	324
	Annex 2. Agenda.....	327
	Annex 3. SC Advice on SAIs in support of the Reassessment of NAFO Bottom Fisheries Activities.....	328
	Annex 4. Maps of Candidate Areas 13 and 14 referred to in Recommendation 5	343
	Annex 5. Progress on the NAFO Roadmap towards an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries	345
SECTION XI	NAFO Performance Review virtual Working Group, 2016, via WebEx.....	357
	Annex 1. List of Participants	362
	Annex 2. Provisional Agenda.....	364
	Annex 3. NAFO – 2nd Performance Review Terms of Reference	365

Structure of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)

(as of 01 August 2016)

Contracting Parties

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

President

Stephane Artano (France in respect of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon)

Constituent Bodies

General Council	<i>Chair</i> – Stephane Artano (France in respect of St.-Pierre et Miquelon) <i>Vice-Chair</i> – Sylvie Lapointe (Canada)
Scientific Council	<i>Chair</i> – Katherine Sosebee (USA) <i>Vice-Chair</i> – Brian Healey (Canada)
Fisheries Commission	<i>Chair</i> – Temur Tairov (Russian Federation) <i>Vice-Chair</i> – Patrick Moran (USA)

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> – Joël Vigneau (Canada)
	Standing Committee on Research and Coordination (STACREC)	<i>Chair</i> – Brian Healey (Canada)
	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> – Judy Dwyer (Canada) <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 (to 01 Mar 2016)
Scientific Council Coordinator	Tom Blasdale (from 1 March 2016)
Executive Assistant to the Executive Secretary	Lisa LeFort
Fisheries Information Administrator	Jana Aker
Scientific Information Administrator	Dayna Bell
IT Manager	Matthew Kendall
Senior Publications Manager	Alexis Pacey
Database Manager	Mark Harley
Office Administrator	Sarah Burton
NAFO Intern	Yumi Okochi (Spring 2016) Martha Astrup (Summer-Autumn 2016)

Headquarters Location

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

SECTION I
(1–56)

**Report of the General Council and its Subsidiary Body (STACFAD),
37th Annual Meeting of NAFO**

**21–25 September 2015
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada**

Contents

PART I.	Report of the General Council	5
I.	Opening Procedure	5
II.	Supervision and Coordination of the Organizational, Administrative and Other Internal Affairs.....	6
III.	Coordination of External Affairs	7
IV.	Finance	9
V.	Closing Procedure	10
	Annex 1. Participant List	11
	Annex 2. Agenda.....	23
	Annex 3. NAFO Opening Speech by the NAFO President/GC Chair	24
	Annex 4. Opening Statement by Canada.....	25
	Annex 5. Opening Statement by Cuba.....	26
	Annex 6. Opening Statement by Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland).....	27
	Annex 7. Opening Statement by European Union.....	28
	Annex 8. Opening Statement by Japan.....	29
	Annex 9. Opening Statement by the Republic of Korea.....	30
	Annex 10. Opening Statement by the Russian Federation.....	31
	Annex 11. Opening Statement by the United States of America	32
	Annex 12. Opening Statement by the Environmental Information: Use and Influence (EIUI) Research Program – Dalhousie University	33
	Annex 13. Opening Statement by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC).....	34
	Annex 14. Joint Opening Statement by the Ecology Action Centre (EAC) and the World Wildlife Federation (WWF)	35
	Annex 15. Terms of Reference for a NAFO Performance Review Working Group.....	36
	Annex 16. FAO Activities on Deep-sea Fisheries in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.....	38
	Annex 17. Press Release	42
PART II.	Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD).....	43
1.	Opening by the Chair.....	43
2.	Appointment of Rapporteur.....	43
3.	Adoption of Agenda	43
4.	Auditors' Report for 2014.....	43
5.	Administrative and Activity Report by Secretariat	44

6. Financial Statements for 2015.....	44
7. Review of Accumulated Surplus and Contingency Funds.....	45
8. Personnel Matters.....	45
9. Internship Program.....	46
10. Rules of Procedure: Observers.....	46
11. Report of the Annual Meeting of the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS).....	46
12. Update on implementation of Performance Review Panel recommendations tasked to STACFAD.....	46
13. Budget Estimate for 2016.....	47
14. Budget Forecast for 2017 and 2018.....	47
15. Adoption of 2015/2016 Staff Committee Appointees.....	47
16. Time and Place of 2016–2018 Annual Meetings.....	47
17. Election of Vice-Chair.....	48
18. Other Matters.....	48
19. Adjournment.....	49
Annex 1. List of Participants.....	50
Annex 2. Agenda.....	51
Annex 3. Budget Estimate for 2016.....	52
Annex 4. Preliminary Budget Forecast for 2017 and 2018 Budget Estimate for 2016.....	55
Annex 5. Preliminary calculation of billing for Contracting Parties.....	56



Heads of Delegation – left to right; back row: Konstantin Drevetnyak (Russian Federation), Sung Ho Kim (Republic of Korea), Kevin Stringer (Canada), John Bullard (USA), Stéphane Artano (SPM-France), Kenro Iino (Japan), Fred Kingston (Executive Secretary).

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



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



General Council in session, 37th Annual Meeting, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Part I.

Report of the General Council 37th Annual Meeting of NAFO (GC Doc. 15/04)

21–25 September 2015
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

I. Opening Procedure

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

The 37th Annual Meeting of NAFO was convened on 21 September 2015 at 1000 hrs at the Westin Nova Scotian hotel in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, with 152 delegates present from 12 NAFO Contracting Parties (Annex 1). The NAFO President and General Council Chair, Veronika Veits (EU) welcomed all delegates to the Meeting (Annex 3).

The Deputy Mayor of Halifax, Ms. Lorelei Nicoll, also welcomed delegates to the City of Halifax.

Opening statements were deferred at the opening session, but were provided in writing for inclusion in the report by Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, and the United States of America (USA). (Annexes 4–11).

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 agenda item 8, “*Transparency in NAFO Proceedings*” had been added at the request of Norway and that a recommendation by the joint FC-SC WG on EAFFM should be discussed under agenda item 14 “*International Relations*”.

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 Fisheries Commission (NPFC), North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES), Sargasso Sea Commission, Southeast Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO), South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO) and Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC).

During the 37th Annual Meeting, CCAMLR was represented by Norway and NEAFC was represented by Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland). Representatives from FAO, NPAFC and Sargasso Sea Commission were also present.

The following NGOs, which had been granted accredited observer status, were also present: Dalhousie University - Environment Information: Use & Influence (EIUI), Ecology Action Centre (EAC) and the Sierra Club of Canada. Not in attendance were the International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA), Dalhousie University - Marine & Environmental Law (MELAW), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

Opening statements were provided in writing for inclusion in the report from Dalhousie University - Environment Information: Use & Influence (EIUI), North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) and a joint statement from the Ecology Action Centre (EAC) and the World Wildlife Fund - Canada (WWF). (Annexes 12-14).

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 STACFAD, certain issues raised under agenda item 8 “*Transparency in NAFO Proceedings*” were forwarded to the Committee for further consideration and guidance. The Chair of STACFAD was invited to prepare a report for the closing session.

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 2014 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. Transparency in NAFO Proceedings

Norway raised a number of concerns related to NAFO’s transparency, including:

- NAFO meeting reports may not reflect adequately the views of all Contracting Parties. In particular minority views could be better represented in the main body of these reports;
- Too many of NAFO’s substantive discussions, particularly those related to management issues, take place in closed Heads of Delegation meetings. The discussion of these issues should be done in open sessions as much as possible and NAFO should reduce the number of such closed meetings; and
- Contracting Parties should have the opportunity to provide input into any redesign of NAFO’s website. Norway mentioned, in particular, problems in accessing documents in NAFO Members’ Pages and illegible tables and graphs in some of the meeting reports.

The need for improving NAFO’s transparency was generally supported by many Contracting Parties and the Chair. Some Contracting Parties noted that NAFO’s transparency has improved in recent years, but there is still room for more improvement. Issues related to the website will be discussed by STACFAD. Many Contracting Parties also stated that issues related to NAFO’s transparency should be addressed by NAFO’s next Performance Review and be included in its Terms of Reference. The Chair referred to a recommendation in NAFO’s Performance Review (Recommendation 7.5.2) that stated that NAFO meeting reports should be “*as succinct as possible*” and “*as far as possible represent a distillation of collective views*”. She invited rapporteurs to reflect in a balanced way the views expressed.

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

To-date, seven Contracting Parties have ratified the amended Convention, namely Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation. Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) announced that it had notified Canada (the Depository of the NAFO Convention) that it had ratified the amended Convention the week before the Annual Meeting. Other Contracting Parties updated the status of their ratification process. Contracting Parties were strongly encouraged to continue their efforts to ratify the amended Convention.

10. Status of NAFO Headquarters Agreement

Canada said it was ready to proceed with finalizing a Headquarters Agreement on the basis of the draft text reviewed at the 31st Annual Meeting in 2009. The draft text was recirculated to all Contracting Parties last year for comments and none were provided. However, there has been a delay due to a legal proceeding that is still before the courts, which Canada is hopeful will be resolved shortly. A draft text of an alternate instrument (Memorandum of Understanding) to address issues related to the provision of the premises and security by the host country is being reviewed by STACFAD.

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

As part of General Council's regular annual review on the status of the recommendations of the 2011 NAFO Performance Review, the Executive Secretary presented GC WP 15/05. The working paper is almost the same as the one presented at the previous year's Annual Meeting, since almost all of these recommendations have already been addressed or are being addressed by ongoing actions. The only change is that, at this meeting, STACFAD addressed its remaining outstanding recommendation concerning certain provisions of the NAFO Staff Rules pertaining to dismissal or termination of appointment.

Since the UN General Assembly has called for regular performance reviews of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) such as NAFO, Contracting Parties agreed that they should take the first steps to prepare NAFO's next Performance Review. In this context, Contracting Parties adopted the Terms of Reference for a NAFO Performance Review Working Group (GC WP 15/10, Annex 15). This Working Group will develop the scope, timeline and draft terms of reference to conduct NAFO's second Performance Review. The Working Group will present its recommendations to the General Council at the 2016 NAFO Annual Meeting, which will decide on the launching of the next Performance Review, if appropriate. Many Contracting Parties said that NAFO's second Performance Review, if launched, should build on the experience gained in the first Performance Review.

12. Administrative Report

The Administrative Report was presented to STACFAD (GC Doc. 15/02).

III. Coordination of External Affairs

13. Report of Executive Secretary on external meetings

The Executive Secretary highlighted a few of the external meetings he participated in since the last Annual Meeting, including: International Fisheries Commission Pension Society (IFCPS) (April 2015), the Workshop on Linking Global and Regional Levels in the Management of Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (February 2015) and a meeting with Dr. Peter Hutchinson, Secretary of North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO) (May 2015) to discuss issues related to the implementation of NASCO's Performance Review related to NAFO. The Executive Secretary has also continued to try to strengthen NAFO's relationship with the local academic community. Additionally, the Executive Secretary has agreed to be the liaison for NAFO for the ABNJ Project's Community of Practice on Fisheries, Biodiversity and Climate Change.

Other members of the Secretariat actively participated in the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries (WECAFC) Technical Workshop on Bottom Fisheries on the High Seas of the Western Central Atlantic (October 2014), the FAO Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (February 2015), the FAO FIRMS Steering Committee (February 2015), and the FAO ABNJ Project—Workshop on VME Process and Practices (March 2015).

An overview of these meetings is available in the Administrative Report (GC Doc. 15/02).

14. International Relations

a) Appointment of NAFO Members as Observers to External Meetings

At the last Annual Meeting in September 2014, it was agreed that the following NAFO Contracting Parties would observe at meetings of the following organizations during 2014/2015: 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 in 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). The reports by these Observers were presented.

It was agreed that NAFO Contracting Parties would observe at the following meetings of 2015-2016: Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) at NEAFC; EU at ICCAT; Norway at-seaFO and NAAMCO; and the USA at CCAMLR, NPAFC and NASCO.

b) ABNJ Deep-Seas 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, as well as 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 (Chris O’Brien, ABNJ Deep Seas Coordinator) gave its annual update to General Council (GC WP 15/02, Annex 16) on all current and future activities with the project. Upcoming project activities planned include the first Project Steering Committee meeting since the Project Coordinator has recently taken up his position,

c) Relations with other International Organizations

The Joint FC-SC Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management met 15-17 July 2015 in Halifax, Nova Scotia and agreed on the following recommendation:

In relation to activities other than fishing:

- **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;**

Based on the comments of Contracting Parties the Executive Secretary was asked to prepare a list of appropriate bodies with which NAFO could engage in cooperation and to start already exploring cooperation with the International Seabed Authority and the International Maritime Organisation as suggested by the WG and to report on these efforts at the next Annual Meeting.

15. Oil and Gas Activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area – Information Exchange Arrangement

At the 2014 Annual Meeting, the General Council gave the Executive Secretary the mandate to 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. The mandate also stated that the Executive Secretary should report on this issue at the next NAFO Annual Meeting. In this context, the Executive Secretary presented GC WP 15/04, which outlined the major developments on the issue since the last Annual meeting.

In particular, the Executive Secretary highlighted the means of communication that Canada identified and had circulated to Contracting Parties to support this mandate. Written comments from one Contracting Party, the EU, on the Canadian process were summarized. The Executive Secretary also mentioned Canada’s “interim process” that it implemented immediately following the 2014 Annual Meeting, and through which it sent information about petroleum-related activities on Canada’s continental shelf in the NAFO Regulatory Area to the NAFO Secretariat for onward transmission to NAFO Contracting Parties.

Canada said that it took note of the EU comments and that it would continue to engage with the Executive Secretary to consider possible refinements to the information exchange. Canada added that there has been good cooperation at-sea between fishing vessels and oil and gas exploration vessels in the NAFO Regulatory Area so far this year, with the exception of one incident, which it previously brought to the attention of NAFO Contracting Parties. Canada also emphasized the importance of reciprocal information exchange to improve the effectiveness of the Canadian process and expressed its desire that Contracting Parties would cooperate in this regard.

A number of Contracting Parties found the Canadian approach reasonable and some considered it a useful model also for other RFMOs and in other contexts. Some stressed the importance of early, proactive and detailed communication, particularly with regard to exploratory activities. Concern was expressed by some Contracting Parties on the potential impact of petroleum exploratory activities on NAFO’s conservation efforts, in particular in relation to the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems.

IV. Finance

16. Report of STACFAD at the Annual Meeting

The report of STACFAD was presented by the Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA). The report contained recommendations for the adoption of the budget for 2016, the Auditor's Report for 2014, financial matters, personnel matters, and an update on the NAFO Secretariat classification scheme review.

17. Adoption of the Budget and STACFAD recommendations for 2016

STACFAD recommended that:

- the 2014 Auditors' Report be adopted.
- an Ad hoc virtual Working Group be established, of self-identified interested participants, to assist in the re-design process of the NAFO website namely:
 - to provide feedback during the development, testing and implementation stages; and
 - in consultation with the Chairs of STACTIC and STACFAD, to develop standards and guidelines of access to documentation contained on the site including which documentation requires password protection.
- 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 2016, and of which \$85,000 would be a contingency fund available to be used for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.
- In regards to the report of the NAFO Secretariat classification scheme that:
 - Contracting Parties, the NAFO Secretariat and staff members provide comments NAFO Secretariat classification scheme to the NAFO Secretariat on the report by 30 October 2015.
 - The NAFO Secretariat compile these comments to be forwarded to the consultant, with a copy to STACFAD members, and used for a revision of the NAFO Secretariat classification scheme review to be received by the end of 2015.
 - The revised review of the NAFO Secretariat classification scheme to be circulated to STACFAD Members in early 2016.
 - Using the revised report of the NAFO Secretariat classification scheme as a basis, the NAFO Secretariat develop and circulate recommendations for STACFAD's consideration in advance of the 2016 Annual Meeting of NAFO, 19-23 September 2016.
- the Secretariat continue to pursue alternate and additional methods to recruit prospective interns to its internship program particularly to nationals of NAFO that have not yet participated, including a review of the stipend amount.
- the budget for 2016 of \$1,997,000 be adopted.
- General Council appoint the three Staff Committee nominees for September 2015–September 2016.
- the dates of the 2018 Annual Meeting (to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, unless an invitation to host is extended by a Contracting Party and accepted by the Organization) to be as follows:
 - 17-21 September 2018

- **Contracting Parties strive, whenever possible, to provide more than 12 months' notice of the intention to extend an invitation to host a NAFO Annual Meeting.**
- **In the occasion that the Secretariat has committed to a meeting venue, and a subsequent invitation to host is accepted by the Organization, any cancellation penalties incurred may be financed by the contingency fund.**
- **Contracting Parties review the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (STACFAD WP 15/09) and provide comments to the Secretariat by 30 November 2015 to be compiled and sent to the Government of Canada.**

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 an increase of less than 1%.

V. Closing Procedure

18. Election of President and Chair

The present Vice-Chair, Mr. Stéphane Artano from France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), was elected as NAFO President and Chair for the next two years.

Ms. Sylvie Lapointe (Canada) was elected as the Vice-Chair for a two-year term.

It was understood that a new election would be held should the amended NAFO Convention become in force during their terms.

19. Time and Place of Next Annual Meeting

An invitation to host the next Annual Meeting was extended by Cuba and accepted by the Organization. The 38th Annual Meeting will be in Varadero, Cuba during the dates of 19–23 September 2016.

20. Other Business

- At the STACTIC session of this Annual Meeting, it was **agreed:**

To advise the Fisheries Commission to recommend to the General Council, in accordance with Article 53, that Ghana be removed as the current flag State for the vessel Trinity (IMO 7321374) on the NAFO IUU list, and replace the current flag State with "Unknown".

The Fisheries Commission agreed with this recommendation, which was then adopted by the General Council.

- The President noted that Neil Campbell has resigned as SC Coordinator and expressed her appreciation for his dedication to the Organization.
- It was noted that this was Veronika Veits (EU) last Annual Meeting as NAFO President. The meeting expressed its great appreciation for the hard work and dedication to NAFO she has demonstrated throughout her four-year tenure.

21. 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 17) was circulated and posted to the NAFO website at the conclusion of the meeting on Friday, 25 September.

22. Adjournment

The Chair noted that NAFO has achieved much this year and should be proud of its achievements. She thanked the NAFO Secretariat for the excellent preparation of the meeting and support throughout the week. Delegates were thanked for their constructive work and were wished good travels.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 hrs on Friday, 25 September 2015.

Annex 1. Participant List

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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

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

7. Review of Membership of the General Council and Fisheries Commission
8. Transparency in NAFO proceedings
9. Status of ratification process resulting from the adoption of the amended Convention and presentation of progress reports
10. Status of NAFO Headquarters Agreement
11. Performance Review: Status of implementation of Recommendations of the NAFO Performance Review and Preparation of the next Performance Review
12. Administrative Report

III. Coordination of External Affairs

13. Report of Executive Secretary on external meetings
14. International Relations
15. Appointment of NAFO Members as Observers to External Meetings
16. ABNJ Deep-Seas Project
17. Relations with other International Organizations
18. Oil and Gas Activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area – Information Exchange Arrangement

IV. Finance

19. Report of STACFAD at the Annual Meeting
20. Adoption of the Budget and STACFAD recommendations for 2016

V. Closing Procedure

21. Election of President and Chair
22. Time and Place of Next Annual Meeting
23. Other Business
24. Press Release
25. Adjournment

Annex 3. NAFO Opening Speech by the NAFO President/GC Chair

Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to extend a warm welcome to all of you here in Halifax and to open the 37th Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization. I am also very pleased to have the Deputy Mayor of Halifax, Lorelei Nicoll, here beside me. Ms. Nicoll is here to welcome you to Halifax.

Before I officially open this year's meeting, I would like to highlight that you have all agreed not to give oral opening statements to allow for more time for discussions on substance. However, there will be one exception, since I am still NAFO's President (at least until the end of this week!) I intend to assert my prerogative and make an exception to this rule for myself!

In addition, I would like to give the floor to the Deputy Mayor for her welcoming words.

Following the warm welcome by the Deputy Mayor let me proceed with my opening remarks.

First, let me note that this year is an important year for international fisheries governance since it marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption by the United Nations of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, as well as the 20th Anniversary of the adoption of the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. These are the milestones in the international community's efforts to ensure healthy marine living resources and eco-systems. And they are also cornerstones for sustainable fisheries management in Regional Fisheries Management Organisations such as NAFO. Next year will be an equally important year with the resumption of the Review of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement to which NAFO has already contributed through a questionnaire, as well as the review of UNGA's Bottom Fishing Resolution.

These reviews will also examine how RFMOs have been delivering. I would submit that NAFO is doing well. NAFO respects science for both stock conservation and the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems. It has been applying the precautionary approach and is developing an ecosystem approach to fisheries management that may become a model for others. It has in place a modern control and enforcement system with a high level of compliance. While some NAFO stocks are still at low levels, it seems clear that our efforts at conservation and the sustainable use of our fishery resources are bearing fruit, with evidence that stocks are rebounding, including some which have recently been reopened.

Having said that, it is almost eight years and counting and we still have not ratified the amended NAFO Convention. I was hoping to be able to celebrate the coming-into-force of this new Convention during my tenure as your President. Sadly I will have to leave this to my successor. I would, however, note that our Performance Review stated that, while our current Convention "*does not address several requirements established by more modern international fisheries instruments and initiatives*", the amendments "*significantly improved this situation*" in this respect. I would hope that, as we are entering into a discussion of NAFO's next Performance Review, we could see the entry into force of the Amended Convention as soon as possible!

Let me also stress that we have been very busy this past year! Since the last Annual Meeting in Vigo last September, we have met intersessionally 13 times! I believe some of my and your staff may have even spent more time in Halifax than at the office! Since the results of all these intersessional meetings ultimately end up at the Annual Meeting for decision, this means that we will also be very busy this week! These decisions will range from the traditional, such as the establishment of TACs, quotas and other management measures for the various NAFO-managed stocks, further strengthening of enforcement and control, notably through full alignment to the FAO Port State Measures Agreement, to the less traditional, such as the further development of the ecosystem approach, seamount fisheries and information and cooperation arrangements for co-existing activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area. Concluding on all issues in 5 days will be challenging! Nevertheless I remain confident that we will be able to work through our agenda by Friday noon!

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the Secretariat for all their work throughout the year and the preparations in the run-up to this meeting. You are doing a great job!

To conclude, and since this is my last Annual Meeting as your President let me stress that I have enjoyed very much working with all of you (and, of course, I will continue to enjoy working with you!). In particular, I should say that despite our different interests and occasional differences in approach to various issues, we always seem to tackle them in the spirit of cooperation, good will and common sense. I am very confident that this will continue throughout this week.

Thank you very much for your attention!

Annex 4. Opening Statement by Canada

On behalf of Canada, it is a great pleasure to offer everyone a warm Atlantic Canadian welcome to Halifax for the 37th Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO). The Secretariat is commended for the choice of venue and exceptional work to organize and host the Annual Meeting.

The Canadian delegation is looking forward to the contribution of all Contracting Parties in productive and meaningful discussions on the important issues before us this week.

The rich fishing history and culture of our communities and their traditional 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 demonstrated its commitment to achieving this goal in recent years, based on mutual cooperation and hard work. We must remain vigilant and maintain this commitment to the principles that have supported our recent progress.

Canada believes the efforts of the Committees and Working Groups over the past year should be commended. All of these bodies have done important work that has enriched the discussion this week, enhanced by the cooperation between the Fisheries Commission and the Scientific Council.

These NAFO Working Groups are conducting ground-breaking work to protect and conserve our ocean resources, including through an ecosystem approach to risk-based fisheries management. Through these working groups, NAFO has made important progress on the development and application of the Precautionary Approach framework, the identification of priorities through the Ecosystem Roadmap and, the reassessment of bottom fishing activity impacts in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA).

Canada remains committed to management decisions based on scientific advice. This commitment to cooperation with science and sustainable fisheries management by all Contracting Parties is evidenced by recent success stories, including the reopening of groundfish stocks such as 3M cod, 3LN redfish and 3NO witch flounder.

However, Canada believes that in order to continue this progress, NAFO Contracting Parties must make improved catch reporting a priority. Reliability of catch data continues to be one of the most significant issues facing NAFO. Accurate catch data is critical for scientific assessment and gaps in this area are limiting Scientific Council's ability to provide advice on key priorities including the ability to test Harvest Control Rules. Accurate catch data is the foundation for reliable stock assessments and effective fisheries management. The ad hoc working group on Catch Reporting is developing a framework for the validation of NAFO catch data and generation of catch estimates. It is crucial to maintain this momentum and finalize the terms of reference and timelines for the catch data technical advisory group so this work will continue in the coming months.

The 37th annual meeting of NAFO provides an opportunity to build on the significant recent progress. A number of real challenges remain but Canada firmly believes that these are also opportunities to continue to grow NAFO's reputation as one of the most progressive and innovative regional fisheries management organizations in the world.

Annex 5. Opening Statement by Cuba

Good morning everybody.

Ms. President, distinguish delegates and observers.

On behalf of the Republic of Cuba and the Cuban delegation to this 37th Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, let us to express our gratitude for the opportunity to meet once again in this beautiful city of Halifax.

The Organization has made significant progress in ensuring that all together, compromise ourselves in addressing the conservation challenges before us, but still we have a lot of work ahead. This week, we will again face and discuss important matters, not only from the organizational point of view, but also the situation of stocks in the Convention area, the work and recommendations of the Scientific Council and 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.

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

We look forward to work with all delegations present at this meeting and that the discussions and decisions to be taken at this 37th Annual Meeting, will be testimonies of NAFO's serious efforts in responding to the situation that the fish stocks are facing all over the world, and also a commitment to manage fisheries in a sustainable way.

Thank you very much.



Annex 6. 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 our Canadian hosts for their hospitality and for the hard work put in the practical preparations of this Annual Meeting which is being held here in Halifax, Nova Scotia. We appreciate it.

The Faroe Islands and Greenland is committed 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. This 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. We note with satisfaction that the cod stock in Division 3M continue to exhibit biomass improvements.

Madame Chair, our delegation would like 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 work constructively with all delegations in the week ahead of us to bring the many issues on our agenda to successful conclusion.

Thank you.

Annex 7. Opening Statement by European Union

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

Since the last Annual Meeting, we all – fisheries managers, scientists, control and enforcement experts, the NAFO Secretariat - have all been working very hard together with numerous intersessional meetings: four joint FC/SC working groups, the joint NAFO-NEAFC advisory group on data management, the Committee on Control (STACTIC) meetings and its sub-groups and last but not least the Scientific Council.

We expect that this intersessional work will allow NAFO to grow stronger in four key areas:

First, better science as basis for sound management, notably 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.

Secondly, deepening the ecosystem approach in NAFO, notably with a better protection of seamounts, but also by tackling the need to reduce and preferably eliminate discards in NAFO fisheries; we would like to highlight in this context the EU's commitment to continue support for the NEREIDA seabed mapping project. Its outcomes will be crucial for the VME review in 2016.

Third, further moving towards risk based management plans with the continuation of existing plans and the development of new ones. Work on developing and revising reference points will be crucial to that end as well revising the precautionary framework to make it clearer and align it to practice in other fora.

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

These are no small challenges.

Further to these key issues on our agenda, the determination of Total Allowable Catches, the TACs, will take centre stage. In line with the EU's Common Fisheries Policy adopted in 2013 the EU is firmly committed to follow scientific advice and hopes that NAFO will promote responsible decisions that also allow to balance environmental, economic and social considerations.

We will also promote again the introduction of a naturally-attached-fins 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 would like to express its hope that the Amended Convention enters into force as soon as possible. An entry into force in 2016 seems within reach. The EU therefore calls on strengthened efforts from Contracting Parties concerned to accelerate their ratification process.

NAFO has proven to be a front-runner amongst RFMOs on several occasions. The development of Information Exchange Arrangement on Oil and Gas Activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area shows that NAFO as an organisation aims at responding to a changing environment. Facilitating legitimate co-existence of economic activities whilst keeping NAFO's marine ecosystems and living marine resources healthy will be guiding us in our discussions.

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

Annex 8. Opening Statement by Japan

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

On behalf of the Japanese Delegation, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Government of Canada for hosting the 37th Annual meeting of NAFO in this beautiful city, Halifax, and also thank the NAFO Secretariat for excellent arrangements of this meeting.

NAFO has played an important role for fisheries management in the NAFO area. NAFO, as a responsible fisheries management organization, should develop conservation and management measures for sustainable use of fisheries resources and the measures should be based on scientific advice.

Madam Chair, I would like to pick up two concrete issues and express our thought on this occasion; exploratory bottom fishing and bycatch quota.

The Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM) has recommended the Fisheries Commission to exclude the possibility of exploratory bottom fishing in seamount area. This issue should be carefully discussed at the Fisheries Commission. If the exploratory bottom fishing is totally prohibited, NAFO loses good opportunities to collect useful information about fisheries resources and surrounding environment in seamount areas. In accordance with Article 18 of current NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures, all proposals of exploratory bottom fishing activities shall be subject to a prior exploration in accordance with the exploratory protocol. So, NAFO already has review system for proposed exploratory bottom fishing. If there is a concern on a proposed exploratory fishery, the exploratory fishery is not authorized.

At the last year's annual meeting, NAFO adopted 3M redfish's TAC which includes 200 t for bycatch. As stated last year, Japan basically cannot support setting the bycatch quota. Setting a TAC exceeding the scientific advice and allowing such fishery products retention on board may create incentives to catch for the species after the quota for directed fishery is fully exhausted. Such bycatch quota also may create difficulty for proper management. Given that, Japan supports move-on-rule and retention prohibition to avoid unnecessary bycatch. If the move-on-rule does not work sufficiently for this purpose, introduction of highly selective fishing gears or deduction from next year's allocation should be considered. Japan believes that bycatch management is one of the important issues at this NAFO meeting. Ad hoc Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity in the NAFO Regulatory Area has proposed the Action Plan to reduce bycatch and discards, and improve selectivity. Japan can support this Action Plan.

Madam Chair, the Japanese Delegation is ready to work closely and cooperatively with other delegations to find good solutions and sincerely hopes that this annual meeting will be successfully and fruitfully concluded.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Annex 9. Opening Statement by the Republic of Korea

Madam Chair,

Korea is pleased to be here in Halifax, Nova Scotia for the 37th NAFO Annual Meeting. We would like to thank the Government of Canada for hosting this meeting and the Secretariat for coordinating and arranging this meeting.

First, we would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm Korea's position in the NAFO quota allocation system. Since Korea's accession to the Convention in 1994, Korea suspended all fishing activities due to the small amount of the quota allocated to Korea. The NAFO waters were considered an important fishing ground for Korea, however, fishing operations were unable to be continued because of the quota allocation as mentioned.

Madam Chair,

Korea notes that without proper conservation of fisheries resources in the convention areas, we will not be able to achieve the sufficient quota to resume our fishing activities. In this regard, Korea welcomes the Scientific Council's recommendation for fish stocks and would like to take part in the discussions giving top priority to rebuilding and conservation of each fish stock. Korea sincerely hopes that our commitment contributing to conservation and management of resources will bring actual increase of quota allocated to Korea in the future. Korea looks forward to having substantive and tangible outcomes at this meeting.

Thank you.

Annex 10. Opening Statement by the Russian Federation

Madame President, distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to represent the Russian Federation at the 37th NAFO Annual Meeting.

On behalf of the Russian Delegation, I would like to thank the Canadian authorities for hosting this Annual Meeting in the beautiful city of Halifax and for the excellent arrangements.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the NAFO Secretariat for the preparations made in advance of this meeting.

We would like to commend the excellent work performed by various NAFO bodies and Working Groups intersessionally.

It is good to see that the fruitful work of the Scientific Council resulted in advice to increase the Total Allowable Catch for such species as 3M cod and 3LN redfish. Along with the redfish in Divisions 3M and 3O as well as the Greenland Halibut in Divisions 3LMNO, these stocks represent an area of the greatest interest for the Russian fishing fleet.

Russia would also like to note the outstanding work of Scientific Council to assess the witch flounder stock in Divisions 3NO, which resulted in reopening of the fishery for this stock.

We are also impressed by the work undertaken within the Working Group on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management, including the ongoing work to assess the risk of the significant adverse impact. We believe that results of this research will add an entirely new dimension to the VME conservation allowing an assessment of the vulnerability of bottom ecosystems to be made not only qualitatively but also quantitatively. We hope that such a refined approach will allow NAFO to achieve a greater balance between the interests of fishermen and protection of bottom ecosystems.

During this week, we have a full agenda ahead of us. We are looking forward to the successful and productive work at this session.

Thank you for your attention.

Annex 11. Opening Statement by the United States of America

NAFO Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The United States is pleased to be back in the beautiful city of Halifax once again to attend the 37th NAFO Annual Meeting. We would like to thank the Government of Canada and the City of Halifax for their long-standing hospitality and to recognize the outstanding efforts of the NAFO Secretariat in ensuring that our meetings are efficient and successful. We would also like to take this opportunity to highlight some key issues for our delegation at this year's annual meeting.

First and foremost, the United States will continue to insist on transparent, ecosystem-based and precautionary decision making that is consistent with the advice of the NAFO Scientific Council. Furthermore, the decision process relating to allocation of fishing opportunities in NAFO must be inclusive, taking into account the needs all NAFO Parties -- particularly those of coastal States. We are committed to these principles and they should be the foundation that NAFO uses to seek solutions to the many conservation and management challenges before us this year.

Of course, in order to create the basis for such effective decision making, NAFO scientists and managers must have access to reliable and accurate data, including on all bycatch and VMEs. These issues were highlighted in the last NAFO performance review, and NAFO has worked hard in STACTIC and in a number of Working Groups to address and improve our data collection deficiencies and to continue enhancement of risk-based management and decision making in NAFO. The United States was pleased with the work done this year intersessionally in this regard. However, much work remains to improve the NAFO observer scheme and the quality of data collection and it is our hope that we can continue to move these issues forward at this meeting. Similarly, while pleased with our progress thus far in the Working Group on Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity, we would urge continued work to evaluate the impacts of bycatch on NAFO fisheries and address discards in a way that is acceptable to all Parties. Further, the United States commends all Contracting Parties for their on-going work to align the NAFO CEM with the FAO Port State Measures Agreement. We are confident we can take the necessary steps at this meeting to ensure the CEM properly reflects these best practices.

The United States strongly supports measures to continue to reduce the impacts of NAFO fisheries on vulnerable marine ecosystems. We fully support the outcomes of the Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management and look forward to a productive discussion on these matters. We further look forward to participating in the preparations for a comprehensive NAFO reassessment of the impacts all of its fisheries on vulnerable marine ecosystems in the NAFO Regulatory Area. The United States continues to stress the importance of precautionary management measures for elasmobranchs. In particular, we are encouraged by growing interest in strengthening the NAFO ban on shark finning, and are hopeful for continued progress toward bringing the NAFO skate TAC in line with scientific advice.

Finally, we would note that we support preparations for a second NAFO performance review and look forward to participating both in the development of this process and in the review itself.

Thank you very much.

Annex 12. Opening Statement by the Environmental Information: Use and Influence (EIUI) Research Program – Dalhousie University

Distinguished President, Chair, Delegates, Fellow Observers

The Environmental Information: Use and Influence (EIUI) research program (www.eiui.ca), based in the Faculty of Management at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, is pleased to be present as an Observer at this 37th Annual Meeting of NAFO.

We thank NAFO for its participation, since 2010, in the EIUI research program which is advancing understanding of the complexities of information use in decision-making at the science-policy interface. Our research partnership with NAFO has generated considerable interest by graduate students who have attended NAFO Scientific Council meetings to observe how scientific advice is communicated within NAFO and how management advice and measures are developed.

As a research partner, NAFO facilitated recent doctoral research on the role of fisheries scientific information in decision- and policy-making within NAFO. The doctoral research gathered empirical evidence to describe the drivers for information production, and the enablers and barriers to its communication and use in decision-making in Canada, which is a Contracting Party to NAFO though representation by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). This research also included case studies of DFO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Notably, this study examined the inter-relationships of the three organizations and their interest in gaining an understanding of the uptake of their fisheries information in decision-making in policy contexts.

We are also pleased to announce our forthcoming book on information use at the science-policy interface to be published by CRC Press/Taylor & Francis in 2016. This book contains chapters contributed by leading researchers and practitioners globally in integrated coastal and ocean management, including participants in NAFO, such as DFO, FAO, and the Ecology Action Centre (EAC).

In collaboration with the NAFO Secretariat, EIUI will co-host the annual Editorial Advisory Board of Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA) meeting in Halifax on 5-9 October 2015.

We are pleased with the relationship that we have developed with NAFO. NAFO has demonstrated its commitment to promoting awareness, use, and influence of its scientific information in decision- and policy-making. We look forward to strengthening this collaboration with NAFO in encouraging transparency in decision-making for fisheries management.

Thank you.

The EIUI Research Team

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

Dear Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

My name is Brent Napier and I have been invited by the Executive Director of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC), by virtue of my participation in both NAFO and the NPAFC, to deliver this address.

I am honoured to be here on behalf of the NPAFC as an Observer for the NAFO 37th Annual Meeting. I would like to extend the NPAFC's appreciation to members of the NAFO General Council and the Executive Secretary Dr. Fred Kingston for the invitation.

This particular NAFO meeting is an event of considerable interest for the NPAFC. Despite distinctions in areas of responsibility, there are several important areas, where NAFO and NPAFC work together at the inter-organizational level. More than five years have passed since the 2010 United Nations Review Conference described the modernizing of regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) as a priority and noted that progress had been made in reviewing the performance of RFMOs against emerging standards. Following this direction, NPAFC and NAFO completed their performance reviews in 2010 and 2011. To date, NPAFC has implemented 52 of 54 Prioritized recommendations stemming from the review panel's advice and two others are still in progress. It will therefore be of interest to NPAFC to learn about the status of implementation of recommendations of the NAFO Performance Review, especially because NAFO is preparing its next performance review. The question of performance review periodicity is critically important for the long-term strategic planning of the NPAFC, and your experience in this matter will be very helpful to us.

The NPAFC is looking to continue our cooperation and information exchange in the field of sustainable organization development, including relationships with the correspondent authorities of the host country. We would be glad to hear about the approaches and results of an audit of the NAFO Secretariat staff classification scheme, news about the status of NAFO Headquarters Agreement, and other General Council agenda items related to supervision and coordination of organizational and administrative affairs.

Because the General Council will consider appointment of NAFO members as observers to external meetings, I would like to take this opportunity to say that NPAFC looks forward to seeing the NAFO representative at the NPAFC 24rd Annual Meeting in Busan, Republic of Korea, to participate in discussions of matters relevant to the conservation of fish stocks in ocean habitats.

The NPAFC has endorsed in principle the concept of the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) initiative. This initiative is conceived to be an intensive burst of internationally coordinated interdisciplinary scientific research focused on salmon and their relation to people as a valuable but variable source of food and economic sustenance. The IYS seeks to generate support from governments, academia, business, industry, and non-governmental organizations. We would be happy if our long-time partners will find common interests in the IYS initiative implementation and help us with it.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Annex 14. Joint Opening Statement by the Ecology Action Centre (EAC) and the World Wildlife Federation (WWF)

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Fellow Observers, on behalf of the Ecology Action Centre (EAC) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), both members of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC), we appreciate the opportunity to once again attend NAFO as official observers. The EAC regrets that our colleagues at WWF are unable to attend this year.

Our continued focus remains the protection of VME areas, protection of deep-sea fisheries and rebuilding of depleted fish stocks. This year, we hope to see continued progress in VME protection, as to date, there has not been agreement to respond positively to scientific advice on recommended VME closures, with areas 13 & 14 not agreed and continued fishing occurring on coral concentrations adjacent to the existing 30 coral closure. While we understand that there may be some “VME fatigue”, we remind both NAFO and its Contracting Parties of the commitments made through the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Sustainable Fisheries Resolutions 61/105, 64/72 and 66/68 which outline measures to, and stress the urgency of, protecting VMEs and sustainably managing deep sea fisheries. In 2016, there will be a review workshop of the implementation of these measures, as well as the UN Fish Stocks Review conference. We urge NAFO to continue its good progress on addressing the commitments set out in the resolutions.

This year, NAFO through the agreement of its Contracting Parties, must:

- **Close all seamounts become a *de facto* closure** (with no exceptions allowed for exploratory fishery) for bottom trawl as well as mid-water trawl due to the known impacts caused on seamounts and associated benthic and deep-water species through a revision of article 17 of the NCEM.
- At a minimum, **all midwater trawl gear be modified** so that all bobbins and rollers are removed, and sensors and cameras are attached to the midwater trawl gear to ensure that the gear does not impact the seabed, otherwise the use of such gear on seamounts should not be authorized within the NRA.
- Commit to **resolving differences on recommended VME closures** and the use of habitat suitability models in VME identification.
- **Address the fact that the greatest impact on existing VME closures is the continued research trawl surveys** within VME areas, and at a minimum, agree to remove all sets where there have been known gear hang-ups, entanglements and VME catches. Further work should be completed, as a priority, to understand the removal of all sets within the VME areas from stock assessment for the various NAFO stocks.
- **Adopt the proposed bycatch action plan**, as an important first step in improved bycatch management. We urge NAFO to consider including all bycatch species in the data collection rather than the top three species, particularly given the long history of unregulated fisheries for many deep-sea species.

We welcome the recommendation that the NAFO Secretariat be given direction on developing a mechanism for data and information sharing for other governance organizations, as this is an important step in achieving integrated management of our high seas, as well as understanding the impacts of other activities on NAFO fisheries.

NAFO is leading the way of many RFMOs with its Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Roadmap and we commend the work of the Scientific Council on developing and communicating this new approach. We continue to stress the importance of considering climate change and ocean acidification on NAFO fisheries, and hope that the upcoming climate negotiations will result in a strong outcome requiring improved oceans management to address these issues.

NAFO has made considerable progress on transparency. We hope that this progress will be extended to the NAFO Performance Review process and that ENGOs will be allowed to attend panel discussions in the future.

Our detailed recommendations are available on the table for observer information. We look forward to this week's meeting and seeing further progress at NAFO.

Thank you

Respectfully, submitted by Susanna Fuller, on behalf of WWF and EAC

Annex 15. Terms of Reference for a NAFO Performance Review Working Group (GC Working Paper 15/10 Rev. 2 now GC Doc. 15/03)

Explanatory memorandum

1. At its 31st Annual Meeting in 2009 NAFO decided to undertake a Performance Review of the organisation. This decision followed calls by the international community and by the 2006 UN General Assembly Resolution 61/105, which explicitly urged Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and arrangements with management and conservation responsibilities on fisheries and marine living resources to undertake a Performance Review.
2. A Performance Assessment Working Group (PAWG) was established in 2009, which developed Terms of Reference for the constitution of a NAFO Performance Review Panel and criteria for reviewing the performance of NAFO. It also made recommendations on administrative and budgetary considerations (GC Doc. 10/1).
3. A Performance Review Panel was appointed in 2010 and produced a Performance Assessment Review in 2011. At its 33rd Annual Meeting in 2011, NAFO reviewed the outcomes of the Performance Review and established a General Council Working Group on the future of NAFO on the development of Plans of Action necessary for the implementation of the Recommendations of the NAFO Performance Review Panel. The GC WG formulated recommendations in March 2012.
4. At its 34th Annual Meeting in 2012, the Scientific Council, Fisheries Commission, STACTIC and STACFAD reviewed and addressed the action table prepared by the “Working Group on the future of NAFO on the development of plans of action necessary for the implementation of the recommendations of the NAFO Performance Review Panel”. Following this process, a revised Action Plan was agreed and adopted by the General Council.
5. At this point it was noted that significant progress had already been made by all groups in implementing actions. It was agreed that the Secretariat would compile all feedback into a single document for circulation to Contracting Parties. It was also agreed that a report on the progress in implementing the Plan of Action should become a regular agenda item on the General Council agenda.
6. Since 2006 UNGA Resolutions on sustainable fisheries regularly call for regular performance reviews of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) and arrangements. Several other RFMOs have already initiated the next round of performance reviews. The EU considers that it is appropriate to consider taking the first steps to prepare for the next Performance Review of NAFO and to start discussions on the timing, scope and procedure for the next Performance Review, preferably by means of a virtual Working Group.
7. Such preparation should take into account the experience gained in the preparation and execution of the first performance review and build on its outcome.

Proposal

It is therefore **recommended** that:

- **The General Council agrees that it is appropriate to consider the preparation of the next Performance Review based on the outcomes of the 2011 Performance Review.**
- **For that purpose, the General Council decides on the establishment of a virtual Working Group. This virtual Working Group would meet electronically with the support of the NAFO Secretariat and would be entrusted with the following tasks:**
 - **To discuss the scope and timeline for a second performance review of NAFO.**
 - **To develop draft terms of reference and criteria to conduct the second performance review of NAFO. This includes the composition of the review panel, the scope of the review and the work schedule as well as the criteria for assessment of the performance of NAFO.**
 - **To present these documents at the 2016 NAFO Annual Meeting to allow the NAFO General Council to decide on the launching of the next Performance Review, if appropriate.**

- **Each Contracting Party interested in participating in the virtual Working Group designates a member of the virtual Working Group.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat circulates a paper presenting how the first performance review of 2011 was undertaken and makes a proposal on how to organize the work of the virtual Working group, including the possibility to create a SharePoint site on its website for that purpose.**

Annex 16. FAO Activities on Deep-sea Fisheries in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (GC Working Paper 15/02)

PROJECT UPDATE

Summary

FAO provided an update on the ABNJ Deep Seas Project to which NAFO is a partner. FAO described the new VME DataBase and the need for data inputs from NAFO. The SC was informed about the development of a range of tools designed to assist future data collection onboard vessels. FAO is also continuing to produce identification guides for vulnerable deep-sea species, and a manual on the collection of data on deep-sea species.

About the ABNJ Deep Sea Project

The “Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep Sea Living Resources in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction Project (ABNJ Deep Seas Project for short) is a five year project designed to enhance sustainability in the use of deep-sea living resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ through the systematic application of an ecosystem approach.

This project has four major components:

1. Strengthening policy and legal frameworks for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ deep seas;
2. Reducing adverse impacts on VMEs and enhanced conservation and management of components of EBSAs;
3. Improving planning and adaptive management for deep sea fisheries in ABNJ; and
4. Development and testing of methods for area-based planning.

The ABNJ Deep Seas Project started in September 2014 and is one of four projects under the Common Oceans 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 (UNEP) through the World Conservation and Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC).

How NAFO is involved

NAFO is an important partner of the ABNJ Deep Seas Project. NAFO has been involved in the design and development of the Project and has agreed to contribute to activities that promote collaboration and sharing of experiences in deep-sea fisheries and associated biodiversity as well as specific activities on capacity building for developing countries. See the last page for more details.

NAFO activities associated with the ABNJ Deep Seas Project will contribute an estimated USD 2,100,000 of project co-financing.

About this report

This report includes information on the current status of the Project and upcoming activities that are relevant to NAFO.

Project activities to-date

- **New project staff:** The Project Coordinator (Mr Chris O’Brien) and the Area-based Planner (Ms Hannah Thomas) have recently taken up their positions with FAO and UNEP-WCMC, respectively.
- **A guide for the implementation of international legal and policy instruments related to deep-sea fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ.** The guide, intended for deep-sea stakeholders, will focus on the international obligations relating to deep-sea fisheries and biodiversity conservation. Work so far has included a review and analysis of current policy and legal instruments and will lead to the identification of the challenges in the implementation of current management requirements, and highlight the best practices currently applied around the world. The review and implementation guide is expected to be available in early 2016.
- **Review of current practices and processes for VMEs:** A regional review of current practices relating to VMEs is underway. Part of this work included an international workshop to review draft overviews

of regional chapters (March 2015, Swakopmund, Namibia). The draft chapters are now being reviewed and will be published before the end of 2015.

The current practices for identification and management of VMEs publication will include a chapter on the Northwest Atlantic. NAFO participants were invited to the workshop and participated in the authoring of the Northwest Atlantic chapter.

- **Updating the VME Portal and DataBase:** The Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME) Portal and DataBase were launched in December 2014 (www.fao.org/in-action/vulnerable-marine-ecosystems/en/). The VME Portal provides general information on VMEs, including sections for relevant publications and international instruments, links to VME-related tools and terminology, and the VME DataBase containing information on VME-related measures in ABNJ for each regional fisheries body, including NAFO. The database and website serve as information sharing platform as well as an awareness building tool.

NAFO will be asked to update the VME database content for the Northwest Atlantic after the Commission meeting each year. The update should include any new or modified measures on fishing with bottom contact gears (including fishing footprints, encounter protocols, new VME indicator species), VME areas, and new reports (from the Commission or Scientific Committee) with VME relevant information. Training and assistance is available through FAO.

- **Best practices in VME encounter protocols and impact assessments:** A workshop was held in May 2015, in collaboration with the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research (IMR), to facilitate the sharing of best practices and effective solutions on VME encounter protocols and impact assessments. Participants included managers, scientists, the fishing industry and NGO's. Key messages on the challenges faced by the stakeholders in practicing these methods and ways forward were identified, and a technical document containing these is being finalized.

Up-coming project activities

- **Industry meeting:** a planning meeting of interested deep-sea fisheries industry stakeholders will be held prior to the ICFA meeting in Vigo Spain on 6 October to discuss the content of a Global Deep-sea Industry Symposium that will be held in 2016. The symposium will provide a forum to discuss industry practices in deep-sea fisheries, common challenges and ways forward.
- **The first Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting** is planned for 15-16 December 2015 (to be confirmed).

A representative from NAFO will be invited to the ABNJ Deep Seas Project Steering Committee meeting.

- **2nd edition of the *Worldwide Review of Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas (WWR)*:** The *Worldwide Review of Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas* (FAO, 2009) will be updated and expanded in 2015 / 2016. 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 describe progress made on monitoring of data-poor deep-sea stocks, and benefits from updated stock assessment for key species.

The 2nd edition of the *Worldwide Review of Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas* will include a chapter on the Northeast Atlantic region.

- **Global reviews and best practices for the assessment and management of key deep-sea species:** Following on from the Alfonsino (*Beryx* spp.) Workshop in 2012 and global review, the Deep-seas Project will hold a similar review and assessment of orange roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*). The reviews and identification of best practices for the assessment and management of orange roughy will commence with a workshop in early 2016.

- **Identification guides for vulnerable deep-sea species:** The Project will continue to support the development of identification guides and materials to assist in the implementation of fisheries management measures and reporting obligations (e.g. by-catch requirements, recording of catches, and to improve scientific assessments). To this end a range of user-friendly guides are being developed for use on board vessels by observers, scientists and non-scientific personnel. Following on from the first guides for deep-sea cartilaginous fishes of the Indian Ocean and the South East Atlantic, work will soon begin on the development of guides for deep-sea sharks in the South Pacific. Furthermore, a species list for deep-sea sponges in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean has been drafted in preparation for the development of identification materials. A similar process is underway for corals. Training workshops on the use of the deep-sea species guides will also be conducted.
- **A manual on collection of data on deep-sea species** is being produced and will be published by early 2016. This will supplement existing observer manuals and will be useful for those vessels operating in areas without RFMO technical support or without full observer coverage on data collection to meet new data collection requirements. The manual is written for a variety of users such as observers, scientists and non-scientists.
- **An electronic application for reporting onboard observations from deep-sea fisheries vessels** is currently being developed by FAO and an interested group of RFMOs. This application – SmartForms – will include an initial set of forms for VME reporting requirements. This will be tested by the RFMOs interested in deploying the application. SmartForms will include a variety of implementation options including: an iMarine integrated version; a version that forwards data directly to e.g. a RFMO backend bypassing iMarine; or a vessel operated offline system. Several components will be developed and can be used to customize the application. These include a forms designer for fisheries observations based on simple templates; and an application manager that manages your users and application settings. A reporting component will also be added.

NAFO is invited to participate in the SmartForm discussions. If there is interest from NAFO in using such a reporting tool, please inform FAO by 9 October 2015 to ensure participation in continuing discussions and development.

- **An electronic application for capturing voluntary information on biodiversity.** This application will be an optional application of the SmartForms and is intended to collect information on species of interest (e.g. marine mammals, seabirds, etc.) onboard fishing vessels to facilitate partnerships between industry and the global biodiversity community. FAO will facilitate partnerships with NGOs that compile global observations maps of species of interest to develop collaborative programs with the fishing industry.
- **International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas Challenges and Ways Forward.** FAO will be hosting a second meeting on the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas - challenges and ways forward. The first meeting was held in Busan in 2010 and reviewed the issues encountered by RFMOs and States in implementing the guidelines. The second meeting will review the challenges five years on, and likely take place in 2016.

Other activities of interest

- **North Atlantic deep-sea sponges.** A project on deep-sea sponges in the north Atlantic has been submitted to the 7th Framework Programme (Horizon 2020) to be considered for funding. If this project is approved, FAO, along with several government and academic agencies aim to develop an integrated ecosystem-based concept for the management and conservation of deep-sea sponge ecosystems of the North Atlantic. Activities associated with this project will include: strengthening the knowledge base, use of innovation technology, improving the ability to predict change, and providing decision support tools for management.

Find out more about the ABNJ Deep Seas Project

- Contact the ABNJ Deep Seas Project Coordinator (Mr Chris O'Brien) on chris.obrien@fao.org
- Visit the ABNJ Programme and the ABNJ Deep-seas Project website: www.commonoceans.org

ABNJ Deep Seas Project activities involving NAFO and its members and associated experts:

NAFO Activities – ABNJ Deep Seas Project	
Component 1.: Policy and legal frameworks for sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ deep seas	
Output 1.2.1.	
Activity 1.2.1.1.	Participation in the inception meeting.
	Review of implementation of FAO Deep Sea Guidelines.
	A Global Deep Seas Symposium.
Activity 1.2.1.2.	Ongoing commitment to electronic networks (e.g. VME Database and DSF).
	Regional network meetings that are back to back with existing conferences, to facilitate discussions on specific issues among deep sea RFMOs and in electronic forums (e.g. Deep Sea Fisheries discussion group).
Component 2.: Reducing adverse impacts on VMEs and enhancing conservation of components of EBSAs	
Output 2.1.1.	
Activity 2.1.1.1. Activity 2.1.1.2.	Ongoing work to digitize useful archived data and information that can be used for both VME and EBSA processes; and collation of information at a global level.
	Possible sourcing of additional information from diverse sources, including member countries, industry, publications, and other data archives.
Activity 2.1.1.3.	Analysis of interactions between Deep Sea Fisheries and key areas of biodiversity in the NAFO area.
Activity 2.1.1.4.	Updating the North West Atlantic chapter of the <i>Worldwide Review of Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas</i> .
Activity 2.1.1.5.	Production of a manual of best practices for identification of VMEs.
Output 2.1.2.	
Activity 2.1.2.1.	Development of an environment for all data collected in the project.
Activity 2.1.2.2.	Review NAFO information for the VME database.
	Contribute to the VME database and to the potential development of additional functionalities of the VME database.
Output 2.1.3.	
Activity 2.1.3.1.	Review the current VME indicators and use new data layers to examine VME information for the North West Atlantic (see Activity 2.1.2.2), including a specific application for the NAFO area to review information on VMEs.
Component 3.: Improved planning and adaptive management for DSF in the ABNJ	
Output 3.1.1.	
Activity 3.1.1.1.	Development of an operational manual for Deep Sea Fisheries management, encounter protocols, and use of VME criteria.
Activity 3.1.1.2.	Compilation of information and network of experts.

Annex 17. Press Release

NAFO MAKING WAVES: BANS ON BOTTOM FISHING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Halifax, Nova Scotia, CANADA, 25 September 2015—The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) held its 37th Annual Meeting over 21-25 September to make decisions for the fishery in 2016. In particular, the final total allowable catches (TACs) were announced for NAFO stocks, as well as the elimination of all bottom fishing on seamount areas.

“While some NAFO stocks are still at low levels, it seems clear that our efforts at conservation and the sustainable use of our fishery resources are bearing fruit,” says NAFO President Veronika Veits, “with evidence that stocks are rebounding, including some which have recently been reopened.”

The management of the cod and redfish (ocean perch) stocks on the Flemish Cap (Div. 3M), both of which are in a healthy state, can support an increase in catches over the next two years. Catches were also increased for witch flounder (grey sole) on the Grand Bank.

To protect marine ecosystems, in particular slow growing deep water corals, it was also decided that all bottom fishing is now banned on seamounts in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA). This decision is based on NAFO’s continuous efforts in maintaining the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management.

It was also decided that a mechanism will continue to exchange information about fisheries and oil and gas exploration activities to ensure smooth co-existence of these activities.

At this meeting, it was decided to start preparations for NAFO’s second performance review. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations called on all Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), such as NAFO, to undergo regular performance reviews. As a result, NAFO underwent their last performance review in 2011, and has since addressed all recommendations.

NAFO also agreed on additional technical measures to further improve compliance and enforcement measures in the northwest Atlantic, such as follow-up to infringements. NAFO noted that its latest comprehensive compliance review demonstrates a trend of continued increasing compliance.

PART II.

Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) 37th Annual Meeting of NAFO

21–25 September 2015
Halifax, Nova Scotia

1. Opening by the Chair

The first session of STACFAD was opened by the Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA) on 21 September 2015. 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, Russian Federation, the United States of America and members of the NAFO Secretariat (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat was appointed as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The provisional agenda (Annex 2) was adopted with the addition of the following items:

- NAFO website, including access to documentation, to be included under agenda item 5 “*Administrative and Activity report;*” and
- *Two items were included under agenda item 18 “Other Matters” - Standardization of NAFO reports and Memorandum of Understanding (STACFAD WP 15/09).*

4. Auditors’ Report for 2014

The auditing firm of WBLI Chartered Accountants performed the audit of the financial statements of the Organization for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014. 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, 2014. 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 2014 amounted to \$1,826,286, which was \$63,714 under 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;
- 2) has a policy not to capitalize its capital assets; and
- 3) also has a policy not to capitalize finance leases.

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 2014 Auditors’ Report be adopted.

The committee was also informed that the audit of the 2015 financial statements will be the fifth and final year

of the current five-year term that WBLI will serve as Auditors for the Organization. The Secretariat will invite firms to present proposals to carry out the audit for the 2016-2020 fiscal years. The proposals will be presented to STACFAD at the next annual meeting.

5. Administrative and Activity Report by Secretariat

The Executive Secretary highlighted NAFO administrative matters and activities for the period September 2014 to August 2015 (GC Doc. 15/02).

Following the PRP recommendation, in 2012 and 2013, the Secretariat adopted a NAFO Communication Strategy (NAFO GC Doc. 13/06). In light of new ways to communicate, such as social media, it is prevalent that the current communication strategy needs to be improved to expand NAFO's outreach and communication efforts. Therefore, an updated communication strategy will be completed over the next year and presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

a) NAFO website

The NAFO website, including access to documentation, was discussed taking into account points raised under GC agenda item 8 "*Transparency in NAFO Proceedings.*" In this context, STACFAD agreed that the NAFO webpages should be more transparent and accessible, including by providing meeting documentation more accessible for all.

Between 2012 and 2014, the NAFO website underwent a number of changes to improve its look and feel. These changes include updating the interface, improving searching capabilities and enhancing the homepage by providing links to key documents.

In the coming 12 months, the NAFO Secretariat plans to create a new platform and structure for NAFO's website to enable users to navigate and find information more quickly in a more user-friendly and modern format. The new platform, a Content Management System (CMS), was presented in STACFAD WP 15/08.

STACFAD **agreed** that the redesign of the NAFO website should incorporate concerns raised regarding transparency in NAFO proceedings specifically access to its documentation and should also take into account the differing user groups of the website including the public.

STACFAD recommends that an *Ad hoc* virtual Working Group be established, of self-identified interested participants, to assist in the re-design process of the NAFO website namely:

- **to provide feedback during the development, testing and implementation stages; and**
- **in consultation with the Chairs of STACTIC and STACFAD, to develop standards and guidelines of access to documentation contained on the site including which documentation requires password protection.**

6. Financial Statements for 2015

Budgetary Expenses

The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that efforts to minimize costs and maximize efficiencies at the NAFO Secretariat continued during 2015. The operating budget for 2015 was approved at \$1,981,000 and expenditures for the year are projected to be at \$1,951,000, or \$30,000 under the approved budget. Savings for the year can be attributed to the following:

- 1) two long term employees retired early in the year and were replaced by staff at lower salary levels;
- 2) the SC Coordinator resigned late in the year with his replacement not expecting to take office until 2016; and
- 3) travel incurred during the year was limited.

It was also noted that three budget categories were over budget during the year. In particular, no budget had been set to perform the Staff Classification review, legal fees required to defend a wrongful dismissal suit exceeded budgeted costs and the unexpected departure of the SC Coordinator resulted in non-budgeted relocation costs.

Without these items, the savings for the year would have been significantly greater.

All remaining 2015 operating expenses are anticipated to be on or near budget for the year.

The above noted cost savings of \$30,000 will be returned to the accumulated surplus and will be available to reduce Contracting Parties contributions in 2016.

Assessed Contributions

At the beginning of the 2015, the accumulated surplus had \$301,228 which, was deemed to be in excess of the needs of the Organization and was allocated towards the 2015 operating budget. Therefore, in order to meet the 2015 operations budget of \$1,981,000, Contracting Parties were assessed contributions in the amount of \$1,679,722.

Balance Sheet

The Organization's cash position at December 31, 2015 is estimated to be \$572,207. The cash balance should be sufficient to finance appropriations in early 2016 pending the receipt of annual payments by Contracting Parties in the spring of 2016.

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, 2015 is estimated to be \$552,680.

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 2016, and of which \$85,000 would be a contingency fund available to be used for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.

8. Personnel Matters

This year, the Secretariat said goodbye to two long-term employees. After 36 dedicated years at NAFO, Cindy Kerr, Senior Fisheries Information Manager and Barbara Marshall, Senior Information Officer, retired. This left two open positions. In 2015, two new employees joined the Secretariat, Jana Aker and Dayna Bell.

a) Personnel updates

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

b) NAFO Secretariat classification scheme review

At the 2014 NAFO Annual Meeting, the General Council tasked STACFAD 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.

Stephen MacDermott, SJM Consulting, was selected to perform the review. He presented the current draft of the report of the Staff Classification review (STACFAD WP 15/10) to the Committee. The Committee and staff members expressed concerns that the level of detail and analysis contained within did not fully meet the terms of reference. The NAFO Staff Association presented its concerns in STACFAD WP 15/11 for consideration. The Committee agreed comments should be collected from Contracting Parties, the NAFO Secretariat and staff members then forwarded to the consultant for a revision.

The report included a review of NAFO's separation indemnity benefits including the comparison of separation indemnity benefits received in the Public Service of Canada (PSC) and similar RFMOs; and possible modifications to the severance payment for NAFO employees.

STACFAD **agreed** to defer the consideration of possible modifications to NAFO's separation indemnity benefits as it is intended to be a part of the overall NAFO Secretariat classification scheme review. Canada will provide a proposal on this issue in time for consideration at the next Annual Meeting.

To ensure the Committee had a fully developed report of the NAFO Secretariat classification scheme and subsequent recommendations for consideration, STACFAD **agreed to the following:**

- **Contracting Parties, the NAFO Secretariat and staff members provide comments to the NAFO Secretariat on the report by 30 October 2015.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat compile these comments to be forwarded to the consultant, with a copy to STACFAD members, and used for a revision of the NAFO Secretariat classification scheme review to be received by the end of 2015.**
- **The revised review of the NAFO Secretariat classification scheme to be circulated to STACFAD Members in early 2016.**
- **Using the revised report of the NAFO Secretariat classification scheme as a basis, the NAFO Secretariat develop and circulate recommendations for STACFAD's consideration in advance of the 2016 Annual Meeting of NAFO, 19-23 September 2016.**

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 the intern, Toni Bartulin, hosted at the Secretariat in 2015.

The budget for the 2015 internship program was set at \$6,000 which allowed for a three (3) month internship period during the year. The Committee once again endorsed the continuation of the internship program recognizing the considerable benefits to the Secretariat.

The intention of the program is to provide an opportunity for nationals from all NAFO member countries a chance to participate.

The Committee recommends that the Secretariat continue to pursue alternate and additional methods to recruit prospective interns particularly to nationals of NAFO that have not yet participated, including a review of the stipend amount.

10. Rules of Procedure: Observers

It has been five years since the current Rules of Procedures for Observers has been in place. According to Rule 5(e) of the NAFO Rules of Procedure for Observers to NAFO Meetings, accreditation of NAFO Observers is required to be reviewed every five years "*taking into account any new information or development regarding the NGO since the last accreditation.*" This year, marked the first five-year review of accreditation of NAFO Observers.

The status of four NAFO Observers was up for review namely the Ecology Action Centre (EAC); the International Coalition of Fisheries Associations; the Pew Environment Group; and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). All were granted renewal of NAFO Observer status.

The Dalhousie University - EIUI is up for renewal in July 2018 and the Marine Stewardship Council in January 2019.

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 14-16 April 2015 in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, and the Secretariat provided the Committee with an update on the highlights of the meeting. Background information on the pension plan, investment performance, financial status, as well as future administrative support was included with the information paper (STACFAD WP 15/03).

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

One remaining PRP recommendation tasked to STACFAD remains outstanding. PRP Recommendation 7.2.3 suggests amending certain provisions of the NAFO Staff Rules pertaining to the rights and obligations of NAFO Secretariat Staff, particularly dismissal or termination of appointment. A review of this item has been deferred

in prior years until the conclusion of the current wrongful dismissal legal case against NAFO. In the meantime, the Secretariat has inquired with its lawyers if they would review our current Staff Rules relating to dismissal or termination of appointment and provide comments or recommended changes to the Staff Rules. NAFO's lawyers stated that such a review would cost approximately \$1,500.

13. Budget Estimate for 2016

The Committee reviewed the 2016 budget estimate as detailed in GC WP 15/01. Keeping in mind the significant efforts undertaken the past few years to keep the budget at or near a zero-growth level, the 2016 estimate contained numerous categories which were maintained at already reduced levels. Furthermore, costs saving measures continued by the Secretariat in 2015 have also assisted with keeping budget increases to a minimum.

Notwithstanding the reduced budget categories noted above, computer services was one area in which the budget estimate was increased to address the recommendations from the 2015 IT security audit and also for the restructuring of the NAFO webpages. Additionally, the NAFO Internship program budget was expanded to allow for up to a 6 month period at the Secretariat. As a final note, following the resignation of the SC Coordinator, the recruitment for the new SC Coordinator is underway and it is anticipated that the position will be filled in early 2016. As this position is recruited internationally, \$45,000 has been budgeted for recruitment and relocation costs.

The overall 2016 budget estimate of \$1,997,000 represents a slight increase of \$16,000 or 0.8% over the prior years approved budget. If not for the recruitment and relocation budget which includes a \$45,000 extraordinary provision for the hiring of the SC Coordinator, the 2016 budget would have seen a decrease of \$29,000 or about 1.5%.

<i>Approved Budget 2015</i>	<i>Preliminary Budget Forecast 2016</i>	<i>Budget Estimate 2016</i>
<i>\$1,981,000</i>	<i>\$2,032,000</i>	<i>\$1,997,000</i>

STACFAD recommends that the budget for 2016 of \$1,997,000 (Annex 3) be adopted.

A preliminary calculation of billing for the 2016 financial year is provided in Annex 4. The preliminary calculation of billing is based on the budget estimate of \$1,997,000 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, 2015 is estimated to be \$552,680 and the recommended minimum balance in the accumulated surplus account for operations and emergency use for the 2016 fiscal year is \$285,000. This allows for \$267,680 (\$552,680-\$285,000) to be applied towards the 2016 billing.

Funds required to meet the 2016 administrative budget and appropriated from Contracting Parties are estimated to be \$1,729,320 (\$1,997,000-\$267,680).

14. Budget Forecast for 2017 and 2018

STACFAD reviewed the preliminary budget forecast for 2017 (\$1,995,000) and 2018 (\$2,031,000) (Annex 5) and approved the forecast in principle. It was noted that the budget for 2017 will be reviewed in detail at the next Annual Meeting.

15. Adoption of 2015/2016 Staff Committee Appointees

The Secretariat members nominated the following people to serve as members of the Staff Committee for September 2015–September 2016: Emilia Batista (EU); Joanne Morgan (Canada) and Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA).

STACFAD recommends that General Council appoint the three Staff Committee nominees September 2015–September 2016.

16. Time and Place of 2016–2018 Annual Meetings

As previously agreed, the 2016 and 2017 Annual Meetings will be held 19–23 September and 18–22 September, respectively. The meetings will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, unless an invitation to host is extended by a Contracting Party and accepted by the Organization.

STACFAD recommends that the dates of the 2018 Annual Meeting (to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, unless an invitation to host is extended by a Contracting Party and accepted by the Organization) to be as follows:

17-21 September 2018

In prior years, the Committee has been informed that conference facilities in the Halifax area are limited and that it has become more and more difficult to reserve and hold conference space on a short term basis (i.e. one year basis). Hotels are seeking a long term commitment as they quite often will have other clients willing to book two years or more in advance. NAFO is limited from committing two years in advance as offers from CPs to host a NAFO Annual Meeting can be issued up to one year prior to an Annual Meeting. The Secretariat provided an update on future bookings and potential financial implications if the Organization is requested to make a substantial non-refundable deposit to hold onto conference space.

The Committee **recommends** that:

Contracting Parties strive, whenever possible, to provide more than 12 months notice of the intention to extend an invitation to host a NAFO Annual Meeting.

Understanding the limitations that CPs may be faced with in providing more such advance notice, the Committee further **recommends** that:

In the occasion that the Secretariat has committed to a meeting venue, and a subsequent invitation to host is accepted by the Organization, any cancellation penalties incurred may be financed by the contingency fund.

17. Election of Vice-Chair

According to Rule 5.2 of the GC Rules of Procedure: *“The Committee shall elect from among its members, to serve for two years, a chair and a vice-chair who shall be allowed to vote.”*

The present Vice-Chair, Élise Lavigne (Canada), was nominated and re-elected for a two-year term.

18. Other Matters

The following matters were referred to STACFAD by the General Council during the current Annual Meeting:

a) Standardization of NAFO meeting reports

Under GC agenda item 8 *“Transparency in NAFO Proceedings,”* it was reiterated that NAFO meeting reports should accurately capture discussion during the sessions as well as appropriate meeting outcomes.

