



Northwest Atlantic
Fisheries Organization

Meeting Proceedings of the Commission

01 September 2025 – 31 August 2026

Compiled by:
Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
Summit Place • 1601 Lower Water Street • Suite 401
Halifax • Nova Scotia • B3J 3P6 • Canada

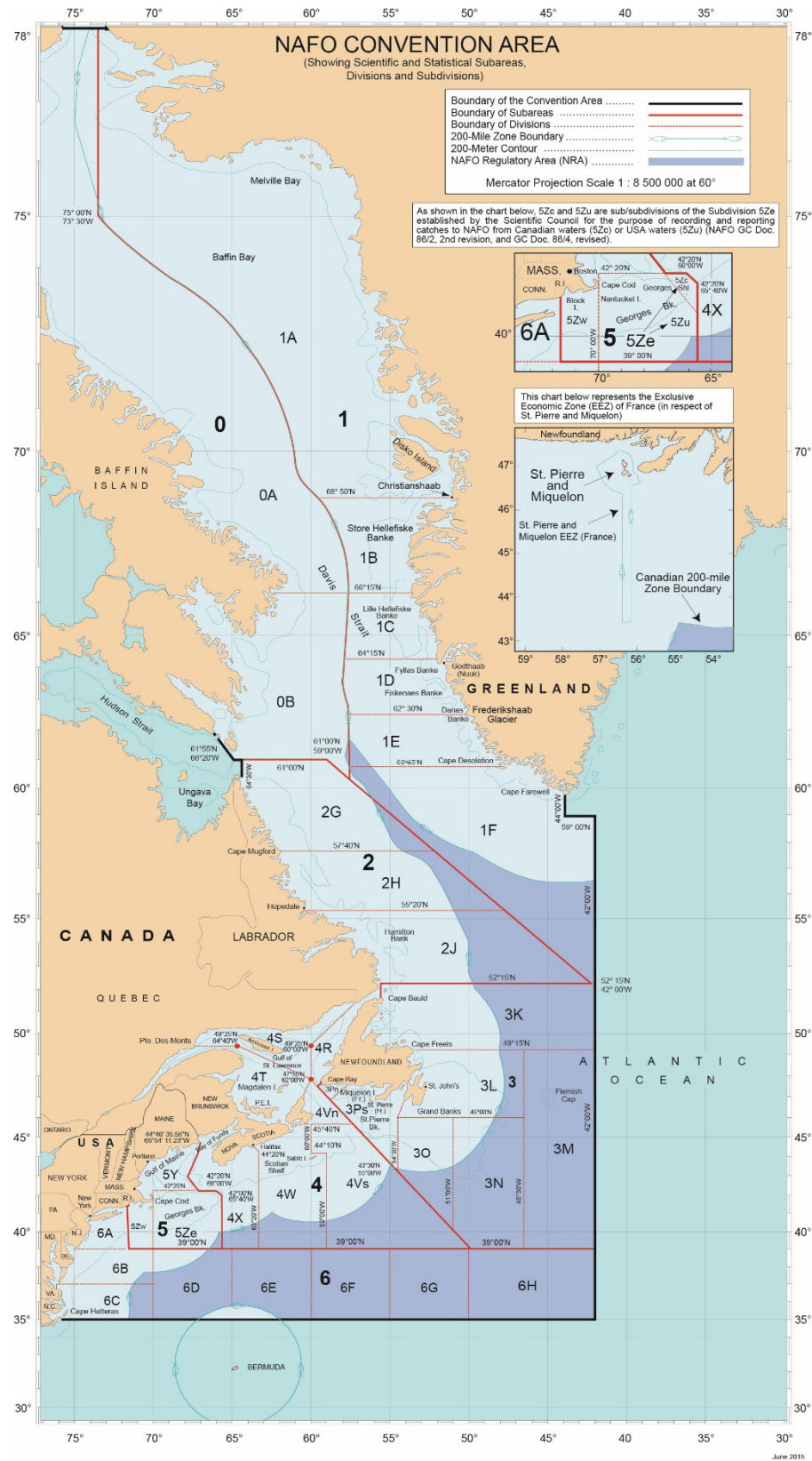
September 2026

Foreword

This issue of the *Meeting Proceedings of the Commission* contains the meeting reports of the Commission (COM) and the joint Commission-Scientific Council (COM-SC), including their subsidiary bodies and working groups held between 01 September 2025 to 31 August 2026. This follows a NAFO cycle of meetings starting with an Annual Meeting rather than by calendar year.

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Structure of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)

(01 September 2025 to 31 August 2026)

CONTRACTING PARTIES

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

CONSTITUENT BODIES

Commission	<i>Chair</i> – Joost Paardekooper (European Union) <i>vice-Chair</i> – Ray Walsh (Canada)
Scientific Council	<i>Chair</i> – Diana González-Troncoso (European Union) <i>vice-Chair</i> – Mark Simpson (Canada)

STANDING COMMITTEES

Commission	Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)	<i>Chair</i> – Robert Fagan (Canada) <i>vice-Chair</i> – Vacant <i>Chair</i> – Patrick Moran (United States of America) <i>vice-Chair</i> – Brent Napier (Canada)
Scientific Council	Standing Committee on Fishery Science (STACFIS) Standing Committee on Research and Coordination (STACREC) Standing Committee on Publications (STACPUB) Standing Committee on Fisheries Environment (STACFEN)	<i>Chair</i> – José De Oliveira (United Kingdom) <i>Chair</i> – Mark Simpson (Canada) <i>Chair</i> – Rick Rideout (Canada) <i>Chair</i> – Vacant

SECRETARIAT

Executive Secretary	Brynhildur Benediktsdóttir
Deputy Executive Secretary / Senior Finance and Staff Administrator	Stan Goodick
Fisheries Commission Coordinator	Jana Aker
Senior Scientific Information Administrator	Dayna Bell MacCallum
Senior Office Administrator	Sarah Guile
Senior IT Manager	Matthew Kendall
Database Development/Programmer Analyst	DJ Laycock
Senior Executive Assistant to the Executive Secretary	Lisa LeFort
Senior Publications/Web Manager	Alexis Pacey
Senior Science Coordinator	Andrea Perreault
Fisheries Information Administrator	Catherine Thompson

Headquarters Location

1601 Lower Water St., Suite 401, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 3P6, Canada



**Report of the STACTIC Working Group on the Introduction of Flux UN/CEFACT Standard
for fisheries data exchanges in NAFO (WG-FLUX) Meeting**

02 – 03 September 2025
Bristol, United Kingdom

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**Report of the STACTIC Working Group on the Introduction of Flux UN/CEFACT Standard
for fisheries data exchanges in NAFO (WG-FLUX) Meeting**

02 – 03 September 2025
Bristol, United Kingdom

1. Opening by the Chair, Imogen Smith-Devey (United Kingdom)

The Chair (Imogen Smith-Devey) opened the meeting at 11:00 hours (UTC +1) on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, at the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) offices in Bristol, United Kingdom and via Webex. The Chair welcomed representatives from Canada, Denmark (in Respect of the Faroes Islands and Greenland, the European Union, France (in Respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Norway, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and invited experts from the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) Secretariat (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat (Catherine Thompson) was appointed as rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted, as outlined in Annex 2.

4. Task 1 – Identify technical developments, and the administrative and economic consequences needed to receive, handle, reply to and preset data in the UN/FLUX standard for

a. The NAFO Secretariat for integration with;

- i. The FLUX transport layer**
- ii. VMS data**
- iii. ERS Data**

The NEAFC Secretariat shared their experience with FLUX migration. They outlined the required changes to NEAFC's IT systems, their experience with the Transport Layer (FLUX-TL), the preparations for the transition, and the post-FLUX roll out. The NEAFC Secretariat highlighted some of the challenges they encountered with FLUX implementation, such as staff capacity and implementation decisions, which increased administrative costs and complexity at the Secretariat level.

Contracting Parties thanked the NEAFC Secretariat for the presentation and asked several clarifying questions. Contracting Parties discussed the functionality of a hybrid system, meaning some Parties use FLUX and others maintain the NAF format. The NEAFC Secretariat noted that a hybrid system is possible, but more complex. One Contracting Party noted that it may be useful to have a cost comparison between the current NAF format, a singular FLUX system, and a hybrid, NAF/FLUX, system.

During the migration phase of FLUX, the NEAFC Secretariat noted an increase in workload for the Secretariat, however, once the development phase is complete, they anticipate the workload will decrease, as they will be spending less time following up with Parties on queries.

Contracting Parties discussed the potential benefits of FLUX, including increased data accuracy and the potential to track fish at all control points from the catch activity on the vessel to the sale of the fish. The European Union noted that EU domestic legislation allows for enhanced traceability, however, the

administrative measures of the landing country is an important factor for traceability, and this is not consistent across all NAFO Contracting Parties and would not be something required or administered by NAFO.

b. Contracting Parties for integration with;

- i. The FLUX transport layer**
- ii. VMS data**
- iii. ERS Data**

The European Union presented their experience with FLUX, including the implementation components and documents, technical aspects (FLUX standard and transport layer), and challenges and benefits of using FLUX. Contracting Parties discussed the process for creating implementation documents and the Chair asked whether a Blueprint exists for this documentation. The European Union noted that the implementation documents reflect the reporting requirements, therefore they come from the European Union legislation. If NAFO were to create one-to-one reporting requirements, this would make implementation very simple, or this could be an opportunity to enrich the reporting requirements. A question was raised as to whether this could be an opportunity to enhance the reporting requirements in addition to introducing a new data exchange method.

The United Kingdom presented their experience with implementing FLUX, including the data exchange process before FLUX, the Business Domains and Transport Layer, the implementation process, and the challenges and benefits of FLUX. Contracting Parties asked clarifying questions which were technical in nature. One Contracting Party asked about the workload of the Fisheries Monitoring Center (FMC), and the United Kingdom noted that the format does not create an increase in workload.

5. Task 2 – Consider technical specifications of the system architecture and data flow requirements

Contracting Parties reviewed the fishing logbook information outlined in Annex II.A and Annex II.N of the NAFO CEM. The European Union noted that the FLUX standard includes the elements listed in the Annex II.N template, except for NAFO division, however, it was not anticipated to cause any issues with converting all the data to FLUX. Contracting Parties also reviewed the Data Exchange Format and Protocols in Annex II.D of the CEM. There are certain messages, such as the Cross of Boundary (COB) message, that are unique to NAFO, however, FLUX has the flexibility to meet NAFO format requirements if adopted.

Contracting Parties that are not currently using FLUX provided a brief overview of their current methods for data transmission. The United States of America noted that its vessels send the daily reports through the VMS in a free-form email to in-house staff. Staff then enter the data into a vTrack fillable form interface for transfer to the Secretariat. Japan noted that as there is currently only one Japanese vessel operating in the NAFO Regulatory Area, they do not implement a specific data transfer system from the vessel to the FMC. The vessel Master sends the message in NAF format to the FMC via email. Japan currently uses the Excel template to transfer logbook information to the Secretariat. Canada noted that the vessel Master sends their daily reports to the FMC via email which is manually entered and submitted through an internal user interface within the department. The information is then automatically converted to NAF format and sent to the Secretariat. The logbook information is currently transmitted by email to the FMC in the Annex II.N Excel template for review before forwarding the Excel file to the Secretariat.

Contracting Parties reflected on the different approaches to data exchange and the Chair proposed that a mapping exercise be completed to summarize this information. One Contracting Party questioned the utility of undertaking a mapping exercise without a better understanding of approximate costs and approval from the Commission to go forward. Other Contracting Parties suggested that the mapping exercise may inform the cost question. According to most, the mapping exercise is believed to help Parties better understand the specific requirements for FLUX in the NAFO context. The WG-FLUX will continue these discussions in a subsequent meeting, and the Chair noted that both Task 1 and Task 2 remain open. Participants also noted that having a

Report of WG-FLUX,
02-03 September 2025

dedicated technical workshop to review the mapping exercise and share learning would be beneficial to progress these items.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The WG-FLUX report to STACTIC on the outcomes of the meeting.**
- **In advance of the next WG-FLUX meeting, Contracting Parties conduct a mapping exercise to outline the data exchange processes (including formats and technology) of the different NAFO Contracting Parties to assist with further assessment of the requirements and costs associated with FLUX.**
- **Contracting Parties will continue the discussions on a potential hybrid system and the technological, administrative and economic aspects of this approach.**

6. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

7. Adoption of the Report

The report was adopted via correspondence.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 hours (UTC +1) on Wednesday, September 3, 2025.

Annex 1. List of Participants

CHAIR	Smith-Devey, Imogen (United Kingdom) (In-person)
CANADA	Barbour, Natasha Browne, Dion Hickey, Jenelle Robichaud, Paul
DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND)	Holm, Jannik Vindt, Christian
EUROPEAN UNION	AF Heurlin, Johanna (In-person) Berzins, Maris Jagt, Milan (In-person) Lathuy, Cédric
ICELAND	Ingibergsson, Jón Gunnar
FRANCE (IN RESPECT OF ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON)	Michaud, Coralie (In-person)
JAPAN	Batori, Koji Iwano, Taisuke Mitome, Haruki Morimoto, Shiho Suzuki, Hyoue Yatomi, Hidefumi
NORWAY	Wathne, Jens Altern (In-person)
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	Tairov, Temur
UNITED KINGDOM	Norman, Gareth (In-person) Plunkett, Bryony Rowland, Chris Set, Jadeson Windebank, James (In-person)
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Jaburek, Shannah Pohl, Katie Provencher, Eric
INVITED EXPERTS	Lewsley, Rachel (NEAFC Secretariat) Early, Anthony (NEAFC Secretariat)
NAFO SECRETARIAT	Aker, Jana Benediktsdóttir, Brynhildur Kendall, Matt Laycock, DJ Thompson, Catherine

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair, Imogen Smith-Devey (United Kingdom)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Task 1 – Identify technical developments, and the administrative and economic consequences needed to receive, handle, reply to and preset data in the UN/FLUX standard for:
 - a. The NAFO Secretariat for integration with;
 - i. The FLUX transport layer
 - ii. VMS data
 - iii. ERS Data
 - b. Contracting Parties for integration with;
 - i. The FLUX transport layer
 - ii. VMS data
 - iii. ERS Data
5. Task 2 – Consider technical specifications of the system architecture and data flow requirements.
6. Other Business
7. Adoption of the Report
8. Adjournment



Serial No. N7681

NAFO/COM Doc. 25-08

Report of the NAFO Commission *Ad hoc* Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in the NAFO Regulatory Area Meeting

14 September 2025
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

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Report of the NAFO Commission *Ad hoc* Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in the NAFO Regulatory Area Meeting

14 September 2025
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

1. Opening by Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (United States of America)

The Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (United States of America), opened the meeting at 13:07 hours (UTC -3 hours) on Sunday, 14 September 2025, and welcomed representatives from Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, Iceland, Japan, Norway, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, and the United States of America (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat was appointed as rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted, as outlined in Annex 2.

4. Continued discussions on measures relating to directed fisheries and mitigating bycatch of moratoria species

The Chair summarized the discussions that took place during the WG-BDS meeting in July (COM Doc. 25-05) and noted that Contracting Parties expressed interest in convening another meeting of the WG-BDS in advance of the upcoming NAFO Annual Meeting. The Chair highlighted two questions to frame the discussions, whether there were any recommendations that the working group wanted to put forward to the Commission at its upcoming meeting, and what the work of the WG-BDS should look like in the coming year. The United States of America presented a working paper (COM WP 25-03) outlining additional questions to facilitate discussions.

Contracting Parties discussed the potential of asking the Commission to task the NAFO Secretariat with re-doing the analysis that was completed in 2021 with the latest available data. Contracting Parties noted that there have been no indications of specific concerns that the working group would be able to request the Secretariat to explore, and that a broad scale and granular analysis would create a significant workload for the Secretariat. Those Contracting Parties questioned whether the results of such a broad analysis would highlight or address any specific concerns. Contracting Parties reflected on the recent adoption of measures relating to bycatch for specific fisheries. Some Contracting Parties expressed that the need for these multiple specific measures reflects an underlying issue with the way the overall bycatch measures are written, while other Contracting Parties noted that the fishery specific measures reflect the dynamic nature of NAFO fisheries and its flexibility to adapt. It was also noted that STACTIC will be reviewing the specific measures adopted for bycatch of American plaice in the 3LNO yellowtail flounder fishery and for bycatch of redfish in the 3M cod fishery as part of their work at the upcoming Annual Meeting, and the results of those discussions could better inform next steps for the WG-BDS.

The working group agreed that there were no specific recommendations to forward to the Commission and that any future work for the working group should be discussed at the Commission following the results of the discussions in STACTIC during the upcoming Annual Meeting.

5. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

6. Time and place of next meeting

The working group will not be scheduled to meet again unless clear tasking is assigned by the Commission.

7. Adoption of Report

The report was adopted via correspondence following the end of the meeting.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 14:01 hours (UTC -3 hours).

Annex 1. List of Participants

CHAIR	Warner-Kramer, Deirdre (USA)
SC CHAIR	González-Troncoso, Diana (European Union)
CANADA	In-person Browne, Dion Burns, Adam Fagan, Robert Lambertucci, Peter Marsden, Dale Napier, Brent Schleit, Katie Walsh, Ray Williams, Todd Zegarmistrz, Justyna
DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND)	In-person Døj, Iben Funch Gaardlykke, Meinhard Grønadal. Símun Holm, Jannik Katzke Simonsen, Julie Lamhauge, Majbritt Oksen, Alvilde Wang, Ulla S.
EUROPEAN UNION	In-person Babcionis, Genadijus Billiet, Stijn Blazkiewicz, Bernard Demblon, Jessica Galetti, Fabio Märtin, Kaire Quintans, Miguel Shrives, Jonathan Vielmini, Ilaria Wysocka, Malgorzata Virtual Belmonte, Luis Mancebo, C. Margarita
ICELAND	In-person Bragason, Agnar Bragi Ingibergsson, Jón Gunnar Ragnarsson, Njáll
JAPAN	In-person Iwano, Taisuke Mitome, Haruki Morishita, Joji Moronuki, Hideki

NORWAY	In-person Bjørklund, Kristoffer Krogh Hinchliffe, Kristi Veierød Østebø, Kjetil Øvregeard Vaskinn, Tor Are
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	In-person Fomin, Konstanin Virtual Skryabin, Ilya Tairov, Temur
UNITED KINGDOM	In-person Smith-Devey, Imogen
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	In-person Jaburek, Shannah Kelly, Moira Mencher, Elizabethann Moran, Pat Morgan, Clark Pentony, Mike Pohl, Katie Reid, Eric Smith, Geoff
NAFO SECRETARIAT	Benediktsdóttir, Brynhildur Aker, Jana LeFort, Lisa Thompson, Catherine

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (United States of America)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Continued discussions on measures relating to directed fisheries and mitigating bycatch of moratoria species
5. Other Business
6. Time and Place of Next Meeting
7. Adoption of Report
8. Adjournment

Report of the NAFO Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies (STACTIC and STACFAD)

47th Annual Meeting of NAFO, 15-19 September 2025
Halifax, Canada

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PART I.
Report of the NAFO Commission

47th Annual Meeting of NAFO, 15-19 September 2025
Halifax, Canada

I. Opening Procedure

1. Opening by the Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (United States of America)

The NAFO President and Chair of the Commission, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (United States of America), called the plenary session of the 47th Annual Meeting of NAFO to order on Monday, 15 September 2025. The opening statement from the Chair is outlined in Annex 1.

The Chair welcomed His Honour The Honourable Mike Savage, ONS, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, who provided a welcome statement.

The Chair welcomed delegates, both in person and virtually, from 13 Contracting Parties of NAFO (Annex 2), and the following Contracting Parties provided opening statements: Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, Japan, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, and United States of America (Annexes 3 to 9 respectively).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat was appointed as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The provisional agenda was previously circulated to all Contracting Parties in NAFO/25-164 on 16 July 2025. The agenda was adopted as circulated (Annex 10).

4. Admission of Observers

According to Rule 1(a) of the NAFO Rules of Procedure: Observers to NAFO Meetings - *The Executive Secretary shall invite, as observers, intergovernmental organizations that have regular contacts with NAFO.*

Upon the invitation of the Executive Secretary, in accordance with the NAFO Rules for Observers, the following intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) attended this meeting: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) ABNJ Deep-Sea Fisheries Project. The Sargasso Sea Commission attended the meeting as a special observer according to the MoU with NAFO. The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO), the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) were represented by a NAFO Contracting Party. The North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) and the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) had representatives attending online.

The non-governmental organizations (NGOs) accredited with NAFO Observer Status that attended this meeting were: Dalhousie University: Marine & Environmental Law Institute, Ecology Action Centre (EAC), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), Oceans North Kalaallit Nunaat (ONKN).

Opening statements from EAC, NPAFC and ONKN are available in Annexes 11 to 13.

5. Publicity

In accordance with the agreed established practice, the Chair reminded meeting participants that no public statements, including social media posts, would be made until after the conclusion of the meeting, when a press release would be prepared by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chair of the Commission and the Chair of the Scientific Council. The Chair noted the *Conditions for Attendance by Media Representatives at NAFO Meetings* outlined in [COM Doc. 22-21](#).

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

6. Review of Membership of the Commission

The membership of the Commission has not changed since the 2024 Annual Meeting and is currently comprised of thirteen (13) 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, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and United States of America (USA).

7. Administrative and Activity Report by the NAFO Secretariat

The Chair noted that the *Administrative and Activity Report* ([COM Doc. 25-04 \(Revised\)](#)) has been prepared by the NAFO Secretariat, and the Commission forwarded the report to STACFAD for review (see Part III of this report).

8. Consideration of the Renewal of the Executive Secretary's contract

The Chair noted that the current term of the Executive Secretary's contract expires in December 2026.

- **The Commission agreed to extend the current contract of the Executive Secretary for an additional four-year term starting 01 January 2027.**

The Commission also agreed to task the STACFAD and Commission Chairs with reviewing the terms of the contract intersessionally to see if any changes would be required.

9. Review of the list of experts to serve as panelists under the NAFO Dispute Settlement provisions

In accordance with Annex II, paragraph 1 of the NAFO Convention, the Executive Secretary has updated the list of experts who are willing and able to serve as panelists following the dispute settlement provisions of the NAFO Convention (Article XV). The Chair highlighted the current list of experts (as of 25 August 2025) outlined in COM WP 25-03 and invited Contracting Parties who have not nominated experts to this list to provide an update to the NAFO Secretariat.

10. Guidance to STACFAD

The Commission forwarded the *Administrative and Activity Report* ([COM Doc. 25-04 \(Revised\)](#)) to STACFAD for its review under agenda item 7.

11. Guidance to STACTIC

The Chair of STACTIC, Patrick Moran (United States of America) presented a summary report of the STACTIC intersessional meeting held in May 2025 ([COM Doc. 25-03](#)). No further guidance to STACTIC for discussion at this meeting was provided under this agenda item.

III. Coordination of External Affairs

12. Report of Executive Secretary on External Meetings

The Executive Secretary reported on NAFO's participation in external activities since the 2024 Annual Meeting, as outlined in section 9 of the *Administrative and Activity Report* ([COM Doc. 25-04 \(Revised\)](#)).

13. International Relations

a. Relations with other International Organizations

The Executive Secretary reported that the Secretariat maintains an open dialogue with other RFMOs, through the Regional Secretariats Network (RSN) and makes every effort to attend the meetings most relevant to the organization, and responds to developments that the Secretariat should be taking part in. Further details are available in the *Administrative and Activity Report* ([COM Doc. 25-04 \(Revised\)](#)).

b. Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Deep-Sea Fisheries Project

Eszter Hidas from the FAO presented an update on the work of the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Deep-Sea Fisheries Project, administered by the FAO. The presentation highlighted the key achievements from the DSF project from 2022 to date as well as the key upcoming activities for 2025-2026 that were relevant to NAFO. The Commission thanked the FAO for the update on the achievements of the DSF Project.

c. NAFO Members as Observers to External Meetings

As agreed at the 2024 NAFO Annual Meeting, Contracting Parties appointed to serve as observers of other relevant organizations should provide links to the relevant meeting reports, where available, and to the press releases from the meetings when reports are not available in time for the NAFO Annual Meeting. The Contracting Parties appointed to serve as observers of other relevant organizations during 2024/2025 were as follows:

- Canada represented NAFO at the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) and the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC).
- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) represented NAFO at the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC).
- The European Union represented NAFO at the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) and South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA).
- Japan represented NAFO at the South East Atlantic Fishery Organization (SEAFO).
- Norway represented NAFO at the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO).
- The United Kingdom represented NAFO at the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).
- The United States of America represented NAFO at the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) and the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO).

The same Contracting Parties agreed to represent NAFO at the same meetings for 2025/2026.

14. Oil and Gas Activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area

The Executive Secretary referred to page 5 of the *Administrative and Activity Report* [COM Doc. 25-04 \(Revised\)](#) outlining the NAFO Secretariat's actions over the last year under the information exchange arrangement between NAFO and Canada related to exploratory oil and gas activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA).

IV. Joint Session of Commission and Scientific Council

15. NAFO Performance Review

a. Implementation of 2018 Performance Review Panel recommendations

The Commission Chair highlighted the summary of the status of the implementation of the recommendations of the 2018 Performance Review Panel in COM Doc. 24-24. The Commission Chair noted that progress has been made on all recommendations.

b. Update on the establishment of *ad hoc* virtual working group to consider the initiation of a third Performance Review of NAFO

The Chair reflected on the decision from the 2024 Annual meeting that a virtual working group be established and Chaired by the STACFAD Chair to draft a Terms of Reference and criteria to conduct the third NAFO Performance Review (COM Doc. 24-20). The Chair of STACFAD also highlighted the correspondence that was circulated on 05 September 2025 in NAFO/25-214 which included a working paper containing background information on previous processes (COM WP 25-05). Reflecting on the discussions relating to the workload of the Scientific Council and noting the recommendation from the WG-RBMS (see agenda item 17.c), the Commission agreed that the third NAFO Performance Review should be a focused assessment of the scientific process within NAFO. The Commission also encouraged an expedited, yet still thorough, process given the importance and timeliness of the topic.

- **The Commission agreed that the *ad hoc* virtual working group, chaired by the STACFAD Chair, should convene as agreed in COM Doc. 24-20, but that the Terms of Reference and criteria to conduct the third NAFO Performance Review should be focused on the assessment of the scientific process within NAFO.**

Noting that the workload of the Scientific Council is a priority issue in NAFO, the Commission noted that future performance reviews may focus on broader issues.

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

a. Response of the Scientific Council to the Commission's request for scientific advice

The Chair of the Scientific Council, Diana González Troncoso (European Union), provided a comprehensive presentation of the work of the Scientific Council, including the responses to the Commission requests for scientific advice on fish stocks and on other topics, outlined in detail in SCS Doc. 25/13. Contracting Parties expressed their deep appreciation for the work of the Scientific Council and thanked the Scientific Council Chair for the presentation and for her leadership of the Scientific Council in the past year.