STACFAD noted that the importance of the Rapporteur to strike a balance with the current reporting procedure of preparing an accurate and concise report; and the noted concerns expressed at this meeting.

STACFAD noted that if this continues to be a concern that Contracting Parties may wish to formulate more formal guidelines, either in the Rules of Procedure or as a stand-alone document, to assist with better standardization of the reporting procedure of NAFO meetings.

b) Memorandum of Understanding

Following the upcoming resolution of the court case, Canada noted its continued intention to move forward with the finalization of the Headquarters Agreement. In addition a Memorandum of Understanding (STACFAD WP 15/09), the companion document to the Headquarters Agreement, was presented by Canada under this agenda item. The Secretariat identified three key items that are still of concern to the Secretariat:

- 1) access to the lease agreement as currently the Secretariat does not have a copy of the current lease agreement;
- 2) allocation of space as NAFO headquarters does not conform to the Government of Canada Workplace standards; and

- 3) appropriate security measures for an international organization.

Canada stated that the Government of Canada would perform a NAFO Headquarters needs assessment in advance of lease renewal to identify requirements in terms of space allocation and security of the premises.

To allow Contracting Parties to consider the proposed text, STACFAD **recommends** that:

Contracting Parties review the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (STACFAD WP 15/09) and provide comments to the Secretariat by 30 November 2015 to be compiled and sent to the Government of Canada.

19. Adjournment

The final session of the STACFAD meeting adjourned on 23 September 2015.

Gratitude was expressed to the Committee members for their effective cooperation this week, and to the NAFO Secretariat for its excellent support.



Left to right: Yulia Badina (Russian Federation), Herbert Schuller (EU), Lisa LeFort (NAFO Secretariat), Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA), Élise Lavigne (Canada), Esben Ehlers (DFG), Stan Goodick (NAFO Secretariat), Elizabethann English (USA).

Annex 1. List of Participants

Élise Lavigne	Canada
Esben Ehlers	Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
Herbert Schuller	European Union
Tadaaki Kakinuma	Japan
Yulia Badina	Russian Federation
Elizabethann English Deirdre Warner-Kramer	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 2014
5. Administrative and Activity Report by NAFO Secretariat
 - a. NAFO website
6. Financial Statements for 2015
7. Review of Accumulated Surplus and Contingency Fund
8. Personnel Matters
 - a. Personnel updates
 - b. Secretariat Staff Classification Review
9. Internship Program
10. Rules of Procedure Re: Observers
11. Report of the Annual Meeting of the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society
12. Update on implementation of the NAFO Performance Review Panel (PRP) recommendations tasked to STACFAD
13. Budget Estimate for 2016
14. Budget Forecast for 2017 and 2018
15. Adoption of 2015/2016 Staff Committee Appointees
16. Time and Place of 2016-2018 Annual Meetings
17. Election of Vice-Chair
18. Other Matters
 - a. Standardization of NAFO meeting reports
 - b. Memorandum of Understanding
19. Adjournment

Annex 3. Budget Estimate for 2016

NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

Budget Estimate for 2016

(Canadian Dollars)

	Approved Budget 2015	Projected Expenditures 2015	Preliminary Budget Forecast 2016	Budget Estimate 2016
1. Personal Services				
a) Salaries	\$1,029,000	\$975,000	\$1,074,000	\$992,000
b) Superannuation and Annuities	358,000	358,000	358,000	353,000
c) Medical and Insurance Plans	91,000	89,000	95,000	92,000
d) Employee Benefits	67,000	55,000	62,000	60,000
Subtotal Personal Services	1,545,000	1,477,000	1,589,000	1,497,000
2. Additional Help	1,000	1,000	10,000	2,000
3. Communications	24,000	23,000	24,000	22,000
4. Computer Services	31,000	34,000	31,000	42,000
5. Equipment	28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000
6. Fishery Monitoring	36,000	36,000	37,000	37,000
7. Hospitality Allowance	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
8. Internship	6,000	6,000	5,500	11,000
9. Materials and Supplies	28,000	28,000	29,500	28,000
10. NAFO Meetings				
a) Sessional	114,000	110,000	115,000	115,000
b) Inter-sessional Scientific	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
c) Inter-sessional Other	30,000	24,000	30,000	32,000
Subtotal NAFO Meetings	169,000	159,000	170,000	172,000
11. Other Meetings and Travel	35,000	18,000	35,000	35,000
12. Performance/External Reviews	0	15,000	0	0
13. Professional Services	51,000	62,000	46,000	51,000
14. Publications	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
15. Recruitment and Relocation	12,000	49,000	12,000	57,000
	\$1,981,000	\$1,951,000	\$2,032,000	\$1,997,000

Notes on Budget Estimate 2016
(Canadian Dollars)

Item 1(a)	Salaries Salaries budget estimate for 2016.	\$992,000
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.	\$353,000
Item 1(c)	Group Medical and Insurance Plans Employer's portion of Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, Group Life Insurance, Long Term Disability Insurance and Medical Coverage.	\$92,000
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.	\$60,000
Item 2	Additional Support Other assistance as required.	\$2,000
Item 3	Communications Phone, fax and internet services Postage Courier/Mail service	\$22,000 \$16,000 4,000 2,000
Item 4	Computer Services Computer hardware, software, supplies and support.	\$42,000
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	\$37,000

Item 10(a)	NAFO Sessional Meetings Annual Meeting, September 2016, Halifax, Canada SC Meeting, June 2016, Halifax, Canada SC Meeting, September 2016, Copenhagen, Denmark	\$115,000
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.	\$32,000
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. Committee on Fisheries (COFI) 3. Co-ordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP) 4. Fisheries Resources Monitoring Systems (FIRMS) 5. International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS) 6. Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN) 7. United Nations 	\$35,000
Item 13	Professional Services Professional Services (audit, consulting, legal fees, and insurance) Professional Development and Training Public Relations	\$51,000 \$35,000 11,000 5,000
Item 14	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 4. Preliminary Budget Forecast for 2017 and 2018 Budget Estimate for 2016

NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

Preliminary Budget Forecast for 2017 and 2018

(Canadian Dollars)

	Preliminary Budget Forecast 2017	Preliminary Budget Forecast 2018
1. Personal Services		
a) Salaries	\$1,023,000	\$1,051,000
b) Superannuation and Annuities	355,000	357,000
c) Medical and Insurance Plans	95,000	99,000
d) Employee Benefits	63,000	63,000
Subtotal Personal Services	1,536,000	1,570,000
2. Additional Help	2,000	2,000
3. Communications	23,000	23,000
4. Computer Services	42,000	42,000
5. Equipment	28,000	28,000
6. Fishery Monitoring	37,000	38,000
7. Hospitality Allowance	3,000	3,000
8. Internship	11,000	11,000
9. Materials and Supplies	28,000	28,000
10. NAFO Meetings		
a) Sessional	118,000	119,000
b) Inter-sessional Scientific	25,000	25,000
c) Inter-sessional Other	32,000	32,000
Subtotal NAFO Meetings	175,000	176,000
11. Other Meetings and Travel	35,000	35,000
12. Professional Services	51,000	51,000
13. Publications	12,000	12,000
14. Recruitment and Relocation	12,000	12,000
	\$1,995,000	\$2,031,000

Annex 5

**Preliminary calculation of billing for Contracting Parties
against the proposed estimate of \$1,997,000 for the 2016
financial year (based on 12 Contracting Parties to NAFO)**
(Canadian Dollars)

Budget Estimate	\$1,997,000
Deduct: Amount from Accumulated Surplus (pending approval from General Council)	267,680
Funds required to meet 2016 Administrative Budget	<u>\$1,729,320</u>

60% of funds required =	\$1,037,592
30% of funds required =	\$518,796
10% of funds required =	\$172,932

Contracting Parties	% of Total Catch in the Convention Area			2016 Preliminary Billing	
	Nominal Catches for 2013	10%	30%	60%	2016 Preliminary Billing
Canada	357,615	51.13%	\$95,945.59	\$530,520.78	\$669,699.37
Cuba	845	0.12%	-	1,245.10	44,478.10
Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) (1)	144,541	20.67%	38,779.34	214,470.27	296,482.61
European Union	39,695	5.67%	-	58,831.47	102,064.47
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)	316	0.05%	84.78	518.80	43,836.58
Iceland	92	0.01%	-	103.76	43,336.76
Japan	-	-	-	-	43,233.00
Republic of Korea	-	-	-	-	43,233.00
Norway	2,846	0.41%	-	4,254.13	47,487.13
Russian Federation	11,399	1.63%	-	16,912.75	60,145.75
Ukraine	-	-	-	-	43,233.00
United States of America	142,092	20.31%	38,122.29	210,734.94	292,090.23
	699,441	100.00%	\$172,932.00	\$1,037,592.00	\$1,729,320.00
Funds required to meet 1 January - 31 December 2016 Administrative Budget					<u>\$1,729,320.00</u>

(1) Faroe Islands
Greenland

4,803 metric tons
139,738 metric tons

2015 Billing for comparison purposes	
Approved Budget 2015	\$1,981,000
Deduct: Accumulated Surplus	301,228
Funds required 2015 Budget	<u>\$1,679,772</u>

Nominal Catches for 2012	% of Total Catch in the Convention Area	2015 Annual Contribution
500,305	57.91%	\$729,173.13
960	0.11%	43,102.95
156,492	18.12%	257,001.10
36,198	4.19%	84,223.77
1,065	0.12%	43,424.11
-	-	41,994.30
-	-	41,994.30
-	-	41,994.30
3,140	0.36%	45,622.61
11,806	1.37%	55,802.03
-	-	41,994.30
153,919	17.82%	253,445.10
863,885	100.00%	<u>\$1,679,772.00</u>

SECTION II
(pages 57–178)

Report of the Fisheries Commission and its Subsidiary Body (STACTIC)
37th Annual Meeting of NAFO

21–25 September 2015
Halifax, Canada

Contents

PART I.	Report of the Fisheries Commission and its Subsidiary Body (STACTIC)	
	37 th Annual Meeting of NAFO, 21–25 September 2015, Halifax, Canada	57
I.	Opening Procedure	61
II.	Scientific Advice	61
III.	Conservation of Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area	63
IV.	Ecosystem Considerations	66
V.	Conservation and Enforcement Measures	67
VI.	Closing Procedure	68
	Annex 1. Participant List.....	69
	Annex 2. Summary of decisions and actions taken by the Fisheries Commission	81
	Annex 3. Agenda.....	83
	Annex 4. Scientific Council responses to requests received from the Fisheries Commission during the annual meeting.....	85
	Annex 5. Fisheries Commission’s Request for Scientific Advice on Management in 2017 and Beyond of Certain Stocks in Subareas 2, 3 and 4 and Other Matters.....	87
	Annex 6. Recommendations from the WG-RBMS to forward to FC and SC.....	93
	Annex 7. Scope of the Review of the NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework (PAF) 94	
	Annex 8. Quota Table 2016 and Effort Allocation Scheme for Shrimp Fishery in the NAFO Regulatory Area Div. 3M, 2016–2017	95
	Annex 9. Statement by the Russian Federation on pelagic <i>Sebastes mentella</i> (oceanic redfish) in the NAFO Convention Area.....	99
	Annex 10. Recommendations from the WG-EAFFM to forward to FC and SC.....	100
	Annex 11. Revision of Article 17 of the NAFO CEM	101
	Annex 12. Recommendations from the WG-CR to forward to the FC and SC	102
	Annex 13. Recommendations from the WG-BDS to forward to the Fisheries Commission 105	
	Annex 14. Revision of Text in Article 9.....	107
	Annex 15. Review of the footnotes associated to Annex I.A – Annual Quota Table	108
	Annex 16. Improvements in Reporting Apparent Infringements and follow up actions (Article 40)	117
	Annex 17. Improvements in Reporting Apparent Infringements and follow up actions (Article 40.4).....	118
	Annex 18. Format of Haul by Haul Logbook Data to the Secretariat.....	119

Annex 19. Seamount Closures: gear specification for the use of midwater trawls and reporting of VMES.....	121
Annex 20. Notification process for the closure of the redfish fishery in NAFO Division 3M	123
Annex 21. Annual Compliance Review 2015 (Compliance Report for Fishing Year 2014)	124
Annex 22. Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process.....	142

PART II. Report of the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)

1. Opening by the Chair.....	144
2. Appointment of Rapporteur.....	144
3. Adoption of Agenda	144
4. Compliance review 2015 including review of reports of Apparent Infringements.....	144
5. Report and Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Port State Control Alignment (WG-PSCA), May 2015	145
6. Review and evaluation of Practices and Procedures	146
7. Review of current IUU list pursuant to NAFO CEM (NCEM) Article 53.....	147
8. Review of the implementation of new NAFO CEM measures.....	147
9. International Maritime Organization (IMO) Numbering Scheme	148
10. NAFO Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) Website	148
11. Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) of the NAFO CEM	149
12. New and Pending Proposals on Enforcement Measures: Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM	149
13. Report and Recommendations of the Working Group to Review the NAFO Observer Scheme, April 2015	151
14. Report of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM), May 2015	151
15. Information Security Management System (ISMS).....	152
16. Other Matters	152
17. Election of Chair	152
18. Time and Place of next meeting.....	153
19. Adoption of Report.....	153
20. Adjournment.....	153
Annex 1. List of Participants.....	154
Annex 2. Agenda.....	155
Annex 3. Status of STACTIC Working Papers	156
Annex 4. STACTIC WP 15/13 - 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	157
Annex 5. Japan's proposal for clarification of and amendments to STACTIC WP 15/13	178



At the head table, left to right: Ricardo Federizon - (FC Coordinator), Sylvie Lapointe - (FC Chair), and Fred Kingston - (Executive Secretary).



Fisheries Commission in session

Part I.

Report of the Fisheries Commission 37th Annual Meeting of NAFO (FC Doc. 15/23)

21–25 September 2015
Halifax, Canada

I. Opening Procedure

1. Opening by the Chair

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Sylvie Lapointe (Canada), at noon on Monday 21 September 2015. Delegations from the following Contracting Parties were in attendance: Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) (DFG), European Union (EU), France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, Russian Federation, the United States of America (USA) and Ukraine.

The presence of observers was acknowledged. They represented their respective organizations: the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Dalhousie University, Ecology Action Centre, and Sierra Club Canada (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Ricardo Federizon, Senior 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) Contracting Parties (CPs) and all 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 STACTIC May 2015 Intersessional Meeting which was held in Tallinn, Estonia (FC Doc. 15/02). He reported on the status of the proposals on changes in the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEM). STACTIC advised that it would continue the discussions and deliberations on Port State Measures, Observers Scheme, Annual Compliance Review, bycatch issues, availability of haul-by-haul data, information security and data management and the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM), among others at this meeting.

FC commended STACTIC for its hard work and encouraged STACTIC to continue working on the pending issues.

FC **accepted** the report. The formal adoption of the recommendations contained therein was done under agenda item 17.

FC also instructed STACTIC to deliberate and address the relevant recommendations from various working groups (see agenda item 12a of Part II of this Report (STACTIC Report)). The recommendations pertain to midwater trawl gears, notification process in the closure of 3M redfish fishery, and data collection.

II. Scientific Advice

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

The Scientific Council (SC) Chair, Don Stansbury (Canada), presented the comprehensive and detailed scientific advice. The Chair explained how the advice was developed in the context of the *SC Roadmap to Ecosystem Approach*. The scientific advice on fish stocks and on other topics were mainly formulated during the June 2015 SC meeting (SCS Doc. 15/12 Rev.). 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 2015 (SCS Doc. 15/13). The scientific advice represents the response of SC to the request from FC which was formulated at the 36th Annual Meeting (FC Doc. 14/28 Rev. 3).

The following represents an overview of the scientific advice on the fish stocks which were fully assessed or monitored at the SC meetings as well as on selected topics from special request items on fish stocks, Risk-based Management Strategies (RBMS), and Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (EAFFM). The complete list of FC requests and the SC advice are documented in FC Doc. 14/28 Rev. 3 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.

6.1 Scientific advice on fish stocks

- **Shrimp in Div. 3M.** No directed fishery in 2016–17.
- **Shrimp in Div. 3LNO.** No directed fishery in 2016.
- **Cod in Div. 3M.** For 2016–17, Yield at $F_{2012-14}$ are not sustainable. In $F_{2012-14}$ projections there is a very high probability (>97%) of F exceeding F_{lim} . Yields at $F_{2012-14}$ correspond to catches of 12 425 t in 2016 and 15 436 t in 2017. TAC should be less than the catch corresponding to F_{lim} .
- **Redfish in Div. 3M.** For 2016–17, a marginal increase in Total Allowable Catch (TAC) to 7000 t can be allowed.
- **White hake in Div. 3NO.** For 2016–17, catches of white hake in Div. 3NO should not exceed their current levels of 100-300 t.
- **Cod in Div. 3NO.** For 2016–2018, no directed fishery.
- **Yellowtail in Div. 3LNO. For 2016-2018** fishing mortality up to 85% F_{msy} corresponding to a catch of 26 300 t in 2016 and 23 600 t in 2017 and 22 000 in 2018 has low risk (5%) of exceeding F_{lim} , and is projected to maintain the stock well above B_{msy} .
- **Capelin in Div. 3NO.** For 2016–2018, no directed fishery
- **Monitoring of stocks for which multiyear advice was provided in 2014.** The advice on the following fish stocks was re-iterated: **Redfish in Div. 3LN, Redfish in Div. 3O, American plaice in Div. 3M, American plaice in Div. 3LNO, Thorny skate in Div. 3LNO, Witch flounder in Div. 2J+3KL, and Northern short-finned squid (Illex) in SA 3+4.**
- **Greenland halibut in Div. 2+3KLMNO.** TAC for 2016 derived from the Harvest Control Rule (HCR) is 14 799 t.
- **Witch flounder in Div. 3NO.** For 2016–17, should not exceed $2/3 F_{msy}$ corresponding to catches of 2172 and 2225 t, respectively.
- **Cod in 2J+3KL.** SC commented that it endorsed the conclusions by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) that the spawning biomass increased from 19% of the B_{lim} in 2011–13 to 26% in 2012–14. However, it remains in the critical zone of Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans Precautionary Approach Framework.
- **Splendid alfonsino (*Beryx splendens*).** Exploitation should not exceed recent average levels of approximately 200 t or 16 days-on-ground on Kükenthal Peak (Div. 6G), part of the Corner Rise seamount chain), and no alfonsino fishery on all other seamounts in the NRA.

6.2 Scientific advice on Risk-based Management Strategies (RBMS), Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (EAFFM) and other topics

- **Improving selectivity in the 3M cod and 3M redfish fishery in order to reduce bycatch.** The implementation of sorting-grids in the Div. 3M cod fishery gear will reduce catch of small and immature individuals of cod. It will also reduce redfish bycatch and discards. Selectivity experiments will need to be performed to quantify the improvements.
- **Impacts of midwater trawls on VME indicator species.** Midwater trawls can produce Significant

Adverse Impacts (SAI) on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem (VME) communities. Inadvertent bottom contact can occur when fishing with midwater trawls on seamounts. It is recommended that midwater trawl fisheries on seamounts record all VME indicator bycatch, regardless of the amount caught.

- **Review of impacts other than fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area.** SC presented the results of the literature review that outlined 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. It was noted that there was limited expertise currently available in the SC on many of these issues.

6.3 Other issues as determined by the Chair of the Scientific Council

No specific issue was brought out under this item.

6.4 Feedback to the SC regarding the advice and its work during this Meeting

The SC Chair's presentation engendered questions and enquiries for further clarifications to which SC prepared responses during the meeting. These concern 3M cod, 3M redfish, and alfonosinos (*Beryx splendens*) in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA). The FC questions and SC responses are compiled in FC Working Paper 15/19 (Annex 4).

7. Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for Scientific Advice on the Management of Fish Stocks in 2017 and on other matters

FC **adopted** FC WP 15/17 Rev. 3 containing its request for scientific advice on management in 2017 and beyond of certain stocks in Subareas 2, 3, and 4 and on other matters (Annex 5).

Concerning request item 16, it was recognized that the full benchmark review of the 3M cod assessment could only be initiated at the 2016 SC meeting for its completion in the following year. The output of this review will inform the next scheduled assessment of this stock which is scheduled for June 2017.

III. Conservation of Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area

8. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the Joint Fisheries Commission– Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies, April 2015

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.

Carsten Hvingel (Norway), co-Chair of the working group (WG), presented the meeting report (FC-SC Doc. 15/02) and forwarded the recommendations addressed to FC and SC for consideration and adoption in FC-SC Working Paper 15/01 (Annex 6).

FC **accepted** the report and **adopted** all recommendations. In relation to the FC-specific Recommendation 2 which pertains to the scope and priorities for the review and revision of the NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework (PAF), a follow-up proposal identifying the scope was **adopted** (Annex 7).

A follow-up meeting to discuss, among others, PAF and RBMS of Greenland halibut, 3LN redfish and 3M cod is tentatively scheduled in March/April 2016, back to back with the meeting of the Working Group (WG) on Catch Reporting. Concerning 3LN redfish, the WG shall consider the development of supplementary guidance for FC to respond to any unforeseen performance in the stock (FC WP 15/16).

9. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area, 2016

The Quota Table for 2016 and the Effort Allocation Scheme for the shrimp fishery in Division 3M are presented in Annex 8. The Quota Table incorporates the TAC and other management decisions as well as the revisions of the footnotes as recommended by STACTIC (see Annex 15). Allocation schemes for the fish stock mentioned in items 9 and 10 are the same as in the previous year.

9.1 Cod in Division 3M

It was **agreed** to set the TAC at 13 931 tonnes, applicable to 2016 and 2017. The TAC represents the average of the SC-derived yield estimates for 2016 (12 425 t) and 2017 (15 436 t) when fishing at the scenario $F_{bar} = F_{lim}$.

Some concern was expressed that the risk associated with F exceeding F_{lim} under $F_{bar} = F_{lim}$ scenario might be underestimated (see Annex 4). In this regard, a benchmark review of this stock's assessment was requested. The results of the benchmark review will be considered in setting of TAC for 2018 in light of the new stock assessment in 2017 (see agenda item 7).

9.2 Redfish in Division 3M

It was **agreed** to set the TAC at 7 000 tonnes applicable to 2016 and 2017.

The old Footnote 8 was **deleted** from the 2015 Quota Table.

Following on the recommendation of the ad hoc Working Group on Bycatches, Discards, and Selectivity (WG-BDS) (see agenda item 16) and STACTIC (see agenda item 17), Article 5.12.d was **revised** and a new Article 5.12.e was **inserted** in the NCEM. The revision and insertion pertain to the establishment of the closure date and its advance notification (see Annex 20).

It was stressed that the TAC includes all bycatch from directed fishery of other stocks, e.g. 3M cod. Concerns were raised that the new measures might not be adequate in notifying the closure in a timely manner, in preventing exceeding the TAC and in addressing the bycatch issues associated with this stock. Some CPs suggested that the new measures should be reviewed for effectiveness at the next Annual Meeting.

9.3 Shrimp in Division 3M

It was **agreed** to continue the moratorium in 2016 and 2017.

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

Upon EU's enquiry, it was noted that the difference in the assessment frequency between the 3M and the 3LNO shrimp stocks (2-year vs. 1-year) reflects that 3LNO shrimp was closed recently (2014 decision) and therefore a more regular review of the status of the stock is warranted (see agenda items 6.1 and 10.8).

10. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks Straddling National Jurisdictions, 2016

10.1 Cod in Divisions 3NO

It was **agreed** that the moratorium continues in 2016 and 2017.

It was noted that the SC advice of “*no directed fishery*” is applicable for three years. However, in view of indications that the stock is rebuilding, a two-year moratorium was decided. In 2016 FC will request SC for a full assessment in 2017 in time for adopting 2018 management measures.

10.2 Redfish in Division 3O

It was **agreed** to set the TAC at 20 000 t, same as in the previous year.

The decision of a 1-year rollover of the TAC was based on consideration that a full assessment is scheduled for next year.

10.3 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 the relevant footnote (footnote 10 of the 2015 Quota Table, footnote 3 in Annex 8 – 2016 Quota Table).

The Russian Federation issued a statement regarding its position on this stock (Annex 9).

10.4 Yellowtail flounder in Divisions 3LNO

It was **agreed** to rollover the TAC at 17 000 tonnes, applicable to 2016 and 2017.

It was noted that the SC advice estimates yields in the range of 22 000 – 26 300 t for years 2016-2018 at F up to F_{msy} . An increase of the catch would also result in an increase of the bycatch of moratoria species 3NO cod and 3LNO American plaice. It was further noted that the scheduled assessment of 3NO cod in 2017 and 3NO American plaice in 2016 should look into the bycatch situation. The two-year TAC decision reflected the possibility that the updated advice for cod and American plaice could inform a TAC decision in 2017.

10.5 Witch Flounder in Divisions 3NO

It was **agreed** to set the TAC at 2 172 tonnes for 2016 and 2 225 tonnes for 2017. The TACs represent the

SC-estimated catches at $\frac{2}{3} F_{msy}$.

USA expressed its reservation on the allocation scheme.

10.6 White hake in Divisions 3NO

It was **agreed** to rollover the TAC of 1 000 tonnes for 2016 and 2017.

It was agreed that the corresponding footnote (footnote 27 in the 2015 Quota Table) be maintained. This footnote stipulates an increase of the TAC should CPs experience higher than normal catches per unit effort (CPUE). This footnote was moved to the NCEM as a new article following the recommendation of STACTIC (see Annex 15).

10.7 Capelin in Divisions 3NO

It was **agreed** to continue the moratorium applicable to 2016, 2017 and 2018.

10.8 Skates in Divisions 3LNO

It was **agreed** to rollover the TAC of 7 000 tonnes to 2016.

It was noted that catches did not exceed 5000 tonnes and hence there was no need to trigger footnote 29 (of the 2015 Quota Table) which foresee the adoption of additional measures to further restrain catches in 2016.

10.9 Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO

As calculated by SC and consistent with the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) and the Harvest Control Rule (HCR), it was **agreed** to set the TAC at 14 799 tonnes, i.e. of this total, 10 966 tonnes is allocated to the fishery in Div. 3LMNO.

Some concern was raised regarding “*exceptional circumstances*”. However, SC has not determined whether the recent catches constitute an exceptional circumstance. The divergence in the trend of the Fall 2J3K and the Spring 3LNO surveys was noted. Concerns were also raised regarding the survey design and coverage. On the other hand, it was deemed unwise at this point to abandon the MSE and its HCR in the determination of the TAC. The importance of data quality leading to more reliable catch estimates and its bearing to the MSE was also discussed. The newly established Catch Data Advisory Group (see agenda item 15) would hopefully be able to address the data quality issues.

It was noted that the MSE is scheduled for review in 2017 and the issues discussed above, among others, will be examined during the review. In this regard, a request item concerning this stock will be forwarded to SC next year.

10.10 Shrimp in Division 3LNO

It was **agreed** that the moratorium continues in 2016.

DFG expressed that notwithstanding the TAC decision, it maintains its reservation to the quota allocation scheme applied to this stock.

11. Other Matters pertaining to Conservation of Fish Stocks

Separate proposals pertaining to shark and alfonso management were tabled and deliberated.

Regarding shark management, EU and USA tabled a joint proposal to strengthen the current shark management measures in Article 12 of the NCEM to prevent that sharks are finned and their carcasses discarded (FC WP 15/10). The proposal calls for the prohibition of removal of fins from the shark carcass on board the fishing vessel. Currently, Article 12 applies 5% fin-to-carcass weight ratio, which according to the proponents has not proven effective as a conservation measure for sharks. Japan contended that shark finning does not occur in the NRA and therefore stronger measures are not necessary at this time. The proposal did not attain consensus. The proponents expressed disappointment and indicated that this matter will be pursued again at the next annual meeting.

Regarding alfonso management, two proposals were tabled. One from EU proposing a 16 days-on-ground effort limit at Kükenthal Peak in Division 6G (FC WP 15/12); the other from the Russian Federation proposing a TAC of 1 200 tonnes at three peaks of the seamounts (FC WP 15/20). Neither attained consensus. Other

Contracting Parties (CPs) indicated that should there be an agreed TAC, the quota allocation scheme should be based on an equitable principle and historic fishing. Norway held the view that unregulated fishing by one CP could hardly form the basis for allocation of fishing rights and that in the present situation there seems to be no alternative to an “Olympic” fishery. The EU stated that the alfonso fishery is not an unregulated fishery, since there are management measures in the NCEM that apply to this fishery, e.g. haul by haul reporting (Annex II of the NCEM), product labelling requirements (Chapter IV of the NCEM), and 100% observer coverage. There was a general agreement that there is a need to manage this fishery (see also agenda item 12). This matter will be pursued again at the next annual meeting.

IV. Ecosystem Considerations

12. Report and Recommendations of the Joint Fisheries Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management, July 2015

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.

Andrew Kenny (EU), co-Chair of the WG, presented the meeting report (FC-SC Doc. 15/03) and forwarded the recommendations addressed to FC and SC for consideration and adoption in FC-SC Working Paper 15/02 (Annex 10).

The recommendations cover topics of, among others, Significant Adverse Impact (SAI) on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME), activities other than fishing, midwater trawl impacts on benthic VME indicator species and habitats, VME indicator taxa catch reporting, and seamount closures. FC **accepted** the report and **adopted** all FC-specific recommendations.

A proposal from STACTIC directly addressing recommendations 5 (pertaining to midwater trawls) and 7 (pertaining to VME reporting) was **adopted** (see agenda item 17).

Regarding recommendation 6, a proposal by the EU to remove the possibility of exploratory bottom fishing in seamount areas was **adopted**. Article 17 of the NCEM was revised to this effect (Annex 11).

In the discussions and deliberations of the report and the recommendations, Norway expressed its satisfaction on the recommendations, particularly recommendation 6 about seamount closures. Norway has been advocating for the closures in the past years. While it appreciated the hard work and the scope of the work of the WG, it enquired why there was no discussion on Candidate Closed Areas 13 and 14 and on calculations of the VME species biomass, which it considers important aspects of the overall protection of the VMEs.

The WG Chair clarified that biomass and VME area calculations are captured in recommendation 1. They are a work in progress that will be picked up further at the forthcoming meeting of the SC Working Group on Ecosystem Science and Assessment (WG-ESA) in November 2015. The WG will be able to report to SC in June 2016. Regarding the candidate closed areas, it was acknowledged that there were considerable discussions on this matter at the July 2014 meeting with no consensus achieved. There has been no new information assessed since the 2014 meeting, despite new data being available. However, it was agreed following the 2015 meeting that new survey data (collected in 2015) would be evaluated by SC WG-ESA in November 2015 for reporting to SC in 2016. Several CPs expressed interest in continuing the discussion on closed areas in 2016 in the context of the results of the SAI assessment.

Regarding recommendation 3, EU and DFG expressed concerns that the removal of closed areas from scientific surveys might affect the reliability of the time series data on the closed areas.

Regarding recommendation 6, Norway and the EU expressed that the removal of the possibility of exploratory fisheries does not preclude scientific investigations, and referred to Article 2.2 of the NCEM. Scientific investigations should be encouraged as these would enrich available information on closed areas. However, bottom trawls, longlines and other invasive technologies are inappropriate tools for scientific investigations. Commercial fisheries are not allowed or justifiable for research purposes, as in many seamounts and VMEs around the world. Non-invasive methods such as the use of hydro acoustic and photographic technologies should be encouraged instead. Several CP's shared these views.

A follow-up meeting is tentatively scheduled in summer 2016, back to back with the meeting of the ad hoc Working Group on Bycatches, Selectivity and Discards (WG-BDS).

13. Other Matters pertaining to Ecosystem Considerations

There was no other matter discussed.

V. Conservation and Enforcement Measures

14. Review of Chartering Arrangements

A report on chartering arrangements was presented by the Secretariat (FC WP 15/02). There were three (3) arrangements made in 2014. In the period of January – August 2015, there were two (2) arrangements. All arrangements were completed. 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.

15. Meeting Report and Recommendations on the Joint Fisheries Commission–Scientific Council ad hoc WG on Catch Reporting, April 2015

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 FC and SC Chairs (co-Chairs of this WG) presented the meeting report (FC-SC Doc. 15/01) and forwarded the recommendations addressed to FC and SC for consideration and adoption in FC-SC Working Paper 15/03 (Annex 12).

FC **accepted** the report and **adopted** all FC-specific recommendations.

Regarding recommendation 2, a new group called Catch Data Advisory Group was established. The Secretariat would be expected to organize an inaugural meeting in November/December 2015 and to report to this ad hoc WG in March/April 2016.

Recommendation 3 which pertains to data collection was addressed by STACTIC at this meeting (See Part II of this report (FC-SC WP 15/04). STACTIC highlighted its recent progress towards improving the reliability of catch and monitoring data as well as its ongoing efforts in this regard. STACTIC noted that review of the utility of data collected for purposes other than control and management must be considered in collaboration with other relevant NAFO and NAFO-related bodies.

A follow-up meeting is tentatively scheduled in March/April 2016 back to back with the meeting of the FC-SC WG on Risk-based Management Strategies.

16. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the ad hoc WG on Bycatches, Discards, and Selectivity, July 2015

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 FC Chair (concurrently the Chair of this WG) presented the meeting report (FC Doc. 15/06) and forwarded the recommendations for consideration and adoption in FC Working Paper 15/04 Rev. (Annex 13). FC **accepted** the report and **adopted** all the recommendations.

Regarding recommendations 2 and 3, the Secretariat would continue the analysis of logbook data and daily catch reports (CAT) for patterns, trends and anomalies in fishing activity.

Regarding recommendation 5, and in particular as regards to overarching objectives and the linkages with other NAFO bodies in the Action Plan, the reference to WG-ESA would be replaced by SC.

A proposal from STACTIC directly addressing recommendation 4 which pertains to the establishment and notification of a date for the 3M redfish fishery closure was **adopted** (see agenda item 17, recommendation f).

A follow-up meeting is tentatively scheduled in summer 2016, back to back with the meeting of the FC-SC WG on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management.

17. Reports of STACTIC (from May 2015 Intersessional meeting and this Annual Meeting)

The Chair presented the STACTIC Meeting Report and FC **accepted** it (the May 2015 intersessional meeting report (FC Doc. 15/02) was presented and accepted under agenda item 5). FC **adopted** all recommendations contained in both reports. The STACTIC Meeting Report is presented as Part II of this Report.

Specifically, the following NCEM recommendations coming from both meetings were forwarded to FC:

From the May 2015 intersessional meeting,

- a) *Revision of Text in Article 9* (Annex 14).

From this meeting,

- b) *Review of Annex I.A footnotes (EDG)* (Annex 15),
- c) *Improvements in Reporting Apparent Infringements and follow-up actions (Article 40)* (Annex 16),
- d) *Improvements in Reporting Apparent Infringements and follow-up actions (Article 40.4)* (Annex 17),
- e) *Format of Haul by Haul Logbook Data to the Secretariat* (Annex 18),
- f) *Notification process for the closure of the redfish fishery in NAFO Division 3M*,
- g) *Seamount Closures: gear specification for the use of midwater trawls and reporting of VMEs* (Annex 19).

FC **adopted** recommendations a) – g). Regarding recommendation f), the proposal of 72-hour advance establishment and notification of closure (from five days) was revised to 96 hours. The **adopted** version is presented in Annex 20. In addition, FC **accepted** the *Annual Compliance Review 2015 (Compliance Report for Fishing Year 2014)* (Annex 21).

In the absence of consensus on Port State Control Alignment, STACTIC sought guidance from FC on a way forward. After discussions and deliberations on it, FC referred the issue back to STACTIC to continue the work.

18. Other Matters pertaining to Conservation and Enforcement Measures

There was no other matter discussed.

VI. Closing Procedure

19. Election of Chair

With the completion of the Chair's term, the current Vice-Chair Temur Tairov (Russian Federation) was **elected** as the incoming Chair. Patrick Moran (USA) was **elected** as the incoming Vice-Chair. It was agreed that a new election would be held should the amended NAFO Convention enter into force during their terms.

20. Time and Place of the Next Meeting

This matter was deferred to the General Council.

21. Other Business

The tentative schedule of meetings of the WGs indicated in agenda items 8, 12, 15, and 16 was determined jointly by the FC and SC Chairs in consultation with the respective NAFO bodies (FC-SC WP 15/04 Rev).

A proposal that the Secretariat organize and chair a meeting and invite the current and immediate past chairs of the WGs was **adopted** (Annex 22). The group is mandated to identify mechanisms to improve efficiencies and identify possible overlaps of the Terms of Reference of the WGs. The Secretariat is expected to prepare a report of outcomes and suggested best practices to be shared with CPs in advance of the 2016 WG meetings. The Secretariat is also expected to report on the identified overlaps during the joint FC-SC sessions at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

22. Adjournment

The Meeting was adjourned at 0930 hrs on Friday 25 September 2015.

Annex 1. Participant List

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Chair of Fisheries Commission - Lapointe, Sylvie (Canada)

Chair of Scientific Council - Stansbury, Don (Canada)

Chair of Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) - Warner-Kramer, Deirdre (USA)

Chair of Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) - Martin, Gene (USA)

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Annex 2. Summary of decisions and actions taken by the Fisheries Commission (Annual Meeting 2015)

Substantive Issues (agenda item):	Decision/Action:
6. 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.
7. 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 (Annex 5).
8. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the Joint FC-SC WG on Risk-based Management Strategies, April 2015	Accepted the meeting report. Adopted all FC-specific recommendations (Annex 6). Adopted the scope for the SC when reviewing the NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework (Annex 7).
9. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area, 2016	(see 2016 Quota Table and Effort Allocation Scheme for 3M Shrimp (Annex 8))
9.1 Cod in Division 3M	Set the TAC at 13 931 tonnes, applicable to 2016 and 2017.
9.2 Redfish in Division 3M	Set the TAC at 7 000 tonnes, applicable to 2016 and 2017. Deleted old footnote 8 which refer to closure notification and bycatch.
9.3 Shrimp in Division 3M	Agreed to continue the moratorium until end of 2017.
10. Management of Technical Measures for Fish Stocks Straddling National Fishing Limits, 2016	(see 2016 Quota Table)
10.1 Cod in Divisions 3NO	Agreed to continue the moratorium until end of 2017 and to request a stock assessment to SC in 2017.
10.2 Redfish in Division 3O	Set the TAC at 20 000 tonnes, applicable to 2016.
10.3 Pelagic <i>Sebastes mentella</i> (oceanic redfish) in the NAFO Convention Area	Agreed to continue the moratorium.
10.4 Yellowtail flounder in Divisions 3LNO	Set the TAC at 17 000 tonnes, applicable to 2016 and 2017.
10.5 Witch flounder in Divisions 3NO	Set the TAC at 2 172 tonnes for 2016 and at 2 225 tonnes for 2017.
10.6 White hake in Divisions 3NO	Set the TAC at 1 000 tonnes, applicable for 2016 and 2017 and integrated the corresponding footnote in the NCEM.
10.7 Capelin in Divisions 3NO	Agreed to continue the moratorium until end of 2018.
10.8 Skates in Divisions 3LNO	Set the TAC at 7 000 tonnes, applicable to 2016.
10.9 Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO	Set the TAC at 14 799 tonnes (10 966 tonnes in Divisions 3LMNO).
10.10 Shrimp in Division 3LNO	Agreed to continue the moratorium in 2016.
12. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the Joint FC-SC WG on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management, July 2015	Accepted the meeting report. Adopted all FC-specific recommendations (Annex 10). Adopted the proposal to remove the possibility of exploratory bottom fishing in seamount areas (Annex 11).

15. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the Joint FC-SC ad hoc WG on Catch Reporting, April 2015	<p>Accepted the meeting report.</p> <p>Adopted all FC-specific recommendations (Annex 12).</p> <p>Established the Catch Data Advisory Group.</p>
16. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the ad hoc WG on Bycatches, Discards, and selectivity, July 2015	<p>Accepted the meeting report.</p> <p>Adopted all recommendations (Annex 13).</p> <p>Adopted the Action Plan on the effective management and minimization of bycatch and discards.</p>
17. Reports of STACTIC (from May 2015 intersessional meeting and this Annual Meeting)	<p>Accepted the STACTIC May 2015 Intersessional Meeting Report and the current meeting report (see Part II of this Report).</p> <p>Adopted <i>Revision of Text in Article 9</i> (Annex 14).</p> <p>Adopted <i>Review of Annex I.A footnotes (EDG)</i>(Annex 15).</p> <p>Adopted <i>Improvements in Reporting Apparent Infringements and follow-up actions (Article 40)</i> (Annex 16).</p> <p>Adopted <i>Improvements in Reporting Apparent Infringements and follow-up actions (Article 40.4)</i> (Annex 17).</p> <p>Adopted <i>Format of Haul by Haul Logbook Data to the Secretariat</i> (Annex 18).</p> <p>Adopted <i>Proposal on Seamount Closures: gear specification for the use of midwater trawls and reporting of VMEs</i> (Annex 19).</p> <p>Adopted <i>Proposal on the notification process for the closure of the redfish fishery in NAFO Division 3M</i> (Annex 20).</p> <p>Accepted <i>Annual Compliance Review 2015, for fishing year 2014</i> (Annex 21).</p>
21. Election Chair	<p>Elected Temur Tairov as Chair.</p> <p>Elected Patrick Moran as Vice Chair</p>
22. Other Business	<p>Instructed the Secretariat to organize a meeting with current and immediate Chairs of FC and joint FC-SC Working Groups with the aim of improving efficiency of NAFO WG process (Annex 22).</p>

Annex 3. Agenda

I. Opening Procedure

1. Opening by the Chair
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. Scientific Advice

6. Presentation of scientific advice by the Chair of the Scientific Council
 - 6.1 Scientific advice on fish stocks
 - 6.2 Scientific advice on Risk-based Management Strategies (RBMS) and Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (EAFFM), and other topics
 - 6.3. Other issues as determined by the Chair of the Scientific Council
 - 6.4 Feedback to the Scientific Council regarding the advice and its work during this meeting.
7. Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for Scientific Advice on the Management of Fish Stocks in 2017 and on other matters

III. Conservation of Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area

8. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the Joint Fisheries Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies, April 2015
9. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area, 2016
 - 9.1 Cod in Div. 3M
 - 9.2 Redfish in Div. 3M
 - 9.3 Shrimp in Div. 3M
10. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks Straddling National Jurisdictions, 2016
 - 10.1 Cod in Div. 3NO
 - 10.2 Redfish in Div. 3O
 - 10.3 Pelagic *Sebastes mentella* (oceanic redfish) in the NAFO Convention Area
 - 10.4 Yellowtail flounder in Div. 3LNO
 - 10.5 Witch flounder in Div. 3NO
 - 10.6 White hake in Div. 3NO
 - 10.7 Capelin in Div. 3NO
 - 10.8 Skates in Div. 3LNO
 - 10.9 Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 + Div. 3KLMNO
 - 10.10 Shrimp in Div. 3LNO
11. Other matters pertaining to Conservation of Fish Stocks

IV. Ecosystem Considerations

12. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the Joint Fisheries Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management, July 2015

13. Other matters pertaining to Ecosystem Considerations

V. Conservation and Enforcement Measures

14. Review of Chartering Arrangements

15. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the Joint Fisheries Commission–Scientific Council ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting, April 2015

16. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the Working Group on Bycatches, Discards, and Selectivity, July 2015

17. Reports of STACTIC (from May 2015 intersessional meeting and current Annual Meeting)

18. Other matters pertaining to Conservation and Enforcement Measures

VI. Closing Procedure

19. Election of Chair

20. Time and Place of Next Meeting

21. Other Business

22. Adjournment

Annex 4. Scientific Council responses to requests received from the Fisheries Commission during the annual meeting

(FC Working Paper 15/19)

Cod in Division 3M

Fisheries Commission requested:

1. Regarding the Div. 3M cod advisory sheet, in the projection table for 3M cod the estimated risk of F being larger than F_{lim} in scenario no. 2 ($3/4 F_{lim}$) is estimated at less than 1%. It seems, however, that by looking at the overlaps of the 90% confidence limits of the catches associated with scenario #1 and scenario #2 that this risk ought to be higher (in the order of 5 to 20%). Is this correct?

Scientific Council responded:

The council agreed the risk of $F > F_{lim}$ tabulated is underestimated in this case (scenario #2), but the magnitude is unknown. The Council noted this had no bearing on the projected values of yield, biomass and SSB. The Council could not come to a consensus on a better way of expressing risk and uncertainty at this time. Scientific Council will work intersessionally to resolve this issue by June 2016.

2. Noting that the NAFO PA framework specifies an exploitation boundary with a low risk (~20%) of exceeding F_{lim} and that FC requests the SC to provide advice in accordance with the PA, why is SC promoting advice that implies a risk of 50% of exceeding F_{lim} ?

Scientific Council responded:

The TAC recommendation is that the catch be less than that generated by the corresponding F_{lim} . Yields less than those corresponding to fishing at F_{lim} would result in lower risks of exceeding F_{lim} , however the tolerance of such risk is a decision for managers. Unfortunately none of the scenarios considered provided a risk in the order of 20%. Moreover in all scenarios there is a high probability of biomass growth during the projection period.

3. Fishing at F_{lim} on 2016-2017 would imply a 55% reduction of fishing mortality from 2014 and the exploitation would be kept 18% below the estimated natural mortality. At this level, it is expected with a high probability (95%) that SSB will continue to increase from 2014 to 2018. Also, fishing at a higher rate (e.g. between F_{lim} and $3/4 F_{2012-2014}$) will still imply a high probability of biomass increase and a risk below 1% that biomass would fall below B_{lim} by 2018.

Is there a scientific reason to justify the need for a TAC reduction in 2016 followed by an increase in 2017? What are the biological risks for the stock of reducing the TAC variation from year to year and stabilizing the TAC at the mean of the advised TACs for 2016 and 2017?

Scientific Council responded:

Advice was given in terms of F_{lim} projections and these were the resulting yields. Scientific Council sees no significant changes in the projected SSB when averaging over the projected yields. By increasing the TAC in 2016 from 12 425 to 13 931 and reducing the 2017 TAC from 15 436 to 13 931 the fishing mortality will increase above F_{lim} ($F_{2016} = 0.15$) in 2016 and be below F_{lim} in 2017 ($F_{2017} = 0.12$).

4. The SC has stated a decrease in the mean size of the catches of Div. 3M cod and has concluded that the implementation of sorting-grids in Div. 3M cod fishery would reduce catches of small and immature individuals of cod. Having these conclusions in mind, is the Scientific Council in a position at this meeting to formulate a proposal for selectivity experiments with sorting grids in the Flemish Cap area for 2016, i.e. outlining the temporal and spatial coverage of the area, number of vessels required, gear needed for the experiments, etc.

Scientific Council responded:

Scientific Council is not in a position at this meeting to develop a research plan for investigating selectivity in Div. 3M Cod. SC would encourage any Contracting Party to conduct such selectivity experiments and would welcome the opportunity to review results.

Redfish in Div. 3M

Fisheries Commission requested:

1. What would be the average 2016-2017 TAC for 3M redfish, keeping for beaked redfish the fishing mortality at 2013-2014 $F_{\text{status quo}}$ and assuming that natural mortality on 2015-2017 will be at the same estimated average level of the past couple of years (2013-2014)?

Scientific Council responded:

The average projected 2016-2017 catch for Div. 3M beaked redfish, is presented in the STACFIS Report. The average 2013-14 proportion of beaked redfish in the Div. 3M redfish catch is estimated to be 64%. Scientific Council reiterates its concern, “Given the uncertainty about the actual level of current natural mortality (see STACFIS, 2015) and its impact on short term model projections, Scientific Council decided not to use model predictions as a basis for the recommendation.”

The SC also reiterates its advice that “Recent decline in proportion of *S mentella* and *S fasciatus* allows a marginal increase in TAC in 2016-17 to 7000t, without changing the exploitation rate on these species and having the stock remain at a relatively high level”.

Splendid alfonsino (*Beryx splendens*)

Fisheries Commission requested:

1. There are three known banks on which the fishery for Alfonsino has been conducted (Kükenthal Peak, C-3 and Milne-Edwards). The SC is requested to clarify if there has been any research into the Alfonsino stock carried out on the C-3 and Milne-Edwards banks and to provide any intermediate results of such research.
2. According to the advice on the Alfonsino stock presented, three mean catch values (2, 5 and 10- year intervals) have been calculated. The SC is requested to elaborate if any one of these values is more appropriate to be used as a basis for establishing the TAC and has any advantages over the others.
3. The SC is requested to provide the catch statistics by the Contracting Parties that conducted fishery for Alfonsino in the areas and time periods in question.

Scientific Council responded:

1. Scientific Council is not aware of research on C-3 and Milne Edwards peaks, beyond that presented in SCR Doc. 15/006 and reviewed in the June meeting.
2. Scientific Council considered that the 10-year average is too long to reflect current productivity. There was no strong justification for choosing one of the remaining averaging periods (2009 – 2014 or 2012 – 2014) over the other – stock status is unknown, as is the sustainability of any of these options.
3. The following table was extracted from the STATLANT 21 database and provided by the Secretariat.

Year	Country	Division	Species Name	ASFIS Code	Catch (t)
2014	Spain	6G	Alfonsinos (ns)	ALF	118
2013	Spain	6G	Alfonsinos (ns)	ALF	112
2012	Spain	6G	Alfonsinos (ns)	ALF	298
2010	Spain	6G	Alfonsinos (ns)	ALF	53
2006	Spain	6G	Alfonsinos (ns)	ALF	69
2005	Spain	6G	Alfonsinos (ns)	ALF	577

Annex 5. Fisheries Commission’s Request for Scientific Advice on Management in 2017 and Beyond of Certain Stocks in Subareas 2, 3 and 4 and Other Matters

(FC Working Paper 15/17 Rev. 4 now FC Doc. 15/17 Rev.)

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. 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 2016, advice should be provided for 2017 for Northern shrimp in NAFO Div. 3LNO

In 2016, advice should be provided for 2017 and 2018 for American plaice in Div. 3LNO and for Thorny skate in Div. 3LNO.

In 2016, advice should be provided for 2017, 2018 and 2019 for Redfish in Div.3O, Witch flounder in Div. 2J+3KL and Northern shortfin squid in SA 3+4.

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 bycatch 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 Doc. 10/12) and agreed to use it until 2017 (FC Doc.13/23). 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 Doc. 10/12.
 - b) Advise on whether or not an exceptional circumstance is occurring.
 3. The Fisheries Commission adopted in 2014 an MSE approach for Redfish in Division 3LN (FC Doc. 14/29). This approach uses a Harvest Control Rule (HCR) 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 The Fisheries Commission request Scientific Council conduct a full assessment in 2016 to evaluate the effect of removals in 2014 and 2015 on stock status.
 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.
- FC further requests that:
- a) 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;

- b) that Scientific Council refine VME kernel density analysis polygon boundaries, taking into account current understanding of distribution patterns in relation to environmental variables.
5. FC requests the Scientific Council consider widening the scope of the NAFO coral and sponge identification guides to include other relevant species on seamounts.
 6. FC requests that Scientific Council consider options to expedite a risk assessment of scientific trawl surveys impact on VME in closed areas, and the effect of excluding surveys from these areas on stock assessments.
 7. FC requests the Scientific Council consider, based on analysis of logbook data and patterns of fishing activity, to be conducted by the Secretariat, 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)
 8. It is difficult to match the current F_{lim} proxy with the 3M cod assessment results given by the 2015 Bayesian XSA assessment. These results were presented to SC in June and used for short term (2016–2017) projections under several F options (NAFO SCR 15/33 González-Troncoso, 2015); NAFO SC June 2015 Report). Focusing on the last assessment and projections, assuming at the same time a candidate $F_{lim} = F_{30\%SPR} = 0.131$, they would imply that:
 - During the past five years (2010–2014) 3M cod has been exploited at an average F_{bar} level over two fold F_{lim} .
 - While SSB was sustained at a high average level representing 87% of the highest estimated SSB of the 1972–2014 interval (36 7041 on 1972).
 - The two highest year classes since 1992 occurred in 2011–2012.

Under these circumstances the Scientific Council is requested to analyze whether the current F_{lim} value for 3M cod is currently underestimated and to revise if required the relevant fishing mortality and biomass reference points appropriately.

9. The stock of redfish 3M covers catches of three *Sebastes* species and the scientific advice is based on data of only two species (*S. mentella* and *S. fasciatus*). Golden redfish, *Sebastes marinus* (aka norvegicus), represents part of the catch but has not yet been subject to a full assessment in NAFO. The Scientific Council is requested to explore the possibility and options of an individual assessment of the golden redfish (*S. marinus*, aka norvegicus) and of including this species in the scientific advice for 2018–2019. The Scientific Council is also requested to advice on the implications for the three species in terms of catch reporting and stock management.
10. As part of the Greenland halibut's MSE review scheduled for 2016–2017, the SC is asked to specifically monitor and evaluate Contracting Parties surveys with the aim of optimizing resources in order to avoid duplication of data, identify data gaps and streamline survey methodologies, so that all data is used in the assessment.
11. Article 23 NCEM foresees a reassessment of bottom fishing activities in 2016. The NAFO Roadmap for Developing an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries extends the work of the Scientific Council to include the assessment of potential impacts of activities other than fishing. Also, impacts of human activities in ecosystems should not be analyzed in isolation since cumulative effects might occur representing more than the sum of the individual factors. The Scientific Council is therefore requested to develop a workplan at its meeting in 2016 that will allow to address and analyze the potential impact of activities other than fishing (eg. oil and gas exploration, marine cables, ocean dumping, marine transportation) on NAFO VMEs, in particular VME closed areas.
12. The Fisheries Commission requests the Scientific Council to conduct a full assessment of Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 + Division 3KLMNO (using both XSA and SCAA¹) and to consider the weighting of each survey as a first step to inform the 2017 MSE review.
13. The Fisheries Commission requests the Scientific Council to advise on how many SSB points above 30,000t are considered sufficient to conduct a review of B_{lim} of cod in 3NO.

14. The Fisheries Commission requests the Scientific Council to provide survey biomass trend(s) of witch flounder in Div. 3M for as long as data is available.
15. The Fisheries Commission requests the Scientific Council to review the results of the 2015 Canadian in situ photographic surveys for non-coral and sponge VME indicator species on Grand Bank (tail of Grand Bank) in relation to previous analyses presented in 2014 (that modelled their distribution using research vessel survey trawl bycatch data), and to identify areas of significant concentrations of non-coral and sponge VME indicator species using all available information.
16. Recognizing the importance of the 3M cod fishery to NAFO.

Mindful that even though the current SSB is well above B_{lim} , the recruitment of the two most recent years is low.

Noting that according to the Scientific Council stock assessment we are currently fishing only on two year-classes – once they are depleted in about two years time prospects for a continued fishery at the current level is not likely to be possible.

Further noting that recent assessment of the stock has shown some year-to-year instability and that estimation of risk levels associated with given fishing mortalities cannot be calculated at this time, which further adds to our concern for the future of this fishery and its management.

It is proposed that Scientific Council organize a full benchmark review of the 3M cod assessment in two stages: For 2016 Scientific Council will agree on a standardized approach and prepare a plan for the benchmark process at NAFO including required resources. For 2017 SC will review the benchmark assessment methodology for 3M cod.

¹SCAA will not be possible unless a contractor can be hired.

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: $2/3 F_{msy}$, $3/4 F_{msy}$, $85\% F_{msy}$, $75\% F_{2015}$, F_{2015} , $125\% F_{2015}$,
- For stocks under a moratorium to direct fishing: F_{2015} , $F = 0$.

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 _{msy})			P(B<B _{msy})			P(B2019 > B2016)
F in 2016 and following years*	Yield 2017 (50%)	Yield 2018 (50%)	Yield 2019 (50%)	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	
$2/3 F_{msy}$	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
$3/4 F_{msy}$	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
$85\% F_{msy}$	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F_{msy}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
$0.75 \times F_{2015}$	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F_{2015}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
$1.25 \times F_{2015}$	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} , $2/3 F_{max}$, $3/4 F_{max}$, $85\% F_{max}$, $75\% F_{2015}$, F_{2015} , $125\% F_{2015}$,
- For stocks under a moratorium to direct fishing: F_{2015} , $F = 0$.

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.

F in 2016 and following years*	Yield 2017	Yield 2018	Yield 2019	Limit reference points												P(B2019 > B2016)
				P(F > F _{lim})			P(B < B _{lim})			P(F > F _{0.1})			P(F > F _{max})			
				2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	
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 X F2015	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F2015	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1.25 X F2015	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:

- a) time trends of survey abundance estimates
- b) an age or size range chosen to represent the spawning population
- c) an age or size-range chosen to represent the exploited population
- d) recruitment proxy or index for an age or size-range chosen to represent the recruiting population.
- e) fishing mortality proxy, such as the ratio of reported commercial catches to a measure of the exploited population.
- f) 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 15/01 **now** FC-SC Doc. 15/04)

The FC-SC Joint Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS) met on 22-24 April 2015 in Halifax, Nova Scotia and agreed on the following recommendations (FC/SC Doc. 15/02):

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. **$F_{\text{status quo}}$**
 - 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**

Annex 7. Scope of the Review of the NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework (PAF) (FC Working Paper 15/23 now FC Doc. 15/19)

Explanatory memorandum

1. Upon the recommendation of the Scientific Council (SC), the Fisheries Commission (FC) adopted a Precautionary Approach Framework (PAF) to guide fisheries management decision making back 2004.
2. In 2014 a joint working group of Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council on Risk-based Management Strategies was formed (WG-RBMS). The main objective of this joint working group is to make recommendations to the Fisheries Commission and feedback to Scientific Council on the development and effective implementation of management strategies, based on the application of the precautionary approach including conservation plans and rebuilding strategies, and to facilitate dialogue between SC and FC (NAFO/FC Doc. 13/18).
3. In its April 2015 meeting, the WG-RBMS adopted a recommendation (recommendation no. 1 in NAFO FC/SC Doc. 15/02) that envisages the creation by the Scientific Council of a technical working group. This technical group should explore the revision of the NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework in order to ensure coherence.
4. The working group also recommended that Fisheries Commission identifies the scope and priorities for such a review (recommendation no. 2 in NAFO FC/SC Doc. 15/02)

Proposal

It is proposed that the Fisheries Commission adopts the following scope for the Scientific Council technical working group when reviewing the NAFO PAF.

- To clarify the following elements:
 - o To confirm/review the NAFO PA reference points definition in page 3 NAFO/FC Doc. 04/18.
 - o To confirm/review the NAFO Management strategies and courses of action, including risk levels, on page 3 NAFO/FC Doc. 04/18
 - o Distinction between MSY and limit/target related reference points.
 - o Analysis in support of the development of other reference points (e.g. targets, buffers).
 - o To review the methods for the calculation and interpretation of risk and the quantification and qualification of uncertainties related to them.
 - o For stocks where risk analyses are not possible, provide options on how to establish buffer reference points on a stock by stock basis.
 - o Determine the conditions for when/if reference points should change and / or be re-evaluated.
- Consider how a revised PA can fit within an Ecosystem Approach.
- In reviewing the NAFO PAF the WG will also take into consideration other Precautionary Approach Frameworks with a focus in the North Atlantic.

**Annex 8. Quota Table 2016 and
Effort Allocation Scheme for Shrimp Fishery in the NAFO Regulatory Area Div. 3M, 2016–2017**

Annex I.A - ANNUAL QUOTA TABLE 2016 - Total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tonnes) for 2016 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 3O	REB 1F_2_3K (i.e. Sub-Area 2 and Divs. 1F+3K)		PLA 3LNO	PLA 3M
% of TAC												
Contracting Party												
Canada		111	0.80	0	4 430	42.60	500	6 000	0 ¹	0	0	16 575
Cuba		515	3.70	-	1 019	9.80	1 750		0 ¹	-	-	-
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		3 114	22.35	-	-		69 ¹²		0	-	-	-
European Union		7 945 ¹⁵	57.03	0 ⁴	1 896 ¹⁶	18.23	7 813 ⁵	7 000	0	0	0 ⁴	-
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-		-	-		69 ¹²		0 ¹	-	-	340
Iceland		-		-	-		-		0	-	-	-
Japan		-		-	-		400	150	0 ¹	-	-	-
Korea		-		-	-		69 ¹²	100	0 ¹	-	-	-
Norway		1 289	9.25	-	-		-		0	-	-	-
Russian Federation		901	6.47	0	2 992	28.77	9 137	6 500	0	-	0	-
Ukraine								150	0 ¹	-	-	-
United States of America		-		-	-		69 ¹²		0 ¹	-	-	-
Others		56	0.40	0	63	0.60	124	100	-	0	0	85
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	*	13 931 ^{9, 18}	100.0	* ⁹	10 400 ¹⁹	100.0	7 000 ⁹	20 000	0 ^{3,10}	*	* ⁹	17 000 ^{9,14}

Annex I.A

(2016)

Species	Witch		White hake HKW 3NO	Capelin CAP 3NO	Skates SKA 3LNO	Greenland halibut GHL 3LMNO	Squid (Illex) SQI 3_4 (i.e. Sub-areas 3+4)	Shrimp	
	WIT 3L	WIT 3NO						PRA 3L	PRA 3NO
Stock Specification									
% of TAC			% of 3NO Witch TAC						
Contracting Party									
Canada		1 303	60.00	0	1 167	1 644	N.S. ²	0	
Cuba		-		0		-	510	0	
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		-		-		189	-	0	
European Union		288 ⁴	13.27	0 ⁴	4 408	6 430 ¹¹	N.S. ²	0 ⁷	
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-		-		180	453	0	
Iceland		-		-		-	-	0	
Japan		-		0		1 124	510	0	
Korea		-		-		-	453	0	
Norway		-		0		-	-	0	
Russian Federation		559	25.73	0	1 167	1 399	749	0	
Ukraine						-		0	
United States of America		-		-		-	453	0	
Others		22	1.00	-	258	0	794	0	
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	*	2 172 ²⁰	100.00	* ¹³	7 000 ¹⁷	10 966	34 000	0	*

- * **Ban on fishing in force.**
- 1. Quota to be shared by vessels from Canada, Cuba, France (St. Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, Korea, Ukraine and USA.
- 2. 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 (= 29,467 tonnes).
- 3. Should NEAFC modify its level of TAC, these figures shall be adjusted accordingly by NAFO through a mail vote.
- 4. 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 03/07).
- 5. Including allocations of 1,571 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania out of a sharing of 20 000 tonnes, following their accession to the European Union.
- 6. 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.
- 7. Including allocations of 1.11% each for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland out of the TAC, following their accession to the European Union.
- 8. Allocation of 17.85% to Lithuania and 2.15% to Latvia following their accession to the European Union.
- 9. Applicable to 2016 and 2017.
- 10. If an increase in the overall TAC as defined in footnote 3 leads to an increase in these shares, the first 500 tonnes of that increase shall be added to the quota share.
- 11. Including an allocation of 360 tonnes for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union.
- 12. Notwithstanding the provision of Article 5.3 (b) and without prejudice to future agreements on allocations, these quotas may be fished in their entirety by these Contracting Parties.
- 13. Applicable to 2016, 2017 and 2018.
- 14. Following the NAFO annual meeting and prior to 1 January of the succeeding year, at the request of the USA, Canada will transfer 1,000 tonnes of its 3LNO yellowtail quota to the USA.
- 15. Including fishing entitlements of 155 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 03/07) and allocation of 529 tonnes for Poland following their accession to the European Union.
- 16. 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 03/07) following their accession to the European Union.
- 17. Should catches exceed 5 000 tonnes, additional measures would be adopted to further restrain catches in 2016.

Historical statements

- 18. The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1998 Quota Table. In 1999, a moratorium on cod in Division 3M was declared.
- 19. The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1997 Quota Table. In 1998, a moratorium on redfish in Division 3LN was declared.
- 20. 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.

Annex I.B
Effort Allocation Scheme for Shrimp Fishery in the
NAFO Regulatory Area Div. 3M, 2016–2017

Contracting Party	Number of fishing days ¹	Number of vessels ¹
Canada	0	0
Cuba	0	0
Denmark		
– Faroe Islands	0	0
– Greenland		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 9. Statement by the Russian Federation on pelagic *Sebastes mentella*
(oceanic redfish) in the NAFO Convention Area**

(FC Working Paper 15/15)

The Russian Federation adheres to its position that there is a single stock of pelagic *Sebastes mentella* in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters, including the NAFO Convention Area. Russia reiterates its standpoint that studies into the redfish stock structure should be continued using all available scientific and fisheries data as a basis. Until new data on the stock structure are available, Russia will continue to regulate the pelagic fishery for *Sebastes mentella* based on the concept of its single stock structure.

Annex 10. Recommendations from the WG-EAFFM to forward to FC and SC (FC-SC Working Paper 15/02 now FC-SC Doc. 15/05)

The Joint FC-SC Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management met 15-17 July 2015 in Halifax, Nova Scotia and agreed on the following recommendations:

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 consider 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 FC revise Article 17 to remove the possibility of exploratory bottom fishing in seamount areas**
- 7. that FC 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”.

Annex 11. Revision of Article 17 of the NAFO CEM

(FC Working Paper 15/08 **now** FC Doc. 15/15)

Explanatory memorandum

In its 2015 report, the Scientific Council reiterating previous advices recalled that “the seamounts were properly classified as VME elements given the available knowledge on the ecology of seamounts in terms of structure and function, as well as the effects of human impacts on them, including midwater trawling and fishing with bottom gears. The information available since then continues to support the notion that seamounts should be considered VMEs”.

Currently seamounts are closed for bottom fishing as prescribed by article 17(1) of the NCEM. However, Contracting Parties may still be authorized by the Fisheries Commission to conduct exploratory bottom fishing activities in seamounts if their request for such activities is in accordance with Article 18 of the NCEM and the exploratory protocol (Annex I.E.)

As a consequence, and as underlined in its 2014 report of the Scientific Committee, “seamount protection zones provide no additional protection to these areas than the ones afforded by the exploratory fishing protocol for all areas outside the NAFO fishing footprint.”

At the 2014 Annual Meeting, the Fisheries Commission (FC) referred the issue of exploratory fisheries in seamount areas to the WG on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG EAFFM) for further consideration (FC Doc. 14/35).

The WG EAFFM, at its meeting of 15-17 July 2015, considered options to grant additional protection to seamounts including by further controlling bottom fishing within the seamount areas. It recommended in particular to remove the provision for exploratory bottom fisheries from Article 17 of the NCEM.

Proposed amendments

In relation to the closure of seamounts to all bottom fishing activity, it is proposed to amend Article 17 as follows:

Article 17 - Areas Restrictions for Bottom Fishing Activities

Seamount Closures

1. Until 31 December 2020, no vessel shall engage in bottom fishing activities in any of the areas illustrated in Figure 3 and defined by connecting the following 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.~~
2. ~~A request to conduct exploratory bottom fishing activities, in any of the areas defined by paragraph 1, shall be in accordance with Article 18 and the Exploratory Protocol (Annex I.E).~~
3. ~~If a vessel fishing in any of the areas defined in paragraph 1 encounter a VME indicator species, as defined in Article 22.1, the encounter provisions as set out in Article 22 shall apply.~~

Annex 12. Recommendations from the WG-CR to forward to the FC and SC
(FC-SC Working Paper 15/03 now FC-SC Doc. 15/06)

The Joint FC-SC Working Group on Catch Reporting met on 20-21 April 2015 in Halifax, Nova Scotia and agreed on the following recommendations (FC/SC Doc. 15/01):

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); 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.**

Annex. Proposed Terms of Reference of the Catch Data Advisory Group

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:

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.

Annex 13. Recommendations from the WG-BDS to forward to the Fisheries Commission

(FC Working Paper 15/04 Rev. 2 **now** FC Doc. 15/22 Rev.)

The Ad hoc Working Group on Bycatches, Discards, and Selectivity (WG-BDS) met on 13-14 July 2015 in Halifax, Nova Scotia and agreed on the following recommendations (FC Doc. 15/06):

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 conducted by the Secretariat, 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, SC, ~~WG-ESA~~, WG-CR)**

Issues for the Fisheries Commission to consider. These are the key themes of an action plan:

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**

Analysis and ongoing monitoring

- **Trends, patterns, anomalies**
- **Time, area, depth, fleet-specific issues, fishery-specific issues**
- **Identification of best practices**

Identification of priorities

- **Moratoria species**
- **Areas where there is a risk of causing serious harm to bycatch species**
- **High rates of discards**

Develop management options

- **Selectivity measures**
- **Time area management**
- **Fishery-specific solutions and identification of best practices**
- **Avoid measures that incentivize bycatch and discards**

Annex 14. Revision of Text in Article 9
(STACTIC WP 15/30 now FC Doc. 15/14)

At the STACTIC intersessional Meeting in May 2015, 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 NAFO CEM does not match the text adopted by the FC in FC Doc. 11/23.

STACTIC 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).”

Annex 15. Review of the footnotes associated to Annex I.A – Annual Quota Table (STACTIC WP 15/09 Rev. 2 **now** FC Doc. 15/08)

Background

During the 2014 NAFO Annual Meeting it was agreed that the Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) would conclude the major component of its original mandate by completing a review, and providing recommendations on, the footnotes associated to Annex IA – Annual Quota Table.

The EDG met in Montreal, Canada, April 14, 2015 to deliberate on the task. After reviewing the footnotes it was determined that 3 categories of footnotes existed in Annex I.A:

1. those that constitute actual measures, (which are recommended to be incorporated into the body of the CEMs)
2. those that maintain a historical record, such as providing historical information on quotas, moratoriums, etc. and
3. those that could be classified as “true” footnotes, providing clarification specific to the applicability of the quota.

The EDG discussed each footnote and agreed on an action that should be taken in each case. Following its review, the EDG would recommend to STACTIC the following:

- STACTIC review the EDG’s proposal, attached as Annex 1, with the view to accepting the amendments related to footnotes in Annex I.A and recommending its adoption to the Fisheries Commission;
- STACTIC consider the possibility of moving “historical” notes to a separate section of the CEM’s, or alternatively to another document of historical records/decisions; and
- STACTIC reconsider the ongoing role and mandate of the EDG and determine the function and utility of this working group moving forward.

EDG – working document on revision of **CEM Annex I.A - footnotes**
14 April 2015
ANNEX I – FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
Annex I.A – Annual Quota Table

CATCH LIMITATIONS – Article 5. Total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tons in live weight) for 2015 of particular stocks in Subareas 1–4 of the NAFO Convention Area.