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

The Commission provided one written submission for request to the Scientific Council for additional information. The question was from the European Union and requested an additional yield scenario for cod in Division 3M. The Scientific Council response to this request is outlined in SCS Doc. 25/14 and further discussed under agenda item 19.a.

The Commission reflected on the one recommendation from the WG-RBMS that noted the request (agenda item 17.c) that the Scientific Council provide advice for redfish in Division 30 in a less prescriptive manner, providing the Commission with a range of management options aligned with the Revised Precautionary Approach Framework. The Scientific Council response to this request is outlined in SCS Doc. 25/14 and further discussed under agenda item 20.c.

The Commission thanked the Scientific Council for their work on responding to the questions during the meeting.

c. Other issues as determined by the Chairs of the Commission and the Scientific Council

The Commission noted the current vacancies within the Scientific Council for Designated Experts and Chairs and reiterated the importance of Contracting Parties identifying individuals within their delegations to fill these roles. It was noted that the performance review (as discussed under agenda item 15.b) may result in some recommendations to better facilitate the work of the Scientific Council, but that the vacancies will need to be filled in the meantime.

The Commission also reflected on the concerns of the Scientific Council relating to the FAO The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (SOFIA), noting that SOFIA classifies stocks by their biomass status relative to B_{msy} . The Scientific Council agrees that these categories can be informative as indicators of biomass status, but that information on stock biomass alone is insufficient to determine whether a stock is “Overfished”, “Sustainably fished” or “Underfished”. The Scientific Council Chair, at the request of the Scientific Council, conveyed these concerns to the Commission Chair to inform the Commission. The Commission discussed and agreed that the draft text that had been prepared by the Scientific Council (SCS Doc. 25/13) be circulated to the FAO.

The Commission also reflected on the recommendation from the Scientific Council to publish the NEREIDA report on the NAFO website to inform the public about the ongoing work of the project. The Commission agreed that the report could be published and reminded Contracting Parties of the confidentiality requirements in NAFO for the use and publication of data, particularly VMS data, outside of NAFO in line with Article 29.12 of the NAFO CEM.

17. Meeting Reports and Recommendations of the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Groups

a. Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process (E-WG), December 2024

The Commission Chair highlighted the meeting report from the E-WG in COM-SC Doc. 24-06, and the proposed meeting dates for consideration by the Commission. The E-WG proposed that for 2026, the following two-week periods, be considered for NAFO intersessional meetings: 16–27 February 2026; 13–24 April 2026; and 10–21 August 2026.

- **The Commission adopted the proposed meeting dates of 16–27 February 2026; 13–24 April 2026; and 10–21 August 2026 noting that Contracting Parties are not obliged to schedule meetings during these periods, but the dates may help in future planning of intersessional meetings.**

It was noted that the E-WG will meet following the Annual Meeting to further review the NAFO Schedule for the upcoming year, and updates will be communicated to Contracting Parties following that meeting.

b. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG), April 2025

The Scientific Council Chair, Diana González Troncoso (European Union), presented an update on the status of the work of CESAG in 2025. CESAG met in February 2025 (COM-SC Doc. 25-01) to discuss the possible inclusion of logbook (haul by haul) data, and data for all species into the CESAG method. The Commission discussed the recommendations from the CESAG meeting, and it was noted that one recommendation could not be supported as domestic privacy laws would not allow for the inclusion of logbook data into the CESAG method. It was also noted that the current CESAG process seems to be working quite well in NAFO as it is currently outlined.

As such, the Commission adopted the report of CESAG, but only two of the three recommendations as follows:

- The NAFO Secretariat continue to provide catch estimates for all species, based on the CESAG method protocol as outlined in Annex 1 of COM-SC Doc. 17-08.
- The Commission review the 60-day timeline for the submission of haul-by-haul data, outlined in Article 28.8(c) of the NAFO CEM.

c. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS), April and July 2025

The co-Chairs of WG-RBMS, Fernando González-Costas (European Union) and Ray Walsh (Canada), presented the reports and recommendations from the April and July 2025 WG-RBMS meetings in COM-SC Doc. 25-02 and COM-SC Doc. 25-04. The co-Chairs presented an update on the application of the 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut management strategy and exceptional circumstances, progress on the 3LN Redfish management strategy evaluation, and the implementation of the revised Precautionary Approach Framework. It was also noted that WG-RBMS discussed the workload issues and position vacancies within the Scientific Council and put forward two recommendations to the Commission relating to this.

The Commission and Scientific Council adopted the reports of the WG-RBMS meetings (COM-SC Doc. 25-02 and COM-SC Doc. 25-04) as well as the recommendations as follows:

1. In relation to the application of the 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut Management Strategy (agenda item 4),
 - a. WG-RBMS acknowledges that exceptional circumstances were occurring due to recent gaps in the EU-Spain 3L survey series. Nevertheless, sensitivity analysis indicated that the application of the Management Procedure adopted in 2024 was still appropriate.
 - b. WG-RBMS recommends, consistent with the Scientific Council advice, the continued application of the harvest control rule (excluding the EU-Spain 3L survey series) to set the TAC for 2026.
2. In relation to the Precautionary Approach Framework:
 - a. WG-RBMS recommends that, when providing stock management advice to the Commission, Scientific Council follow the Precautionary Approach Framework and provide the Commission with the range of scenarios specified in ANNEX A (Guidance for providing advice on Stocks Assessed) of COM Doc. 24-18.
 - b. WG-RBMS recommends that the Scientific Council reconsider the prescriptive language in the latest Scientific Council advice (grey box) on 3O redfish and provide the Commission with additional information at the September 2025 Annual Scientific Council and Commission meeting to allow the Commission to consider a range of management options aligned with the Precautionary Approach Framework.
 - c. WG-RBMS recommends that the Commission adopt a standalone Commission document containing the revised Precautionary Approach Framework document outlined in COM-SC RBMS-WP 25-01 (now COM Doc. 25-16 (Annex 14)) including the modifications to the risk table that were incorporated in the 2024 Commission requests (COM Doc. 24-18).
3. In relation to the Scientific Council's workload, WG-RBMS notes the dire situation with the lack of Chairs and Designated Experts, expresses the WG's strong concern, and recommends the Commission encourage Contracting Parties to find ways to ensure the positions are filled by the close of the September 2025 Annual Meeting.
4. In relation to the Marine Stewardship Council requirements under its Standard 3.0, WG-RBMS recommends that the Commission send a follow-up correspondence to the Marine Stewardship Council response dated 15 April 2025, requesting to keep NAFO aware of any ongoing progress on the review process focussed on the MSC Fisheries Standard Toolbox.

5. **In relation to the discussions on the potential third NAFO Performance Review, it was agreed the process outlined in COM Doc. 24-20 should continue. In addition, the WG-RBMS recommends that the Commission consider expeditiously launching in 2025, as a first step, an external performance review with a focused assessment of the scientific process within NAFO.**

It was noted that Fernando González-Costas (European Union) would be stepping down as WG-RBMS co-Chair. The Commission thanked Fernando for his leadership in the working group over the years and recognized the work and expertise that he has contributed.

d. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM), July 2025

The WG-EAFFM co-Chair, Elizabethann Mencher (United States of America), and acting WG-EAFFM co-Chair Diana González Troncoso (European Union), presented the report and recommendations from the July 2025 WG-EAFFM meeting in COM-SC Doc. 25-03. The co-Chairs presented an update on the progress of the ongoing work for the vulnerable marine ecosystem (VMEs) and significant adverse impact (SAI), the work relating to the NAFO Roadmap for an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, the draft submission for the coral VME closures as Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), the ongoing work relating to Greenland shark bycatch, and the outcomes of the climate change consultancy. It was also noted that WG-EAFFM discussed the workload issues and position vacancies within the Scientific Council and put forward a recommendation to the Commission relating to this.

The Commission and Scientific Council adopted the report of the WG-EAFFM meeting (COM-SC Doc. 25-03) as well as the recommendations as follows:

1. **In relation to discussions on the results of the climate change consultancy, the WG-EAFFM recommends that the Commission request the Scientific Council, as its workload allows, and in collaboration with the Secretariat, to draft a scoping document for a potential in-person meeting to explore approaches for further integrating information related to these issues throughout Scientific Council operations. This scoping document should identify the scientific expertise needed both within and outside Scientific Council and potential financial and workload implications.**
 2. **In relation to the updates of the Ecosystem Summary Sheets (ESS), the WG-EAFFM recommends the Commission support the Scientific Council request to delay the next update of the ESS, currently scheduled for 2027, to 2028.**
 3. **In relation to the management of bycatch of Greenland sharks, the WG-EAFFM recommends that the Commission request Contracting Parties to provide updates on their efforts to implement the relevant provisions of the NAFO CEM, including any independent relevant research or data, in time for consideration by the Scientific Council at its 2027 June meeting and the WG-EAFFM at its 2027 meeting.**
 4. **In relation to the Scientific Council's workload, WG-EAFFM notes the dire situation with the lack of Chairs and Designated Experts, expresses the WG's strong concern, and recommends the Commission encourage Contracting Parties to find ways to ensure the positions are filled by the close of the September 2025 Annual Meeting.**
- 18. Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for Scientific Advice on the Management in 2026 and Beyond of Certain Stocks in Subareas 2, 3 and 4 and Other Matters**

In accordance with the procedure outlined in FC Doc. 12-26, a draft of the requests outlined in COM WP 25-07 was developed by the steering committee and made available in advance of the meeting. The committee consisted of representatives from Canada and the European Union, with assistance from the NAFO Secretariat. Contracting Parties provided additional input into the requests document, which was reviewed by the Scientific Council and Commission throughout the meeting. The Scientific Council suggestion to move the 3LNO American plaice assessment to be every four years rather than every three years was noted. The Commission raised concern with waiting for an extended period for a full assessment of that stock and suggested moving the

assessment schedule to every two years, alternating with the assessment of 3LNO yellowtail flounder as the designated expert is the same for both stocks. There was also a request added for the Scientific Council to assess and consider the operating model underlying the MSE developed by Canada for the Northern shrimp in Divisions 2J3KLNO (SSAR) stock in 2026. As such, the Commission agreed to remove Northern shrimp in Divisions 3LNO from the assessment schedule until Scientific Council completes its work.

- **The Commission adopted the request to the Scientific Council for scientific advice in COM WP 25-07 (Rev. 6) now COM Doc. 25-13 (Annex 15).**

Throughout the development of the requests working paper, it was noted that there is still some confusion in the process and that it could be made more efficient. The Commission Chair presented a proposal relating to the process for the development of the Commission's requests to the Scientific Council in COM WP 25-13. The Commission reviewed the proposal and agreed that additional clarity was required regarding the timing and sequencing of the steps in the process.

- **The Commission agreed to follow the process outlined in COM WP 25-13 (now COM Doc. 25-15 (Annex 16)) for the 2026 annual meeting and discussion further adjustments to the process if required.**

V. Conservation of Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area

19. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area, 2026

The Chair highlighted the working paper outlining the draft quota table as well as a summary of the scientific advice and Commission decisions for NAFO fish stocks in COM WP 25-02. The Chair noted that the document would be updated throughout the meeting as decisions were taken by the Commission. The final version of the working paper is outlined in COM WP 25-02 (Rev. 5) now COM Doc. 25-09 (Annex 17).

The Chair recalled the recommendations given by the Scientific Council, to the Commission, for the 2025 full stock assessments, as outlined in SCS Doc. 25/13.

a. Cod in Division 3M

The Chair noted that the stock assessment for cod in Division 3M was completed using the revised Precautionary Approach Framework and reflected on the Scientific Council advice (SCS Doc. 25/13) that catches should not exceed $F_{50\%HZ}$, corresponding to catches of 15 360 t in 2026. Contracting Parties discussed several options for this stock, and the European Union, under agenda item 16.b, submitted a question to the Scientific Council requesting information on 3M cod yield consistent with the 60% probability of the stock biomass remaining above $B_{trigger}$ in 2027. The Scientific Council provided the response and corresponding advice (SCS Doc. 25/14). Following further discussions, Contracting Parties agreed to set the TAC for this stock consistent with the advice from the Scientific Council following the revised PAF.

- **The Commission agreed to set the TAC for cod in Division 3M at 15 360 t for 2026.**

The Commission also reflected on the additional control measures currently in place for cod in Division 3M outlined in Article 7 of the NAFO CEM, as well as the seasonal closure outlined in Article 5.5(j) of the NAFO CEM.

- **The Commission agreed to maintain the additional measures for cod in Division 3M in the NAFO CEM, and that the dates in the text of Article 5.5(j) of the NAFO CEM be updated to 2026.**

20. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks Straddling National Jurisdictions, 2026

a. Cod in Divisions 3NO

The Chair noted that the Scientific Council reiterated the advice for cod in Divisions 3NO ([SCS Doc. 25/13](#)), noting that the advice has been provided through an interim monitoring report, and that no directed fishing is advised to allow for stock rebuilding.

- **The Commission agreed to maintain the moratorium for cod in Divisions 3NO applicable to 2026.**

b. Redfish in Divisions 3LN

The Chair reflected on the advice provided by the Scientific Council in 2024 for redfish in Division 3LN outlined on pages 22-24 of [SCS Doc. 24/16 \(Revised\)](#), and the reiterated advice in [SCS Doc. 25/13](#). The Chair noted the Commission decision to set a TAC for one year only in 2024. It was noted that there was a 42% risk of the stock being below B_{lim} in 2023, and that interim monitoring has indicated that the risk is now lower than it was last year. As such, the Commission agreed to rollover the TAC for this stock in 2026.

- **The Commission agreed to rollover the TAC of 6 000 t for redfish in Divisions 3LN for 2026.**

c. Redfish in Division 3O

The Scientific Council advice ([SCS Doc. 25/13](#)) and the recommendation from the WG-RBMS for the Scientific Council to provide advice for redfish in Division 3O in a less prescriptive manner, providing the Commission with a range of management options aligned with the revised Precautionary Approach Framework were noted under this item. The Scientific Council responded to the recommendation from the WG-RBMS ([SCS Doc. 25/14](#)) noting that 3O redfish is in the Critical Zone of the NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework. $F_{current}$ ($F=0.102$, corresponding to a catch of 2 700 t) is 1.13 F_{lim} . Recent F s have kept the stock in the Critical Zone. Given that 3O redfish is assessed using an index-based assessment, SC is unable to provide the range of F s required in the PA table that is compatible with the primary objective of the PA for stocks in the Critical Zone, which is to rebuild the stock out of the Critical Zone. $F=0$ would provide the greatest probability of increasing the stock out of the Critical Zone, but in practice catches at the lowest possible level, like those associated with unavoidable incidental catches in other fisheries, are expected to provide the highest probability to rebuild the stock out of the Critical Zone. The Scientific Council additionally requested guidance from the WG-RBMS on how to provide advice when it is not possible to make projections.

- **The Commission agreed to task the WG-RBMS with providing guidance to the Scientific Council on how to provide advice under the Precautionary Approach Framework when it is not possible to make projections.**

Noting the uncertainty relating to this advice for this stock, the Commission discussed several options for management measures for this stock for 2026. Following deliberations between Contracting Parties, the Commission agreed to set the TAC for redfish in Division 3O at 8 000 t for one year to allow for further consideration of additional information that may become available or additional management measures that may be required for this stock.

- **The Commission agreed set the TAC for redfish in Division 3O at 8 000 t for 2026.**

d. Pelagic *Sebastes mentella* (oceanic redfish) in Subarea 2 + Divisions 1F and 3K

The Chair highlighted the information available for this stock, and it was agreed to set the TAC at 0 t for 2026.

- **The Commission agreed set the TAC for Subarea 2 + Divisions 1F3K pelagic *Sebastes mentella* at 0 t for 2026.**

e. Yellowtail flounder in Divisions 3LNO

The Chair noted the latest advice from the Scientific Council ([SCS Doc. 25/13](#)) indicates that the stock is in the Healthy Zone of the revised Precautionary Approach Framework and all scenarios are projected to maintain the stock above $B_{trigger}$ with a probability of 96% or higher. The Commission agreed to set the TAC for 2026 and 2027 consistent with the advice of the Scientific Council.

- **The Commission agreed set the TAC for yellowtail flounder in Divisions 3LNO at 24 290 t in 2026 and 22 000 t in 2027.**

The Commission also reflected on the additional measures that were adopted for this stock in [COM Doc. 23-12](#) and extended for an additional year in [COM Doc. 24-12](#), as well as the review that was completed by STACTIC at this meeting (agenda item 11.b in Part II of this report). Noting that STACTIC indicated that there was insufficient information beyond preliminary observations to provide substantive recommendations on these measures, the Commission agreed to extend the measures for an additional year.

- **It was agreed to extend the additional measures for the yellowtail flounder fishery in Divisions 3LNO in Articles 6.3(g), 6.8(bis), 6.8(ter) and 6.12 of the NAFO CEM to 2026.**

f. White hake in Divisions 3NO

The Chair highlighted the Scientific Advice ([SCS Doc. 25/13](#)) noting that the advice has been provided through an interim monitoring report this year as there was no Designated Expert for this stock. Therefore, the Scientific Council was unable to complete a full assessment. The interim monitoring report indicated that there was no significant change in the status of the stock, but the Scientific Council noted that there is increased uncertainty in current stock trends given recent survey challenges and a lack of complete conversion factors for the Canadian surveys.

- **The Commission agreed to rollover the TAC of 1 000 t for white hake in Divisions 3NO for 2026.**

The Commission also reflected on the provisions of Articles 5.13 and 5.14 of the NAFO CEM relating to this stock. Some Contracting Parties indicated that these measures should be removed, noting that the measure trigger a mail vote, which moves away from the consensus-based approach of NAFO. Other Contracting Parties noted that more discussions would be required before removing the measures completely, and that there may be an opportunity to fine tune the measures. It was agreed that Contracting Parties would discuss these measures intersessionally with a goal of bringing a proposal to the next Annual Meeting that could better align them with consensus-based decision-making.

g. Capelin in Divisions 3NO

The Chair highlighted that the Scientific Council has advised no directed fishing on this stock, as outlined in [SCS Doc. 25/13](#).

- **The Commission agreed to maintain the moratorium for capelin in Divisions 3NO applicable to 2026.**
- **The Commission also reviewed the text of Article 7.10 of the NAFO CEM and agreed that it should be updated to read: “Considering the importance of capelin as a food source, consistent with the ecosystem approach, the moratorium on 3NO capelin will continue until at least 31 December 2026.”**

h. Skates in Divisions 3LNO

The Chair noted that the Scientific Council reiterated its advice from 2024 for thorny skate in Divisions 3LNO and Subdivision 3Ps outlined in [SCS Doc. 25/13](#). The Chair noted that the Commission took a one-year decision on this stock in 2024, and the Commission reflected on the uncertainty of this stock as a result of missing survey information as well as the decline in catches. Some Contracting Parties supported moving to a lower TAC for

this stock, given the uncertainty, and others noted that the TAC has been stable for many years, with a footnote in the quota table outlining additional measures should catches increase. Contracting Parties agreed to continue discussions around the management of this stock during the intersessional period.

- **The Commission agreed to rollover the TAC of 7 000 t for skates in Divisions 3LNO for 2026.**
- **The Commission also discussed footnote 12 in Annex I.A of the NAFO CEM and agreed that it should be updated to read: “Should catches exceed 4 500 tonnes, additional measures would be adopted to further restrain catches in 2026.”**

i. Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO

The Chair noted the Scientific Council advice for Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO outlined in [SCS Doc. 25/13](#), that Exceptional Circumstances are occurring due to recent gaps in the EU-Spain 3L series. However, sensitivity analyses indicate that the application of the Management Procedure (MP) adopted in 2024 will still be appropriate. The Chair also noted the recommendation from WG-RBMS regarding this stock. The Commission agreed that, consistent with the Scientific Council advice, the harvest control rule (excluding the EU-Spain 3L survey series) continue to be applied to set the TAC for 2026.

- **The Commission agreed to set the TAC for Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO at 14 729t, resulting in a TAC of 10 914 t for Greenland halibut in Divisions 3LMNO for 2026.**

j. Northern shortfin squid in Subareas 3+4

The Chair noted that the Scientific Council provided advice for this stock during this meeting (SCS Doc. 25/14). The Scientific Council noted that there was no designated expert for this stock, and that the advice was prepared following an interim monitoring report. The Scientific Council reiterated its previous advice that catches be between 19 000 t and 34 000 t per year.

- **The Commission agreed to rollover the TAC of 34 000 t for Northern shortfin squid in Subareas 3+4 for 2026.**

k. Northern shrimp in Divisions 3LNO

The Chair highlighted the Scientific Council advice for this stock as outlined in SCS Doc. 25/15 noting that there is a new understanding of the Northern shrimp stock structure in the Northwest Atlantic indicating that the shrimp in Divisions 3LNO are part of a broader stock in a new South Stock Assessment Region, which also includes NAFO Divisions 2J3K. Canada also provided statement (COM Doc. 25-14; Annex 18) in relation to this stock, noting that a new Canadian stock assessment model has been published in a peer-reviewed paper and adopted by Canada for the new stock area. Accordingly, this has changed the approach Canada uses to evaluate the health and status of these stocks. The new Canadian stock assessment model includes NAFO Divisions 3L, 3N and 3O as part of the *South Stock Assessment Region* (SSAR), which has been determined to be in the Healthy Zone of the Canadian Precautionary Approach Framework. Contracting Parties thanked Canada for the update, but noted concerns with the limited amount of time that the Scientific Council had to review the work, considering that this is a straddling stock. As such, the Commission requested (agenda item 18) the Scientific Council to assess and consider the operating model underlying the MSE developed by Canada for the Northern shrimp in Divisions 2J3KLNO (SSAR) stock. The Commission agreed that the additional review by the Scientific Council would be required before deciding on management measures for this stock within the NAFO Regulatory Area. The Commission also agreed to request that the WG-RBMS review the outcome of the Scientific Council analyses and provide advice to the Commission.

- **The Commission agreed to maintain the moratorium for Northern shrimp in Divisions 3LNO applicable to 2026 in the NAFO Regulatory Area and included a footnote in the Quota Table to reflect this decision.**

The United Kingdom noted that the current allocation scheme for this stock was decided when the United Kingdom was part of the European Union and would require review if a decision was made to lift the moratorium on this stock. The United States of America noted that pending a decision to reopen this fishery, allocations should be equitably distributed across Contracting Parties. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) noted a reservation to the division of shares for shrimp in Division 3L, which they do not recognize as an appropriate allocation.

21. Other matters pertaining to Conservation of Fish Stocks

a. Cod in Divisions 2J3KL

The Chair reflected on the process for this stock that was adopted at the 2024 NAFO Annual Meeting in COM Doc. 24-17, and the decision for the 2025/2026 year for this stock was circulated to NAFO Contracting Parties on 19 June 2025 in NAFO/25-147. The quota table in the NAFO CEM was updated accordingly on 01 July 2025 in COM Doc. 25-01 (Revised).

The Commission also reflected on the seasonal closure provisions for this stock outlined in of Article 5.5(k) of the NAFO CEM.

- **The Commission agreed to maintain the seasonal closure measures for cod in Division 3L in the NAFO CEM, and that the dates in the text of Article 5.5(k) of the NAFO CEM be updated to 2026.**

VI. Ecosystem Considerations

22. Other matters pertaining to Ecosystem Considerations

Canada presented a discussion paper on a proposed memorandum of understanding (MoU) between NAFO and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) in COM WP 25-09. The discussion paper outlined the background information on why such an MoU would be beneficial, potential areas of cooperation, and alignment with NAFO's ecosystem approach to fisheries management. The Commission agreed that the development of an MoU between NAFO and ICCAT would be beneficial to enhance the cooperation in areas of shared interest. As such, the Commission tasked the NAFO Secretariat with initiating contact with the ICCAT Secretariat to assess mutual interest and feasibility of developing such an MoU. It was agreed that the Commission would continue discussions on the possible development of an MoU at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

- **The Commission agreed to ask the NAFO Secretariat to initiate informal consultations with the ICCAT Secretariat to assess mutual interest and feasibility of developing such an MoU, and report back to the Commission ahead of its 2026 Annual meeting.**

VII. Conservation and Enforcement Measures

23. Update from the NAFO Commission ad hoc Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in the NAFO Regulatory Area Meeting, July and September 2025

The Chair of WG-BDS provided an update on the meetings that took place in July 2025 (COM Doc. 25-05), and on 14 September 2025 (COM Doc. 25-08). The working group reviewed the bycatch provisions of the NAFO CEM as well as the work relating to the Action Plan (COM Doc. 17-26). There were no specific recommendations put forward to the Commission from this working group; however, it was noted that work relating to the issues continues to be discussed within the Commission, STACTIC and the joint Commission-Scientific Council working groups. The Commission agreed that there was not a need to schedule a WG-BDS meeting in 2026 but noted that relevant work continues and that the working group can be called to reconvene if required in future.

24. Report of STACTIC from this Annual Meeting and Recommendations

The STACTIC Chair, Patrick Moran (United States of America), presented the STACTIC Meeting Report (see Part II), and brought the following proposed amendments to the NAFO CEM to the Commission for consideration and adoption:

- STACTIC OPR WP 25-04 (Rev. 6) *NAFO electronic observation program* (now COM Doc. 25-12 (Annex 19))
- STACTIC WP 25-15 (Rev. 6) *Numbering of Article 6.8* (now COM Doc. 25-10 (Annex 20))
- STACTIC WP 25-25 (Rev. 2) *Measures in the 3M cod fishery* (now COM Doc. 25-11 (Annex 21))

Additionally, STACTIC endorsed the following working papers for Commission consideration and adoption:

- STACTIC WP 25-04 (Rev. 5) *DRAFT Annual Fisheries and Compliance Review 2025* (Compliance Report for Fishing Year 2024) (now COM Doc. 25-17 (Annex 22))
- STACTIC WP 25-09 (Revised) NAFO IUU List Update (Annex 23)
- COM Doc. 25-02 Report of the STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR) Meeting 22–24 January 2025
- COM Doc. 25-06 Report of the STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR) Meeting 27–28 August 2025
- COM Doc. 25-07 Report of the STACTIC Working Group on the Introduction of Flux UN/CEFACT Standard for fisheries data exchanges in NAFO (WG-FLUX) Meeting 02 – 03 September 2025

The Commission thanked the STACTIC Chair for the report and STACTIC participants for their work throughout the year.