Suggested interpretation		
	* means TAC has not been set due to a ban on fishing (moratoria)	
	0 means CP has a historic quota allocation, but = 0	
	- means CP does not have a historic quota allocation	
	DELETE: blank as meaning is the same as dash	
	N.S. means Not Specified	
Footnote		Action
N°	Stock/quotas concerned	
1	SQI 3_4 <i>Generic stock</i>	<p>Remarks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reporting element already covered in 5.9 and 5.12(f) 2. Flag the limitation to “coastal States” <p>Recommendation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove footnote 2. Insert first sentence in a new 5.12 (current 5.12 becomes 5.13); <i>Is the reference to “Coastal State” still relevant? Flag to FC for consideration and possible deletion</i> 3. Second sentence replaced by adding “promptly” to 5.13(f) <p>New 5.13(f) <i>(f) Promptly informs all Contracting Parties of notifications of quota transfers received.</i></p>

2	<p>REB 1F_2_3K <i>All allocated quotas</i></p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Recommendation: 1. Remove – replaced by adding text to 5.12(d) New text for current 5.12(d) <i>(d) Notify all Contracting parties by electronic means 5 calendar days in advance of the date on which the available data indicates that the total reported catch, including discards, is estimated at 50 % and then 100 % for redfish in Divisions 3M and Sub-Area 2 and Divisions 1F + 3K, and ...</i></p>
3	<p>REB 1F_2_3K <i>Quotas allocated to</i> DFG EU ICE NOR RUS</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Remarks: 1. This is a NEAFC stock with a biological extension in the NAFO area. Permission is given to NAFO CP, members of NEAFC, to complete their NEAFC fishery with catch taken in NAFO Convention Area 2. What is the rationale of the “NAFO Convention area”?</p> <p>Recommendation: 1. Delete footnote #3 and add the following text to 5.3 g) If also a CP of NEAFC, deduct 1F2+3K redfish catch taken in the NAFO Convention Area from its corresponding quota in the NEAFC Convention Area, as applicable.</p>
4	<p>REB 1F_2_3K <i>Quotas allocated to</i> CAN CUB SPM JAP KOR UKR USA</p>	<p>Quota to be shared by vessels from Canada, Cuba, France (St. Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, Korea, Ukraine and USA</p>	<p>Remark: This footnote refers to CP's that are not members of NEAFC. Access rights to the stock falls under the management measures in place in the NRA, as confirmed by current footnote 17</p> <p>Recommendation: 1. Leave as footnote</p>
5	<p>YEL 3LNO <i>Quotas allocated to</i> CAN SPM Others</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Remark: Obsolete + administrative burden</p> <p>Recommendation: 1. Delete footnote #6</p>

6	<p>SQI 3_4</p> <p><i>N.S. quotas allocated to CAN</i></p> <p><i>EU (all MS except EST, LAV, LIT and POL)</i></p>	<p>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)</p>	<p>Remarks:</p> <p>1. The figure should be 29,467 instead of 29,458</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>1. Leave as footnote</p>
7	<p>GHL 3LMNO</p> <p><i>Quota allocated to Others</i></p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Remark:</p> <p>The adoption of the GHL Rebuilding Plan in 2004 was associated to a reallocation in 2005 of the “others” quota of 935 tons to 3 CP (DFG: 244 tons, EU: 461 tons and SPM; 230 tons). If the TAC ever exceeded 30,000 tons, the Fisheries Commission will re-establish the “others” quota to a minimum level of 1,300 tons. The contribution of the 3 CP to that new “others” quota will take into account the benefit they received from the 2004 reallocation.</p> <p>Footnote 7 has never been implemented because since 2005 the GHL TAC has never exceeded 30,000 tons.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>1. Delete the footnote, but move the content to Article 10 (Greenland Halibut) as paragraph 10, with new text and chapeau as follows:</p> <p>Restoration of the “Others” quota</p> <p>10. When the TAC exceeds 30,000 tons, the next 1,300 t beyond 30,000 tons will be allocated to the “Others” quota. In deciding the relevant contributions of Contracting Parties to the 1,300 t “Others” quota, the Fisheries Commission will take into account the benefit that some Contracting Parties received from the assignment of the “Others” quota that occurred when the GHL Rebuilding plan was adopted.</p>

8	RED 3M <i>TAC</i>	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).	Remarks: 1. RED 3M TAC = 6.500 tons + an “extra” quantity of 200 tons, for a total TAC of 6.700 tons 2. the “extra” quantity of 200 tons can only be taken as bycatch at the rate of 5 % Recommendation: 1. Leave this provision until the 2015 results can be assessed by STACTIC as part of its annual compliance review 2. This footnote may need to be deleted if Fisheries Commission adopts STACTIC WP 15/39Rev.
9	COD 3L COD 3NO PLA 3M WIT 3L CAP 3NO PRA 3NO <i>TAC</i>	The provisions of Article 6.3 of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures shall apply	Recommendation: 1. Remove – duplication with 6.3, which apply anyway
10	REB 1F_2_3K <i>TAC</i>	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	Recommendation: 1. Leave as footnote with revised text as follows: <i>Should NEAFC modify its level of TAC, these figures shall be adjusted accordingly by NAFO through a mail vote.</i> 2. Remove the date reference to account for a continuing and annual process
11	COD 3NO PLA 3M WIT 3NO CAP 3NO <i>Quota allocated to EU</i>	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)	Recommendation: 1. Leave as footnote; EU may provide recommendations
12	RED 3M <i>Quota allocated to EU</i>	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	Recommendation: 1. Leave as footnote; EU may provide recommendations

13	SQI 3_4 <i>Quota allocated to EU (only for EST, LAV, LIT and POL)</i>	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	Recommendation: 1. Leave as footnote; EU may provide recommendations
14	PRA 3L <i>Quota allocated to EU</i>	Including allocations of 1.11 % each for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland out of the TAC, following their accession to the European Union	Recommendation: 1. Leave as footnote; EU may provide recommendations
15	REB 1F_2_3K <i>Quota allocated to EU (only for LIT and LAV)</i>	Allocation of 17.85% to Lithuania and 2.15% to Latvia following their accession to the European Union	Recommendation: 1. Leave as footnote; EU may provide recommendations
16	RED 3LN PLA 3LNO WIT 3L SKA 3LNO SQI 3_4 TAC	Applicable to 2015 and 2016	Recommendation: 1. Leave as footnote
17	REB 1F_2_3K <i>Contracting Parties in the Current footnote #4</i>	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	Remark: This applies only to CP's that are not members of NEAFC, and to the Lithuania and Latvia Recommendation: 1. Leave footnote, revised as follows:
18	GHL 3L/MNO <i>Quota allocated to EU</i>	Including an allocation of 379 tonnes for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union	<i>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.</i> Recommendation: 1. Leave as footnote; EU may provide recommendations

19	RED 3M <i>Quotas allocated to DFG SPM KOR USA</i>	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	Recommendation: 1. Leave as footnote but with corrected reference, 5.2 replaced by 5.3 2. If the Fisheries Commission adopts S TACTIC WP 15/39 Rev. this text may need to be modified to reflect the possible deletion of footnote 8.
20	COD 3NO PLA 3M TAC	Applicable to 2015, 2016 and 2017	Recommendation 1. Leave as footnote
21	PLA 3LNO YEL 3LNO TAC	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 <i>Blim</i> , this rate may be subject to a reassessment by the Fisheries Commission	Remark: 1. The second sentence is deleted because the FC has the capacity to reassess at any time 2. As a bycatch measure, this provision should be inserted into Article 6 Recommendation: 1. Remove – provision on bycatch limit inserted in 6.3 as new (f) New text for 6.3 (f) <i>(f) While conducting a directed fishery for yellowtail in Divisions 3LNO: 15 % of American Plaice; otherwise bycatch provisions in 6.3 (d) apply.</i>
22	YEL 3LNO TAC	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	Recommendation: 1. Leave as footnote
23	COD 3M TAC	The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1998 Quota Table. In 1999, a moratorium on cod in Division 3M was declared	Remark: 1. Rationale of this footnote, since the allocation key has been inserted in Annex I.A 2. The second sentence is obsolete Recommendation: 1. Create a new Annex, (I.A (bis)) to capture “historical” statements

24	<p>RED 3LN TAC</p>	<p>The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1997 Quota Table. In 1998, a moratorium on redfish in Division 3LN was declared</p>	<p>Remark:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Unclear rationale of this footnote, since the allocation key has been inserted in Annex I.A The second sentence is obsolete <p>Recommendation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Create a new Annex, (LA (bis)) to capture “historical” statements
25	<p>COD 3M <i>Quota allocated to EU</i></p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Recommendation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Leave as footnote; EU may provide recommendations
26	<p>RED 3LN <i>Quota allocated to EU</i></p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Recommendation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Leave as footnote; EU may provide recommendations
27	<p>HKW 3NO TAC</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Remarks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> This footnote represents a policy decision to adjust the 3NO white hake quota that is more suited as a conservation measure related to catch limitations. <p>Recommendation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Remove – Revised footnote moved to Article 5 as a new subheading and paragraph 13. <p>New text for Article 5.13: Adjustment to the 3NO White Hake Quota</p> <p>13. If a Contracting Party experiences a catch per unit of effort (CPUE) of 3NO white hake that is equal to or higher than that observed in 2002 and 2003 and concludes that there is a shift to high availability of white hake during the fishing season, the Contracting Party shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Notify the Executive Secretary of the higher CPUEs observed; and Submit a summary of evidence for its conclusion (higher than normal CPUE and any other additional relevant information) to the Executive Secretary within one month. <p>14. The Executive Secretary shall provide the evidence submitted in accordance to paragraph 13(b) of this section to the Fisheries Commission for a mail vote as to whether an exceptional increase in the availability of white hake is occurring. The 3NO TAC for the remainder of the year shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Be increased to 2,000 metric tons in the case of a positive vote; or Remain at 1,000 metric tons in the case of a negative vote.

28	<p>WIT 3NO <i>TAC</i></p>	<p>The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1994 Quota Table. In 1995, a moratorium on witch flounder in Division 3 NO was declared</p>	<p>Remark:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rationale of this footnote, since the allocation key has been inserted in Annex I.A 2. The second sentence is obsolete <p>Recommendation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a new Annex, (I.A (bis)) to capture “historical” statements
29	<p>SKA 3LNO <i>TAC</i></p>	<p>Should catches exceed 5,000 t, additional measures would be adopted to further restrain catches in 2016</p>	<p>Remark:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TAC is currently set at 7,000t – rationale? <p>Recommendation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leave as footnote

Annex 16. Improvements in Reporting Apparent Infringements and follow up actions (Article 40)

(STACTIC WP 15/34 Rev. now FC Doc. 15/09)

Background

Currently Article 40.1(d) of the Measures state that each Contracting Party shall report “*the actions taken during the previous year concerning every infringement notified to it by a Contracting Party or with regards to each Surveillance reports it has received, including a description of the specific terms of any penalties imposed*”.

In the interest of highlighting compliance trends and issues with the CEM’s, and to allow Contracting Parties, with an enforcement presence in the NAFO Regulatory Area, to conduct a more comprehensive assessment of compliance, particularly for the purposes of Article 31.6, Contracting Parties need a process to report infringement of the CEM committed by its own vessels.

Proposed Amendments

Amend Article 40 - *Contracting Party Reports on Inspection, Surveillance and Infringements* as follows:

40.1 (d) the action it has taken during the previous year, including a description of the specific terms of any penalties imposed, concerning:

- i. every infringement notified to it by a Contracting Party; and
- ii. **every infringement of the CEM by vessels entitled to fly its flag; and**
- iii. each Surveillance Reports it has received;

Annex 17. Improvements in Reporting Apparent Infringements and follow up actions (Article 40.4)

(STACTIC WP 15/35 Rev. **now FC Doc. 15/10**)

Background

Currently Article 40.4 of the Measures state that each Contracting Party shall provide an explanation when no action is taken regarding an infringement, however no explanation is required where a Flag State Contracting Party takes action but does not impose a penalty.

In the interest of improving the effectiveness of enforcing CEM compliance, an explanation, detailing the reasons for a flag State Contracting Party's inability to impose a penalty in the case of an infringement, would allow Contracting Parties with an enforcement presence in the NRA to adapt enforcement processes to better facilitate flag State Contracting Party follow-up.

Proposed Amendments

Amend Article 40.4 as follows:

4. A Contracting Party shall provide a **sufficiently detailed** explanation regarding every infringement for which it has taken no action **or where no penalties were imposed.**

Annex 18. Format of Haul by Haul Logbook Data to the Secretariat (STACTIC WP 15/36 Rev. 3 **now FC Doc. 15/11**)

Background

Pursuant to Article 28.8(b), the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures require that fishing vessels submit logbook information in an electronic format within 60 days following the completion of each trip. The provided information must at a minimum contain the information outlined in Annex II.N. It also stipulates that if the information is not available in an electronic format, it may be provided using the current observer program data format as outlined in Annex II.M.

In 2014, the Ad-Hoc Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Selectivity and Discards noted that the provision of haul by haul data to the Secretariat would allow for more precise bycatch and discard analysis. At the July, 2015 meeting of that workgroup, the importance of the availability and quality of the information provided to the Secretariat was discussed. It was felt by the group that the current format being used in Annex II.N could be improved by using the revised observer program data format as attached in Annex II.M. Part 2 because it provides catch information on all species as opposed to limiting reported information to three species.

Proposed Amendments

Replace Article 28.8 with the following (text was adopted in STACTIC WP 15/42):

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~~ either Extensible Markup Language (XML) or in a Microsoft Excel file 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.~~

Replace Annex II. N Fishing Logbook Information by Haul with the attached table.

**Annex 19. Seamount Closures:
gear specification for the use of midwater trawls and reporting of VMEs**
(STACTIC WP 15/40 Rev. 2 now FC Doc. 15/13)

Explanatory memorandum

In its reply to a specific request for scientific advice as to the impacts of midwater trawling around seamount closures, the Scientific Council (SC) replied that midwater trawls around seamount closures have the potential to have bottom contact and therefore present a risk of causing Significant Adverse Impact on VMEs (NAFO SCS Doc. 15-12).

Based on the conclusion of the SC, the WG on Ecosystem Approach Framework for Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM), in its meeting of 15-17 July 2015, recommended that the Fisheries Commission (FC) 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, of the NCEM so that it would apply to midwater trawls in the seamount closures referred to in Article 17. In Article 13.2.f., it is stated that vessels operating in redfish fisheries in certain areas should use trawls with no discs, bobbins, or rollers on its footrope or any other attachment designed to make contact with the bottom.

In addition to modifications to midwater trawls, the WG-EAFFM also recommended to the Fisheries Commission (FC) to revise the NCEM in order to require **reporting of all quantities of VME indicator species** (Annex I.E.VI), in seamount closures (Article 17 of the NCEM), for example through logbooks or observer reports. Observers are best suited to identify VMEs indicator species and to record all quantities of VME indicator species in the observers’ reports. Additional reporting obligations on all quantities of VMEs indicator species encountered in each haul when fishing in the seamount closures of Article 17(1) should therefore be included in the observer report. The report should include the VME indicator species, the quantity (total weight in the haul) and the location (including latitude / longitude) for any VME indicator species caught.

Proposed amendments

1. In relation to the use of midwater trawls, it is proposed to amend Article 13 as follows:

Article 13 - Gear Requirements

[...]

Use of Attachments

5. Strengthening ropes, splitting straps and codend floats may be used on trawls, as long as these attachments do not in any way restrict the authorized mesh or obstruct the mesh opening.
6. No vessel shall use any means or device that obstructs or diminishes the size of the meshes. However, vessels may attach devices described in Annex III.B to the upper side of the codend in a manner that does not obstruct the meshes of the codend including any lengthener(s). Canvas, netting or other material may be attached to the underside of the codend of a net only to the extent required to prevent or minimize damage to the codend.
7. Vessels fishing for shrimp in Divisions 3L or 3M shall use sorting grids or grates with a maximum bar spacing of 22 mm. Vessels fishing for shrimp in Division 3L shall also be equipped with toggle chains with a minimum length of 72 cm as measured in accordance with Annex III.B.
8. **When fishing in the seamount closures defined in Article 17(1), only gear that is designed to fish for pelagic species, no portion of which is designed to be or is operated in contact with the bottom at any time is allowed. The gear shall not include discs, bobbins or rollers on its footrope or any other attachments designed to make contact with the bottom. The trawl may have chafing gear attached.**

2. In relation to the additional reporting obligation on VMEs, it is proposed to amend Article 30 and Annex II.M. (Standardized Observer Report Template) as follows:

Article 30 - Observer Program

A. General provisions

Duty to Carry Observer

1. Subject to Article 30.B.1 every fishing vessel shall at all times in the Regulatory Area carry at least one independent and impartial observer.

Duties of the Flag State Contracting Party

2. Every flag State Contracting Party shall provide to the Executive Secretary a list of the observers it intends to deploy to the vessels entitled to fly its flag operating in the Regulatory Area and shall ensure that the observers on board such vessels carry out only the following duties:

monitor compliance with the CEM, in particular verify logbook entries including the composition of catch by species, quantities, live and processed weight; and haul and VMS reports;

maintain detailed records of the daily activity of the vessel whether fishing or not;

for each haul, record the gear type, mesh size, attachments, catch and effort data, coordinates, depth, time of gear on the bottom, catch composition, discards and retained undersized fish;

when fishing on seamount closures as referred to in Article 17(1), report in the comments section of the observer report referred to in Annex II.M., for each haul, all quantities of all VME indicator species as referred to in Annex I.E.VI;

monitor the functioning of the satellite tracking system and report on any interruptions or interference therewith;

use a pre-agreed code to report to an inspection vessel within 24 hours, any infringement of the CEM;

perform such scientific work as the Fisheries Commission may request; and

as soon as possible after leaving the Regulatory Area, and at the latest at arrival of the vessel in port, submit the report, as set out in Annex II.M, in electronic format, to the flag State Contracting Party and, if an inspection in port occurs, to the local port inspection authority. The flag State Contracting Party forwards the report to the Executive Secretary within 30 days following the arrival of the vessel in port

Annex 20. Notification process for the closure of the redfish fishery in NAFO Division 3M

(STACTIC WP 15/39 Rev. 2 **now** FC Doc. 15/12)

Explanatory memorandum

The closure of the 3M redfish fishery relies heavily on timely notifications from the NAFO Executive Secretary.

In its July 2015 meeting, the Working Group on Bycatch, Selectivity and Discards (WG BDS) adopted a recommendation (recommendation no. 4 in NAFO/FC Doc. 15/06) that requests the Fisheries Commission to consider amendments to Article 5.12 of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEM). Those amendments should ensure a speedy closure of the 3M redfish fishery by relying on NAFO notifications based on projected catches, not actual catches. The WG BDS also recommended that STACTIC reviews the modifications prior to their possible adoption by the Fisheries Commission; notably in order to ensure consistency with other existing rules in the NCEM.

The amendments outlined below establish a system whereby, at 100% of the Redfish 3M TAC, the current 5-day notification becomes a closure notice. This would allow Contracting Parties to initiate closing procedures promptly and in advance to the exhaustion of the TAC.

The text proposed includes two new subparagraphs:

- A new edit of Art 5.12 (d) for clarification and to regulate the 100 % closure of redfish 3M separately. No changes in the substance of the 5-day notification process for the other notifications that currently exists.
- A new subparagraph (e), to convert the 100% redfish 3M notification into a closure notice by which the Executive Secretary, 5 days in advance.

Proposed amendments

1. New edit of Article 5.12 (d) – *Duties of the Executive Secretary*

- d) notifies all Contracting Parties by electronic means 5 calendar days in advance of the date on which the available data indicates that total reported catch, including discards,
- i. is estimated at 50% of the TAC, for redfish in Division 3M;
 - ii. is equal to 80% and then 100% for any particular stock subject to an “Others” quota, when such quota exists in accordance with Annex I.A;

2. Insert a new subparagraph (e)

- e) establishes and notifies all Contracting Parties, by electronic means, ~~72~~ 96 hours in advance, the date of closure of the fishery for redfish in Division 3M. The date shall be determined on the basis of projections derived from reported catches, including discards, and indicate when those catches may reach 100% of the TAC.

3. Renumber subparagraphs (e) and (f)

Annex 21. Annual Compliance Review 2015 (Compliance Report for Fishing Year 2014)

(STACTIC WP 15/15 Rev. 2 now FC Doc. 15/21)

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.¹

This review utilizes information for the years 2004 to 2014 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. It starts with the description of the fisheries in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

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. 3LMNO), 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 2014, there were 59 fishing vessels spending a total of 4822 days in the NRA (Table 1), and 140 trips were identified.

Table 1. 2013-2014 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
2013	54	7	4	64	2013	4510	190	79	4779
2014	52	3	5	59	2014	4699	67	56	4822
% change	-3.7%	-57.1%	25.0%	-7.8%	% change	4.2%	-64.7%	-29.1%	0.9%

The groundfish fishery accounted for 97.4% of the total fishing effort (in terms of fishing days), shrimp for around 1.4%, and the pelagic redfish fishery for around 1.2%. The groundfish fishing effort increased by 4%, while shrimp and pelagic redfish effort decreased by 65% and 29% respectively. The big decrease in the shrimp effort is largely attributed to the 50% of the Total Allowance Catch (TAC) in 2014. In all, a slight increase (0.9%) of the total fishing effort was observed (Table 1) compared to 2013.

For the period 2004–2014, the overall fishing activities in the NRA show a declining trend, from 134 active vessels in 2004 to 59 in 2014, representing a 56% decrease. The decline in terms of overall fishing days was a 71% decrease for the same period from 16 480 days in 2004 to 4 822 days in 2014. The average number of days each vessel operates in the NAFO Regulatory Area also declined from 123 days in 2004 to 82 days in 2014.

¹ For the purpose of this compliance analysis, only fishing trips which ended in 2014 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).

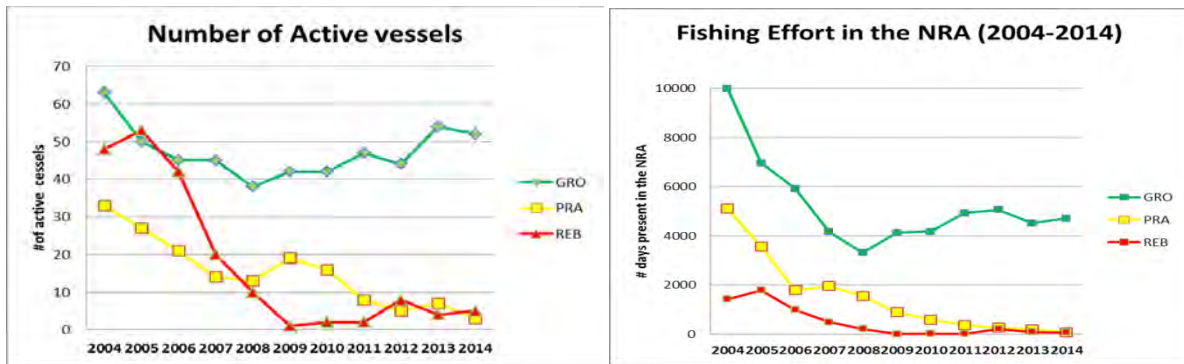


Figure 1. The trend of fishing effort in the NAFO Regulatory Area in the period 2004-2014.

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 2004 and the 2004-2014 average. By 2014, the fishing effort contribution of shrimp fisheries was reduced to 1% largely due to the shrimp fishing moratorium in Division established in 2011 and a reduction of the TAC in 2014.

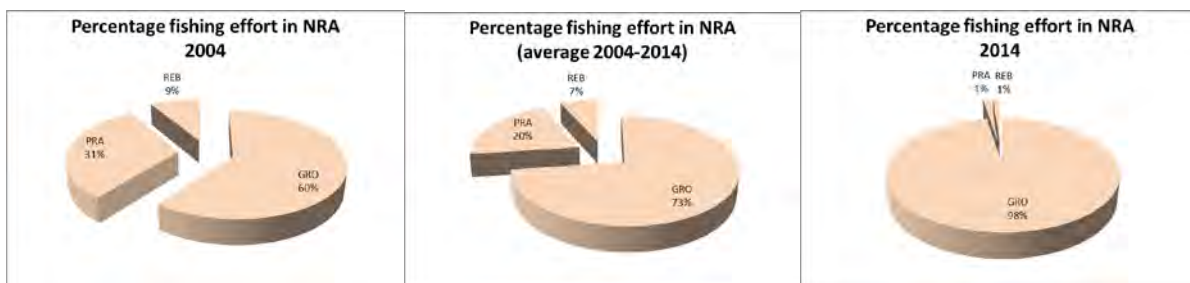


Figure 2. Fishing effort proportions of the three different fishery types (2004-2014) suggesting a shift in fisheries over the years).

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).

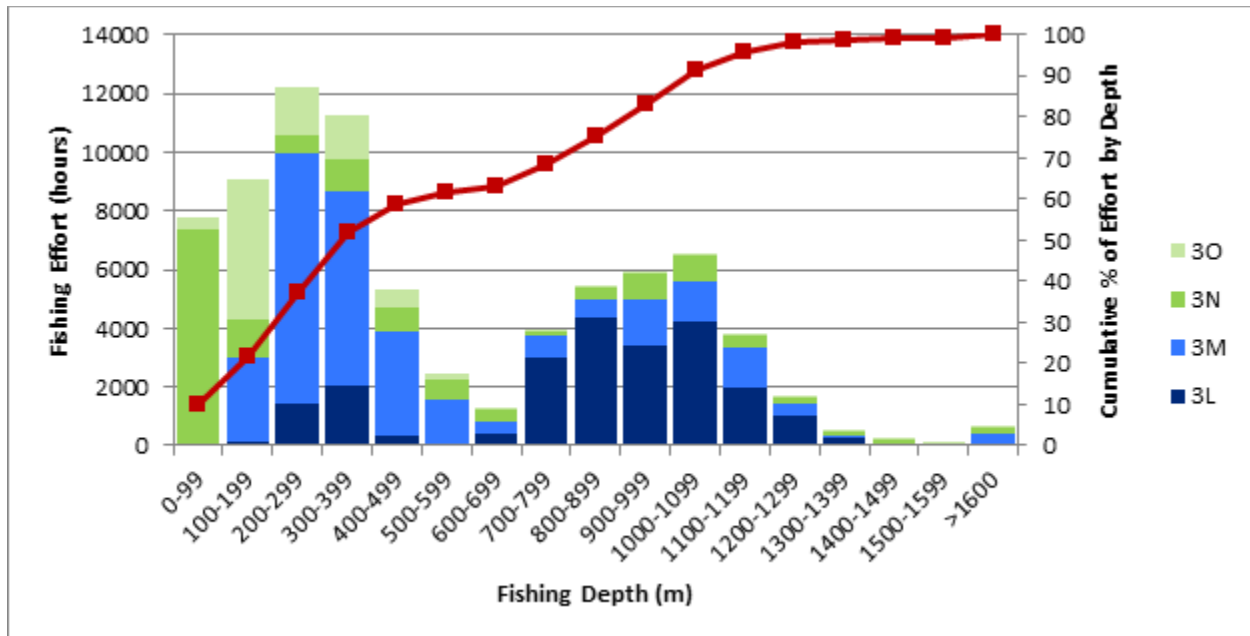


Figure 3. Distribution of groundfish fishing effort by depth in the NRA in 2014 (Divisions 3L, 3M, 3N, and 3O).

Catch Trends

The 2012 CATs represent the first year of complete and generally correct daily catch reports submitted to the Secretariat. With three years of CAT reports, it is now possible to conduct preliminary analysis for catch trends.

Figure 4 shows the plot of groundfish annual catches in Divisions 3LMNO in the years 2012-2014. Major species that are managed through TAC and two species of grenadiers are included in the plot. The examination of Figure 4 revealed the following characteristics of the groundfish fisheries in the NRA Divisions 3LMNO.

- Except for the catches of 3LN Redfish in Division 3L, 3LMNO Greenland halibut in Division 3N and 3LNO Skates in Division 3O, the 2014 catches of the major stocks in the four Divisions decreased in 2014 compared to 2013.
- Division 3M (Flemish Cap) was the most productive (in terms of fish catch) during the three years compared to other Divisions 3LNO.
- Cod in the Flemish Cap represented the most predominant catch, followed by redfish.
- Redfish was the most predominant catch in Division 3O.
- Redfish was a major species caught in all four divisions.
- The fish stocks 3NO Skates and 3LNO Yellowtail were mostly caught in Division 3N.
- A major portion of the 3LMNO GHL catch came from Division 3L.
- More catch of grenadiers occurred in Divisions 3LM than in Divisions 3NO.

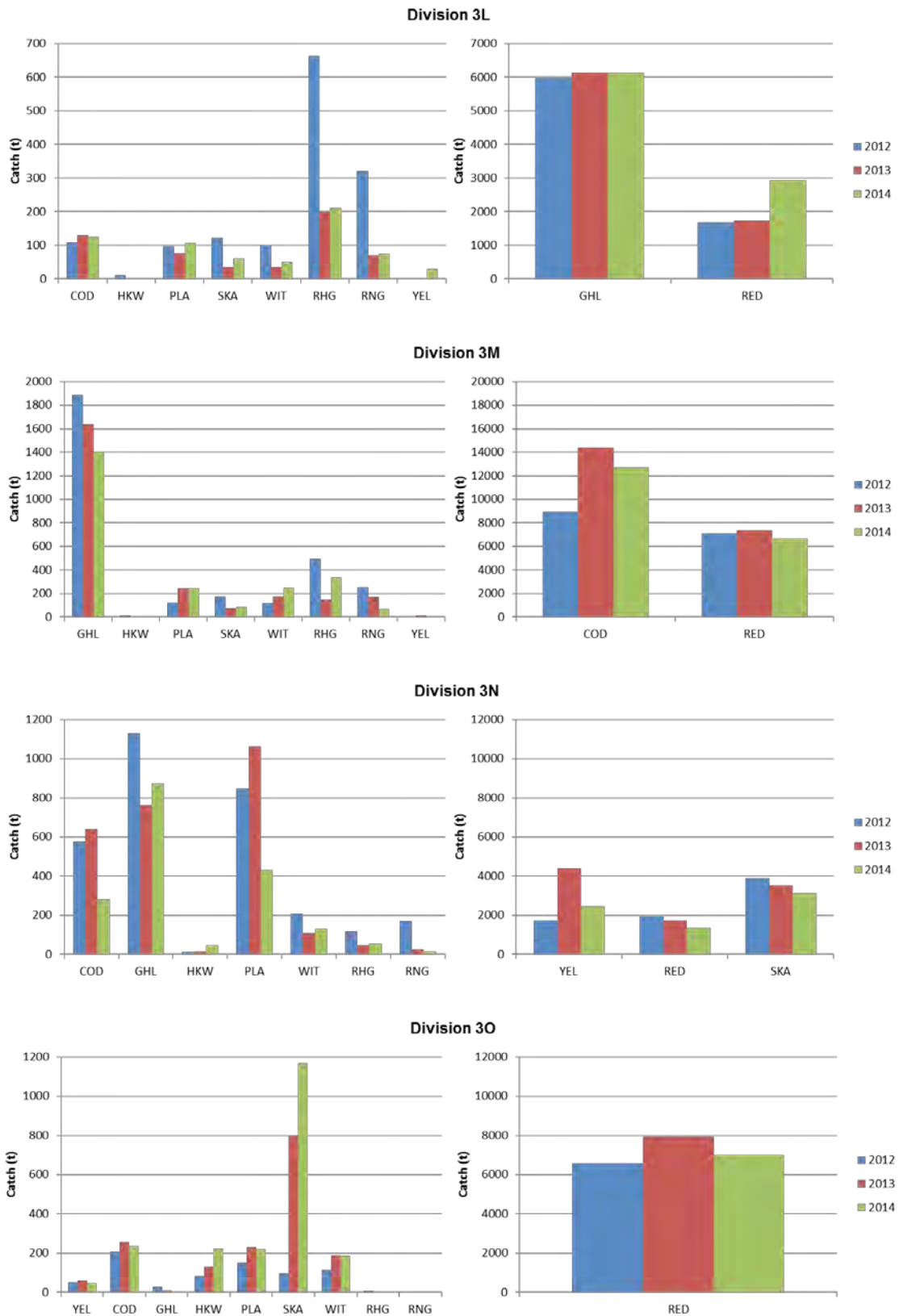


Figure 4. Trends in groundfish catches of selected major species in Divisions 3LMNO (2012-2014).

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 conducts 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 4822 vessel-days, the expected number of VMS reports is 115 728. A total of 124 968 VMS position reports within the vessel-days were received in 2014 fishing trips. This amount suggests that some vessels transmitted their positions more frequently than the required hourly interval. 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. From compliance perspective, this is not an issue.

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 species listed in Annex I.A of the NCEM (under TAC or moratorium). 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 2014 (Source: CAT reports).

Division	1F	3L	3M	3N	3O	4Vn	6G	?
Species (3-alpha FAO code)								
CAP		0.0		0.4	0.3			
COD		124.4	12 719.9	280.9	235.3	0.0		
GHL		6 130.8	1 395.3	874.7	0.3			
HKW		0.3	3.8	46.7	222.4			
PLA		106.9	245.7	431.1	220.6	0.0		
PRA		475.9						19.0
REB	686.1		1.2					
RED		2 929.5	6 670.5	1 361.6	7 021.3	2.8		
SKA		60.5	85.5	3 128.9	1 168.9	0.7		
WIT		49.3	248.5	131.9	184.9			
YEL		29.3	0.3	2 458.7	47.9			
ALF							90.0	
ANG			0.2	34.1	170.8			
CAT		26.8	20.1	10.2	1.5			
HAD		0.1	156.9	20.2	190.8			
HAL		58.4	80.4	288.1	120.9			
RHG		211.0	336.7	53.4	0.6			
RNG		73.6	66.2	14.6				
Grand Total	686.1	10 276.7	22 031.1	9 135.6	9 586.6	3.6	90.0	19.0

Vessel activity after 3M redfish 100%-TAC-uptake notification

The 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. When the TAC is reached, Contracting Parties are notified 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 2014 NCEM), not more than 50% of the TAC may be fished before 1st July. On 13th March 2014, a 50%-TAC uptake notification was circulated by the Secretariat, on which time the fishery would be suspended until 30th June. Figure 5 shows the total daily catches and the percentage cumulative catch derived from CAT reports. On 8th July 2014, a 100% TAC uptake notification (6500 t) was sent effective 10th July. By the closure date, the TAC was exceeded by 4%.

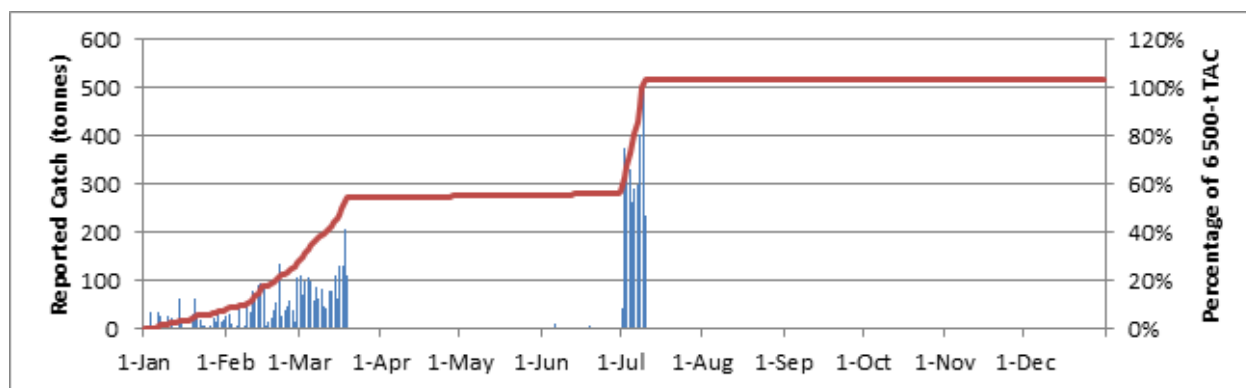


Figure 5. Daily 3M redfish catches of all vessels in 2014.

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 6 confirms that shrimp vessels complied with this regulation. Majority of shrimp fishing took place at depths 300-400m.

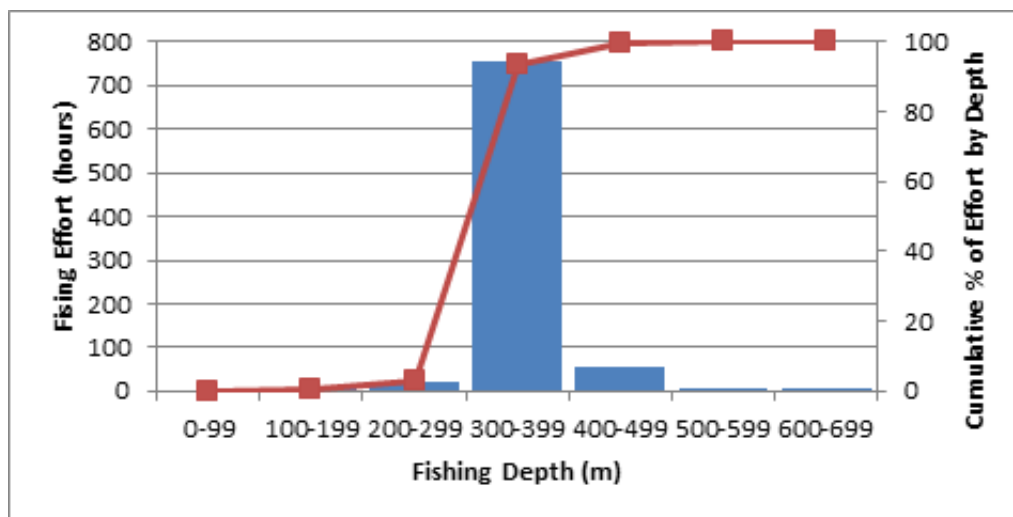


Figure 6. Distribution of shrimp fishing effort by depth in the NRA in 2014.

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 (Figure 7). 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 13 days in February 2014 (Figure 7.D). According to the observer report of this fishing trip in Division 6G, the fishing gear that was used was a mid-water trawl (OTM). The main species caught was 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.

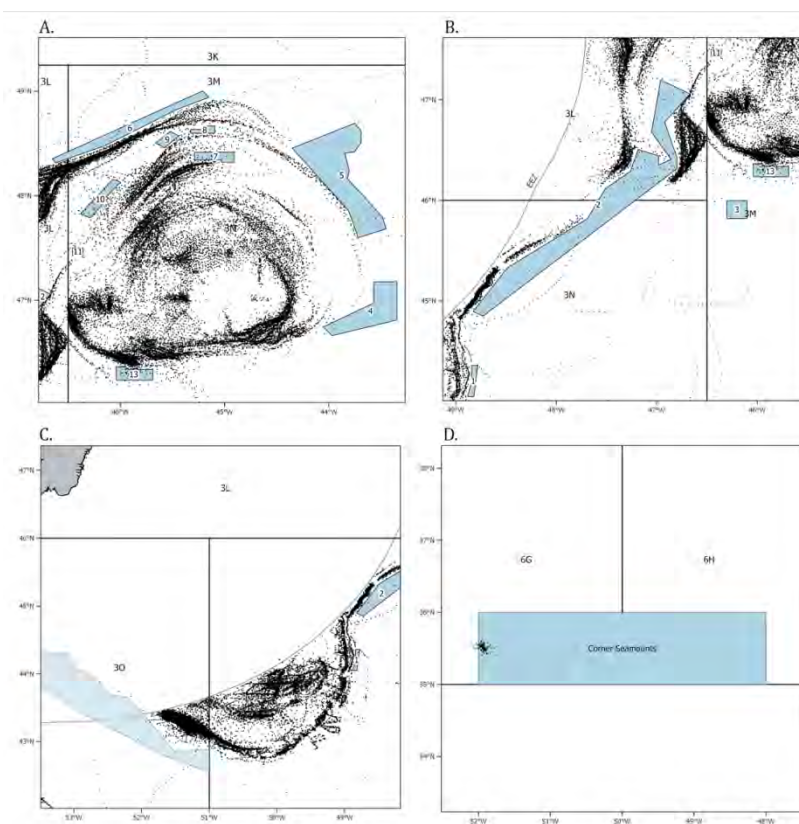


Figure 7. VMS position plots of all vessels at speed 0.5 -5.0 knots in the NRA in 2014 in relation to the VME closed areas and Corner Seamount. A: Flemish Cap, B: Flemish Pass, C: Division 30 Coral Zone, D: Corner Seamount

Catch reporting on sharks

Fishing for the purpose of collecting shark fins is prohibited under NCEM Art. 12. Sharks 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 2014 CAT reports were examined. Not all sharks catches were reported to the species levels. About half 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 2014 (t)	Percentage
BSH	Great Blue Shark	0.6	0.94%
BSK	Basking Shark	5.0	7.99%
DGX	Dogfishes (NS)	28.4	45.28%
GSK	Greenland Shark	21.6	34.45%
POR	Porbeagle	7.0	11.18%
SHX	Large Sharks (NS)	0.1	0.16%

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 169 in 2013 to 135 in 2014. With the slight increase of total fishing effort (1%, from 4779 days in 2013 to 4822 days in 2014), the inspection rate (number of inspections/fishing effort) decreased from 3.5% to 2.8% (Figure 8).

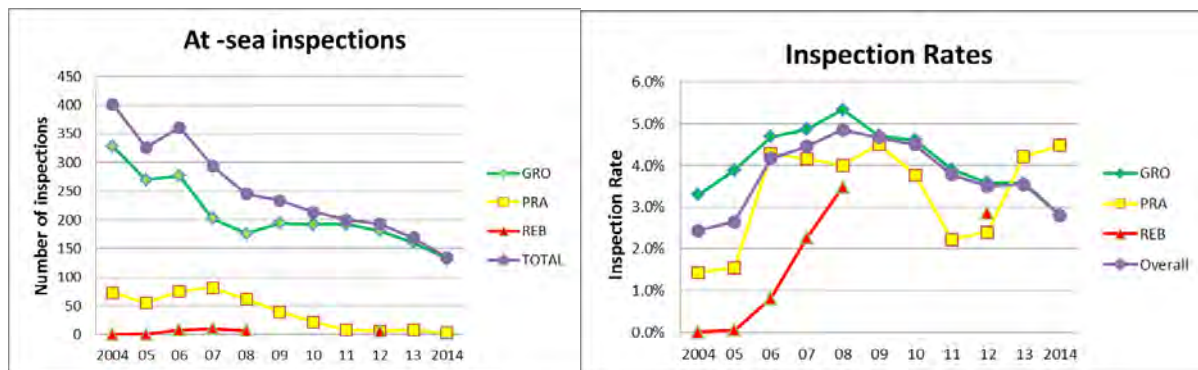


Figure 8. Number of At-Sea Inspections and Inspection rates (number of at-sea inspection/vessel-days) in the NAFO Regulatory Area by fishery type.

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.

In 2014, 98 port inspection reports were received by the Secretariat, 97 of which were associated with groundfish and one with shrimp landings. Some port States submitted port inspection reports on their own vessels making the coverage considerably more than 15% (see Section 4).

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 Apparent Infringements (AI's) considered serious. In 2014, eleven vessels were issued with apparent infringement/s either at-sea or at port. There were twenty one AIs issued. The nature of the AIs ranges from expired capacity plans (considered non-serious) to mis-recording of catches (considered serious). Inspectors determine during the time of inspection whether the AI is considered non-serious or serious. Table 5 give details of the AIs issued at-sea and at ports in 2014 (See Section 5 for follow-up actions and disposition of the AI cases).

In Figure 9, 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.

Table 5. Details of Apparent Infringements (AI) detected in 2014 by at-sea inspectors and port authorities. AIs detected at-sea

AI	Vessel Code	Directed Species (according to CAT)	Insp. CP	Division in NRA or Port Location	Insp. Date	Apparent Infringement	Serious AI? According to Inspectors	Article (2014 NCEM)	Disposition/Followup/ update as of Apr 2014	Reference of Disposition
1	4	COD, RED	CAN	3M	13-Apr	Failed to maintain accurate logbook catch	No	Art. 28.2 b)	Infringement confirmed at landing inspection (Aveiro 14-21 Apr). Case pending.	2014 EU Report on Sea Inspections and on follow-up to Infringements.
2	4	COD, RED	CAN	3M	13-Apr	Failed to report catches accurately in CAT	No	Art. 28.6 c)	"	"
3	3	COD, GHL, RED	CAN	3L	19-Apr	Small mesh size and illegal attachment to gear	Yes	Art. 13.2 and 13.6	Not verified in Port Inspection in Aviero completed 01/08/14. Case Closed.	"
4	2	GHL	CAN	3L	03-May	Mis-recording of catch in the fishing logbook	Yes	Art. 28.2 a) b)	Art. 28.2 (a) (b) verified in EU port inspection (Vigo 12/05/14). Case pending.	
5	2	GHL	CAN	3L	03-May	Failure to maintain a stowage plan.	No	Art. 28.5	Not verified in port inspection (Vigo, 12/05/14)	
6	1	PRA	CAN	3L	18-Aug	Failure to maintain a stowage plan.	No	Art 28.5	The Faroese Fisheries Inspection decided to issue a warning with a notification that infringements of the NCEM should not be repeated.	Faroese Disposition Report - 5 Sep 2014
7	1	PRA	CAN	3L	18-Aug	No Observer on board while committing AI (Failure to maintain stowage plan)	Yes	Art. 38.1 m	"	"
8	1	PRA	EU	3L	12-Sep	Out-of-date capacity plans	No	Art 25.8 h)	The Faroese Fisheries Inspection decided to issue a warning.	Faroese Disposition Report - 31 Oct 2014
9	1	PRA	EU	3L	12-Sep	Product Labelling	No	Art. 27	"	"
10	1	PRA	EU	3L	12-Sep	Failure to transmit COE and COX.	Yes	Art. 28.6.a-b and Art 38-1.k	Circumstances were comparable with a force majeure situation. The Faroese Fisheries Inspection decided to issue a warning.	"

Als detected at ports

AI	Vessel Code	Directed Species (according to CAT)	Insp. CP	Division in NRA or Port Location	Date of insp.	Apparent infringement (Section E.1.B.c)	Serious AI? As considered by Inspectors	Article (2014 NCEM)	Disposition/Followup/update as of May 2014, as reported by flag State Contracting Party	Reference of Disposition
11	6	SKA, GHL	EU	Vigo	04-Feb	Mis-recording of catch HKW and HAD	Yes	Art. 38.1.i	-to be clarified-	
12	11	GHL, SKA	EU	Vigo	21-Mar	>5% of YEL	No	Art. 6.3.d	-to be clarified-	
13	10	COD, GHL, RED	CAN	Argentina	05-May	Exceeding bycatch COD 3N	No	Art. 6.3.b	Fined 101 000 Russian rubles.	Russian Disposition Report -18 Dec 2014
14	10	COD, GHL, RED	CAN	Argentina	05-May	Failure to leave the division	No	Art. 6.6.ii	Fined 101 000 Russian rubles.	Russian Disposition Report -18 Dec 2014
15	4	COD, RED	EU	Aveiro	21-May	Mis-recording of catches	Yes	Art. 38.1	-to be clarified-	
16	9	GHL, RED	EU	Vigo	16-Jun	Incorrect labelling, 3-alpha code of the species missing	No	Art. 27.1.b	-to be clarified-	
17	5	GHL, SKA	EU	Vigo	11-Jul	Labelling not correct regarding the Division of fishing and the 3-Alpha code for Atlantic Halibut	No	Art. 27	-to be clarified-	
18	7	GHL, PRA, COD, RED	EU	Vigo	29-Jul	Mis-recording of catches	Yes	Art. 38.1.i	-to be clarified-	
19	7	GHL, PRA, COD, RED	EU	Vigo	29-Jul	Tampering with evidence.	Yes	Art. 38.1.n	-to be clarified-	
20	6	SKA	EU	Vigo	06-Aug	Mis-recording of several species (COD, HAD, SKA, HAL, WIT, ANG)	Yes	Art. 38.1.i and 6.3 d	-to be clarified-	
21	8	COD, GHL, RED	EU	Vigo	03-Dec	Failure to record one of the production types of HAL in logbook.	No	Art. 28.3.b	-to be clarified-	

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Greenland halibut measures				•							
Mis-recording of catches - stowage		•••••	•••••••	•••••	••	•••••	•	•••••	•		••
Product labelling	•	•••	•••••••••	•••••••••	••	••		•	•••••	•••••	•••••
Vessel requirements - capacity plans	•••	••	•	•••••••	•••••	•••••••	••	•	•••••	•••••	•
Bycatch - move-away										•	•
Bycatch - retaining 3m Redfish										••••••••••	•••••••
By-catch 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 9. Frequency of AI cases detected by NAFO at-sea and port inspectors in 2004 -2014 (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 Vessel Transmitted Information and Observer 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*). 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. For the purpose of evaluating the coverage, 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 100% coverage (see also Figure 9).

Table 6. Fishing effort and VTI statistics in the NRA, 2014.

Number of fishing trips identified	140
Days Present in the Regulatory Area	4 822
Number of Daily Catch Reports (CATs)	4 975
Number of Catch on Entry Reports (COEs)	172
Number of Catch on Exit Reports (COXs)	163

In total 4975 CATs were received, more than the total effort of 4822 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. In long fishing trips, some vessels which visited Canadian ports not to land but to obtain provisions transmitted COEs and COXs. This account for the higher number of COEs and COXs than the fishing trips.

Port inspection reports

When vessels land their catches, the port inspectors report on the quantity of catches as well as the fishing trip details (see *Port Inspections*). However, a port inspection is not automatically required for every landing from NAFO fisheries except when the landings include species under a recovery plan such as Greenland halibut (see Art. 43.10).

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 140 fishing trips identified, COXs of 71 fishing trips indicated Greenland halibut on board. Of the 71 fishing trips (3476 days effort), 57 (3099 days effort) have corresponding port inspection reports – an 89% coverage (see Figure 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 of 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 2014, three (3) 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 2014, the percentage was 80%, i.e. only 3797 out of 4763 days were covered by observer reports (Figure 10).

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 a vast improvement in this regard. Whereas there were only 12 out of 79 reports contained haul by haul information in 2013; in 2014, 83 out of 87 observer reports received by the Secretariat contained haul by haul information.

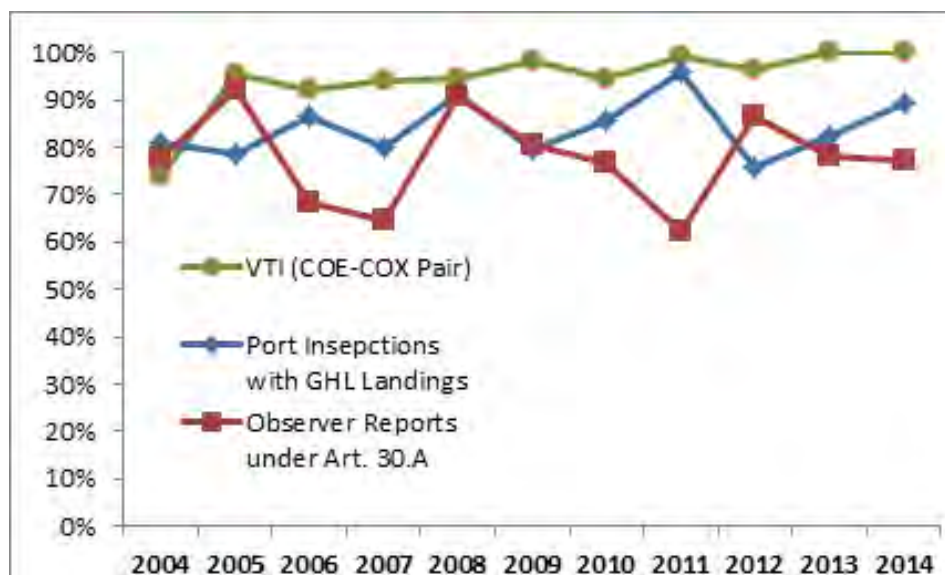


Figure 10. Percentage coverage of fishing effort by VTI (COE-COX Pairs), Port Inspection and Observer Reports as a measure of compliance to report submission requirements.

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; 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 11 shows the timeliness of submission of at-sea inspection, observer and port inspection reports. Less than half of the number of observer reports was received on time (22%). Timeliness in the submission of at-sea and port inspection reports was 94% and 48%, respectively.

At-sea and port inspection reports containing citations of infringements were always transmitted to the Secretariat without delay.

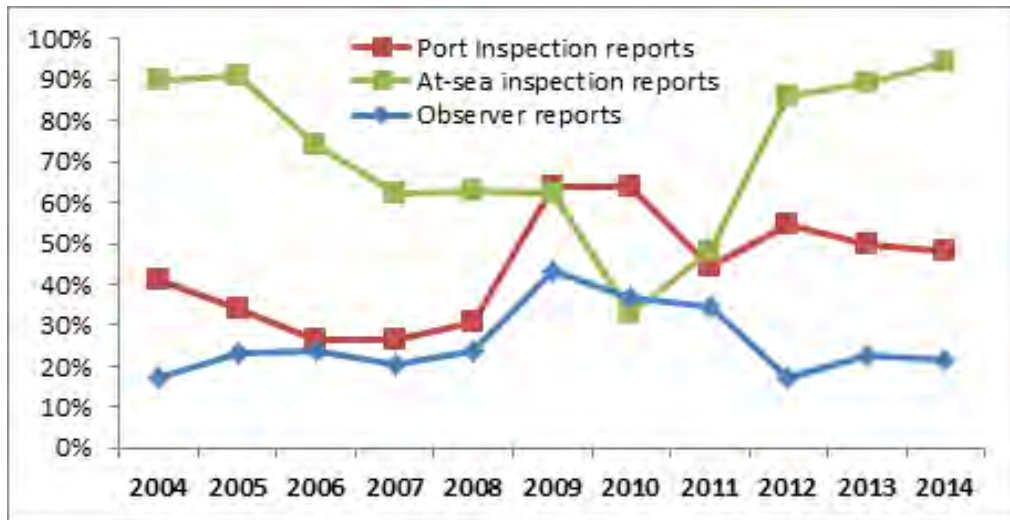


Figure 11. Timeliness of submission of reports. Reports received 30 days after assignment or inspection are considered late.

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 their national legislations and ensuring that sanctions applicable in respect of infringements are adequate in severity. In 2014, five (5) citations were issued by at-sea-inspectors. Of the 5 citations, 1 contained a single AI, 2 citations contained 2 AIs, and 1 citation contained 3 AIs. In all 10 AIs were detected by at-sea inspectors. The nature of the AI range from a non-serious case of expired capacity plans to a serious AI involving mesh size or illegal attachments to gears (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. The follow-up actions on AIs detected in 2014 are presented in Table 5. 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. At the STACTIC Intersessional Meeting in May 2015, questions arose as the provisions in the NCEM are not clear on the reporting obligations of the flag States concerning follow-up actions on vessels issued with AI at port.

It must be noted that legal resolution of AIs may take more than a year. In Table 7, a summary of the status of AI cases in the last five years and their resolution are presented. Pending clarification on follow-up of AIs detected at ports, the statistics for the year 2013 and 2014 includes only AIs detected at-sea.

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 2015). 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 years 2013 and 2014, 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	%	
2010	7	7	100%	0
2011	8	8	100%	0
2012	11	10	91%	1
2013	13	13	100%	0
2014	5	3	60%	2
Total	44	41	81%	

6. Trends, Conclusions and Recommendations

General Trends

- From 2004 to 2008 there has been an observed decline in fishing effort, trend that stabilizing in 2009 with ~5000 days of effort since that time. Fishing effort showed a slight increase in 2014 (+ 0.9%) compared with the previous year. Fishing days in the NRA increased from 4779 days in 2013 to 4822 days in 2014. The number of vessels has decreased by 7.8% from 64 vessels in 2013 to 59 vessels in 2014.
- In the 3L shrimp fishery, 2014 only saw 3 vessels operating which is a decrease from 7 vessels in 2013 and the overall fishing effort has reduced a further 64.7% from 190 days in 2013 to just 67 days in 2014.
- The re-emergence of fishing effort for the Pelagic Redfish Fishery (REB) observed in 2012 has continued but on a reduced scale. Comparing the previous two years, vessel numbers operating in this fishery has increased by 25%, with 5 vessels fishing in 2014 compared to 4 in 2013. However, despite an increase in vessel numbers, effort has been reduced by 29.1%, down from 79 days in 2013 to 56 days in 2014.
- Analysis of groundfish activity by water depth shows that about half of all groundfish effort in 2014 was at depths of <400m. Fishing effort in water depths >greater than 700m continue to decline. This is consistent with a reduced effort for deep water fisheries, such as Greenland halibut. Despite a notable decrease in effort, distribution in the shallower depths (0-99 m), there was no significant change regarding the effort distribution by water depth recorded in 2013.
- A considerable amount of both American plaice and cod was caught in 3N, while in comparison a lesser amount of cod was caught in 3O. Both species are under moratoria. Existing analysis did not indicate whether the bycatch of either stocks exceeded existing bycatch limits outlined in Article 6.3. Additional analysis should be developed for the 2015 compliance report to ensure that bycatch is held within existing limits and does not compromise efforts to rebuild these stocks.

Compliance by Fishing Vessels

- Based on CAT reports the total catches reported by regulated and non-regulated species can be used to identify fishing trends.
- Table 2 of the Compliance Review indicates that PRA were reported without an associated NAFO division in daily catch (CAT) reports submitted by vessel masters. This is a big improvement on 2013 when catches for 8 regulated and unregulated species were recorded. However, it remains that Contracting Parties should ensure that vessel masters are accurately reporting catch of each species by NAFO division in their daily CAT reports.

- Based on VTI reports for 2014, 3M redfish TAC (6500 t) continues to be exceeded, in 2014 by 4%. On 8th July 2014, a 100% TAC uptake notification was sent effective 10th July. By the closure date, and based on VTI reports, the redfish TAC was exceeded by 4% (260 t), this was a significant improvement over 2013, where the TAC was exceeded by 16% (1040 t). However, given that the TAC continues to be exceeded, the Secretariat should consider whether catch projection protocols should include more precautionary (i.e., higher) catch rates when projecting future closure dates.
- Based on 2014 VMS and VTI data, the 3M shrimp fishery moratorium is being respected
- Based on water depth, 3L shrimp fishing vessels continues to comply with a ban of fishing in depths less than 200m.
- Based on VMS reports for 2014, closed areas are being respected.
- 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.
- Reporting of shark captures by species became a requirement in 2012. However about 50% (70% in 2013) of all shark catches were reported as non-specified dogfishes. While this is an improvement in the amount of sharks identified by species compared to 2013, species identification should be improved. Contracting Parties should explore ways to improve species identification of shark species, as required in the CEM.

Inspections and Apparent Infringements

- The number of sea inspections has declined from 169 in 2013 to 135 in 2014 and the corresponding inspection rate has decreased slightly from 3.5% in 2013 to 2.8% in 2014.
- In 2014, 98 port inspection reports were received by the secretariat, 97 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 Greenland halibut, which is subject to a rebuilding plan. However despite achieving improvements on the previous year, 2014 data indicates that 100 percent coverage is still not being met. This will require additional investigation. CPs should investigate why it appears the inspection rate for vessels landing Greenland halibut is only 89% (57 of 71 trips).
- For species being landed which are not subject to a recovery plan, the minimum port inspection coverage rate is 15% as required by NAFO CEM Article 43.10. The coverage rate achieved is considerably higher than this 15% requirement, due in large part to the fact that many Port States are reporting on inspections of their own vessels.
- In 2014, 12 Apparent Infringements (AI's) were detected at-sea. Of these 10 were associated with violations of the NAFO CEM relating to fishing logbook, CAT reports, mesh size and attachments, stowage plans and labelling. A further 2 were considered as serious AI's in accordance with NAFO CEM Article 38 and were attributed to committing an infringement without an observer and failure to communicate messages.
- In 2014, 11 Apparent Infringements were detected in port, with the majority (45%) associated with misreporting. In 2013, the majority (50%) of AIs in port were associated with product labelling and capacity plans. This year, only 18% of AIs in port were associated with product labelling and capacity plans.

Reporting Obligations by CPs and Observers

- In 2014, 85% of fishing days were covered by observer reports. This is a significant improvement on the previous year. Additionally, 83 out of 87 observer reports received by the secretariat contained haul by haul information. This is also a positive improvement on the previous year when only 12 out of 79 reports contained haul by haul information. However, the timeliness of submission of reports still needs improvement.
- 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. In 2014 only 3 vessels took part in this scheme compared with 16 vessels in 2013.

Follow-up to infringements

- Contracting Parties have an obligation to resolve reported AIs. In recent years there has been improvement in the reporting of the follow-up to infringements; however there are still pending cases with little to no additional detail provided on status.
- Timeliness of port inspection reports submitted to the Secretariat needs to be improved.

Annex 22. Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process

(FC WP 15/22 now FC Doc. 15/18)

Recognizing the value of the work completed by the NAFO Working Groups on matters integral to the core mandate of the organization;

Mindful that Contracting Parties must be prudent in expenditures and cognizant of the existing work commitments of Contracting Party representatives;

Noting the importance of ensuring that the participation of representatives of all Contracting Parties is enabled to the highest degree;

It is recommended that:

the NAFO Secretariat organize and chair a virtual meeting and invite the current and immediate past chairs of the:

- Joint Fisheries Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries (WG-EAFFM);
- the Ad hoc Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS);
- the Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies (FC-SC WG-RBMS) and;
- Joint Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council Ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting (FC-SC WG-CR);

This group would be mandated to:

1. identify mechanisms to improve efficiencies, maximize meeting opportunities, and share best practices including advanced sharing of meeting materials (e.g. working papers), scheduling options, utilization of virtual meetings, use of SharePoint sites, etc;

The NAFO Secretariat should prepare a report of outcomes and suggested best practices to be shared with Contracting Parties so they can be considered to the extent possible for the planned activities of the Working Groups in 2016;

2. identify possible overlaps in the Terms of Reference of the above noted Working Groups

and request the NAFO Secretariat to report on these identified overlaps during the Joint Meeting of Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council at the 2016 NAFO Annual Meeting.



STACTIC members, 2015 Annual Meeting, Halifax, Nova Scotia



STACTIC Chair - Gene Martin Jr. (USA) and Matt Kendall (Secretariat)



STACTIC in session

PART II.**Report of the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)
37th Annual Meeting of NAFO****21–25 September 2015
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada****1. Opening by the Chair**

The Chair, Gene Martin (USA) opened the meeting at 14:13pm on Monday, 21 September 2015 at the Westin Nova Scotian in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. 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).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat was appointed as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The following amendments were made to the agenda:

Under agenda Item 12:

- a) Instructions from FC (STACTIC WP 15/37)
- b) Bycatch limits (revision of STACTIC WP 14/24) (STACTIC WP 15/38)
- c) Improving Reporting of Infringements (STACTIC WP 15/34, STACTIC WP 15/35)
- d) Reconfirm adoption of text in Article 9.6

Under agenda Item 16:

- a) International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network (IMCS) Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop (GFETW)

The Agenda was adopted, as amended (Annex 2)

At the request of Contracting Parties, an informal summary of the end of meeting status of the working papers discussed at this meeting has been included in Annex 3.

4. Compliance review 2015 including review of reports of Apparent Infringements

The Chair noted that STACTIC WP 15/12 outlines the information that was distributed to Contracting Parties in June 2015 and was used in the completion of the draft Annual Compliance Review. The Chair then opened the floor for discussions on the 2015 draft Annual Compliance Review 2015 (STACTIC WP 15/15 Rev.). Canada noted that it would be useful to include trends analyses based on various data sources and they noted that they would formalize the request at the next STACTIC Intersessional meeting.

The United States noted concerns regarding Table 4 of STACTIC WP 15/15 (Rev.) in terms of the percentage of shark species that were recorded as DGX (Dogfishes NS). The United States asked STACTIC if a shark species identification guide (similar to the VME indicator species guide) would be useful to Contracting Parties to help progress the identification of shark species. The European Union suggested that Table 4 of STACTIC WP 15/15 (Rev.) include the amount of discards of shark species as well as shark species caught.

It was agreed:

To accept the United States offer to develop a draft shark species identification guide (including 3-alpha codes) for presentation at the next STACTIC Intersessional meeting.

Representatives from several Contracting Parties volunteered to complete STACTIC WP 15/15 (Rev.) in terms of summarizing the compliance review in Part 6: Trends, Conclusions and Recommendations. The text was provided and reviewed by Contracting Parties during the meeting.

At the STACTIC Intersessional meeting in May 2015, it was agreed that:

“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.”

The Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 15/16 (Rev.) Groundfish Catch Trends (2012-2014) in Divisions 3LMNO. STACTIC members agreed that this analysis should be included in the Compliance Review this year, and similar trends analyses could be done for other stocks in the future. It was requested that two of the bullets in the working paper be used in section 6 of the Compliance Review, but that the remaining text and graphs presented in Figure 1 of STACTIC WP 15/16 (Rev.) be included in section 2 of the Compliance Review.

It was **agreed:**

That the Secretariat would include the trends graphs and text presented in STACTIC WP 15/16 (Rev.) in the Annual Compliance Review (STACTIC WP 15/15 (Rev.)).

To accept the text provided by the Contracting Parties for inclusion in section 6 of the Annual Compliance Review.

To recommend STACTIC WP 15/15 (Rev. 2) Annual Compliance Review be forwarded to the Fisheries Commission for adoption.

The Chair introduced STACTIC WP 15/28 Summary of Inspection (At-Sea) Information for 2014 and noted that Part 1 of the working paper contained the summary of Apparent Infringements (AIs) and Part 2 contained the disposition of AIs. This working paper was presented for information purposes. Contracting Parties felt that this information and the format used have greatly improved. Contracting Parties also agreed to be prepared to discuss outstanding cases at the next STACTIC Intersessional meeting.

It was **agreed:**

That Contracting Parties be prepared to discuss outstanding cases at the next STACTIC Intersessional meeting.

5. Report and Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Port State Control Alignment (WG-PSCA), May 2015

At the Intersessional meeting in May 2015, the WG-PSCA presented STACTIC WP 15/08 with the suggested changes agreed upon by the working group, with reservations noted by Japan. STACTIC made changes to incorporate Annex IV.H into the text of the NAFO CEM and the changes were incorporated into STACTIC WP 15/08 (Rev.). The status of the recommendations forwarded to STACTIC were presented in STACTIC WP 15/17 and the comments from Contracting Parties on the draft alignment document (STACTIC WP 15/08 Rev.) that were received by the Secretariat by the 01 July 2015 deadline were presented in STACTIC WP 15/13 (which is attached to this report in Annex 4).

Japan presented its proposal for clarification of and amendments to STACTIC WP 15/13 (which is attached in Annex 5 of this report) and noted that its proposal should be incorporated in its entirety by STACTIC into a revision of STACTIC WP 15/13 in order for Japan to be able to go along with STACTIC WP 15/13 in accordance with its current laws and regulations. The suggested changes were included in STACTIC WP 15/13 (Rev.). Several Contracting Parties stated that they could not accept Japan’s new text in part because it seemed to weaken the effectiveness of the proposed alignment. United States and the European Union then developed clarifying text presented in STACTIC WP 15/13 (Rev. 2) for review by Contracting Parties in an attempt to accommodate the request made by Japan. The EU, in this version of the document, also made a suggestion to copy the text in

Article 48.3 for inclusion in Article 42. Following extensive discussion and attempts to add additional text that would be acceptable to address Japan's concerns, there was no consensus on the issue. Contracting Parties highlighted the fact that the more the text was edited the further away the document came from the original text presented in STACTIC WP 15/13, which was agreed to by the STACTIC Working Group on Port State Control Alignment, noting the reservation that was made by Japan.

The Chair suggested that, due to the lack of consensus to adopt the Port State Alignment document, he would report to the Fisheries Commission: that the draft document with a reservation from Japan (STACTIC WP 15/13) was agreed upon at the May 2015 STACTIC Intersessional meeting; that there was an attempt by STACTIC in this meeting to develop language so that there could be unanimous consent to forward the draft document to the Fisheries Commission; and that in the absence of consensus, STACTIC seeks guidance from the Fisheries Commission on a way forward. Contracting Parties agreed and endorsed the Chair's suggestion.

It was agreed:

To refer the Fisheries Commission to STACTIC WP 15/13 (Annex 4) (the Russian Federation and Norwegian comments received after the Intersessional but before the Annual meeting were not objected to by STACTIC) noting that the draft document with a reservation from Japan (STACTIC WP 15/13) was agreed upon at the May 2015 STACTIC Intersessional meeting;

That there was an attempt in STACTIC to develop language to address Japan's proposal (Annex 5) so that there could be unanimous consent to forward the draft document to the Fisheries Commission; and

That in the absence of consensus, STACTIC seeks guidance from the Fisheries Commission on a way forward.

STACTIC WP 15/18 (Port State Control Alignment Advice from JAGDM) was presented for informational purposes.

6. Review and evaluation of Practices and Procedures

The Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 15/19 Practices and Procedures which is a standing agenda item. The Secretariat explained that they added five items to the Practices and Procedures list since the last STACTIC meeting based on presentations from various Working Group meetings. The Chair asked if any Contracting Party was opposed to the inclusion of the five additions and there were no objections. The European Union noted that Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) gave a presentation at the STACTIC Intersessional meeting that would be useful to add to the webpage. Canada noted that at the Intersessional meeting, it was discussed that Contracting Parties may provide their Fisheries Monitoring Centres (FMC) best practices and procedures to the Secretariat to be uploaded to the webpage. Other Contracting Parties thought this was a good idea for purposes of comparison.

It was agreed:

That Canada would submit its FMC best practices to be uploaded to the Practices and Procedures webpage.

That other Contracting Parties are invited to submit their FMC best practices to be uploaded to the webpage, so that they could be compared at the next STACTIC Intersessional meeting.

7. Review of current IUU list pursuant to NAFO CEM (NCEM) Article 53

At the Intersessional meeting in May 2015, STACTIC discussed the usefulness of displaying other relevant RFMO IUU lists on the NAFO website and 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.”

The Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 15/20 NAFO IUU Draft Webpage and showed the draft webpage to STACTIC participants. Contracting Parties were supportive of including the other RFMO IUU vessel lists on the NAFO Webpage so as to have as much information as possible on IUU Vessels available. It was also noted that if any Contracting Party is aware of an update to a particular vessel on the IUU list, that they should encourage flag States to provide the relevant information for review.

It was **agreed:**

To recommend to the Fisheries Commission that the Secretariat add the IUU lists of other RFMOs to the NAFO website with explanatory text pointing users to other RFMO lists for the most up to date information.

The Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 15/21 NAFO IUU List Update, and noted that there has been an update since the last STACTIC meeting. The vessel Trinity (IMO 7321374) is currently listed as registered to the Republic of Ghana, and the Secretariat received a notification from the Republic of Ghana stating that the vessel was deleted from the Ghanaian Register of Ships on 28 August 2013. The Republic of Ghana has requested that they be removed as the current flag State on the NAFO IUU list.

It was **agreed:**

To advise the Fisheries Commission to recommend to the General Council, in accordance with Article 53, that Ghana be removed as the current flag State for the vessel Trinity (IMO 7321374) on the NAFO IUU list, and replace the current flag State with “Unknown”.

8. Review of the implementation of new NAFO CEM measures

The NAFO Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 15/22 Review of the implementation of the new measures in the 2015 NAFO CEM as a follow up to what was presented at the May 2015 Intersessional meeting (STACTIC WP 15/03 Rev.) discussing the implementation of two new measures in the NAFO CEM:

- Article 28.8 (b) and Annex II.N - Fishing Logbook Information by Haul to be submitted to the Secretariat in an electronic format, 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 problems presented in implementing these new measures and how to address them was deferred to this meeting. At the May 2015 STACTIC Intersessional meeting, it was agreed that Contracting Parties reflect further on how to address these problems. It was also agreed that the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM) be asked for guidance on technical issues in implementing these new measures. The Secretariat highlighted that the template of Annex II.N was not intuitive, which has resulted in several inconsistencies in the way Contracting Parties were filling out the template. The Secretariat presented examples of some of the inconsistencies and noted that these inconsistencies make it extremely difficult to process the data. The Secretariat also noted that the FLUX system between the European Union and the Secretariat should be ready for testing in October.

The Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 15/42, which incorporated the changes to the text in Article 28.8.b suggested by JAGDM in order to clarify the submission of reports in “electronic format”.

At the Ad-Hoc Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing By-catches, Selectivity and Discards (WG-BDS) meeting in July 2015, it was noted that the current format being used in Annex II.N could be improved,

specifically noting the restriction of including only three species. Canada presented STACTIC WP 15/36 (Rev.) with a proposal to use the Annex II.M Part 2 of the observer report template instead of Annex II.N. The European Union noted that there are some issues in using this template with their Electronic Reporting System (ERS). Canada then revised the template and presented it in STACTIC WP 15/36 (Rev. 2) and Contracting Parties made some minor revisions to the template. The final version of the template to serve as a replacement for Annex II.N and the changes to the text in Article 28.8.b (presented in STACTIC WP 15/42) were incorporated in STACTIC WP 15/36 (Rev. 3). Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) took some minor reservation on the timing of the submission of the reports (60 days).

It was **agreed:**

That the proposed changes in STACTIC WP 15/42 be adopted and incorporated into STACTIC WP 15/36 (Rev.3).

To recommend STACTIC WP 15/36 (Rev. 3), which includes changes to the text in Article 28.8.b and a new version of Annex II.N, be forwarded to the Fisheries Commission for adoption.

The Secretariat noted that the issue with the TA field was a result of an internal processing issue and they are working with the service provider to resolve it.

9. International Maritime Organization (IMO) Numbering Scheme

This agenda item was included to give Contracting Parties an opportunity to make any comments regarding the implementation of the IMO numbering scheme requirements that will enter into force on 01 January 2016. Contracting Parties did not have any comments on this agenda item.

10. NAFO Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) Website

At the Intersessional meeting in May 2015, it was agreed that

- ***“the Secretariat would continue to consider technical improvements to the [MCS] website suggested by the CPs, and give a demonstration on the current functionality of MCS website at the Annual Meeting.”***

The Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 15/23 NAFO MCS Website Comments. The Secretariat compiled all of the comments that Contracting Parties provided on the MCS website and provided an update on the status of each. The European Union submitted the original comments in this working paper, and they provided clarification on the comments that the Secretariat was unsure on how to address. Some of the noted issues were that there was some information missing for vessels on the vessel registry page and that there are inconsistencies with the number of notified vessels on the MSC website versus the NAFO website. Canada noted that because the use of the MCS website for Contracting Parties is not mandatory, there will be some missing information. The Chair thanked the European Union for the review of the MCS website and encouraged Contracting Parties to ensure that the information on the website is as accurate and up-to-date as possible.

The Secretariat then presented STACTIC WP 15/24 and gave a demonstration on the functionality of the PSC 1 and PSC 2 exchange on the MCS website. The Chair thanked the Secretariat for their continued work on the MCS website.

The European Union presented STACTIC WP 15/32 which proposed that the MCS website be used as a central hub for information. The United States supports expanded access to data, but notes that currently only those Contracting Parties with an Inspection Presence can access this site, suggesting that changes to access may require consideration of changes to confidentiality rules and roles. Iceland asked if it was possible for Contracting Parties to have access to information regarding its flag State vessels. After reviewing the proposed changes to the NAFO CEM text in the working paper, Contracting Parties felt that more time was needed to fully understand the implications of the proposed changes, including the revision of the access rights.

It was **agreed**:

That the proposal outlined in STACTIC WP 15/32 on the use of the MCS website as a central hub, including a revision of the access rights, be deferred for discussion at the next STACTIC Intersessional meeting.

11. Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) of the NAFO CEM

The Chair highlighted STACTIC WP 15/09 proposing EDG suggested changes to the footnotes to the Annual Quota Table that was presented for review at the May 2015 STACTIC Intersessional meeting. At the Intersessional meeting, Contracting Parties were asked to submit comments on the proposed changes for all footnotes with the exception of certain footnotes relating to pelagic redfish (REB), which would be discussed at this meeting. There were no comments on this working paper from Contracting Parties since the Intersessional meeting; however, there were some concerns raised on some of the proposed changes in the working paper. Specifically that footnote 4 be kept as a footnote, and that the European Union requested that the footnotes pertaining to their review be kept in the 2016 NAFO CEM in order to facilitate their full review. Contracting Parties also discussed the changes to footnote 27 specifically, as representatives from the EDG expressed concerns that the changes as written relating to the 2002-03 baseline for CPUE for catch of white hake may be a substantive change to the NAFO CEM. Contracting Parties agreed that the possible substantive nature of this change should be pointed out to the Fisheries Commission so that the Fisheries Commission would be fully informed of the nature of this proposed changes. Contracting Parties also agreed to changes regarding footnotes relating to pelagic redfish (REB). These changes were reflected in STACTIC WP 15/09 (Rev. 2).

It was **agreed**:

To recommend STACTIC WP 15/09 (Rev. 2) (Review of the footnotes associated to Annex I.A – Annual Quota Table) be forwarded to the Fisheries Commission for adoption noting that the text in Footnote 27 (of STACTIC WP 15/09 (Rev. 2)) may potentially be a substantive change.

12. New and Pending Proposals on Enforcement Measures: Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM

a) Instructions from FC

The Chair highlighted STACTIC WP 15/37, which contained three recommendations from working groups that met intersessionally since the last Annual Meeting. The Fisheries Commission referred these recommendations to STACTIC on the first day of this year's Annual Meeting so that STACTIC could have time to address them.

The first recommendation was from the Working Group on the Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM) requesting to broaden the scope of the application of the meaning of midwater trawl in the NAFO CEM. The European Union presented STACTIC WP 15/40 in response to this request. The Contracting Parties discussed the details of the request and agreed upon the text presented in STACTIC WP 15/40 (Rev. 2).

It was **agreed**:

That STACTIC WP 15/40 (Rev. 2), which was in response to the WG-EAFFM recommendation, be forwarded to the Fisheries Commission for adoption.

The second recommendation was from the Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity in the NAFO Regulatory Area (WG-BDS) and was to review the proposed changes to the text of Article 5.12.d of the NAFO CEM regarding the 3M redfish closure. The European Union presented STACTIC WP 15/39 in response to this recommendation. There were several discussions regarding the re-wording of this measure, and STACTIC agreed on the text that is presented in STACTIC WP 15/39 (Rev.).

It was **agreed:**

That STACTIC WP 15/39 (Rev.), which was in response to the WG-BDS recommendation, be forwarded to the Fisheries Commission for adoption.

The third recommendation was from the FC-SC Ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting (WG-CR) and was that the FC or SC review the utility of the various data sets, with the consideration that the addition of new data submission requirements may make other data requirements redundant. Contracting Parties discussed this recommendation and noted that it was not entirely clear what the WG-CR was asking.

It was **agreed:**

To forward the following text to the Fisheries Commission in response to the Recommendation of the WG-CR:

STACTIC is committed to improving the reliability of catch and monitoring data reported by fishing vessels operating in the NAFO Regulatory Area. The Committee has achieved some significant success in this area in recent years, such as enhancements to the haul by haul catch data in 2015.

In continuation of these efforts, STACTIC is now working on the revision of the NAFO Observer Program, with a particular emphasis on the quality and the standardization of the data to be collected by the observers and made available to NAFO users.

STACTIC is also working with the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission to advance the harmonization of data elements between the 2 RFMOs in an effort to facilitate an efficient exchange of compliance related data.

It is appropriate for STACTIC to review the utility of data collection in respect of control and management purposes. However, utility and compatibility for other purposes, i.e. science, must be considered in collaboration with other relevant NAFO, and NAFO related bodies (JAGDM), as required.

b) Bycatch limits (revision of STACTIC WP 14/24).

The European Union presented STACTIC WP 15/38 which was an update of STACTIC WP 14/24 on the deletion of the Others quota reference in Article 6. Canada and the United States noted that the changes to the NAFO CEM that were presented in the working paper were more substantive than editorial and that it would be more appropriate for the Fisheries Commission to consider these changes.

It was **agreed:**

That STACTIC WP 15/38 be deferred for discussion at another time and possibly by the Fisheries Commission or an appropriate working group.

That the matter of enforceability on bycatch measures be included as an agenda item for discussion at the next STACTIC Intersessional meeting.

c) Improvements on reporting of infringements

Canada presented STACTIC WP 15/34 (Rev.) regarding improvements in reporting Apparent Infringements and highlighting changes to the text in Article 40.1 of the NAFO CEM. Canada noted that there are no clear requirements for reporting of follow up of infringements for flag States dealing with the infringements of vessels entitled to fly their flag in domestic court.

Canada presented STACTIC WP 15/35 (Rev.) regarding improvements in reporting Apparent Infringements and highlighting changes to the text in Article 40.4 of the NAFO CEM. Canada noted the importance of following up on infringements issued at-sea. If such infringements are not confirmed in port, it is important for the Contracting Parties with Inspection Presence to have detailed information on why.

It was **agreed**:

To recommend STACTIC WP 15/34 (Rev.), which includes changes to the text in Article 40.1 of the NAFO CEM, be forwarded to the Fisheries Commission for adoption.

To recommend STACTIC WP 15/35 (Rev.), which includes changes to the text in Article 40.4 of the NAFO CEM, be forwarded to the Fisheries Commission for adoption.

d) Reconfirm adoption of text in Article 9.6

The Chair highlighted that changes to Article 9.6 regarding the definition of the shrimp line were accepted by STACTIC at the May 2015 Intersessional meeting.

It was **agreed** (at the May 2015 Intersessional meeting) 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).

13. Report and Recommendations of the Working Group to Review the NAFO Observer Scheme, April 2015

Douglas Christel (USA), on behalf of the Working Group to Review the NAFO Observer Scheme presented STACTIC WP 15/41 which outlined a proposed work plan for the working group.

It was **agreed**:

To recommend to the Fisheries Commission that the Working Group to Review the NAFO Observer Scheme continue to meet in accordance with STACTIC WP 15/41, which outlines the proposed work plan for the Working Group.

At the May 2015 Intersessional meeting, to forward the recommendations presented in STACTIC WP 15/07 (Rev.) for adoption to the Fisheries Commission.

14. Report of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM), May 2015

The Chair of JAGDM, Brent Napier (Canada), presented STACTIC WP 15/26 which outlined the specific recommendations made by JAGDM in response to requests by STACTIC at the May 2015 Intersessional meeting regarding the new haul by haul reporting requirements. The JAGDM Chair noted that the recommendation on the text in Article 28.8.b regarding the electronic format of the haul by haul submissions and the rules of confidentiality issues regarding data sharing between NAFO and NEAFC are of importance to STACTIC and warrant further consideration. STACTIC WP 15/31 was presented as information on the discussion that JAGDM had on the topic of data sharing between NAFO and NEAFC. The Chair of JAGDM suggested STACTIC reflect on possible data elements (e.g. COE/COX) to advance the NAFO and NEAFC data exchange. A specific proposal from JAGDM regarding changes to the CEM was provided in STACTIC WP 15/29. Contracting Parties noted that these are changes related to the NAF format and they need to be closely reviewed before being accepted. It was also noted that the intent is for the VTI reports between NAFO and NEAFC to be aligned in order to facilitate future data sharing and that NEAFC would also have to accept the changes presented in the working paper. The Chair of JAGDM noted that the working paper (STACTIC WP 15/29) will be presented at the NEAFC Annual meeting in November.

It was **agreed**:

To defer discussions on STACTIC WP 15/29, and that it be recast as a proposal for consideration and adoption at the next STACTIC Intersessional meeting.

15. Information Security Management System (ISMS)

a) Recommendations arising from the external Information Technology (IT) Audit

The Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 15/05 (Rev.) which was deferred from the May 2015 STACTIC Intersessional meeting. The Secretariat noted that the changes included comments from JAGDM on the specific recommendations from the External IT Audit, an update on what the Secretariat has done regarding ISMS since the Intersessional meeting, and changes to the three suggestions from the Secretariat which were:

- 1) STACTIC approve in principle the recommendations table.
- 2) STACTIC recommend that the NAFO Secretariat continue to address as a matter of priority those items in the recommendations table designated for action by the Secretariat.
- 3) The NAFO ISMS be an item on the next STACTIC agenda, in particular to consider how to move forward with addressing the items designated to STACTIC on the recommendations table.

The Chair noted that it would be beneficial for Contracting Parties to review the recommendations that are designated to STACTIC on the recommendations table and that those be highlighted at the Intersessional meeting taking into account considerations for prioritizing the recommendations, while also considering the costs and time associated with each.

It was **agreed**:

To recommend to the Fisheries Commission to endorse the suggestions put forward by the NAFO Secretariat in STACTIC WP 15/05 (Rev.).

That the ISMS be an agenda item at the next STACTIC Intersessional meeting and the recommendations designated to STACTIC in the recommendations table of STACTIC WP 15/05 (Rev.) be discussed.

b) Implementation Update

The Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 15/27, which provided an update on the recommendations from the External IT Audit presented in STACTIC WP 15/05 (Rev.) that have already been, or will be addressed soon, by the Secretariat.

16. Other Matters

a) International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network (IMCS) Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop (GFETW)

The Chair highlighted STACTIC WP 15/33 which discussed the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network (IMCS) 5th Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop (GFETW). The Secretariat received an invitation for NAFO to participate in the workshop and wished to clarify if there was an intent to have a NAFO representative attend the workshop. Canada and the European Union noted that there will be members of their Contracting Parties attending the workshop.

17. Election of Chair

At the 2014 Annual Meeting, Gene Martin (USA) agreed to extend his term as Chair for one additional year in order to provide sufficient transition time for CPs to find an adequate replacement. The Chair noted that the one year period has ended and opened the floor for nominations.

The United States nominated Judy Dwyer (Canada) to serve as the next Chair of STACTIC. Several Contracting Parties expressed their support for the election of Judy Dwyer as the Chair and she was elected by acclamation.

It was **agreed**:

That Judy Dwyer (Canada) would be the next STACTIC Chair and that Aronne Spezzani (European Union) remain Vice Chair at least until the next Annual Meeting.

Several Contracting Parties noted their thanks to the outgoing Chair for his service over the last few years.

18. Time and Place of next meeting

The location of the next Intersessional meeting is to be determined.

The time will be around the 01 May 2016, but the exact date remains to be determined.

19. Adoption of Report

The report was adopted on 24 September 2015.

20. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31am on 24 September 2015. The Chair thanked the Secretariat for their support and 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

Judy Dwyer Robert Lambert Marie-Pier Levesque Brent Napier Lloyd Slaney Chad Ward	Canada
Meinhard Gaardlykke Petur Jacobsen Mads T. Nedergaard	Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
Genadijus Babcionis Carlos Chamizo Timo Kark Jon Lansley Aronne Spezzani	European Union
Áslaug Hólmgeldsdóttir Björgólfur H. Ingason Anna Thormar	Iceland
Kenro Iino Tadaaki Kakinuma Makoto Kato Takahisa Tanabe Junichiro Okamoto Masanori Wada	Japan
Hanne Østgård	Norway
Ilya Skryabin	Russian Federation
Douglas Christel Britta Hinrichsen Gene Martin Ellen Motoi Richard Usher	United States of America
Fred Kingston Jana Aker Ricardo Federizon Mark Harley Matt Kendall	NAFO Secretariat

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Compliance review 2015 including review of reports 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 Article 53
8. Review of the implementation of new NAFO CEM measures
9. International Maritime Organization (IMO) Numbering Scheme
10. NAFO Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Website
11. Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) of the NAFO CEM
12. New and Pending Proposals on Enforcement Measures: Possible Revisions of the NAFO CEM
 - a) Instructions from FC
 - b) Bycatch limits (revision of STACTIC WP 14/24)
 - c) Improving reporting of infringements
 - d) Reconfirm adoption of text in Article 9.6
13. Report and Recommendations of the Working Group to Review the NAFO Observer Scheme, April 2015
14. Report and Advice of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM), May 2015
15. Information Security Management System (ISMS)
 - a) Recommendations arising from the external Information Technology (IT) Audit
 - b) Implementation Update
16. Other Matters
 - a) International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network (IMCS) Global Fisheries Enforcement Training Workshop (GFETW)
17. Election of Chair
18. Time and place of next meeting
19. Adoption of Report
20. Adjournment

Annex 3. Status of STACTIC Working Papers

Agenda Item	WP Number	Status
4. Compliance review 2015 including review of reports of Apparent Infringements	WP 15-12 WP 15-15Rev2 WP 15-16Rev WP 15-28	No action Adopted Incorporated into WP 15-15Rev No action
5. Report and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Port State Control Alignment, May 2015	WP 15-13Rev2 WP 15-17 WP 15-18	Ask FC for advice on how to proceed Adopted No action
6. Review and evaluation of Practices and Procedures	WP 15-19	No action
7. Review of current IUU list pursuant to NAFO CEM Article 53	WP 15-20 WP 15-21	Adopted Adopted
8. Review of the implementation of new NAFO CEM measures	WP 15-22 WP 15-36Rev3 WP 15-42	No action Adopted Adopted
9. IMO Numbering Scheme	None	None
10. NAFO MCS Website	WP 15-23 WP 15-24 WP 15-32	No action No action Defer to intersessional
11. Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) of the NAFO CEM	WP 15-09Rev2 WP 15-25	Adopted No action
12. New and Pending Proposals on Enforcement Measures: Possible Revisions of the NAFO CEM Instructions from FC Bycatch limits (revision of STACTIC WP 14/24) Improving Reporting of infringements Reconfirm adoption of text in Article 9.6	WP 15-37 WP 15-39Rev WP 15-40Rev2 WP 15-38 WP 15-34Rev WP 15-35Rev WP 15-30	No action Adopted Adopted Defer to intersessional Adopted Adopted No action
13. Report and Recommendations of the Working Group to Review the NAFO Observer Scheme, April 2015	WP 15-14 WP 15-41 WP 15-07Rev	No action Adopted Adopted at Intersessional
14. Report and Advice of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM), May 2015	WP 15-26 WP 15-29 WP 15-31	No action Defer to intersessional No action
15. Information Security Management System (ISMS) Recommendations arising from the external IT Audit Implementation Update	WP 15-05Rev WP 15-27	Adopted No action
16. Other Matters GFETW	WP 15-33	No action

**Annex 4. STACTIC WP 15/13 -
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**

Preamble

The *ad hoc Working Group on Port State Control Alignment (WG-PSCA)* met on 04-05 May 2015 in Tallinn, Estonia and recommended:

2. *STACTIC to accept the draft document developed by the working group with reservation noted for the purposes of receiving further comment from Contracting Parties by 01 July 2015. See Annex 1.*

STACTIC WP 15/08 included the proposed amendments to NCEM as *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.*

In response to the WG-PSCA recommendation above, STACTIC revised Annex 1 at its *Intersessional meeting* in May 2015 in Tallinn, Estonia. The revision was presented in Annex 1 of STACTIC Working Paper 15/08 (Revised), which was circulated to all meeting participants for review. Comments were received from Norway and the Russian Federation by the 01 July 2015 deadline.

Proposed Amendments

This working paper uses Annex 1 from STACTIC Working Paper 15/08 (Revised) as its basis with all of the track changes accepted, and the comments from Norway and the Russian Federation incorporated.

Please note further that Japan expressed their reservations on both STACTIC WP 15/08 and STACTIC WP 15/08 (Revised).

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 harvesting or processing fishery resources, landing or transshipping of fishery resources or products derived from fishery resources, or any other activity in preparation for, in support of, or related to 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 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 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 eliminated 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, 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;
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;
16. “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, 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, 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:
- (i) directed fishing for a stock which is subject to a moratorium
 - (ii) directed fishing for a stock for which fishing is prohibited under Article 6
 - (iii) mis-recording of catch, contrary to Article 28 or
 - (iv) repetition of the same serious infringement during a 100 days period or a single fishing trip, whichever 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
 - (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(l) as if the infringement was reported by its own inspector.
3. Each Contracting Party shall take enforcement measures with respect to a vessel entitled 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 conduct 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 Chapter apply to port entries and the use of ports of Contracting Parties by fishing vessels entitled to fly the flag of another Contracting Party, conducting fishing activities in the Regulatory Area. The provisions apply to fish, or fish products originating from such fish, that have not been previously landed or transhipped at a port.

This Chapter also sets out the respective duties of the flag State Contracting Party and obligations of the master of fishing vessels requesting entry to 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 entry for the purpose of landing, transhipment 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 request period. The prior 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 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 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 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 port entries in its ports by vessels entitled to fly 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 donor vessels where the vessel has engaged in transshipment operations.
6. Fishing vessels may not enter port without prior authorization by the competent authorities of the port State Contracting Party. Authorization to land or tranship shall only be given if the confirmation from the flag State 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 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 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.
 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 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) 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 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;
 - (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 acknowledgment 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.
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 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 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 enter port shall forward the request for entry to the competent authorities of the port State Contracting Party within the request period referred to in Article 43.2. Such request shall be accompanied by the form provided for in Annex II.L with Part A duly completed as follows:
 - (a) Form PSC 1, as referred to in Annex II.L.A shall be used where the vessel is carrying, landing or transshipping its own catch; and
 - (b) Form PSC 2, as referred to in Annex II.L.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 carries, lands or transships is intending to land or tranship both [NAFO Secretariat1] its own catch and catch that was received through transshipment.
2. A master or the agent may cancel a prior request by notifying the competent authorities of the port they intended to use. The request shall be accompanied by a copy of the original PSC 1 or 2 with the word "cancelled" written across it.

Comment [NAFO Secretariat1]: Comment from the Russian Federation

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 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, 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 RFMOs, 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 request permission to enter port from the competent authority of the port State Contracting Party 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, 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

- (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~~ [NAFO Secretariat2] 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.

Comment [NAFO Secretariat2]: Comment from Norway

Duties of the Executive Secretary

4. The Executive Secretary shall without delay post the information received pursuant to this Article to the secure part of the NAFO website, and distributes it to all Contracting Parties, relevant RFMOs, 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 NCP 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 NCP vessel listing, including:
 - (i) the reasons and supporting evidence;
 - (ii) a copy of the CEM and a link to its place on the NAFO website;
 - (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;
 - (ii) report within 30 days from the date of the request on the measures it has taken with respect to the vessel concerned; and
 - (iii) state any objections it may have to including the vessel in the IUU Vessel List;
 - (f) transmits to the flag State of the NCP vessel any additional information received pursuant to Articles 49-51 in respect of vessels entitled 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 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 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 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
 - (i) the previous owner no longer has any legal, financial or real interest in such vessel, or exercises no control over it; or
 - (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, 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:
- (i) any of the requirements in paragraph 2(a)-(d) of this Article have been met with regard to a vessel placed on the NEAFC IUU List; or
 - (ii) none of the requirements in paragraph 2(a)-(d) of this Article have been met with regard to a vessel 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.

Annex II.L

Port State Control Prior Request Forms

A-PSC-1

PORT STATE CONTROL FORM – PSC 1									
PART A: To be completed by the Master of the Vessel. Please use black ink									
Name of Vessel:		IMO Number: ¹		Radio Call Sign:		Flag State:			
Email Address:		Telephone Number:		Fax Number:		Inmarsat Number:			
Vessel master's name:		Vessel master's nationality:		Vessel owner:		Certificate of Registry ID:			
Vessel dimensions		Length (m):		Beam (m):		Draft (m):			
Port State:				Port of Landing or Transshipment:					
Last port of call:		Date:		Estimated Date of Arrival:		Estimated Time (UTC) of Arrival:			
Frozen products only		Fresh products only		Fresh and frozen products					
Total catch on board – all areas						Catch to be landed ²			
Species ³	Product ⁴	Area of catch			Conversion factor	Product weight (kg)	Product weight (kg)		
		NEAFC CA (ICES subareas and divisions)	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 authorisation 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:					
Authorisation:	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 I.C ⁴ Product presentations – NEAFC Appendix 1 to Annex IV – NAFO Annex II.K					

B-PSC- 2

PORT STATE CONTROL FORM – PSC 1									
PART A: To be completed by the Master of the Vessel. A separate form shall be completed for each donor vessel. Please use black ink									
Name of Vessel:		IMO Number: ¹		Radio Call Sign:		Flag State:			
Email Address:		Telephone Number:		Fax Number:		Inmarsat Number:			
Vessel master's name:		Vessel master's nationality:		Vessel owner:		Certificate of Registry ID:			
Vessel dimensions		Length (m):		Beam (m):		Draft (m):			
Port State:				Port of Landing or Transshipment:					
Last port of call:			Date:						
Estimated Date of Arrival:				Estimated Time (UTC) of Arrival:					
Frozen products only		Fresh products only		Fresh and frozen products					
Catch Information for Donor Vessels *A separate form shall be completed for each Donor Vessel*									
Name of Vessel		IMO 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			Conversion factor	Product weight (kg)	Product weight (kg)		
		NEAFC CA (ICES subareas and divisions)	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 authorisation 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:					
Authorisation:	Yes:		No:		Date:
Signature:			Official Stamp:		
<p>¹ Fishing vessels not assigned an IMO number shall provide their external registration number</p> <p>² If necessary an additional form or forms shall be used</p> <p>³ FAO Species Codes – NEAFC Annex V - NAFO Annex II</p> <p>⁴ Product presentations – NEAFC Appendix 1 to Annex IV - NAFO Annex II.K [NAFO Secretariat3] xx (€)</p>					

Comment [NAFO Secretariat3]: Comment from Norway

Annex IV.C
Report on Port State Control Inspection (PSC 3)
(Please use black ink)

A. INSPECTION REFERENCE.					Inspection report number:		
Landing	Yes	No	Transshipment	Yes	No	Other reason for port entry	
Port State				Port of landing or transshipment			
Vessel name			Flag State		IMO Number²		International Radio call sign
Landing / transshipment Start Date					Landing / transshipment Start Time (UTC)		
Landing / transshipment End Date					Landing / transshipment End Time (UTC)		
Vessel master's name:		Vessel master's nationality:		Vessel's owner/operator:		Certificate of Registry ID:	
VMS:		Port of registry:		Fishing master's name:		Fishing master's nationality:	
Vessel' beneficial owner³:		Vessel's agent:		Vessel Type:			
Last port of call:					Date:		
B. INSPECTION DETAILS							
Name of donor vessel⁴		IMO Number¹		Radio call sign		Flag State	
B 1. CATCH RECORDED IN THE LOGBOOK							
Species⁵		Area of catch		Declared live weight kg		Conversion factor used	

^{1&2} Fishing vessels not assigned an IMO number shall provide their external registration number

³ If known and if different from vessel's owner

⁴ In case where a vessel has engaged in transshipment operations, a separate form shall be used for each donor vessel.

⁵ FAO Species Codes – NEAFC Annex V - NAFO Annex I.C

C2. GEAR INSPECTION IN PORT (In accordance with Article 43.13 (j) Annex IV.H [NAFO Secretariat4])						Comment [NAFO Secretariat 4]: Comment from Norway
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. Otter Trawl details						
NAFO Seal number				Is seal undamaged?		
Gear type				Yes	No	
Attachments						
Grate Bar Spacing (mm).						
Mesh type						
Average mesh sizes (mm)						
Trawl part						
Wings						
Body						
Lengthening Piecch+						
Codend						
D. Observations by the master:						
I,the undersigned, Master of the vesselhereby confirm that a copy of this report have 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						
E.1 NAFO						
E.1 A At Sea Inspection						
Infringements resulting from Inspections inside NAFO R.A.						
Inspection Party	Date of inspection	Division	NAFO CEM infringement legal reference			
E.1 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 CEM infringement legal reference		National Infringement legal reference				

E2. NEAFC INFRINGEMENT NOTED		
Article	NEAFC provision(s) violated and summary of pertinent facts	
Inspector's observations:		
Action taken:		
Inspecting authority / agency:		
Inspectors Name	Inspectors signature	Date and place
F. DISTRIBUTION		
Copy to flag State	Copy to NEAFC Secretary	Copy to NAFO Executive Secretary

Annex 5. Japan’s proposal for clarification of and amendments to STACTIC WP 15/13

Article 42 - Scope*

(Following footnote should be added to Article 42.)

* In this Chapter, each Contracting Party may fulfill its obligations of taking necessary measures relating to the use of ports and the use of port services by means of denying port entries of the fishing vessels in accordance with its domestic laws and regulations.

(reason: the provisions in this chapter apply not only to port entries but also to the use of ports and port services of Contracting Parties by fishing vessels entitled to fly the flag of another Contracting parties, conducting fishing activities in the Regulatory Area. Since Japan has no legislation to directly control the use of ports and port services of the fishing vessels, we hope that denial of port entries constitutes the denial of the use of ports and port services.)

paragraphs 10 (2nd sentence), 13 and 16 of Article 43

(Following statement should be put on record in the STACTIC Report.)

It is confirmed by the Contracting Parties that details of implementation of provisions of paragraphs 10, 13 and 16 of Article 43 are left to the discretion of each Contracting Party.

(reason: If these provisions require domestic laws and regulations, Japan is not able to accept the proposed amendments at this point. If above interpretation is shared by NAFO Contracting Parties, Japan may be able to join other Contracting Parties for adoption.)

Article 43 paragraph 1

“[to the great extent possible]” should be retained.

(reason: If “[to the great extent possible]” is not retained, this provision may go beyond the scope of the Japanese national laws and regulations as they stand now, and therefore, we may not be able to legally implement it.)

Article 54 paragraph (b)

“both at-sea and” should be deleted.

(reason: If “both at-sea and” is not deleted, this provision goes beyond the scope of the Japanese national laws and regulations as they stand now, and therefore, we are not able to legally implement it.)

SECTION III
(pages 179–194)

Report of the STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group

8–10 December 2015
Reykjavik, Iceland

Contents

1. Article 30 PART A.....	181
2. Article 30 PART B.....	181
3. Other Provisions.....	181
4. Training/Equipment/Certification	182
5. Area without consensus.....	182
Annex 1. List of Participants.....	183
Annex 2. Agenda	184
Annex 3. Record of Discussion.....	185

Report of the STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group (FC Doc. 15/24)

8–10 December 2015
Reykjavik, Iceland

The NAFO STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group met in Reykjavik, Iceland December 8-10, 2015. The group reviewed each provision in Article 30 and identified an action plan for the coming year to revise or replace existing provisions and identify need for new provisions. The annex to this report describes in detail which provisions of Article 30 were identified for modification and areas where new provisions are proposed; however, the summary below identifies key areas proposed for change as well as potential new provisions being considered.

1. Article 30 PART A

A need was identified to develop language to describe the objective of the observer program, and language will be developed that identifies the objective as being to collect data for the use of all NAFO bodies.

A definition of observer will be developed to describe a “certified” observer.

A two part provision will be developed to differentiate between duties for observers onboard their own Contracting Party vessels and observers assigned to other CP vessels. The purpose of this provision is to ensure that Contracting Parties are not limited in the assignment of duties to their domestic observers, nor are they constrained in what duties they can assign to other Contracting Party observers onboard their own vessels.

New language will be proposed to describe the process for observers to report an infringement, in recognition of the fact that the existing process is not functioning as was intended.

Where vessels are obliged to carry an observer, a new provision will require that they refrain from any fishing activity until the observer is onboard the vessel.

A new provision will propose a penalty for vessels that are required to carry an observer but do not.

Another provision will be drafted requiring that all observer reports are posted to the inspectors website, with due consideration to confidentiality requirements.

Provisions requiring the master to cooperate with and assist the observer will be strengthened and will include an annexed Code of Conduct for observers and masters that will allow observers an opportunity to report harassment.

2. Article 30 PART B

It is anticipated that Part B of Article 30 will disappear when a newly revised Article 30 is adopted. Part B of Article 30 relates to a pilot project to allow derogation from the 100% observer coverage requirement where the master and observer were submitting daily catch reports. However, since the time that these provisions were implemented, NAFO has implemented a new requirement in Article 28 requiring all vessel masters to report daily. Additionally, as the “pilot project” will likely cease with the implementation of a revised Article 30, it is necessary to review each provision to ensure that any requirements that should be kept are incorporated into the revised provisions. A number of redundancies were identified during the meeting but a thorough review of each measure is required before any measures are proposed for deletion.

Language will be put forward to incorporate a review of observer program performance into annual STACTIC compliance review.

3. Other Provisions

Establishment of Criteria for Observer Coverage/ Consultation with Scientific Council

Discussion on the establishment of observer coverage levels did not result in an agreed approach; however, there was consensus on the importance of having criteria to guide the establishment of coverage levels. STACTIC Working Paper 04/29 (discussion paper on the establishment of observer coverage levels) will be revised and distributed for consideration by the WG.

The 2004 paper proposes an approach to establish a base level of coverage based on conservation risk and then adjust the level based on the compliance level; however, with a stated objective for the program to produce

data for use by all NAFO bodies, it was decided that Scientific Council should have input into the criteria for establishment of coverage levels, based upon their data requirements.

4. Training/Equipment/Certification

The WG discussed the provision of equipment and the requirements for certification of observers and determined that standards would help to ensure consistency in the program. To that end, each member will provide a list of their domestic processes and a harmonized standard will be developed for training, equipment and certification. Additionally, guidelines will be developed for the development of minimum qualifications for observers.

One area of consensus for the WG with respect to equipment was the provision of an independent means of communication for observers to transmit reports from their assigned vessels.

5. Area without consensus

Article 30 currently requires that all infringements detected onboard unobserved vessels be considered as serious infringements. In the absence of consensus on retaining this provision, members of the Working Group were asked to reflect further on this provision for later discussion.

The Working Group will meet in March, 2016 via conference call to assess progress on the development of the action plan and prepare for a report to the Intersessional meeting of STACTIC in May.

Annex 1. List of Participants

Judy Dwyer Lloyd Slaney	Canada
Meinhard Gaardlykke Petur Jacobsen	Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
Jon Lansley Aronne Spezzani	European Union
Brynhildur Benediksdottir Saevar Gudmudsson Bjorgolfur Ignason Hrannar MaiAggarsson	Iceland
Gene Martin	United States of America

Annex 2. Agenda

Tuesday, 8 December

08:30–12:00 Objective of Program

13:00–16:30 Duties of Observers

Wednesday, 9 December

08:30–12:00 Training, Designation and Equipment

13:00–16:30 Roles and Responsibilities

Thursday, 10 December

08:30–12:00 Criteria for Coverage

13:00–16:30 Walkthrough of Article 30- SWOT Analysis –Review of Workplan for 2016

Annex 3. Record of Discussion

Art. 30	ACTION REQUIRED	ACTION TO BE TAKEN	PROPOSED LANGUAGE
<p>1. GENERAL PROVISIONS Duty to Carry Observer 1. Subject to Article 30.B.1 every fishing vessel shall at all times in the Regulatory Area carry at least one independent and impartial observer.</p>	<p>Insert Chapeau with language to describe the objective of the program, i.e. collect data for use by NAFO. Revise upon completion or establishment of criteria for coverage levels. (Consider inclusion of requirement for CP to update inspector website with OBSERVER deployment information)</p>	<p>Canada to draft language for this article.</p>	<p>Subject to Article 30.B.1 every fishing vessel shall at all times in the Regulatory Area carry at least one certified independent and impartial observer.</p>
<p>2. Duties of the Flag State Contracting Party 2. Every flag State Contracting Party shall provide to the Executive Secretary a list of the observers it intends to deploy to the vessels entitled to fly its flag operating in the Regulatory Area and shall ensure that the observers on board such vessels carry out only the following duties:</p>	<p>Language requires revision.</p>	<p>US to draft a definition of observer in Art 1 to mean certified observer.</p>	<p>Every flag State Contracting Party shall provide to the Executive Secretary a list of its certified observers it intends to deploy to the vessels entitled to fly its flag operating in the Regulatory Area and shall ensure that its observers on board such vessels carry out only the following duties:</p>



(a)	<p>monitor compliance with the CEM, in particularly verify logbook entries including the composition of catch by species, quantities, live and processed weight; and hail and VMS reports;</p>	<p>Create a two part provision (a) & (b).</p> <p>(a) Observers on their CP vessels and the language would read “at a minimum”</p> <p>(b) Observers on other CP vessels and the language could read “shall only” ..., however additional duties may be assigned with the agreement of both CPs.</p> <p>These revisions consolidate (a), (b) and (c) to reflect the required information in Annex IIM.</p> <p>Cross reference Annex to ensure nothing has been missed or consistent. Must be articulated to include all provisions outlined in Annex IIM.</p>	<p>Canada to prepare draft.</p>	
(b)	<p>maintain detailed records of the daily activity of the vessel whether fishing or not;</p>			
(c)	<p>for each haul, record the gear type, mesh size, attachments, catch and effort data, coordinates, depth, time of gear on the bottom, catch composition, discards and retained undersized fish;</p>			
	<p>(d) monitor the functioning of the satellite tracking system and report on any interruptions or interference therewith;</p>	<p>Consolidate (d) & (e) to outline a process or concept for immediate reporting of serious and repetitive non-serious infringements.</p>	<p>Canada to prepare a draft version.</p>	<p>e.g. Monitor and report on any potential infringement of the CEMs to the Flag state and to the NAFO Secretariat without delay</p>
	<p>(e) use a pre-agreed code to report to an inspection vessel within 24 hours, any infringement of the CEM;</p>	<p>Consider a reporting form for infringements.</p>	<p>Canada to prepare a draft version.</p>	
	<p>(f) perform such scientific work as the Fisheries Commission may request; and</p>	<p>Maintain item but remove word scientific.</p>	<p>.</p>	<p>Perform such work as the Fisheries Commission may request; and</p>

	<p>(g) as soon as possible after leaving the Regulatory Area, and at the latest at arrival of the vessel in port, submit the report, as set out in Annex II.M, in electronic format, to the flag State Contracting Party and, if an inspection in port occurs, to the local port inspection authority. The flag State Contracting Party forwards the report to the Executive Secretary within 30 days following the arrival of the vessel in port.</p>	<p>Amend to include replacement wording for electronic format.</p> <p>ACTION: vet through JAGDM</p>	<p>Canada to request confirmation of terminology from JAGDM</p>	<p>as soon as possible after leaving the Regulatory Area, and at the latest at arrival of the vessel in port, submit the report, as set out in Annex II.M, in computer readable form, to the flag State Contracting Party and, if an inspection in port occurs, to the local port inspection authority. The flag State Contracting Party forwards the report to the Executive Secretary within 30 days following the arrival of the vessel in port.</p>
3.	<p>Each vessel shall provide food and accommodation to the observer of a standard no less than that provided to the crew.</p>	<p>Further reflection on this provision is required. Ideally shift to new section with Duties of the Master. Any standard should be tied to that of the vessel's officers.</p>	<p>US to prepare draft, taking into consideration that accommodations at 'officer standard' not always available</p> <p>Each vessel shall provide food and accommodation to the observer of a standard no less than that provided to the vessel's officers.</p>	
4.	<p>The master shall extend such co-operation and assistance as may be required to enable the observer to carry out the observer's duties. Such cooperation shall include providing the observer with such access as may be required to the catch retained onboard, including such catch as the vessel may intend to discard.</p>	<p>Further reflection on the provision is required. Ideally shift to new section entitled Duties of the Master.</p> <p>Consider development of language linking to annex with Code of Conduct for observer and Master.</p>	<p>EU to draft Code of Conduct</p>	



5.	<p>Fishing Vessel without Observer Where, contrary to paragraph A.1, a fishing vessel is not carrying an observer, any other Contracting Party may, with the consent of the flag State Contracting Party, deploy an observer to the vessel who may remain onboard until flag State Contracting Party deploys an observer to the vessel.</p>	<p>Concept: where a CP is required to take an observer, the vessel must have the observer onboard the vessel before engaging in the fishing activity. Consider penalty section for failure to carry an observer when required to do so.</p>	Canada to draft.	Where a vessel required to carry an OBSERVER is not carrying one, any other Contracting Party may, with the consent of the flag State Contracting Party, deploy an observer to the vessel.
6.	<p>Costs 1. Subject to any arrangement with another Contracting Party, each Contracting Party shall bear the costs of remunerating every observer it has deployed.</p>	<p>Consensus that remains unchanged.</p>		
7.	<p>Duties of the Executive Secretary The Executive Secretary provides to any Contracting Party:</p>	<p>4. For (a) & (b), develop provision for all observer reports to be posted to the inspector's website and available to NAFO and to CPs for inspection purposes, with due consideration to confidentiality requirements.</p>	US to draft.	
7.(a)	<p>(a) with an inspection presence in the NRA, a copy of the report referred to in paragraph 2(g), including individual hauls and co-ordinates.</p>			
7.(b)	<p>1. (b) without an inspection presence in the NRA, upon request, a copy of the report referred to in paragraph 2(g), providing daily catch totals by species and division.</p>			
Part B:	Electronic Reporting	<p>Consensus that many/most of the provisions in Part B can be amended or removed</p>	<p>Canada to review provisions in Part B to identify which can be deleted, and which should be modified for inclusion in the revised Article 30</p>	

<p>B 1. (a), (b), (c) and (d)</p>	<p>1. (a) Only vessels of Contracting Parties with functional VMS systems that have the necessary technical facilities in place to send electronic “observer reports” and “catch reports” are allowed to apply the provisions laid down in this chapter.</p> <p>(a) However, by way of derogation from these measures a Contracting Party may withdraw observers from vessels applying the provisions of this chapter on the condition that the technical facilities on board the vessel necessary to send electronic “observer reports” and “catch reports” have been tested with the NAFO Secretariat and Contracting Parties with an inspection presence in the Regulatory Area.</p> <p>(b) The testing of this exchange shall be deemed successful once data exchanges have been completed with all recipients at a 100% reliability rate.</p> <p>(c) A Contracting Party with a vessel applying the provisions of this chapter shall withdraw the observer for no more than 75% of the time that the vessel spends in the Regulatory Area during the year.</p>	<p>B1. a,b,c,d - redundant</p>		
<p>2.</p>	<p>Duties of the Flag State Contracting Party</p> <p>1. Each Contracting Party that intends to apply paragraph B.1 shall:</p> <p>(a) no later than 30 days prior to the start of its fishing season, notify the Executive Secretary of its intention and, before it authorizes a vessel to operate in accordance with this Article, of the name of such vessel and the period of time during which it will not carry an observer.</p> <p>(b) ensure that, for each fishery in which the fishing vessels entitled to fly its flag operating in accordance with this Article are engaged, there is a balance between fishing vessels carrying observers and fishing vessels not carrying observers.</p>	<p>Under new model it will become redundant.</p>		
		<p>Likely be redundant, assuming new model incorporates balance.</p>		



2.	<p>3. Where an inspector issues a notice of an infringement to a fishing vessel applying this Article that is not carrying an observer at the time of the notice, the flag State Contracting Party shall deem the infringement a serious infringement for the purpose of Article 38.1 and, where it does not require the fishing vessel to proceed immediately to port in accordance with Article 38.5, it shall deploy an observer to the fishing vessel without delay.</p>	<p>No consensus- All CPs to reflect and provide input at later date.</p>	<p>All CPs to provide input. Canada to roll up comments of all.</p>	
4.	<p>Report to STACTIC</p> <p>4.0 Each Contracting Party applying Article 30.B shall submit to the Executive Secretary by 1 March each year for the previous calendar year a report containing the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) compliance overall and notably comparison between vessels with and without observers; (b) costs or savings for the industry and for the authorities of the Contracting Party (including those with an inspection presence); (c) interaction with traditional means of control; and (d) technical functioning of the Scheme and reliability. 	<p>This section could be deleted; however provision for annual STACTIC review of performance of observer program must be incorporated into compliance review.</p>	<p>Canada to prepare draft language for insertion in description of annual compliance review</p>	
5.	<p>Costs:</p> <p>Subject to a different arrangement with another Contracting Party, each Contracting Party shall pay its own costs of applying this Article.</p>	<p>No change.</p>		
6. (a) (b)	<p>Daily Reports by the Observer and the Master</p> <p>The observer on board a vessel applying this Article shall:</p> <p>in addition to the duties described in Article 30.A.2, transmit daily in accordance with Annex II.G, the OBR report to the flag State Contracting Party FMC which shall in turn, no later than 12:00 UTC of the day following its receipt, transmit it to the Executive Secretary; and</p> <p>where electronic data transfer is disabled, daily transmit the report by another means and maintain a written log available to inspectors of the data so transmitted.</p>	<p>Re-write both (a) and (b) to describe as currently reflected in part A.2</p>	<p>Canada to draft.</p>	

7.	<p>The master of a vessel applying this Article shall:</p> <p>(a) in accordance with Annex II.F(3), transmit daily the CAT report to the flag State Contracting Party FMC and ensure that the catch so reported corresponds to the log book entries. The FMC shall in turn, no later than 12:00 UTC of the day following its receipt, transmit the report to the Executive Secretary; and</p> <p>(b) where electronic data transfer is disabled, daily transmit the report by another means and maintain, available to inspectors, a written log of the data so transmitted.</p>	<p>Provision 7 is already covered in Art. 28. 6.</p> <p>Confirm that 7b is reflected elsewhere in the measures.</p>	Canada to draft.	
8.	<p>The daily OBR and CAT reports shall set out by Division the amounts of catch retained on board by species, the catch discarded and the undersized catch.</p>	<p>Consensus that this will be modified (to remove reference to CAT reports) and moved under provision Duties of the Observer.</p>	Canada to prepare draft language	
9.	<p>Duties of the Executive Secretary</p> <p>The Executive Secretary:</p> <p>(a) transmits as soon as possible to all Contracting Parties the information received in accordance with subparagraph B.2(a);</p> <p>(b) receives OBR and CAT reports in accordance with paragraphs B.6 and 7, and where any such report has not been received for 2 consecutive days, notifies the flag State Contracting Party and any Contracting Party with an inspection presence in the Regulatory Area;</p> <p>(c) compiles the data received in accordance with paragraph B.1 in the format set out in Annex II.H, treats it in accordance with Annex II.B and transmits it weekly to each Contracting Party with an inspection presence in the Regulatory Area; and</p> <p>(d) provides to STACTIC an assessment of issues relevant to the exchange of data in accordance with this Article, including compatibility, collection, compilation, transmission, and incremental cost to the operation of the Secretariat.</p>	<p>To be deleted under revised articles.</p> <p>Consensus is this will be modified and moved under provision Duties of the Observer.</p> <p>Lack of consensus on what to do on this sub-article. Canada sees merit in weekly reporting by OBSERVER.</p> <p>Consensus is this will be modified and moved under provision Duties of the Observer.</p>	No action to be taken at this time.	



Training, Designation and Equipment		
<p>EQUIPMENT</p> <p>Discussion on resources available to build standardized equipment supplies / required.</p> <p>Consensus that each party supplies their respective equipment list supplied as part of the duty list or responsibilities.</p> <p>Iceland gave overview of equipment list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measuring board, guage (spring loaded), • Floatation equipment • Tapes, camera, sampling kits, • Voice recording device (measurements) etc <p>Procedures: Conversion Factors management</p> <p>Faroe Is: have same equipment list for own OBSERVERS.</p> <p>Canada confirmed that domestic OBSERVERS have similar equipment list.</p>	<p>Each party to provide their equipment list for observers.</p> <p>Consensus on the need for an independent and reliable means of communications for OBSERVER.</p>	<p>Canada to roll-up.</p>
<p>TRAINING</p> <p>Iceland explained current training processes within OBSERVER Program (Inspector). It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial training • Ongoing annual refresher training <p>Iceland suggested that requirement to have captains</p> <p>EU (JL) suggested that a mandatory requirement on the part of the master to complete safety/ emergency orientation.</p> <p>Faroe: advised that medical fitness is a criterion for their program.</p> <p>Discussion held about fitness for work, aspects such as medical or psychological fitness. Is this possible</p> <p>US asked if we intend to have all NAFO OBSERVERS training under a standard.</p> <p>Canada submitted that it sees the program as having a consistently trained group of OBSERVERS.</p> <p>Canada suggested that all parties supply certification requirements for respective OBSERVERS.</p>	<p>All parties supply training and certification requirements for each CP's respective observer programs.</p> <p>Obtain training standards from other organizations or RFMO.</p>	<p>EU to roll-up and consider in drafting of qualifications standard.</p>

	<p>QUALIFICATIONS</p> <p>US look for College Degree with emphasis on Biology. Have a sea trial process.</p> <p>Iceland / Greenland have versions of a mentoring Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Iceland: have trips to ensure orientation b. Greenland have senior observer act as mentor for ½ year in case of newly hired OBSERVER. <p>Faroe Is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Targeted hiring – retired captains and fishers. <p>Canada suggested that given the environment and importance to the safety and security of OBSERVER that at the minimum a fitness for work should be made a requirement within the measures.</p> <p>Consideration should be given to the International Observer Bill or Rights.</p>	<p>Development draft guidelines for minimum observer qualifications</p>	<p>EU to draft copy of observer qualification and training requirements.</p>	
	<p>OBSERVER ENGAGEMENT</p> <p>Canada suggested that there should be renewed procedures around the dialogue between the inspector and observer.</p> <p>All parties in agreement with this approach.</p> <p>EU recommended that the new language should be contained within the Joint Inspection and Surveillance Scheme (Art. 31).</p> <p>Resulting discussion determined that it is more ideal to have new language under Art. 30 which would obligate the observer to make him/herself available to the inspector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspector requirement will include discussion with observer • Verification of certification • Discussion about potential infringements 	<p>Develop language for inclusion under duties of the observer, relating to making themselves available for discussion or interaction with inspectors.</p>	<p>Canada to develop language for inclusion in an annex or in measures relating to inspector engagement of the observer.</p>	

	<p>EU to develop language for inclusion under duties of the observer, relating to making themselves available for purposes of briefing and debriefing.</p>	<p>Reference required for CP to ensure it is undertaken.</p> <p>Also, develop language for inclusion under an annex or in measures relating to inspector engagement of the observer, pertaining to briefing and debriefing.</p>	<p>DEPLOYMENTS</p> <p>Suggested that FMC could log onto MCS page of NAFO to update a list of deployment, along with the name or ID verification.</p> <p>Emergency action plan requirement guided by WWF discussion paper, (who must report & what is the process)</p> <p>Canada asked if the CPs observer Programs have a pre-departure safety checklist. Canada outlined a process that is employed in NL which included checks.</p> <p>No standard process identified by CPS. Iceland has a CCG version.</p>
	<p>EU to develop Code of Conduct for observer / Master, including provision to provide observer the ability to report harassment.</p>	<p>Consideration to be given to provision requiring CPs to ensure their masters respect the Code of Conduct in relation to their interactions with observer.</p>	<p>TREATMENT OF OBSERVERS</p>
	<p>Canada to redraft 2004 proposal for a risk-based model for establishing coverage levels.</p>	<p>All CPs with existing risk-based model for observer coverage or inspection protocols should provide them for consideration in development of new NAFO deployment scheme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science requirement • Compliance requirement 	<p>CRITERIA FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF COVERAGE LEVELS</p>

SECTION IV
(pages 195–208)

Report of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM) meeting

15–16 March 2016
London, UK

Contents

1. Opening.....	197
2. Appointment of Rapporteur.....	197
3. Discussion and adoption of the Agenda.....	197
4. Election of the Chair	197
5. Data Exchange statistics	197
6. NAFO issues.....	197
7. NEAFC issues	199
8. Management of the North Atlantic Format.....	202
9. Management of the websites	202
10. Any other business.....	204
11. Report to the Annual Meetings	204
12. Date and place of the next meeting.....	204
13. Closure of the meeting.....	204
Annex 1. Table of Definitions	205
Annex 2. Answer to the NEAFC ERS Working group:	206
Annex 3. JAGDM 2016–01–31 REV. 1	207

Report of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM) meeting (FC Doc. 16/02)

**15–16 March 2016
London, UK**



1. Opening

The Vice-Chair Ellen Fasmer (Norway) welcomed all participants.

Participants represented Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NEAFC Secretariat was appointed rapporteur.

3. Discussion and adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was discussed and approved as circulated.

4. Election of the Chair

The Vice-Chair briefly explained that Canada decided to replace its representative and former Chair and therefore the participants should formally elect a new Chair. Lloyd Slaney (Canada) was elected Chair by unanimity.

5. Data Exchange statistics

a. NAFO

NAFO Secretariat presented document 2016-01-17 containing a table describing the number of different messages/reports received by the NAFO Secretariat's VMS.

Canada explained that the discrepancies between EXIs and ENTs, which had exhibited higher values than the total COEs, were due to technical problems. Canada explained that the difference between the COX and COE was due to a fishing trip ending in the new calendar year.

NEAFC Secretariat mentioned that in its experience with discrepancies there were a significant number that resulted from duplicate messages/reports.

Norway mentioned that technical issues justified the low number of messages/reports sent to NAFO, for example EXI messages were rejected due to mandatory course and speed fields not being complete before submission. Norway noted that a proposal for submission to STACTIC will be prepared which would see an amendment to footnote 4 of Annex II.E.

Russian Federation highlighted the discrepancies between the numbers of EXIs, ENTs, COEs and COXs for each NAFO CP. Russian Federation suggested that all CPs address the issues in order to improve reporting in the future.

Chair encouraged participants to make an effort to improve the reporting.

b. NEAFC

NEAFC Secretariat introduced document 2016-01-18 containing a table describing the number of different messages/reports received by NEAFC's database. The statistics were presented with duplicates of messages previously accepted (ACK 155) processed out.

No comments or concerns were raised by the participants.

6. NAFO issues

a. Technical Implications of the implementation of recommendations

NAFO Secretariat presented document 2016-01-30 on the adopted amendment of Article 28.8 and Annex II.N of the NCEM by STACTIC.

EU asked for clarification on whether each line of the “haul by haul logbook” required a separate entry for each species.

NAFO Secretariat informed that the requirement is that one “line” per species.

DFG noted that new requirements should be simpler than the previous ones and avoid overcomplicating procedure.

b. Issues raised by STACTIC

i. Data Sharing Between NAFO and NEAFC

NEAFC Secretariat presented document 2016-01-14 on the possibility of catch data exchange between NAFO and NEAFC Secretariats. The document is the result of internal discussions within the Secretariat and it identifies possible future steps. This will require a formal decision by the Commission and most likely changes to the Scheme of Control and/or to the ISMS.

Participants agreed on the need to harmonize the content of the COX reports in both organizations. It was noted that:

- a similar exercise is taking place in NAFO, and that the number of vessels fishing in both RAs is very limited
- the differences in reporting on regulated species will affect comparisons
- the introduction of ERS may impact the data
- real-time transmission of the data may take some time
- Vessels fishing in the NRA have to cross NEAFC and will often report COE/COX although it is not mandatory.

Participants agreed that:

Both organizations would benefit from the harmonization of COX reports.

ii. STACTIC request to JAGDM to review the Annexes of the NCEM and make some clarifications

Norway introduced documents 2016-01-20 and 2016-01-21 on the STACTIC request for advice regarding possible amendments to the annexes of the NCEM. During the 2015 STACTIC Intercessional, this matter was referred to the JAGDM for clarification and advice with a view to amending the pertinent tables in the Annexes to include clear definitions and examples for applicable reporting formats. It was noted that the absence of clear definitions and examples of NAF data-elements still poses challenges, particularly for IT developers who utilize the annexes to program system requirements.

JAGDM agreed that work must continue to improve clarification of data elements.

The NAFO document 2016-01-20 will be updated to reflect the changes written in the NEAFC document 2016-01-21 rev1 during the meeting.

Both documents will be listed at the JAGDM 2016-2 agenda to be finalized and proposals made.

This to ensure that the changes listed in these two documents can be adopted at the annual meetings of the organizations this year.

Participants agreed that:

The NAFO Secretariat shall, as soon as possible, update NAF two letter field codes at the NAF website in line with the data element definition texts updates shown in JAGDM 2016-1-21 rev 1.

Making examples for applicable reporting formats as asked for by STACTIC, will be dealt with as a separate issue in later meetings.

c. Recommendations for adopting an ISMS for NAFO

NAFO Secretariat presented documents 2016-01-27 and 2016-01-3 on the NAFO ISMS implementation and on the IT infrastructure security assessment. There were some general discuss relating to the firewalls performance.

NAFO Secretariat presented document 2016-01-24 on “Bring Your Own Device” (BYOD) policy for NAFO staff. There were some general comments on the use of personal hardware and encrypted flash drives within NAFO/NEAFC installations and while attending meetings.

d. Status of other NAFO projects

i. Flux Transportation Layer Testing

NAFO Secretariat presented document 2016-01-05 on the Secretariat’s testing of the EU FLUX transportation layer to exchange relating to the sending and receiving of “haul by haul” data. The general view of the JAGDM was that the data exchange may be useful later if detailed catch data is to be exchanged in more real-time for control and enforcement purposes.

It was noted that there is a plan for the ERS working group to consider the FLUX transportation layer as part of its work within NEAFC.

ii. New website technology and design

NAFO Secretariat briefly described the ongoing project for the redesign of their website.

The participants had no comments.

iii. Experience with IMO numbering

NAFO Secretariat presented document 2016-01-15 on the introduction of IMO numbers on fleet data. Participants noted that smaller vessels do not have IMO numbers and that this has been taken into account in NAFO by applying the requirement for the IMO number only to eligible vessels. It was noted that the data element related to the vessel IMO number, in the annexes to the NCEMs, should reflect that it is only required for eligible vessels.

7. NEAFC issues

a. Technical implications of the implementation of recommendation

i. NEAFC Secretariat’s new obligations for more proactive monitoring of Bottom Fishing in Regulatory Areas (information only)

NEAFC Secretariat introduced document 2016-01-13 on the new system of monitoring bottom fisheries which is a new obligation from the 2015 Extraordinary Meeting of the NEAFC Commission.

Participants had a discussion on the possibilities of “geo-fencing” and potential generation of a significant number of false-positives.

ii. Implementation of objections to recommendations

The NEAFC Secretariat considers that there are no implications regarding objections to 2016 recommendations.

b. Issues raised by PECMAC

i. Proposal to change duplicate handling in NEAFC system for duplicates to return NAK (part handled by correspondence but advice not finalized)

NEAFC Secretariat introduced document 2016-01-08 on reports identified as duplicates, implications and the solution proposed by PECMAC. This was provided to the JAGDM prior to the meeting for advice and comparison with other solutions. Also provided was a summary of the different responses from the group at the end of 2015.

During the discussion, the Russian Federation expressed support for the solution proposed by PECMAC. DFG and EU noted that reports should be allowed to be sent twice for various reasons, including maintaining a

consistent approach to NAK messages whereby some action is required by the FMC. Handling of duplicates should instead be allowed for by some post processing of the data to identify and or discard duplicates as appropriate, depending on the type of reporting.

Norway noted the importance of ensuring that the calculation of any aggregate catches (i.e. aggregated from daily catch or total catch on board as sent from the vessel) is not affected by the processing of duplicates.

Participants agreed that the advice from JAGDM to PECMAC should be:

Duplicates of messages already accepted should not be part of any aggregated catches (i.e. aggregated data from daily catch or total catch on board as sent from the vessel) and that post-processing to identify and or discard duplicates as appropriate would be a better solution than changing the ACK 155 to NAK.

ii. Status of proposal to use IMO numbering in NEAFC (information only)

NEAFC Secretariat introduced document 2016-01-09 on the status of discussion on requirement by NEAFC that all vessels are assigned IMO numbers. The participants had no comments.

iii. Should additional codes be added to NEAFC Scheme for PSC (two documents both previously discussed)

NEAFC Secretariat presented document 2016-01-10 on additional product forms required by PSC users.

Participants agreed with the addition of the codes HED, FIA and LGS. It was noted that clarification is needed for FMF fishmeal as to whether the source is either whole fish or by-products of fish or both. The group was not aware of any use of the code FMF but agreed that it may be suitable for use once the description is clarified.

Participants agreed that the advice from JAGDM to PECMAC should be:

Appendix I a) to Annex IV “Product Form Codes” of the Scheme of Control and Enforcement to be amended to include the new codes (HED, FIA and LGS).

Code FMF may be appropriate for use for Fish Meal once the description of ‘from fish’, ‘from offal’ or ‘from both’ is clarified.

NEAFC Secretariat introduced document 2016-01-011 Rev 1 on the need to add additional species to Annex V of the Scheme of Control and Enforcement as these species are already part of the NEAFC EPSC application.

Participants agreed that the advice from JAGDM to PECMAC should be:

The list of species in the document as amended 2016-01-11 Rev2, annexed to this report, should be added to Annex V of the Scheme of Control and Enforcement.

iv. Items from ERS Working Group Meeting in January

Following the January Meeting of the ERS working group a request was sent to JAGDM for advice 1) on new NAF codes which would be required for the new system and 2) the possibility and desirability of the adoption of the UN/CEFACT standard instead of the NAF-Format, which is currently in use. To facilitate this discussion, EU offered to map the NAF-codes proposed for NEAFC ERS to the UN/CEFACT P-1000 standard.

The EU introduced documents 2016-01-07, 2016-01-26 and 2016-01-29 and made a presentation on FLUX Transport Layer (TL) and the development status of fisheries standard P-1000 Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (FLUX) under UN CEFACT. The first document (2016-01-07) was presented by EU which contained the mapping between the NAF-format data elements proposed for NEAFC ERS and UN/CEFACT standard P-1000.

In the discussion following this presentation the participants asked for clarification on several issues such as the possibility of using other languages than English in the open source tools available for the system, real-time access to data, or the validation of sender identity in a system which separates out the ‘transportation’ elements from the business elements. Clarification was provided by EU on these points.

The group agreed that use of an international standard has benefits, however it was noted that Norway and

other NAFO/NEAFC CPs, are already working in other formats. It was also pointed out that the FLUX-TL has only been in production a short time and the use of the UN standard within fisheries has not yet been implemented. With this in mind the group thought that it was difficult to have confidence that FLUX is a functioning standard that is easy to implement in NEAFC ERS. The JAGDM questioned whether or not we have enough knowledge about the use of the UN standard together with FLUX Transport Layer to recommend the use of this system as a whole package.

EU informed that EU-ERS 3 is already in use in the entire EU and in many African sustainable fisheries partnership agreements.

It was also noted that the ERS group in Iceland has a different ERS solution than the EU.

DFG noted that already many years were lost and that CPs should agree to a unified system for ERS with a clear step by step approach.

The group then went into other items on the agenda and agreed to keep the agenda point open for the second day of the meeting to allow time to reflect on the EU information and to formulate advice to the NEAFC ERS working group from JAGDM.

Regarding the request from the ERS Working Group for New Codes for NEAFC ERS;

A first step to proposing new NAF format codes for NEAFC ERS is to consolidate the existing codes in use to ensure harmonization. To this end, members were asked to check the list of 'NAF-codes in use', which included the code list on the NAF-format website plus the codes in use in bilateral ERS agreements, and add any additional codes in use in domestic agreements or confirm that no such additional codes existed. Responses were received by most members in advance of the meeting. Progress was made towards this under agenda point 9 c iii (updating the NAF-format code lists) on the second day but was not finalized, however it was the detail of the descriptions rather than codes, which warranted further discussion.

There was also a discussion of the definitions of the data elements proposed for NEAFC ERS codes which are currently lacking a code. These data elements are also identified in document 2016-01-07, however participants felt that many of the definitions lacked clarity, a primary example was 'fishing depth'. This data element was discussed in some detail but was not possible to match to a single code to a single definition.

JAGDM advice to NEAFC ERS WG is:

1. Advice on new NAF codes which would be required for the new system

It is possible that some new NAF-FORMAT codes will be needed for ERS however this can only be confirmed once all the NAF codes in use have been reviewed. JAGDM is an appropriate group to take on such a review. It is important that the codes/definitions of any new data elements are as clear and harmonized as possible and some further time is required to ensure this.

Participants agreed that:

The Chair will prepare a note, annexed to this report, to the Chair of ERS Working Group informing that more time is needed to advise on the request expressed in document 2016-01-07 and that more detail is needed.

2. Advice on Adopting UN/CEFACT

Document 2016-01-07 was once again considered by the Participants.

Regarding the mapping provided by EU of the data element codes between the UN standard and NAF-format, this was presented during the meeting. EU confirmed that every code proposed for use in NEAFC ERS is either already covered in UN/CEFACT or can be added to a Code list which means it can be implemented regionally without changing the standard. The same applies to new elements currently not identified.

Participants agreed that:

The Chair will send a note, annexed to this report, to the Chair of AHWG ERS informing that more time is needed to advise on the request expressed in document 2016-01-07 and that more detail is need.

Document 2016-01-31 was drafted as a possible response to the request for advice from the AHWG ERS.

After some discussion amongst participants, document 2016-01-31 was amended as document 2016-01-31 rev1. This document will also be part of the note to be sent by the Chair under the previous agenda point.

c. NEAFC Information Security Management System (ISMS)

with the exception of iii) Security Incident Management, these standing items will be discussed in the Second session meeting

i. Possible Upgrade of NEAFC ISMS to use ISO 27001:2013

Agenda item deferred to the next meeting.

ii. Work of the Security System Administrators

Agenda item deferred to the next meeting.

iii. Information Security Incident Management (ISMS Article 13)

Agenda item deferred to the next meeting.

iv. Risk Management (ISMS Article 3) status of the work

Agenda item deferred to the next meeting.

v. Annual Review of the NEAFC Inventory (ISMS Article 7.1)

Agenda item deferred to the next meeting.

d. Status of other NEAFC projects

i. Flux Transport Layer Testing (information only)

NEAFC Secretariat introduced document 2016-01-25 on the Secretariat's testing of the EU FLUX transportation layer noting the main chronological events. It was noted that in the next few days the exchange of VMS data will be tested.

DFG asked about the number of "partners" dealing with FLUX outside EU. The answer was that the introduction of FLUX is introduced in all fisheries partnership agreements, starting in 2016 with Seychelles, Gabon, Morocco, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Liberia. It was noted that NEAFC was the first successful testing and that in the future the EC will likely act as a centralised FMC for all EU Member States.

Norway is also doing some testing but has identified some shortcomings relating to certification and concerns that it had to be step by step, and a lot of thinking, not just plug and play which mirrored the experience at NEAFC Secretariat. During the period between this meeting and the report being finalised a FLUX node was deployed at NAFO Secretariat.

The Participants had no further comments.

8. Management of the North Atlantic Format

a. Issues raised by NAF users

NAFO Secretariat introduced document 2016-01-23 on questions from an IT developer regarding error codes and MEM codes.

Norway presented document 2016-01-19 on MEM codes.

Participants agreed that:

Future replies on MEM questions should state that "MEM codes are specific to each satellite service provider and should be supplied by them".

9. Management of the websites

a. NAFO and NEAFC – How to present JAGDM documents to users other than JAGDM participants

NAFO has had no requests for JAGDM documents in the past year.

NEAFC had some requests by members of CPs delegations to access some JAGDM documents. At the moment, JAGDM documents are restricted to meeting participants.

It was noted that NEAFC meeting reports are restricted until after the Annual Meeting then they become public documents. Working papers are not made public but are available to registered individuals with the user role 'delegate'. Delegates are able to see working papers for all committees and there are no committee specific roles.

It was noted that in NAFO, JAGDM reports are made public as soon as they are final but working papers should never become public and are only made available to participants and NAFO/NEAFC members.

Participants agreed that:

The status quo is kept and that if NAFO and/or NEAFC want it otherwise, JAGDM should be instructed accordingly.

b. JAGDM

Norway noted that there is little information on the website and that the 2014 and 2015 reports should be included.

Participants agreed that:

That the public should be provided access to reports after NAFO/NEAFC Annual Meetings.

c. NAF

i. No contact information on the website

NAFO Secretariat introduced document 2016-1-16 on the current lack of contact details on the NAF website.

Participants agreed that:

General contact information should be added to the website which would be administered by the NAFO Secretariat.

ii. Update the List of data-elements, codes and definitions to be in line with the proposed changes in STACTIC WP 15/29

This agenda item was discussed in conjunction with 6.b.ii.

iii. Updating NAF website with codes already in use by Contracting Parties

(See also 7 b iv) Norway introduced document 2016-01-28 on the updating of data-element definitions in documents in the NAF website, noting that new codes have been introduced in recent years by different CPs and tables and/or definitions are no longer updated.

The Participants discussed in detail some definitions and its practical use as a data source. It was also noted that some national codes may become ERS standards.

Participants agreed that:

Norway will revise document 2016-01-28 and it will be revisited during next meeting.

The Chair will inform the PECMAC Chair that more time will be needed to provide advice.

The Chair encouraged participants to prepare contributions for the next meeting relating to document 2016-01-28.

10. Any other business

a. JAGDM Logo Proposal

NAFO Secretariat introduced documents 2016-01-06 and 2016-01-04.