- **The Commission adopted the reports and recommendations from STACTIC outlined in COM Doc. 25-03 and Part II of this report.**

25. Other matters pertaining to Conservation and Enforcement Measures

The United States of America presented a proposal in COM WP 25-06 to amend the directed fishing definition in the NAFO CEM noting that the current definition is inconsistent with its practical application within the measures and diverges from how the term is used in other bottom-fishing RFMOs. The United States of America noted that in light of productive discussions on the proposal among Contracting Parties on the margins of the meeting, it would withdraw the proposal with a goal to work intersessionally with interested Contracting Parties to bring a revised version to the next NAFO Annual Meeting.

VIII. Finance and Administration

26. Report of STACFAD from this Annual Meeting

The Chair of STACFAD, Robert Fagan (Canada), presented the STACFAD meeting report and recommendations (see Part III), including recommendations for the adoption of the Audited Financial Statements for 2024, a review and update of the NAFO Internship Program, the budget for 2026, and updates to the procedures for hosting of Annual meetings. The Commission thanked the STACFAD Chair for the report and STACFAD participants for their work during the meeting.

27. Adoption of the 2026 Budget and STACFAD recommendations

- **The Commission adopted the STACFAD report, including the 2026 budget and recommendations from STACFAD outlined in Part III of this report.**

IX. Closing Procedure

28. Other Business

No other business was discussed under this agenda item.

29. Election of Chair and vice-Chair

In accordance with Rule 3.1 of the NAFO Rules of Procedure: Commission *“The Commission shall elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson for a term of two years.”*

- **Joost Paardekooper (European Union) was elected to serve as Commission Chairperson and NAFO President for a two-year term.**
- **Ray Walsh (Canada) was elected to serve as the vice-Chairperson of the Commission for a two-year term.**

30. Time and Place of Next Annual Meeting

The 48th Annual Meeting of NAFO will be in Lithuania from 21–25 September 2026.

The Chair urged Contracting Parties to prepare offers to host future Annual Meetings, noting the STACFAD decision that Contracting Parties intending to host a NAFO Annual Meeting should extend a formal invitation no later than 31 December two years prior.

31. Press Release

The Press Release of the meeting was developed by the Senior Scientific Information Administrator and Executive Secretary, through consultation with the Chairs of the Commission and Scientific Council, as well as the Heads of Delegation. The agreed Press Release (Annex 24) was circulated and posted to the NAFO website on Friday, 19 September 2025 following the conclusion of the meeting.

32. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on Thursday, 18 September 2025.

Contracting Parties expressed their gratitude to the outgoing Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (United States of America), for her longstanding service to the organization, and her leadership as Commission Chair and NAFO President.

Annex 1. Opening Statement from the NAFO President

His Honour The Honourable Mike Savage, ONS, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, Heads of Delegation, Colleagues, Friends

Thanks for those warm words of welcome, and I am pleased to welcome you to the 47th Annual Meeting of NAFO. It is always a treat to be back in beautiful Halifax, surrounded by water, history, and construction cranes.

But of course, that is an apt metaphor for our work this week – connected to the history and longstanding importance of the fisheries we manage, but continuing to push forward to ensure our actions meet the new challenges that face us.

This year marks 30 years since the adoption of the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, which set the modern foundation for the work of regional fisheries management organizations. NAFO has done better than many to adapt its work to meet these modern standards, starting with our amended Convention, which enshrined transparency and the precautionary and ecosystems approaches to fisheries management at the center of our work.

And in the coming months, we will likely see the entry into force of another agreement with the potential to have a significant effect on the work we do to support the health and productivity of our oceans.

The Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, or BBNJ Agreement, now has 142 Signatories and 57 parties, and is likely to pass the 60-party threshold needed for entry into force quite soon.

The working relationship between the BBNJ Agreement and RFMOs is still being considered, but there are significant opportunities for collaboration and coordination between different international and intergovernmental organizations under the Agreement.

Earlier this year, NAFO held a symposium in collaboration with the FAO Deep Seas Project, and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), focusing on the application of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management in areas beyond national jurisdiction, and furthering its capacity building with the FAO Deep Seas Project.

NAFO Secretariat and SC are working on a special issue of its Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Science with proceeds from the symposium. As of now 11 submissions have been received.

As of 1 May 2025, the World Database on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures or OECMs now includes areas closed for bottom fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area, including six sponge areas and all seamount areas. These remain the first and only multilateral measures to be recognized in this way.

And of course, last year adopted revised PA framework which is, I believe, unique among RFMOs in establishing what is essentially a default harvest control rule for all stocks, aimed at ensuring those that are doing well can stay that way, and those that aren't can rebuild.

That doesn't mean we don't still face challenges and can rest on our laurels. We have long been discussing concerns about the SC's capacity to continue to put out the essential scientific basis for our work, and the situation is as dire as ever. We are all facing other resource challenges, and must find ways to prioritize our work and use our time and our people more effectively.

This week, we will consider plans to launch a new performance review of the Organization, its third, which can help provide us with ideas for new ways to manage these challenges and ensure that NAFO's work remains grounded in strong science.

I look forward to working with all delegations throughout the week to tackle the many issues on our agenda.

With that, I now declare the 47th Annual Meeting of NAFO officially open.

Annex 2. Participant List

CANADA	
Head of Delegation	Burns, Adam. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: adam.burns@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]
Head of Delegation (Alternate)	Walsh, Ray. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: ray.walsh@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]
Advisers/Representatives	Barbour, Natasha. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: Natasha.Barbour@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [Virtual]
	Bonnell, Carey. Ocean Choice International Email: cbonnell@oceanchoice.com [In-person]
	Boudreau, Cyril. Government of Nova Scotia Email: Cyril.Boudreau@novascotia.ca [Virtual]
	Browne, Dion. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: Dion.Browne@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]
	Burridge, Angela. Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Email: AngelaBurridge@gov.nl.ca [In-person]
	Byrne, Vanessa. Atlantic Groundfish Council Email: vanessabyrne@atlanticgroundfish.ca [In-person]
	Chapman, Bruce. Canadian Association of Prawn Producers Email: bchapman@sympatico.ca [In-person]
	Dalley, Derrick. Ueushuk Fisheries Ltd. Email: ddalley@innudev.com [In-person]
	D'Entremont, Alain. Scotia Harvest Inc. Email: alain@scotiaharvest.com [In-person]
	Devitt, Steve. Atlantic Groundfish Council Email: sdevitt@atlanticgroundfish.ca [In-person]
	Fagan, Robert. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: Robert.Fagan@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]
	Fuller, Susanna. Oceans North Canada Email: susannafuller@oceansnorth.ca [In-person]
	Grandy, Glenn. Baffin Fisheries Email: ggrandy@baffinfisheries.ca [In-person]
	Hickey, Jenelle. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: Jenelle.Hickey@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [Virtual]
	Ings, Danny. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: danny.ings@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [Virtual]
	Irvine, Amy. Oceans North Canada Email: airvine@oceansnorth.ca [In-person]
	Kenchington, Ellen. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: Ellen.Kenchington@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [Virtual]
	Koen-Alonso, Mariano. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: Mariano.Koen-Alonso@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]

	Krohn, Martha. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: martha.krohn@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]
	Lambertucci, Peter. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: Peter.Lambertucci@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]
	Lapointe, Sylvie. Atlantic Groundfish Council Email: slapointe@atlanticgroundfish.ca [In-person]
	Marsden, Dale. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: dale.marsden@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]
	Martin, Patrick. Qikiqtaaluk Corp. Email: PMartin@Qcorp.ca [In-person]
	Napier, Brent. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: Brent.Napier@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]
	O’Rielly, Alastair. Northern Coalition Email: alastairorielly@gmail.com [In-person]
	Rayner, Gemma. Oceans North Canada Email: grayner@oceansnorth.ca [In-person]
	Rideout, Rick. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: rick.rideout@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [Virtual]
	Rowsell, Nicole. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: Nicole.Rowsell@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [Virtual]
	Schleit, Katie. Oceans North Canada Email: kschleit@oceansnorth.ca [In-person]
	Sheppard, Beverley. SEAOP Fishing Inc. Email: bsheppard@nfs.ca [In-person]
	Simpson, Greg. Mersey Seafood Email: greg@merseyseafoods.com [In-person]
	Simpson, Mark. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: mark.simpson2@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]
	Street, Dwan. Fish, Food and Allied Workers Union Email: DStreet@ffaw.ca [In-person]
	Sullivan, Blaine. Ocean Choice International Email: bsullivan@oceanchoice.com [Virtual]
	Sullivan, Martin. Ocean Choice International Email: msullivan@oceanchoice.com [In-person]
	Varzeliotis, Nicholas. Global Affairs Canada Email: Nicholas.varzeliotis@international.gc.ca [In-person]
	Wareham, Alberto. Icewater Seafoods Inc. Email: AWareham@icewaterseafoods.com [In-person]
	Williams, Todd. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: todd.williams@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]
	Wright, Tony. Société Makivik Corporation Email: TWright@makivik.org [Virtual]

	Zegarmistrz, Justyna. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: justyna.zegarmistrz@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]
CANADA	
Head of Delegation	Burns, Adam. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: adam.burns@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]
Head of Delegation (Alternate)	Walsh, Ray. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: ray.walsh@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]
Advisers/Representatives	Barbour, Natasha. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: Natasha.Barbour@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [Virtual]
	Bonnell, Carey. Ocean Choice International Email: cbonnell@oceanchoice.com [In-person]
	Boudreau, Cyril. Government of Nova Scotia Email: Cyril.Boudreau@novascotia.ca [Virtual]
	Browne, Dion. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: Dion.Browne@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]
	Burridge, Angela. Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Email: AngelaBurridge@gov.nl.ca [In-person]
	Byrne, Vanessa. Atlantic Groundfish Council Email: vanessabyrne@atlanticgroundfish.ca [In-person]
	Chapman, Bruce. Canadian Association of Prawn Producers Email: bchapman@sympatico.ca [In-person]
	Dalley, Derrick. Ueushuk Fisheries Ltd. Email: ddalley@innudev.com [In-person]
	D'Entremont, Alain. Scotia Harvest Inc. Email: alain@scotiaharvest.com [In-person]
	Devine, Brynn. Oceans North Canada Email: bdevine@oceansnorth.ca [In-person]
	Devitt, Steve. Atlantic Groundfish Council Email: sdevitt@atlanticgroundfish.ca [In-person]
	Fagan, Robert. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: Robert.Fagan@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]
	Fuller, Susanna. Oceans North Canada Email: susannafuller@oceansnorth.ca [In-person]
	Grandy, Glenn. Baffin Fisheries Email: ggrandy@baffinfisheries.ca [In-person]
	Hickey, Jenelle. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: Jenelle.Hickey@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [Virtual]
	Ings, Danny. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: danny.ings@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [Virtual]
	Irvine, Amy. Oceans North Canada Email: airvine@oceansnorth.ca [In-person]

	Kenchington, Ellen. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: Ellen.Kenchington@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [Virtual]
	Koen-Alonso, Mariano. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: Mariano.Koen-Alonso@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]
	Krohn, Martha. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: martha.krohn@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]
	Lambertucci, Peter. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: Peter.Lambertucci@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]
	Lapointe, Sylvie. Atlantic Groundfish Council Email: slapointe@atlanticgroundfish.ca [In-person]
	Marsden, Dale. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: dale.marsden@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]
	Martin, Patrick. Qikiqtaaluk Corp. Email: PMartin@Qcorp.ca [In-person]
	Napier, Brent. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: Brent.Napier@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]
	O’Rielly, Alastair. Northern Coalition Email: alastairorielly@gmail.com [In-person]
	Rayner, Gemma. Oceans North Canada Email: grayner@oceansnorth.ca [In-person]
	Rideout, Rick. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: rick.rideout@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [Virtual]
	Rowsell, Nicole. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: Nicole.Rowsell@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [Virtual]
	Schleit, Katie. Oceans North Canada Email: kschleit@oceansnorth.ca [In-person]
	Sheppard, Beverley. SEAOP Fishing Inc. Email: bsheppard@nfs.ca [In-person]
	Simpson, Greg. Mersey Seafood Email: greg@merseyseafoods.com [In-person]
	Simpson, Mark. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: mark.simpson2@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]
	Street, Dwan. Fish, Food and Allied Workers Union Email: DStreet@ffaw.ca [In-person]
	Sullivan, Blaine. Ocean Choice International Email: bsullivan@oceanchoice.com [In-person]
	Sullivan, Martin. Ocean Choice International Email: msullivan@oceanchoice.com [In-person]
	Varzeliotis, Nicholas. Global Affairs Canada Email: Nicholas.varzeliotis@international.gc.ca [In-person]
	Wareham, Alberto. Icewater Group of Companies Email: AWareham@icewaterseafoods.com [In-person]

	Williams, Todd. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: todd.williams@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]
	Wright, Tony. Société Makivik Corporation Email: TWright@makivik.org [Virtual]
	Zegarmistrz, Justyna. Fisheries and Oceans Canada Email: justyna.zegarmistrz@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]
CUBA	
Head of Delegation	Elías, Orlando Borrero. Vice Minister, Ministry of the Food Industry of Cuba (MINAL) Email: orlandoborrero162@gmail.com [In-person]
Advisers/Representatives	Borroto Bejerano, Ridel. Director of the Fisheries Research Center, Cuba Email: raidelborroto86@gmail.com [In-person]
	Linares Fonts, Maritza Edelmira. Caribex Seafoods LTD Email: mlinares@caribexseafoods.com [In-person]
DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND)	
Head of Delegation	Wang, Ulla S.. Senior Adviser, Ministry of Fisheries and Infrastructure Email: ulla.svarrer.wang@fisk.fo [In-person]
Head of Delegation	Døj, Iben Funch. Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting, Agriculture and Self-Sufficiency, Government of Greenland Email: iben@nanoq.gl [In-person]
Advisers/Representatives	Gaardlykke, Meinhard. Adviser, Faroe Islands Fisheries Inspection Email: meinhardg@vorn.fo [In-person]
	Grønadal, Símun. Adviser, Ministry of Fisheries and Infrastructure Email: simun.gronadal@fisk.fo [In-person]
	Gudmundsen, Hálvdan. Chairman, Farese Longliners Association Email: halvdan@fossa.fo [In-person]
	Holm, Jannik. Greenland Fisheries License Control Authority Email: jaho@nanoq.gl [In-person]
	Katzke Simonsen, Julie. Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting, Agriculture and Self-Sufficiency, Government of Greenland Email: juks@nanoq.gl [In-person]
	Lamhauge, Majbritt. Legal Adviser, Faroe Islands Fisheries Inspection Email: majbrittl@vorn.fo [In-person]
	Oksen, Alvilde. Greenland Fisheries License Control Authority Email: alok@nanoq.gl [In-person]
	Olsen, Hannipoula. Faroe Marine Research Institut Email: hannipo@hav.fo [Virtual]
	Ridao Cruz, Luis. Faroe Marine Research Institut Email: luisr@hav.fo [Virtual]
	Skorini, Stefan Í. Managing Director, Faroese Vessel Owners' Association Email: stefan@industry.fo [In-person]

EUROPEAN UNION	
Head of Delegation	Billiet, Stijn. European Commission Email: Stijn.BILLIET@ec.europa.eu [In-person]
Head of Delegation (Alternate)	Blazkiewicz, Bernard. European Commission Email: Bernard.BLAZKIEWICZ@ec.europa.eu [In-person]
Advisers/Representatives	Alfaro, Carlos Deivis. ANTONIO CONDE Email: antoniocondelda@hotmail.com [In-person]
	Alpoim, Ricardo. Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera (IPMA) Email: ralpoim@ipma.pt [In-person]
	Babcionis, Genadijus. European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) Email: Genadijus.babcionis@efca.europa.eu [In-person]
	Barbosa Vicente, Luis. ADAPI Email: Adapi.pescas@mail.telepac.pt [In-person]
	Belmonte, Luis. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Email: lbelmonte@mapa.es [Virtual]
	Caetano, Miguel. Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera (IPMA), Algés, Email: mcaetano@ipma.pt [Virtual]
	Calzada, Eduardo. Spanish Industry Email: ecalzada@valiela.com [Virtual]
	Cortina, Ángela. Spanish Industry Email: angela@arvi.org [In-person]
	Demblon, Jessica. European Commission Email: Jessica.DEMBLON@ec.europa.eu [In-person]
	Dybiec, Leszek. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Email: Leszek.Dybiec@minrol.gov.pl [In-person]
	Fernandez, Francisco. Spanish Industry Email: franfernandez@opromar.com [Virtual]
	Ferreira, Carlos. Directorate General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services (DGRM) Email: csferreira@dgrm.pt [In-person]
	Franca, Pedro. PEDRO FRANCA Email: pedrofranca@pedrofranca.pt [In-person]
	Galetti, Fabio. European Commission Email: Fabio.GALETTI@ec.europa.eu [In-person]
	Garrido Fernandez, Irene. Centro Oceanográfico de Vigo (COV-IEO), CSIC, Vigo, Spain Email: irene.garrido@ieo.csic.es [In-person]
	Gonçalves, Patrícia. Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera (IPMA) Email: patricia@ipma.pt [In-person]
	González-Costas, Fernando. Centro Oceanográfico de Vigo (COV-IEO), CSIC, Vigo, Spain Email: fernando.gonzalez@ieo.csic.es [In-person]
	Gonzalez-Troncos, Diana (SC Chair). Centro Oceanográfico de Vigo (COV-IEO), CSIC, Vigo, Spain Email: diana.gonzalez@ieo.csic.es [In-person]

	Griuniene, Vilda. Lithuanian Ministry of Agriculture Email: Vilda.griuniene@zum.lt [In-person]
	Head, François. European Council Email: Francois.head@consilium.europa.eu [In-person]
	Ingvarsson, Einar Bergur. AS Reyktal Email: einar@reyktal.is [In-person]
	Kazlauskas, Tomas. Director of Fisheries Service Email: tomas.kazlauskas@zuv.lt [In-person]
	Labanauskas, Aivaras. Atlantic High Sea Fishing Company Email: ala@pp-group.eu [In-person]
	Leduc, Xavier. Directeur Général d'Euronor, président Orthongel, Président de l'Union des armateurs de France (UAPF) Email: xleduc@orthongel.fr [Virtual]
	Lopez, Ivan. Spanish Industry Email: ivan.lopez@pesqueraancora.com [In-person]
	Mancebo, C. Margarita. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Email: cmancebo@mapa.es [Virtual]
	Märtin, Kaire. Administration, Ministry of Regional affairs and agriculture Email: Kaire.martin@agri.ee [In-person]
	Molina, Teresa. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Email: tmolina@mapa.es [In-person]
	Mota, José Pedro. ANTONIO CONDE Email: Oficinas.epa@gmail.com [In-person]
	Näks, Liivika. University of Tartu, Estonian Marine Institute Email: liivika.naks@ut.ee [Virtual]
	Paardekooper, Joost. Email: Paardekooper99@gmail.com [Virtual]
	Paião, Aníbal. PASCOAL & FILHOS Email: Anibal.paiao@pascoal.pt [In-person]
	Paião, Jorge. PASCOAL & FILHOS Email: Jorge.paiao@pascoal.pt [In-person]
	Quintans, Miguel. European Commission Email: Miguel.quintans@ec.europa.eu [In-person]
	Remisz, Emil. Fisheries sector Email: emil@paop.org.pl [In-person]
	Riekstins, Normunds. Latvian Ministry of Agriculture Email: Normunds.Riekstins@zm.gov.lv [In-person]
	Riveiro, Pedro. Spanish Local Fisheries Administration Email: pedro.riveiro.dominguez@xunta.gal [In-person]
	Rodriguez, Alexandre. LDAC - EU Long Distance Fleet Advisory Council Email: Alexandre.rodriguez@ldac.eu [In-person]
	Sacau Cuadrado, Mar. Centro Oceanográfico de Vigo (COV-IEO), CSIC, Vigo, Spain Email: mar.sacau@ieo.csic.es [In-person]

	Sarevet, Mati. AS Reyktal Email: Mati.sarevet@reyktal.ee [In-person]
	Shrives, Jonathan. European Commission Email: Jonathan.SHRIVES@ec.europa.eu [In-person]
	Sild, Kristi. MFV Lootus OÜ Email: Kristi.sild@mfvlootus.ee [In-person]
	Steinn Einarsson, Sigurður. Doggerbank Seefischerei GmbH Email: sse@aldaholding.com [In-person]
	Szumlicz-Dobiesz, Justyna. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Email: justyna.szumlicz@minrol.gov.pl [In-person]
	Teixeira, Isabel. Directorate General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services (DGRM) Email: iteixeira@dgrm.pt [In-person]
	Teotonio Franca, Pedro. PEDRO FRANCA Email: peu@pedrofranca.pt [In-person]
	Ulloa, Edelmiro. Spanish Industry Email: edelmiro@arvi.org [Virtual]
	Vielmini, Ilaria. European Commission Email: Ilaria.VIELMINI@ec.europa.eu [In-person]
	Wysocka, Malgorzata. European Commission Email: Malgorzata.WYSOCKA@ec.europa.eu [In-person]
FRANCE (IN RESPECT OF ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON)	
Head of Delegation	Briand, Bernard. President de la Collectivité Territoriale de SPM Email: president@ct975.fr [In-person]
Head of Delegation (Alternate)	Thiam, Mafal. Ministry of the Sea and Fisheries Email: mafal.thiam@mer.gouv.fr [In-person]
Advisers/Representatives	Cecchetti, Jérôme. Collectivité Territoriale de SPM Email: jerome.cecchetti@ct975.fr [In-person]
	Cormier, Clémence. Armement A Mare Labor Email: clemence.c@tmsiav.com [In-person]
	Couston, Constance. Direction des Territoires, de l'Alimentation et de la Mer Email: constance.couston@equipement-agriculture.gouv.fr [In-person]
	Larrat, Clémence. Ministry of the Sea and Fisheries Email: clemence.larrat@mer.gouv.fr [In-person]
	Poirier, Arnaud. Collectivité Territoriale de SPM Email: Arnaud.Poirier@ct975.fr [In-person]
ICELAND	
Head of Delegation	Bragason, Agnar Bragi. Ministry of Industries Email: agnar.bragi.bragason@atrn.is [In-person]
Advisers/Representatives	Ingibergsson, Jón Gunnar. Icelandic Coast Guard Email: jong@lhg.is [In-person]

	Ragnarsson, Njáll. Directorate of Fisheries Email: njall.ragnarsson@fiskistofa.is [In-person]
JAPAN	
Head of Delegation	Morishita, Joji. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Email: jojimorishita@gmail.com [In-person]
Head of Delegation (Alternate)	Iwano, Taisuke. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Email: taisuke_iwano460@maff.go.jp [In-person]
Advisers/Representatives	Batori, Koji. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Email: koji_batori820@maff.go.jp [Virtual]
	Hagiya, Sachio. TAIYO A & F CO., LTD Email: s-hagiya@maruha-nichiro.co.jp [In-person]
	Kondo, Tomohiro. Ministry of Foreign Affairs Email: tomohiro.kondo-2@mofa.go.jp [Virtual]
	Kyo, Yasuko. Ministry of Foreign Affairs Email: yasuko.kyo@mofa.go.jp [Virtual]
	Mitome, Haruki. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Email: haruki_mitome130@maff.go.jp [In-person]
	Moronuki, Hideki. Japan Overseas Fishing Association Email: hideki.moronuki@jdsta.or.jp [In-person]
	Suzuki, Hyoe. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Email: hyoe_suzuki110@maff.go.jp [Virtual]
	Taki, Kenji. Japan Fisheries Research and Education Agency Email: takisan@fra.affrc.go.jp [In-person]
NORWAY	
Head of Delegation	Bjørklund, Kristoffer Krohg. Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries Email: Kristoffer-Krohg.Bjorklund@nfd.dep.no [In-person]
Head of Delegation (Alternate)	Hinchliffe, Kristi Veierød. Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries Email: kristi-veierod.hinchliffe@nfd.dep.no [In-person]
Advisers/Representatives	Aalén, Lene. Fisheries Directorate Email: leaal@fiskeridir.no [In-person]
	Frotvedt, Kristin. Fisheries Directorate Email: krfro@fiskeridir.no [In-person]
	Hallfredsson, Elvar. Institute for Marine Research Email: elvar.hallfredsson@hi.no [In-person]
	Østebø, Kjetil Øvrengaard. Fisheries Directorate Email: kjost@fiskeridir.no [In-person]
	Vaskinn, Tor Are. Fiskebat (Industry) Email: tor-are@fiskebat.no [In-person]
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	
Head of Delegation	Kim, Ro Yun. Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries Email: 100ro@korea.kr [Virtual]

Advisers/Representatives	Jin, Ho-Jeong. Korea Overseas Fisheries Association Email: jackiejn@kosfa.org [Virtual]
	Lee, Seung Eun. Korea Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Center Email: slee492@kofci.org [Virtual]
	Kim, Young Jin. Korea Overseas Fisheries Association Email: wlsdl1405@kosfa.org [Virtual]
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	
Head of Delegation	Tairov, Temur. Representative of the Federal Agency for Fisheries of the Russian Federation in Canada Email: pr-canada@fishcom.ru [In-person]
Head of Delegation (Alternate)	Badina, Julia. Deputy Head of the Department of Fleet, Ports and International Cooperation of the Federal Agency for Fisheries Email: badina@fish.gov.ru [In-person]
Advisers/Representatives	Belyaev, Vladimir. Advisor to the Director of the Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO) Email: belyaev@vniro.ru [In-person]
	Drevetnyak, Konstantin. UNION OF FISHERMEN OF THE NORTH Email: DREVETNYAK@SRPS.RU [In-person]
	Egochina, Victoria. Polar Branch of the Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (PINRO) Email: egochina@pinro.vniro.ru [Virtual]
	Fomin, Konstantin. Polar Branch of the Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (PINRO) Email: fomin@pinro.vniro.ru [In-person]
	Kazantseva, Ekaterina. Head of the Division of the Department of Fleet, Ports and International Cooperation of the Federal Agency for Fisheries Email: kazantseva@fish.gov.ru [In-person]
	Kolukhalov, Aleksey. Center For Monitoring Email: AKOLUKHALOV@CFMC.RU [Virtual]
	Shulaeva, Anna. Head of the Severomorskoe Territorial Department of the Federal Agency for Fisheries Email: shulaeva@murmansk.fish.gov.ru [Virtual]
	Skryabin, Ilya. Severomorskoe Territorial Department of the Federal Agency for Fisheries Email: SKRYABIN@MURMANSK.FISH.GOV.RU [Virtual]
	Titov, Yuri. Center For Monitoring Email: YTITOV@CFMC.RU [Virtual]
	Zukov, Ivan. Center For Monitoring Email: izhukov@cfmc.ru [Virtual]
UKRAINE	
Head of Delegation	Ohorodnik, Artem. Deputy Head of the International Cooperation Division of the State Agency of Ukraine for the Development of Melioration, Fisheries and Food Programs Email: ogorodnik89@ukr.net [Virtual]

Head of Delegation (Alternate)	Paramonov, Valerii. Institute of Fisheries, Marine Ecology and Oceanography (IFMEO), State Agency of Ukraine for the Development of Melioration, Fisheries and Food Programs. Email: vparamonov@i.ua [Virtual]
UNITED KINGDOM	
Head of Delegation	Sharples, James. Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Email: James.Sharples@defra.gov.uk [In-person]
Advisers/Representatives	Bennett, Rebecca. Email: Rebecca.Bennett@lockerstrawlers.com [In-person]
	De Oliveira, José. Centre for Environment, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) Email: jose.deoliveira@cefass.gov.uk [In-person]
	Gawlyk, Joe. Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Email: Joe.Gawlyk@defra.gov.uk [In-person]
	Gibbins, Imogen. Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Email: Imogen.gibbins@defra.gov.uk [In-person]
	Murphy, Paul. Marine Management Organisation (MMO) Email: Paul.Murphy@marinemangement.org.uk [In-person]
	Smith-Devey, Imogen. Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Email: Imogen.Smith-Devey@defra.gov.uk [In-person]
	Windebank, James. Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Email: James.windebank@defra.gov.uk [In-person]
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
Head of Delegation	Noble, Erik. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Email: erik.noble@noaa.gov [In-person]
Head of Delegation (Alternate)	Pentony, Michael. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Email: Michael.Pentony@noaa.gov [In-person]
Advisers/Representatives	Brown, Russell. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Email: russell.brown@noaa.gov [Virtual]
	Haily, Rebecca. A.I.S. Incorporated Email: rebecca.haily@aisobservers.com [In-person]
	Hale, Bo. United States Coast Guard Email: Bo.A.Hale@uscg.mil [In-person]
	Jaburek, Shannah. National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Email: shannah.jaburek@noaa.gov [In-person]
	Kelly, Moira. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Email: Moira.Kelly@noaa.gov [In-person]
	Mencher, Elizabethann. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Email: Elizabethann.mencher@noaa.gov [In-person]
	Moran, Pat. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Email: Pat.Moran@noaa.gov [In-person]

	Morgan, Clark. U.S. Department of State Email: morgancr2@fan.gov [In-person]
	Pohl, Katie. NOAA Office of General Counsel, Enforcement Email: Katherine.Pohl@noaa.gov [In-person]
	Provencher, Eric. NOAA Office of Law Enforcement Email: eric.provencher@noaa.gov [Virtual]
	Reid, Eric. Seafreeze Shoreside, Incorporated Email: ericreidri@gmail.com [In-person]
	Smith, Geoff. The Nature Conservancy Email: geoffrey_smith@tnc.org [In-person]
	Tyhach, Lea. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Email: lea.tyhach@noaa.gov [In-person]
	Warner-Kramer, Deirdre (NAFO President) . U.S. Department of State Email: warner-kramerdm@fan.gov [In-person]
OBSERVERS	
	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) Represented by Delegation of Japan.
	Dalhousie University: Marine & Environmental Law Institute Engler, Cecilia. Email: mcengler@dal.ca [In-person] Koubtrak, Olga. Email: okoubtrak@dal.ca [In-person]
	Ecology Action Centre Callegari, Christina. Email: christina.callegari@ecologyaction.ca [Virtual] Isnor, Holly. Email: hollyisnor@ecologyaction.ca [In-person]
	FAO - ABNJ Deep-Sea Fisheries Project Hidas, Eszter. Email: Eszter.Hidas@fao.org [Virtual]
	Marine Stewardship Council Lugar, Jay. Email: Jay.Lugar@msc.org [In-person]
	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) Represented by Belyaev, Vladimir of the Russian Federation.
	North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) Secretariat Artiushkina, Marria. Email: artmariia@npafc.org [Virtual] Stanbury, William. Email: wstanbury@npafc.org [Virtual]
	Oceans North Kalaallit Nunaat Dahl, Parnuna Egede. Email: parnuna@oceansnorth.gl [In-person] Lundblad, Sara Paninnguaq. Email: sara@oceansnorth.gl [In-person] Poulsen, Jenseeraq. Email: jenseeraq@oceansnorth.gl [In-person]
	Sargasso Sea Commission Luckhurst, Brian. Email: brian.luckhurst@gmail.com [Virtual]
	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) Represented by Delegation of European Union.
NAFO SECRETARIAT	

	Benediktsdóttir, Brynhildur. Executive Secretary. Email: bbenediktsdottir@nafo.int [In-person]
	Aker, Jana. Fisheries Management Coordinator. Email: jaker@nafo.int [In-person]
	Bell MacCallum, Dayna. Senior Scientific Information Administrator. Email: dbell@nafo.int [In-person]
	Goodick, Stan. Deputy Executive Secretary/Senior Finance and Staff Administrator Email: sgoodick@nafo.int [In-person]
	Guile, Sarah. Senior Office Administrator. Email: sguile@nafo.int [In-person]
	Kendall, Matthew. Senior IT Manager. Email: mkendall@nafo.int [In-person]
	Laycock, DJ. Database Developer/Programmer Analyst. Email: dlaycock@nafo.int [In-person]
	LeFort, Lisa. Senior Executive Assistant. Email: llefort@nafo.int [In-person]
	Pacey, Alexis. Senior Publications/Web Manager. Email: apacey@nafo.int [In-person]
	Perreault, Andrea. Senior Science Coordinator. Email: aperreault@nafo.int [In-person]
	Thompson, Catherine. Fisheries Information Administrator. Email: CThompson@nafo.int [In-person]

Annex 3. Opening Statement from the Delegation of Canada

Canada is pleased to join our fellow Contracting Parties in Halifax at this 47th Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) as we continue to work cooperatively to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the Convention Area. We are incredibly grateful to the Secretariat as the official host of this meeting for their efforts in making all the meeting arrangements. We remain very pleased to offer colleagues from other Contracting Parties an unofficial warm welcome to Canada.

This year we look forward to continuing to implement the Revised NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework. As part of that work we have decisions to make with respect to several key stocks, including 3LN and 3O redfish. As we await a full assessment of 3LN redfish next year, Canada will support continued work to develop a management strategy evaluation for this stock. Regarding 3O redfish, we look forward to receiving revised advice from the Scientific Council (SC) in a manner that is consistent with the PA Framework, and to discussing management of this stock on that basis. More generally, we would like to highlight the recommendation from the Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies that when providing stock management advice to the Commission SC follow the Precautionary Approach Framework and provide the Commission with a range of scenarios. This would equip the Commission to make decisions based on the best available science as well as other relevant considerations.

With respect to other stocks, Canada is pleased to be able to share the results of a new stock assessment framework for 3LNO Northern shrimp. The new framework has changed our understanding of the stock structure of Northern shrimp, now indicating that the south stock assessment region is in the healthy zone. Important issues remain for Canada to navigate in the domestic management of this stock complex, the overwhelming majority of which is found in Canadian fisheries waters. Nevertheless, Canada aims to begin engagement with other CPs to discuss possible approaches to re-opening this fishery, which would provide renewed socio-economic opportunities for harvesters and their communities. We look forward to working with Contracting Parties to ensure the continued conservation and sustainable use of the stock.

Recognizing the integral role of the SC in NAFO's work and the continuing, serious challenges around SC workload and capacity, Canada would like to reaffirm the importance of and our commitment to improving the prioritization and precision of requests put to the SC. Canada will also look to discuss how NAFO might use an external performance review to seek solutions to these challenges, potentially through a review of NAFO's entire scientific process. Such a review could point to concrete changes that will better align processes and resources with the organization's priorities, allowing it to deliver on the organization's core mandate and to remain a global leader in ecosystem approaches to fisheries management.

In conclusion, Canada looks forward to working with others this week to conserve and manage our fishery resources for future generations while providing important economic opportunities to Canada and to all Contracting Parties.

**Annex 4. Opening Statement from the
Delegation of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)**

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

The Faroe Islands and Greenland (DFG) would like to begin by expressing our gratitude to the Secretariat for organising this 47th Annual Meeting and for the opportunity to convene in the beautiful surroundings of Halifax. We also commend the Secretariat for its excellent work in organising this annual meeting, facilitating the work of the organisation, promptly answering our questions, and keeping us well informed.

NAFO has played a vital role in fisheries management by developing conservation and management measures that ensure the sustainable use of fishery resources based on scientific evidence.

We are pleased to note the Scientific Council's report on the stability of the Spawning Stock Biomass in the cod stock in 3M over the past four years. DFG remains committed to the long-term conservation and sustainable utilisation of this resource, and thereby also a secure and stable framework for our industry and its activities. Therefore, we welcome the revised Precautionary Approach Framework, that was adopted last year. When setting the TAC for cod in 3M, the Commission must evaluate the risks associated with different approaches, relying on the best available scientific advice, based on the revised PAF, while also considering social and economic factors.

Last year we decided to reopen cod fisheries in 2J3KL. The sustainable management of this valuable resource is important, and we are pleased to see that a TAC has also been set for this year.

NAFO has long been a forward-looking RFMO, pioneering the advancement of the Ecosystems Approach Framework in Fisheries Management. NAFO's ambition is what makes it an inspiration to be a part of this organisation. At the same time, both time and the expertise available are limited resources that must be used wisely. DFG recognizes that our continued success depends on using our resources responsibly and efficiently.

In conclusion, Madame Chair, the Faroe Islands and Greenland are looking forward to a productive week in these lovely surroundings and to work constructively with all other delegations to contribute to a successful outcome of this 47th Annual Meeting.

Thank you.

Annex 5. Opening Statement from the Delegation of the European Union

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

First, we would like to thank the NAFO Secretariat and the city of Halifax for hosting the 47th Annual Meeting of NAFO in this wonderful city, that intertwines maritime history with vibrant modern city.

Secondly, we would like to note the excellent preparatory work carried out ahead of this meeting which should allow us to reach decisions that will contribute to the effective and sustainable management of international fisheries that this organisation has been entrusted to manage.

The Commission will again have to set TACs for fish stocks under the purview of NAFO that ensure their sustainable management and exploitation for the years to come while taking into account environmental, economic and social considerations. This year, we have a particular challenge to look into scientific processes within NAFO, to tailor them well to resources available and objectives of the NAFO Convention. The EU will continue to seek and support solutions based on the best available scientific advice, aiming to ensure long-term sustainability for the stocks and predictability for the industry that depend on their exploitation for their livelihoods.

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 to make this Annual Meeting in Halifax a joint success.

Annex 6. Opening Statement from the Delegation of Japan

First of all, Japan would like to express its deepest gratitude to the NAFO Chairs and Secretariat staff for the excellent preparation and arrangements to hold the 47th Annual Meeting.

As Japan expressed in the past meetings, NAFO has played an important role for fisheries management through development of conservation and management measures for sustainable use of fishery resources based on scientific evidence. MSE for Greenland Halibut is one notable example, and many important works, including development of MSE for Redfish, VME protection and SAI assessment are ongoing. In this regard, Japan would like to express our respect and gratitude to all efforts made by the Contracting Parties and all works by the Scientific Council.

At the same time, Japan notes that the Scientific Council is facing the issue of workload. As science is important basis of fishery management, Japan sincerely hopes that, during the discussion, we will find some ways which enable us to work more efficiently while maintaining most of its effectiveness and strength.

Global discussions on climate change and bio-diversity are progressing rapidly in many fora and institutions, and RFMOs have to deal with much wider range of challenges in the context of the conservation and management of fisheries resources, some of which we haven't encountered with in the past and need to find some solutions. The role of NAFO, as a leading RFMO, will gain more and more importance, taking stock of its experience gained from the long history. Under these emerging challenges, efficiency is one of the old but new aspects worth paying our attention.

In conclusion, Japanese delegation is ready to continue 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.

Annex 7. Opening Statement by the Delegation of the Russian Federation

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

The Russian Federation would like to thank the city of Halifax and the NAFO Secretariat for hosting the 47th Annual Meeting, among the sites of cultural heritage and marvels of modern construction. The Halifax Convention Center undoubtedly belongs to their number, allowing to conduct large meetings in convenient surroundings in a secure manner.

It is important to note that the precautionary approach to management of fisheries has proven to be an efficient tool, in particular, to determine the reference points for the stocks lacking them. Like any tool, however, its proper use depends on the user's decision; the conclusions regarding the precautionary approach are not an algorithm to be blindly followed but a subject for discussion.

A similar way to deal with would be reasonable for the ecosystem overfishing risk in Division 3M. Despite the warnings made recently, an overfishing could solely be a joint result of an increase in quotas and a corresponding increase in fishing efforts by all Contracting Parties.

Development of management strategies remains a powerful alternative to the precautionary approach. We appreciate the current Greenland halibut strategy and fully endorse the effort to develop the management strategy for redfish in Division 3LN, hoping to see a significant progress in the near future.

Russian Federation is looking forward to having a purposeful discussion with other delegations and to have this meeting bear many practical results.

Annex 8. Opening Statement by the Delegation of the United Kingdom

The United Kingdom wishes to express its appreciation to the Secretariat for their work in organizing and supporting the 47th Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO).

We acknowledge the recommendations from WG-EAFFM and WG-RBMS addressing concerns related to the workload of the Scientific Council and vacant chair and designated expert positions. As part of the UK's contribution, we will be putting forward a new chair to fill the STACFIS position and encourage other parties to explore how they might fill other vacancies.

We would like to thank the Scientific Council for their continuous efforts in producing advice to inform the management discussions of the Commission. We would urge parties to keep this advice in mind and focus on sustainability when considering our management of NAFO's stocks.

We look forward to collaborating with the Secretariat and the other Contracting Parties of NAFO to ensure a productive and successful Annual Meeting.

Annex 9. Opening Statement by the Delegation of the United States of America

Madam Chair, Delegates, Ladies, and Gentlemen—the United States is pleased to return to Halifax for the 47th NAFO Annual Meeting. We look forward to a productive week in discussions with our colleagues around the table, and to the warm hospitality of this beautiful and historic city. We thank the NAFO Secretariat for hosting and for their hard work, skill, and dedication.

The United States is committed to ensuring that the robust economic interests of our domestic fishing industry will be met, as allowable and informed by sound, accurate scientific recommendations. The United States boasts the highest population of all member nations—with a population of 340 million and as such requires commensurate quota—and our perspective is shaped by a deep historical connection to the northwest Atlantic for generations of U.S. fishermen and mariners, who have established an enduring presence and profound interest in the long-term security and stewardship of the region. We will deliver economic prosperity for our fishermen and guarantee the availability of domestically caught fish on American plates.

We recognize the significant and ongoing challenges the NAFO Scientific Council faces in maintaining its high standards of work while addressing an expanding range of topics. The United States is committed to exploring solutions to ensure that the Organization is using the "best available scientific advice," as envisioned in the NAFO Convention. To facilitate this, the Scientific Council must continue to clearly communicate its needs and work with the Commission to prioritize its work effectively. With significant work underway on the Precautionary Approach Framework, vulnerable marine ecosystems, stock assessments, and other key areas, it is vital that NAFO Parties fully address the short and long-term scientific needs of the Organization. We believe the upcoming Performance Review should focus on these challenges and explore solutions that support our scientific experts and decision-making processes.

Additionally, the United States underscores the need to consider how scientific advice is presented by the Scientific Council to inform management decisions by the Commission. From a practical standpoint, scientific advice must be presented in a way that informs and facilitates meaningful management discussions and decisions. It is essential that managers are provided with clear tools to understand the full range of options and the likely consequences of their potential actions. In turn, the Commission's decisions must reflect and adapt to changes in the fisheries, markets, and environment. We look forward to engaging further on these important matters as the week progresses.

The United States would like to highlight the early success of the revised Precautionary Approach Framework. This framework has already proven to be a valuable tool, providing clear and implementable guidance that supports management decisions for the long-term sustainability of NAFO resources. We are optimistic that its successful application will support the recovery of stocks from moratoria, creating new economic opportunities for all Contracting Parties. As these opportunities arise, the United States remains steadfast in its position that all NAFO stock allocations - both existing and any future opportunities - must be rooted in the principles of fair access and equity for every Contracting Party.

Finally, the United States is proposing an amendment to the definition of "directed fishing" to resolve a critical inconsistency within the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures that creates confusion for fishers and managers alike. The current definition identifies the directed fishery retrospectively based on the largest percentage of catch in a haul, which directly conflicts with other rules that require fisheries to be managed prospectively based on their intended target. Our proposal resolves this by aligning the definition with its commonly understood meaning—the intended target species—and requires operators to record and report this intent, thereby strengthening the overall effectiveness of NAFO's management framework. We see this change as complementary - and not duplicative - of the work of the *Ad-hoc* Working Group on Bycatch, Discards, and Selectivity, which should be evaluating the efficacy of how NAFO manages bycatch holistically.

Thank you very much and we look forward to a productive week.

Annex 10. Provisional Agenda

I. Opening Procedure	
1.	Opening by the Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (United States of America)
2.	Appointment of Rapporteur
3.	Adoption of Agenda
4.	Admission of Observers
5.	Publicity
II. Supervision and Coordination of the Organizational, Administrative and Other Internal Affairs	
6.	Review of Membership of the Commission
7.	Administrative and Activity Report by the NAFO Secretariat
8.	Consideration of the Renewal of the Executive Secretary's contract
9.	Review of the list of experts to serve as panelists under the NAFO Dispute Settlement provisions
10.	Guidance to STACFAD
11.	Guidance to STACTIC
III. Coordination of External Affairs	
12.	Report of Executive Secretary on External Meetings
13.	International Relations
	a. Relations with other International Organizations
	b. Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Deep-Sea Fisheries Project
	c. NAFO Members as Observers to External Meetings
14.	Oil and Gas Activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area
IV. Joint Session of Commission and Scientific Council	
15.	NAFO Performance Review
	a. Implementation of the 2018 Performance Review recommendations
	b. Update on the establishment of <i>ad hoc</i> virtual working group to consider the initiation of a third Performance Review of NAFO
16.	Presentation of scientific advice by the Chair of the Scientific Council
	a. Response of the Scientific Council to the Commission's request for scientific advice
	b. Feedback to the Scientific Council regarding the advice and its work during this meeting
	c. Other issues as determined by the Chairs of the Commission and the Scientific Council
17.	Meeting Reports and Recommendations of the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Groups
	a. Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process (E-WG), December 2024
	b. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG), February and April 2025
	c. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS), April and July 2025
	d. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM), July 2025
18.	Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for Scientific Advice on the Management in 2027 and Beyond of Certain Stocks in Subareas 2, 3 and 4 and Other Matters
V. Conservation of Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area	
19.	Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area, 2026

	a. Cod in Division 3M
20.	Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks Straddling National Jurisdictions, 2026
	a. Cod in Divisions 3NO
	b. Redfish in Divisions 3LN
	c. Redfish in Division 3O
	d. Beaked redfish (<i>Sebastes mentella</i>) in Subarea 2 + Divisions 1F and 3K
	e. Yellowtail in Divisions 3LNO
	f. White hake in Divisions 3NO
	g. Capelin in Divisions 3NO
	h. Skates in Divisions 3LNO
	i. Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO
	j. Northern shortfin squid in Subareas 3+4
	k. Northern shrimp in Divisions 3LNO
21.	Other matters pertaining to Conservation of Fish Stocks
	a. Cod in Divisions 2J3KL
VI. Ecosystem Considerations	
22.	Other matters pertaining to Ecosystem Considerations
VII. Conservation and Enforcement Measures	
23.	Update from the NAFO Commission <i>ad hoc</i> Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in the NAFO Regulatory Area Meeting, 2025
24.	Report of STACTIC from this Annual Meeting and Recommendations
25.	Other matters pertaining to Conservation and Enforcement Measures
VIII. Finance and Administration	
26.	Report of STACFAD from this Annual Meeting
27.	Adoption of the 2026 Budget and STACFAD Recommendations
IX. Closing Procedure	
28.	Other Business
29.	Election of Chair and vice-Chair
30.	Time and Place of Next Annual Meeting
31.	Press Release
32.	Adjournment

Annex 11. Opening Statement by the Ecology Action Centre (EAC)

The Ecology Action Centre (EAC) thanks the Chair and the NAFO Secretariat for their efforts in organizing the 46th Annual Meeting of NAFO in Halifax, Nova Scotia. We also appreciate the opportunity to participate as observers in these important deliberations and to share our perspectives.

We are concerned that catches from the piscivore guild in the Flemish Cap (3M) are projected to exceed the 2TCI boundary in 2026, signaling a significant risk of ecosystem overfishing. The 2TCI represents a scientifically robust reference point for ecosystem productivity and provides a valuable tool to strengthen management decisions. Considering this, we respectfully urge Parties to reduce relevant catches to levels that do not exceed the 2TCI boundary and reduce the risk of overfishing.

We also remain concerned about the poor status of thorny skate and the limited management action taken to support its recovery. Given their low resilience to fishing mortality and recent low stock levels, we support the Scientific Council's recommendation to not increase catches. The current NAFO thorny skate TAC—set at nearly twice the level recommended by the Scientific Council (SC) and recent catch levels—creates substantial risk for this inherently vulnerable species. We encourage Parties to:

- Set the 2026 thorny skate TAC at a level that is consistent with the latest SC advice and average current catches (3,460t) and;
- Prioritize the development of reference points to inform a rebuilding plan.

We commend NAFO's Scientific Council for its leadership in advancing ecosystem approaches to fisheries management. NAFO's role at the global forefront of ecosystem-based management is a notable achievement and one that will contribute to more effective long-term outcomes. At this meeting, we encourage Parties to:

- Work towards adopting a Commission document that provides a detailed description of and formally recognizes the NAFO Roadmap for an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF).

Finally, we note the heavy workload of the SC in contrast to the limited resources available. Insufficient capacity has already led to delays in critical work, such as postponing the ESS update to 2028, which may undermine NAFO's ability to maintain comprehensive and credible management in the Convention Area. We therefore encourage Parties to:

- Carefully consider all requests of the SC and provide the funding, resources, and expertise required to support their work; and
- Fill the many vacant positions, particularly the ecosystem designated expert role.

We thank you for your consideration and look forward to constructive discussions throughout this week's deliberation.

Annex 12. Opening Statement by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC)

Distinguished Chair, Delegates and Observers,

My name is William Stanbury, Acting Deputy Director and IT/Data Officer for the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission. On behalf of the NPAFC and the Executive Director, Yoshikiyo Kondo, I wish to express my gratitude for the invitation to attend this annual meeting as an observer.

The NPAFC recognizes the vital role of NAFO in ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fishery resources, as well as enforcement measures, in the NAFO Convention Area. In the NPAFC Convention Area, Parties continue coordinated enforcement efforts to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing on the high seas of the North Pacific Ocean. The NPAFC recently launched its own Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Vessel List, which is updated annually and made publicly available through the NPAFC website.

We look forward to following the important discussions this week and extend our best wishes for a productive and successful annual meeting.

Thank you.

Annex 13. Opening Statement by Oceans North Kalaallit Nunaat (ONKN)

Introduction

Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver a statement on behalf of Oceans North Kalaallit Nunaat, a Greenland-based environmental organization working to promote healthy oceans and sustainable use of marine living resources in collaboration with the Greenlandic society. We seek to achieve this through sustainable marine management and the integration of scientific and Indigenous knowledge in ocean governance.

We commend the NAFO Scientific Council for its continued commitment to providing rigorous stock assessments and scientific advice, particularly in the context of accelerating climate and ecosystem changes in the Northwest Atlantic. We would like to highlight the following key points of importance for Greenlandic fisheries and shared management responsibilities:

1. Greenland Halibut (2+3KLMNO)

We support the Council's development and application of the new model assessment tool for this stock and are pleased the stock is characterized as healthy based on the NAFO precautionary approach framework. Given the sensitivity of this stock and recent variability in recruitment, it is essential that harvest level decisions consider the long-term stability of the stock while maintaining transparent, collaborative governance across jurisdictions. Greenland's participation in the Joint Management Strategy must continue to be science-driven and closely monitored.

2. Shrimp Stocks (Div. 3M, 3LNO, 2G)

We take note of the continued closure of 3M and 3LNO shrimp fisheries, and the precautionary management advice for Division 2G. While the 2G stock remains within safe limits, recent declines in biomass highlight the need for strengthened long-term monitoring and ecosystem-linked assessments. These fisheries are ecologically and economically vital to Greenlandic communities and must be managed with resilience in mind.

3. Environmental and Ecosystem Change

The observed declines in primary production and ongoing warming of sea temperatures in the Labrador Sea and broader Northwest Atlantic represent clear warnings. Such changes will increasingly affect the productivity, distribution, and recruitment of key species. We urge NAFO to continue developing ecosystem-based approaches, incorporate climate change considerations, and integrate environmental indicators directly into stock assessments and management frameworks. We are also concerned that NAFO fisheries could for the first time exceed the Total Catch Index (TCI) for the 2025-2026 year. We remind NAFO parties to consider the implications of overfishing on the ecosystem and the groundbreaking progress NAFO has made on ecosystem considerations to date.

4. Bycatch and Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs)

We reaffirm the importance of safeguarding vulnerable benthic habitats through permanent and temporal area closures, gear modifications and other effective measures. Oceans North Kalaallit Nunaat emphasizes the need for Greenlandic fleets operating in NAFO-regulated areas to fully adhere to conservation measures. We strongly encourage both Greenlandic authorities and fleets to take further steps to strengthen bycatch data collection and expand observer coverage, ensuring that fisheries management is transparent, science-based, and sustainable.

Closing Statement

In closing, ONKN emphasizes that sustainable, science-based fisheries management is essential for both marine biodiversity and the livelihoods of Arctic communities. We stand ready to collaborate with NAFO parties in building robust monitoring systems and advancing transparent, inclusive decision-making processes that reflect both biological realities and community needs.

Thank you.



Jenseraq Poulsen
Executive Director
Oceans North Kalaallit Nunaat

Annex 14. Revised NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework [COM-SC RBMS-WP 25-01 now COM Doc. 25-16]

The Revised NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework is set out below. When implementing this Framework, the Commission should consider a gradual approach, for example if substantial TAC changes are indicated by the Revised Framework or if the required reference points have not yet been established. Further, the Commission and the Scientific Council, through WG-RBMS, should also consider potential refinements of the Framework that may become apparent over time, for example upon application across the NAFO stocks.

NAFO should apply this Precautionary Approach Framework in its fisheries management decision making. This framework defines three Zones (Healthy, Cautious, and Critical) to characterize the status of the stock. These zones are defined by two biomass reference points (B_{lim} and $B_{trigger}$). Within this framework, the limit fishing mortality is defined as $F_{lim}=F_{msy}$, and F_{target} as a fraction of F_{msy} (Fig. 1).