Participants agreed that:

Drawing number 1 (first drawing as presented) on document 2016-01-06 was preferred provided suggested improvements are completed.

11. Report to the Annual Meetings

The Chair will report the activities of JAGDM to NAFO intercessional STACTIC meeting in May.

The Vice-Chair will report the activities of JAGDM to the NEAFC Annual Meeting.

12. Date and place of the next meeting

Tentative dates for the next meeting are 31st May and 1st June.

The meeting will take place at the NAFO HQ in Dartmouth, NS, Canada.

13. Closure of the meeting

The Chair closed the meeting thanking the Participants and both Secretariats for the work done and wishing all a safe return home.

Annex 1. Table of Definitions

AHWG	Ad-hock Work Group
ACK	Acknowledged (Return message format)
COE	Catch on Entry
COX	Catch on Exit
CP	Contracting Party
DFG	Denmark, Faroe Islands and Greenland
EC	European Commission
ERS	Electronic Reporting System
EU	European Union
FLUX - TL	Fishery Language for Universal eXchange - Transport Layer
FMC	Fisheries Monitoring Centre
IMO	International Maritime Organization
ISMS	Information Security and Management System
MEM	Marco Encoded Message Codes
NAK	Not Acknowledged (Return message format)
NAF	North Atlantic Format (In respect to codes)
NAFO	North Atlantic Fisheries Organization
NCEM	NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures
NEAFC	Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission
NEAFC - EPSC	Electronic Port State Control
NRA	NAFO Regulatory Area
PECMAC	Permanent Committee on Monitoring and Compliance
PSC	Port State Control
RA	Regulatory Area
STACTIC	Standing Committee on International Control
UN/CEFACT	United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
WP	Working Paper
AHWG	Ad-hock Work Group

Annex 2. Answer to the NEAFC ERS Working Group:

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

TO:

Gylfi Geirsson
Chair, NEAFC Ad Hoc Working Group on Electronic Reporting Systems (AHWG ERS)

FROM:

Lloyd Slaney
Chair, Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)

ADVICE FROM JAGDM REGARDING NAF FORMAT CODES AND THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF THE UN/CEFACT P1000 STANDARD WITHIN NEAFC ERS

REGARDING THE REQUEST FOR NEW CODES FOR NEAFC ERS;

A first step to proposing new NAF format codes for NEAFC ERS is to consolidate the existing codes in use to ensure harmonization. Progress was made towards consolidating existing NAF format codes under agenda points 9 c ii & iii on both days, but more work needs to be done before a complete list is finalized.

On the second day, there was a detailed discussion regarding the definitions of the data elements proposed for NEAFC ERS, these are outlined in document 2016-01-07. The JAGDM group felt that many of the current definitions lacked clarity. One example that was discussed was 'fishing depth'. The group agreed that it was not possible to match this data element with a single code or definition.

Participants agreed to postpone the discussion of specific codes to next meeting.

REGARDING ADVICE ON THE POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF UN/CEFACT P1000 WITHIN NEAFC ERS; DOCUMENT JAGDM 2016-01-31 REV1 IS ATTACHED.

Yours sincerely

Lloyd A. Slaney
Chair, JAGDM

JAGDM 2016-01-31 REV. 1

Possible adoption of the UN/CEFACT standard as the standard used for the data exchange in the new ERS system in NEAFC.

The advice of JAGDM is:

It seems very likely that UN/CEFACT standard would provide all the information necessary for NEAFC ERS, within an international standard; however a very detailed mapping and harmonization is still required.

Regarding the desirability of adoption JAGDM notes the following pros and cons of using the UN/CEFACT standard.

Pros:

- NEAFC contracting parties want to use international standards. UN/CEFACT P1000 will be an international standard for global fisheries data exchange from 27 April 2016.
- Contracting parties having ERS bilateral agreements are familiar with using XML.
- NEAFC Secretariat and Contracting Parties could benefit from “open source” tools already available for this standard.
- NEAFC would benefit from a single EU connection into a NEAFC ERS

Cons:

- The standard is still not tested for ERS.
- Additional development and training costs for NEAFC in transitioning to the new standard.

Additional Considerations

- There is a need to guarantee that EU, as first adopter of the standard is providing sufficient technical assistance.
- It is important that all Contracting Parties have the possibility to actively participate in the technical decision making.

Background:**Information about the UN/CEFACT standard and what EU can offer other Contracting Parties if the NEAFC ERS system is made in line with the EU ERS system.**

At the JAGDM meeting 15 March EU gave JAGDM an introduction to their new planned ERS system designed to do exchange of all kind of fisheries data elements, with a much wider scope than is currently foreseen in the proposed NEAFC ERS. EU vessels are taking part in fisheries in many different areas regulated by various legislations. Their need is to have a worldwide data exchange standard.

EU, together with some other parties, have worked out the UN/CEFACT standard to be a worldwide standard. Some elements are the same as elements used in standards for trade and agriculture, but the part for fisheries is new. UN/CEFACT will be adopted as a UN standard and presented 27 April 2016 in Geneva.

EU have been using parts of the UN/CEFACT elements internally but most of it is not tested in real data exchange yet.

EU will start the implementation work of their new ERS system in April 2016 and it is planned to start the test period in October 2016. Production will be as fast as possible, but all the Member States must do changes of their vessel systems to fulfill all the new obligations and that will take some time.

What can EU offer in addition to the UN/CEFACT Standard?**FLUX transportation layer.**

“Open source” software made by EU to take care of the transportation of all kinds of XML reports independent of the Business content of the reports.

We understand that this has been in production in EU for about a year now for aggregated catch reports sent within EU. The sending of VMS messages has been in production for 4 months and 4 FMCs are using this. NEAFC Secretariat has deployed a Flux node to compare data received via https and FLUX, and to gain experience. This was requested by PECMAC at their April 2015 The legal obligation for EU member states to send VMS positions in UN/CEFACT via FLUX TL came into force January 01 2016.

Data viewer

“Open source” software made by EU for receivers of data. This is currently a Coastal State appropriate system in that it can be used to view and validate messages received and return ACK/NAK Return Messages. This is not (currently) a web interface for a full ERS system.

SECTION V
(pages 209–225)

**Report of the NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council
Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies**

**4–6 April 2016
Tórshavn, Faroe Islands**

Contents

1. Opening	211
2. Appointment of Rapporteur.....	211
3. Adoption of the Agenda.....	211
4. NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework (PAF).....	211
5. Discussion on Management Strategies for priority stocks: 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut, 3LN Redfish, and 3M Cod.	212
6. Recommendations to forward to the Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council	212
7. Other Matters	213
8. Adoption of Report.....	213
9. Adjournment.....	213
Annex 1. List of Participants.....	214
Annex 2. Agenda	216
Annex 3. Timeline for the revision of the PA Framework.....	217
Annex 4. NAFO Fish Stocks – Status of Reference Points Estimation	219
Annex 5. Draft Workplan for the GHM MSE Review	220
Annex 6. 3LN Redfish Conservation Plan and Harvest Control Rule – Supplementary Guidance.....	223
Annex 7. 3M Cod Work schedule 2016–2018.....	225

**Report of the NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission–Scientific Council
Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies**
(FC/SC Doc. 16/01)
4–6 April 2016
Tórshavn, Faroe Islands

1. Opening

The Working Group (WG) Chair, Carsten Hvingel (Norway) opened the meeting at 10:00 hrs on Monday, 4 April 2016 at the Hotel Hafnia in Tórshavn, Faroe Islands. He offered apologies on behalf of the co-Chair, Kevin Anderson (Canada), who was unable to attend the meeting. Representatives from Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) (DFG), European Union, Japan, Norway, and USA were in attendance (Annex 1). Staff of the European Commission participated via Skype due to the closure of Brussels airport.

Elin Mortensen (Head of the DFG delegation to NAFO Fisheries Commission) welcomed the participants to her home city. Tom Blasdale, the newly appointed Scientific Council Coordinator at the NAFO Secretariat, was introduced by the presiding Chair.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The Fisheries Commission (FC) and Scientific Council (SC) Coordinators of the NAFO Secretariat were appointed as co-Rapporteurs.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The WG Chair reviewed the provisional agenda that was previously circulated. He explained the expectations and deliverables of this meeting, specifically on agenda item 4 on NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework and agenda item 5 on Management Strategies for priority stocks.

Under “Other Matters”, the WG Chair proposed an item discussing the NAFO WG on Improving Efficiency of WG Process which was adopted at 2015 NAFO Annual Meeting. The provisional agenda was adopted with this addition (Annex 2).

4. NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework (PAF)

The revision of the NAFO Precautionary Approach (PA) Framework (adopted in 2004) draws on the identification of the FC of the scope and priorities (FC Doc 15/19). In line with the 2015 recommendation of this WG, SC established the Precautionary Approach Framework Working Group (WG-PAF) to explore the revision.

The SC Chair reported on the progress of the WG-PAF. It had two WebEx meetings in March 2016. At these meetings, the WG-PAF:

1. reviewed existing PA,
2. reviewed Terms of Reference developed by FC (FC Doc 15/19),
3. discussed the classification of stocks managed by NAFO,
4. reviewed the PA performance in NAFO and ICES, and
5. discussed the role of Ecosystem Approach (EA) and the need to include the SC WG-Ecosystem Science and Assessment.

The WG recognized that the ongoing work to review the NAFO PA may take longer than the timeline expected for ongoing Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) initiatives. The WG recommended to WG-PAF that the latter should give priority to review elements of the PA that are essential to advance the work of these initiatives. It was also recommended that the WG-PAF complete a comparison of the NAFO, ICES and NAFO Coastal State PA frameworks to identify common elements and key differences.

In consideration of the above, a timeline for the WG-PAF was developed (Annex 3).

Regarding the development of precautionary reference points for all fish stocks in the NAFO Convention Area, a progress report was presented by SC (Annex 4).

5. Discussion on Management Strategies for priority stocks: 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut, 3LN Redfish, and 3M Cod.

a) 2+3KLMNO GHL

The WG noted the following constraints to complete the MSE review within the established timeframe (2017): a) timely availability of catch data (total and catch at age); b) capacity and expertise to provide Statistical Catch At Age Analysis (SCAA) assessment model, and c) potential revision of the PA Framework.

In the development of the work plan (Annex 5) for a comprehensive review of the MSE of this stock scheduled for completion in 2017, the constraints mentioned above were considered.

Regarding the SCAA assessment model mentioned in Step II of the work plan, the WG noted the possible availability of expertise from Japan and the US that may be helpful in updating an SCAA type model (e.g. Age Structured Assessment Program or ASAP) as an alternative to the SCAA reviewed in the previous MSE. Following the June meeting of the Scientific Council, the Working group agreed that further WebEx discussion of the workplan would be required to possibly refine timelines for Step II and Step III and develop timelines for Steps IV to VI.

The WG was made aware that there are issues with some of the sampling data required to complete the assessment in June. Recognizing the possibility that the stock assessment may not occur as scheduled, the WG asked the SC Chair to discuss possible options within the Scientific Council to advance the assessment intersessionally to enable completion by the 2017 target.

The WG agreed to a more detailed discussion of Step III at its next intersessional meeting.

b) 3LN Redfish

The conservation plan for this stock has been under implementation since 2015. It was recognized that the stock would continue to be monitored and if it did not perform as expected, additional measures may be required. To this end, supplementary guidance was recommended for adoption by FC (Annex 6).

c) 3M Cod

The WG developed a detailed work plan for full benchmark assessment of this stock (Annex 7).

It was noted that the work plan was developed in alignment with the 2015 FC Report which states “*the results of the benchmark review will be considered in setting the TAC for 2018 in light of the new stock assessment in 2017*”. It was also noted that the work plan was designed to interrelate the different processes affecting management of this stock: the MSE, the FC Request to SC to organize a full benchmark assessment and to revise the Flim value, and the PA Framework revision which is currently under discussion.

The WG encouraged all CPs to contribute to the benchmark assessment with all the national data at their disposal before the end of 2016.

6. Recommendations to forward to the Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council

The Working Group **recommends** that:

On the Precautionary Approach (PA) Framework:

1. **Scientific Council, through its WG-PAF, adopt the timeline for the revision of the NAFO PA framework as outlined in Annex 3.**

On 2+3KMNO Greenland Halibut:

2. **Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council adopt the MSE work plan as outlined in Annex 5.**

The Working Group noted the following constraints and/or considerations to complete the MSE review within the established time frame: a) timely availability of catch data (total and catch-at-age); b) capacity/expertise to provide SCAA assessment models; and c) potential revision of the PAF.

For points a) and b):

3. Scientific Council use 2015 catch estimate developed by the Catch Data Advisory Group (CDAG) of the FC-SC WG on Catch Reporting in MSE review/formulation.
4. Scientific Council consider how to incorporate the uncertainty associated with the 2011-2014 catch into the MSE review/formulation.
5. Contracting Parties and/or Scientific Council seek out expertise to facilitate integration of an SCAA-type model into the MSE review/formulation. This should be done, if possible, before June 2016 to allow timely progress.

On 3LN Redfish:

6. Fisheries Commission adopt supplementary guidance to the 3LN Redfish conservation plan and Harvest Control Rule (HCR) as presented in Annex 6. It is further recommended that the HCR (Annex 6.1) be incorporated into the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures.

On 3M Cod:

7. Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council adopt the timeline for the 3M Cod Benchmark Assessment and MSE, as outlined in Annex 7.

7. Other Matters

Improving Efficiency of NAFO WG Process

The WG noted that there were several working groups in FC and SC created in the past few years. Three of them are joint FC-SC WGs. Determination of meeting dates for the WGs has proven to be a challenge for all concerned. Some meetings for instance have to occur at particular time of the year relative to the SC June Meeting and the NAFO September Meeting. The WG also acknowledged that an *ad hoc* WG was created with a mandate of identifying ways of improving efficiency of the WG processes.

For more efficiency, it was realized that more coordination among the WGs is needed in scheduling meetings. Some meetings might not have to be face-to-face, depending on the agenda. In this case, available technology, such as document sharing and video tele-conferencing software should be utilized to a fuller extent. The WG can always work intermittently via SharePoint and when a meeting is necessary, it could easily be decided to have a meeting via WebEx. Correspondence among members can be continuous through the document sharing site and its discussion forum feature, which could be enhanced by means of automatic e-mail notification of uploads or comments.

8. Adoption of Report

This report will be adopted by correspondence after the adjournment.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 15:30 hrs on 6 April. The WG thanked DFG for the hospitality and for providing a well-equipped meeting venue. The participants thanked the presiding Chair for his leadership.

Annex 1. List of Participants

CHAIR

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Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework (PAF)
5. Discussion of Management Strategies for priority stocks: 2+ 3KLMNO Greenland halibut, 3LN redfish, and 3M cod
6. Recommendations to forward to the Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council
7. Other matters
8. Adoption of Report
9. Adjournment

Annex 3. Timeline for the revision of the PA Framework (FC-SC RBMS-WP 16/03 (Rev. 3))

Noting that the RBMS Working Group determined that the current application of the PA is not aligned with the PA;

Noting that the FC developed the following terms of reference:

1. To clarify the following elements:
 - a. To confirm/review the NAFO PA reference points definition in page 3 of FC Doc. 04/18.
 - b. To confirm/review the NAFO Management strategies and courses of action, including risk levels, on page 3 of FC Doc. 04/18
 - c. Distinction between MSY and limit/target related reference points.
 - d. Analysis in support of the development of other reference points (e.g. targets, buffers).
 - e. To review the methods for the calculation and interpretation of risk and the quantification and qualification of uncertainties related to them.
 - f. For stocks where risk analyses are not possible, provide options on how to establish buffer reference points on a stock by stock basis.
 - g. Determine the conditions for when/if reference points should change and / or be re-evaluated.
2. Consider how a revised PA can fit within an Ecosystem Approach.
3. In reviewing the NAFO PAF the WG will also take into consideration other Precautionary Approach Frameworks with a focus in the North Atlantic.

Noting that the FC recommended that the SC convene a technical Working Group to address these ToRs

The WG suggests the following timeline to address each ToR:

Timeline for PA Revision		16/M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	17/J	F	M	A	M	J	
ToR 3.																		
Discuss NAFO PA Successes and failures (done in March 2016)																		
Members work on summarizing the PA Framework as used in other RFMOs and national plans (April-May 2016)																		
Results to be reviewed at the June 2016 SC Meeting.																		
ToR 1a. and 1c. (These tasks are related and should be completed together).																		
Review existing PA Framework. (started in March 2016)																		
June-September – Work on these ToRs.																		
Present work to the joint meeting (September 2016)																		
ToR 1f.																		
Discuss spreadsheet status (March 2016 and April 2016)																		
Distribute to DEs to fill in completely (June 2016)																		
Classify stocks with regards to assessment level (June 2016).																		
ToR 1d. Can only be done after 1f																		
ToR 1e																		
March-May 2016 Members potentially work on ideas for analyses to help with identifying risk levels																		
Work on analyses for risk levels (June-September 2016)																		
ToR 1b. Can only be done after 1a, 1c and 1e is finished																		
ToR 2.																		
Discuss with Chairs of WG-ESA working together on fitting the PA into an Ecosystem Approach (June 2016)																		
Work to be done at the November 2016 WG-ESA meeting																		
Work to Reviewed by SC at the June 2017 meeting																		
This ToR may need more time after the June 2017 meeting																		
ToR 1g Along with ToR 2 will be finished after the other ToRs.																		

Annex 4. NAFO Fish Stocks – Status of Reference Points Estimation

Stocks in the Convention area that have been requested for NAFO Scientific Council advice							
fishery dependent data (1)	fishery independent data (2)	Type of assessment	Blim (3)	Bmsy (3)	Flim = Fmsy (3)	HCR / MSE	objective for assessment
Advice requested by Coastal States							
SA 0 + 1B-F Greenland halibut	CaL, CPUE	3 surveys (2 halted)	Proxies based on survey				
SA 1A inshore Greenland halibut	CaL, CPUE	6 surveys (2 halted)					
SA 0+1 Roundnose grenadier	Catch only	1 survey					
SA 1 Redfish	Catch only	3 surveys					
SA 0+1 Shrimp	Catch, CPUE	1 survey					
SA 1 Wolffish		2 surveys					
SA 1 American plaice		2 surveys					
Advice requested by Fisheries Commission							
3M Cod (4)	CaL, CaA	2 surveys (not overlapping in time, stock area coverage ok) + 1 survey not used	XSA in a Bayesian framework	Blim (2008)	Flim=F30%SPR (2014)	Under development	Age-based assessment (as now)
3M Redfish	CaL	1 survey	Age based assessment				
3M American plaice	CaL	1 survey	Not a quantitative assessment	Not accepted (planned June 2017)			
3M Shrimp	No information on Catch	1 survey		Planned June 2017			
3NO Cod	CaL, CaA, CPUE	4 surveys (2 halted)					
3UN Redfish	CaL	10 surveys (7 halted)					
3UNO American plaice	CaL, CaA	5 surveys (1 halted)		MSY Constrained at 21 kt		FC-14-26	
3UNO Yellowtail flounder	CaL	3 surveys					
3NO Witch flounder	CaL, CPUE	3 surveys	Developed in 2014 based on survey				
3NO Capelin	No information on Catch	1 survey (halted in 2006)					
3O Redfish	CaL, CaA, CPUE	4 surveys (2 halted)					
3UNOPs Thorny skate	CaL	4 surveys		Adopted June 2015	June 2016		
3NOPs White hake	CaL	3 surveys					
3UNO Shrimp	CaL, CPUE	4 surveys			RP 2015 Not adopted		
SA 2+3 Roundnose grenadier	CaL						
2J+3KL Witch flounder	CaL	1 survey			June 2015		
SA 2+3 Greenland halibut	CaL, CaA, CPUE	9 surveys (6 halted)	No assessment				
SA 3+4 Squid	Catch only	5 surveys (2 halted)	TACS based on low vs high productivity levels		YPR RP available		
Scientific Advice from Council on its own Accord							
SA 2+3 Roughhead grenadier	CaL	8 surveys (scattered in time and all halted)	Not a quantitative assessment		Bmsy not appropriate given life history		
(1) from NAFO SCS Doc. 15/16 (2) from NAFO SCS Doc. 14/22 (3) from NAFO SCS Doc. 15/12 (4) validated by the DE during WGRBMS (Faroes, April)							
Legend: Green: Reference Points Available Yellow: Reference points in progress Red: No deadline set for definition of Reference Points							



Annex 5. Draft Workplan for the GHL MSE Review

(FC-SC RBMS-WP 16/05 Rev. 2)

At the 2015 NAFO Annual Meeting, the Fisheries Commission instructed the *Joint FC-SC Working Group of Risk Based Management Strategies* to undertake discussions on finalizing an approach and work plan to enable the comprehensive review of the 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut MSE scheduled for 2017.

Below is an overview of the proposed key steps to be undertaken in completing this review. It should be noted that the steps are not considered prescriptive and there is possible flexibility in their sequencing (i.e. it is not necessary that Step I be completed before work can commence on the subsequent phases).

Where agreed upon, timelines have been identified, though adjustments may be necessary. Timelines for the remaining tasks (Step IV to VI) will require discussion of the FC-SC WG-RBMS to occur after the June 2016 SC meeting.

Step I – April 2016

FC-SC WG-RBMS

1. General discussion on MSE process with specific reference to NAFO GHL framework
2. Develop Draft Workplan for GHL MSE Review – i.e. scope, process & timelines
3. Seek an update from SC on specific timelines associated with the review (assessment and MSE)
4. Consideration of additional questions and/ or guidance to SC

Step II – June 2016

Scientific Council

1. Greenland halibut stock assessment (using both XSA and SCAA¹ – FC Doc 15/17 Revised).
2. Feedback on performance of existing management strategy, including identification of possible deficiencies / areas for improvement (i.e. lessons learned)
3. Consideration of operating models and input data to be applied in the MSE

Step III-FC-SC WG-RBMS during 2016

1. Review / Discussion of elements which were the basis of current MSE (e.g.. management objectives, performance statistics, HCR including constraints, etc.) [see Annexes 5.I and 5.II]
2. Development of some candidate HCRs for initial testing

Step IV

Scientific Council

1. Testing of performance of candidate HCRs.

Step V

FC-SC WG-RBMS

1. Review results of initial MSE testing
2. Consider possible refinements to management objectives, performance statistics, and/ or HCR formulations

Steps IV and V – Repeated as necessary to refine HCR

Step VI

FC-SC WG-RBMS

1. Recommendation to FC on Adoption/ Updates to GHL HCR

1 Possible issues with capacity and/or availability of expertise

Annex 5.I – Overview of Key Inputs from Initial GHL MSE formulation

Management Objective – ‘An exploitable biomass of 5+ year classes of 140 000 tonnes on average ...’ [NCEMs Article 10.2]

Milestone - Average exploitable biomass for the period 1985-1999 with associated timeline of 2031

Performance Statistics

1. The probability of the decline of 25% or more in terms of exploitable biomass from 2011 to 2016 is kept at 10% or lower (with the caveat that should the risk tolerance level of 10% unduly constrain the tuning of the Harvest Control Rule such that a rule cannot be developed to satisfy this or other constraints, then flexibility is provided to consider a risk tolerance level of up to 25%);
2. a) The probability of annual TAC variation of greater than 15% be kept at 25% or lower and b) The probability of variation of TAC more than 25% over any period of 3 years should be kept at 25% or lower. If the conditions a) and b) are not met, then an alternate performance target should be considered as follows:
c) The TAC should not be below 10 000 t for the period 2011-2015 in any one year with a probability of 25% on a year by year basis;
3. The magnitude of the average TAC in the short, medium and long term should be maximized;
4. The probability of failure to meet or exceed a milestone within a prescribed period of time should be kept at 25% or lower.

Annex 5.II – Adopted Harvest Control Rule (2010–17)

$$\text{TAC}_{y+1} = \text{TAC}_y (1 + \lambda \times \text{slope})$$

where:

slope = is based on the average trend in biomass from three survey indices (the Canadian Autumn Div. 2J3K index (“F2J3K”), the Canadian Spring Div. 3LNO index (“S3LNO”), and the EU Flemish Cap index covering depths from 0–1400m (“EU1400”)) over the previous five years.

λ = is an adjustment variable for the relative change in TAC to the perceived change in stock size. The value of λ is 2 if the average slope is negative, and 1 when the slope is positive.

Annex 6. 3LN Redfish Conservation Plan and Harvest Control Rule – Supplementary Guidance

(FC-SC RBMS-WP 16/02 Rev.2)

Noting that a Harvest Control Rule for 3LN Redfish was adopted by NAFO in 2014 that reflected the advice of the Scientific Council for this stock;

Recognizing at the time the Harvest Control Rule was developed the biomass was estimated to be greater than B_{msy} , and evaluated against a range of conservation focused performance statistics;

Noting that a full review and evaluation of the HCR will occur on or before 2020 and that in the interim, NAFO will continue to monitor trends in the survey indices for this stock, as well as, conduct periodic assessments (beginning in 2016);

Recognizing that the long-term objective of this Conservation Plan is to maintain the biomass in the ‘safe zone’, as defined by the NAFO Precautionary Approach framework, and at or near B_{msy} ;

Recalling that at the 2015 Annual Meeting the Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies was tasked with the development of supplementary guidance for Fisheries Commission to respond to any unforeseen performance in the stock (FC WP 15/16);

Consistent with the structure and key principles of the Framework on the General Framework on Risk-based Management Strategies, as adopted by NAFO in 2014;

Consistent with the parameters agreed upon by Fisheries Commission for development of the harvest strategy;

It is proposed that following supplementary guidance be adopted as an addendum to the existing Risk-Based Management Strategy for 3LN Redfish (Annex I):

The context, objectives and performance statistics for this Risk-Based Management Strategy remain as stated Annex 3 to the 2014 Annual Meeting Report of the Fisheries Commission (FC-SC RBMS WP 14/4 Rev 3).

1. Objectives:

The long-term objective of the Redfish 3LN Conservation Plan is to maintain the biomass in the ‘safe zone’, as defined by the NAFO Precautionary Approach framework.

2. Reference Points (as identified by NAFO Scientific Council - NAFO SCS Doc. 14/17 Revised):

- a) Limit reference point for biomass (B_{lim}): 30% of B_{msy}
- b) Limit reference point for fishing mortality (F_{lim}): F_{msy}

3. Performance Statistics (levels of risks that apply to section 4):

- a) Very low (< 10%) probability of biomass declining below B_{lim} .
- b) Low (< 30%) probability of fishing mortality $> F_{msy}$
- c) Less than 50% probability of declining below 80% B_{msy} on or before 2021

4. Supplementary Guidance to the 3LN Redfish Harvest Control Rule (Annex 1):

- a) When biomass is below B_{lim} :
 - i. No directed fishing
 - ii. By-catch should be restricted to unavoidable by-catch in fisheries directing for other species
- b) When biomass is between B_{lim} and 80% of B_{msy}
 - i. TAC's should be set at a level(s) to allow for growth to above 80% of B_{msy} or to avoid or mitigate further decline in biomass consistent with explicit rebuilding objectives¹
- c) When biomass is above 80% of B_{msy}
 - i. TAC's should be set at a level(s) to maintain biomass above 80% of B_{msy} or to avoid or mitigate decline below 80% of B_{msy}
- d) If fishing mortality is above F_{msy}
 - i. Fishing mortality should be reduced to a level below F_{msy} .

¹ Tolerance for short-term preventable decline is reduced as biomass approaches B_{lim}
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Annex 6.I
NAFO – Risk-Based Management Strategy for 3LN Redfish²

Management Strategy/Harvest Control Rule:

A stepwise biannual catch increase reaching 18 100t by 2019-2020. (18 100t is the equilibrium yield in the 2014 assessment under the assumption of an MSY of 21 000t).

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

Review/Monitoring:

1. Scientific Council 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.
2. Conduct a full review/ evaluation of the management strategy at the end of the 7 year implementation period.

² Adopted by NAFO in September 2014 for implementation effective January 1, 2015

Annex 7. 3M Cod Work schedule 2016–2018

(FC-SC RBMS-WP 16/07 Rev.3)

In order to provide a tentative timeline to the NAFO 3M Cod Benchmark and the NAFO 3M Cod MSE, the following work plan was agreed by the WG-RBMS in April 2016:

NAFO 3M Cod Benchmark calendar

1. The Scientific Council (SC), in **June 2016**, will approve the main assessment issues to be revised during the 3M Benchmark. Among those issues, there the FC request to the SC (request number 8, SC SCS Doc16/01) that the SC should, in 2016, *analyse whether the current Flim value for 3M cod is currently underestimated and to revise, if required, the relevant fishing mortality and biomass reference points appropriately*. The RBMS WG recognizes that the best forum to carry out the Flim review is the benchmark process, so it would be recommended to undertake this task during that process.
2. **Before the end of 2016** all data needed for the NAFO 3M Cod assessment will be reviewed and compiled.
3. **Between June 2016 and March 2017** different teams of SC scientists will be working on the issues identified in the 2016 June SC meeting.
4. **The benchmark will be carried out in April 2017**. This may involve SC **and** external scientists.
5. The **June 2017 SC** meeting will carry out a new assessment taking into account the Benchmark conclusions. This assessment would inform the TAC decision for 2018 because the MSE may not be finalised before September 2017 (see next section below - “NAFO 3M Cod MSE calendar”).

NAFO 3M Cod MSE calendar

Little progress is expected here before June 2017: this is because the results of the 3M cod benchmark and the NAFO PAF review will be required prior to the resumption of the MSE process. This would be the expected steps:

1. In **June 2017** a new 3M Cod assessment would be issued, according with the benchmark outputs as well as (ideally) the reference points arising from any revisions of the PAF, which at this stage would be tentative (not adopted by the FC).
2. **After September 2017**, if the FC adopts any relevant new elements of the PAF, the RBMS WG should revise the management objectives of the 3M cod MSE accordingly.
3. **Between September 2017 and March 2018 different HCRs** could be tested in order to see if they reach the established management objectives.
4. **By June 2018 the RBMS WG and SC** may revise the 3M Cod MSE to enable the proposal of a HCR. This HCR may be submitted for approval to FC in September, 2018. If and as approved by the FC, this HCR will be applied to determine the TAC in 2019 and onward.

SECTION VI
(pages 227–269)

Report of the STACTIC Intersessional Meeting
9–11 May 2016
London, England

Contents

1. Opening by the Chair, Judy Dwyer (Canada)	247
2. Appointment of Rapporteur	247
3. Adoption of Agenda	247
4. Compilation of fisheries reports for compliance review (2004–2015), including review of Apparent Infringements.....	247
5. Enforceability of Bycatch Measures.....	249
6. Port State Control Alignment.....	249
7. Review and evaluation of Practices and Procedures	250
8. Review of current IUU list pursuant to NAFO CEM (NCEM) Article 53.....	250
9. Half-year review of the implementation of new NAFO CEM measures.....	250
10. NAFO Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Website	251
11. Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) of the NAFO CEM.....	251
12. New and Pending Proposals on Enforcement Measures – possible revisions of the NAFO CEM	251
13. Report and Recommendations of the STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group, December 2015	251
14. Report and Advice of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)	252
15. Information Security Management System (ISMS)	252
16. Other Matters	254
a) VMS Service Provider (Visma) Contract Renewal	254
b) Catch Estimates Study.....	254
c) DFG - Update of the presentation provided by Greenland from the 2015 Intersessional	254
d) Timing of the various committee meetings.....	254
17. Time and Place of next meeting.....	255
18. Adoption of Report.....	255
19. Adjournment.....	255
Annex 1. List of Participants.....	256
Annex 2. Agenda	258
Annex 3. Fisheries in the NAFO Regulatory Area in 2015	259
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.....	267

Report of the STACTIC Intersessional Meeting (FC Doc. 16/03)

**9–11 May 2016
London, England**

1. Opening by the Chair, Judy Dwyer (Canada)

The Chair opened the meeting at 09:45 am on Monday, 9 May 2016 at the NEAFC Headquarters in London, England. 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, and the United States of America (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat (Jana Aker) was appointed rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The following amendments were made to the Agenda under Agenda Item 16 – Other Matters:

- a) VMS Service Provider (Visma) Contract Renewal
- b) Catch Estimates Study
- c) DFG – Update of the presentation provide by Greenland from the 2015 Intersessional
- d) Timing of the various committee meetings

- **The Agenda was adopted, as amended (Annex 2).**

4. Compilation of fisheries reports for compliance review (2004–2015), including review of Apparent Infringements.

The Secretariat presented an overview of the fisheries in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA) in 2015 as well as the fishing trends, catches of regulated and selected unregulated species, and details of the Apparent Infringements (AIs) issued (Annex 3 of this report). Complementing the presentation was the circulation of the draft compilation table; an Overview of Fishing Trips. The purpose of circulating the draft table was to ensure that all the fishing reports submitted by Contracting Parties, as required in the NAFO CEM, were received by the Secretariat. It was recalled the compilation table serves as a basis in drafting the STACTIC Annual Compliance Review document. Canada noted that with an increase in reliance on the STACTIC data for the various working groups to complete their work, compliance with the data submission requirements is becoming increasingly important and encouraged Contracting Parties to ensure compliance with the data submission requirements.

Iceland highlighted the fact that there was a 14% increase (from 57 fishing days in 2014 to 65 fishing days in 2015) in the fishing effort on REB and noted that one Contracting Party continues its objection to the moratorium. General discussions followed regarding the fishing effort by depth charts, and Contracting Parties expressed their interest in a further investigation on fishing effort by depth. The NAFO Secretariat commented that effort by depth is difficult to achieve at a detailed level with only the CATs, but a more in depth analysis could be achieved once the haul by haul data are incorporated for 2016. Contracting Parties noted that this is also something that is being addressed in the Scientific Council. Discussions continued on other possible inclusions within the Annual Compliance Review and the decisions on those inclusions are reflected in the box below.

The Secretariat, when presenting on the Apparent Infringements issued in Port, sought clarification on how to incorporate these AIs into the statistics of the Compliance Review. The European Union clarified that often infringements of domestic laws are reported in the PSC3, but they are not always relevant to NAFO, and the Secretariat should seek clarification of these on a case by case basis going forward. Canada raised a question on the clarity in the NAFO CEM of the process of reporting infringements detected in port. The Contracting Parties

with an inspection presence agreed to discuss this issue further to determine if there is a need to adjust the NAFO CEM for clarity.

The Secretariat noted an issue regarding section 14 of the At-Sea Inspection Report. There were inconsistencies in the recording of retained and discarded catches. Contracting Parties also raised the discrepancies between the Inspection form (section 12 and 14), and the instructions on how vessels are to maintain their logbooks (i.e. total catch vs. retained and discarded). It was agreed to task the EDG with harmonizing sections 12 and 14 of the Inspection reports, fields CA and RJ in the CAT report in Annex II.F, Annex II.A, and the text in the NAFO CEM relating to catch reporting, with the column headings in Annex II.N (Retained (LW kg) | Discarded (LW kg)).

It was **agreed** that:

- **The NAFO Secretariat make the following additions to the Compliance Review for presentation at the 2016 Annual Meeting:**
 - **An explanation of the reduction in the number of at-sea inspections in 2015 be included in the description of the number of at-sea Inspections graph (mechanical problems with one of the inspection vessels).**
 - **Incorporation of the Port State Inspections (PSC3) into the Inspection Rates graph and to provide a detailed explanation on what the graph is displaying.**
 - **Inclusion of an overview of the daily catch rates by species by division**
 - **A comparison of declared vs landed catch by stock by flag State as compared to the daily catch report totals.**
- **Contracting Parties with an Inspection Presence would discuss the process for reporting Apparent Infringements detected in Port to determine if there is a need for an adjustment in the NAFO CEM for the purposes of clarity.**
- **STACTIC task the EDG with harmonizing section 12 and 14 of the At-Sea Inspection form, the text in the NAFO CEM related to catch reporting, fields CA and RJ in the CAT report in Annex II.F, Annex II.A and Annex II.N.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat provide draft Compliance Review documents in April to facilitate review prior to the STACTIC Intersessional meetings; with the caveat that there may be gaps if all required information has not been received by the Secretariat.**

The Chair presented STACTIC WP 16/01 - Summary of Inspection (At-Sea) Information for 2015. Concern was expressed about the lack of detail on the follow-up to infringement and Contracting Parties were encouraged to provide more detail when reporting on infringements. Canada noted a pattern of certain vessels repeatedly being issued Apparent Infringements at-sea and discussed the potential need for improvements in the NAFO CEM to further deter vessels from irresponsible fishing practices. Canada provided some possible suggestions for ways of dealing with vessels that are repeatedly cited with AIs at-sea, such as the development of an IUU type list (separate from the list identified in Chapter VIII of the NAFO CEM) for Contracting Party vessels. Canada also discussed the possibility of some other measures to deter misreporting, such as labelling by date, and provisions when entering and exiting stock areas. The United States highlighted that any changes made would have to be reviewed to ensure that the NAFO CEM does not interfere with the flag State Contracting Party's own laws and sovereignty. The European Union elaborated on a specific vessel that has been repeatedly cited with AIs, and noted that vessel was also cited in 2016 with a Serious Infringement. The European Union stated that this vessel has created a very specific infringement situation. The European Union reported that they are taking this matter very seriously and working with the European Union flag and port Member States, and European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) to address this very particular situation created by this specific vessel. The European Union expressed their concern that one specific vessel owner can have a negative impact on the efforts and progress of other vessels, flag State and port State Inspection Services of Contracting Parties

considering their efforts done so far to conform to the NAFO CEM. Iceland noted that it would be useful to have the information of AIs issued at-sea to have a record of vessels that have received AIs that may land in a port that is not the flag State of the vessel. Canada suggested that the Secretariat could compile all of the information on all AIs issued at sea from the last five years for incorporation into the annual compliance review. This would allow STACTIC to review the information and identify patterns of non-compliance. Contracting Parties also agreed, where possible, that the full details should be incorporated into a confidential Compliance Review for discussion at STACTIC in addition to the public version that is currently being produced by STACTIC.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The NAFO Secretariat compile a table of all Apparent Infringements issued at-sea over the last five years for incorporation into the compliance review.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat, going forward, will produce two versions of the Compliance Review: one with the full vessel details for discussion at STACTIC in addition to the public version that is currently being completed.**

5. Enforceability of Bycatch Measures

The Chair highlighted FC Doc. 15/22 Rev. – Recommendations from the WG-BDS to forward to the Fisheries Commission and noted the recommendations referring to STACTIC. Contracting Parties discussed the recommendations and agreed that there was no clear guidance regarding the tasks of STACTIC. The NAFO Secretariat explained that they will be doing an analysis of by-catches for the working group meeting that is happening in August 2016, and Contracting Parties noted that any analyses done for Working Groups should also be made available for review by STACTIC. The Chair also identified concerns with the lack of a clear process for interaction between STACTIC and the various Working Groups. It was discussed that it is important to use analyses to determine the effectiveness of new measures, such as the calculation of bycatch by division.

It was **agreed** that:

- **STACTIC seek clarification from the Fisheries Commission on the specific tasks that are required from STACTIC based on the recommendations presented in FC Doc. 15/22 Rev.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat would distribute the bycatch analysis that was completed in 2014.**
- **STACTIC seek clarification, through the Fisheries Commission, from the Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process on how STACTIC sends and receives recommendations to and from various NAFO Working Groups.**

6. Port State Control Alignment

The Chair presented STACTIC WP 16/13, which was the text as left off from discussions at the 2015 Annual Meeting in STACTIC WP 15/13 Rev. 2. Contracting Parties discussed and agreed to review the changes that were made to the text at the Annual Meeting. Contracting Parties agreed to accept all track changes with the exception of a few that are now incorporated in STACTIC WP 16/13 Rev. (Annex 4 of this report).

Several attempts were made to achieve consensus on a way forward for incorporation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement in the NAFO CEM. Japan proposed an amendment to the scope that would limit the application to certain areas. However, Contracting Parties were unable to reach an agreement. The United States commented that it could not agree to any proposal that would weaken the scope of current or future Port State Control Measures. A document was developed (STACTIC WP 16/13 Rev.) that reflected an agreed upon approach to reach consensus on Port State Control Alignment, with several exceptions noted in the document. Japan highlighted the difficulties in implementing the Port State Measures. Contracting Parties confirmed that paragraphs 10 and 13 of Article 43, and the associated annex are left to the discretion of the respective Contracting Party.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties would reflect on the text in STACTIC WP 16/13 Rev. and continue to deliberate at the 2016 Annual Meeting with the goal of reaching consensus on Port State Control Alignment at the meeting.**

7. Review and evaluation of Practices and Procedures

The Chair presented STACTIC WP 16/03 Rev. – Practices and Procedures and noted that Canada had made an addition to the list regarding their Fisheries Monitoring Centre Overview and Canada encouraged other Contracting Parties to post their FMC’s best practices. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) noted that the presentation they would be giving under Agenda Item 16c – Other Matters will also be added to the Practices and Procedures webpage.

8. Review of current IUU list pursuant to NAFO CEM (NCEM) Article 53

The Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 16/04 Rev. – NAFO IUU List update and noted that the flag State for the vessel Trinity had been changed to “Unknown” following the agreement at the 2015 Annual meeting. The Secretariat also highlighted new information received regarding the flag State of the vessel “Maine”. Information was received from Guinea requesting that they be removed as the flag State of the vessel since they had removed it from their register of ships. The NEAFC Secretariat had also received the same notification, and have contacted the authorities in Guinea to confirm the information. The European Union noted that some of the vessels on the list are grounded and unlikely to partake in any further fishing activity and that their place on the list seems unnecessary. Contracting Parties noted that without official documentation from the flag State, no vessels can be removed from the IUU list. Canada noted that perhaps there is a need for a review of the IUU provisions in the NAFO CEM. The current provisions were developed when there was an issue with non-CP vessels fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area; however, there is no such list to deal with Contracting Party vessels.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The NAFO Secretariat would post the information received by Guinea regarding the vessel “Maine” on the IUU list with a footnote in the interim, and that STACTIC would review the information again at the 2016 Annual Meeting.**

9. Half-year review of the implementation of new NAFO CEM measures

The Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 16/05 - Half-year review of the implementation of the new measures in the 2016 NAFO CEM. The new measure implemented in 2016 was the requirement for vessels to obtain an IMO number. The Secretariat noted that this requirement is not reflected in the Annexes of the NAFO CEM, and that the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM) has provided a suggestion in STACTIC WP 16/08 to resolve this issue, and further discussion on this point was deferred to Agenda Item 14.

Two points of discussion were identified from changes that were made to the measures. The Secretariat provided an update on the submission of the Logbook information by haul and noted that submissions received to date have been in an Excel file in the format of Annex II.N. The European Union explained that they have worked with the NAFO Secretariat on the ERS (electronic reporting system) reporting of logbook information and that the Secretariat is now able to receive submissions from the European Union. There are still some issues that need to be resolved by the European Union, but that they are close to being resolved, and the Secretariat should expect to receive data soon. The Chair requested that the Secretariat provide an update on the submission of the logbook data by haul at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

The second point of discussion was the change in the notification of the uptake of the “Others” quota. The NAFO Secretariat was under the impression that there was still a need for a 100% uptake notification, but Contracting Parties clarified that the intention was that the projected date of 100% uptake would be the date on which Contracting Parties should close the fishery. Canada drafted text to aid in the clarification of the closure of the “Others” quota and it is presented under Agenda Item 12.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The submission of Logbook information by haul remains on the agenda for the 2016 Annual Meeting and that the NAFO Secretariat would provide an update to STACTIC on the submissions.**

10. NAFO Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Website

The European Union presented STACTIC WP 16/07, a proposal for increasing the capabilities of the MCS website and the NAFO Secretariat presented on the security concerns and access rights of the website and noted that this discussion would be further elaborated in Agenda Item 14. The United States sought clarification whether these changes were meant to replace the developments of Phase 3. It was confirmed that this was an interim change pending the full implementation of Phase 3. The European Union noted that this was a good stepping stone to achieve Phase 3 in the long term. Contracting Parties were supportive of the European Union proposal, and Canada noted they would like to add further functionality to the Website as well. The European Union updated the proposal and presented it in STACTIC WP 16/07 Rev. Contracting Parties provided comments and agreed that all items presented in the Table should move forward (as indicated by “Y” in the last column of the table in STACTIC WP 16/07 Rev. 2).

It was **agreed** that:

- **That the European Union would move forward with the proposal presented in STACTIC WP 16/07 Rev. 2 and would provide draft changes to the text of the NAFO CEM prior to the 2016 Annual Meeting.**

11. Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) of the NAFO CEM

The Chair noted that two main members of the EDG are no longer working on NAFO files, and that the EDG had not met since the fall of 2015. The European Union highlighted the importance of the EDG and reflected on their mandate under the Fisheries Commission. The Chair noted that membership is open and encouraged all Contracting Parties to participate in the EDG. The Chair also noted that it may be useful for the NAFO Secretariat to participate in EDG meetings, especially when updating the new measures to the NAFO CEM following the Annual Meetings.

12. New and Pending Proposals on Enforcement Measures – possible revisions of the NAFO CEM

Canada presented STACTIC WP 16/15 in an attempt to clarify the process of notification of the “Others” quota as presented by the Secretariat in STACTIC WP 16/05. Following discussions of Canada’s proposal, Contracting Parties came to the conclusion that the text needs to be reviewed in more detail before any changes could be made.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Canada and the European Union would review the measures regarding the “Others” quota and provide a proposal at the 2016 Annual Meeting.**

13. Report and Recommendations of the STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group, December 2015

The Chair introduced the latest report of the Observer Program Review Working Group (FC Doc. 15/24). The Chair highlighted some of the discussions that occurred at the Working Group meeting, including the purpose of the NAFO observer program, the inclusion of Article 30 Part B, the standardization of training, and discussions of observer coverage levels. Canada is developing criteria for the establishment of coverage levels. These criteria should be ready for discussion by September. The European Union highlighted that the Working Group has already achieved substantial progress, in particular on what the role of the observer in NAFO should be and, everything relating to the independence and the work conditions of the observer when onboard a vessel. The

Chair noted that the Working Group will continue its discussions and plan to have another meeting in late June or early July of 2016. Canada thanked the Working Group for its efforts to date, and noted that NAFO is becoming reliant on all data sources for completing work in the various working groups. Contracting Parties raised the point that interaction between the Observer Program Review Working Group and other relevant bodies (Scientific Council, some joint Working Groups) is necessary to ensure that all points of view are incorporated.

It was **agreed** that:

- **STACTIC would seek a mechanism to connect the Observer Program Review Working Group with other bodies within NAFO to facilitate an exchange of information.**

14. Report and Advice of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)

The Chair of JAGDM (Lloyd Slaney) presented STACTIC WP 16/08 which included some of the highlights from the last JAGDM meeting. Within this working paper was a suggested way forward on how to address the issues of the IMO numbering requirement in the Annexes of the NAFO CEM, as presented by the Secretariat in STACTIC WP 16/05. Contracting Parties noted that the current use of the word 'eligible' in the NAFO CEM was unclear. Canada agreed to provide a proposal at the 2016 Annual Meeting to address the issue of clarity so that JAGDM could continue with their suggested way forward in the Annexes of the NAFO CEM.

Contracting Parties raised the question of data sharing between NAFO and NEAFC and noted that this has been an item for quite some time and questioned why it has not been accomplished to date. The NAFO Secretariat noted that it may be outside of the scope of JAGDM to recommend changes to the vessel reporting scheme of NAFO and NEAFC (in terms of aligning the COX messages for comparison between RFMOs). The Chair of JAGDM noted that one of the tasks of the next meeting is to review the Terms of Reference of this group for clarification. The NAFO Secretariat noted that if STACTIC sent a formal request to JAGDM asking for a proposal on the alignment of the COX messages between NAFO and NEAFC, JAGDM could work to produce one. Contracting Parties agreed that this would be a good way forward and it would allow for NAFO to review at the September 2016 Annual Meeting and NEAFC to review at the November 2016 meeting.

The Chair of JAGDM also presented STACTIC WP 16/09 Rev., which was an update on the working paper that was presented by JAGDM at the 2015 Annual Meeting (STACTIC WP 15/29). The update was that JAGDM required more time in order to complete this proposal, and would continue their discussions at the next meeting, which is being held from 31 May to 01 June 2016.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Canada would draft a proposal for discussion at the 2016 Annual Meeting regarding the clarification in the NAFO CEM on the IMO numbering requirement.**
- **The STACTIC Chair would draft a formal request to JAGDM to create a proposal to harmonize the COX messages between NAFO and NEAFC in order to facilitate data sharing in the future.**
- **JAGDM would continue to work on the proposal that was brought forward in STACTIC WP 15/29 at the 2015 Annual Meeting for presentation at the 2016 Annual Meeting.**

15. Information Security Management System (ISMS)

The NAFO Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 16/10 - NAFO ISMS Update and noted that the new item that was addressed this year was the addition of an Enterprise Firewall at the NAFO Secretariat.

The NAFO Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 16/06 - NAFO ISMS Access Control, and presented on the method that the NEAFC Secretariat had undertaken to define access roles to NEAFC information and data. The Secretariat asked if it would be appropriate for them to follow the procedure of NEAFC in defining access rights to NAFO data. The Secretariat also highlighted that a starting point would be to apply this method to the data available on the MCS website so that access rights could be defined prior to the implementation of the European Union proposal (STACTIC WP 16/07 Rev. 2).

The NAFO Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 16/11 - NAFO ISMS and noted that at the 2015 Annual Meeting Contracting Parties agreed to provide comments on the items in the Security Audit report that pertained to STACTIC. Discussions on the items were as follows:

- **Item 1.1:** STACTIC recommended that the NAFO Secretariat develop a questionnaire with each of the potential functions that may need recoverability, with the priorities and timelines of recoverability outlined and costs associated with those timelines included to be distributed to Heads of Delegation.
- **Item 1.18:** Contracting Parties noted the issue and also reflected on the various access to information legislation that is available in other Contracting Parties. Canada highlighted that this discussion may be more appropriate under the context of confidentiality of various components of NAFO data and information.
- **Item 1.21/2.2:** Contracting parties discussed this issue and noted that a review of the confidentiality annexes in the NAFO CEM should be added to the agenda for the 2016 Annual Meeting. The European Union suggested that the NAFO Secretariat could provide an exhaustive list of all NAFO information and data and the current confidentiality rules associated with each component to facilitate the discussions at the Annual Meeting.
- **Item 2.3:** STACTIC noted that the completion of the access rights table would be required before further discussion on this matter.
- **Item 2.4:** STACTIC agreed that the best way forward would be for the NAFO Secretariat to provide a list of the users for each Contracting Party and their access rights to the Contracting Parties for review so that user accounts can be updated on an annual basis.
- **Item 2.5:** STACTIC noted that this item would remain on hold until the classification of NAFO data and information is complete.
- **Item 2.11:** STACTIC agreed that the NAFO Secretariat should draft their existing backup strategy so that STACTIC can review and endorse it.

It was agreed that:

- **The NAFO Secretariat should follow the method of NEAFC in defining roles for access rights to all NAFO data and information for presentation to STACTIC at the 2017 STACTIC Intersessional.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat pilot the access rights project with the data in the MCS website for presentation and input from STACTIC at the 2016 Annual Meeting.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat will develop a questionnaire for distribution to Heads of Delegation on the recoverability of certain NAFO Secretariat functions (Item 1.1 in STACTIC WP 16/11) with the inclusion of general costs and timelines.**
- **The Confidentiality Measures in the NAFO CEM be added to the Agenda for discussion at the 2016 Annual Meeting.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat would develop an exhaustive list of all NAFO data and information and outline the existing confidentiality measures associated with each to facilitate the discussion on the NAFO CEM Confidentiality Measures at the 2016 Annual Meeting.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat would provide Contracting Parties with a list of their users and access rights so that Contracting Parties can review and ensure that the user accounts are up to date on an annual basis.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat agreed to draft their existing backup strategy for review by STACTIC.**

16. Other Matters

a) VMS Service Provider (Visma) Contract Renewal

The NAFO Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 16/12 – Visma Contract Renewal for information purposes to STACTIC noting that the current contract with Visma is due to expire on 31 December 2017. The Secretariat noted that there would be two options upon the expiry of the existing contract, renewal with Visma, or seeking out another service provider. The Secretariat and Canada (as an Inspection Presence) expressed their satisfaction with Visma as a service provider to date. The Secretariat noted that they will be seeking guidance on a way forward at the 2016 Annual meeting and providing an estimate of the cost of a new contract with Visma.

b) Catch Estimates Study

The European Union presented STACTIC WP 16/14 – Study on Catch Estimate Methodologies that had been previously reviewed by the NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Catch Data Advisory Group (CDAG). Following discussions and clarification from Contracting Parties and CDAG participants, it was noted that the purpose of this presentation was to receive input from STACTIC on the proposal and also to potentially forward the proposal to the Observer Program Review Working Group, and other relevant working groups to provide input. The Chair noted again that there appears to be a need for clear communication channels between the various NAFO bodies and working groups.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The document presented in STACTIC WP 16/14 be referred to the Observer Program Review Working Group, and through the Fisheries Commission, to the Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process for input and discussion.**
- **There is a need for clear communication channels between the various NAFO bodies and the working groups.**

c) DFG - Update of the presentation provided by Greenland from the 2015 Intersessional

Denmark (in Respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) provided an update on its presentation from the 2015 STACTIC Intersessional on its FMC best practices. The Chair and Contracting Parties thanked DFG for the presentation and noted that they are completing very interesting work that may have the potential to be applied within NAFO.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The presentation provided by Denmark (in Respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) be added to the Practices and Procedures webpage on the NAFO website.**

d) Timing of the various committee meetings

Canada noted that there is a need to discuss the timing of the various meetings of NAFO bodies and working groups. Other Contracting Parties highlighted the need to schedule the meetings as early as possible to facilitate booking of travel. Contracting Parties also noted that scheduling should consider meeting times of other RFMOs that NAFO Contracting Parties are also members of. The Chair noted the recurring theme of a need for better communication channels between NAFO bodies and the various working groups as well as the scheduling of these meetings. The Chair noted that the Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process would be a good place to bring forward these concerns and recommendations.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Where possible, related Working Group meetings should be scheduled in the same week at the same location as the STACTIC Intersessional.**

17. Time and Place of next meeting

The next STACTIC meeting will be held at the Convention Center Plaza America (Autopista Varadero, Km 11) in Varadero Beach, Cuba, 19-23 September 2016.

18. Adoption of Report

The report was adopted on 11 May 2016.

19. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned the meeting at 11:35 am on 11 May 2016. The Chair thanked the NEAFC Secretariat for providing their meeting space and support, and the NEAFC partners who have worked to organize this meeting. The Chair thanks the former Chairs of STACTIC for their support and guidance as well as the NAFO Secretariat for their support during the meeting. She also thanked the meeting participants for their cooperation and input. The participants likewise expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Chair for her leadership.

Contracting Parties also thanked Jon Lansley from the European Union and Ellen Motoi from the United States for their participation in STACTIC over the last several years. This was the last meeting for both Jon and Ellen and Contracting Parties wished them the best on their future endeavors.

Annex 1. List of Participants

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Annex 2. Agenda

- 1) Opening by the Chair, Judy Dwyer (Canada)
- 2) Appointment of Rapporteur
- 3) Adoption of Agenda
- 4) Compilation of fisheries reports for compliance review (2004-2015), including review of Apparent Infringements.
- 5) Enforceability of Bycatch Measures
- 6) Port State Control Alignment
- 7) Review and evaluation of Practices and Procedures
- 8) Review of current IUU list pursuant to NAFO CEM (NCEM) Article 53
- 9) Half-year review of the implementation of new NAFO CEM measures
- 10) NAFO Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Website
- 11) Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) of the NAFO CEM
- 12) New and Pending Proposals on Enforcement Measures - possible revisions of the NAFO CEM
- 13) Report and Recommendations of the STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group, December 2015
- 14) Report and Advice of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)
- 15) Information Security Management System (ISMS)
- 16) Other Matters
 - a) VMS Service Provider (Visma) Contract Renewal
 - a) Catch Estimates Study
 - a) DFG – Update of the presentation provided by Greenland from the 2015 Intersessional
 - a) Timing of the various committee meetings
- 17) Time and Place of next meeting
- 18) Adoption of Report
- 19) Adjournment

Annex 3. Fisheries in the NAFO Regulatory Area in 2015

NAFO 2015 FISHERIES TRENDS and COMPLIANCE

(from the Compilation of NAFO Fishing Reports for
STACTIC Annual Compliance Review)

Presented by the NAFO Secretariat
(Agenda item 4)



STACTIC Intersessional Meeting – London, UK, 9-11 May 2016

Overview: Fishing Trips · 2015 Statistics · Trends 2004-2015 · Apparent Infringements · Issues · Next Steps

Initial Observations on 2015 Fisheries in the NRA

(in reference to Table 1 – Overview of 2015 Fishing Trips)

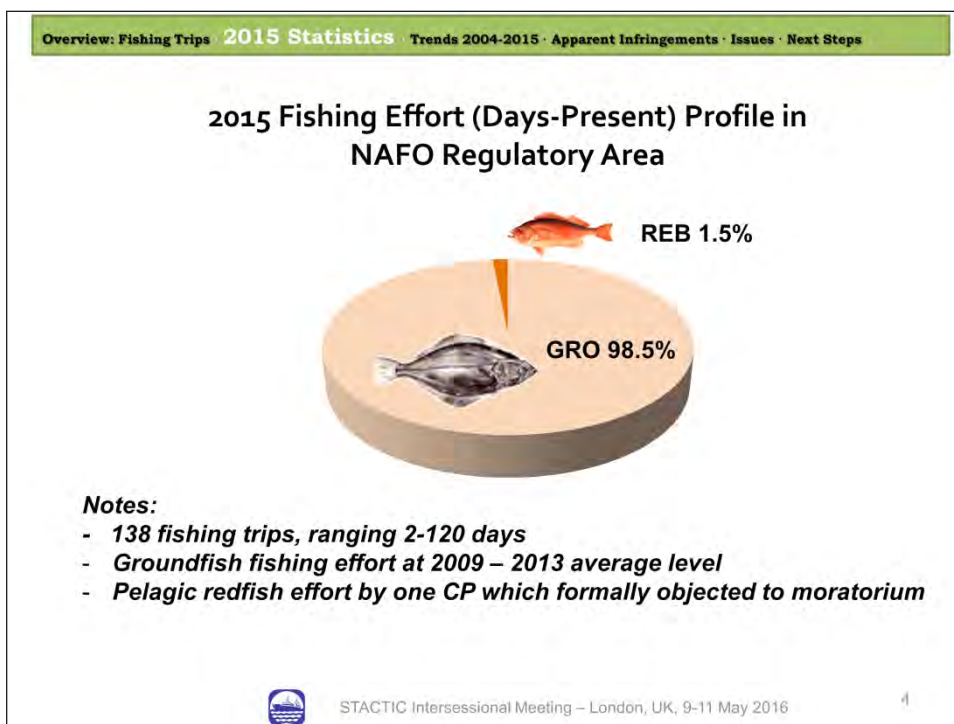
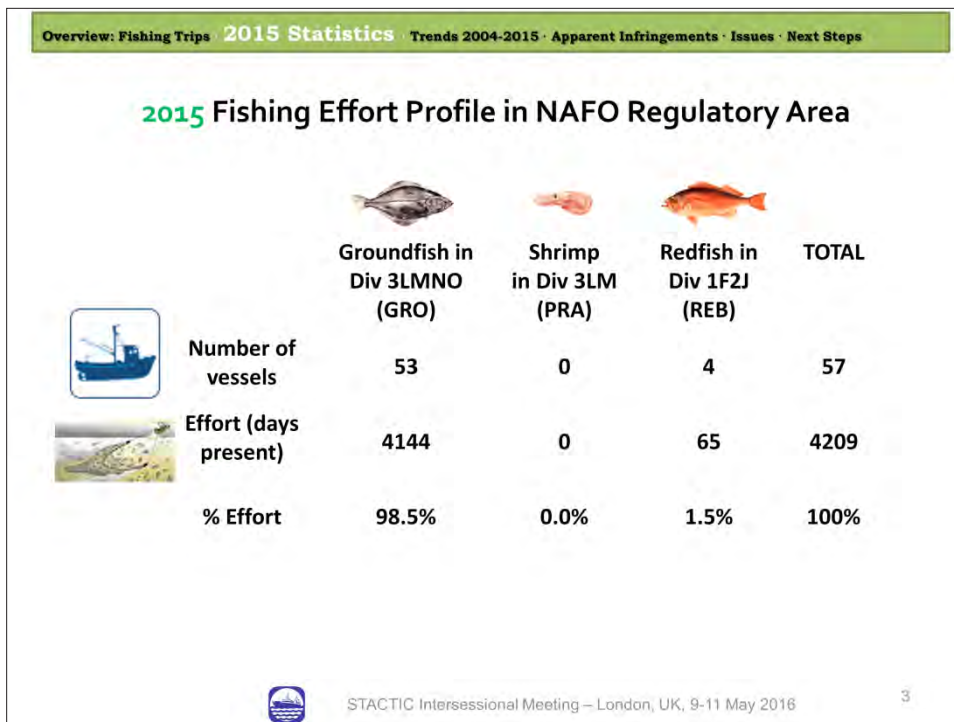
- High level of compliance – VMS and VTI (CATs)
- General agreement: declared vs landed catches in PSC3
- Improvement in observer reports submission
- AIs issued at sea – just 1, non-serious
- “AIs” issued at Port – six – 3 serious; 3 non-serious



STACTIC Intersessional Meeting – London, UK, 9-11 May 2016

2




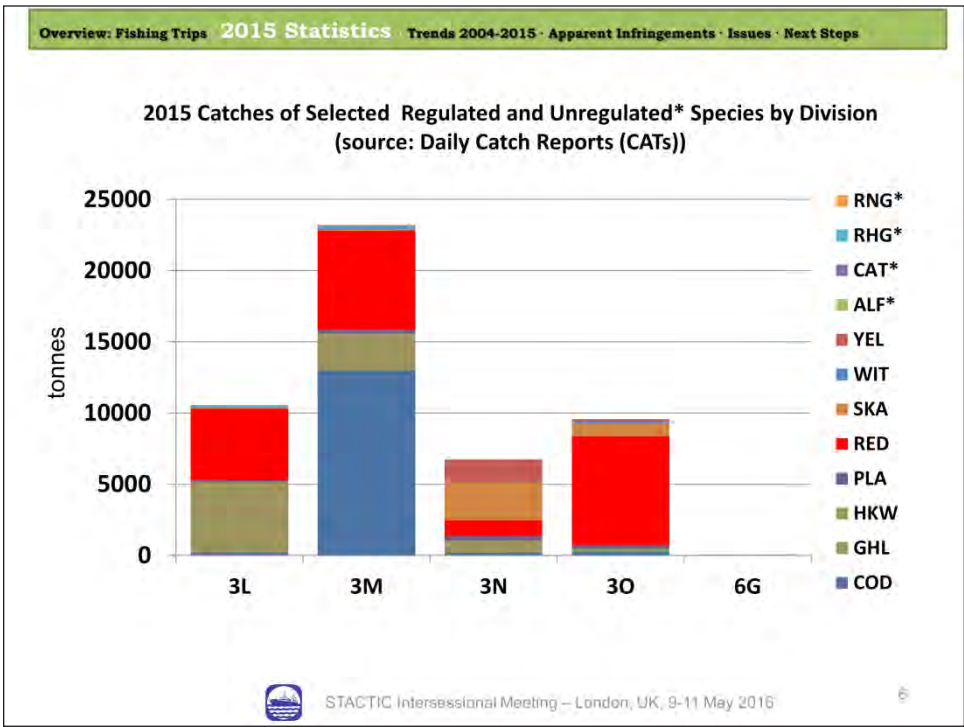


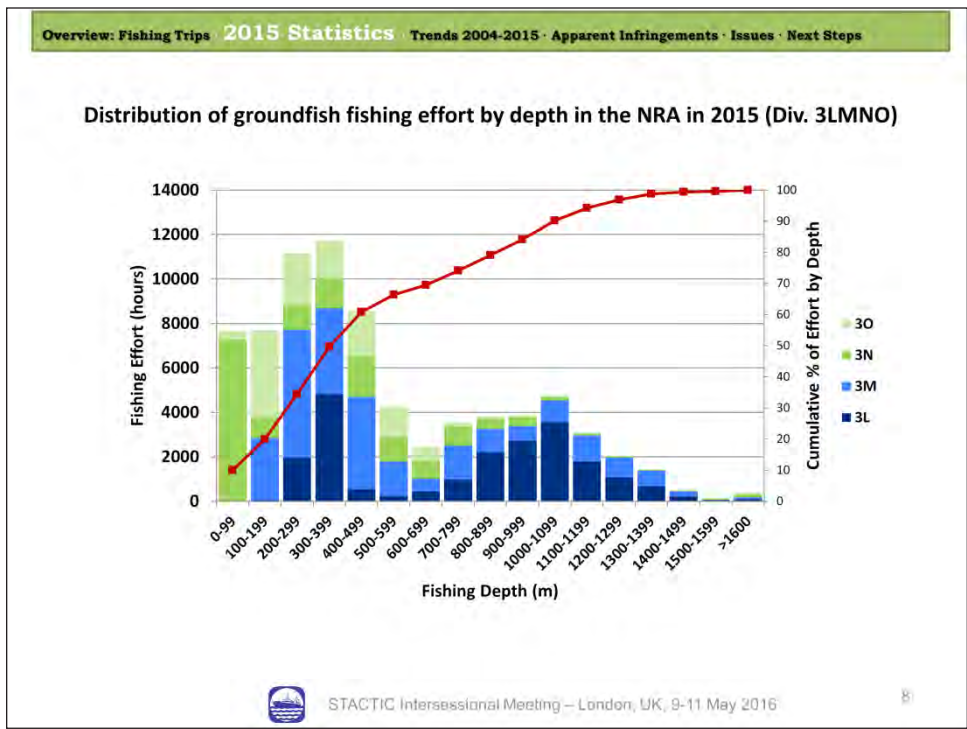
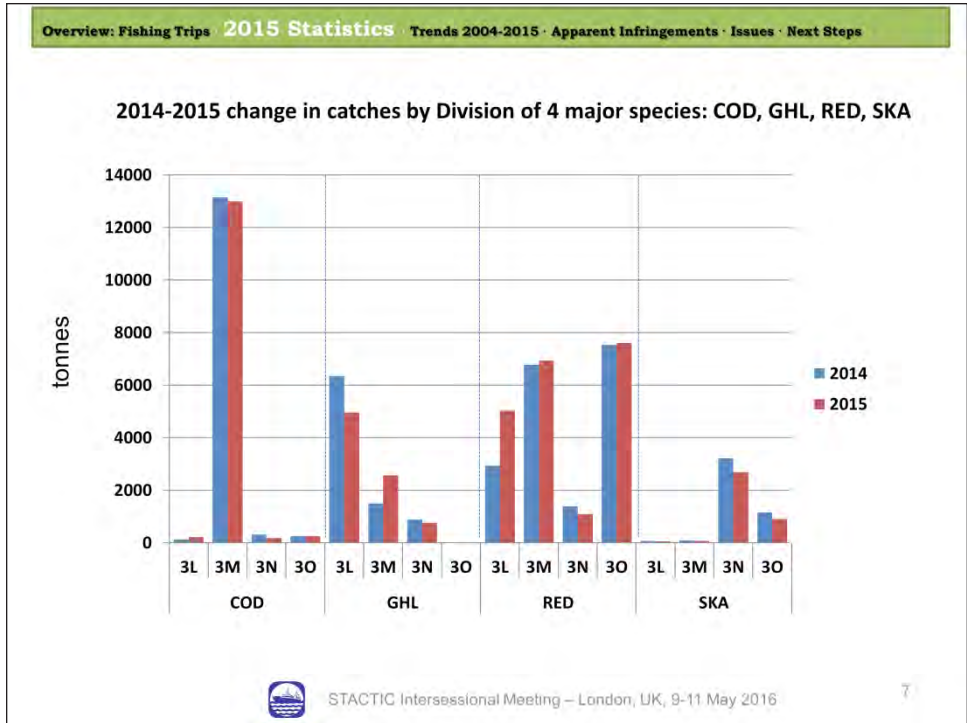
Overview: Fishing Trips **2015 Statistics** Trends 2004-2015 Apparent Infringements Issues Next Steps

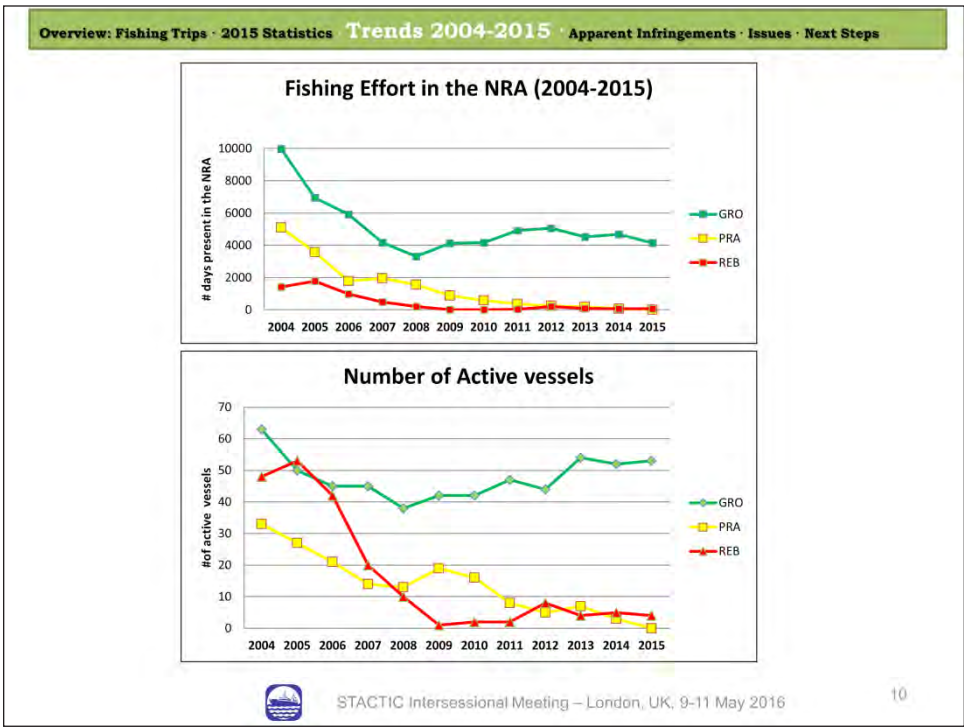
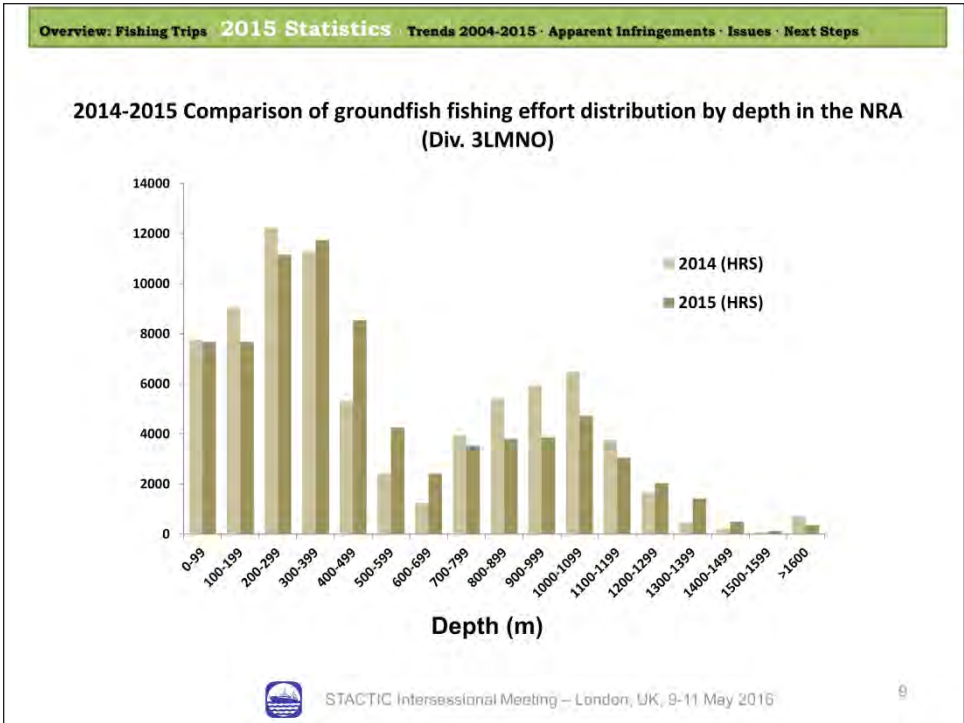
2014 -2015 Fishing Effort Profile Comparison

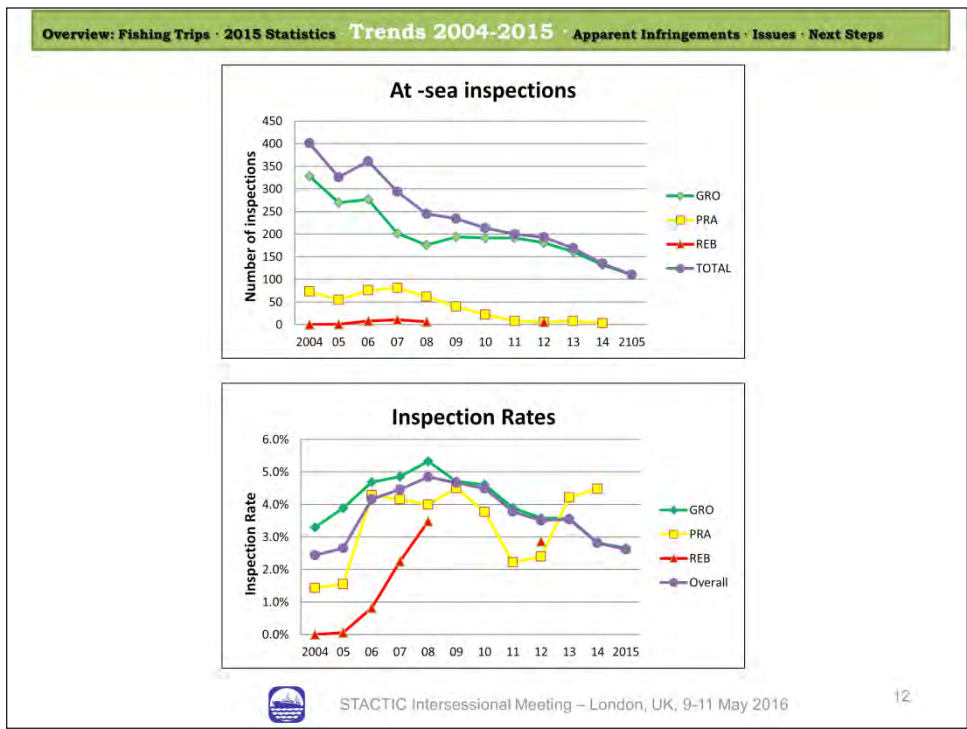
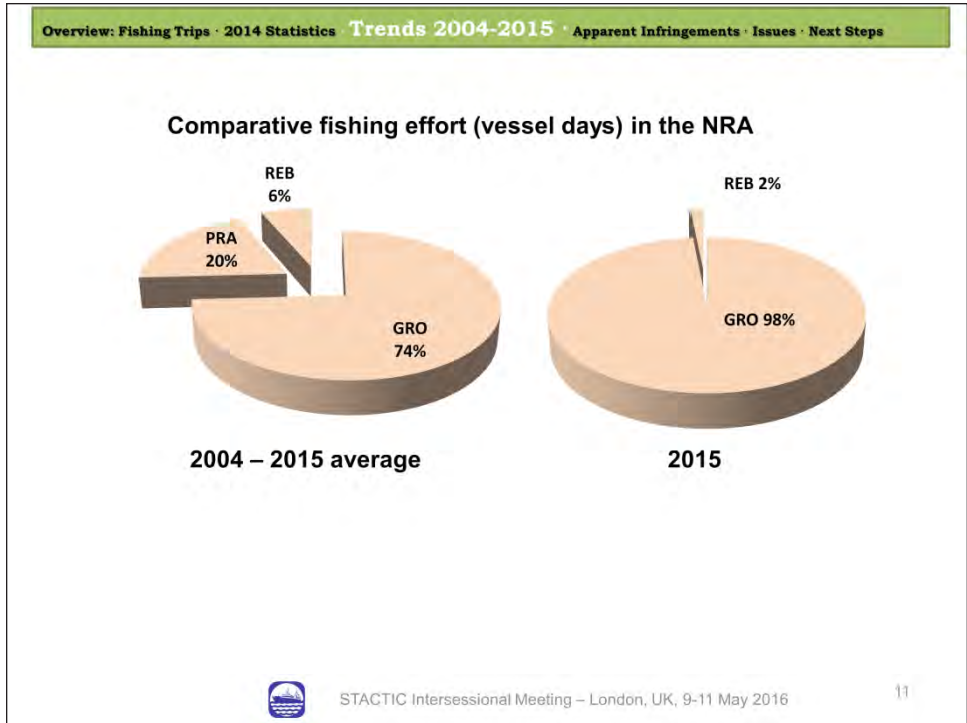
Number of fishing vessels				Fishing effort (days present)					
Year	Groundfish (GRO)	Shrimp (PRA)	Pelagic Redfish (REB)	TOTAL	Year	Groundfish (GRO)	Shrimp (PRA)	Pelagic Redfish (REB)	TOTAL
2014	52	3	5	59	2014	4685	67	57	4809
2015	53	0	4	57	2015	4144	0	65	4209
% Change	1.9%	-100.0%	-20.0%	-3.4%	% Change	-11.6%	-100.0%	14.0%	-12.5%

 STACTIC Interseasonal Meeting – London, UK, 9-11 May 2016 5










Overview: Fishing Trips · 2015 Statistics · Trends 2004-2015 · **Apparent Infringements** · Issues · Next Steps

AI case detected at Sea (1)

- Bycatch – retaining on board the > of 1250 or 5% of PLA in Div. 3N. – Case pending.

“AI” cases detected at Port - PSC3 Section E.1.B.c (6) – probably domestic, not NAFO, cases

- Bycatch, labelling, reporting
- 3M Redfish retention
- Bycatch limits, mis-recording
- Mis-recording of COD, GHL, RED, obstruction to inspection, stowage
- Mis-recording, move-away provision
- Logbook recording



STACTIC Intersessional Meeting – London, UK, 9-11 May 2016

13

Overview: Fishing Trips · 2015 Statistics · Trends 2004-2015 · Apparent Infringements · **Issues** · Next Steps

Catch Reporting and Data Analysis

- WG Bycatch, Discards, Selectivity
- WG Catch Reporting – Catch Data Advisory Group

At-Sea Inspection Reports

- Consistency in reporting catches and discards in Section 14

“AI’s” issued at ports

- Section E.1.B.c – new AI detected and follow-up
- Exclude in Compliance Review if domestic case



STACTIC Intersessional Meeting – London, UK, 9-11 May 2016

14

Overview: Fishing Trips · 2015 Statistics · Trends 2004-2015 · Apparent Infringements · **Issues** · Next Steps

Two examples of catch recording under Section 14 – Summary of catches from logbooks – of the At-sea Inspection Report (NCEM Annex IV.B)

Example A: Catch recorded as "retained"

SA	Species	Catch_kg	Discard_kg
3L	COD	23660	
3L	RED	55252	
3L	PLA	4391	130
3L	SKA	963	80
3L	WIT	202	60
3L	HAL	5065	
3L	GHL	51200	
3L	RHG	1470	
3L	CAT		300
3L	HKR		200
3L	RNG		60

Example B: Catch recorded as "total"

SA	Species	Catch_kg	Discard_kg
3O	COD	1144	
3O	RED	84411	400
3O	PLA	281	30
3O	SKA	1292	
3O	HAL	425	
3O	WIT	30	30
3O	HKS	230	230
3O	HKW	430	430

STACTIC Intersessional Meeting – London, UK, 9-11 May 2016 15

Overview: Fishing Trips · 2015 Statistics · Trends 2004-2015 · Apparent Infringements · Issues · **Next Steps**

2016 Annual Compliance Review (Compliance Report for Fishing Year 2015) – Next Steps

- **This intersessional meeting.** Secretariat presents draft Compliance Tables.
- **Between Intersessional and June 2016:** CPs provide comments and corrections to draft Compliance Tables.
- **June 22.** Secretariat transmits revised Compliance Tables (Rules of Procedure 4.1).
- **June 22 – Sept 19.** Secretariat drafts Annual Compliance Review for STACTIC.
- **Sept 2016 Annual Meeting.** STACTIC draft recommendations. FC adopts Annual Compliance Review and recommendations

STACTIC Intersessional Meeting – London, UK, 9-11 May 2016 16

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 WP 16/13 Rev.)

STACTIC INTERSESSIONAL MEETING – 9–11 MAY 2016

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.

Preamble

The basis of this working paper is STACTIC WP 15/13 Rev. 2 with all tracked changes agreed and accepted with the exception of those that remain below.

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 harvesting or processing fishery resources, landing or transshipping of fishery resources or products derived from fishery resources, or any other activity in preparation for, in support of, or related to 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 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 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 eliminated 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, 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;
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;
16. "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, 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, 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:
 - (i) directed fishing for a stock which is subject to a moratorium
 - (ii) directed fishing for a stock for which fishing is prohibited under Article 6
 - (iii) mis-recording of catch, contrary to Article 28 or
 - (iv) repetition of the same serious infringement during a 100 days period or a single fishing trip, whichever 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
 - (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(l) as if the infringement was reported by its own inspector.
3. Each Contracting Party shall take enforcement measures with respect to a vessel entitled 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 conduct 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 under domestic laws and regulations for entry or denial to its ports, the provisions in this Chapter apply to landings, transshipments, or use of ports by Contracting Parties by fishing vessels entitled to fly the flag of another Contracting Party, conducting fishing activities in the Regulatory Area. The provisions apply to fish caught in the Regulatory Area, or fish products originating from such fish, that have not been previously landed or transhipped at a port.

This Chapter also sets out the respective duties of the flag State Contracting Party and obligations of the master of fishing vessels requesting entry to a port of a Contracting Party. This chapter shall be applied to Contracting Party's ports within the Atlantic Ocean. Contracting Party's situated outside the Atlantic Ocean shall endeavor to apply this chapter.[m1]

or

This chapter shall be applied to ports of Contracting Party's which have areas of national jurisdiction within the Atlantic Ocean. CP's that does not have areas of national jurisdiction in the Atlantic Ocean shall endeavor to apply this chapter.[m2]

This Chapter shall be:

- (a) interpreted in a manner consistent with international law, including the right of port access in case of force majeure; and
- (b) applied in a fair and transparent manner.

Comment [m1]: Provided by Japan based on IOTC

Comment [m2]: Provided by EU to address Japan's concern as done in SEAFO

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 entry for the purpose of landing, transshipment and/or provision of port services and shall ~~to the greatest extent possible~~ ensure^[m3] 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 request period. The prior 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 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 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 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 landings, transshipments, or use of ports by vessels entitled to fly 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 donor vessels where the vessel has engaged in transshipment operations.
6. Fishing vessels may not enter port without prior authorization by the competent authorities of the port State Contracting Party. Authorization to land or tranship shall only be given if the confirmation from the flag State 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 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 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.

Comment [m3]: 2016 STACTIC Intersessional: Japan proposes to include the text «to the greatest extent possible», Certain other CPs prefer to remove that text and just keep the word «ensure»

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.
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) 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;
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 acknowledgment 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.
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. 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.
17. 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 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 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 enter port shall forward the request for entry to the competent authorities of the port State Contracting Party within the request period referred to in Article 43.2. Such request shall be accompanied by the form provided for in Annex II.L with Part A duly completed as follows:
 - (a) Form PSC 1, as referred to in Annex II.L.A shall be used where the vessel is carrying, landing or transshipping its own catch; and
 - (b) Form PSC 2, as referred to in Annex II.L.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 carries, lands or transships its own catch and catch that was received through transshipment.
2. A master or the agent may cancel a prior request by notifying the competent authorities of the port they intended to use. The 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 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, 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 RFMOs, 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 request permission to enter port from the competent authority of the port State Contracting Party 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, 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
- (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 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

4. The Executive Secretary shall without delay post the information received pursuant to this Article to the secure part of the NAFO website, and distributes it to all Contracting Parties, relevant RFMOs, 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 NCP 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 NCP vessel listing, including:
 - (i) the reasons and supporting evidence;
 - (ii) a copy of the CEM and a link to its place on the NAFO website;
 - (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;
 - (ii) report within 30 days from the date of the request on the measures it has taken with respect to the vessel concerned; and
 - (iii) state any objections it may have to including the vessel in the IUU Vessel List;
 - (f) transmits to the flag State of the NCP vessel any additional information received pursuant to Articles 49-51 in respect of vessels entitled 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 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 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 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
 - (i) the previous owner no longer has any legal, financial or real interest in such vessel, or exercises no control over it; or
 - (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, 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:

- (i) any of the requirements in paragraph 2(a)-(d) of this Article have been met with regard to a vessel placed on the NEAFC IUU List; or
 - (ii) none of the requirements in paragraph 2(a)-(d) of this Article have been met with regard to a vessel 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 **in port;**^[m4]
- (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.

Comment [m4]: 2016 STACTIC Intersessional: Japan prefers to insert «in port». Other CPs prefer to keep the existing text.

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.

Annex II.L
Port State Control Prior Request Forms
A-PSC-1

PORT STATE CONTROL FORM – PSC 1									
PART A: To be completed by the Master of the Vessel. Please use black ink									
Name of Vessel:		IMO Number: ¹		Radio Call Sign:		Flag State:			
Email Address:		Telephone Number:		Fax Number:		Inmarsat Number:			
Vessel master's name:		Vessel master's nationality:		Vessel owner:		Certificate of Registry ID:			
Vessel dimensions		Length (m):		Beam (m):		Draft (m):			
Port State:				Port of Landing or Transshipment:					
Last port of call:				Date:					
Estimated Date of Arrival:				Estimated Time (UTC) of Arrival:					
Frozen products only		Fresh products only		Fresh and frozen products					
Total catch on board – all areas							Catch to be landed ²		
Species ³	Product ⁴	Area of catch			Conversion factor	Product weight (kg)	Product weight (kg)		
		NEAFC CA (ICES subareas and divisions)	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 authorisation 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:						
Authorisation:	Yes:		No:		Date:	
Signature:			Official Stamp:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 I.C 4. Product presentations - NEAFC Appendix 1 to Annex IV - NAFO Annex II.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 black ink									
Name of Vessel:		IMO Number:¹		Radio Call Sign:		Flag State:			
Email Address:		Telephone Number:		Fax Number:		Inmarsat Number:			
Vessel master's name:		Vessel master's nationality:		Vessel owner:		Certificate of Registry ID:			
Vessel dimensions:		Length (m):		Beam (m):		Draft (m):			
Port State:				Port of Landing or Transshipment:					
Last port of call:				Date:					
Date and location of transshipment:				Transshipment authorisation if relevant:					
Estimated Date of Arrival:				Estimated Time (UTC) of Arrival:					
Frozen products only		Fresh products only		Fresh and frozen products					
Catch Information for Donor Vessels *A separate form shall be completed for each Donor Vessel*									
Name of Vessel			IMO Number¹		Radio Call Sign		Flag State		
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 subareas and divisions)	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 authorisation 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:					
Authorisation:		Yes:		No:	Date:
Signature:			Official Stamp:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 II.K 					

Annex IV c
Report on Port State Control inspection (PSC 3)
(Please use black ink)

A. INSPECTION REFERENCE.					Inspection report number:	
Landing	Yes	No	Transshipment	Yes	No	Other reason for port entry
Port State				Port of landing or transshipment		
Vessel name		Flag State		IMO Number¹		International Radio call sign
Landing / transshipment Start Date				Landing / transshipment Start Time (UTC)		
Landing / transshipment End Date				Landing / transshipment End Time (UTC)		
Vessel master's name:		Vessel master's nationality:		Vessel's owner/operator:		Certificate of Registry ID:
VMS:		Port of registry:		Fishing master's name:		Fishing master's nationality:
Vessel' beneficial owner²:		Vessel's agent:		Vessel Type:		
Last port of call:				Date:		
B. INSPECTION DETAILS						
Name of donor vessel³		IMO Number¹		Radio call sign		Flag State
B1. CATCH RECORDED IN THE LOGBOOK						
Species⁴		Area of catch		Declared live weight kg		Conversion factor used

¹ Fishing vessels not assigned an IMO number shall provide their external 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.

⁴ FAO Species Codes – NEAFC Annex V - NAFO Annex I.C

B2. FISH LANDED OR TRANSHIPPED

In case where a vessel has engaged in transhipment operations a separate form shall be used for each donor vessel.

Species ⁴	Product ¹	Area of catch	Product weight landed in kg	Conversion factor	Equivalent live weight kg	Diff (kg) 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 (kg) between Product weight landed and PSC 1/2	Diff (%) between Product weight landed and PSC 1/2

RELEVANT TRANSHIPMENT AUTHORISATION:

B3. INFORMATION ABOUT LANDINGS AUTHORISED WITHOUT CONFIRMATION FROM THE FLAG STATE

Ref. NEAFC art. 23.2 / NAFO art. 45.6

Name of Storage: _____

Name of Competent Authorities: _____

Deadline for receiving Confirmation: _____

B 4. FISH RETAINED ON BOARD

Species ⁴	Product ⁵	Area of catch	Product weight in kg	Conversion factor	Live weight kg	Diff. (kg) between product weight on board and PSC 1/2	Diff. (%) between product weight on board and PSC 1/2

C. RESULTS OF INSPECTION

C1. GENERAL

Inspection Start Date: _____ **Inspection Start Time (UTC):** _____

Inspection End Date: _____ **Inspection End Time (UTC):** _____

Status in other RFMO areas where fishing activities have been undertaken, including any IUU vessel listing

RFMO	Vessel identifier	Flag State status	Vessel on authorised vessel list	Vessel on IUU vessel list

⁵ Product presentations – NEAFC Appendix 1 to Annex IV – NAFO Annex II.K

Observations:			
C2. GEAR INSPECTION IN PORT (In accordance with Article 43.13 (j))			
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. Otter Trawl details			
NAFO Seal number			Is seal undamaged? Yes No
Gear type			
Attachments			
Grate Bar Spacing (mm).			
Mesh type			
Average mesh sizes (mm)			
Trawl part			
Wings			
Body			
Lenghtening Piece			
Codend			
D. Observations by the master:			
I,the undersigned, Master of the vesselhereby confirm that a copy of this report have 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			
E.1 NAFO			
E.1 A At Sea Inspection			
Infringements resulting from Inspections inside NAFO R.A.			
Inspection Party	Date of inspection	Division	NAFO CEM infringement legal reference
E.1 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 CEM infringement legal reference	National Infringement legal reference	
E2. NEAFC INFRINGEMENT NOTED		
Article	NEAFC provision(s) violated and summary of pertinent facts	
Inspector's observations:		
Action taken:		
Inspecting authority / agency:		
Inspectors Name	Inspectors signature	Date and place
F. DISTRIBUTION		
Copy to flag State	Copy to NEAFC Secretary	Copy to NAFO Executive Secretary

ANNEX

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) 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) 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;
- (h) evaluate whether there is clear evidence for believing that a non-Contracting Party vessel has engaged in IUU fishing activities; and
- (i) arrange, where necessary and possible, for translation of relevant documentation.

Additionally 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.

SECTION VII
(pages 271–280)

Report of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM) meeting

31 May–1 June 2016
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Contents

1.	Opening of the meeting	273
2.	Appointment of rapporteur	273
3.	Discussion and adoption of the Agenda	273
4.	NAFO Issues	273
5.	NAFO Information Security Management System (ISMS)	274
6.	Status of other NAFO projects	274
7.	NEAFC issues	274
8.	Status of other NEAFC projects	276
9.	Management of the North Atlantic Format	276
10.	Management of the websites	276
11.	Any other business	277
12.	Report to the Annual Meetings	277
13.	Date and place of the next meeting	277
14.	Closure of the meeting	277
	Annex 1. Participant List	278
	Annex 2. Agenda	279
	Annex 3. List of Documents	280

Report of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM) Meeting (NAFO FC Doc. 16/04)

**30 May–1 June, 2016
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada**



1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair, Lloyd Slaney (Canada), opened the meeting at 09:30 hrs on Tuesday, 31 May 2016 at the NAFO Secretariat Headquarters in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada. Participants were welcomed from Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, Iceland and Norway (Annex 1).

The Executive Secretary of NAFO (Fred Kingston) welcomed everyone to the NAFO Headquarters and the Chair encouraged targeted discussions throughout the meeting as the agenda was significant.

2. Appointment of rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat was appointed rapporteur.

3. Discussion and adoption of the Agenda

The Chair suggested that responding to the two requests received from the NAFO Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) and the NEAFC Ad Hoc Working Groups on ERS (AHWG-ERS) be established as a priority before proceeding with the rest of the agenda. There were no objections. The *adopted* agenda is presented in Annex 2.

The Chair further instructed that during this meeting, the group consider its Rules of Procedure (agenda item 11.a) for further clarification of the group's mandate.

4. NAFO Issues

a) Issues raised by STACTIC

At the May 2016 NAFO STACTIC Intersessional meeting, STACTIC WP 16/08 was presented which included some of the highlights from the last JAGDM meeting.

An update was provided regarding issues raised by STACTIC regarding JAGDM specifically:

- The formal request from the STACTIC Chair on Data Sharing Between NAFO and NEAFC (JAGDM Document 2016-02-17);
This item is addressed under agenda item 4.a.i. of this meeting.
- The work on the proposal that was brought forward in JAGDM Document 2016-01-20 (STACTIC WP 15/29) for presentation at the 2016 Annual Meeting of NAFO.
This item is addressed under agenda item 10.b.i. of this meeting.
- The issues of the IMO numbering requirement in the Annexes of the NAFO CEM (JAGDM Document 2016-02-18).

The working paper presented (STACTIC WP 16/08) provided a suggested way forward on how to address the issues of the IMO numbering requirement in the Annexes of the NAFO CEM. At the May 2016 STACTIC Intersessional meeting, Contracting Parties noted that the current use of the word '*eligible*' in the NAFO CEM was unclear. Canada agreed to provide a proposal at the 2016 Annual Meeting of NAFO to address the issue of clarity so that JAGDM could continue with their suggested way forward in the Annexes of the NAFO CEM.

i) Data Sharing Between NAFO and NEAFC

Both Commissions have recently expressed the intention to establish procedures for data sharing, primarily to identify cases in which there is a significant difference between the reports provided on leaving one area and

entering into another. One essential step towards this goal is the harmonisation of catch on exit (COX) reports. A specific request for JAGDM to establish as a priority, the completion of advice to describe how to harmonize COX messages between the two organizations was received prior to this meeting from NAFO STACTIC.

JAGDM has reviewed and considered the request and developed a proposal to harmonize COX reports between NAFO and NEAFC (2016-02-27). This proposal will require changes to the NEAFC Scheme. The NAFO COX report includes the data element 'On Board' (OB) which is described as the total quantity by species on board when the vessel exits the Regulatory Area. Currently, NEAFC COX reports do not include the OB data element.

JAGDM proposes that OB is added, as a mandatory element, to the NEAFC COX report with the description as the total quantity by species on board when the vessel exits the Regulatory Area, which is intended to clarify that all species should be reported and not only the regulated resources to which the CAT reports are limited.

ii) Update from the STACTIC 2016 Intersessional on request to JAGDM to review the Annexes of the NCEM and make some clarifications

It was agreed to discuss this item under agenda item 10.b.i. of this meeting.

iii) Any new issues raised at the May 2016 STACTIC Intersessional

There were no new issues raised for JAGDM to consider.

5. NAFO Information Security Management System (ISMS)

a) ISMS update from the May 2016 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting

There were no new issues raised for JAGDM to consider.

The implementation of the ISMS recommendations continues to proceed. As the implementation continues, the assistance of JAGDM will be sought in the future, as required.

6. Status of other NAFO projects

a) FLUX Transport Layer update

It was reported that since the last meeting, the NAFO Secretariat continues to work in collaboration with the European Union to receive its catch data on a haul by haul basis via the FLUX Transport Layer. This data is reported to fulfill the obligations in Article 28.8 and described in Annex II.N.

Mr. Matthias Petofalvi visited the NAFO Secretariat from 21–22 March 2016 to assist in the successful installation of the FLUX transportation layer.

7. NEAFC issues

a) Issues raised by the ERS Working Group

The Chair of NEAFC Ad Hoc Working Groups on ERS (AHWG-ERS), Gylfi Geirsson asked JAGDM in JAGDM Document 2016-02-21 to:

- Review the descriptions and use of RN, RD, RT, SQ, TN and 'message unique identifier' to determine whether or not it is possible for a single Message unique identifier' replace the sequence number and/or record number and/or trip number in ERS messages, including corrections and cancellations, without any loss of information on fishing activities already required for control and monitoring purposes?
- Offer advice on technical pros and cons of adopting IMO number as primary vessel identifier in ERS systems
- Comment on the success and any limitations discovered in the further mapping exercise between NAF format and UN/CEFACT P1000
- Agree new NAF format codes based on a consolidated list of NAF format codes in use and according to the list attached. Additional information is added on the proposed use in Detailed Catch and Activity (DCA) reports of 'processing type' and 'species size composition', for which NAF field codes have been requested

i) Agree NAF format codes for new NEAFC-ERS data elements (clarified as requested)

The work to adopt the new data elements foreseen in NEAFC-ERS could not be done in the first JAGDM meeting of 2016 therefore Norway was asked to update the document (JAGDM Document 2016-01-28 Rev.).

The document listed all the two letter field code elements that Contracting Parties know are in use and it was developed with the primary purpose to give advice on codes for new data elements foreseen in NEAFC-ERS. The creation of such a list would ensure the requested new codes do not already exist and avoid duplication of definitions for the same codes. The list will also be used to update data on the NAF website with the two-letter field codes already in use and the new ones created for the NEAFC-ERS.

The list was separated into two tables (Annex I and Annex II) with the suggestion that JAGDM focus on the data elements in Annex I currently and designate data elements in Annex II as those that may be addressed at a later stage.

JAGDM prepared JAGDM Document 2016-02-26 which proposes, for consideration, NAF two-letter field codes for the identified contexts either by identifying a two-letter field code that is already used bilaterally or by creation of a new two-letter field code.

ii) Can a single ‘message identifier’ replace the current system (RN, RD, RT, SQ, TN) without any loss of information currently in use

The possibility of merging the field codes (RN, RD, RT, SQ, TN) into a single ‘message identifier’ was discussed. This option may or may not retain the ‘business’ information in the newly created single message identifier depending on how it was accomplished, from a technical standpoint, the result would be cumbersome and difficult to use either way.

It is the view of JAGDM that the current record identifiers cannot be replaced by a global unique identifier, without losing ‘business’ information (JAGDM Document 2016-02-31). A global unique identifier will not give any identification of missing messages while a sequence number (SQ) does. A trip identifier cannot be replaced by a global identifier if information on the number of trips is required.

The requirement for specific record identifiers changes with the business needs and whether the loss of this business information is important is not a technical decision.

iii) Advise on the technical pros and cons of adopting IMO number as primary vessel identifier in ERS systems

The technical pros and cons of adopting the IMO number as the primary identifier of vessels in ERS systems was presented in JAGDM Document 2016-02-22 and JAGDM Document 2016-02-29. Although an IMO number is an internationally unique identifier that is assigned to a physical vessel for its lifetime, there were difficulties discussed with having the IMO number as the primary identifier. Some key challenges identified involve adding complexity in NEAFC and sharing information with others specifically:

- Domestic systems – Generally vessels are identified by International Radio Call Sign (IRCS) which means that messages sent to NEAFC would be different to messages sent to other places.
- Sharing data with other organizations – NEAFC would be unable to effectively share data with other organizations (e.g. NAFO) where IRCS is currently used as the primary identifier.
- Processing vessel registry data – Details of ownership and flag can change but the IMO stays the same for the life of the vessel therefore it would be required to determine which activities the vessel undertook while under which flag and/or ownership.

Having both IRCS and IMO number is beneficial, and both should be available to inspectors, but there were no obvious technical pros to adopting the IMO number as the primary vessel identifier.

iv) Comment on the success and any limitations discovered in the further mapping exercise between NAF format and UN/CEFACT

In March 2016, JAGDM was requested to comment on a more detailed mapping of Flux to UN/CEFACT P1000 3 (UN/CEFACT). At that time, it became clear that the comparison of these formats was not an easy task for a variety of reasons, although the use of the international standard was deemed reasonable. The European

Union and NEAFC Secretariat therefore volunteered to provide a more detailed mapping for JAGDM which was presented in JAGDM Document 2016-02-04 and JAGDM Document 2016-02-28.

JAGDM reflected on the work done by the NEAFC Secretariat and it can be seen that the structure of XML as used in UN/CEFACT is substantially different from the slash reporting structure of the NAF Format currently used in NEAFC. The XML format has an increased capacity for grouping similar data, because it allows for the nesting of data, where data types can contain other similar data types, or link to other relevant data depending on a specified relationship. This allows the XML format greater capacity, flexibility and clarity than is currently available using the NAF format.

This work successfully demonstrates that all the data currently under discussion for a NEAFC ERS system can be successfully mapped into UN/CEFACT without needing to add to the existing international standard. Although there were no particular limitations noted with the mapping, the group noted that the additional difficulty of changing from a format which is understood to one which is both new and untested in terms of the effort (and therefore cost). It is also harder to estimate the extent of this impact making budgeting and planning more complicated.

b) NEAFC Information Security Management System (ISMS)

i) Possible Upgrade of NEAFC ISMS to use ISO 27001:2013

This agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

ii) Work of the Security System Administrators

This agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

iii) Information Security Incident Management (ISMS, Article 13)

This agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

iv) Risk Management (ISMS, Article 3) status of the work

This agenda item was deferred to the next meeting.

v) Annual Review of the NEAFC Inventory (ISMS Article 7.1)

The updates to the NEAFC system and inventory (JAGDM Document 2016-02-12) were presented highlighting the updated items in the NEAFC system since the last briefing in May 2015 specifically:

- New Port-State Control Application
- Back-up rotation for Positive Internet was updated
- Change to Article 14 - ISMS Business Continuity Guidelines
- 'Cod' new test server has been added on network
- Migration to new domain for office network services
- Upgrade to a private cloud system for NEAFC webserver
- Office Wireless network upgrade

8. Status of other NEAFC projects

There are no other NEAFC projects to report on at this time.

9. Management of the North Atlantic Format

There were no items to be discussed under this agenda item.

10. Management of the websites

a) JAGDM

There were no items to be discussed under this agenda item.

b) NAF

There were no items to be discussed under this agenda item.

i) Update the List of data-elements, codes and definitions to be in line with the proposed changes in STACTIC WP 15/29

The NAFO CEM prescribes electronic notification and authorization in Article 25 and electronic catch reporting in Article 28. It has become apparent that ambiguous definitions relating to certain data elements, coupled with the lack of some tangible examples, have contributed to inconsistencies in electronic reporting by Contracting Parties.

In 2015, JAGDM tasked representatives from Norway and Canada with reviewing the Annexes to identify data elements requiring improvement and to propose new definitions and examples of the required format. JAGDM Document 2016-01-20 Rev. was developed to provide clarification and advice to amend the pertinent tables in the Annexes with clear definitions and tangible examples of the correct reporting format.

This proposal focuses on some minor but important changes to Annex II D. C, Annex II.E and F. Concentration was placed on the data field codes SQ, DA, TI, RN, RD and RT and wording to encapsulate the process when vessel reports are forwarded to the NAFO Secretariat via the Flag State FMC. Additional references to other Annexes have been included as well to better understand the proposed changes.

JAGDM prepared JAGDM Document 2016-01-20 Rev. to provide clarification and advice to amend the pertinent tables in the NAFO CEM Annexes with clear definitions and tangible examples of the correct reporting format.

ii) Updating NAF website with codes already in use by Contracting Parties

This work will be completed by the NAFO Secretariat before both organizations 2016 Annual Meetings.

11. Any other business

a) Possible changes to JAGDM's Rules of Procedure

This item was moved to the **discussion and adoption of the Agenda**. The Chair instructed the group to consider the Rules of Procedure for guidance and to use the TOR to better prioritize tasks and/or requests received. The Chair focused upon and read section 2: *The Functions of the Advisory Group*. The chair also referenced the Rules of Procedure and encouraged all participants to review this document to re-familiarize themselves with the procedures.

b) JAGDM logo proposal

The NAFO Secretariat presented the draft JAGDM logo (JAGDM Document 2016-02-16) with the changes suggested at the last JAGDM meeting incorporated.

The JAGDM logo (JAGDM Document 2016-02-16) was approved with a small amendment to increase readability of the data image in the background.

12. Report to the Annual Meetings

An update regarding outcomes of this meeting will be provided by Lloyd Slaney, Chair, to the NAFO 38th Annual Meeting in September 2016 and Ellen Fasmer, Vice-Chair, to the NEAFC 35th Annual Meeting in November 2016.

13. 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 will be determined at a later date.

14. Closure of the meeting

The meeting adjourned at 16:30 hrs on 1 June 2016. 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
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Discussion and adoption of the Agenda
4. NAFO issues
 - a) Issues raised by STACTIC
 - i) Data Sharing Between NAFO and NEAFC
 - ii) Update from the STACTIC 2016 Intersessional on request to JAGDM to review the Annexes of the NCEM and make some clarifications
 - iii) Any new issues raised at May 2016 STACTIC Intersessional
5. NAFO Information Security Management System (ISMS)
 - a) ISMS update from the May 2016 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting
6. Status of other NAFO projects
 - a) FLUX Transport Layer update
7. NEAFC issues
 - a) Issues raised by the ERS Working Group
 - i) Agree NAF format codes for new NEAFC-ERS data elements (clarified as requested)
 - ii) Can a single 'message identifier' replace the current system (RN, RD, RT, SQ, TN) without any loss of information currently in use
 - iii) Advise on the technical pros and cons of adopting IMO number as primary vessel identifier in ERS systems
 - iv) Comment on the success and any limitations discovered in the further mapping exercise between NAF format and UN/CEFACT
 - b) NEAFC Information Security Management System (ISMS)
 - i) Possible Upgrade of NEAFC ISMS to use ISO 27001:2013
 - ii) Work of the Security System 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)
8. Status of other NEAFC projects
9. Management of the North Atlantic Format
10. Management of the websites
 - a) JAGDM
 - b) NAF
 - i) Update the List of data-elements, codes and definitions to be in line with the proposed changes in STACTIC WP 15/29
 - ii) Updating NAF website with codes already in use by Contracting Parties
11. Any other business
 - a) Possible changes to JAGDM's rules of procedure
 - b) JAGDM logo proposal
12. Report to the Annual Meetings
13. Date and place of the next meeting
14. Closure of the meeting

Annex 3. List of Documents

Document	Agenda item	Document title
JAGDM 2016-02-00	1	List of documents
JAGDM 2016-02-01	3	Agenda
JAGDM 2016-02-02	-	List of participants
JAGDM 2016-02-03	7.a.ii	A Draft Mapping of NAF Record Identification Codes to UN/CEFACT Record identification codes
JAGDM 2016-02-04	7.a.iv	Notes on the More Detailed Mapping between UN/CEFACT and NAF Format
JAGDM 2016-02-05	7.a.iv	FLUX ERS Code List v0.5
JAGDM 2016-02-06	7.a.iv	EU FLUX Fishing Activity Implementation
JAGDM 2016-02-07 (Revised)	7.a.iv	NAF to UN/CEFACT List Format
JAGDM 2016-02-08	7.b.i	Possible Upgrade of NEAFC ISMS to use ISO 27001:2013
JAGDM 2016-02-09	7.b.ii	Report on the NEAFC Security System Administrators Meeting
JAGDM 2016-02-10	7.b.iii	Possible Definition of IT Security Incident: Discussion Paper from NEAFC Secretariat (rev2)
JAGDM 2016-02-11	7.b.iv	Information Security Risk Assessment Update
JAGDM 2016-02-12	7.b.v	Updated List of Inventory Updates
JAGDM 2016-02-13	7.a.iv	Sample Comparison Norway NAF to ERS UN/CEFACT
JAGDM 2016-02-14	7.a.ii	NEAFC Message Identification End to End
JAGDM 2016-02-15	7.b.v	Annual Review of the NEAFC Inventory
JAGDM 2016-02-16	11.b	Final Draft Logo
JAGDM 2016-02-17	4.a.i	Letter from the STACTIC Chair on Data Sharing
JAGDM 2016-02-18	4.a.iii	IMO Update from STACTIC Intersessional Meeting
JAGDM 2016-02-19	7.b.v	NEAFC Network Diagram
JAGDM 2016-02-20	7.a.iv	DCA report sent from NOR to XEU with CREWS and UN/CEFACT
JAGDM 2016-02-21	7.a	Letter from AHWG ERS Chair
JAGDM 2016-02-22	7.a.iii	NEAFC Adopting IMO Numbers
JAGDM 2016-02-23	7.a.iv	NEAFC NAF Codes vs UN/CEFACT
JAGDM 2016-02-24	7.a.iv	NEAFC Mapping Current Catch Messages to UN/CEFACT
JAGDM 2016-02-25	7.a.iv	NOR Mapping Current ERS Messages to UN/CEFACT
JAGDM 2016-02-26	7.a.i	Response to AHWG ERS on Two Letter Codes
JAGDM 2016-02-27	4.a.i	Proposal to Harmonize COX Reports
JAGDM 2016-02-28	7.a.iv	Response to AHWG ERS on Mapping
JAGDM 2016-02-29	7.a.iii	Response on IMO Numbering
JAGDM 2016-02-30	7.a.iv	NAF to UN/CEFACT Header Comparison
JAGDM 2016-02-31	7.a.ii	Response to AHWG ERS on Unique Identifiers
JAGDM 2016-01-20 (Revised)	10.b.i	JAGDM Proposal to Harmonize Data Definitions in NAFO Scheme with Definitions
JAGDM 2016-01-21 (Rev. 2)	10.b.i	JAGDM Proposal to Harmonise Data Definitions in NEAFC Scheme with Definitions
JAGDM 2016-01-28 (Revised)	7.a.i	NAF Codes in Use: Update from Norway

SECTION VIII
(pages 281–298)

**Report of the NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission—Scientific Council
Catch Data Advisory Group (CDAG)**

Contents

1. Opening of the Meeting.....	283
2. Appointment of Rapporteur.....	283
3. Review of available data sources, including establishment of parameters for catch data review.....	283
4. Development of a methodology for catch estimation to be used by Secretariat, including specific methodologies for priority stocks 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut, 3LNO American plaice, and 3M cod.....	284
5. Next steps: Secretariat reporting to the WG-CR, Scientific Council and Fisheries Commission.....	285
6. Other matters.....	285
7. Adoption of Report.....	285
8. Adjournment.....	285
Annex 1. Terms of Reference of CDAG.....	286
Annex 2. List of Participants.....	288
Annex 3. Review of the STACTIC Data.....	291
Annex 4. Development of Methodology for Catch Estimation in Three Schematic Tables....	292
Annex 5. Estimation Strategy.....	295
Annex 6. Canadian Catch Data Methodology and Dockside Monitoring Program.....	296

Report of the NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission—Scientific Council Catch Data Advisory Group (CDAG) (NAFO FC-SC Doc. 16/02)

The Catch Data Advisory Group (CDAG) was established jointly by the Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council at the 37th NAFO Annual Meeting on the recommendation of the NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Ad Hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting (WG-CR) (Annex 1). The inaugural meeting was held face-to-face on 16 November 2015 at the NAFO Secretariat Headquarters in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada.

The Group had follow-up meetings through video tele-conference (WebEx) on 25 February, 17 March, 27 April, 3 May and 7 July 2016, working intermittently between the WebEx meetings through the document sharing and discussion forum features of SharePoint. This report covers all the meetings.

1. Opening of the Meeting

The inaugural face-to-face meeting was opened by Katherine Sosebee (SC Chair) and Pat Moran (FC Vice-Chair) at 9:30 AM, 16 November 2015 at the NAFO Headquarters in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada. The subsequent WebEx meetings were presided by the SC and FC Chairs.

Representatives from Canada, European Union, the Russian Federation and the United States of America were in attendance (Annex 2).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The FC and SC Coordinators were appointed Co-rapporteurs.

3. Review of available data sources, including establishment of parameters for catch data review

As the first step in the establishment of parameters for catch data review and in the development of a methodology for catch estimation, a cursory review of the potential data sources was made.

The NAFO Secretariat made a presentation of data sources (metadata) it holds which can be potentially useful for catch estimation purposes. These sources are the Port Inspection Reports (PSC3), Observer Reports, Monthly Provisional Catches, VMS and Daily Catch Reports (CATs), and Logbook Haul by Haul (H x H) catch data. Collectively they are referred to as STACTIC catch data as the fishing vessels and Contracting Parties are required by the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEM) to submit them to the Secretariat. The Secretariat noted that the presentation is a modified and updated version of a previous presentation at the WG-CR meeting in 2014 (see Annex 5 of FC-SC Doc. 14/01).

Intrinsic limitations for direct comparison between the different data sources were noted. For example, Monthly Provisional Catches are reported by Contracting Parties (in contrast to flag States) and cover the Convention Area. Port inspection coverage requires at least 15% coverage except when Greenland halibut is included as a landed species in which case the coverage is 100%. Also, a single fishing trip may cover two calendar years – those fishing trips that started in late in the year and landed its catch in the early part of the following year. The most detailed data sources are the Daily Catch Reports (CAT) and the Logbook Haul by Haul (H x H) data but the coverage is limited to the Regulatory Area. Therefore, initial data processing and adjustments may be required in order to determine whether a direct comparison of catch estimates is possible.

The review of the data sources was done in the context of the usefulness of the various data sources for catch estimates and the limitations to their usefulness, consistent with the review format specified in the Terms of Reference of this Group.

The conclusions and observations emanating from the review are captured in the updated table Data Sources Useful for Catch Validation (underlined text in Annex 3).

It was determined that the CATs and the H x H data are potentially best data sources for species/stock catch estimates because of the level of detail they provide. However, in 2015, the reporting requirement for H x H was limited to the top three species in every haul. Thus for 2015, the CAT reports were deemed more reliable because of their completeness. It was noted that the top-three requirement in the H x H data collection has been expanded to include all species caught beginning 2016.

The determination of the primary data sources of catch estimation was based on coverage, level of detail, and compliance to the reporting requirements.

The at-sea inspection reports can be very useful in cross-checking the reported catches from the CAT and H x H data in the time period in which the at-sea inspectors inspected the fishermen's logbooks. Actual comparisons were made between the logbook data, as recorded in Section 14 of the at-sea inspection reports, and the CATs. Generally there is an agreement between the CATs and the logbook data, except for a few outliers.

Regarding Observer Reports, the high level of compliance to the submission requirements was noted. However, many of these reports were received in .pdf format, and therefore were not fully processed for this meeting because of the time constraints of extracting the data.

Regarding the port inspections, as explained above at least 15% coverage is required when the flag State Contracting Party and port State Contracting Party are different. Inspections are not required when the flag and port State Contracting Parties are the same. However, an inspection is required, i.e. 100% coverage, when Greenland halibut is landed.

The information Equivalent Live Weight landed catches (nominal catches) as the product of Product Weight and Conversion Factor contained in the port inspection reports can be used to check the integrity of the catch information in the CATs and H x H data, especially in resolving the issue of outliers as a result of recording errors and/or mis-recording catches in CATs and H x H reports.

4. Development of a methodology for catch estimation to be used by Secretariat, including specific methodologies for priority stocks 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut, 3LNO American plaice, and 3M cod

The analysis of the various data sources considered as part of the process to develop a methodology for catch estimation are illustrated by the three schematic tables presented in Annex 4. The schematic tables apply to any species or stock under consideration for catch estimation. The italic entries in the tables mean that they are derived information from other entries.

The first step is the identification of fishing trips. According to Article 1.7 of the NCEM: *Fishing trip* for a fishing vessels 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 and transhipped.

Table 1 of Annex 4 presents catches of a particular species or stock from the STACTIC reports on a fishing trip basis. Vessel, gear, effort information are also provided as they are auxiliary information requirements in fish stock assessment studies. Table 1 allows a quick comparison of the CAT's and H x H as primary data sources with other STACTIC data sources. Such comparison would allow a preliminary identification of outliers which may suggest something about the integrity of some entries in the primary data source.

Table 2 of Annex 4 presents catches from primary sources (CAT and/or H x H) as compared to the logbook catches recorded in at-sea inspection reports. The recorded catches from primary sources represent the totals corresponding to the fishing duration as indicated in the at-sea inspection reports. Catch estimates are therefore not complete. The purpose of the table is to allow cross-checking a sample of catch totals with that of the logbook totals as copied into the at-sea inspection reports.

Table 3 of Annex 4 represents the general characterization of catch estimation methodology. Catch data of the species/stock under consideration are entered in the appropriate cells; subtotals are calculated by day, trip, vessel, NAFO Division, and flag State. Catch entries are distinguished between "retained" and "rejected" when possible. The distinction enables the comparison of the totals from primary source with the Equivalent Landed Weight from the Port Inspection Reports (PSC3).

During the data review, it was noted that entries from the primary sources and from the logbook entries are more prone to errors and/or mis-recording than the entries in the Port Inspection Reports, specifically on the entries of Conversion Factors and Landed Equivalent Weight. Thus the information on Conversion Factors and Landed Equivalent Weight can be used on an ad hoc basis to calculate a "correction factor" that be applied to outliers or erroneous entries in the primary data source.

The resultant Estimation Strategy represents a number of refinements in methodology developed over the course of all meetings. In an effort to summarize the methodology agreed upon by CDAG, Canada presented an outline of the approach (Annex 5) which utilizes the information from the Port Inspection Reports (PSC3).

It was noted that the estimates were not available during the June 2016 meeting of the Scientific Council. For the assessments conducted at that meeting, SC derived the catch estimates as described in the meeting report document SCS Doc. 16/14.

The methodology is applicable only to the STACTIC data which is limited to the NRA. To cover the straddling stocks, Canada provides the corresponding Canadian EEZ catch data to complement the STACTIC data. The Canadian Catch Data methodology is explained in Annex 6.

5. Next steps: Secretariat reporting to the WG-CR, Scientific Council and Fisheries Commission

In accordance with the Terms of Reference and the operational flow chart developed by the WG-CR for this Group (see FC-SC Doc. 15/01), the NAFO Secretariat shall validate the catch estimate with support from designated experts/resource persons after the Group reviewed the data sources and parameters for assessment established (see item 3).

The WG-CR shall provide guidance on the steps described above. It was noted that this Group and the WG-CR have the same Chairs and practically the same membership and thus the guidance was already being provided.

It was agreed that the Secretariat shall proceed with the derivation of catch estimates starting with priority stocks mentioned in item 4 using the methodology outlined in Annex 5. The estimates shall be forwarded to the Scientific Council for stock assessment purposes. The summary report of the catch estimates will also be provided to the Fisheries Commission for information and future consideration. The Group acknowledged that the methodology may be further developed once other identified sources of data can be utilized (e.g. H x H data) and to incorporate feedback from WG-CR, Scientific Council or Fisheries Commission.

6. Other matters

EU informed the Group that it is developing a project proposal *Study on Catch Estimates Methodologies*. The Group, as requested, considered the project proposal and provided comments and input:

- It was clarified that Sections *Standard protocol* and *Tolerance of catch estimates* will be done in tow-by-tow basis;
- STACTIC, specifically its Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR) should be involved and its role defined.
- SC - Catch Estimation Group and STACTIC – WG-OPR should also be requested to provide comments and input to the draft proposal.

7. Adoption of Report

This report was adopted at the 7 July WebEx meeting.

8. Adjournment

The last WebEx meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM on 7 July 2016. The next meeting will be held in February 2017 to evaluate the 2016 H x H data.

Annex 1. Terms of Reference of CDAG

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:

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.

Annex 2. List of Participants

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Annex 3. Review of the STACTIC Data

DATABASE	USEFUL FOR CATCH ESTIMATES?	LIMITATIONS TO USEFULNESS
<p>Monthly Provisional Nominal Catches (MPNC) (NCEM Articles 28.8.a and 28.9.d)</p>	<p>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).</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>At-Sea Inspection Reports (NCEM Article 36)</p>	<p>Useful as a secondary tool in cases where there may be a problem with particular figures</p>	<p>Logbook catches between two inspections (or between date of entry and current inspections) are copied in the inspection reports. The logbook information can be very useful when comparing them with Logbook Haul by Haul, daily catch reports and observer reports, but only within the time frame indicated by the inspectors.</p>
<p>Port Inspection Reports (PSC-3) (NCEM Articles 43-46)</p>	<p>Useful as a verification tool to compare reported and observed landings.</p>	<p>Does not include discards and may not include all landings (other than for GHL). Again, data are not reported at a stock/management unit level, only by species and “area of capture” (FAO 21, 3LMNO, etc.).</p>
<p>Observer Reports (Article 30A)</p>	<p>Haul by haul observer data is potentially a very good tool for catch validation.</p>	<p>It was noted that the 2015 catches were recorded in H x H basis. However, further processing is required.</p>
<p>VMS and CAT reports (NCEM 28.6.c, 28.8.b, 29.9.e and 29.9.f)</p>	<p>A primary source of catch validation information.</p>	<p>VMS is a proxy for effort and not necessarily reflective of fishing activity, given weather, searching behaviour, etc.</p>
<p>Logbook Haul by Haul Data</p>	<p>The primary source of catch and effort information.</p>	<p>Data are 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.</p>
<p>STATLANT 21</p>	<p>The official NAFO landings database – the baseline statistics which are being validated.</p>	<p>Issues remain around completeness and timeliness of reporting. STATLANT does not include discards.</p>
<p>Other sources of data (e.g. Scientific Observer data, dockside monitoring program, etc.)</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Only covers a limited number of fleets. Data is available from coastal states only. A good source in conjunction with VMS.</p>



Annex 4. Development of Methodology for Catch Estimation in Three Schematic Tables

Table 1. Reported catches of [species/stock] by fishing Trips in the NRA.

Trip #	Flag State	Vessel #	Vessel power (from NOTIFICATION)	Gear	Directed Species (from Daily Catch Reports)	Target Species (from AUTHORIZATION)	Catch-on Entry (COE) date	Catch on Exit (COX) date
[Arbitrary #. Trips are sorted by FS and Vessel# and Date]	[Flag State]	[Vessel name not disclosed]	[NCEM Article 25.1.a]	[NCEM Annex II.C1]	[NCEM Art. 28.6.c]	[NCEM Article 25.1.b, Annex II.C2]	[NCEM Article 28.6.a]	[NCEM Article 28.6.b]

Number of Fishing Days (EndDate-startDate+1)	Divisions visited	Effort - Fishing hours from VMS	Effort - Fishing hours from Haul x Haul data	Catches of [single species/stock] from Daily Catch Reports (CATs)	Catches of [single species/stock] from Logbook Haul x Haul Reports	Catches of [single species/stock] from Observer Reports	Nominal Catches from PSC 3 (Port Landings) or Port Inspection Reports
[NCEM Article 29.2.a]	[can be gleaned from the "Relevant Area" field of the CAT, or from the POSITION reports]	[Speed for Position reports in the range of 1-5 knots is considered to be fishing. NCEM Article 29.2.a]	[NCEM Article 28.8.B, Annex II.N]	[NCEM Article 28.6.c]	[NCEM Article 28.8.B, Annex II.N]	[NCEM Article 30.A, Annex II.M]	[if available or derivable. Product Landed Weight x Conversion Factor. Section B.2. of NCEM Annex IV.C]

Table 2. Comparing CAT and H x H catches [of species/stock] with Logbook Catches as recorded in the At-sea inspection reports.

At Sea Inspection Report # and Date of Inspection	Inspection Report: Fishing Date Range	Corresponding Trip #	Flag State	Vessel #	Relevant Division	Logbook Catches (from Sect. 14 of At-Sea Inspections)	Catch from CAT's during the fishing date range	Catch from Logbook H x H during the fishing date range
[Assigned #, sorted flag State, Vessel, and date]	[days where actual fishing took place]	[Trips are sorted by FS and Vessel# and Date]	[Flag State]	[Vessel name not disclosed]	-data-	-data-	-data-	-data-

Table 3. Estimating [species/stock] catches in the NRA.

Trip #	Flag State	Vessel #	Relevant Date	Relevant Division	Catch from CAT - CA (retained)	Catch from CAT - RJ (rejected)	Catches from CATs (retained + rejected)	Catches from Logbook HxH (retained)
1	FS1	V1	01-Jan	data		-	-	data for Tow1
1	FS1	V1	01-Jan	data		-	-	data for Tow2
1	FS1	V1	01-Jan	data				data for Tow3
Daily Subtotal					Data	Data	Data	Daily Subtotal
1	FS1	V1	02-Jan	data		-	-	data for Tow4
1	FS1	V1	02-Jan	data		-	-	data for Tow5
Daily Subtotal					Data	Data	Data	Daily Subtotal
...
Subtotal by Trips	-	-	-	-	Subtotal Trip	Subtotal Trip	Subtotal Trip	Subtotal Trip
...
Subtotal by Fishing Vessel	-	-	-	-	Vessel Subtotal	Vessel Subtotal	Vessel Subtotal	Vessel Subtotal
...
Subtotal by Flag State	-	-	-	-	FS Subtotal	FS Subtotal	FS Subtotal	FS Subtotal
...
NRA Total	-	-	-	-	NRA Total	NRA Total	NRA Total	NRA Total
Canadian EEZ	-	-	-	-				-

Table 3. (Cont.)

Trip #	Catches from Logbook HxH (rejected)	Catches from Logbook HxH (retained + rejected)	Catches from Observer Reports with reported HxH data	Product Landed Weight (from PSC3)	Conversion Factor (From PSC3)	Landed Equivalent Weight (from PSC3, PLW x CF)	Data from Canada on EEZ within the NCA	Total
1	data for Tow1	data for Tow1	data for Tow1	-	-	-	-	-
1	data for Tow2	data for Tow2	data for Tow2	-	-	-	-	-
1	data for Tow3	data for Tow3	data for Tow3	-	-	-	-	-
Daily Subtotal	Daily Subtotal	Daily Subtotal	Daily Subtotal					-
1	data for Tow4	data for Tow4	data for Tow4	-	-	-	-	-
1	data for Tow5	data for Tow5	data for Tow5	-	-	-	-	-
Daily Subtotal	Daily Subtotal	Daily Subtotal	Daily Subtotal	-	-	-	-	-
...
Subtotal by Trips	Subtotal Trip	Subtotal Trip	Subtotal Trip	Data - Subtotal Trip	Data - Applicable Conversion or "Correction" Factor	Data - Subtotal trip	-	-
...
Subtotal by Fishing Vessel	Vessel Subtotal	Vessel Subtotal	Vessel Subtotal	Vessel Subtotal	-	Vessel Subtotal	-	-
...
Subtotal by Flag State	FS Subtotal	FS Subtotal	FS Subtotal	FS Subtotal		FS Subtotal	-	-
...
NRA Total	NRA Total	NRA Total	NRA Total	NRA Total		NRA Total	-	-
Canadian EEZ	-	-	-	-		Canadian Total	-	-
Grand Total	-	-	-	-		-	-	Grand Total

Annex 5. Estimation Strategy

Available Data

In recent years, there have been many improvements in the data that vessel masters are required to provide when fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA). To date, CDAG has assessed the utility of these data sources and concluded that some data sources, such as tow by tow data, are not in a usable condition for this year.

It is anticipated that with recent improvements to the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEM), as well as the resolution of technical issues relating to the submission and utilization of tow by tow data that this data source will be ready for use for the validation/estimation of 2016 catch. In the case of observer data, further assessment is required of the availability and improvements required to make that data useful.

In evaluating the utility of the current sources of data, CDAG decided that the most complete and timely data available are the daily catch reports (CAT)¹ which are reported by vessel masters to the Secretariat.

Given the completeness and timeliness of the CAT data, it is suggested that this be used as the base data.

Catch weighed off and recorded by port inspection (PSC3) is considered the most accurate. Based on these two factors, the following estimation methodology is proposed:²

- 1) Where PSC3 data is available, this equivalent live weight (plus recorded discard weight from CATs) be used;
- 2) For trips where no PSC3 data is available, a correction factor be applied to the sum of the CATs for that trip. The correction factor is defined as follows: the average per cent difference (weighted bycatch) between the CAT total and the PSC3 total for other trips by that same vessel;
- 3) If no PSC3 data is available at the vessel level, then a flag state factor be determined using the methodology in (2) using all vessels of that flag state;

¹ In some instances, SC documents refer to this as DCR

² In instances where the difference between CAT and PSC3 is greater than 50%, it is suggested that the Secretariat follow up with the appropriate Fisheries Monitoring Centre to ensure there is no administrative error. If no error exists but the discrepancy is related to extenuating circumstances which cannot be reconciled by the Secretariat, then the data from that trip should not be used in the development of any correction factor.

Annex 6. Canadian Catch Data Methodology and Dockside Monitoring Program

Introduction

The groundfish catches that were included in the supplemental information provided by Canada are to subject to 100% dockside monitoring program. This summary document includes an outline of the data sources utilized within the Catch and Effort System and a detailed description of the Canadian Dockside Monitoring Program that observes and verifies groundfish landings.

Catch and Effort System

The data collected in the Catch and Effort System is essential to quota monitoring, stock assessment, enforcement, licensing, policy analysis, statistical functions and scientific research.

The system uses hail reports, landing and fishing log documents to give timely quota information as accurately as possible. Landings are recorded during the offloading process with weighed quantities of fish by species. Fishing logs record information on where fish is caught and with what type of gear as well as the effort expended.

Individual fish harvesters, buyers, and dockside observers are required to complete and submit catch data information. These documents include:

- Summary buyer hails
- Quarterly landed value reports
- At sea hails
- Dockside Monitoring forms
- Tally sheet
- Summary forms
- Dockside monitoring hails
- Groundfish authorizations
- Purchase slips/cash slips
- Fishing logs (nearshore, offshore)

Data elements collected include (through at-sea hails, landings, logbooks)

- **Hails:** vessel, fisher, date sailed/landed, catch date, position, activity at time of hail, directed species, species caught, estimated catch (daily/total to date), species management area, quota, gear type
- **Landing:** vessel, fisher, landed date, port landed, form/document numbers, directed and bycatch species, species landed form (round, gutted head off, split), species management area, gear type, actual price, price per unit
- **Logbook:** vessel, fisher, date sailed, landed, capture date, gear amount/size, longitude and latitude, NAFO area, depth of fishing, directed species, gear soak time/tow time, species caught, estimated catch amounts, estimated discards, daily catch and release or sightings of SARA (Species at Risk Act) species.

Quality Control

The data quality is verified through data field verifications and data edits that extract erroneous data and are run daily, weekly, monthly or year end. Additional ad hoc audits are run to identify potentially erroneous data.

Dockside Monitoring Program (DMP)

The DMP was established in the mid-1990's and national policy and procedures were implemented in June, 2009. The key objective of the DMP is to provide accurate, timely and independent third party verification of landings. It is the primary source of data for Fishery Management Quota Monitoring.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has the overall accountability for the Program. DFO designates companies that have met the requirements as Dockside Monitoring Companies (DMCs) and meets annually with these companies. DFO reviews and approves training programs developed by DMCs and assists in the training of observers. DFO consults with DMCs to develop procedures and protocols that aid in the effective determination of the landed weight and species of fish offloaded from vessels.



Further, DFO maintains a liaison with the *Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB)* regarding the Dockside Monitoring Program. DFO designates Dockside Observers once they have met position requirements, conducts field checks of these observers and may also revoke designations as required.

Designation of a Dockside Monitoring Company (DMC)

- All DMCs must be designated and issued a certificate by DFO as set out in the Fishery (General) Regulations.
- To be eligible for designation DMCs must meet the following requirements:
 - o Submit a Business Plan
 - o Meet *Arm's Length Criteria*
 - DMC agents should not have a significant interest in a fishing entity
 - DMC should have an independent Board of Directors, the majority of who have no connection with the fishing industry
 - DMC officers and employees should have no formal relationship with the fishing industry thereby allowing them to carry out their functions independently and with conflict of interest
 - DMC should not have significant commercial relationships with fishing entities
 - o Quality Control (Training Plan & Quality Assurance)
 - o Obtain and maintain a *Canadian General Standards Board listing*

Designation of Dockside Observers

- Successful completion of high school or equivalent knowledge. DFO will consider candidates with fishing industry experience requiring a similar skill set.
- Be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident
- Meet enhanced reliability clearance or produce a certificate of conduct from a police agency
- Must have no serious convictions under the *Fisheries Act* or Regulations
- Be in compliance with the *Arm's Length Criteria*
- Be physically fit and able to meet the physical requirements of the job (i.e. climbing ladders, boarding vessels)
- Complete a DFO-approved DMP training program with a pass mark of 75% in each module
- Regional Director General authorizes designation.
- To maintain designation, observer must conduct a minimum of 5 off-loadings/ year

DMC Operational Responsibilities

- Ensure sufficient trained observers are available for deployment.
- Ensure all company staff are aware of the "Code of Conduct" and will be held accountable for the actions of their staff
- Discipline employees who do not adhere to the Duties of a Dockside Observer.
- Respond to requests by DFO for hail-report information on a timely basis.
- Deployment of Observers to monitor offloading. The DMC will not authorise processors, buyers, fishers, or other parties not operating at arm's length from the fishing industry, to contact observers for deployment.
- DMCs, should, wherever possible, deploy Observers to the Fish Landing Station (FLS) on a rotational basis.
- Notify DFO immediately when there is potential conflict of interest for an Observer or the DMC
- Conduct ongoing evaluation of Dockside Observers. Where deficiencies are identified, the DMC shall take the necessary and appropriate action, possibly including but not limited to, refresher training.
- Ensure all DMP information and data collected from fishers is handled and protected in accordance with the provisions of the Privacy Act.

- Maintain all DMP data and files that take place in one calendar year, for two and one half subsequent years, and if required, provide data and files to DFO
- Notify DFO in the event a DMC terminates the employment of a dockside observer for disciplinary reasons related to the performance of their dockside observer duties
- Supply each Dockside Observer with the following:
 - o List of Dockside Observer Duties
 - o List of DFO contacts
 - o List of Potential Incidents
 - o DMP Protocols for calculating the weight of fish
 - o Other DMP protocols and directives
 - o Code of Conduct as outlined in the company's Quality System Manual

Duties of a Dockside Observer

Pre-Offloading

- Follow only the instructions of the DMC and approved monitoring procedures
- Record all information in clear legible printed format only, except in cases where a signature is required
- Present at Fish Landing Station minimum 15 minutes prior to offloading
- Ensure fish is offloaded and weighed at a fish landing station, government wharf or fish-buying company wharf
- Follow only DMC instructions of the DMC and approved procedures
- Record gear type, logbook weight by species, product type, and management area on the Weigh-out and Tally Sheet, the side number displayed on the vessel, and other additional information that may be requested by DFO.
- Record the weight of fish only from scales that have been certified for use in trade (Weights and Measures Act and regulations)
- Establish that the captain will provide a safe method of entry into the hold. If there is no safe means to check the hold, Observers are not permitted to monitor the offloading, and must contact the DMC immediately.

Offloading

- Ensure the method of offloading for the species has been approved by DFO
- Verify through visual inspection the species and product form of all fish landed and offloaded and ensure this information matches the logbook
- Follow established protocols where applicable, satisfactory to DFO, for bulk or packaged offloads
- Ensure that where required by license, all fish is offloaded and weighed once an offloading begins
- Ensure unobstructed line of sight at all times between the vessel being offloaded and the scales
- Personally verify and record weigh-out information

Post-Offloading

- Conduct a thorough check of all the fish holds and containers on deck to ensure all fish have been offloaded
- Ensure all offloading documentation is accurate, complete and submitted to the DMC in a timely manner
- Provide DFO Fishery Officers with any requested catch monitoring information
- Where required, complete and submit an incident report as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours from the time the incident is suspected or detected.

SECTION IX
(pages 299–316)

**Report of the NAFO Fisheries Commission Ad hoc Working Group to
Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in the
NAFO Regulatory Area**

**9 August 2016
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada**

Contents

1. Opening	301
2. Appointment of Rapporteur	301
3. Adoption of Agenda	301
4. Discussion on the bycatch analysis performed by the SC and the Secretariat	301
5. Action Plan in the management and minimization of bycatch and discards	303
6. Recommendations to forward to the Fisheries Commission.....	303
7. Other Matters	304
8. Adoption of Report.....	304
9. Adjournment.....	304
Annex 1. List of Participants.....	305
Annex 2. Agenda	308
Annex 3. Analysis of the Daily Catch Reports (CATs) 2012 - 2015	309
Annex 4. Draft NAFO Action Plan on the management and reduction of bycatch and discards (EU proposal)	313

**Report of the NAFO Fisheries Commission *Ad hoc* Working Group to
Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in the
NAFO Regulatory Area**

(FC Doc. 16/05)

**9 August 2016
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada**

1. Opening

The Fisheries Commission (FC) Chair, Temur Tairov (Russian Federation) opened the meeting at 10:00 hrs on Tuesday, 9 August 2016 via WebEx at the NAFO Headquarters in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada. He apologized for being unable to join the meeting in-person due to logistical issues.

Don Power (Canada) was elected as acting Chair for the meeting.

The Scientific Council (SC) was represented by the SC Chair, Kathy Sosebee (USA). The Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) was represented by the STACTIC Chair, Judy Dwyer (Canada). Representatives from Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union (EU), Japan, Norway, the Russian Federation, and the USA were in attendance. 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

Under “*Other Matters*”, four sub-items were proposed:

- a. FAO Global Assessment of Fisheries Discards,
- b. Update on the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management,
- c. Update on the Catch Data Advisory Group (CDAG), and
- d. Gear Selectivity Experiments (use of sorting grids) in Division 3M.

The previously circulated provisional agenda was adopted with these insertions (Annex 2).

4. Discussion on the bycatch analysis performed by the SC and the Secretariat

At the 2015 Annual Meeting, the Fisheries Commission adopted two recommendations of the WG-BDS 2015 meeting relating to the analysis of the NAFO fisheries bycatch (Annex 13 of FC Doc. 15/23). SC was requested 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, fleet, depth, and timing). The Secretariat was instructed to analyze data for trends, patterns and anomalies:

- a. 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);
- b. Analysis should consider both historical and current Daily Catch Reports (CATs) (2012 to current);
- c. Trends in reported catch of non-Annex IA species (3M Witch Flounder and 3M Skate).

The SC Chair reported that the haul by haul (H x H) analysis could not be done because the 2015 data contained only the top three species in a haul (as required in the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEM)).

It was noted that for 2016, the H x H data submission requires all species to be reported. SC will conduct the analysis of the 2016 data during its meeting in June 2017.

The Secretariat presented the results of its analysis in PowerPoint (Annex 3). Data from 2012-2015 CATs were analyzed for groundfish catch trends in Divisions 3LMNO, as well as for frequency of bycatch thresholds being exceeded.

Figures presented in Slides 2-5 in Annex 3 revealed the following characteristics of the bycatch in groundfish fisheries in the NAFO Regulatory Area:

- Skates and witch flounder are caught as bycatch in Division 3M (Flemish Cap) ,
- There was significant reduction in the catch of grenadier for the period and current catch was predominantly Divisions 3LM
- No trend was observed with regards to inter-annual variability.

As regards to catch in general, the following characteristics were revealed:

- Cod in the Flemish Cap (3M) represented the most predominant catch in any single division, followed by redfish,
- A major portion of the 3LMNO Greenland halibut catch comes from Division 3L,
- Redfish is a major species caught in all four divisions. In Division 3O it is the most predominant catch and skates is a distant second,
- Fish stocks 3NO skates and 3LNO yellowtail flounder are mostly caught in Division 3N.

To determine the frequency of occurrence of bycatch thresholds being exceeded, the H x H data with complete species reporting is needed. With the unavailability of such data, the 2015 CATs were used as the data source for this analysis. This is a major caveat as a CAT report might contain information from more than one tow in one day. To prevent an overestimation of the frequency of occurrence in the analysis of CAT reports, a bycatch limit in this analysis is considered reached when both the absolute quantity and the percentage conditions are satisfied. (According to Article 6.3 of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEM), a threshold limit is reached when the absolute quantity or percentage condition is satisfied.)