Reference Points could be set as a function of the type of stock being managed. As a first step in the initial implementation of the PAF, the reference points or their best proxies, in the context of Figure 1 are set as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} F_{target} &= 0.85 * F_{msy} \\ B_{lim} &= 0.30 * B_{msy} \\ B_{trigger} &= 0.75 * B_{msy} \end{aligned}$$

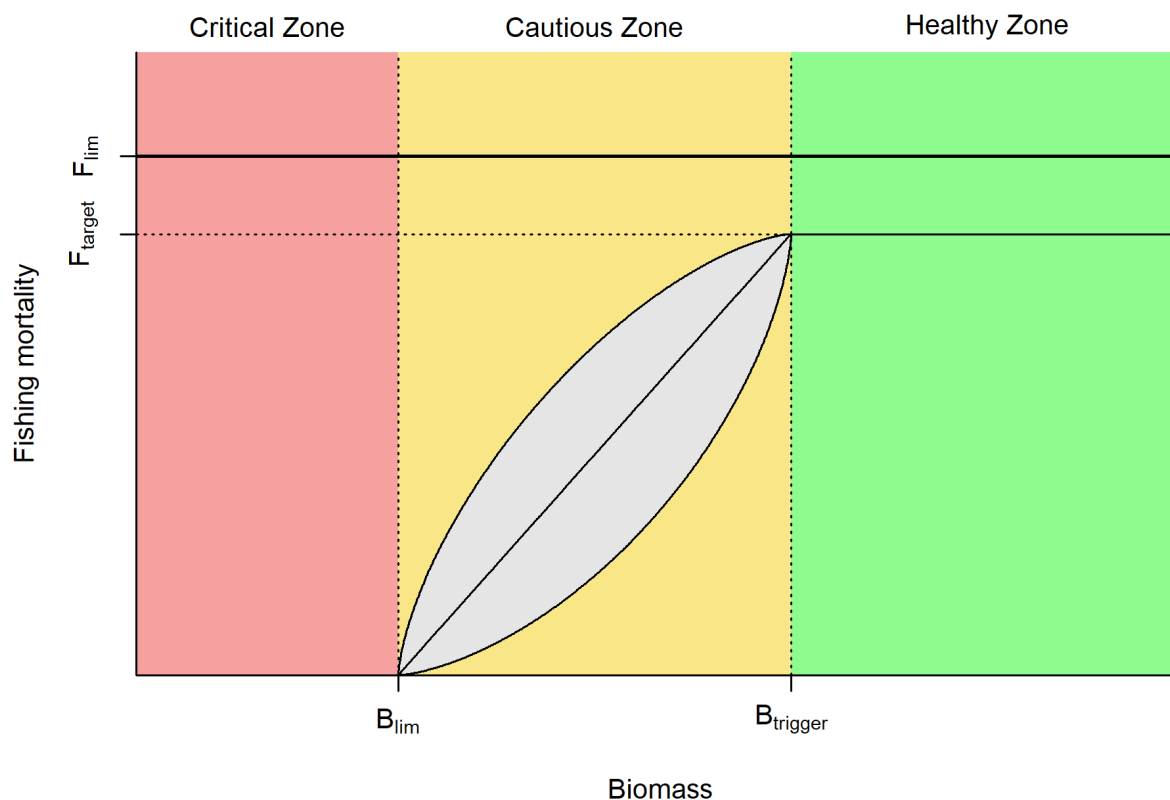


Figure 1. Schematic representation of the NAFO Precautionary Approach, including the leaf space to define fishing levels within the Cautious Zone.

Commission

Management decisions by the Commission within these zones will be informed as follows:

Healthy Zone:

In establishing an F for a stock in the Healthy Zone, the Commission should be informed by a range of options at, above, and below F_{target} , and associated risks, provided by the Scientific Council (Table 2) aimed at keeping the stock in the healthy zone.

Cautious Zone:

F should be generally managed within the boundaries of the leaf space defined by the structure of the PAF (Figure 1, Appendix 1).

Generally, the Commission should adopt an F that achieves the following policy objectives depending on stock trajectory and relative position in the cautious zone (Table 1).

Table 1.

Focus of management action within Cautious Zone		Stock status in the Cautious Zone	
		Low level	High level
Stock trajectory in the Cautious Zone	Decreasing Trend	Reduce risk of further stock decline	Mitigate stock decline
	Increasing Trend	Promote stock growth with high certainty	Promote stock growth

These focal elements for management actions are intended to articulate an increasing risk avoidance in management actions as the stock gets closer to B_{lim} . Overall, the intent is to avoid falling below B_{lim} .

Critical Zone:

F should be set as low as possible. In establishing F, the Commission should be informed by the range of options and associated risks provided by the Scientific Council (Table 2). The primary focus of management should be to rebuild the stock out of the Critical Zone.

Scientific Council

The role of Scientific Council is to inform Commission's decision of where F should be set by characterizing the consequences of alternative management actions. These consequences would be typically described in terms of the status of the stock and F levels as:

- Probability of $B > B_{trigger}$ within e.g. 1,2,3 years (depending on the stock)
- Probability of $B < B_{lim}$ within e.g. 1,2,3 years (depending on the stock)
- Probability of $B_{future} > B_{current}$ ($B_{future} = 1,2,3$ years depending on stock) including indication of magnitude of this growth.
- Probability of $F > F_{lim}$
- Probability of $F > F_{target}$

To inform the Commission's decision, SC would also provide:

- Current stock status and confidence intervals
- Recent trajectory of the stock

Whenever deemed necessary by the Scientific Council, interpretations of the consequences of fishing options and/or any additional considerations and advice that may be relevant for the management decision should also be provided. SC should not be prescriptive among the options in its advice.

SC should provide the Commission with a risk-based table that would indicate the risks/probabilities associated with the items indicated above, based on available information. The F levels to consider would depend on the Zone where the stock status falls, and generally would follow the template table indicated below.

Table 2. The Revised NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework risk table.

y current year (year in which the assessment is made, data until year y-1)

	Yield			P(F>F _{lim})			P(B<B _{lim})				P(F>F _{target})			P(B<B _{trigger})				P(By+3 > By)	(By+3-By)/By
F in y+1 and following years	Yield y (50%)	Yield y+1 (50%)	Yield y+2 (50%)	y	y+1	y+2	y	y+1	y+2	y+3	y	y+1	y+2	y	y+1	y+2	y+3		
Critical Zone																			
F=0	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F=X% current*	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F current	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Cautious Zone																			
F lower edge leaf	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F midrib leaf	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F upper edge leaf	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Healthy Zone																			
F=0.75F _{msy}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F _{target} =0.85F _{msy}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F _{lim} =F _{msy}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

*X% may vary stock by stock. In the future, this framework may be modified to include F bycatch.
The number of years in the risk projections table will be the same as the years of advice.

Appendix 1. Implementation of the leaf HCR

The Leaf HCR represents a space within the Cautious Zone of the NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework (PAF) that bounds the F levels to be considered by Scientific Council in its advice to the Commission.

The Leaf HCR space is defined by a generalized formulation for the edges of the leaf, where the upper or lower edges of the leaf HCR can be obtained by defining $F_t = f(B_t)$ as:

$$F_t = \frac{a^*(B_t - B_{lim})}{(B_x^* - B_{lim}) + (B_t - B_{lim})} \quad \text{Eq. 1}$$

where B_x^* is defined for the upper (B_x^{up}) and lower leaf (B_x^{low}) functions as:

$$B_x^* = B_{lim} + \left[\frac{(B_{50}^* - B_{lim})(B_{trigger} - B_{lim})}{(B_{trigger} - B_{lim}) - 2(B_{50}^* - B_{lim})} \right] \quad \text{Eq. 2}$$

where B_{50}^* , defined for the upper (B_{50}^{upper}) and lower (B_{50}^{lower}) leaf edge functions, controls the width of the leaf. In order to maintain a symmetric leaf shape B_{50}^* needs to be set in a “complementary” way in the upper and lower edge functions.

To facilitate the setup of the leaf width, B_{50}^* has been implemented as determined by X_{50}^* , i.e. $B_{50}^* = X_{50}^*(B_{trigger} - B_{lim}) + B_{lim}$, where X_{50}^* represents the fraction within the $B_{lim} - B_{trigger}$ range where the B_{50}^* is located. For the upper leaf edge function, X_{50}^{upper} must fall between 0 and 0.5, while for the lower leaf edge function X_{50}^{lower} must fall between 0.5 and 1. As mentioned above, to maintain the symmetry of the NAFO Leaf HCR the two X_{50}^* must be “complementary” in the sense that $X_{50}^{lower} = 1 - X_{50}^{upper}$.

Using B_x^* from Eq. 2, a^* can then be calculated for both the upper (a^{up}) and lower (a^{low}) leaf edge functions as:

$$a^* = \frac{F_{target} [(B_x^* - B_{lim}) + (B_{trigger} - B_{lim})]}{(B_{trigger} - B_{lim})}. \quad \text{Eq. 3}$$

The Revised NAFO PAF has adopted a middle width leaf for its initial implementation, corresponding to:

$$X_{50}^{lower} = 0.75$$

$$X_{50}^{upper} = 0.25$$

**Annex 15. The Commission's Request for Scientific Advice on Management in 2027 and Beyond of
Certain Stocks in Subareas 2, 3 and 4 and Other Matters**
[COM WP 25-07 (Rev. 6) now COM Doc. 25-13]

Following a request from the Scientific Council, the Commission agreed that items 1 and 2 should be the priority for the June 2026 Scientific Council meeting subject to resources.

1. The Commission requests that the Scientific Council provide advice for the management of the fish stocks below according to the assessment frequency presented below. In line with the Revised NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework (COM Doc. 25-16) the Commission should be informed by the range of options and associated risks provided by the Scientific Council. The Commission will decide upon the acceptable risk level in the context of the entirety of the Scientific Council advice for each stock guided and as foreseen by the NAFO Precautionary Approach. The Commission acknowledges that full assessment cannot be run when a DE is not nominated for a stock.

Yearly basis	Two-year basis	Three-year basis	Interim Monitoring Only
Cod in Division 3M	Redfish in Division 3M Thorny skate in Divisions 3LNO Witch flounder in Divisions 3NO Redfish in Divisions 3LN Yellowtail flounder in Divisions 3LNO Northern shrimp in Division 3M White hake in Divisions 3NO American plaice in Divisions 3LNO	American plaice in Division 3M Northern shortfin squid in Subareas 3+4 Redfish in Division 3O Cod in Divisions 3NO	Subarea 6 Alfonsino Subareas 2-3 Roughhead Grenadier Capelin in Divisions 3NO

Advice should be provided using the guidance provided in **Annex A**, or using the predetermined Management Procedure in the cases where they exist (currently Greenland halibut 2+3KLMNO). For Division 3M shrimp supplementary advice in terms of fishing-days could also be considered as appropriate.

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

- In 2026, advice should be provided for 2027 for: Cod in Division 3M
- In 2026, advice should be provided for 2027 and 2028 for: Redfish in Division 3M, Thorny skate in Divisions 3LNO, Witch flounder in Divisions 3NO, Redfish in Divisions 3LN, Northern shrimp in Division 3M, American plaice in 3LNO.
 - With respect to Northern shrimp in Division 3M, Scientific Council is requested to provide its advice to the Commission prior to the 2026 Annual Meeting based on the survey data up to and including 2026.
- In 2026, advice should be provided for 2027, 2028 and 2029 for: American plaice in Division 3M

The Commission also requests the Scientific Council to continue to monitor the status of all other 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 Commission requests the Scientific Council to monitor the status of Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 + Divisions 3KLMNO annually to compute the TAC using the agreed Management Procedure and

determine whether exceptional circumstances are occurring. If exceptional circumstances are occurring, the exceptional circumstances protocol will provide guidance on what steps should be taken.

3. The Commission requests that Scientific Council, in addition to the 2026 3LN redfish stock assessment, continue to advance work on the 3LN redfish MSE processes during 2025-2026.
4. As practicable and taking into account Scientific Council capacity constraints, develop stock summary sheets for NAFO managed stocks that are evaluated using MSE processes.
5. In relation to the Ecosystem Roadmap as a whole, the Commission requests the Scientific Council, with input from the WG-EAFFM, to continue work on the development of a reference document detailing the ecosystem roadmap, for completion by the 2026 Annual Meeting.
6. In relation to the habitat impact assessment component of the Roadmap (VME and SAI analyses), the Commission requests that Scientific Council to:
 - a. Continue to progress work on the centralized data repository using ArcGIS online to host the data and data-products for scientific advice, in conjunction with the NAFO Secretariat.
 - b. Work towards the reassessment of VMEs and impact of bottom fisheries on VMEs for 2027; including potential management options in the reassessment of bottom fisheries.
 - c. Develop materials on the potential of submitting NAFO coral bottom fishing closed areas as OECMs for discussion at the 2026 WG-EAFFM meeting.
7. The Commission requests the Scientific Council to continue to develop reference points to facilitate the implementation of the Revised NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework, for stocks that currently do not have them.
8. In relation to its workload, the Commission requests the Scientific Council to continue to update the 3-5 year work plan, which reflects requests arising from the 2025 Annual Meeting, other multi-year stock assessments and other scientific inquiries already planned for the near future and, as much as possible, monitor and estimate future workload.
9. The Commission requests the Scientific Council to explore the development of a sampling plan to conduct selectivity trials in the cod fishery in 3M. The objective is to collect data to test the effectiveness and impact of using sorting grids to improve the selectivity of cod and other species.
10. The Commission requests the Scientific Council, as workload allows, in consultation with the NAFO Secretariat, to draft a scoping document for a potential in-person meeting to explore approaches for further integrating information related to climate change throughout Scientific Council operations. This scoping document should identify the scientific expertise needed both within and outside Scientific Council and potential financial and workload implications.
11. Considering a new science and management framework for Northern shrimp in Divisions 2J3KLNO (SSAR) developed and peer-reviewed by Canada, which includes NAFO divisions 3LNO, the Commission tasks the Scientific Council to assess and consider the operational model underlining the MSE developed for the SSAR stock of shrimp by Canada. This assessment will be presented to the Commission at the 2026 Annual Meeting to inform management decisions.
12. The Commission requests the Scientific Council to consider a plan for carrying out benchmark assessments and include this in the 3-5 year work plan.

ANNEX A: Guidance for providing advice on Stocks Assessed

The Commission requests 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 Commission to consider the balance between risks and yield levels, in determining its management of these stocks:

Stochastic short-term projections (3 years) should be performed with the F levels that are included in the risk table from the Revised PA Framework (Table 1 below), based on the point estimate of biomass. The first year of the projection should assume a catch equal to the agreed TAC for that year. In instances where Scientific Council expects catches to be significantly different from the agreed TAC, an additional projection could be provided based on the best available catch estimation.

In relation to Tier 1 of the Roadmap Scientific Council should provide annually catch information in relation to 2TCI, including recent cumulative catch levels and a scoping of expected cumulative catch levels. Ecosystem summary sheets should be monitored annually and updated on a five-year cycle.

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

- Catch and TAC of recent years
- Catch to relative biomass
- Relative Biomass
- Relative Fishing mortality
- Stock trajectory against precautionary approach reference points

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 precautionary approach reference points

For stocks 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 the longest time-period possible:

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

In all cases any additional information the Scientific Council deems appropriate should be provided.

Report of the Commission,
15–19 September 2025

Table 1. The Revised NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework risk table.

y current year (year in which the assessment is made, data until year y-1)

	Yield			P(F>F _{lim})			P(B<B _{lim})				P(F>F _{target})			P(B<B _{trigger})				P(By+3 > By)	(By+3-By)/By
F in y+1 and following years	Yield y (50%)	Yield y+1 (50%)	Yield y+2 (50%)	y	y+1	y+2	y	y+1	y+2	y+3	y	y+1	y+2	y	y+1	y+2	y+3		
Critical Zone																			
F=0	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F=X% current*	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F current	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Cautious Zone																			
F lower edge leaf	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F midrib leaf	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F upper edge leaf	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Healthy Zone																			
F=0.75F _{msy}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F _{target} =0.85F _{msy}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F _{lim} =F _{msy}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

*X% may vary stock by stock. In the future, this framework may be modified to include F bycatch.
The number of years in the risk projections table will be the same as the years of advice.

Annex 16. Process – The Commission's Request for Scientific Advice[COM WP 25-13 now COM Doc. 25-15]

NAFO adopted FC Doc. 12/26 in 2012, which established the process for developing the Commission's annual "Request for Scientific Advice on Management in *year* and Beyond of Certain Stocks In Subareas 2, 3 And 4 and other Matters." The process it set out was not fully implemented for a number of years, during which the request document was often developed and finalized late in the Commission meeting, which limited the opportunity for dialog with the Scientific Council before its adoption.

In 2023, in light of the growing concerns about the SC's workload and recognition of the need to more clearly prioritize NAFO's work in line with the SC's capacity, the Commission agreed to begin the process to develop this document in advance, and ensure that it could be shared with the SC for its feedback earlier in the Commission meeting. For the past two Commission meetings, the initial document was prepared by the NAFO SC Coordinator and made available in advance of the annual meeting. The Steering Committee established in FC Doc. 12/26 – intended to include the SC Coordinator and members of Contracting Party delegations was then tasked with incorporating proposals and edits from CPs and preparing a draft that would be reviewed by the Commission, sent to the SC for its input and suggestions, and finalized by the Commission before the end of the annual meeting.

While this process has allowed additional transparency and a better opportunity for dialogue between the Commission and SC on the plans for the coming year, it could benefit from additional clarity regarding the timing and sequence of these steps.

Proposed process for the 2026 Annual Meeting:

- The Secretariat will circulate an initial draft request, informed by the outcomes of the June 2026 SC meeting, at the beginning of September.
- CPs will have two weeks to submit proposed additions and edits in writing.
- The Secretariat will post a revised draft, incorporating CP's suggestions, and will be posted on the annual meeting SharePoint at least one week before the start of the annual meeting.
- This draft can be further amended in the first few days of the meeting, facilitated by the Steering Committee; any input must be received by the lunch break on Wednesday.
- The Commission will review the draft incorporating all input received from CPs by the established deadline and the resulting draft will be transmitted to the SC for its review and feedback by the end of the day Wednesday.
- The SC feedback will be presented to the Commission by the end of the day Thursday.
- The Commission will consider the SC's feedback, make any needed changes including prioritization of the various requests, and adopt the final request before the end of the annual meeting.

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Annex 17. NAFO Quota Table 2026 – NAFO CEM Annex I.A and I.B including a summary of the Scientific Council advice on NAFO fish stocks and the management measures decided by the Commission
[COM WP 25-02 (Rev. 5) now COM Doc. 25-09]

This document summarizes the quota and effort allocation decisions made by the Commission for 2026. The document is broken down into two parts:

- Part 1:** Annex I.A and I.B of the NAFO CEM for 2026 including the total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tons) for 2026 of particular stocks in Subareas 1-4 and 6 of the NAFO Convention Area and Effort Allocation for Shrimp Fishery in the NAFO Regulatory Area Div. 3M, 2026.
- Part 2:** A table summarizing the Scientific Council advice on NAFO fish stocks and the management measures decided by the Commission.

Part 1.

(2026)
ANNEX I – FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
Annex I.A – Annual Quota Table

CATCH LIMITATIONS 2026 – Article 5. Total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tons in live weight) for 2026 of particular stocks in Subareas 1–4 and 6 of the NAFO Convention Area.

Species	Cod					Redfish					American plaice		Yellowtail
Stock Specification	COD 3L ¹¹		COD 3M		COD 3NO	RED 3LN		RED 3M	RED 3O	REB 1F_2_3K (i.e. Sub-Area 2 and Divs. 1F+3K)	PLA 3LNO	PLA 3M	YEL 3LNO
% of TAC		% of 3L Cod TAC		% of 3M Cod TAC			% of 3LN Redfish TAC						
Contracting Party													
Canada	38 000 ¹²	95.00	122.9	0.80	0	2 556	42.60	500	2 400	0 ¹	0	0	23 682.8
Cuba	40.40 ¹³	0.101	568.3	3.70	-	588	9.80	1 750	-	0 ¹	-	-	-
Denmark (Faroe Islands & Greenland)	40.40 ¹³	0.101	3433	22.35	-	-		69 ⁹	-	0	-	-	-
European Union	1 552 ¹³	3.88	7328.3 ⁵	47.71	0 ⁴	1 093.8 ⁴	18.23	7 813 ⁴	2 800	0 ⁷	0	0 ⁴	-
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)	40.40 ¹³	0.101	-		-	-		69 ⁹	-	0 ¹	-	-	485.8
Iceland	40.40 ¹³	0.101	-		-	-		-	-	0	-	-	-
Japan	40.40 ¹³	0.101	-		-	-		400	60	0 ¹	-	-	-
Korea	40.40 ¹³	0.101	-		-	-		69 ⁹	40	0 ¹	-	-	-
Norway	40.40 ¹³	0.101	1420.8	9.25	-	-		-	-		-	-	-
Russian Federation	40.40 ¹³	0.101	993.8	6.47	0	1 726.2	28.77	9 137	2 600	0	-	0	-
Ukraine	40.40 ¹³	0.101	-		-	-		-	60	0 ¹	-	-	-
United Kingdom	40.40 ¹³	0.101	1431.6	9.32	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-
United States of America	40.40 ¹³	0.101	-		-	-		69 ⁹	-	0 ¹	-	-	-
Others		0	61.3	0.40	0	36	0.60	124	40	-	0	0	121.4
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	40 000	100.00	15 360	100.0 ¹⁵	*	6 000	100.0 ¹⁶	15 636	8 000	0 ^{3,8}	*	*	24 290

Annex I.A (2026)

Species	Witch			White hake	Capelin	Skates	Greenland halibut	Squid (<i>Illex</i>)	Shrimp		Alfonsino
Stock Specification	WIT 3L	WIT 3NO		HKW 3NO	CAP 3NO	SKA 3LNO	GHL 3LMNO	SQI 3_4 (i.e. Sub-areas 3+4)	PRA 3L	PRA 3NO	ALF 6 (i.e. Sub-area 6)
% of TAC			% of 3NO Witch TAC								
Contracting Party											
Canada		876.6	60.00	294	0	1 167	1637	N.S. ²	0		
Cuba		-		-	0	-	-	510	0		
Denmark (Faroe Islands & Greenland)		-		-	-	-	187.6	-	0		
European Union		193.9 ⁴	13.27	588	0 ⁵	4 408	6 398.9 ⁶	<u>N.S.²</u> 611 ⁵	0 ⁶		
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-		-	-	-	178.8	453	0		
Iceland		-		-	-	-	-	-	0		
Japan		-		-	0	-	1 118.8	510	0		
Korea		-		-	-	-	-	453	0		
Norway		-		-	0	-	-	-	0		
Russian Federation		375.9	25.73	59	0	1 167	1 392.9	749	0		
Ukraine		-		-	-	-	-	-	0		
United Kingdom		-		-	-	-	-	-	-		
United States of America		-		-	-	-	-	453	0		
Others		14.6	1.00	59	-	258		794	0		
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	*	1 461	100.00 ¹⁷	1 000	*	7 000 ¹⁰	10 914	34 000	0 ¹⁴	* ¹⁴	*

Annex I.A (2026)

Symbol	Definition
-	Contracting Party does not have a quota allocation
*	Ban on fishing in force
0	Contracting Party has quota, but the TAC is zero
Blank	No quota allocation defined

- ¹ Quota to be shared by vessels from Canada, Cuba, France (St. Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, Korea, Ukraine and USA.
- ² The allocations 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 allocations to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in accordance with the sharing arrangement of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission in 2003 (FC WP 03-7), as applied by NAFO since 2005 following their accession to the European Union.
- ⁵ Including allocations to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in accordance with the sharing arrangement of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission in 2003 (FC WP 03-7), and to Poland, as applied by NAFO since 2005 following their accession to the European Union.
- ⁶ Including allocations to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, as applied by NAFO since 2005 following their accession to the EU.
- ⁷ Allocation of 17.85% to Lithuania and 2.15% to Latvia following their accession to the European Union.
- ⁸ 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 referred to in footnote 1.
- ⁹ 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.
- ¹⁰ Should catches exceed 4 500 tonnes, additional measures would be adopted to further restrain catches in 2026.
- ¹¹ The TAC for this stock is established as per Article 7 with a quota year of July 1 to June 30
- ¹² This is the limit established by Canada for Canadian fishers.
- ¹³ This distribution key shall not serve as a precedent in future years for establishing catch limits or criteria for quota allocations. The Commission shall review these allocations upon request by any of the Contracting Parties.
- ¹⁴ The TAC for 2026 applies only in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

Historical statements

- ¹⁵ The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1998 Quota Table. In 1999, a moratorium on cod in Division 3M was declared.
- ¹⁶ The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1997 Quota Table. In 1998, a moratorium on redfish in Division 3LN was declared.
- ¹⁷ 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, 2026

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

Part 2. A summary of the Scientific Council advice on NAFO fish stocks and the management measures decided by the Commission.

Fish Stock(s)	Scientific Advice	Year of decision	Management measures
Cod in Division 3M	Recommendation for 2026: Scientific Council projected the fishing mortality scenarios defined for stocks in the Healthy Zone of the PA Framework. None of those scenarios are projected to maintain the stock above $B_{trigger}$ with a probability higher than 50%. To maintain the stock in the Healthy Zone with a probability higher than 50%, SC advises that catch not exceed $F_{50\%HZ}$, corresponding the catches of 15 360 t in 2026. This catch level has a risk of 1% of exceeding F_{lim}. (<u>SCS Doc. 25/13</u>).	2025	It was agreed to set the TAC to 15 360 t in 2026. It was also agreed to update the text of Article 5.5(j) of the NAFO CEM: (j) close its directed fishery for cod in Division 3M between 00:01 UTC 1 January 20252026 and 23:59 UTC 31 March 20252026. During this period, all Contracting Parties shall ensure that its vessels limit the catches retained on board and in any one haul of this stock in line with Article 6.3(a) and observe the move-on provisions in Article 6.6(b);
Cod in Division 3NO	Recommendation for cod in Divisions 3NO for 2022 and beyond: No directed fishing from 2022 to allow for stock rebuilding. Bycatch of cod in fisheries targeting other species should be kept at the lowest possible level. Projections of the stock were not performed but given the poor strength of all year-classes subsequent to 2006, the stock will not reach Blim in the next three years. There will be no full assessment until interim monitoring shows that conditions have changed. (<u>SCS Doc. 25/13</u>)	2025	It was agreed to maintain the moratorium applicable to 2026.