Thresholds values vary depending on the directed fishery and its associated bycatch (Slide 2). According to Article 5.2 of the NCEM, the species which comprises the largest percentage by weight of the total catch in a haul shall be considered as being taken in a directed fishery for the stock concerned. For the purpose of this analysis, the rest of the catch in that haul is considered bycatch. It was noted that the threshold may not apply in all species as a CP may have had a quota for both species during a period when both fisheries were open.

In all, 3,654 CAT reports were individually examined for any incident of a threshold being exceeded. The occurrence frequency of bycatch thresholds being exceeded was presented. 329 of the CATs show that some bycatch limits would have been reached (see Slide 3). Notable from the frequency table are:

- In the Flemish Cap, witch flounder and skates (both “non-Annex I.A species”) bycatch would have exceeded the threshold, if the 1250 kg or 5% threshold limits were applicable to those two species;
- High frequency of cod and redfish bycatch in the Flemish Cap, particularly cod bycatch of the redfish fishery, suggests that at certain times of the year, this fishery is being prosecuted as a mixed fishery;
- As slides 3 and 5 suggest, there is an apparent mixed nature of the 3LNO Thorny skate fishery was also highlighted, in particular the bycatch of moratoria stocks 3LNO American Plaice and 3NO cod;

- It was highlighted that 3LNO American plaice is also a frequent by-catch in the 3LNO Yellowtail fishery but is generally within the bycatch limit established for this fishery;
- As slide 5 suggests, skate constitutes a major bycatch of redfish in Division 30 in the last three years. The frequency of exceeding the threshold is relatively high.

The presentation of the CAT analysis elicited the following comments or points for discussion:

- The analysis and the results are very informative. However, caution should be exercised in making interpretations due to the major caveat explained above regarding aggregated tows over a day. It was noted that this is an assumption of what catch and bycatch are, and that the absence of catch composition per haul made the analysis particularly challenging.
- More information could be derived in a much finer level, e.g. fisheries behaviour and gear selection, if H x H were available.
- The STACTIC Chair indicated that the Secretariat should continue the analysis of the CAT data as it could inform STACTIC in its task of formulating and evaluating management and enforcement measures relating to bycatch, discards and selectivity. The results of the CAT analysis can be incorporated in the Annual Compliance Review.
- The Scientific Council Chair indicated that, for comparative purposes, the Secretariat also analyzes the 2016 H x H data in a similar approach applied to the CAT data.
- Contracting Parties highlighted the critical importance of resolving outstanding technical issues regarding the submission and utilization of H x H data to enable the completion of a comprehensive bycatch analysis.

5. Action Plan in the management and minimization of bycatch and discards

At the 2015 Annual Meeting, the Fisheries Commission adopted the Action Plan as per recommendation of the WG-BDS 2015 meeting (Annex 13 of FC Doc. 15/23). The Action Plan comprises four key themes: data management, ongoing analysis and monitoring, identification of priorities, and development of management options. It also contains a number of tasks under each of the four themes.

A proposal by EU was tabled to expand on the four key themes (Annex 4). The proposal identified actions, actors (e.g. NAFO bodies), expected results and timeline for each task. It was intended that the details identified in the Action Plan would conclude the work of this Ad hoc Working Group (WG).

Due to time constraints, this WG was not able to complete the discussion on all items of the proposal and agreed that an intersessional work would be required to finish the task. In this regard, it was agreed to recommend to the Fisheries Commission the continuation of this Working Group to be able to further develop and finalize the Action Plan by 2017 Annual Meeting. Contracting Parties were encouraged to provide any additional feedback to the EU.

6. Recommendations to forward to the Fisheries Commission

The Working Group **agreed** to forward to the Fisheries Commission the following recommendations for consideration and adoption:

1. **The Fisheries Commission to endorse the continuation of the work by the FC Ad hoc WG-BDS to further develop and finalize the Action Plan in time of the 2017 NAFO Annual Meeting;**
2. **The Fisheries Commission to request the Scientific Council, based on analysis of the 2016 H x H 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, depths, timing);

3. The Secretariat to continue to analyze data for trends, patterns, anomalies:

- In cases where bycatch thresholds 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 American plaice);
- Analysis should consider both historical and current CATs (2012 to current); and
- Trend in reported catch of non- Annex I.A species (3M witch flounder and 3M skate).

7. Other Matters

a. FAO Global Assessment of Fisheries Discards

The Secretariat informed the Working Group about this FAO initiative and its request for collaboration from the regional fisheries organizations including NAFO (FC BDS-WP 16/02). The WG appreciated the update and recognized the value of the work but due to time constraints it was not able to thoroughly review the request.

b. Update on the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)

The STACTIC Chair gave an update on JAGDM. The harmonization of Catch-on-Entry and Catch-on Exit reports from NEAFC and NAFO vessels was one of the major agenda items of JAGDM. The recommendations developed were forwarded to NAFO and NEAFC. In 2016, the group met twice.

c. Update on the Catch Data Advisory Group (CDAG)

The SC Chair, co-Chair of CDAG, gave an update on CDAG. It had its face-to-face inaugural meeting in November 2015 and six subsequent meetings via WebEx, the last one being held in July 2016 (FC-SC Doc. 16/2).

A methodology for catch estimation using STACTIC data has been developed. The methodology will be utilized by the Secretariat and the estimates could be considered by the Scientific Council in its fish stock assessment tasks. An important feature of the methodology is the use of the nominal catch data from port inspections in evaluating the integrity of the primary data sources used in the estimation, e.g. CATs and H x H reports.

CDAG decided to meet again in February 2017 to discuss the 2016 catch estimates of priority stocks: 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut, 3LNO American plaice and 3M cod.

d. Gear Selectivity Experiments (using sorting grids) in Division 3M

The EU informed the Working Group of its experiment using sorting grids in fishing gears targeting cod in Division 3M (SC WP 16/09) and that, given the promising results, STACREC had encouraged further work in collaboration with SC.

8. Adoption of Report

This report was adopted through correspondence following the meeting.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 18:00 hrs on Tuesday, 09 August 2016.



Annex 1. List of Participants

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Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Discussion on the bycatch analysis performed by the SC and the Secretariat
5. Action Plan in the management and minimization of bycatch and discards
6. Recommendations to forward to the Fisheries Commission
7. Other matters
 - a. FAO Global Assessment of Fisheries Discards
 - b. Update on the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)
 - c. Update on the Catch Data Advisory Group (CDAG)
 - d. Gear Selectivity Experiments (using sorting grids) in Division 3M
8. Adoption of the Report
9. Adjournment

Annex 3. Analysis of the Daily Catch Reports (CATs) 2012 - 2015

WG Recommendation 3 (July 2015)

The Secretariat to analyze data for trends, patterns, anomalies

- In cases where bycatch thresholds are exceeded, the analysis should provide additional information on associated catch weights for specific stocks (3NO COD, 3M PLA, 3LNO PLA)
- Analysis should consider both historical and current CATs (2012 to current)
- Trends in reported catch of non-Annex I.A (3M WIT, 3M SKA)



FC and h.c. WG Bycatch, Discards, and Selectivity
Dorchester NS 9 August 2016

1

Thresholds according to Art. 6.3 – limitations of retention on board

Stock	Thresholds
3M COD	1250 kg or 5% whichever is greater
3LN RED	1250 kg or 5% whichever is greater
3NO COD	1000 kg or 4% whichever is greater
Other stocks in QT where no specific quota is allocated to CP	2500 kg or 10% whichever is greater
Moratorium species or "Others" quota where 100%-uptake is reached	1250 kg or 5% whichever is greater
3M RED between 50% - 100% TAC uptake*	1250 or 5% whichever is greater
3LNO PLA while fishing for 3LNO YEL	15%
3LNO PLA	1250 or 5% whichever is greater

* After 100% TAC uptake, Art. 5.3.c states: *CPs shall ensure that no more 3M RED is retained onboard its vessels after the estimated date when 100% of the 3M RED TAC is taken.*



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Dorchester NS 9 August 2016

2

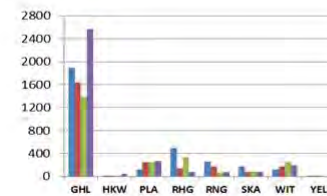
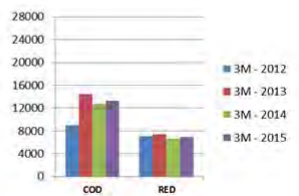
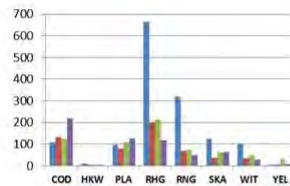
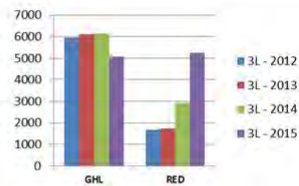
Estimated Frequency of Exceeding Bycatch Thresholds (Source: 2015 CATs)

Table 1. Estimated Frequency of Exceeding Bycatch Thresholds (Source: 2015 CATs)

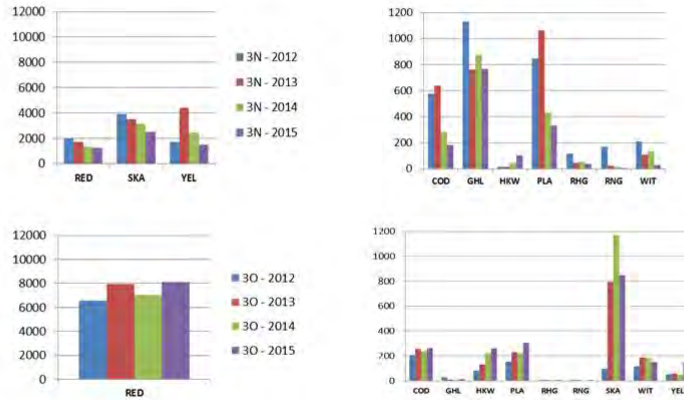
Directed Fishing/Div (f)	Bycatch/Stock	3M COD	3NO COD	3M RED	3LN RED	3O RED	3M PLA	3LNO PLA	3M SKA	3LNO SKA	3M WIT
Greenland Halibut 3L (646)					30			4			
Greenland Halibut 3M (295)		3					1		8		13
Greenland Halibut 3N (130)					4					7	
Greenland Halibut 3O (1)											
Cod 3M (639)				12			5				12
Redfish 3M (373)		137									4
Redfish 3L (415)								2		2	
Redfish 3N (141)			2					1		2	
Redfish 3O (522)			10					10		26	
Skates 3L (0)											
Skates 3N (312)			9					12			
Skates 3O (79)			1			8		3			
Yellowtail flounder 3L (0)											
Yellowtail flounder 3N (98)			5		1						3
Yellowtail flounder 3O (3)			1								1



Groundfish Catch Trends in Divisions 3LMNO (Source: 2012-2015 CATs)



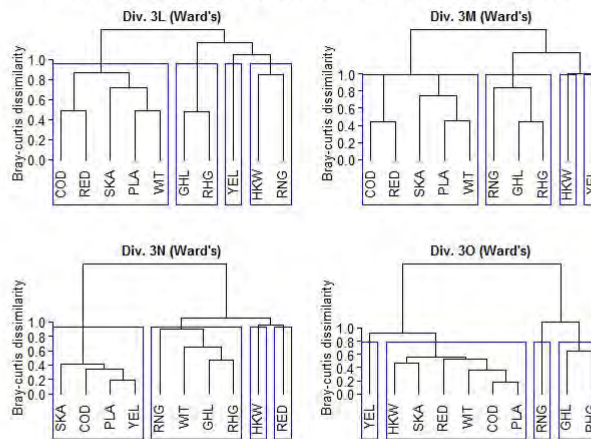
Groundfish Catch Trends in Divisions 3LMNO (Source: 2012-2015 CATs)



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 Berthaath NS 9 August 2016

Groundfish Catch Trends in Divisions 3LMNO (Source: 2012-2015 CATs)

Cluster Analysis of CATs (Years 2012-2015 combined)



References on Analytical Methods:

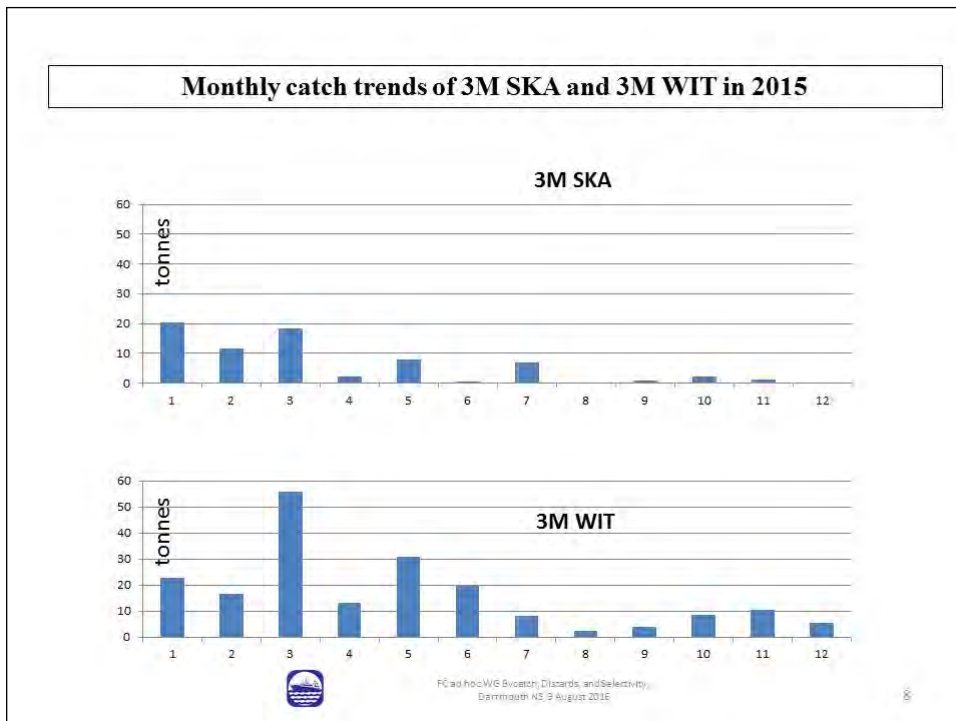
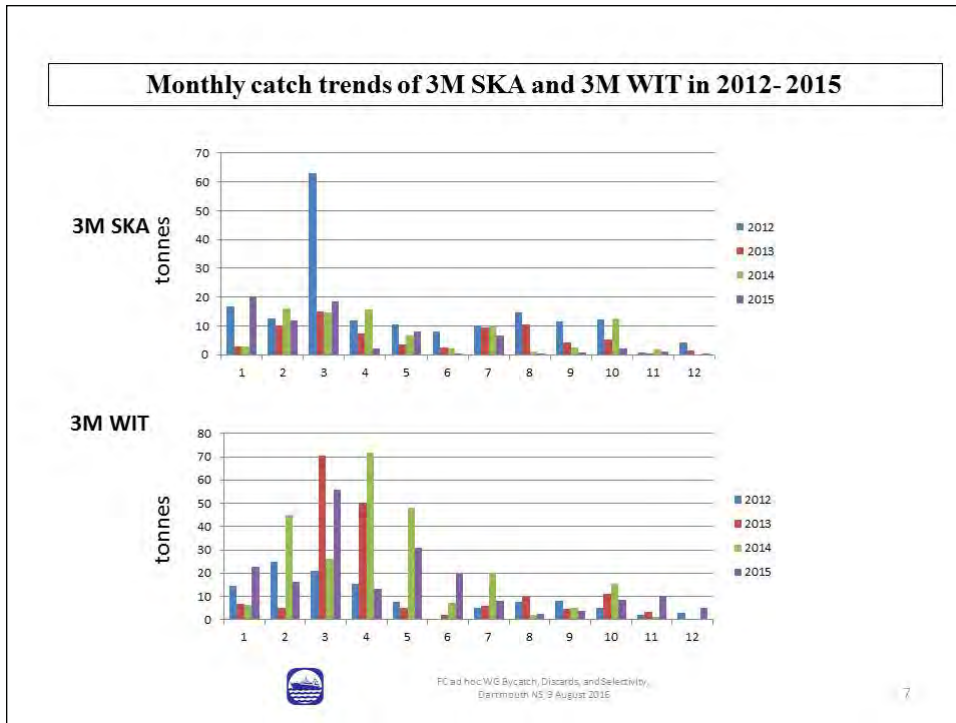
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Singh, W. et al. (2011). Robustness of fish assemblages.. clustering algorithms performed on Icelandic groundfish survey data. ICES Journal of Marine Science 68(1) – 189-200.



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 Berthaath NS 9 August 2016





Annex 4. Draft NAFO Action Plan on the management and reduction of bycatch and discards (EU proposal)

This Action Plan builds on the version adopted by the NAFO Fisheries Commission in September 2015¹. The Action Plan below, if adopted, will conclude the work of the ad-hoc NAFO WG on By-catch, Discards and Selectivity. However, to supervise the implementation of the Action Plan and if the FC and the SC consider it useful, an ad-hoc operational WG could be convened at any time so as to track progress or perform other tasks.

The scope of the Action Plan would go beyond NAFO stocks to cover, if appropriate, species that are regulated by NAFO but not subject to output limits (Annex I.C NCEM)

The Action Plan will ensure that there is a systematic and horizontal consideration of the overarching objectives set out below across NAFO bodies, at least up to 2019.

A. Overarching objectives

1. To manage and minimize by-catch and discards, and to improve selectivity, in fisheries of the NAFO Regulatory Area, in accordance with FAO's International Guidelines on By-Catch Management and Reduction of Discards.²
2. To improve the accuracy of reporting of target, non-target and incidental catch.
3. To account for total catch (retained and non-retained) in scientific assessments and management measures.
4. To help management measures become more adaptive and address changing fishery conditions over time, or differences among areas and fleets.
5. To help management measures reflect the precautionary and ecosystem approaches to fisheries management.
6. To identify priority areas for by-catch management, in particular areas where there is a risk of causing serious harm to by-catch species.
7. To ensure cooperation and coherence between all NAFO bodies working on by-catch management.

¹ FC Doc. 15/22 Rev. (Annex 13 to the Fisheries Commission report on the 37th NAFO Annual Meeting in 2015).

² <http://www.fao.org/docrep/015/ba0022t/ba0022t00.pdf>

B. Actions, actors, timing

1. Data management

What	Expected result	NAFO body	Timeline
1.1. IT issues and capacity	Ensure cost-effective and efficient IT tools to be used by the Secretariat, in support of this action plan	Secretariat	AM 2017
1.2. Standard formats, data collection and data transmission	<p>Ensure that all forms and data used to report catch and effort (and particularly by-catch) are standardized according to existing NCEM provisions, including observer data.</p> <p>Ensure that new data collection techniques are used (e.g. Electronic Reporting Systems - ERS)</p> <p>Ensure that confidentiality is respected.</p> <p>If appropriate, consider results of the study on catch data collection methodologies whose ToR were endorsed by the SC 2016.</p>	SC, STACTIC, external contractor	AM 2017
1.3. Logbook data	Haul-by-haul data is available for NAFO bodies, with relevant breakdown for by-catches, retained and non-retained	SC	AM 2017
1.4. Data completeness and identification of gaps	Identify gaps in information on by-catch, whether retained or not retained	SC	AM 2017
1.5. Data sharing	Improve information sharing between NAFO and Contracting Parties, including data for NAFO-regulated stocks in the EEZ	FC, STACTIC	AM 2017

2. Ongoing analysis and monitoring

What	Expected result	NAFO body	Timeline
2.1. Trends, patterns and anomalies	A mapping of by-catch in NAFO in the last 10 years which is possibly to be updated every year afterwards (ideally, an IT tool that can receive, integrate and analyze new data inputs).	Secretariat, SC	AM 2017
2.2. Specific issues by time, area, depth, fleet and fishery	An external study as a complement to action 2.1, possibly focusing on specific issues identified as such in the work under 2.1. Identification of unavoidable levels of discards (“de minimis”) by stock and Division Identification of species under NAFO catch or effort limits with high survivability rates.	Secretariat (with contractor)	AM 2017
2.3. Identification of best practices	On the basis of actions 2.1 and 2.2, guidelines on best practices to avoid by-catch per time, area, depth, fleet and fishery.	FC	AM 2017

3. Identification of priorities

What	Expected result	NAFO body	Timeline
3.1. Moratoria species	Consider priority moratoria species which should recover quickly and are prevented from doing so by excessive by-catch and/or discards	WG EAFFM, SC	AM 2018
3.2. Areas where there is a risk of causing serious harm to by-catch species	Consider priority areas where by-catch and discards are more harmful, notably to moratoria species under 3.1. Survivability of NAFO species should be considered (see task 2.2). Risk assessment procedures should be developed in order to help prioritize areas.	WG EAFFM, SC	AM 2018
3.3. High rates of discards	Establish which NAFO fisheries are less selective, according to criteria to be defined	WG EAFFM, SC, Secretariat	AM 2018

4. Development of management options

What	Expected result	NAFO body	Timeline
4.1. Time-area management	Assess the need for (and, if appropriate, establish) time-area management measures for NAFO fisheries identified as priorities under Action group 3 above, possibly by means of real-time area closures.	FC, WG EAFFM, STAC-TIC	AM 2019
4.2. Fishery-specific solutions	Assess the need for (and, if appropriate, establish) fishery-specific measures for NAFO fisheries identified as priorities under Action group 3 above. Analysis of possible ways to identify, in real-time, atypical catch compositions and new ways to tackle them (e.g. beyond the current move-on rule of Article 6.6 NCEM)	FC, WG EAFFM, STAC-TIC	AM 2019
4.3. Incentives to avoid by-catch and discards	Adopt new measures or modify existing ones in order to create selectivity incentives and full utilization of catch. Consideration could be given to multi-national training programs organized by NAFO.	FC, WG EAFFM, STAC-TIC	AM 2019

5. Review

No later than 2019, this Action Plan should be reviewed and assessed, if appropriate by including it expressly in the scope of a NAFO Performance Review.

SECTION X
(pages 317–356)

**Report of the NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission–Scientific Council
Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries
Management (WG-EAFFM)**

**10–12 August 2016
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada**

Contents

1. Opening.....	319
2. Appointment of Rapporteur.....	319
3. Adoption of Agenda	319
4. SC response to FC requests for advice:	319
5. Discussion of ongoing matters:	321
6. Further development and application of the Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries (EAF) Roadmap, including further consideration of any issues raised at the June SC meeting	322
7. Recommendations to forward to FC and SC.....	323
8. Other Matters	323
9. Adoption of the report.....	324
10. Adjournment.....	324
Annex 1. List of Participants.....	325
Annex 2. Agenda	328
Annex 3. SC Advice on SAIs in support of the Reassessment of NAFO Bottom Fisheries Activities.....	329
Annex 4. Maps of Candidate Areas 13 and 14 referred to in Recommendation 5	344
Annex 5. Progress on the NAFO Roadmap towards an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries	346

**Report of the NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission–Scientific Council
Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries
Management (WG-EAFFM)**

(FC-SC Doc. 16/03 REV)

**10–12 August 2016
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada**

1. Opening

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 hrs on 10 August 2016 by co-Chairs, Robert Day (Canada) and Andrew Kenny (EU). Representatives from Canada, the European Union (EU), Iceland, Japan, Norway, the Russian Federation, and the USA were in attendance. The Scientific Council was represented by the SC Chair. Observers were present from the Ecology Action Centre, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Dalhousie University - Environment Information: Use & Influence Research Initiative (EIUI) (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The Senior Fisheries Commission (FC) and Scientific Council (SC) Coordinators, Ricardo Federizon and Tom Blasdale were appointed as co-Rapporteurs.

3. Adoption of Agenda

With the addition of one item “the meeting report of the FC Working Group on Bycatch, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) held 9 August 2016”, the agenda was adopted (Annex 2).

4. SC response to FC requests for advice:

a) examination of work developed by the Scientific Council on SAIs in support of the reassessment of NAFO bottom fishing activities, including VME areas outside the NAFO footprint and the refinement of VME kernel density analysis polygon boundaries (FC request 4);

The co-Chair (AK) presented the advice of the Scientific Council meeting of June 2016, which was based on an assessment performed by WG-ESA in November 2015. The presentation is included as Annex 3 of this report and the full assessment is included as Annex VI of the June 2016 Scientific Council report (SCS Doc. 16/14 Rev.). The working group (WG) welcomed the thorough work of SC and WG-ESA and the clarity with which such a complex piece of work was presented to the meeting. It was recognised that this work is well ahead of anything being done in RFMOs elsewhere, with only a few coastal States having developed comparable assessment methods.

It was considered that a number of areas of the advice needed further clarification. In particular, the WG considered that the use of colour coding to represent ‘low’, ‘moderate’ and ‘high’ risk categories was less informative than simply having a table with quantitative numbers (percentages), particularly as the thresholds used to determine which category of risk applied were not explicit as they were assigned using expert judgment. Similarly, the weighting given to the various factors (especially resilience/sensitivity) in determining overall risk as ‘high’ or ‘low’ was not explicit. Clearer objective ranking processes and options for objective weighting criteria for the overall assessment of risk were recommended for future assessments.

As specified in the FC request, exposure to risk and impact to Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) was calculated on the basis of both area and biomass. Participants generally agreed that biomass would give a more meaningful assessment, but that estimates of VME habitat area at risk and impact are useful in a management context. The possibility of combining both figures as an average was considered.

For future assessments, the WG agreed that it would be desirable to assess the overlap of NAFO fisheries with VME to evaluate fishery specific impacts in addition to the cumulative impacts and to assess all six FAO criteria (Article 18 of the FAO *International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas*), including the three FAO functional SAI criteria which could not be quantified in the current assessment (recovery potential, ecosystem function alteration, and impact relative to habitat use duration of VME indicator species). Further work will be required to allow non-sponge and coral VMEs (for example bryozoan and sea squirts) to be assessed in future.

It was further suggested that the analysis could be repeated to examine the effect of inclusion of candidate areas 13 and 14 (sea pen VMEs). However, this was not agreed by all WG members. Some members noted no updated advice on the candidate areas had been provided and that there were concerns with the assessment method for SAI (e.g., in relation to calculation of fishing effort), including the uncertainties raised in page 29 of the SC June 2016 Report and the fact that growing evidence pointed at the need for further analysis of the potential resilience of sea pens by the research project NEREIDA, during 2016-2017.

Specific recommendations of the working group in relation to this agenda item are given in **WG-EAFFM recommendation #1** below.

b) consider widening the scope of the NAFO coral and sponge identification guides (FC request 5);

The SC response to this request was presented by the SC Chair. Although the NAFO VME Guide continues to be focused on corals, sponges, and other benthic taxa, there are existing guides and catalogues that can be useful for identifying other species, like some skates and sharks. SC has identified some of this relevant material, and recommends it be provided to NAFO observers in a usable format. It was further clarified that skates and sharks, while not considered as components of VMEs, are frequently associated with seamounts and can be vulnerable species in their own right. For this reason, NAFO protects seamounts as VME indicator elements.

Specific recommendations of the working group in relation to this agenda item are given in **WG-EAFFM recommendation #2** below.

c) consider risk assessment of scientific trawl surveys impact on VME in closed areas and the effect of excluding surveys from these areas on stock assessments (FC request 6);

The SC Chair presented the work of SC on the impacts of removing the closed areas from the survey design for relevant stock surveys. A partial analysis was conducted to evaluate the impact of removing the closed areas on the indices of biomass derived from the EU survey in Div. 3M. The results show minimal impact on estimates of survey biomass and trends for all the assessed species with the exception of roughhead grenadier and Greenland halibut. For these species the difference in the biomass indices (with and without the hauls in the closed areas) is more noticeable, but the trends were similar to the original index. Further investigation is required for abundance indices by length or age used in the assessments. If the closed areas are removed from the survey design, some of the strata may not be properly sampled.

Several working group participants commented on the partial nature of this study and inquired whether there was a plan to complete the study and to reach a final conclusion about excluding surveys from closed areas. It was agreed that this could be done, but that it would entail a considerable amount of work which would have to be considered in the context of other SC priorities.

Specific recommendations of the working group in relation to this agenda item are given in **WG-EAFFM recommendation #3** below.

d) develop a work plan to address potential impact of activities other than fishing on VMEs, in particular VME closed areas (FC request 11);

The SC Chair presented the advice from the June 2016 SC meeting. WG-ESA conducted a thorough review of activities with the potential to impact VMEs in the NRA; however, Scientific Council considered that developing the requested work-plan is beyond its capacity and purview. WG-EAFFM noted the progress that has been made by the Secretariat in forging links with other relevant organizations with management authority within the NRA (IMO, the International Seabed Authority, CBD) and in exploring mechanisms to improve the exchange of information. It was agreed that it would be beneficial for the Secretariat to maintain this dialogue. It was pointed out that Contracting Parties participate in many of these and other fora and can be expected to have access to information on their activities. Contracting Parties and FC should therefore consider appropriate means to facilitate active monitoring of assessments, planning processes and actions taken in order to identify and, if needed, respond on issues concerning NRA fisheries, fisheries resources, and biodiversity (see WG-EAFFM recommendation #4 below).

The CBD Secretariat gave an overview of an ongoing process to bring together RFMOs and Regional Seas Organisations to facilitate a more cross-sectoral approach and integration of information. The WG agreed that it

would be beneficial for NAFO to monitor this work and engage as appropriate (subject to resource availability) and for any outcomes to be communicated at the next meeting of this WG.

Specific recommendations of the working group in relation to this agenda item are given in **WG-EAFFM recommendation #4** below

e) identify areas of significant concentrations of non-coral and sponge VME indicator species using all available information (FC request 15).

The co-Chair (AK) presented the SC advice. In situ photographic surveys conducted by Fisheries and Oceans Canada on the Tail of Grand Bank during June 2015 did not result in the identification of significant concentrations of either erect bryozoans or large sea squirts. These results indicate that the patch size of the non-coral and sponge VME indicator species is less than 1 square km. These VME indicator species require hard substrate to attach to the sea bed and it is likely that areas with high catches are also in areas with more extensive hard bottom types. SC considered that the resolution of the kernel density polygons to define VME does not sufficiently represent the patchy nature of these taxa and therefore more detailed information about the distribution and type of surficial geology and sediments of the area would help to better define the habitats where these species occur in significant concentrations. SC recommends that the location of the significant catches, rather than the full kernel density polygon areas, be used to identify significant concentrations of these VME indicator species.

The WG discussed whether it would be feasible to manage VMEs on such a small geographical scale (possibly ~1km scale) and agreed that this would need further consideration. The co-Chair of WG-ESA showed fishing effort maps which indicate that fishing vessels avoid the areas where bryozoan turfs occur. This would be consistent with the presence of small patches of hard substrate.

5. Discussion of ongoing matters:

a) consideration of Candidate Closed Areas 13 and 14

Some discussion relating to this agenda item was included under item 4a, where it was noted that the sea pens VME type was assessed as being at high risk in the risk assessment of SAI conducted by SC. The WG agreed that FC should consider what management response would be appropriate taking into consideration that, although having different characteristics (less sensitive (and more resilient)) than sponges and large gorgonians, this habitat is still considered to be a VME under the FAO guidelines. The management response might, but would not necessarily, include closure of the areas formerly identified as candidate closed areas 13 and 14 (see Annex 4). It was also emphasized that the NAFO footprint is managed according to the ecosystem approach to ensure sustainable fisheries. It is understood that some VMEs will be impacted in sustaining viable fisheries in the NAFO footprint, but this has to be managed and limited so as not to cause significant adverse impacts, while allowing responsible fisheries to continue.

One Contracting Party suggested that many of the current assessment results (index of sensitivity, fishing stability, extent of VME fragmentation, apparent spatial association with the red fish fishery) can be explained if the sea pen communities are more resilient to fishing pressure than formerly assumed.

It was noted by some Contracting Parties, however, that the research efforts on sea pen recovery rates and the significance of sea pens to redfish production has been limited and that these issues have to be studied further and documented. These Contracting Parties expressed the need to apply a precautionary approach and to take some protective action in the meantime, including as a time-limited measure while research is undertaken.

Some Contracting Parties expressed concern about drilling for oil and gas having taken place in NAFO sea pen closed area 10 (Northwest Flemish Cap) during the first half of 2016.

Specific recommendations of the working group in relation to this agenda item are given in **WG-EAFFM recommendation #5** below.

b) significant concentrations of VME indicator species on the Tail of the Bank

This agenda item was substantially covered in the discussion of agenda item 4e) work to identify areas of significant concentrations of non-coral and sponge VME indicator species using all available information (FC

request 15). The possibility of small scale closures was mentioned and could be considered in future SAI work, but it was recognized that small size of these VME patches (less than 1km²) would be challenging to manage. Furthermore, it was highlighted that because these patches occur in rocky outcrops, trawls avoid them anyway in order not to damage or entangle the gear.

6. Further development and application of the Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries (EAF) Roadmap, including further consideration of any issues raised at the June SC meeting

The co-Chair of WG-ESA Mariano Koen-Alonso reported on progress made in SC on the development of the EAF roadmap (Annex 5).

An updated version of the Ecosystem Production Potential (EPP) model has been developed including improved description of the microbial loop, explicit benthic-pelagic coupling, splitting the benthic production into suspension and deposit feeding components and allowing for fishing on meso-zooplankton. This has made very little difference to the productivity of the exploited trophic levels, suggesting that the production potential is well captured by the model. This has been used to calculate Fisheries Production Potential (FPP) for three ecosystem production units, the Newfoundland Shelf, the Grand Banks and the Flemish Cap.

Details of the EAF Roadmap progress are documented in the November 2015 meeting report of the WG-ESA (SCS Doc. 15/19) and the SC report from June 2016 (SCS Doc. 16/14 Rev.).

The WG welcomed this work but several members commented that it would be helpful to develop a less technically complex way of presenting the information for managers; for instance, a red-yellow-green system as currently used in single stock advice. It was agreed to recommend that SC and FC discuss how the concept of FPP-based TCC at the ecosystem production unit scale could inform the management of NAFO stocks and provide feedback and further direction.

Specific recommendations of the working group in relation to this agenda item are given in **WG-EAFFM recommendation #6** below.

7. Recommendations to forward to FC and SC

WG-EAFFM recommends:

In relation to the reassessment of NAFO bottom fisheries (agenda item 4a)

- 1. To support the next re-assessment in 2020, that SC;**
 - a) assess the overlap of NAFO fisheries with VME to evaluate fishery specific impacts in addition to the cumulative impacts;
 - b) consider clearer objective ranking processes and options for objective weighting criteria for the overall assessment of risk;
 - c) maintain efforts to assess all of the six FAO criteria (Article 18 Article 18 of the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas) including the three FAO functional SAI criteria which could not be evaluated in the current assessment (recovery potential, ecosystem function alteration, and impact relative to habitat use duration of VME indicator species).
 - d) continue work on non-sponge and coral VMEs (for example bryozoan and sea squirts) to prepare for the next assessment.

In relation to widening the scope of the NAFO coral and sponge guide (item 4b)

- 2. In addition to the VME guide, that SC further develop and compile identification guides for fishes (e.g. sharks and skates) that could be provided to observers.**

In relation to risk assessment of scientific trawl surveys impact on VMEs (item 4c)

- 3. In consideration of other SC priorities, that SC maintain efforts to conclude the assessment of the impact of survey hauls on VMEs in closed areas and the effect of excluding surveys from these areas on stock assessments.**



In relation to potential impact of non-fishing activities (item 4d)

4. That NAFO Secretariat maintains dialogue with relevant organizations and explore mechanisms to improve the exchange of information. The FC and Contracting Parties may consider other means to facilitate active monitoring of assessments, planning processes and actions taken in other fora in order to identify and, if needed, respond on issues concerning NRA fisheries, fisheries resources, and biodiversity.

In relation to ongoing matters (agenda item 5)

5. Taking note of the recent SAI assessment from the SC, that FC consider management response, if appropriate, including the possible closure of the areas previously identified as sea pen candidate areas 13 and 14 (Eastern Flemish Cap) if proposals are made at the annual meeting (see Annex 4).

In relation to Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) (agenda item 6)

6. FC/SC give consideration (possibly through their informal dialogue) to how Fisheries Production Potential (FPP) limits could inform management of NAFO stocks and provide feedback and further direction.

8. Other Matters

The acting chair of the FC ad hoc Working Group on Bycatch, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) gave a brief presentation of the outcomes of the meeting which took place on 9 August 2016. The report of this meeting was not yet finalized but will be available as FC Doc. 16/05. The WG noted that some aspects of bycatch, discards and selectivity could be incorporated into the of the WG-EAFFM workplan as identified by the Ecosystem Roadmap which notes bycatch as an area of focus.

9. 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.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 hrs on 12 August 2016. The Chairs 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. SC response to FC requests for advice:
 - a) examination of work developed by the Scientific Council on SAIs in support of the reassessment of NAFO bottom fishing activities, including VME areas outside the NAFO footprint and the refinement of VME kernel density analysis polygon boundaries (FC request 4);
 - b) consider widening the scope of the NAFO coral and sponge identification guides (FC request 5);
 - c) consider risk assessment of scientific trawl surveys impact on VME in closed areas and the effect of excluding surveys from these areas on stock assessments (FC request 6);
 - d) develop a work plan to address potential impact of activities other than fishing on VMEs, in particular VME closed areas (FC request 11); and
 - e) identify areas of significant concentrations of non-coral and sponge VME indicator species using all available information (FC request 15).
5. Discussion of ongoing matters:
 - a) consideration of Candidate Closed Areas 13 and 14
 - b) significant concentrations of VME indicator species on the Tail of the Bank
6. Further development and application of the Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries (EAF) Roadmap, including further consideration of any issues raised at the June SC meeting
7. Recommendations to forward to FC and SC
8. Other Matters
9. Adoption of Report
10. Adjournment

Annex 3. SC Advice on SAIs in support of the Reassessment of NAFO Bottom Fisheries Activities

FC Request 4: Reassessment of Bottom Fisheries

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.

FC further requests that:

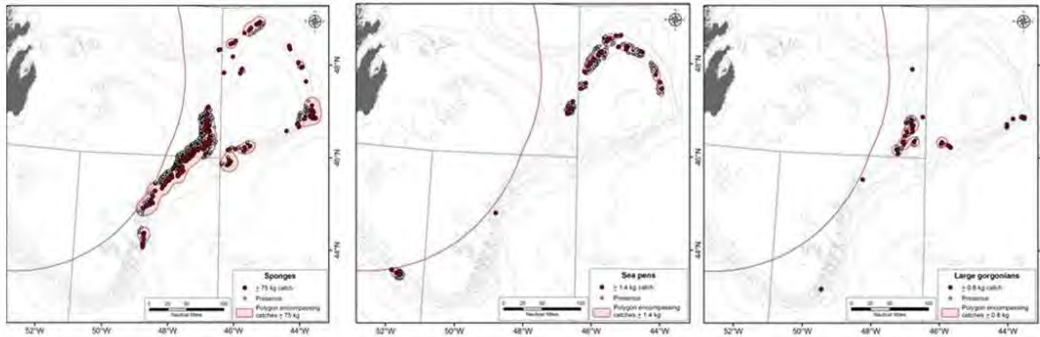
- a) that Scientific Council should take into account the protection afforded to VME areas outside the NAFO fisheries footprint in the calculation of the VME area and biomass at risk of bottom fishing impact;
- b) that Scientific Council refine VME kernel density analysis polygon boundaries, taking into account current understanding of distribution patterns in relation to environmental variables.

WGEEAFFM August 2016

No.	Fisheries Assessment Tasks (Article V, 2011 NCEM)	WGESA Report
1	Type(s) of fishing conducted or contemplated, including vessels and gear types, fishing areas, target and potential bycatch species, fishing effort levels and duration of fishing (harvesting plan)	Section 4.2.4 (description of fisheries)
2	Existing baseline information on the ecosystems, habitats and communities in the fishing area, against which future changes can be compared	Sections 4.2.2 (introduction), 4.2.3 (description of VMEs), 4.2.4 (description of fisheries)
3	Identification, description and mapping of VMEs known or likely to occur in the fishing area	Section 4.2.3 (description of VMEs)
4	Identification, description and evaluation of the occurrence, scale and duration of likely impacts, including cumulative impacts of activities covered by the assessment on VMEs	Section 4.2.5 (assessment of SAI)
5	Consideration of VME elements known to occur in the fishing area	Section 4.2.3 (description of VMEs)
6	Data and methods used to identify, describe and assess the impacts of the activity, the identification of gaps in knowledge, and an evaluation of uncertainties in the information presented in the assessment	Section 4.2.5 (assessment of SAI)
7	Risk assessment of likely impacts by the fishing operations to determine which impacts on VMEs are likely to be significant adverse impacts	Section 4.2.5 (assessment of SAI)
8	The proposed mitigation and management measures to be used to prevent significant adverse impacts on VMEs, and the measures to be used to monitor effects of the fishing operations	(Joint FC/SC Working Group on the Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management)



Description of VMEs



The primary tool used to quantitatively determine VME extent is kernel density analysis (KDA; Kenchington et al., 2014)

Three VME types assessed for SAI:

- Sponge
- Sea pen
- Large Gorgonian

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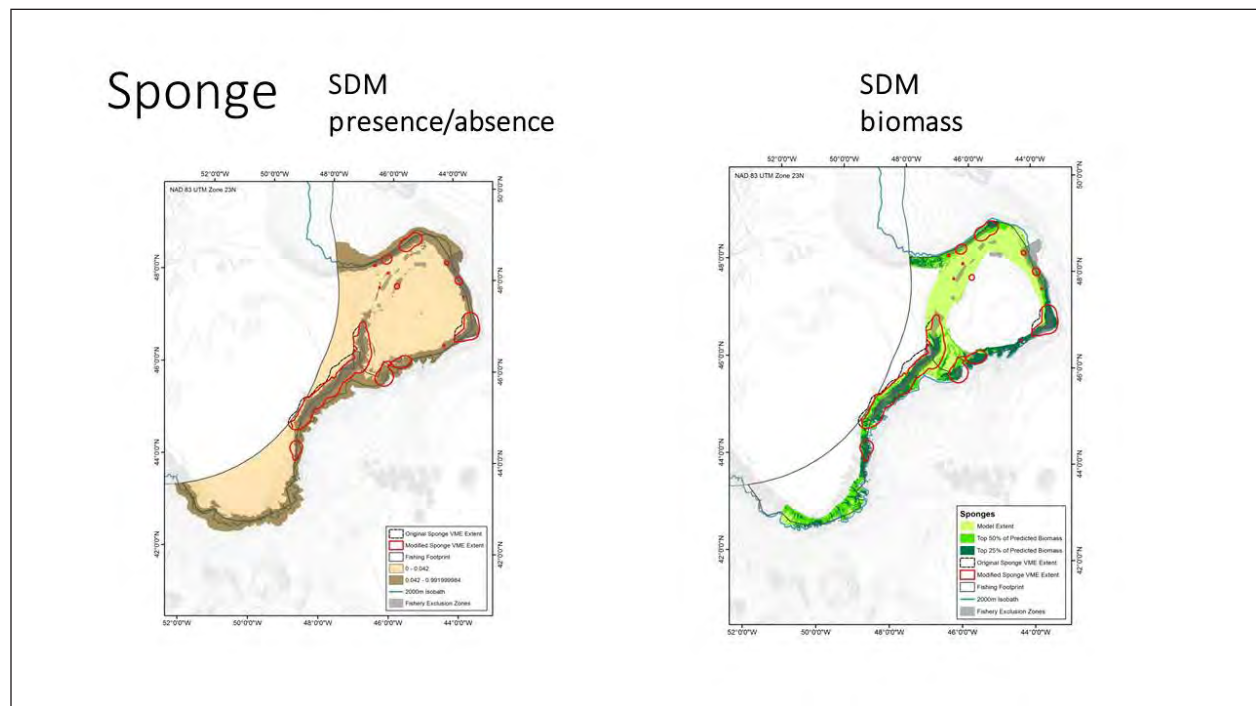
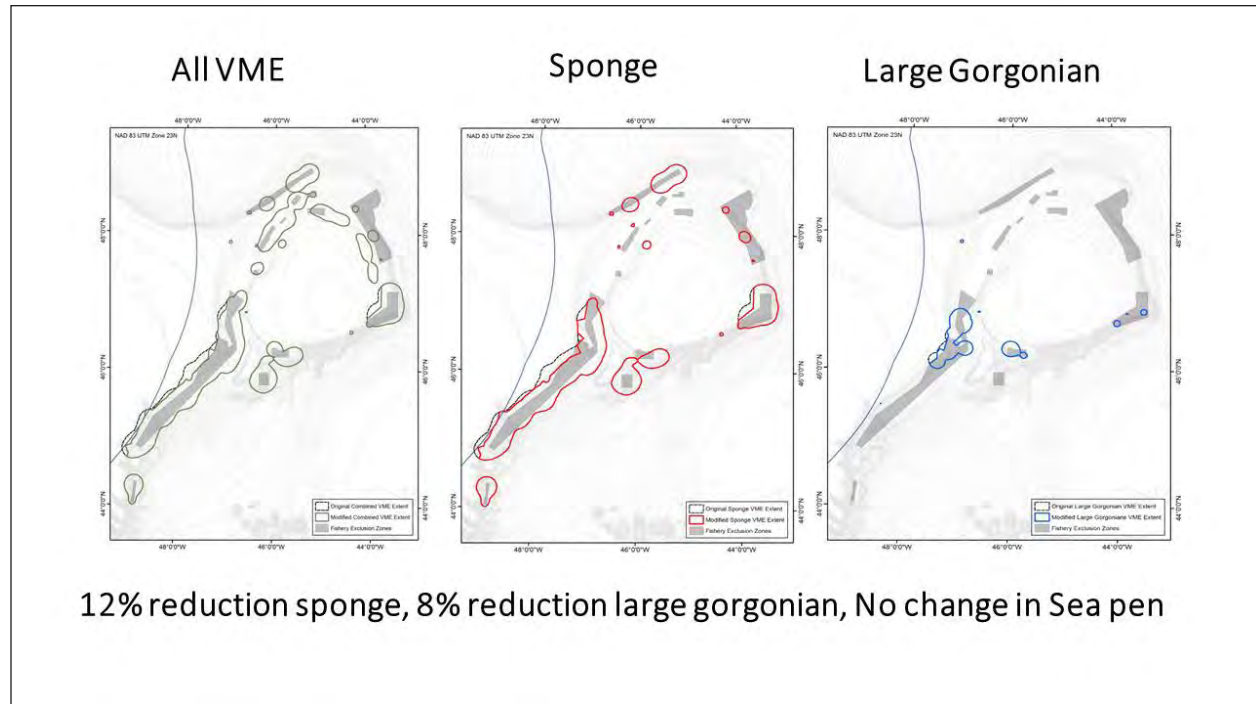
Refining the VME boundary

Develop SDMs incorporating habitat data

- i. using presence/absence model of VME significant concentrations (DFO)
- ii. using VME biomass from areas not fished (Cefas)

Overlay with KDE VME polygons and redefine boundary where both models agree absence.

Effectively reduce and not increase the VME polygon area



Description of fisheries

Cod, redfish, Northern shrimp and Greenland halibut, Accounting for 84% of total index of biomass every year

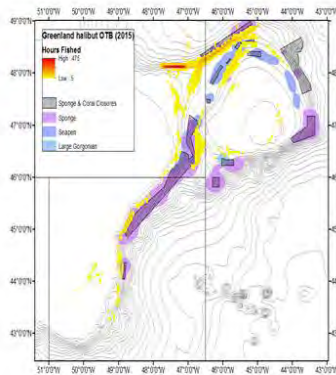
Fishery	Target Species	Main Area of Operation	Gear
Greenland Halibut Fishery	Greenland halibut	NAFO Divs 3LMNO	Bottom otter trawl
3M Redfish Fishery	Redfish	NAFO Div. 3M	Bottom otter trawl
3M Shrimp Fishery (under moratorium)	Shrimp	NAFO Div. 3M	Bottom otter trawl
3M Trawl Cod Fishery	Atlantic Cod	NAFO Div. 3M	Bottom otter trawl and paired bottom trawls
3M Longline Cod Fishery	Atlantic Cod	NAFO Div. 3M	Longline
Skate Fishery	Skate	NAFO Divs 3NO	Bottom otter trawl
Yellowtail flounder Fishery	Yellowtail flounder	NAFO Div. 3N	Bottom otter trawl
Witch flounder Fishery (re-opened in 2015)	Witch flounder	NAFO Divs 3NO (expected area)	Bottom otter trawl
3LNO Redfish Fishery	Redfish	NAFO Divs 3LNO	Bottom otter trawl
3LNO Shrimp Fishery (under no directed fishery in 2015)	Shrimp	NAFO Div. 3L	Bottom otter trawl
White Hake Fishery	White hake	NAFO Divs 3NO	Bottom otter trawl
Squid Fishery (no directed fishing since 1999)	Shortfin squid	NAFO Subareas 3+4	Bottom and midwater otter trawl

A total of 12 operational fisheries

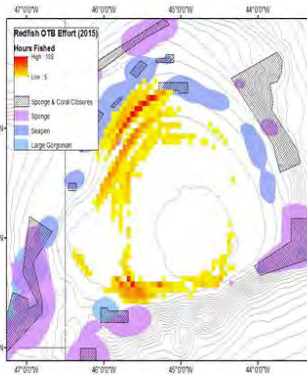
Gear, depth, vessel power, length, catch composition.

Maps 2012 - 2015

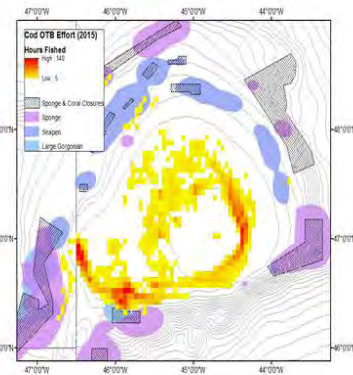
3LMNO Greenland halibut



3M Redfish

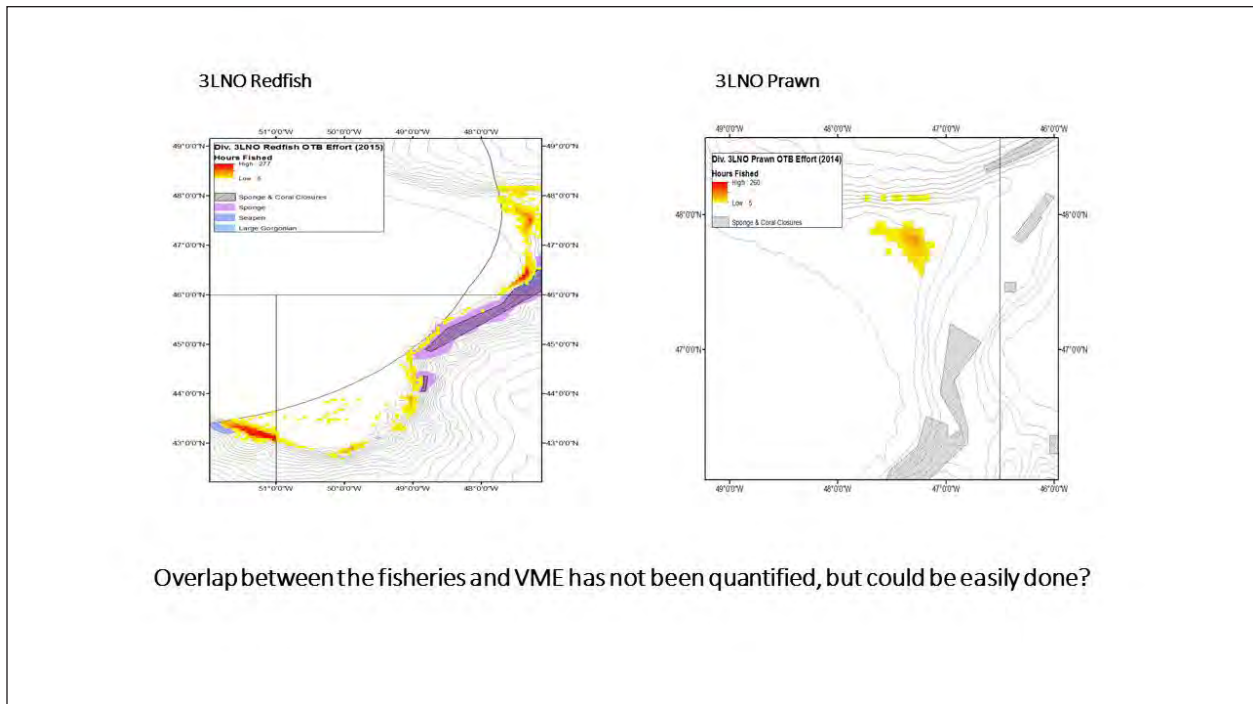
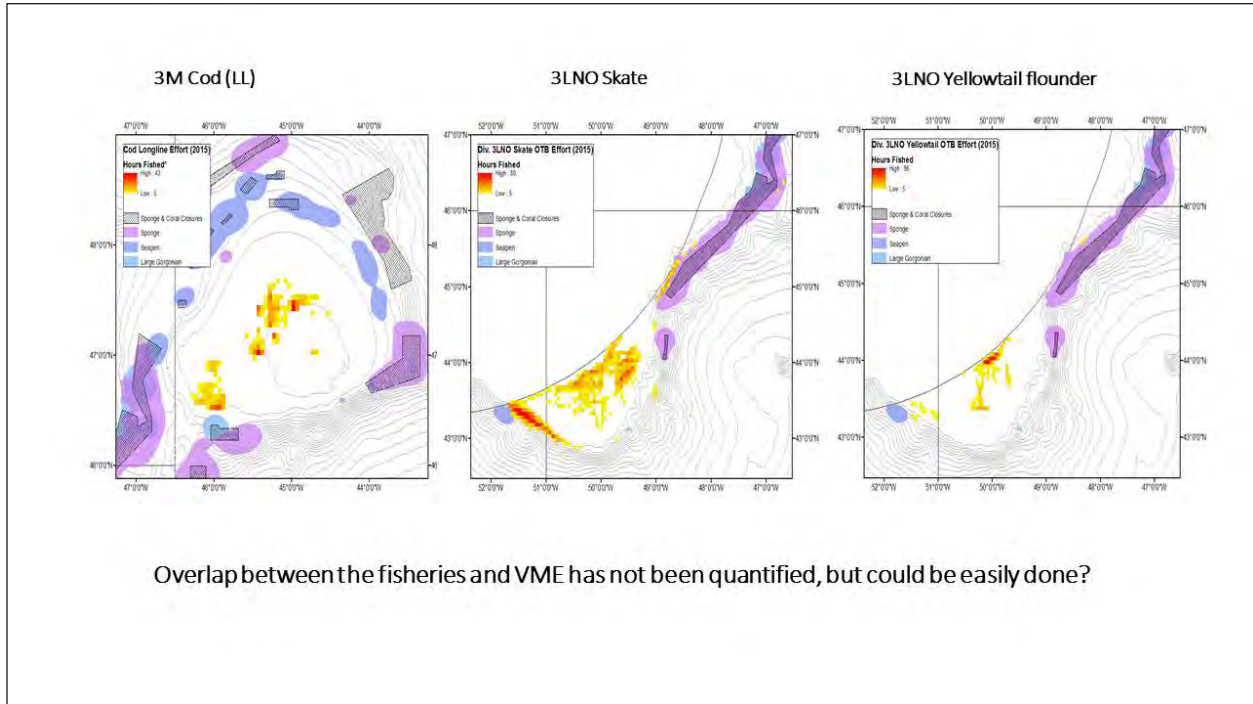


3M Cod



Overlap between the fisheries and VME has not been quantified, but could be easily done?





Assessment of SAI: FAO 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

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas (Rome: FAO, 2009).

NAFO Approach

1. Define and quantify; i) VME at risk of impact and, ii) VME impacted
2. Define assessment specific SAI criteria (based upon FAO criteria and NAFO data)
3. Apply criteria and make an overall assessment of SAI

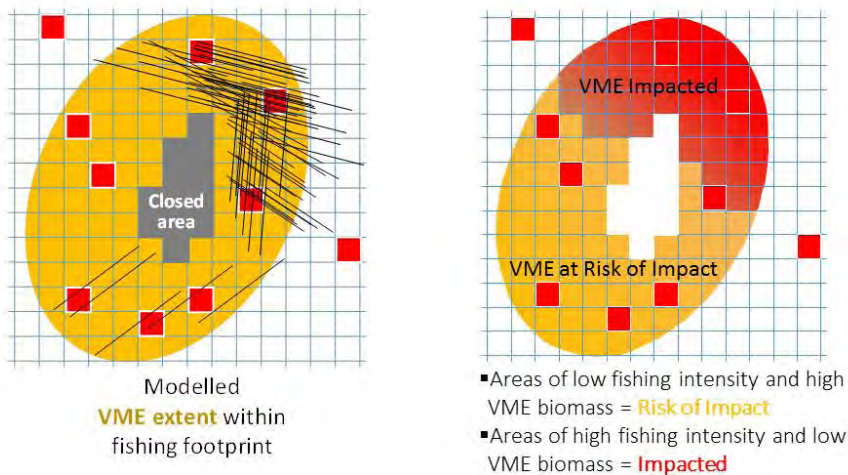
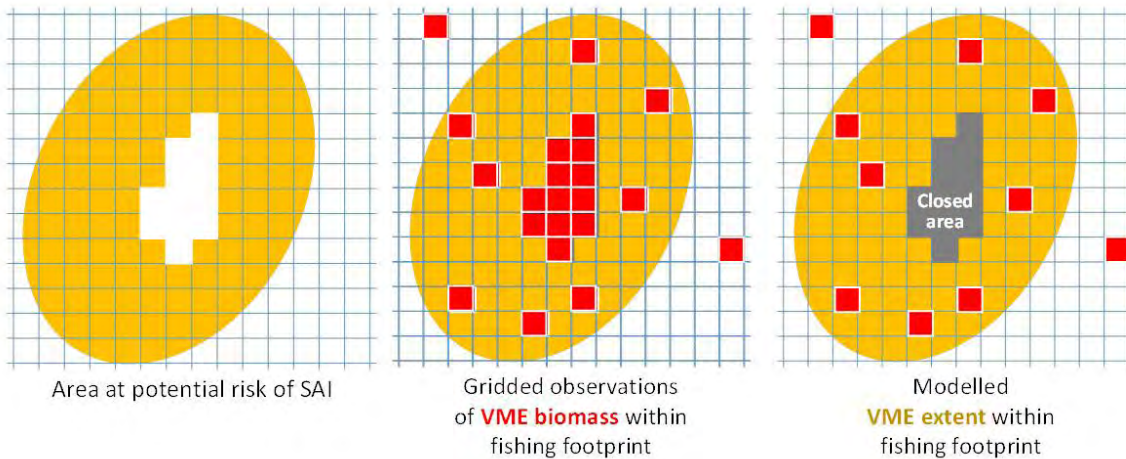
Defining VME Risk/Impact categories

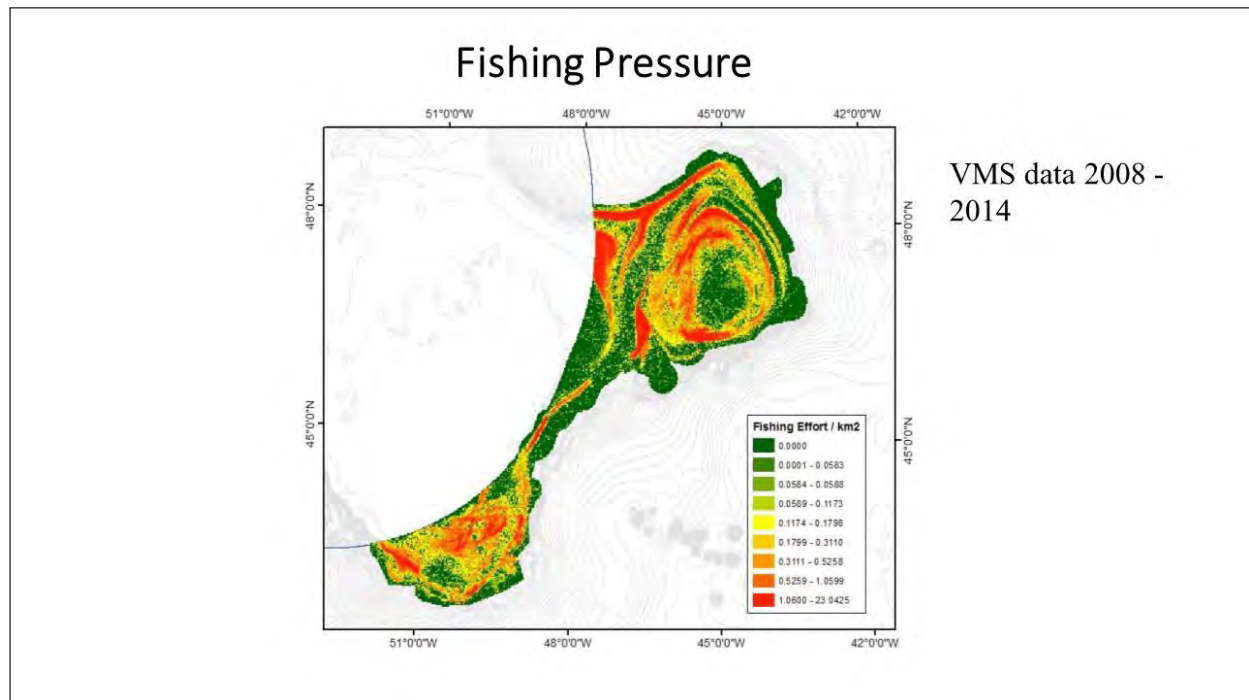
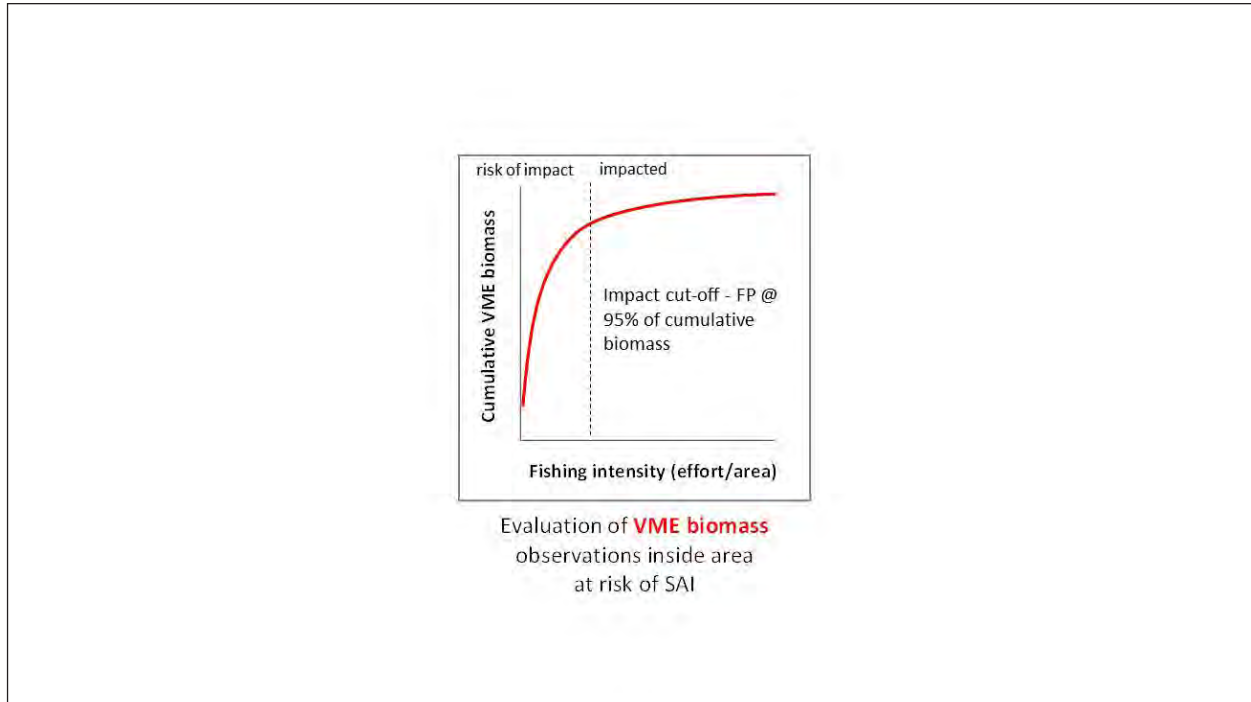
- (i) VME at **low risk** of impact
 - a. VME Fishery closures (inside the footprint)
 - b. VME out-side the fishing footprint
 - c. VME Fishery closures (outside the footprint)
- (ii) VME at **high risk** of impact
 - a. VME inside the footprint not previously fished outside any fishery closure
- (iii) VME **impacted**
 - a. VME inside the footprint that has been fished

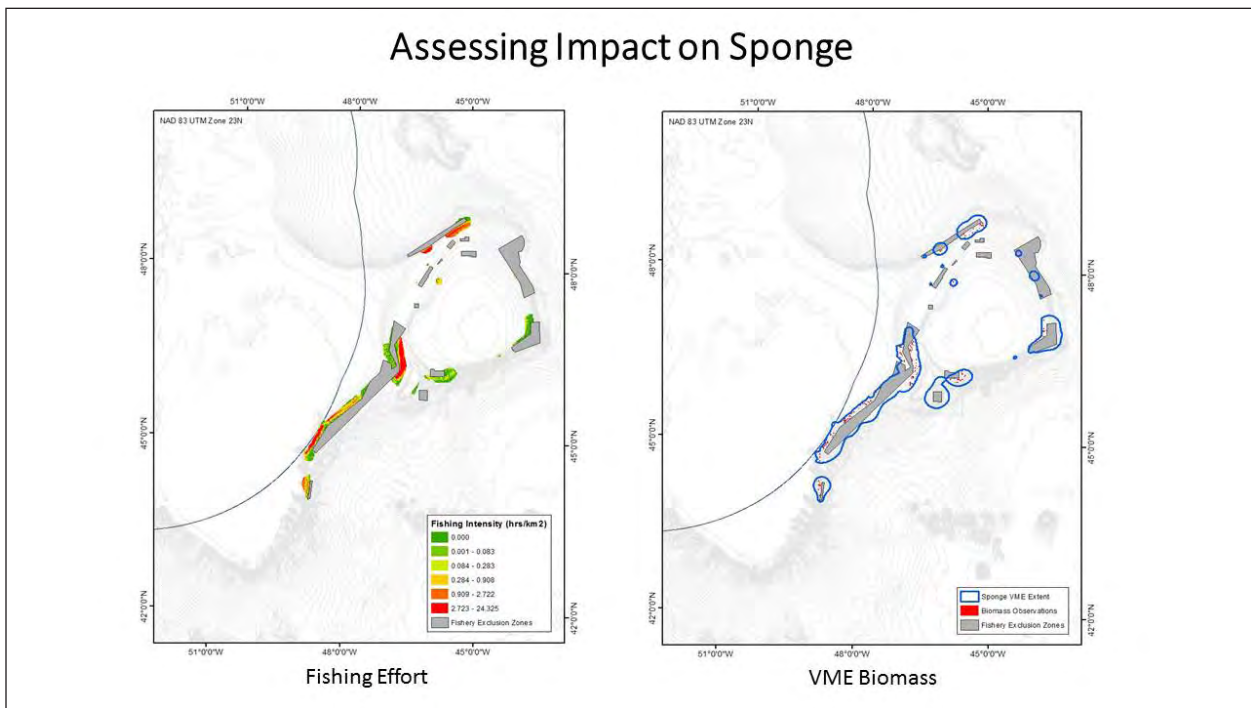
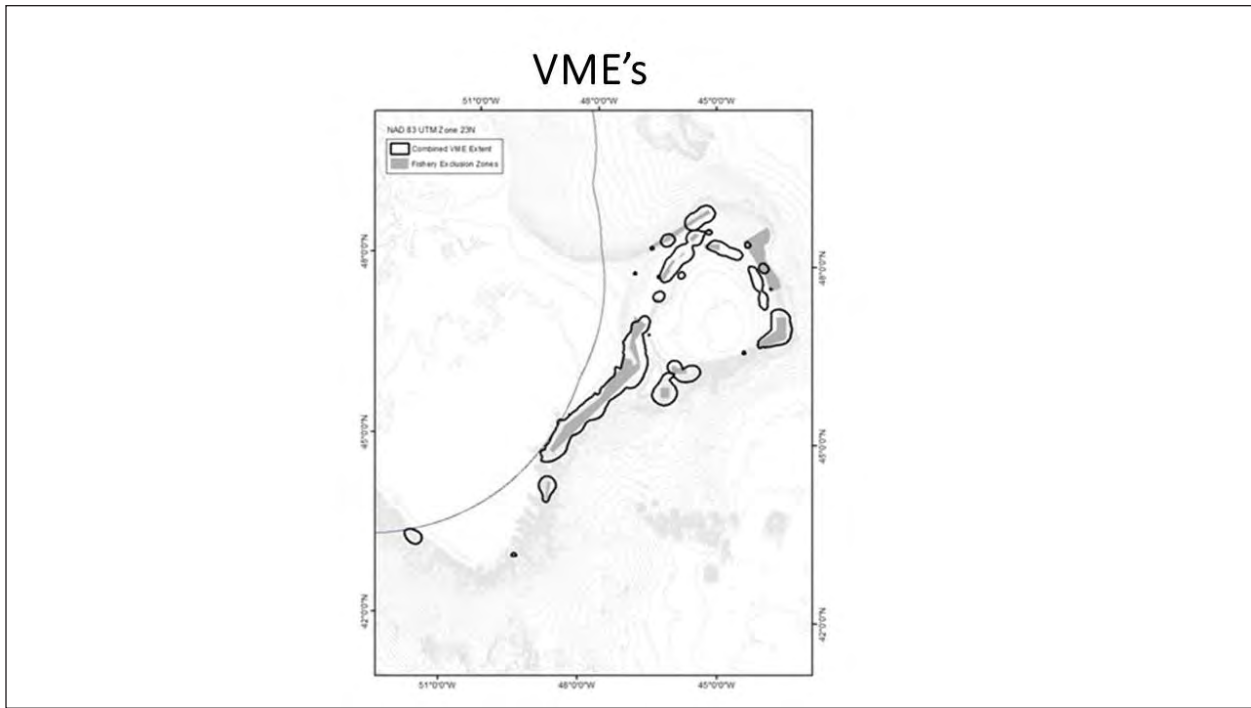
Impact Assessment Approach :