Fish Stock(s)	Scientific Advice	Year of decision	Management measures
Redfish in Divisions 3LN	Recommendation for redfish in Divisions 3LN for 2025-2026: The stock has decreased since 2015 and there is a 42% risk of the stock being below B_{lim} in 2023. Recruitment has been at or below the long-term average since the mid-2010s. To be consistent with the NAFO Precautionary Approach, Scientific Council advises that no directed fishery should occur in 2025 and 2026. Bycatch should be kept at the lowest possible level. (<u>SCS Doc. 24/16 Rev.</u>; <u>SCS Doc. 25/13</u>)	2025	It was agreed to rollover the TAC of 6 000 t applicable to 2026.
Redfish in Division 3M	Recommendation for 2025 and 2026 Given the life history of this stock, considering that the current F levels are below $F_{0.1}$, and to try to maintain the stock around the long-term average, Scientific Council advises that catches do not exceed the F corresponding to the current TAC (17 503 t in 2025 and 15 636 t in 2026). (<u>SCS Doc. 24/16 Rev.</u>)	2024	It was agreed to set the TAC to 17 503 t in 2025 and 15 636 t in 2026 (<u>COM Doc. 24-25</u>).
Redfish in Division 3O	Recommendation for 2026-2028: The stock has decreased since 2012 and there is a 62% risk of the stock being below B_{lim} in 2024. To be consistent with the NAFO Precautionary Approach, Scientific Council advises that no directed fishery should occur in 2026, 2027, and 2028. Bycatch should be kept at the lowest possible level. (<u>SCS Doc. 25/13</u>).	2025	It was agreed to set the TAC to 8 000 t for 2026.
Pelagic <i>Sebastes mentella</i> (oceanic redfish) in Subarea 2 + Divisions 1F and 3K	Zero catch.	2025	It was agreed to set the TAC to 0 t for 2026.

Fish Stock(s)	Scientific Advice	Year of decision	Management measures
American plaice in Divisions 3LNO	Recommendation for 2025 and beyond Advice for American plaice in Divisions 3LNO is provided based on an Interim Monitoring Report which indicates no major changes in this stock. Scientific Council recommends that, in accordance with the rebuilding plan, there should be no directed fishing on American plaice in Divisions 3LNO until an assessment indicates a very low probability of being below B_{lim}. Bycatches of American plaice should be kept to the lowest possible level and restricted to unavoidable bycatch in fisheries directing for other species. There will be no full assessment until interim monitoring shows that conditions have changed. (SCS Doc. 24/16 Rev.)	2024	It was agreed to maintain the moratorium applicable to 2025 and 2026 (COM Doc. 24-25).
American Plaice in Division 3M	Recommendation for American plaice in Division 3M for 2024-2026: The stock has recovered to the levels of the mid 1990s, however, recruitment has been poor since 2018. Scientific Council considers that there is not sufficient supporting evidence that the stock would be able to sustain a fishery at this time and recommends that there be no directed fishing in 2024, 2025 and 2026. Bycatch should be kept at the lowest possible level. (SCS Doc. 23/18; SCS Doc. 24/16 Rev.)	2023	The Commission agreed to maintain the moratorium applicable to 2024, 2025, and 2026 (COM Doc. 23-28).
Yellowtail flounder in Divisions 3LNO	Recommendation for 2026-2027: Scientific Council projected the fishing mortality scenarios defined for stocks in the Healthy Zone of the PA Framework. All scenarios are projected to maintain the stock above $B_{trigger}$ with a probability of 96% or higher. F_{target} corresponds to catches of 24 290 t and 22 000 t in 2026 and 2027, respectively. These catch levels have risks of no more than 25% of exceeding F_{lim}. (SCS Doc. 25/13).	2025	It was agreed to set the TAC to 24 290 t in 2026 and 22 000 t in 2027. It was also agreed to update the date in Articles 6.3(g), 6.8(bis), 6.8(ter) and 6.12 to 2026.

Fish Stock(s)	Scientific Advice	Year of decision	Management measures
Witch flounder in Divisions 3NO	Recommendation for 2025 and 2026 In the projection period the probability of being below B_{lim} is very low ($\leq 10\%$), however the probability of exceeding F_{lim} is projected to be above 30% for F greater than 75% F_{msy}. Scientific Council therefore recommends that F should be no higher than 75% F_{msy}. (<u>SCS Doc. 24/16 Rev.</u>)	2024	It was agreed to set the TAC to 1 395 t in 2025 and 1 461 t in 2026 (<u>COM Doc. 24-25</u>).
White hake in Divisions 3NO	Recommendation for 2026-2027: The lack of Designated Expert for this stock prevented the Scientific Council from being able to carry out a full assessment. Advice for white hake in Div. 3NO is provided based on an Interim Monitoring Report which indicates that there is no significant change in the status of this stock. However, there is increased uncertainty in current stock trends given recent survey challenges and a lack of complete conversion factors for the Canadian surveys. Scientific Council reiterates the advice of last year that the catches of white hake in 3NO should not increase above recent catches (the average of most recent five years is around 500 tonnes). (<u>SCS Doc. 25/13</u>)	2025	It was agreed to rollover the TAC of 1000 t for 2026.
Capelin in Divisions 3NO	Recommendation for capelin in Divisions 3NO for 2022 and beyond: No directed fishery. There will be no full assessment until interim monitoring shows that conditions have changed. (<u>SCS Doc. 25/13</u>)	2025	It was agreed to maintain the moratorium applicable to 2026. It was also agreed to update the text of article 7.10 of the NAFO CEM: 10. Ecosystem Considerations: Considering the importance of capelin as a food source, consistent with the ecosystem approach, the

Fish Stock(s)	Scientific Advice	Year of decision	Management measures
			moratorium on 3NO capelin will continue until at least 31 December 2025 2026.
Skates in Divisions 3LNO	Recommendation for thorny skate in Divisions 3LNO and Subdivision 3Ps for 2025 and 2026: No new survey information is available to determine stock status, however, given the low level of thorny skate catch in recent years (average 3 460 t, 2019 - 2023), it is unlikely that there have been major changes to the state of the stock. Given the low resilience to fishing mortality and higher historic stock levels, Scientific Council advises no increase in catches. (<u>SCS Doc. 25/13</u>)	2025	It was agreed to rollover the TAC of 7 000 t applicable to 2026.
Greenland halibut in Sub-area 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO	Exceptional Circumstances are occurring due to recent gaps in the EU-Spain 3L series. However, sensitivity analyses indicate that the application of the Management Procedure (MP) adopted in 2024 will still be appropriate. The TAC for 2026 derived from the MP is 14 729 t. (<u>SCS Doc. 25/13</u>)	2025	It was agreed to set the TAC at 14 729 t for 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut, resulting in a TAC of 10 914 t for 3LMNO.
Northern shortfin squid in Subareas 3+4	The lack of Designated Expert for this stock prevented the Scientific Council from being able to carry out a full assessment. Advice for Northern shortfin squid in SAs 3+4 is provided based on an Interim Monitoring Report which indicates that there is no significant change in the status of this stock, and remains in the low productivity state. Scientific Council reiterates the advice of 2022 of catches between 19 000 and 34 000 tons per year for Northern shortfin squid in SAs 3+4.	2025	It was agreed to rollover the TAC of 34 000 t applicable to 2026.
Northern Shrimp in Divisions 3LNO	A new understanding of Northern shrimp stock structure in the Northwest Atlantic indicates that the shrimp in 3LNO are part of a broader stock in a new South Stock Assessment Region, which also includes NAFO Divisions 2J3K.	2025	It was agreed to maintain the moratorium applicable to 2026 in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

Fish Stock(s)	Scientific Advice	Year of decision	Management measures
	The assessment method used for this stock in past years can no longer be applied as it is not consistent with the best available scientific information. It is also not possible at this stage to provide reference points consistent with the new NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework. For these reasons, no full assessment was carried out this year and no scientific advice can currently be provided. Guidance from the Commission to SC is needed to determine the next steps for this stock, based on the management strategy the Commission intends to follow given the new available information (NAFO/25-220).		
Splendid alfonsino in Subarea 6	The substantial decline in CPUE and catches on the Kükenthal peak in the past year indicates that the stock may be depleted. Scientific Council advises to close the fishery until biomass increases to exploitable levels.	2019	Ban on fishing (<u>COM Doc. 19-34 Rev.</u>).
Shrimp in Division 3M	The stock remains below B_{lim}. To be consistent with the NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework, Scientific Council advises that no directed fishery should occur in 2025 and 2026. (<u>SCS Doc. 24/18</u>)	2024	It was agreed to maintain the moratorium applicable to 2025 and 2026 (<u>COM Doc. 24-25</u>).

Annex 18. Management of Northern Shrimp in Divisions 3LNO in the Regulatory Area[COM WP 25-08 (Rev. 2) now COM Doc. 25-14]

Canada is transitioning to a new science and management framework for Northern shrimp. The development of this framework started with a review of science of Northern shrimp as a forage species and its role in ecological relationships in a changing environment. It included the development of a new science model to assess the Precautionary Approach status of the stock. As a result, the way Northern shrimp stocks are assessed has changed to reflect two biological regions in this stock complex, North and South. SC has endorsed this stock delineation, and recognizes that the previous assessment of 3LNO shrimp as a distinct stock can no longer occur.

A new Canadian stock assessment model has been peer-reviewed and adopted for the new stock area. Accordingly, this has changed the approach Canada uses to evaluate the health and status of these stocks. NAFO Divisions 3L, 3N and 3O as part of the *South Stock Assessment Region (SSAR)*, which has been determined to be in the Healthy Zone of the Canadian Precautionary Approach Framework.

This model is based on fall scientific survey data which necessitates that the peer review process be conducted in the Winter months. As a result, Canada's management year for Northern Shrimp starts on April 1 of each year.

In Canada, 2025-26 is a transition year as we finalize implementation approaches within the management area framework to account for the new format of science advice. In addition, Canada is actively undertaking a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process, expected to be completed by 2026, which NAFO recognizes as a robust tool for fisheries management.

The new model and associated survey data demonstrate that less than 2% of the SSAR is found outside of Canada's Exclusive Economic Zone, within the NRA. Because the vast majority of the biomass is found in Canada's (EEZ), Canada sees it as appropriate that based on the best available and peer-reviewed science, Canada's management approach is applied to the entirety of the stock area, including the NRA portion. Canada's current domestic harvest decision rule is a 20 per cent exploitation rate when in the Healthy Zone, consistent with the Precautionary Approach Framework.

The NAFO Convention, Article VI, paragraph 11 states that (a) "in exercising its functions pursuant to paragraph 8, the Commission shall seek to ensure consistency between:

- (i) any measure that applies to a stock or group of stocks found both within the Regulatory Area and within an area under national jurisdiction of a coastal State, or any measure that would have an effect through species interrelationships on a stock or group of stocks found in whole or in part within an area under national jurisdiction of a coastal State; and
- (ii) any actions taken by a coastal State for the management and conservation of that stock or group of stocks with respect to fishing activities conducted within the area under its national jurisdiction."

The NAFO Convention also enables Canada to conduct a fishery for Shrimp in 3LNO within waters under its national jurisdiction.

The Commission decided there will be no directed fishing in the NRA for Northern shrimp in 2026.

Moving forward, Canada expects to establish a TAC for 2026-27 as the first year of a multi-year management strategy developed through its MSE process. Canada would limit its fishing activity to its established share of this TAC of 83.3% under NAFO.

The assessment model and MSE will be shared with NAFO Scientific Council. Canada looks forward to NAFO adopting a consistent approach.

Annex 19. NAFO electronic observation program
[STACTIC OPR WP 25-04 (Rev. 6) now COM Doc. 25-12]

This paper outlines a possible revision of Articles 1, 30 and 38 of the NAFO CEM in order to incorporate an electronic observation program. The paper is based on the recommendations established in STACTIC Working Paper 22-48 (Rev. 2) and STACTIC WP 23-01 Rev 1.

- In Article 1, the following definition is added:

“Electronic Monitoring System (EMS)” means a system on board a fishing vessel that acquires, stores and, as appropriate, transmits data from sensors and video camera footage that can be reviewed and analysed by a human reviewer, data analysis software, or edge based automation;

- Article 30 is amended as follows:

**CHAPTER V
OBSERVER SCHEME**

Article 30 – Observer Program

General provisions

1. The purpose of this observer program is to collect reliable, independent information and data on activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area. The information and data collected through the observer program shall be made available to any NAFO body requesting it.
2. This program shall apply to all Contracting Parties’ fishing vessels operating in the Regulatory Area.
- 2 **bis. All observers’ data, electronic reports and the data collected under the electronic observation program under this Chapter and supporting documentation shall be treated as confidential.**

Duties of the flag State Contracting Party

3. Each flag State Contracting Party shall:
 - (a) adopt appropriate measures and set up all administrative, legal, and technical structures necessary to:
 - (i) effectively and fully implement the NAFO observer program;
 - (ii) utilize the data originating from the observer program for control, inspection, enforcement, and as appropriate scientific purposes;
 - (iii) take appropriate action with respect to its vessels to ensure safe working conditions, and the protection, security, and welfare of observers in the performance of their duties, consistent with international standards and guidelines; and
 - (iv) establish corrective measures regarding observers, observer providers, vessel masters and owners, where necessary, in order to ensure that the program meets the requirements specified in this Article.
 - (b) take all necessary steps to ensure that an observer is removed from a fishing vessel flying its flag if, during deployment, it is determined that a serious risk to the observer exists, unless and until the risk is addressed;

(c) ensure that its observers:

- (i) have no financial or beneficial interest in, and are paid in a manner that demonstrates financial independence from the fishing vessel being monitored;
- (i) execute their duties and functions in an unbiased manner regardless of nationality and of which flag the vessel is flying;
- (ii) are free from undue influence or benefit linked to the fishing activity of the vessel;
- (iii) are independent and impartial;
- (iv) treat all data and information related to the fishing operations collected during their deployment, including images and videos taken, in a confidential manner;
- (v) have the training, knowledge, skills and abilities to perform all of the duties, functions and requirements as specified in this Article;
- (vi) can always establish direct and confidential communication with the flag State FMC when deployed by:
 - (1) ensuring the observer is provided with an independent satellite two-way communication device at sea, and/or
 - (2) ensuring the observer is provided with a communication device and ensuring that the observer is provided by the vessel master with unhindered independent data and voice internet access on board at all times; and
 - (3) ensuring that protocols are put in place for the observer to safely and directly contact the flag State FMC to report safety concerns.

(d) establish ongoing list of observers that it intends to deploy to vessels entitled to fly its flag operating in the Regulatory Area;

(e) require its vessels to carry an observer from the list it submitted to the Executive Secretary;

(f) to the extent practicable, ensure that individual observers are not deployed on consecutive fishing trips on the same vessel;

(g) ensure that the masters of its vessel cannot refuse an observer deployment nor be involved in the process to select the observer to be deployed;

(h) upon receipt of a report from its observers on **potential non-compliance discrepancies** with the CEM or an incident, including any instances of obstruction, intimidation, interference with, or otherwise prevention of the observer from performing their duties:

- (i) treat the report with the utmost sensitivity and discretion, in a confidential manner;
- (ii) assess the reported **potential non-compliance discrepancies** and conduct any follow-up action deemed appropriate;
- (iii) use the information for risk assessment for inspection, control and surveillance at sea and in port; and

- (iv) create a report on follow-up actions;
- (i) unless otherwise agreed with another Contracting Party, bear the costs of remunerating every observer it has deployed;
- (j) submit to the Executive Secretary:
 - (i) the list of observers referred to in paragraph 3(d) and any changes thereof without delay and before the deployment of an observer on its vessels;
 - (ii) without delay and in advance of the fishing trip, a notification including the details of the circumstances preventing a 100% observer coverage referred to in paragraph 4(a);
 - (iii) without delay, all documents and data relating to its vessels subject to electronic observation program in accordance with paragraph 4(b);
 - (iv) without delay, the PSC-3 report referred to in paragraph 5;
 - (v) without delay following its receipt, the daily OBR report referred to in paragraph 7(a);
 - (vi) without delay following its receipt, the observer trip report information referred to in paragraph 7(b);
 - (vii) by 1 March each year for the previous calendar year, a report on its compliance with the obligations outlined in this Article, including:
 - (1) the follow-up actions referred to in paragraph 3(h)(iv); and
 - (2) a report containing a comparison of all relevant catch and fishing activities showing the difference between the fishing trips where the vessel had an observer on board and those where the observer was withdrawn;
- (k) subject to the exception in paragraph 4, ensure that every fishing vessel flying its flag:
 - (i) carries at all times at least one observer in accordance with the provisions of this program while conducting fishing activities in the Regulatory Area; and
 - (ii) does not carry out fishing activities until an observer is deployed on the vessel.

Partial withdrawal of observers

4. By way of derogation from paragraph 3(k), a flag State Contracting Party may allow its vessels to carry an observer for less than 100%, but not less than 25% of the fishing trips conducted by its fleet or of the days the vessels are present in the Regulatory Area calculated for a prior period of one calendar year in the following cases:
 - (a) for vessels targeting species in areas where negligible bycatch of other species is expected to occur; or where the flag State Contracting Party has provided information on why a 100% coverage is not applied; or extraordinary and unforeseeable circumstances duly documented and justified by the flag State Contracting Party preventing 100% observer coverage; or
 - ~~(b)~~ where a vessel ~~utilizes~~ ~~deploys~~ an electronic observation program compliant with the requirements established in paragraph 9, approved by the flag State Contracting Party and;

- (i) ~~*the Contracting Party provides the Executive Secretary with a copy of their electronic observation standards and guidelines; and*~~
 - (ii) ~~*the Contracting Party submits a completed copy of the Annex II.M Observer Report within 3 months of the electronically observed trip.*~~
5. For each fishing trip of its vessels without an observer on board pursuant to paragraph 4, the flag State Contracting Party shall physically inspect the landing of the vessel in its ports or otherwise evaluate as appropriate each landing in its ports, following risk assessment. Inspections shall be documented in the format prescribed in Annex IV.C (PSC 3).
 6. Where an inspector issues a notice of an infringement to a fishing vessel that is not carrying an observer, in accordance with the derogation referred to in paragraph 4 ~~(a)~~, at the time of the notice, the infringement shall be deemed a serious infringement for the purpose of Article 38.1 and, where the flag State Contracting Party does not require the fishing vessel to proceed immediately to port in accordance with Article 38.3, it shall deploy an observer to the fishing vessel without delay.

Duties of the Observers

7. Each flag State Contracting Party shall ensure that its observers perform, at a minimum, the duties listed below:
 - (a) transmit the OBR report as set out in Annex II.G to the flag State FMC daily before 12:00 UTC for the day preceding the report, by division, whether the vessel was fishing or not;
 - (i) report without delay to the flag State FMC any ~~*potential non-compliance discrepancies*~~ with the CEM and any instances of obstruction, intimidation, interference with or otherwise prevention of the observer from performing their duties;
 - (b) complete the observer trip report as set out in Annex II.M, noting that data collection on Greenland sharks shall be carried out minimizing the damage to the sampled individuals;
 - (c) monitor the vessel's product labelling, production logbook, and stowage plan against requirements in Articles 27 and 28, and record in the observer trip report any ~~*potential non-compliance discrepancies*~~ identified;
 - (d) record any observed interruption or interference with VMS;
 - (e) submit the information in Annex II.M by electronic means to the flag State FMC and to the port State FMC as soon as possible after leaving the Regulatory Area and at the latest at the arrival of the vessel in port for landing;
 - (f) make themselves available to inspectors at sea, or in port upon arrival of the vessel, for the purposes of providing information related to the fishing activities of the vessel;
 - (g) maintain detailed records, including relevant images and video footage, of any circumstances and information related to any instances of ~~*potential non-compliance discrepancies*~~ with the CEM, for transmission to the flag State FMC at the earliest opportunity, and at the latest upon the arrival of the vessel in port for landing.
8. A flag State Contracting Party may make use of the software developed by the Executive Secretary to transmit the information referred to in Annexes II.G and II.M in accordance with paragraphs 7(a) and (e).

Electronic observation program

9. Each Contracting Party making use of the derogation in paragraph 4(b) shall ensure that:

- (a) the EMS installation and components of each fishing vessel are approved by the competent authorities and correspond to a EMS Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP);
- (b) the VMP includes at a minimum the following information:
 - (i) the fishing vessel details and the identification of the owner;
 - (ii) pictures, the technical characteristics and specifications and the location on board of the EMS components, including cameras, sensors, antenna and control box;
 - (iii) pictures and the measurement details of sorting and discard areas;
 - (iv) the obligations of the master of the fishing vessel relating to
 - (1) the use of designated discard areas;
 - (2) the maintenance and cleaning of the EMS and its components;
 - (3) the testing and system diagnosis of the EMS; and
 - (4) the fallback procedures to be followed in case of system or power failures.
- (c) the EMS includes cameras in all designated discard areas placed in such a way as to allow the identification and quantification of discarded catch, the main deck or the area where the catches are hauled on board and the processing area;
- (d) the EMS includes, at a minimum, sensors providing information on the position, speed, winch or power block usage, and hold temperatures;
- (e) the EMS has a minimum data storage capacity sufficient to store the EMS data until all catch onboard from the NAFO Regulatory Area has been landed;
- (f) the footage and sensor data collected by the EMS follows a specified format allowing that all sensors and video footage data can be analysed using an EMS analyser software to identify and quantify the catch and discards from all fishing operations;
- (g) a copy of the VMP and changes thereof are submitted to the NAFO Executive Secretary for any vessels not carrying an observer before the beginning of a fishing trip in which the vessel will be subject to the electronic observation program referred to in paragraph 4(b);
- (h) the NAFO Executive Secretary is notified at least 72 hours in advance of the period during which a vessel will be subject to the electronic observation program referred to in paragraph 4(b);
- (i) the EMS is turned on, recording, and fully operational as soon as the vessel enters the NAFO NRA and until the vessel offloads all of its catch from the NRA, barring use of any system failure contingency plan outlined in the VMP; and
- (j) a fishing trip report based on the template of Annex II.M and fulfilled using the results of the EMS data analysis is sent to the NAFO Executive Secretary within 3 months after the end of the

trip without human observer on board for at least 5% of the fishing trips subject to the electronic observation program.

Obligations of the Master

9.10. Each flag State Contracting Party shall ensure that masters of vessels entitled to fly their flag:

- (a) extend such co-operation and assistance as may be required to enable the observer to carry out his or her duties, including providing the observer with such access as may be required to the catch retained on board and discards and catch registration documents (e.g. fishing logbook, production logbook, stowage plan);
- (b) provide food and accommodations to the observer of a standard no less than that provided to the vessel's officers. If officers' accommodations are not available, the observer shall be provided accommodations of a standard as close to an officer as practicable but no less than that provided to the crew;
- (c) provide access to all operational areas of the vessel and equipment necessary to complete their duties, including the vessel's hold(s), production area(s), bridge, and navigation, communication, and garbage processing equipment;
- (d) do not, personally or through their agents, employees, or crewmembers, obstruct, intimidate, interfere with, influence, bribe or attempt to bribe or compromise the safety of an observer in the performance of his/her duties;
- (e) include the observer in all emergency drills conducted on board;
- (f) notify the observer when an inspection party has signaled their intent to board the vessel; ~~and~~
- (g) provide the observer with unhindered independent internet access on board at all times, unless the observer has available a fully operational two-way satellite communication device-~~and~~
- (h) **comply with the obligations and conditions established in the VMP of a vessel subject to electronic observation program in accordance with paragraph 4(b).**

Duties of the Executive Secretary

10.11. The Executive Secretary:

- (a) posts without delay the information received in accordance with paragraphs 3(j)(i)-(vi) to the NAFO MCS Website and ensures it is made available without delay to all Contracting Parties, solely for control and enforcement purposes;
- (b) makes available upon request the observer data, including the daily OBR report, to other NAFO bodies;
- (c) makes available to flag State Contracting Parties software (NAFO Observer App) enabling the transmission of the information referred to in Annexes II.G and II.M in accordance with paragraphs 7(a) and (e);
- (d) where the information referred to in Annex II.G has not been received for 2 consecutive days, notifies the flag State Contracting Party and any Contracting Party participating in the at-sea Inspection and Surveillance Scheme that an OBR has not been received;

- (e) submits to STACTIC a synthesis of the Contracting Parties reports referred to in paragraph 3(j)(vii); ~~and~~
- (f) where a Contracting Party has not provided the report required in paragraph 3(j)(vii) by the Executive Secretary by close of business on the specified deadline, submits a request for the report to the Contracting Party; ~~and~~
- (g) posts without delay the information received in accordance with paragraph 9(g), (h) and (j) in this Article to the NAFO MCS website.

Implementation

~~11, 12.~~ STACTIC will review the implementation of this observer program in ~~2027~~2025.

13. STACTIC will review the implementation of the Electronic observation program in 2026.

Article 38 – Additional Procedures for Serious Infringements

List of Serious Infringements

1. Each of the following violations constitutes a serious infringement:

[...]

- (m) committing an infringement where there is no observer on board and the vessel is not subject to electronic observation;

[...]

- (s) failing to carry on board an EMS contrary to Article 30.9, if required, or to tamper with the EMS;
- (t) failing to comply with the obligations of the master established in the VMP in a manner that prevents the EMS on board from being fully operational;

Annex 20. Numbering of Article 6.8 of the NAFO CEM
[STACTIC WP 25-15 (Rev. 6) now COM Doc. 25-10]

Background

At the Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) meeting on 5 November 2024, it was decided that STACTIC should discuss the numbering of Article 6.8 of the NAFO CEM at the STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, 05-07 May 2025.

At the STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, Contracting Parties reflected that the clarity and readability of the five paragraphs of Article 6.8 may be improved through renumbering. The Parties noted that the EDG will ordinarily not be convening before the STACTIC Annual Meeting, and so any renumbering of the NCeMs could be actioned concurrently with the review of any measures at Article 6.8.

The United Kingdom brought a proposal forward for renumbering the measures for redfish bycatch in the 3M cod fishery, currently numbered 8(i) and 8(ii) in the NCeMs, as established from COM Doc. 24-10.

The United Kingdom is revising this proposal, sequentially numbering paragraphs in 6.8 to aid readability; specifically, the revised proposal renumbers the yellowtail measure at 8 bis and 8 ter, and the cod measure at 8(i) and 8(ii), and makes the necessary changes to the remainder of Article 6.

Proposal

Article 6 – Bycatch Retention on Board of Stocks Identified in Annex I.A as Bycatch When No Directed Fishery is Permitted

[...]

Exceeding Bycatch Limits in Any One Haul

[...]

~~8 (i). Where a vessel is carrying an observer and is conducting a directed fishery for cod in Division 3M with a legal mesh size appropriate for that fishery, the first two times on a fishing trip that catches of redfish comprise the largest percentage by weight of the total catch in a tow/set, they shall be considered as incidental catch, but the vessel shall immediately move as specified in paragraph 6.~~

~~8 (ii). By way of derogation from Article 6.6.b(ii), if the 3M redfish bycatch limits are exceeded again, instead of leaving the Division for at least 60 hours, the vessel may again move a minimum of 10 nautical miles from any position of the previous tows/sets in up to two consecutive hauls in which the redfish bycatch limit is exceeded. If the bycatch limits are exceeded again, the vessel shall leave the Division and not return for at least 60 hours, in accordance with Article~~

~~6.6.b(ii).~~

~~98 bis.~~ Until December 31, 2025, where a vessel is carrying an observer and is conducting a directed fishery for yellowtail with a legal mesh size appropriate for that fishery:

(i) The first two times on a fishing trip that catches of American plaice comprise the largest percentage by weight of the total catch in a haul, they shall be considered as incidental catch, but the vessel shall immediately move as specified in paragraph 6.