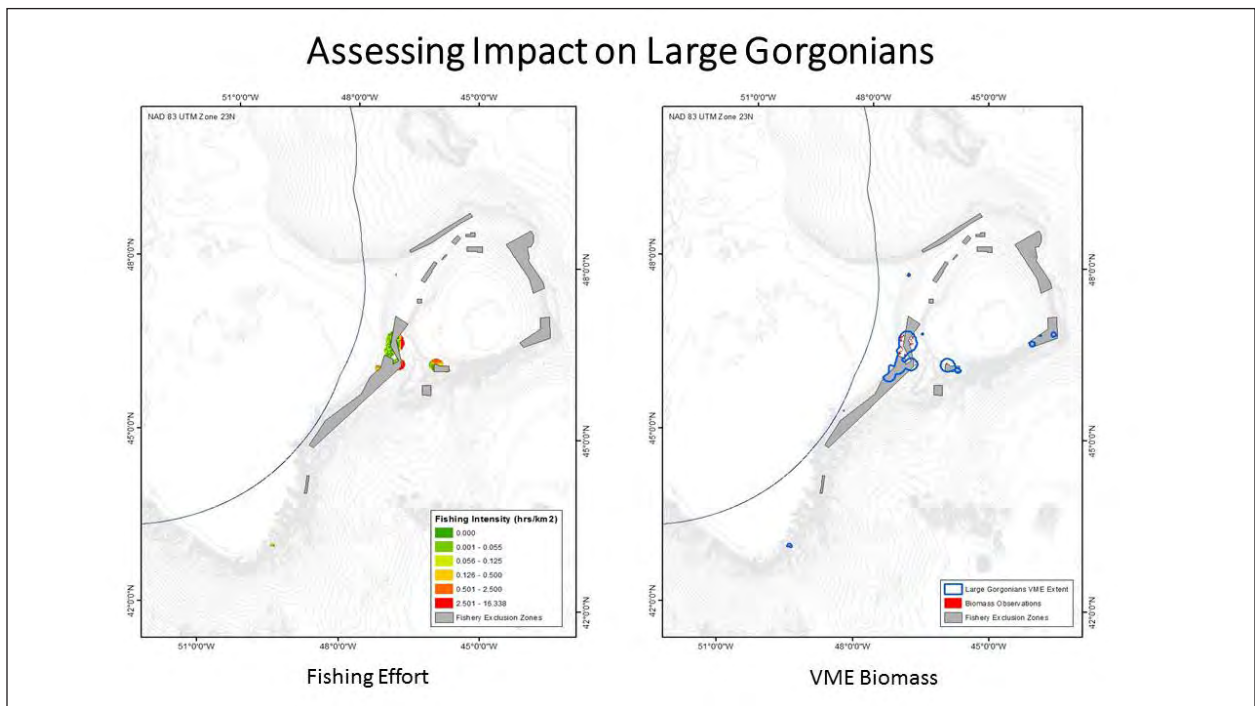
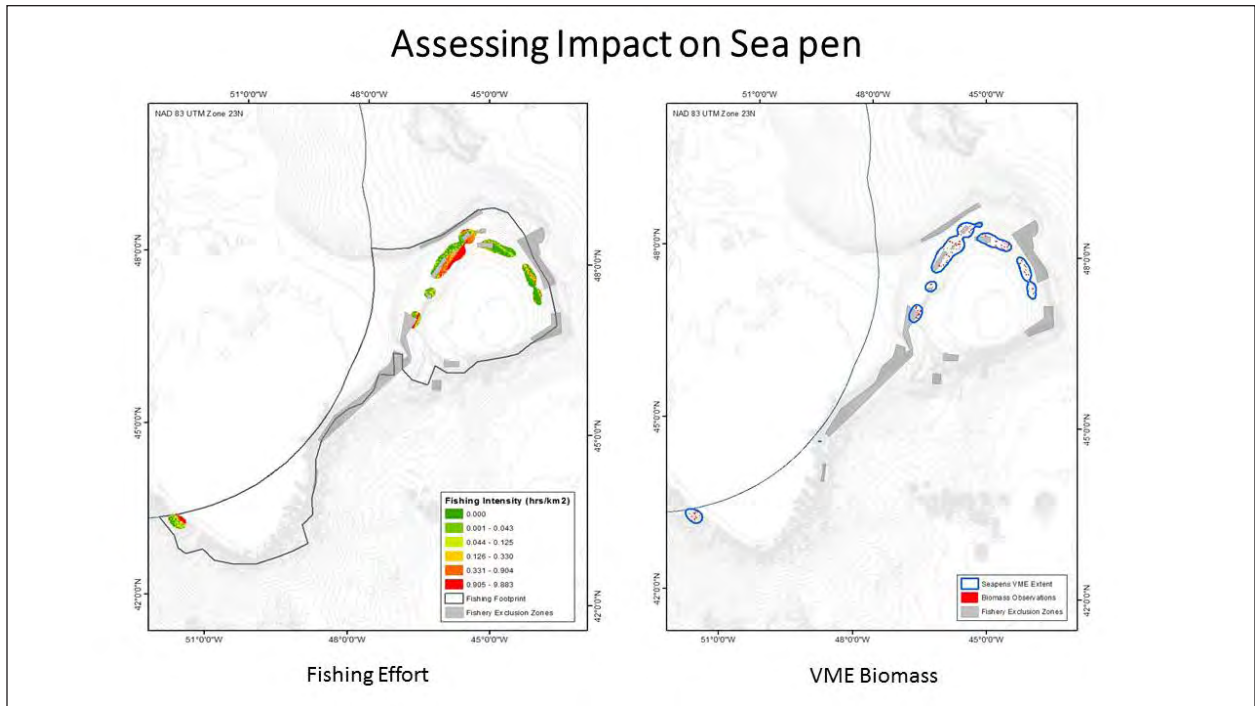
1. Analyse VMS data to generate a fishing activity/intensity layer (2008 – 2014)
2. Create biomass layers of VME species at the same spatial resolution (2000 – 2015)
3. Assess interaction/overlap between fishing activity and biomass layers.
 - Identify areas of impact and areas at risk of impact

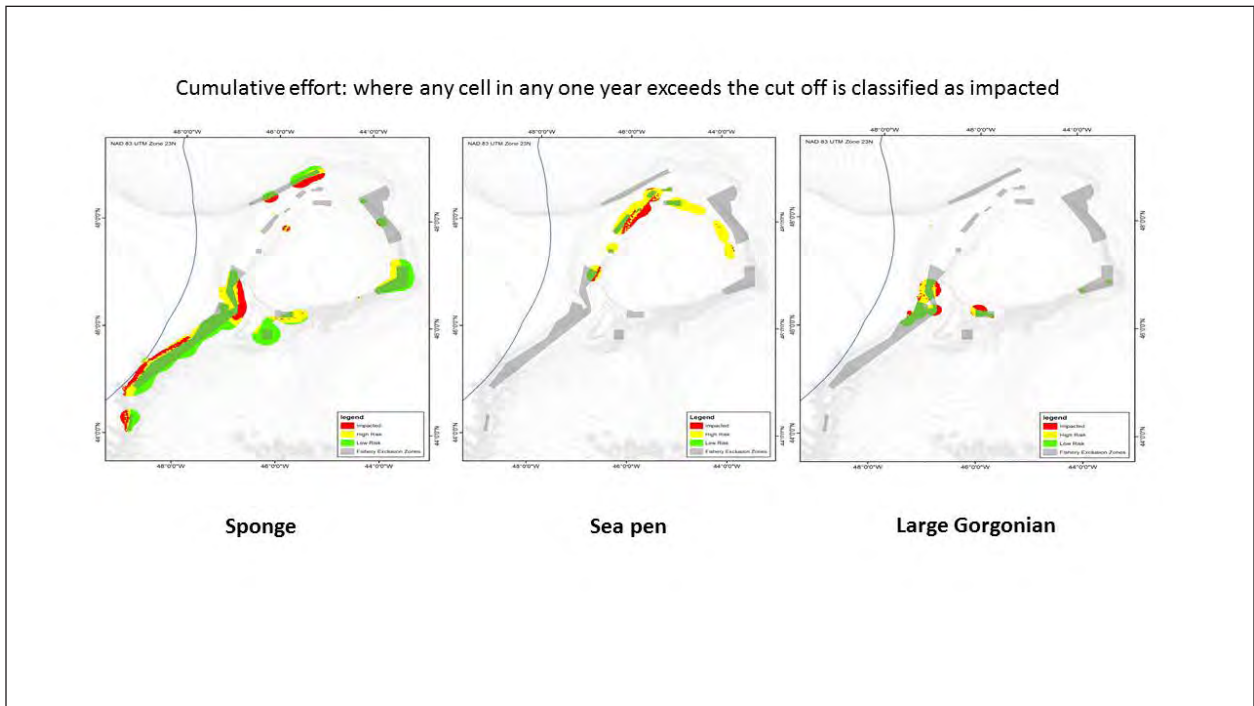
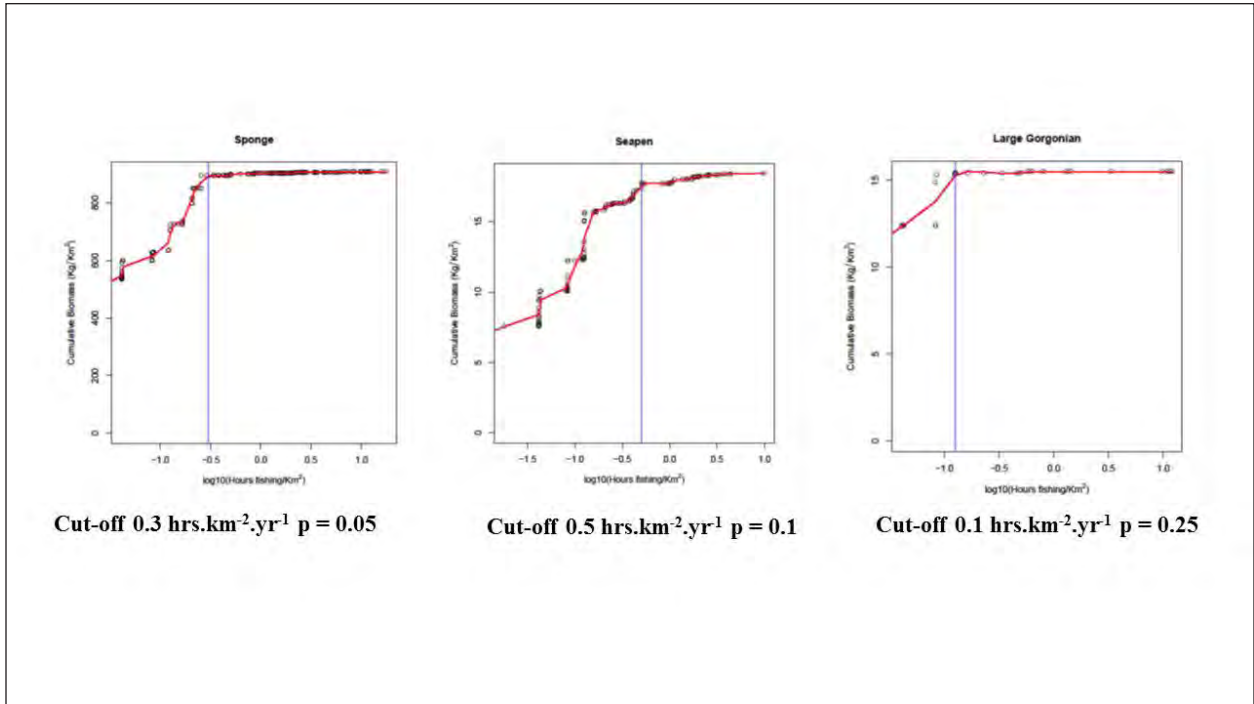
Impact Assessment Approach:











VME risk/impact categories - Area (km²)

	Sponges		Sea pens		Large gorgonians	
	km ²	(%)	km ²	(%)	km ²	(%)
VME at Low risk	12,874	(65)	1,094	(16)	1,980	(56)
Closure inside footprint	4,227	(21)	1,094	(16)	1,485	(42)
Closure outside footprint	3,679	(19)			495	(14)
Outside fishing footprint	4,888	(25)				
VME Impacted	4,259	(21)	2,662	(38)	1,091	(31)
VME at High risk	2,771	(14)	3,226	(46)	434	(12)
Total area of VME	19,824	(100)	6,983	(100)	3,505	(100)

VME risk/impact categories - Biomass (kg)

	Sponges		Sea pens		Large gorgonians	
	kg	(%)	kg	(%)	kg	(%)
VME at Low risk	113,157	(73)	20	(19)	132	(63)
Closure inside footprint	49,541	(32)	20	(19)	115	(55)
Closure outside footprint	45,806	(30)			17	(8)
Outside fishing footprint	17,810	(11)				
VME Impacted	25,621	(17)	45	(42)	48	(23)
VME at High risk	16,149	(10)	41	(39)	28	(14)
Total biomass of VME	15,4926	(100)	106	(100)	208	(100)

Definitions of criteria used to assess SAI in the current study

SAI criteria	Definition
Area/Biomass at low risk	This refers to the proportion of the area or biomass of VME which is currently at low risk either because it falls within a fishery closure area and/or is in an area outside of the fishing footprint
Area/Biomass impacted	Proportion of the area or biomass of VME which has been exposed to a level of fishing effort above the defined cut-off point within any one year
Area/Biomass at high risk	Proportion of the area or biomass of VME which falls below the defined cut-off point of fishing effort within any one year.
Number of overlapping VMEs	Proportion of area overlapping with other VMEs
Fishing effort/biomass cut-off value (Index of VME sensitivity)	The impact cut-off values for each of the VMEs are used as a proxy of sensitivity (a high cut-off value indicates a low sensitivity)
Index of fishing stability	Number of cells consistently fished above the impact cut-off value over time as a proportion of the total cells impacted
Index of Risk of VME fragmentation	Proportion of discrete VME without protection

Quantitative evaluation of SAI criteria

SAI criteria	Sponge		Sea pen		Large gorgonian	
	Area	Biomass	Area	Biomass	Area	Biomass
Low risk	65%	73%	16%	19%	56%	63%
High risk	14%	10%	46%	39%	12%	14%
Impacted	21%	17%	38%	42%	31%	23%
VMEs overlapping	11%		2%		74%	
Index of Sensitivity	0.3		0.5		0.1	
Fragmentation	1%		26%		2%	
Fishing area stability	32%		14%		21%	
Overall risk of SAI	Low		High		Low	

SC Conclusion

SC completed the assessment of the risk of Significant Adverse Impacts (SAIs) from bottom fishing activities on VMEs in the NRA. The results indicated that both large gorgonians and sponges VME have a low overall risk of SAI, while sea pen VMEs were assessed as having a high overall risk of SAI.

SAI criteria	Sponge		Sea pen		Large gorgonian	
	Area	Biomass	Area	Biomass	Area	Biomass
Low risk	Low	Low	High	Mod	Mod	Low
High risk	Low	Low	High	High	Low	Low
Impacted	Mod	Mod	High	High	High	Mod
VMEs overlapping	Mod		High		Low	
Index of Sensitivity	High		Mod		High	
Fragmentation	Low		High		Low	
Fishing area stability	Low		High		Low	
Overall risk of SAI	Low		High		Low	

Improvements

- Assess the overlap of fisheries with VME to assess fishery specific impacts as proportion of area – (WGEAFFM 2016)
- Consider options for objective weighting criteria for the overall assessment (WGESA 2016)
- Conduct studies to support assessment of functional SAI criteria, e.g. resilience (recovery potential), links with fisheries etc.

Report has not considered what if any options are needed for management response.....

Annex 4. Maps of Candidate Areas 13 and 14 referred to in Recommendation 5

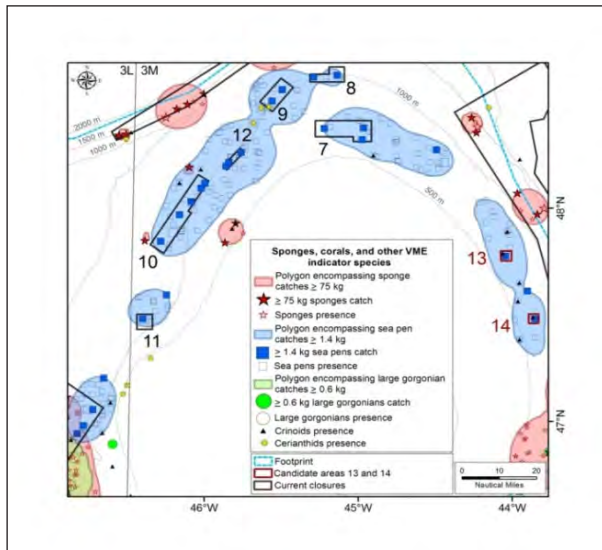


Figure 1. Closed Areas 7 – 12 and Candidate Areas 13 and 14.

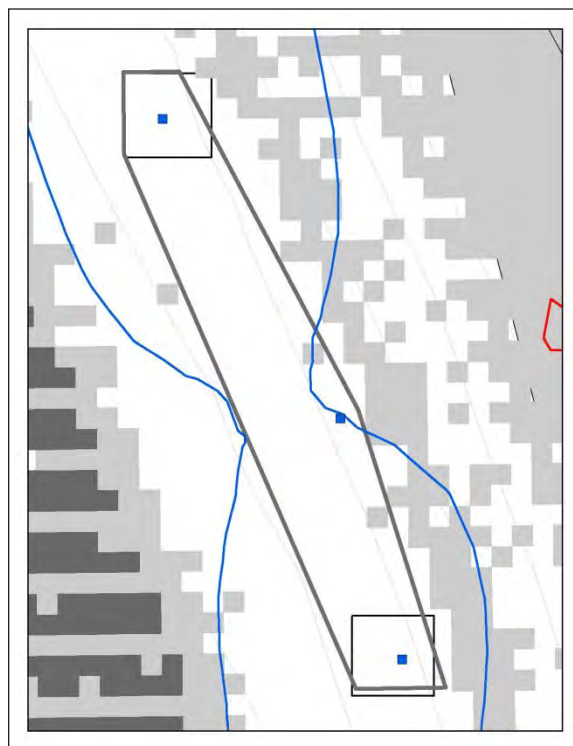


Figure 2. Candidate Areas 13 and 14 from 2003-2013 VMS data.

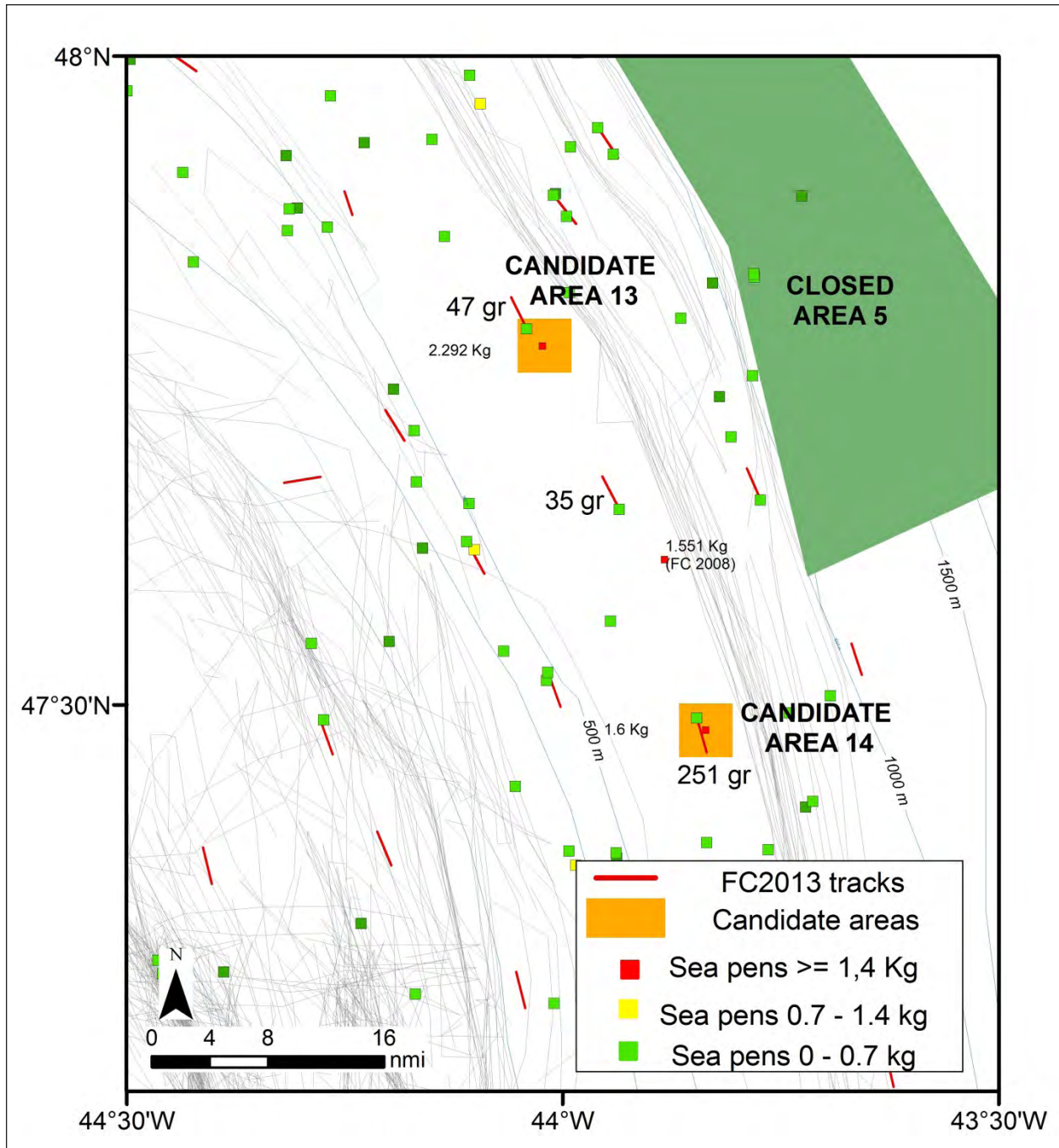


Figure 3. Candidate Areas 13 and 14.

Annex 5. Progress on the NAFO Roadmap towards an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

NAFO FC-SC WGEAFFM Meeting
10-12 August 2016, Halifax, NS

1

Progress on the NAFO Roadmap towards an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF)

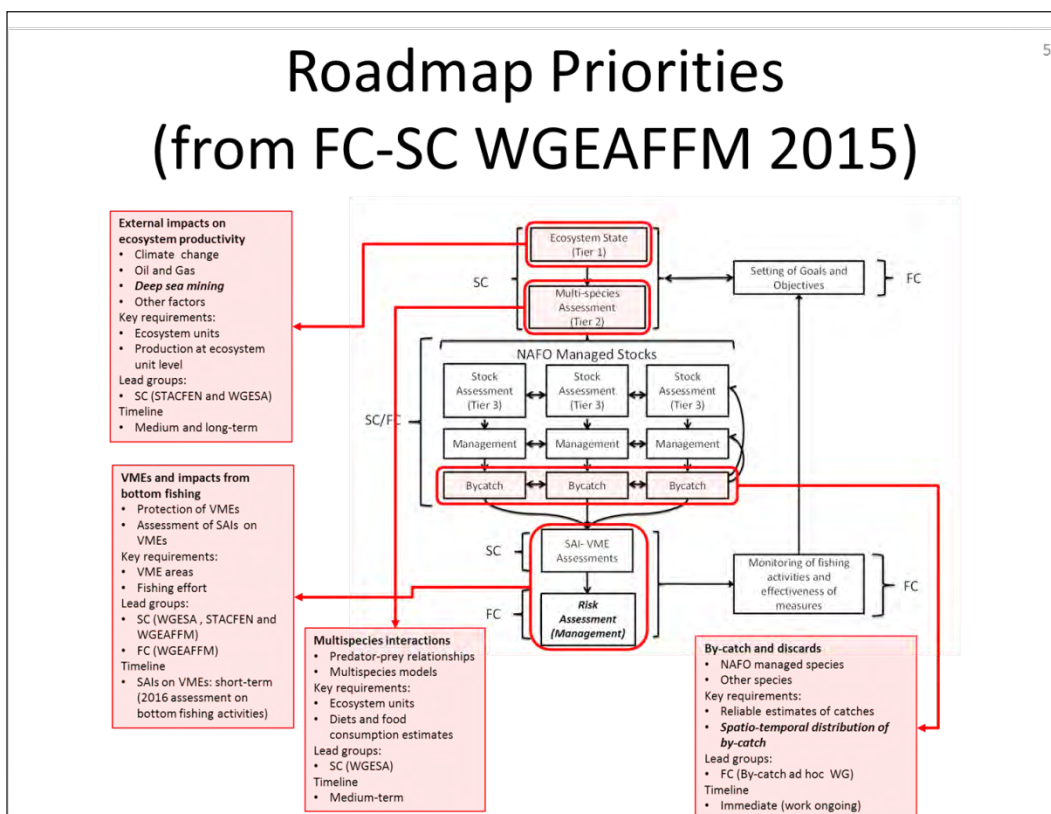
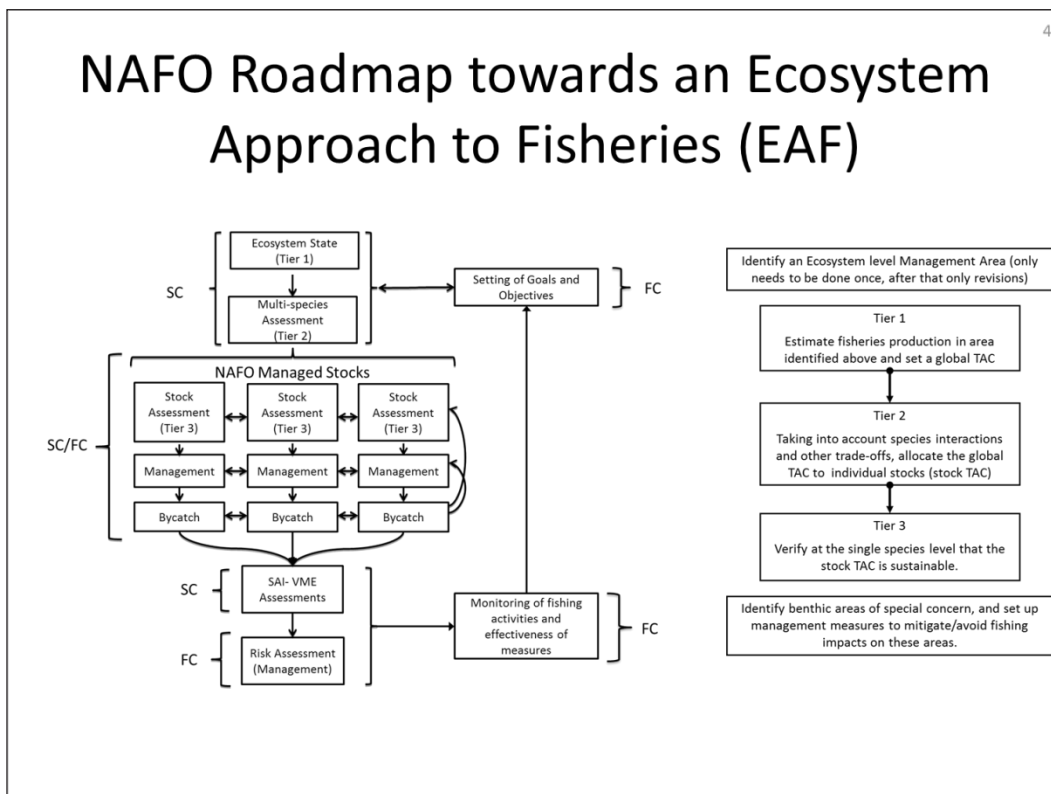
Mariano Koen-Alonso

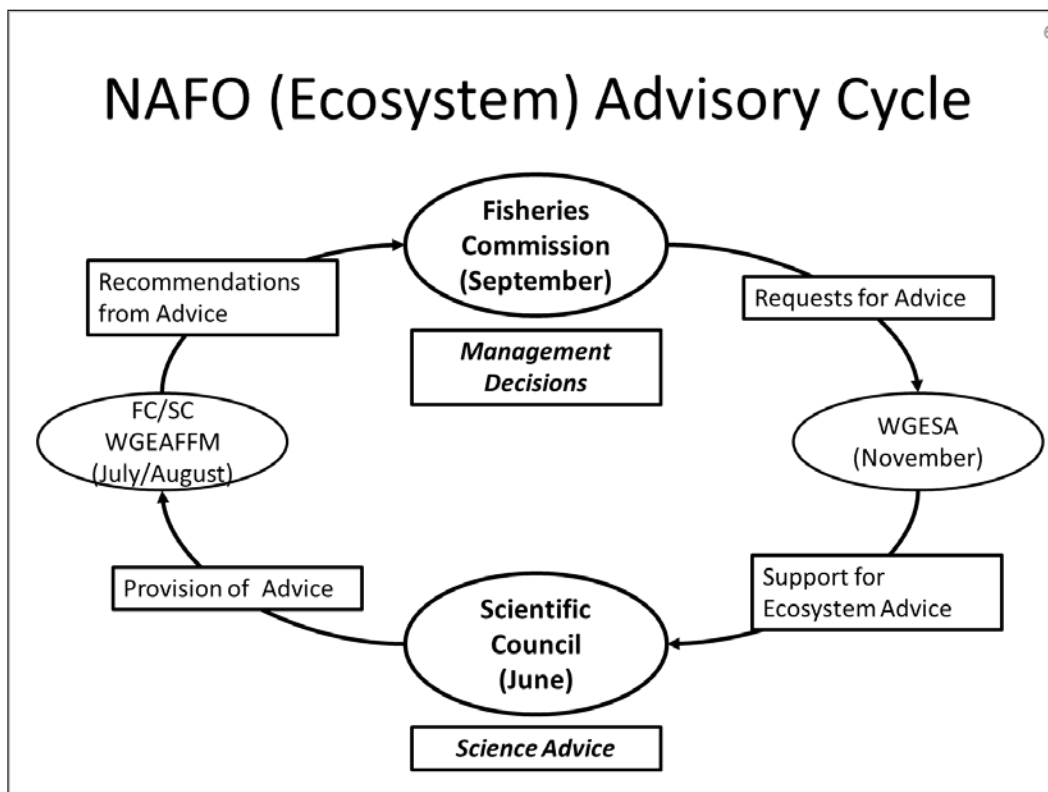
2

Quick Outline

- Introduction
- Roadmap progress
 - EPP models, FPP, and Guidelines for Total Catch Ceilings
 - Selected highlights from SC WGESA worth keeping in mind (1 slide each)
 - Multispecies model for Flemish Cap
 - Expansion of silver hake into the Grand Bank
 - Slow-down of groundfish rebuilding in Newfoundland Shelf
- Other considerations

[Slide 3: Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in NAFO – INTRODUCTION]



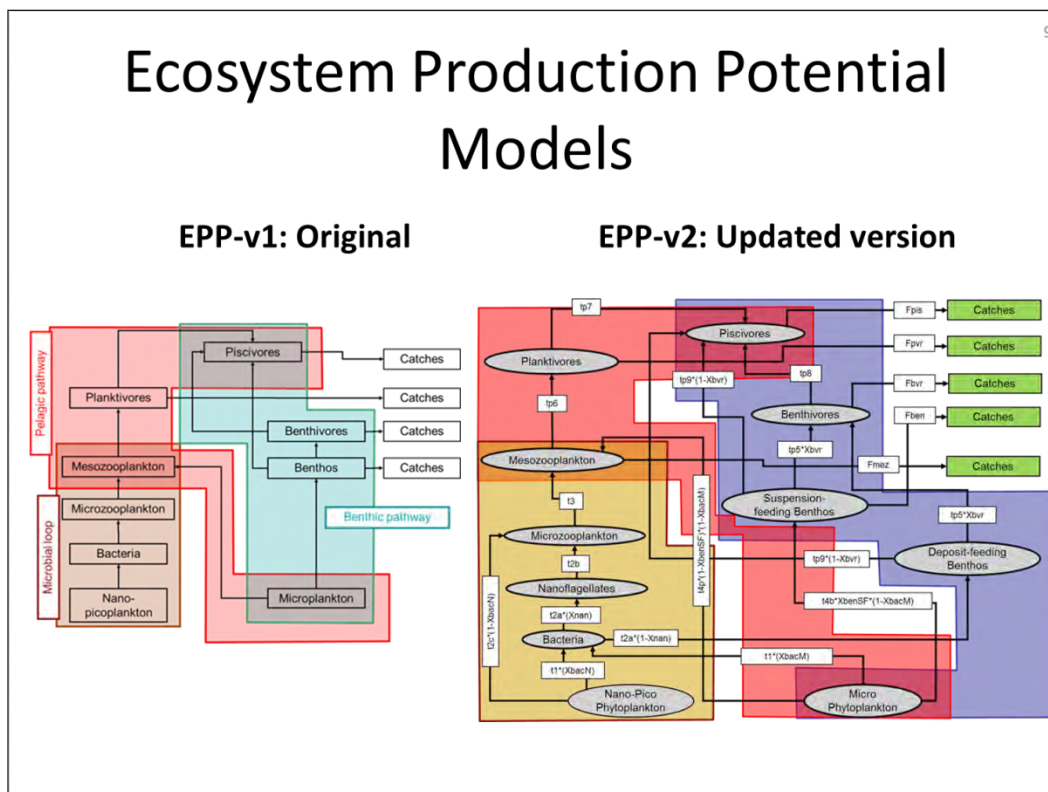


[Slide 7:NAFO Roadmap towards and Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF) - PROGRESS ON ROADMAP]

8

Pilot EAF exercises

- SC is pursuing EAF pilot exercises for the Newfoundland Shelf (2J3K), Grand Bank (3LNO), and Flemish Cap (3M) Ecosystem Production Units (EPUs).
- Initial guidelines for Total Catch Ceilings for these EPUs were presented at FC/SC WGEAFFM in 2015.



EPP-v2: what's new and what does it mean

What's new

- Improved description of the microbial loop
- Explicit benthic-pelagic coupling
- Split of benthos production into suspension-feeding & deposit-feeding benthos
- Allows for the possibility of fishing on meso-zooplankton

What does it mean

- Very little difference in productivity for most exploitable nodes.
- Important increase in overall benthos productivity.
- Differences have only minor impacts for pilot EAF exercises.
- This suggests that production potential of upper trophic levels appears reasonably captured.

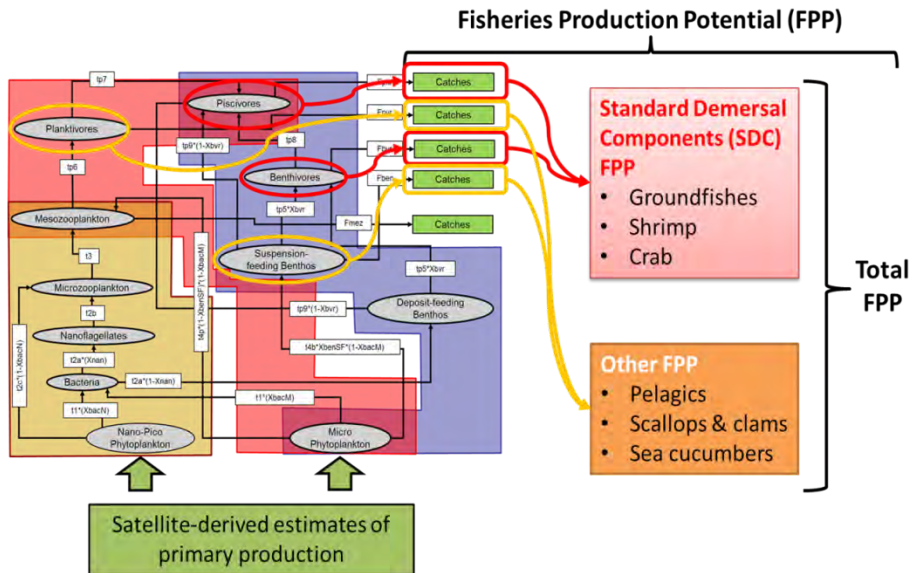
Fisheries Production Potential: new runs

- Maximum sustainable exploitation rate was defined as the median of all the microplankton/total production values for large marine ecosystems around the world (Rosenberg et al. 2014):

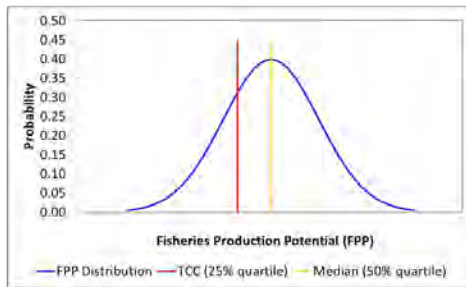
$$F=20\%$$

- Other assumptions similar as before:
 - Only 50% of pelagic production is from spp of potential “commercial” value.
 - Only 10% of suspension feeding benthos is from spp of potential “commercial” value.

FPP calculation

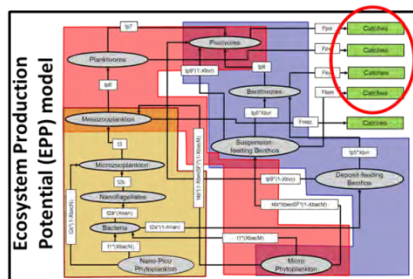


Fisheries Production Potential as a Limit Reference Point



- Estimates of FPP should be considered as Limit Reference Points (LRPs).
- Therefore, catches should have a low probability of exceeding FPP.
- Although the exact value of “low probability” is not defined in the NAFO PA framework, it is exemplified using a 20% value.
- Following this rationale, the 25% percentile of the distribution of FPP can be used to define a Total Catch Ceiling (TCC). This would ensure that total catches would have a low probability of exceeding the ecosystem sustainability level.
- The median of the distribution can provide an indication of situations where total catches have clearly exceeded sustainability levels.

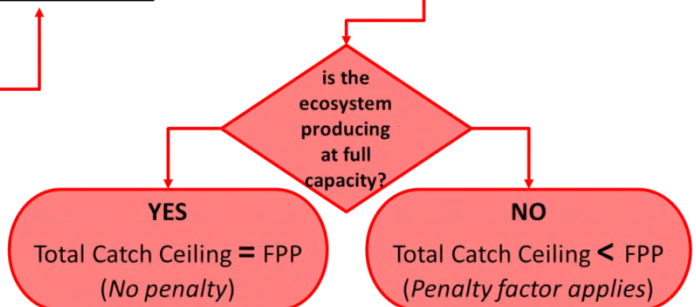
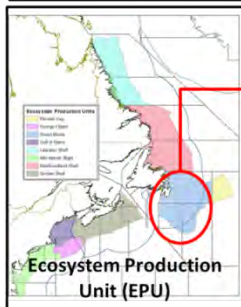
Calculation of Total Catch Ceilings



Total Fisheries Production Potential (FPP) composed by:

1. **Standard Demersal Components (SDC)**
2. **Others Components**

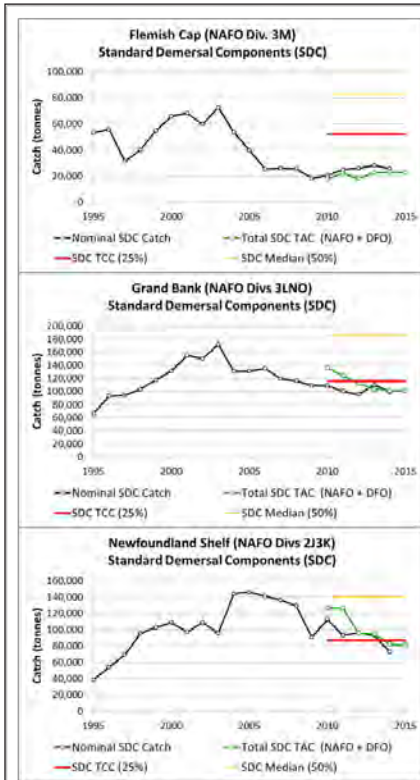
TCC Limit Reference Point:
25% percentile of the FPP distribution obtained with a 20% Exploitation Rate



Updated TCC for pilot EAF EPUs

Guidelines for Total Catch Ceilings (TCC)

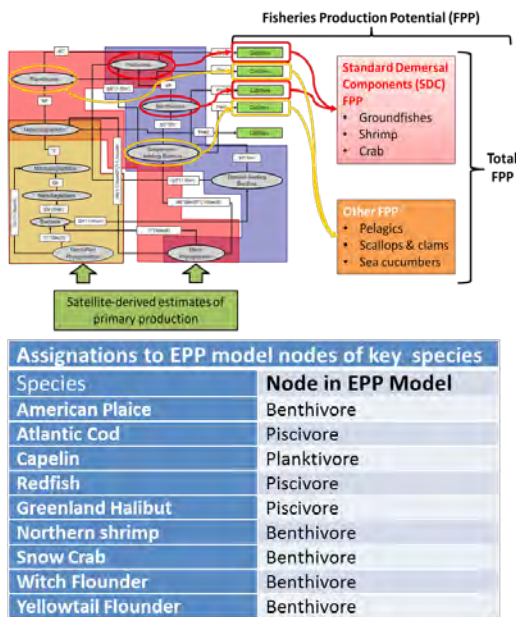
	Standard Demersal Components (SDC)		Others	
	Proposed LRP (in tonnes) (25th percentile of FPP distribution)	Median (in tonnes) (50th percentile of FPP distribution)	Proposed LRP (in tonnes) (25th percentile of FPP distribution)	Median (in tonnes) (50th percentile of FPP distribution)
Flemish Cap EPU (3M)	52,000	83,000	75,000	115,000
Grand Bank EPU (3LNO) <i>penalty:50%</i>	116,000	186,000	170,000	259,000
Newfoundland Shelf EPU (2J3K) <i>penalty:50%</i>	87,000	140,000	130,000	202,000



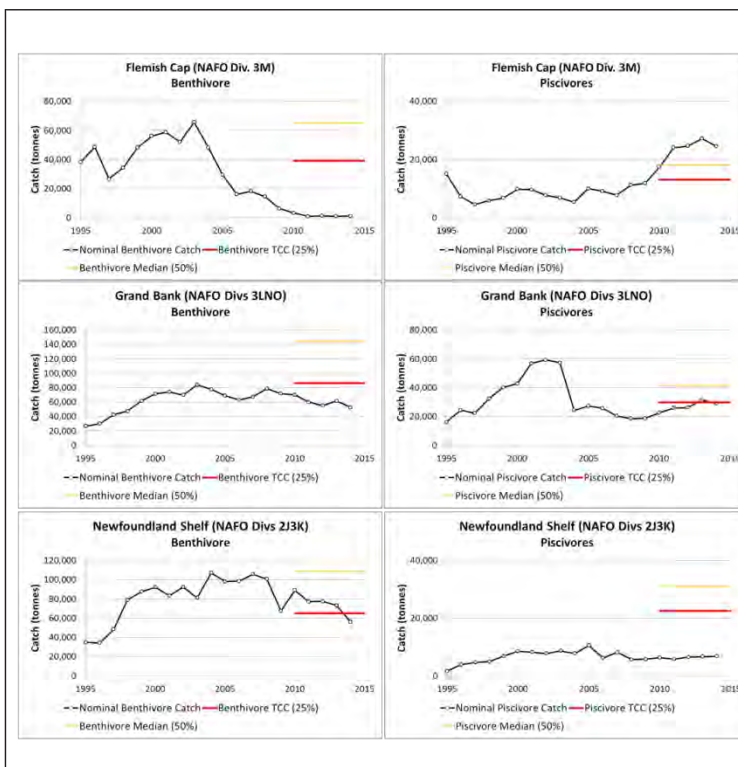
Catches and TCC levels

- In all systems, current total catches are at or below the proposed LRP level for the SDC aggregate.
- The time series of catches shows that total catches have been above the proposed LRPs in the 2000s.
- This suggests that overall exploitation levels of these ecosystem units has been until recently beyond what can be considered sustainable at ecosystem level.

Exploring catches within SDC



- Considering aggregates can mask imbalances between nodes.
- Disaggregated TCCs can help, but have their own limitations.
- How you assign stocks to nodes can influence the outcome.



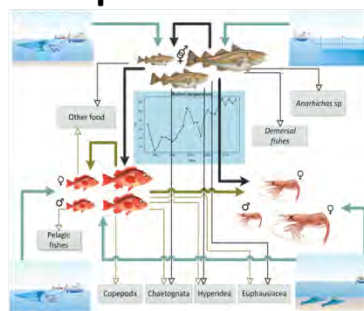
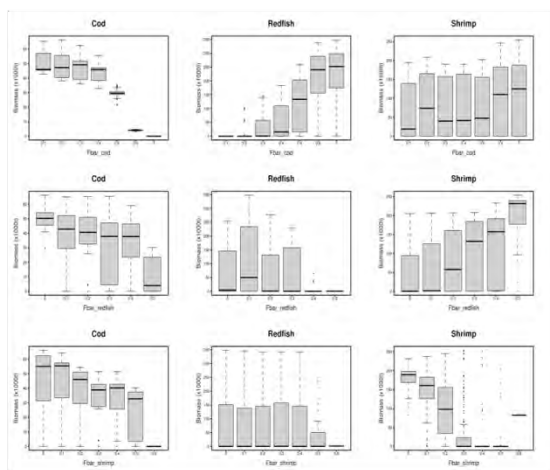
Disaggregated catches and TCCs

Conclusions

- **2J3K and 3LNO EPU:** Current catch levels currently within the sustainability envelope, but with little space for growth with perhaps the only exception of piscivores in 2J3K.
- **3M EPU:** Overall catches at the SDC aggregate level appears well within sustainable bounds, but this catch is severely biased towards piscivores. Sustainability at the ecosystem level may be in jeopardy. To prevent impacts on this ecosystem unit, it would be advisable to moderate catches on cod, redfish or both.
- The results for the Flemish Cap indicates that considerations of multispecies interactions are required to properly assess the sustainability of the current catch levels.
- Furthering implementation of Tier 1 of the Roadmap (i.e. TCC implementation) requires that cumulated TACs (and total catches) within these ecosystems units are routinely compiled, presented, and considered as part of the management process.

[Slide 20: SC WGESA work – HIGHLIGHTS WORTH KEEPING IN MIND]

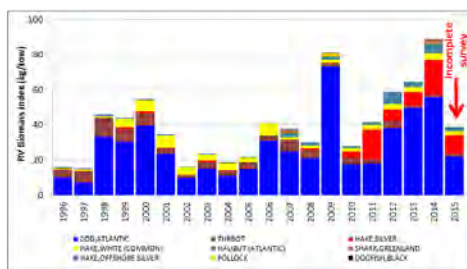
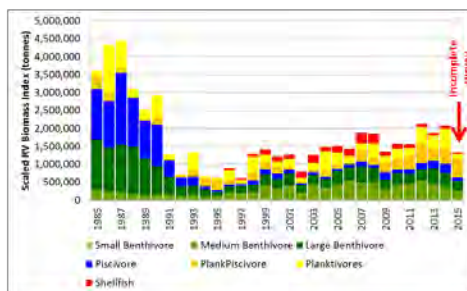
GadCap: Multispecies model for the Flemish Cap



- GADGET architecture
- Preliminary results capture general dynamic relationships well.
- More work and improvements were done after WGESA and presented at SC. Future work uncertain
- **Key observation:**
 - **Stock productivities of redfish and cod in the Flemish Cap are not independent.**

Silver Hake expanding into the Grand Bank (3LNO)

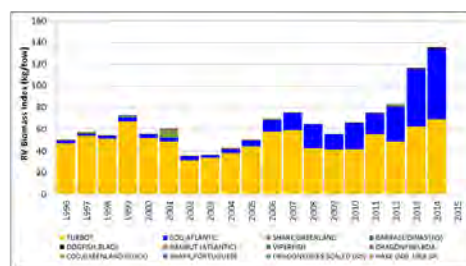
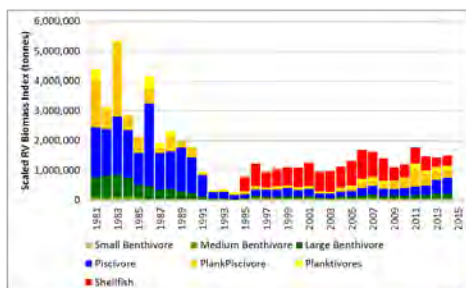
22



- In 3LNO piscivores have not regain their former dominance.
- Since 2010, silver hake has been increasing among piscivores.
- This trend is driven by increases in 3O.
- In 3Ps, silver hake has become as dominant as cod among piscivores.
- This increase appears associated with increases in water temperatures.
- This is a change that has not been observed in the past.
- **The implications for rebuilding of traditional Grand Bank stocks are unknown, but the increase of silver hake in 3Ps coincided with a period of reduced productivity in the 3Ps fish community.**

Slow-down of overall re-building in the Newfoundland Shelf (2J3K)

23





- Between the mid 2000s until 2010, the build-up of fish community involved all fish functional groups.
- Since 2010, the overall biomass of the fish community has remained fairly stable.
- The recent build-up of piscivores has been driven by Northern cod.
- This increase represents a re-allocation within a stable total finfish biomass, not a continuation of the build-up observed in the 2000s.
- **This indicates that the overall rebuilding trend observed in the 2000s has slowed-down or stalled.**

[Slide 24: What is coming – OTHER CONSIDERATIONS]


25

What is coming: Things that can affect everyday work

Scientific Council

-  Ecosystem summary sheets (WGESA ToR for 2016)
-  Dwindling capacity in ecosystem research (beware for FC requests)
 - Loosing capacity (WGESA members moving-on, unable to find replacements for outgoing co-chairs, shrinking support by CPs to ecosystem work in NAFO).
 - Increasing turnover membership (hinders multi-year programs).

International

-  UNGA 69/292 (19-Jun-2015).
 - Development of an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.
 - Report to UNGA from Preparatory Committee by end 2017.
 - Impact on NAFO unknown.

SECTION XI
(pages 357-372)

NAFO Performance Review virtual Working Group

2016
via WebEx

Contents

1. Opening by the Chair and NAFO President, Stéphane Artano (France-SPM)	359
2. Appointment of Rapporteur.....	359
3. Adoption of Agenda	359
4. Terms of Reference and criteria to conduct the second performance review.....	359
5. Budgetary and administrative considerations.....	361
6. Recommendations to forward to the General Council.....	361
7. Other matters	361
8. Adoption of the report.....	361
9. Adjournment	361
Annex 1. List of Participants.....	362
Annex 2. Provisional Agenda.....	364
Annex 3. NAFO – 2 nd Performance Review Terms of Reference	365

NAFO Performance Review virtual Working Group (GC Doc. 16/02)

2016

The NAFO Performance Review virtual Working Group was established by the General Council at the 37th NAFO Annual Meeting. As noted in the Terms of Reference (GC Doc. 15/03), the Working Group was entrusted with the following tasks:

- *To discuss the scope and timeline for a second performance review of NAFO.*
- *To develop draft terms of reference and criteria to conduct the second performance review of NAFO. This includes the composition of the review panel, the scope of the review and the work schedule as well as the criteria for assessment of the performance of NAFO.*
- *To present these documents at the 2016 NAFO Annual Meeting to allow the NAFO General Council to decide on the launching of the next Performance Review, if appropriate.*

The Working Group met three times via WebEx on 16 March, 28 June, 29 August 2016. This report covers all three meetings.

1. Opening by the Chair and NAFO President, Stéphane Artano (France-SPM)

The inaugural and subsequent meetings were opened by NAFO President and meeting Chair, Stéphane Artano (France-SPM). The Chair welcomed to the meeting the Chairs of the Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council as well as representatives from Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, Iceland, Norway, Russian Federation and United States of America (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat was appointed rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated (Annex 2).

4. Terms of Reference and criteria to conduct the second performance review

As agreed, the EU presented GC PR-WP 16/05 “NAFO – 2nd Performance Review Terms of Reference” for consideration which incorporated comments and suggestions noted at the first and second meetings. This revised working paper provided the basis for the discussions during the final meeting.

a) Scope and Objective (including criteria for the assessment of performance of NAFO)

The Scope and Objective (including criteria for the assessment of performance of NAFO) was discussed under section one of GC PR-WP 16/05.

A point of discussion was regarding “*to assess the functioning and efficiency of all NAFO bodies, subsidiary bodies and working groups, taking into account, among other: The cooperation between Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council in the context of the mixed FC/SC working groups.*” In this regard, the Secretariat informed the participants on the work being done in the Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process. The Chairs of all the NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council working groups met in February and agreed the issue of improving efficiency and maximizing meeting opportunities would be raised by all the Chairs at their respective upcoming meetings to identify possible best practices moving forward. This input would provide the basis for the Secretariat to prepare a report of outcomes and suggested best practices to be shared with Contracting Parties.

Another point of discussion was regarding the seven groups of criteria outlined in the Terms of Reference for NAFO’s second Performance Review. Norway noted the importance of highlighting the issue of transparency under ‘Governance’ and thus the need to remove the brackets in the bullet point. It was reiterated the seven groups of criteria in Annex 1 were listed in no order of preference.

It was **agreed** to:

- **Amend GC PR-WP 16/05 to read “Governance including decision-making, dispute settlement, transparency and confidentiality” under section.**

b) Review Panel Composition

In 2011, the seven-member panel consisted of four internal NAFO experts (from different Contracting Parties) and three external experts. The composition and size of the review panel required for the second NAFO Performance Review was considered under section two ‘Review Panel Composition’ of the Terms of Reference for NAFO’s second Performance Review (Annex 3). To better align with other RFMOs undertaking a second performance review, a smaller panel size than in 2011 was recommended.

The external experts should cover the following qualifications and experience:

- One (1) expert on the legal framework of international fisheries instruments and organizations.
- One (1) expert on fisheries management.
- One (1) expert on fisheries science.

All three (3) external experts should have an appropriate level of education and long experience in their field of work, as well as a very good command of written and spoken English.

It was further agreed that none of the three external experts should have participated in the recent work of NAFO and none should be nationals of any NAFO Contracting Party (CP). For this reason, a Contracting Party highlighted that the experience of the external experts could and should not be limited to inside the Atlantic Ocean region.

Most participants agreed that there was value in including some internal experts as part of the review panel. These experts would provide some internal knowledge of NAFO and guidance as to how the Organization works. For this reason, it was agreed that two (2) internal experts be selected. These internal experts will be nationals of one of NAFO’s Contracting Parties and have a background in at least one of the fields mentioned above.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The review panel required for the second NAFO Performance Review should be composed of five (5) experts; three (3) external experts and two (2) internal experts.**

The selection process for both the external and internal experts is detailed in the Terms of Reference for NAFO’s second Performance Review (Annex 3).

c) Administration

No changes were suggested as presented under section three ‘Administration’ of the Terms of Reference for NAFO’s second Performance Review (Annex 3).

d) Work schedule and report of the Review Panel

The work schedule for the second NAFO Performance Review was considered.

In the first two meetings, some participants felt the proposed timeline to complete the next Performance Review by the 2017 Annual Meeting was ambitious. In particular, some participants felt that further time was needed before another review because a 2017 commencement would start work prior to the new NAFO Convention coming into force and a later date would allow a portion of the funds needed to finance a review to be set aside a year before.

After further discussion, three CPs (EU, Norway and the US) supported completing the second NAFO Performance Review in 2017 (rather than 2018), with no dissenting CPs. The EU agreed to prepare a more detailed timeline of the required work.

The Working Group **agreed** to:

- **Amend GC PR-WP 16/05 to reflect that the next Performance Review be launched following the 2016 Annual Meeting for completion at the 2017 Annual Meeting.**

5. Budgetary and administrative considerations

The estimated budget of \$93,000 (Canadian) was presented at the previous meeting. The estimated budget represents an \$18,000 increase over the costs budgeted for the 2011 NAFO Performance Review. The additional funds are due to an anticipated increase in the external experts' daily consulting fee as well the inclusion of travel costs for the Review Panel Coordinator to present the report to the General Council at the NAFO Annual Meeting.

6. Recommendations to forward to the General Council

The Working Group **recommends** that:

- **NAFO's second Performance Review be launched following the 2016 NAFO Annual Meeting for completion at the 2017 NAFO Annual Meeting; and**
- **The Terms of Reference for NAFO's second Performance Review contained in GC PR-WP 16/05 Rev. (Annex 3) be forwarded to the General Council for consideration and adoption at the 2016 NAFO Annual Meeting.**

7. Other matters

No other matters were discussed.

8. Adoption of the report

The final meeting report to be adopted via correspondence.

9. Adjournment

The final meeting adjourned at 10h30 (Atlantic Daylight Time) on 29 August 2016.

Annex 1. List of Participants

	16 Mar.	28 Jun.	29 Aug.
NAFO PRESIDENT			
Artano, Stéphane. Président de la Collectivité Territoriale de Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, Place Monseigneur Maurer, BP 4208, 97500 St. Pierre et Miquelon Tel: +508 41 01 08 – Email : president@ct975.fr	x	x	x
FC CHAIR			
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SC CHAIR			
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Annex 2. Provisional Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair and NAFO President, Stéphane Artano
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Terms of Reference and criteria to conduct the second performance review
 - a) Scope and Objective (including criteria for the assessment of performance of NAFO)
 - b) Review Panel Composition
 - c) Administration
 - d) Work schedule and report of the Review Panel
5. Other Budgetary and administrative considerations
6. Recommendations to forward to the General Council
7. Other matters
8. Adoption of the report
9. Adjournment

Annex 3. NAFO – 2nd Performance Review Terms of Reference

(GC PR-WP 16/05 Rev.)

1. Scope and objectives

The scope and objectives of the work to be carried out by the Review Panel shall be:

1. To evaluate **how NAFO has responded to the outcome of 2011 NAFO Performance Review** (PR 1), taking into consideration the work and practices of NAFO's bodies, subsidiary bodies and working groups to date, and also the implementation of the action plan resulting from the recommendations of the 2011 NAFO Performance Review.
2. To identify areas where improvements are needed to strengthen the organisation in order to advance the objectives of the **NAFO Convention and the subsequent 2007 amendments**.
3. To assess the functioning and efficiency of all **NAFO bodies, subsidiary bodies and working groups**, taking into account, among other:
 - a. The cooperation between Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council in the context of the mixed FC/SC working groups.
 - b. The findings mentioned in the Fisheries Commission's paper on "Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process" (FC Doc. 15/18).

2. Criteria

Within the scope and objectives outlined above, the review shall be performed on the basis of seven groups of criteria provided in the Annex, in no order of preference, which should be used to point both to achievements and to areas which could be improved:

- Follow-up to the 2011 NAFO Performance Review.
- Conservation and management.
- Compliance and enforcement.
- Governance including decision-making, dispute settlement, transparency and confidentiality.
- Science.
- International cooperation.
- Financial and administrative issues.

3. Review Panel composition

The Review Panel shall be composed of five (5) experts; three (3) external experts and two (2) internal experts.

a. External experts

None of the three external experts should have participated in the recent work of NAFO. They should not be nationals of any NAFO Contracting Party (CP).

The external experts should cover the following qualifications and experience:

- One expert on the legal framework of international fisheries instruments and organisations.
- One expert on fisheries management.
- One expert on fisheries science.

All three (3) external experts should have an appropriate level of education and long experience in their field of work, as well as a very good command of written and spoken English.

One of the three (3) external experts shall be assigned the task of Coordinator of the Review Panel by the

remaining experts, if possible by consensus of the Panel. The Coordinator will be liaising with CPs and the chairs of any relevant NAFO body or working group.

Selection of external experts:

1. All CPs will be invited to nominate three (3) external experts each: one in each of the fields mentioned above (i.e. legal issues, fisheries management and fisheries science). If possible, nominations will include some background and/or CVs.
2. The Secretariat will compile a list of candidates received from CPs, by field of expertise and attaching the background and/or CVs provided.
3. The Secretariat will distribute the list by field, i.e. in three lists.
4. CPs will select and rank a maximum of 3 experts per field among the candidates, in order of preference.
5. The Secretariat will consolidate the ranking from the CPs. It will prepare a composite list of candidates by assigning a value to each candidate in inverse relationship to the order of each of the three lists (i.e. 3 points for candidate ranked first; 2 points for candidate ranked second and 1 point for candidate ranked third).
6. The General Council chair will convey to CPs the results of the selection in accordance with the outcome of the ranking process.

b. Internal experts

The two (2) internal experts shall have a background in at least one of the fields mentioned in point 3 (a) above for external experts. However, their main field of expertise shall not coincide. They shall be nationals of one of NAFO's CPs.

They shall be selected as follows:

1. All CPs will be invited to nominate one internal expert each, including, if possible, some background and/or CV.
2. The Secretariat will compile and distribute a list of candidates received from CPs and attaching the background and/or CV provided.
3. CPs will rank all candidates in the list, in order of preference.
4. The Secretariat will consolidate the ranking from the CPs. It will prepare a composite list of candidates by assigning each candidate a value in inverse relationship to the order of each CP ranking (i.e. if there are 10 candidates, then 10 points for candidate ranked first, 9 points for candidate ranked second, and so forth).
5. The General Council chair will convey to CPs the results of the selection in accordance with the outcome of the ranking process.

4. Administration

Meeting(s) of the Review Panel shall be held at the NAFO Headquarters in Dartmouth, NS, Canada or via WebEx /videoconference.

The travel costs of the external experts shall be reimbursed and they shall receive a per diem to cover their accommodation and subsistence costs. In addition the experts may receive a fee for the work undertaken.

CPs whose candidates are chosen as internal experts shall pay for the participation of those experts to meeting(s) of the Panel.

The Secretariat shall provide administrative assistance to the Panel.

5. Work schedule and report of the Review Panel

The work schedule will include the following main steps:

- **January-February 2017:** Selection of Panel Review experts.
- **March 2017:** Panel Review experts are contacted by the Secretariat for availability.
- **April-June 2017:** Review Panel work, including at least two meetings face-to-face and WebEx / videoconference meetings as required.
- **1 July 2017:** Review Panel makes a provisional report available for review by the NAFO Secretariat and CPs for comments.
- **15 July 2017:** Deadline for comments by CPs to the Review Panel's provisional report.
- **15 July – 1 August:** The Secretariat compiles and aggregates all CP comments to the provisional report.
- **2 August 2017:** The Secretariat circulates a final draft report to CPs, for adoption at the NAFO Annual Meeting in 2017.
- **Annual Meeting 2017:** Panel Coordinator presents the final draft report at the NAFO Annual Meeting.
- **After Annual Meeting 2017:** If adopted by the General Council/NAFO Commission, the second Performance Review report is uploaded to the public part of the NAFO website and disseminated widely by the Secretariat.

Annex - Criteria for Reviewing the Performance of NAFO

Area	General criteria	Detailed criteria	
1. 1st Performance Review	<i>Follow-up to the 2011 NAFO Performance Review</i>	Review of actions taken by NAFO in response to the 2011 NAFO PR recommendations and assessment of their effectiveness.	
2. Conservation and management	<i>Status of living marine resources</i>	Status of fish stocks under the purview of NAFO in relation to maximum sustainable yield or other relevant biological standards.	
		Trends in the status of those stocks.	
		Status of species that belong to the same ecosystems as, or are associated with or dependent upon, targeted marine living resources ("non-target species").	
			Trends in the status of non-target species.
		<i>Ecosystem approach and precautionary approach</i>	Extent to which NAFO decisions take account of and incorporate the ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach to fisheries management.
		<i>Data collection and sharing</i>	Extent to which NAFO has agreed formats, specifications and timeframes for data submissions, taking into account Annex 1 of the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement.
			Extent to which NAFO Contracting Parties, individually or through NAFO, collect and share complete and accurate data concerning marine living resources (i.e. both fish stocks and non-target species) and other relevant data in a timely manner, including analysis of trends in fishing activities over time.
			Extent to which fishing and research data and fishing vessel and research vessel data are gathered by NAFO and shared among Contracting Parties and with other relevant international bodies.
			Extent to which NAFO is addressing any gaps in the collection and sharing of data as required.
		<i>Quality and provision of scientific advice</i>	Extent to which NAFO produces the best scientific advice relevant to the marine living resources under its purview, as well as to the effects of harvesting, research, conservation and associated activities on the marine ecosystem.
	<i>Adoption of conservation and management measures</i>	Extent to which NAFO has adopted measures based on the best scientific advice available to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources in the Convention Area.	
		Extent to which NAFO has applied a precautionary approach as set forth in Article 6 of the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement, including the application of precautionary reference points.	

Area	General criteria	Detailed criteria
		Extent to which consistent/compatible management measures have been adopted, as set out in Article 7 of the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement.
		Extent to which NAFO successfully allocates fishing opportunities consistent with the NAFO Convention and Article 11 of the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement.
		Extent to which NAFO has moved toward the adoption of conservation and management measures for previously unregulated fisheries, including new and exploratory fisheries.
		Extent to which NAFO has taken due account of the need to conserve marine biological diversity and minimize harmful impacts of fishing activities and research on living marine resources and marine ecosystems.
		Extent to which NAFO has adopted measures to minimize pollution, waste, discards, catch by lost or abandoned gear, catch of non-target marine living resources, and impacts on associated or dependent species through measures including, to the extent practicable, the development and use of selective, environmentally safe and cost-effective fishing gear and techniques.
		Extent to which NAFO has adopted and is implementing effective rebuilding plans for depleted or overfished stocks including guidance for stocks under moratoria.
	<i>Capacity management</i>	Extent to which NAFO has identified fishing capacity levels commensurate with the conservation objectives of the NAFO Convention.
		Extent to which NAFO has taken actions to prevent or eliminate excess fishing capacity and effort.
	<i>Reporting requirements</i>	Analysis of NAFO's reporting obligations to improve efficiency, avoid redundancy and reduce unnecessary burdens on CPs.
3. Compliance and enforcement	<i>Flag State duties</i>	Extent to which NAFO Contracting Parties are fulfilling their duties as flag States under the NAFO Convention, pursuant to measures adopted by NAFO, and under other international instruments, including, inter alia, the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention, 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement and the 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement, as applicable.
	<i>Port State measures</i>	Extent to which NAFO has adopted measures relating to the exercise of the rights and duties of its Contracting Parties as port States, as reflected in Article 23 of the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement, as well as the minimum standards set out in the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to Combat IUU Fishing.
		Extent to which these measures are effectively implemented.

Area	General criteria	Detailed criteria
	<i>Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS)</i>	Extent to which NAFO has adopted integrated MCS measures (e.g. required use of boarding and inspection schemes, VMS, observers, catch documentation and/or trade tracking schemes, and restrictions on transshipment).
		Extent to which these measures are effectively implemented.
	<i>Follow-up on infringements</i>	Extent to which NAFO and its Contracting Parties follow up on infringements to conservation and management measures.
	<i>Cooperative mechanisms to detect and deter non-compliance</i>	Extent to which NAFO has established adequate cooperative mechanisms to both monitor compliance and detect and deter non-compliance (e.g. compliance committees, vessel lists, sharing of information about non-compliance).
		Extent to which these mechanisms are being effectively utilised.
	<i>Market-related measures</i>	Extent to which NAFO has adopted measures relating to the exercise of the rights and duties of NAFO Contracting Parties as market States for marine living resources under the purview of NAFO.
		Extent to which these measures are being effectively implemented.
4. Governance	<i>Decision-making</i>	
		Extent to which NAFO has transparent, consistent and adequate decision-making procedures that facilitate the adoption of conservation and management measures in a timely and effective manner.
		Extent to which those procedures are effectively implemented.
	<i>Dispute settlement</i>	Extent to which NAFO has established adequate mechanisms for resolving disputes.
	<i>Transparency</i>	Extent to which NAFO is operating in a transparent manner, taking into account Article 12 of the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement and Article 7.1.9 of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.
		Extent to which NAFO decisions, meeting reports, scientific advice upon which decisions are made, and other relevant materials are made publicly available in a timely fashion.

Area	General criteria	Detailed criteria
		Extent to which the NAFO website caters for the online communication needs of NAFO CPs and the public in general.
	<i>Confidentiality</i>	Extent to which NAFO has set security and confidentiality standards and rules for sharing sensitive scientific and operational/compliance data.
5. Science	<i>Quality and provision of scientific advice</i>	Extent to which the Scientific Council (SC) produces the best scientific advice relevant to the living marine resources under the purview of NAFO, as well as to the effects of fishing on the marine environment.
		Extent to which scientific advice is presented in a standardised way.
		Extent to which scientific advice is accessible to and understandable for non-scientists and the general public.
		Extent to which the structure, processes, procedures, resources and expertise of the SC and of the Secretariat meet the needs of NAFO, in particular as regards highly demanding data and technical requirements of the most recent modelling platforms.
	<i>Best available science</i>	Extent to which best available science is used by the SC.
6. International cooperation	<i>Relationship with non-contracting parties</i>	Extent to which non-Contracting Parties have undertaken fishing activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area.
		Extent to which NAFO facilitates cooperation with non-Contracting Parties, including encouraging non-Contracting Parties to become Contracting Parties or to implement NAFO conservation and management measures voluntarily.
		Extent to which NAFO provides for action in accordance with international law against non-Contracting Parties undermining the objective of the Convention, as well as measures to deter such activities.
	<i>Cooperation with other international organisations</i>	Extent to which NAFO cooperates with Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and other international organisations, including the network of Regional Fishery Body Secretariats.
	<i>Special requirements of developing States</i>	Extent to which NAFO recognises the special needs of developing States and cooperates with developing States, taking into account Part VII of the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement.

Area	General criteria	Detailed criteria
		Extent to which NAFO Contracting Parties, individually or through the Commission, provide relevant assistance to developing States as reflected in Article 26 of UN Fish Stocks Agreement.
7. Financial and administrative issues	<i>Availability of re-sources for activities</i>	Extent to which financial, human and other resources are effectively forecast and made available to achieve the aims of NAFO and to implement NAFO's decisions.
	<i>Efficiency and cost-effectiveness</i>	Extent to which NAFO is efficiently and effectively managing its human and financial resources, including those of the Secretariat, in order to support NAFO's objectives and to ensure continuity of operations. This includes, among other, the establishment of clear and transparent office policies, structures, roles and responsibilities and lines of authority and effective internal and external communication.
		Extent to which the schedule and organization of the meetings could be improved.