(+)(ii) By way of derogation from Article 6.6.b(ii), if the American plaice bycatch limits are exceeded again, instead of leaving the Division for at least 60 hours, the vessel may move a minimum of 10 nautical miles from any position of the previous tows in up to three consecutive hauls in which the

American plaice bycatch limit is exceeded. If the bycatch limits are exceeded again, the vessel shall leave the Division and not return for at least 60 hours, in accordance with Article 6.6.b(ii)

~~108 ter. Until December 31, 2025, by way of derogation from Article 6.6.b(ii), if the American plaice bycatch limits are exceeded again, instead of leaving the Division for at least 60 hours, the vessel may move a minimum of 10 nautical miles from any position of the previous tows in up to three consecutive hauls in which the American plaice bycatch limit is exceeded. If the bycatch limits are exceeded again, the vessel shall leave the Division and not return for at least 60 hours, in accordance with Article 6.6.b(ii).~~

810 (i). Where a vessel is carrying an observer and is conducting a directed fishery for cod in Division 3M with a legal mesh size appropriate for that fishery,:

(i) The first two times on a fishing trip that catches of redfish comprise the largest percentage by weight of the total catch in a tow/set, they shall be considered as incidental catch, but the vessel shall immediately move as specified in paragraph 6.

(ii) By way of derogation from Article 6.6.b(ii), if the 3M redfish bycatch limits are exceeded again, instead of leaving the Division for at least 60 hours, the vessel may again move a minimum of 10 nautical miles from any position of the previous tows/sets in up to two consecutive hauls in which the redfish bycatch limit is exceeded. If the bycatch limits are exceeded again, the vessel shall leave the Division and not return for at least 60 hours, in accordance with Article 6.6.b(ii).

8 (ii). By way of derogation from Article 6.6.b(ii), if the 3M redfish bycatch limits are exceeded again, instead of leaving the Division for at least 60 hours, the vessel may again move a minimum of 10 nautical miles from any position of the previous tows/sets in up to two consecutive hauls in which the redfish bycatch limit is exceeded. If the bycatch limits are exceeded again, the vessel shall leave the Division and not return for at least 60 hours, in accordance with Article

6.6.b(ii).

~~119.~~ The percentage of bycatch in any one haul is calculated as the percentage, by weight, for each stock listed in Annex I.A of the total catch from that haul.

~~1240.~~ Upon its first entrance into a Division on a fishing trip, a vessel may undertake one trial tow for up to a maximum duration of 3 hours. If the stocks subjected to bycatch limits form the largest percentage, by weight, of the total resultant catch in the haul, this shall not be considered as a directed fishery for those stocks, and the vessel must immediately change position in accordance with provisions of paragraph 6(b). Vessels must identify any trial tow conducted in accordance with this paragraph and record in the fishing logbook the coordinates pertaining to the start and end locations of any trial tow conducted.

Implementation

~~134.~~ The measures referred to in paragraphs ~~108 (i) and 8 (ii)~~ shall apply during 2025 and be reviewed by STACTIC in 2025.

~~142.~~ In 2025, STACTIC shall:

- (a) assess if the provisions in paragraphs 6.3(g) and ~~9(i)8-bis~~ led to an increase on American plaice bycatches or directed fishery on American plaice; and
- (b) review paragraphs 6.3(g) and ~~8-bis~~9(i).

ANNEX II – REPORTING**Annex II.A Recording of Catch (Logbook Entries)****FISHING LOGBOOK ENTRIES**

Item of Information

[...]

15. Was a trial tow conducted in accordance with Article 6.6 (iii) or Article 6.[1210](#)? (Y/N)

[...]

Annex 21. Measures in the 3M cod fishery
[STACTIC WP 25-25 (Rev. 2) now COM Doc. 25-11]

Background

In 2024 STACTIC agreed to adopt STACTIC WP 24-25 (Rev. 2) establishing new measures in the 3M cod fishery to ensure a more measured approach to unintended catches of 3M redfish. STACTIC have reviewed the measure which was not used in 2025. The United Kingdom therefore propose to extend the measure into 2026 to allow time for data to be collected.

Proposal

Article 6

....

Implementation*

11. ___ The measures referred to in paragraphs 8 (i) and 8 (ii) shall apply during 2025~~6~~ and be reviewed by STACTIC in 2025~~6~~. [to assess whether the provisions led to an increase in 3M redfish bycatches or directed](#) fishery.

...

*Numbering may be subject to change as STACTIC discussions progress under agenda item 11(c)

Annex 22. Annual Fisheries and Compliance Review 2025 (Compliance Report for Fishing Year 2024) [STACTIC WP 25-04 (Rev. 5) now COM Doc. 25-17]

1.0 Introduction

The scope of this review covers the fishing activities of NAFO-registered vessels (Article 25 of NAFO CEM) which operated in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA) in 2024¹ (see Figure 1.0).

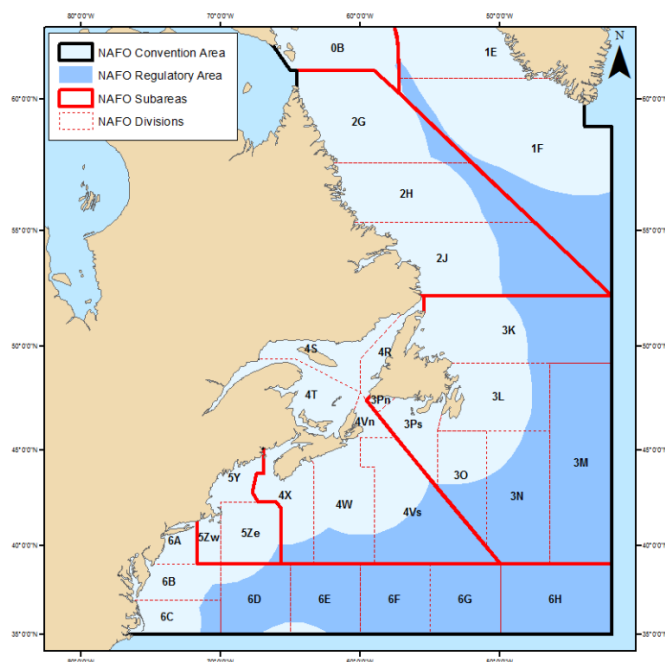


Figure 1.0. Divisions of the NAFO Convention Area and the Regulatory Area (dark blue).

This review was conducted in accordance with rules 5.1 and 5.2 of the NAFO Rules of Procedure. As part of the review process, the NAFO Secretariat compiled the 2024 information from a variety of data sources including vessel monitoring system (VMS), hail messages delivered by the vessels (Vessel Transmitted Information – VTI), electronic logbook (haul by haul) reports, port inspection reports (PSC3), at-sea inspection reports, reports on dispositions of infringements, and observer trip reports.

2.0 Fisheries in the NRA

2.1 Fishing effort by gear type

There are three main fisheries that take place within the NAFO Regulatory Area: groundfish (GRO - primarily in Divisions 3LMNO), shrimp (PRA in Division 3M), and pelagic redfish fisheries (REB - primarily in Divisions 1F and 2J). There was no directed fishing for shrimp in Division 3M or pelagic redfish in Divisions 1F and 2J in

¹ According to Article 1.7 of the 2023 NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NAFO CEM), a fishing trip 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”. All article and annex numbers in this report reference the 2024 NAFO CEM. Quantitative information presented in this report are summarized according to 2024 calendar year, unless otherwise indicated.

2024. Table 2.2.1 summarizes the main fishing gears and fishing effort for trips in the NAFO Regulatory area that ended in 2024.

Table 2.1.1. Main fishing gears and fishing effort in the NAFO Regulatory Area for fishing trips that ended 2024.

Fishing Gear	# Fishing vessels	# Fishing trips	Fishing days in NAFO RA	Main Species (FAO 3-alpha code)	NAFO Divisions
Longline	12	16	299	COD, HAL	3L, 3M, 3N, 3O
Bottom Trawl	26	67	3 164	COD, GHL, HKS, PLA, RED, SKA, YEL	3L, 3M, 3N, 3O
Total	38	83	3 463		

2.2 Effort distribution by depth in demersal fisheries other than shrimp

Hourly positions of fishing vessels are required to be transmitted through the VMS in accordance with Article 29.1 of the NAFO CEM. Figure 2.2.1 shows the distribution of fishing effort, in hours, for vessels fishing (assumed fishing speeds for the purpose of this analysis were between 0.5-5 knots) in Divisions 3LMNO. Most of the fishing effort in Divisions 3LMNO is at depths 500 meters and shallower, with an additional concentration of fishing effort around 1000 meters, which can be attributed to the Greenland halibut fishery.

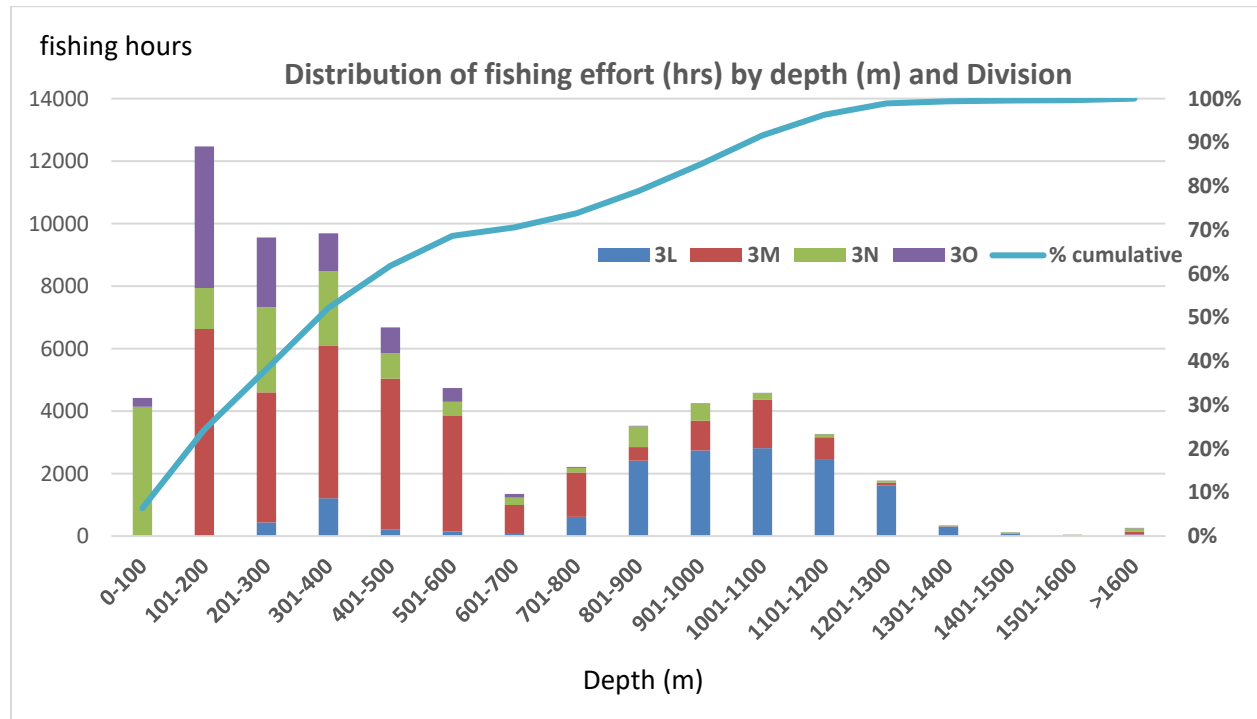


Figure 2.2.1. Distribution of fishing effort (in hours) by depth (m) in the NRA in 2024. Vessels are assumed to be fishing at speed in the range of 0.5-5.0 knots.

2.3 Catches in the NAFO Regulatory Area

A total of 54 208.8t of fish (53 036.2t retained + 1 172.6t discarded) were caught by vessels authorized to fish in the Regulatory Area in 2024 (Tables 2.3.1 and 2.3.2).

Table 2.3.1 Total reported retained catches (in tonnes) of species (in FAO 3-alpha code) by Division for the 2024 calendar year (Source: CA field of CAT Reports).

Species	Common name	3L	3M	3N	3O	Total
<i>Species subject to catch limitations (as listed in Annex I of the NAFO CEM)</i>						
COD	Atlantic cod	27.8	10592.1	143.5	41.4	10804.8
GHL	Greenland halibut	6151.8	2255.4	496.4	4.4	8908.0
HKW	White hake	0.0	0.0	44.7	506.9	551.7
PLA	American plaice	15.6	173.7	259.5	58.0	506.8
RED	Atlantic redfishes nei	2493.6	9508.8	6516.8	1843.1	20362.3
SKA	Raja rays nei	103.8	35.1	1724.2	286.6	2149.7
SQI	Northern shortfin squid	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.2	1.2
WIT	Witch flounder	15.9	46.8	14.9	125.1	202.7
YEL	Yellowtail flounder	0.0	1.0	698.5	5.3	704.9
<i>Species not listed in Annex I</i>						
ANG	American angler	0.2	0.0	8.1	41.3	49.5
CAA	Atlantic wolffish	0.7	44.7	1.6	0.0	47.0
CAB	Northern wolffish	0.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.8
CAS	Spotted wolffish	1.1	57.0	1.6	0.0	59.7
CAT	Wolffishes	0.0	34.4	0.0	0.0	34.4
HAD	Haddock	0.0	0.1	1.8	65.6	67.5
HAL	Atlantic halibut	41.3	306.8	266.6	148.6	763.2
HKS	Silver hake	0.0	0.0	1127.6	6588.1	7715.7
RHG	Roughhead grenadier	42.4	21.4	15.7	0.0	79.5
RNG	Roundnose grenadier	16.1	4.1	0.2	0.0	20.3
USK	Tusk (Cusk)	0.0	6.6	0.0	0.0	6.6
TOTAL		8910.2	23088.8	11321.7	9715.5	53036.2

Table 2.3.2 Total reported rejected catches (in tonnes) of species (in FAO 3-alpha code) by Division for the 2024 calendar year (Source: RJ field of CAT Reports).

Species	Common name	3L	3M	3N	3O	Total
<i>Species subject to catch limitations (as listed in Annex I of the NAFO CEM)</i>						
COD	Atlantic cod	0.8	13.3	0.7	0.9	15.7
GHL	Greenland halibut	23.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	23.3
HKW	White hake	0.0	0.4	5.4	7.2	13.1
PLA	American plaice	2.7	5.4	7.8	1.0	17.0
RED	Atlantic redfishes nei	3.6	3.1	3.5	11.3	21.5
SKA	Raja rays nei	7.0	29.4	14.9	3.0	54.2
SQI	Northern shortfin squid	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
WIT	Witch flounder	0.9	1.2	1.0	6.7	9.8
YEL	Yellowtail flounder	0.0	0.0	7.8	0.1	7.9
<i>Species not listed in Annex I</i>						
ANG	American angler	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5
ANT	Blue antimora	9.3	6.5	4.4	0.0	20.1
ARU	Greater argentine	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.3
BFT	Atlantic bluefin tuna	0.0	0.0	0.4	1.5	1.9
CAA	Atlantic wolffish	0.3	1.1	0.0	0.0	1.4
CAB	Northern wolffish	0.0	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.6
CAP	Capelin	0.0	0.0	4.0	1.5	5.5
CAS	Spotted wolffish	0.0	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.6
CAT	Wolffishes	23.2	61.9	5.7	2.8	93.5
CRK	Atlantic rock crab	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
CRQ	Queen crab	0.0	0.0	3.2	0.0	3.2
CUX	Sea cucumbers nei	0.0	0.0	64.4	0.2	64.6
CVP	Polar sculpin	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
ELZ	Eelpouts	0.0	0.0	3.2	0.0	3.2
GDE	Threadfin rockling	11.2	4.5	0.9	0.0	16.5
HAD	Haddock	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3
HAL	Atlantic halibut	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
HKR	Red hake	7.5	3.5	0.4	0.3	11.6
HKS	Silver hake	0.0	0.0	15.7	111.2	126.9
KCT	Stone king crab	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
MOX	Ocean sunfish	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
MZZ	Marine fishes nei	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
NTW	Sea pens	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PBF	Sand flathead	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1
POK	Saithe(=Pollock)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
RHG	Roughhead grenadier	153.1	103.2	25.5	3.4	285.2
RJK	Sailray	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
RJS	Smooth skate	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.5
RJT	Winter skate	0.0	0.0	0.6	0.0	0.6
RNG	Roundnose grenadier	59.6	59.3	11.3	0.0	130.2
SAN	Sandeels nei	0.0	0.0	7.5	0.0	7.5
SCU	Sculpins	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.9
YFT	Yellowfin tuna	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.4
<i>Sharks</i>						
BSH	Blue shark	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
BSK	Basking shark	4.5	5.7	0.0	18.8	29.0
CFB	Black dogfish	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
DGS	Picked dogfish	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.8	1.2

Species	Common name	3L	3M	3N	3O	Total
DGX	Dogfish sharks nei	2.2	1.4	1.9	0.7	6.2
DWS	Deep-water sharks NEI	0.0	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.9
GSK	Greenland shark	69.4	39.5	10.7	8.7	128.2
POR	Porbeagle	1.4	0.0	0.5	18.2	20.1
SHL	Lanternsharks NEI	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
SHX	Dogfish sharks, etc. nei	0.2	0.5	0.9	3.9	5.5
SMA	Shortfin mako	0.8	1.5	0.7	0.2	3.2
SRX	Rays, stingrays, mantas nei	0.0	11.6	0.0	0.0	11.6
SWO	Swordfish	0.0	0.3	2.3	24.7	27.3
TOTAL		380.9	355.4	207.6	228.7	1172.6

3.0 Inspection and Surveillance

Chapter VI of the NAFO CEM outlines the general provisions and protocols for the at-sea inspection and surveillance scheme in the NRA. Canada, the European Union, and the United States of America deployed patrol vessels and their inspectors in the NRA in 2024.

3.1 Patrol Activity

In 2024, six (6) patrol vessels were deployed in the NAFO Regulatory Area by Contracting Parties with an inspection presence, accounting for 349 patrol-days (Table 3.1). There were 119 days with no patrol vessel, 156 days when there was one patrol vessel, and 90 days when there was more than one patrol vessel present in the NRA. Figure 3.1 shows the time of the year the patrol vessels were present in the NRA in relation to the number of fishing vessels present. In addition, Canada deployed surveillance aircraft, collectively flying 350 hours, with 869 vessel sightings in the NRA. The European Union completed a total of 2 RPAS with a total of 3.5 hours of surveillance time.

Table 3.1 The total number of patrol vessels, patrol vessel deployments, and patrol days in the NAFO Regulatory area in 2024 by Contracting Party with Inspection Presence.

Contracting Party with Inspection Presence	Number of Patrol Vessels	Number of Deployments	Number of Patrol Days
Canada	2	43	255
European Union	3	8	80
United States of America	1	2	14
Total	6	53	349

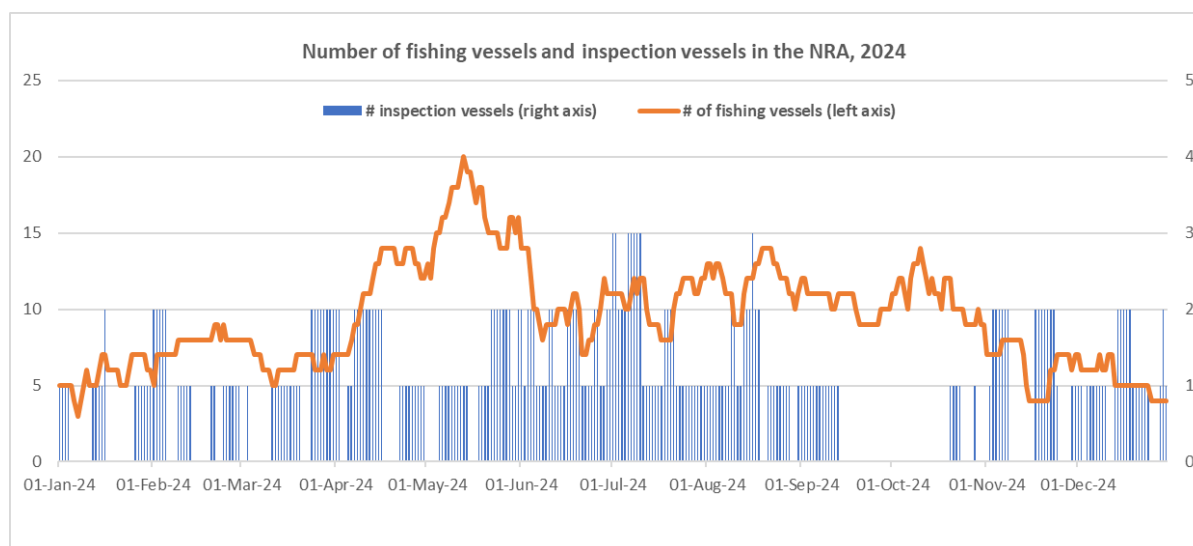


Figure 3.1 *Fishing vessel and inspection vessel presence in the NAFO Regulatory Area in 2024.*

3.2 At-sea inspections

A total of 115 at-sea inspections were conducted in 2024, and six (6) inspections resulted in the issuance of infringements, four (4) of which were considered serious. In total, there were 7 infringements issued in 2024 during at-sea inspections. A summary of the infringements and their disposition can be found in Section 4.2. Table 3.2 outlines the total number of at-sea inspections completed by each Contracting Party.

Table 3.2. The number of at-sea inspections completed by each inspection Contracting Party (Canada, the European Union, and the United States of America) for each flag State Contracting Party participating in fishing activities.

CP	Number of inspections by Canada					Number of inspections by the European Union					Number of Inspections by the United States of America**		
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
CAN	4*	8	1	0	0	2	2	2	3	0	0	0	0
DFG	0	3	1	0	3	1	0	5	6	5	0	0	0
EU	8	25	37	20	53	25	22	20	28	23	4	2	4
FRA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
GBR	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JPN	0	1	0	0	1	3	2	2	2	2	0	0	0
NOR	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
RUS	0	3	3	3	9	4	0	2	6	3	0	1	1

* Inspections completed in accordance with domestic procedures.

** During the period of 2020-2024, the United States of America deployed an inspection vessel in the NRA in 2022, 2023, and 2024.

3.3 Port inspections

Under Article 10.4(e) of the NAFO CEM, landings of Greenland halibut from Divisions 2+3KLMNO are subject to port inspections if the quantity of this stock on board represents either more than 5% of the total catch or more than 2 500kg. In evaluating compliance with the port inspection measures outlined in Article 10 of the NAFO CEM, a total of 53 trips met the criteria of having more than 5% of the total catch or more than 2 500kg of Greenland halibut on board. Port inspection reports (PSC3s) were received for 52 of the 53 trips, therefore there is a 98.1% port inspection coverage, as shown in Table 3.3.1.1.

Table 3.3.1.1 Fishing trips that ended in 2024 in Divisions 3LMNO with Greenland halibut (GHL) catch (based on Daily Catch Reports for the trip) and percent coverage of port inspections for the identified trips, by flag State.

Flag State CP	Number of identified trips by vessels larger than 24 m: trip with GHL catch > 2.5t	Total amount of GHL from trips identified (t)	Port inspection CP	Number of identified trips with Port Inspection (PSC3)	Port Inspection Coverage (% based on identified trips with GHL catch)
DFG	1	193.5	DFG	1	100%
EU	44	6671.7	EU	44	100%
JPN	2	673.4	CAN	2	100%
RUS	6	1434.0	EU (3) NOR (2)	5*	83%
Overall	53	8972.7		52	98.1%

*The missing port inspection of the Russian vessel is due to the vessel not being inspected when landing in Båtsfjord, Norway.

Pursuant to Article 7.6(c) of the NAFO CEM, landings or transshipments of cod from Division 3M were subject to a 25% inspection benchmark for vessels with more than 1 250 kg onboard in 2024. In evaluating compliance for 2024 with the port inspection measures outlined in Article 7.4(c) of the NAFO CEM, 43 trips with more than 1 250kg of 3M Cod on board were identified. Port inspection reports (PSC3s) from 37 trips were received, resulting in an 86% coverage rate, as shown in Table 3.3.1.2. The trips without a PSC3 had a total of 1 985.04 t onboard according to the CAT reports.

Table 3.3.1.2 Fishing trips that ended in 2024 with 3M cod catch (based on Daily Catch (CAT) Reports for the trip) and percent coverage of port inspections for the identified trips, by flag State.

Flag State CP	Number of identified trips by vessels 3M Cod catch > 1250 kg	Total amount of 3M COD from trips identified (t)	Port inspection CP	Number of identified trips with Port Inspection (PSC3)	Port Inspection Coverage (% based on identified trips with 3M Cod catch)
DFG	8	2486.7	DFG (3) SPM (1)	4	50%
EU	29	5173.0	EU	29	100%
GBR	1	854.6	GBR	1	100%
NOR	3	1061.8	NOR	1	33%
RUS	2	321.8	EU	2	100%
Overall	43	9897.9		37	86%

According to Article 30.5 of the NAFO CEM, the flag State Contracting Party shall physically inspect the landing of vessels in its ports for each fishing trip of its vessels without an observer onboard in accordance with Article 30.4, or otherwise evaluate as appropriate each landing in its ports, following a risk assessment. Table 3.3.1.3

outlines the number of fishing trips that did not have an observer onboard, and the associated port inspection reports (PSC3).

Table 3.3.1.3 Fishing trips that ended in 2024 that did not carry an observer accordance with Article 30.4 of the NAFO CEM, and the coverage of port inspections for the identified trips, by flag State.

Flag State	Number of trips without an observer (Article 30.4)	Number of trips with PSC3 (port inspection report)
DFG	7	4

According to Article 43.10 of the NAFO CEM, the port State Contracting Party shall carry out inspections of at least 15% of all such landings or transshipments by vessels flagged to other Contracting Parties during each reporting year. In evaluating compliance with port State Control measures outlined in Chapter VII of the NAFO CEM, a review of the submission of port State Control Prior Request (PSC1) forms and port inspection reports (PSC3) is presented in Table 3.3.2. The minimum coverage of 15% (Article 43.10) was met by all port State Contracting Parties.

Table 3.3.2 The number of PSC1s and corresponding PSC3s received by the NAFO Secretariat, for trips that ended in 2024, relating to the inspection of landings or transshipments by vessels flagged to other Contracting Party.

Port State Contracting Party	PSC1 (prior request)	Number of PSC1's with intention to land/tranship catch	PSC3 (port inspection report)	% Coverage (#PSC3 received /#PSC1 intention to land)
CAN	5	2	2	100%
EU	3	3	3	100%
DFG	1	0	0	-
NOR	3	3	2	67%
SPM	2	2	1	50%

4.0 Compliance

In this section, reporting obligations, including follow-up actions to infringements are examined.

4.1 Reporting obligations

The NAFO CEM requires fishing vessels and flag State Contracting Parties (through the Fisheries Monitoring Centre - FMC) to provide reports on the fishing activity within a determined time frame.

4.1.1 Vessel Activity Reporting

4.1.1.1 Vessel Transmitted Information (VTI) – Catch-on-Entry (COE), Daily Catch Reports (CAT), and Catch-on-Exit (COX)

The FMCs are responsible for transmitting the VTI reports to the NAFO Secretariat. The COE and COX messages are transmitted at least 6 hours in advance of entry and exit to and from the NRA and identify the amount of catch on board. The CATs contain a record of the daily catch (retained and rejected) reported by species and Division while on a fishing trip. The daily catch reports are used to monitor the quota uptake of the Contracting Parties.

Table 4.1.1.1 outlines the number of COE, COX, and CAT reports received by the NAFO Secretariat, as well as the number of fishing trips and fishing effort-days in the NRA. All identified 2024 fishing trips had

corresponding COE and COX messages. No major technical issues were encountered in transmission and receipt of the VTI reports.

Table 4.1.1.1 Fishing effort and VTI statistics in the NRA 2024.

Number of fishing trips identified	83
Fishing Days ¹	3 463
Number of Daily Catch Reports (CATs) ²	3 899
Number of Trips with Catch on Entry Reports (COEs)	83
Number of Trips with Catch on Exit Reports (COXs)	83

¹ Estimate based on EXI-ENT date of 2024 fishing year

² CATs of fishing trips that ended in 2024

4.1.1.2. Catch reporting on sharks

Article 28.6.g requires that all catches, including sharks, be reported at the species level. Greenland shark constitutes most of the total shark catches by weight (see table 2.3.2), and the vast majority of shark catches were reported to be discarded according to the daily catch reports (CATs).

4.1.1.3 Fishing logbook (haul by haul) reports

The submission of logbook data to the NAFO Secretariat became mandatory in NAFO in 2015 (Article 28.8.c of the NAFO CEM). The fishing logbook information submitted to the NAFO Secretariat must contain, at a minimum, the information outlines in Annex II.N of the NAFO CEM. Out of the 83 fishing trips identified, logbook reports from 79 trips were received, resulting in 95.2% coverage for 2024.

4.1.1.4 Position reporting – VMS

According to Article 29, every fishing vessel operating in the NRA shall be equipped with a satellite monitoring device capable of continuous automatic transmission of position to its land-based FMC of the flag States, which in turn is transmitted to the Secretariat in real time. The transmission of position reports (POS) shall be no less frequently than once an hour.

The Secretariat can confirm that the requirement is fully complied with. Occasionally, technical problems were encountered by the fishing vessels or FMCs. During these events, the position reports were transmitted manually or queued and transmitted once the technical issues were resolved. Technical issues were usually resolved within a few days through the coordination between the Secretariat and the FMC.

4.1.1.5 Closed areas and exploratory fisheries

In 2024, there were 27 areas restricting bottom fishing activities in the NRA, including 15 areas to protect sponge, sea pen, and corals, and 12 seamount areas. The measures concerning the protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) from bottom fishing are stipulated in Chapter II of the NAFO CEM. No reports of vessels fishing within the VME closure boundaries were received.

4.1.1.6 Notifications on the use of Others Quota

There were 28 notifications on the use of Others Quota in 2024 relating to vessels from five (5) Contracting Parties. In 2024, the Others Quota for 3LNO yellowtail flounder was fully utilized and the NAFO Secretariat circulated notification on 22 February 2024 notifying Contracting Parties of the 100% quota uptake projection.

4.1.2 Observer Reports

Contracting Parties are required to ensure that their vessels have 100% observer coverage while conducting fishing activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area in accordance with Article 30.3(k) of the NAFO CEM. By way of

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15–19 September 2025

derogation, Article 30.4 of the NAFO CEM allows for Contracting Parties to allow their vessels to carry an observer for less than 100%, but not less than 25% of the fishing trips conducted by its fleet in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

In evaluating the compliance to observer trip report submission (Article 30.3(j)(vi) of the NAFO CEM), fishing trips were grouped according to the implementation of Article 30.3(k) or 30.4. Table 4.1.2 shows the observer coverage percentage, by Contracting Parties, based on the percentage of the submission of the observer trip reports.

Table 4.1.2 Observer coverage based on the submission of observer trip reports, 2024. One Contracting Party issued a notification on the intention to invoke Article 30.4 of the NAFO CEM, which requires coverage no less than 25% during 2025.

Contracting Party	Number of Identified Trips	Number of Trips with Observer Trip Reports	% Coverage under Art 30.3(k) (100% required)
CAN	5	5	100.0%
DFG ¹	10	3	30.0%
EU	50	50	100.0%
FRA(SPM)	4	4	100.0%
GBR	1	1	100.0%
JPN	2	2	100.0%
NOR	3	3	100.0%
RUS	8	8	100.0%

¹ Invoked Article 30.4 of the NAFO CEM. Required coverage is no less than 25%.

4.1.3 Research activities

In 2024, three Contracting Parties, Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), and the European Union, submitted notifications for research activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area. However, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) later notified that the research activities were not proceeding in 2024.

Table 4.1.3. A summary of the 2024 research plans received by the NAFO Secretariat in accordance with Article 4.3(b) of the NAFO CEM.

Research plan	Timelines for submission met (Article 4.3(c))?	Catches onboard retained with the purpose of marketing (Article 4.3(d))	Applicable with Article 4.3(d), complied with reporting requirements in Chapter IV (Article 4.3(d)(i))?	Applicable with Article 4.3(d), observer with sufficient expertise onboard (Article 4.3(d)(ii))?	Applicable with Article 4.3(d), catches counted against quota (Article 4.3(d)(iii))?
EU Platuxa Survey in Divisions 3NO	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
EU Flemish Cap Survey in Division 3M	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
EU “Fletán Negro 3L” survey in Division 3L	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Canada 3LNO Survey	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
EU Walther Herwig III survey	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Canada Comparative fishing survey 3LNO	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
Canada Atlantic halibut survey	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
DFG-Faroes longline survey of Flemish Cap (Div. 3M)	Yes	Yes	N/A survey did not take place	N/A survey did not take place	N/A survey did not take place

4.1.4 Chartering arrangements

Article 26 of the NAFO CEM outlines the provisions for chartering arrangements between two Contracting Parties: the chartering Contracting Party and the flag State Contracting Party of the fishing vessel. Catches by the chartered fishing vessel are counted against the quota of the chartering Contracting Party.

In 2024, there was one (1) chartering arrangement in place pertaining to yellowtail founder in Divisions 3LNO. Monitoring of the implementation of the chartering arrangements are made possible through the notifications of commencement, suspension, resumption, and termination, and the daily catch reports of the chartered fishing vessel. The submission of the required documentation (Article 26.7 and 26.8) and reporting of implementation dates (Article 26.9) were complied with by both parties of the chartering arrangement.

4.2 Infringements detected at-sea and at-port

In 2024, a total of eight (8) vessels were cited with an infringement by inspectors at sea and port authorities. Details on the nature of the infringements and their disposition are provided in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2 Summary of infringements detected by inspectors at-sea and by port authorities in 2024 and their disposition. Infringements presented in bold were considered serious by the inspectors as per the NAFO CEM Article 38 definition.

CP	Infringements detected at-sea.	Infringements detected in port (PSC3: Section E.1.B.c).	Follow-up to Infringements, as reported by the Contracting Party
EU		Exceeding bycatch limits PLA 3M; Fishing logbook	Case led by Portugal Case under investigation Case Pending
EU		Shark fins removed on board; Stowage plan; Fishing Logbook (WIT, PLA, GHL, COD and SKA); Production Logbook; Stowage of catch; Catch reporting: Incorrect data in CAT and COX messages	Case led by Spain Provisional measure: seizure of catches (64.563 kg GHL) Resolution on 23.10.2024: sanction of 102.702€ Appealed on 25.11.2024. Appeal pending.
EU	Master exceeded specified retained onboard by-catch limits for 3M COD, contrary to Article 6 3.(a) of the NCEMs.		Case led by Portugal NAFO infringement not confirmed during port inspection (cargo was not separated and sealed during sea). An additional EU infringement was detected (Exceedance of the 10% MOT for GHL). Immediate enforcement measures: seizure of 4t GHL NAFO infringement case closed
CAN		Master conducted a directed fishery for one haul for 3N PLA (under moratorium), contrary to Article 6.6(a) of the NCEMs. Master exceeded on board by-catch of 3N PLA (under moratorium) contrary to Article 6.3 (d) of the NCEM's.	Case Closed. A complete Investigation was undertaken by CAN authorities in port, including a fully monitored offload of the vessel. The investigation undertaken confirmed the infringement issued. Consultation with the prosecution service determined that this infringement did not meet the threshold to proceed to prosecution. As result of this finding, the case has now been closed by CAN authorities.
GBR	Master conducted a directed fishery for three hauls for 3M RED with no allocation, contrary to Article 6 6.(a) of the NCEMs.		• Case closed • The vessel was fully investigated by the United Kingdom upon landing in port. • After detection of the infringement, the vessel was subsequently prevented from fishing. • After the investigation, an official written warning issued.
EU	Master conducted a directed fishery for two hauls for 3N COD (under moratorium), contrary to Article 6 6.(a) of the NCEMs.	Directed fishery for SKA with Illegal mesh size; Exceeding Bycatches 3N COD	Case led by Spain Provisional measure: seizure of catches (3.451 kg COD) Proposal of resolution 28.10.2024: sanction of 11.000€ Case Pending
RUS	Master conducted a directed fishery for one haul for 3N PLA (under moratorium), contrary to Article 6 6.(a) of the NCEMs.		Case closed. Case led by Russian Federation. Administrative fine of 11182.5 rubles applied.
SPM	Master directed for 3N HKW (with no allocation), contrary to Article 6.6(a) of the NCEMs. Master exceeded specified retained onboard bycatch limits		• Vessel was ordered to travel back to the port immediately for landing and at-port inspection • Inspectors carried out a full inspection of both the vessel and the landing

CP	Infringements detected at-sea.	Infringements detected in port (PSC3: Section E.1.B.c).	Follow-up to Infringements, as reported by the Contracting Party
	for 3N HKW, contrary to Article 6.3(c) of the NCEMs.		• The exceeding quantity of HKW was landed and sold to the local fishmonger. The amount of money collected by the shipowner for this sale was seized by the authorities • A legal action was taken against the master by French local authorities. The investigation revealed a misunderstanding of the NAFO CEM instead of an intentional breach • The trip was covered by an observer. The infringement was recorded by the EU inspection vessel and not by the onboard observer.
NOR	Failure to label correctly processed species in the NRA, at the time of stowage, as indicated in NCEM Article 27.1(b), (d), and (e)		Case closed. Written guidance/warning.
NOR		Infringement of CEM art. 7.4 (b)	Case is closed (guidance)

4.3 Follow-up to infringements

Article 39 of the NAFO CEM outlines the 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 the national legislation of the flag State Contracting Party and ensuring that sanctions applicable in respect of infringements are proportional to severity.

Article 40 requires Contracting Parties to report on the disposition of the infringements. The legal resolution of infringements may take more than a year. Contracting Parties shall continue to list such infringements on each subsequent report until it reports the final disposition of the infringement. Table 4.3 summarizes the status of infringement cases in the last five years (2020-2024) and their resolution.

Table 4.3 Resolution of citations (by at-sea inspectors and port authorities) against vessels fishing in the NRA by year in which the citations were issued (as of June 2025). A citation is an inspection report that lists one or more infringement. Inspections carried out for confirming a previous citation are not included.

Year	Number of Inspection Reports with an infringement citation	Number of Resolved Cases	Number of Pending Cases*	% Resolved
2020	12	6	6	50%
2021	12	8	4	67%
2022	16	9	7	56%
2023	10	8	2	80%
2024	11	6	5	55%

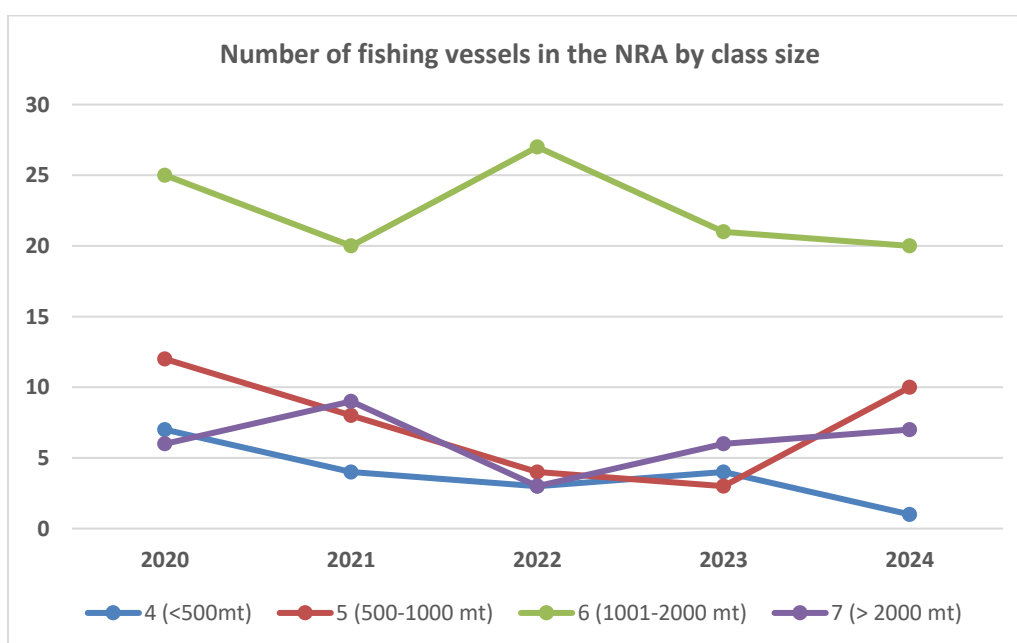
**still under investigation, litigation or appeal*

5.0 Trends and Analysis

Five-year trends (2020-2024) on effort and catch, reporting obligations of Contracting Parties and observers, compliance by fishing vessels, and at-sea inspections, and infringements are presented in this section.

5.1 Effort and Catch**Table 5.1** Fishing days, as defined by Article 1.6, by fishing gear.

	Longline	Mid-water Trawl	Bottom trawl	Shrimp trawl	TOTAL
2020	250	127	4224	21	4622
2021	169	0	4247	479	4895
2022	180	7	3709	0	3896
2023	165	0	3365	0	3530
2024	299	0	3164	0	3463

**Figure 5.1.1** Number of fishing vessels that completed trips in the NRA in Divisions 3LMNO by class size, 2020-2024. The class sizes are based on the STATLANT classification.

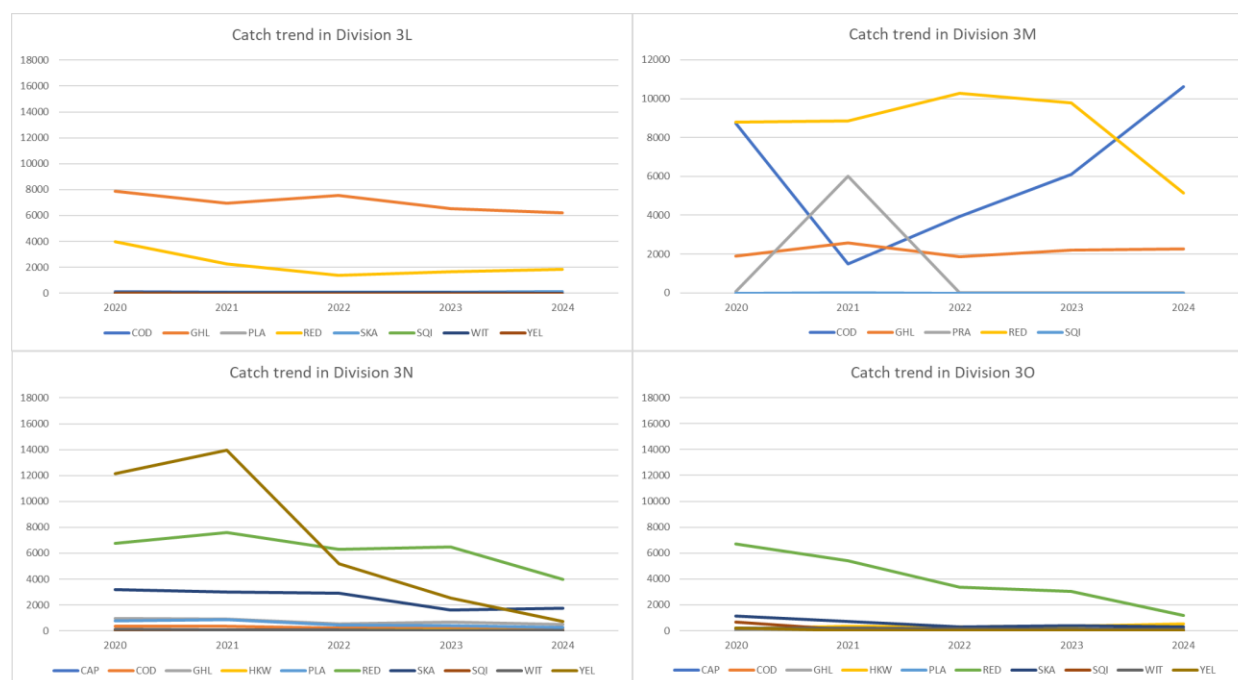


Figure 5.1.2 Catches (in tonnes) by Division of selected species managed by TAC, 2020-2024 (Source: CATs).

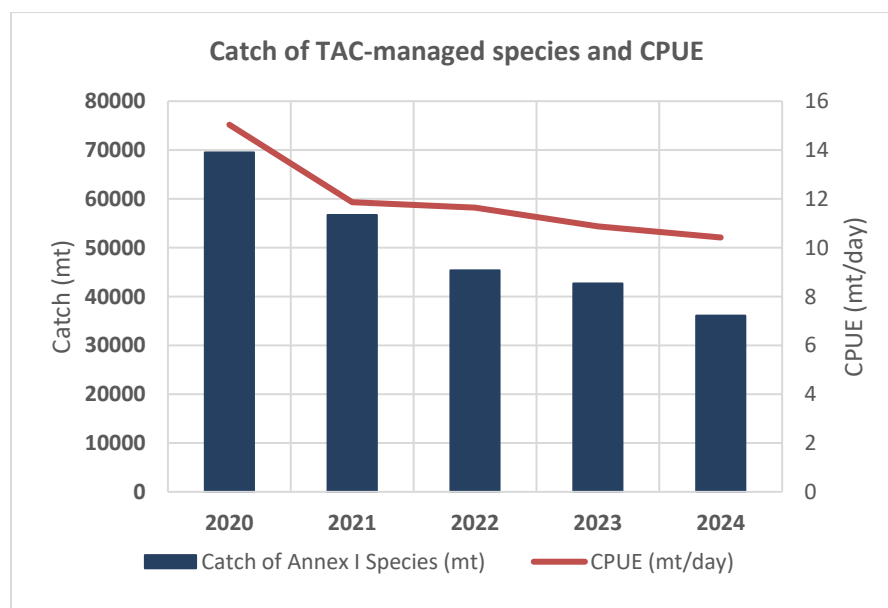


Figure 5.1.3 Catch of TAC-managed species and CPUE in 2020 -2024, expressed in total catch of TAC-managed species per fishing day. Data Source: CAT reports.

5.2 Reporting Obligations by Contracting Parties

Compliance relating to reporting obligations is quantified as a percentage coverage – the ratio of the fishing trips accounted for by the reports and of the total number of relevant fishing trips. A 100% coverage would mean that all expected reports were transmitted to the Secretariat. Figure 5.2 shows the submission rates in

the period of 2020-2024. In 2024, the submission rates of electronic logbook reports (Article 28.8(c) of the NAFO CEM) and observer trip reports (Article 30.3(k) of the NAFO CEM) are 95.2% and 100% respectively.

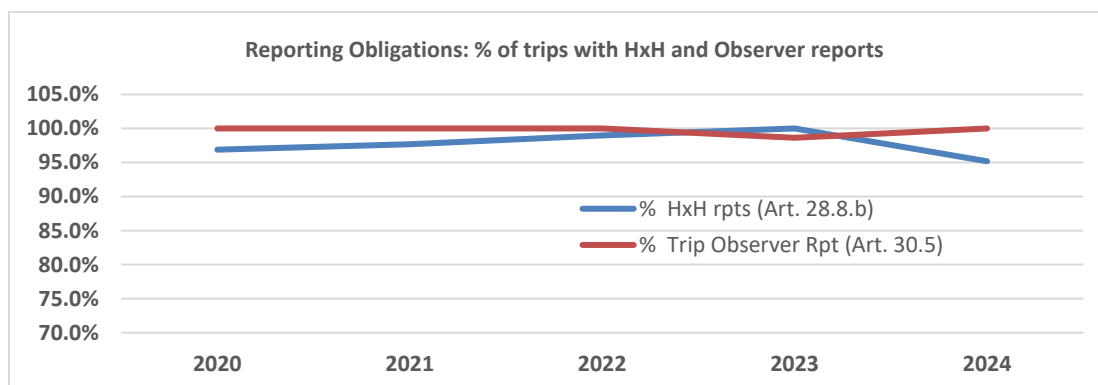


Figure 5.2 Percent coverage of observer trip reports for fishing vessels (operating under Article 30.3(k), and logbook (haul by haul) reports (Article 28.8(c)), 2020-2024.

5.3 Compliance by Fishing vessels

In the 5-year review period of 2020-2024, VMS and VTI requirements (Article 28 and 29) have been fully complied with. Hourly position reports (POS), as well as the daily catch reports by Division (CATs), were transmitted to the Secretariat while the vessels were in the NRA. The Catch-on-Entry (COE) and Catch-on-Exit (COX) reports for each fishing trip were also transmitted.

5.4 Inspections and Infringements

At-sea inspection rates, computed as a ratio of the number of at-sea inspections and the total fishing effort (fishing days), in the period 2020-2024 are presented in Figure 5.4.1. The inspection rate continues to increase from its lowest level in 2020, from 0.9% to 3.32% in 2024.

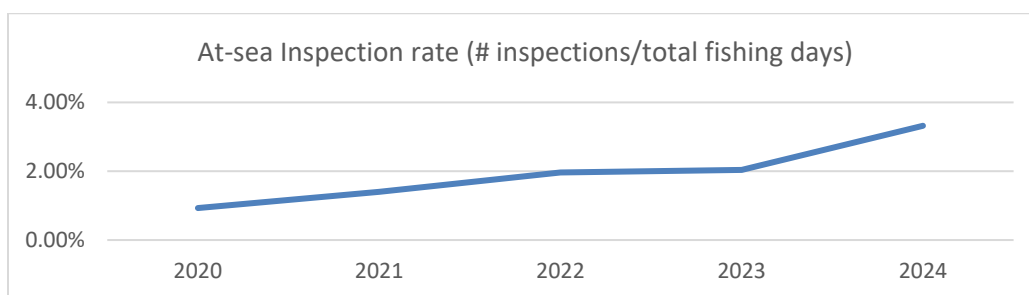


Figure 5.4.1 Inspection rates (number of at-sea inspections/fishing days) in the NAFO Regulatory Area, 2020-2024.

Figure 5.4.2 outlines the frequency a type of infringements detected by at-sea inspectors and port authorities from 2020-2024.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
By-catch requirements	•	•••	••••••••	•	•••••
Catch communication violations		•	•	•	•
Directed fishing of moratorium stock / stock with no quota			••	•	•••••
Evidence tampering	•	••	•	•	
Gear requirements - mesh size, illegal attachments	•	•			•
Greenland halibut control measures (Art. 10.4.d)	•				
3M Cod control measure (Article 7.4(b))					•
Inspection protocol (interference)	••		••	•	
Observer protocol	•	••			
Others quota notification				•	
Production logbook requirements		••	•••	•••	•
Mis-recording of catches - inaccurate recording	•••	•••••	••••••••	••••	••
Mis-recording of catches - stowage		••	••	••	•
Product labelling	••••	•••••	••••	•••	•
Vessel requirements - capacity plans		•	•	••	
Vessel requirements - stowage plans					•
Removal of shark fins onboard (Article 12.1.b)					•

Figure 5.4.2 Frequency of infringement cases detected by at-sea inspectors and port authorities in 2020-2024. Black and blue dots represent infringement issued at-sea and at port, respectively.

6.0 Conclusions

During 2024, the primary NAFO fisheries consisted of demersal trawls and longlines for groundfish. The total catches increased from approximately 50 000 tonnes in 2023 to approximately 54 000 tonnes in 2024. The catch of moratoria species in the NAFO Regulatory Area decreased from approximately 980 tonnes in 2023 to approximately 730 tonnes in 2024 based on the daily catch reports. The at-sea inspection rate has increased compared with 2023. In contrast, infringement rates have decreased from 0.16% in 2023 to 0.06% in 2024. In 2024, Canada, the European Union, and the United States of America participated in the At-Sea Inspection and Surveillance Scheme, deploying inspection vessels in the NRA, along with exchanges of inspectors to other Contracting Party's vessels. Infringements of the NCEMs continued to remain at a low level.

Contracting Parties are committed to support and to ensure compliance with the NAFO Observer Program. One Contracting Party invoked the derogation from 100% observer coverage as per Article 30.4 of the NAFO CEM, and 30% of the fishing trips were covered by observers.

The NAFO MCS Website continues to be a useful tool for providing up to date information to inspection services in carrying out risk assessments and conducting monitoring, control and surveillance activities, along with compliance of other obligations under the NAFO CEM.

7.0 Recommendations

- STACTIC recommends that Contracting Parties assess the use of remote electronic monitoring and equivalent sensor technologies, as tools for the implementation of the observer program and improve effectiveness of monitoring and control activities.
- STACTIC recommends that Contracting Parties review the Rules on Confidentiality in Annex II.B to align with NAFO's CEM provisions and NAFO practices.
- STACTIC recommends that Contracting Parties continue to work towards the completion of the self-

assessments of flag State performance, in accordance with the criteria set out in the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for flag State Performance for initial presentation at the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.

- STACTIC recommends Contracting Parties participate and engage in the Inspectors' Workshop, for the purpose of sharing best practices and procedures and to promote international cooperation on control amongst Contracting Parties.
- STACTIC encourages Contracting Parties to maintain inspection presence in the NAFO Regulatory Area and promote inspector exchanges at-sea and in port, as well as the use of technologies for control such as Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems.
- STACTIC encourages Contracting Parties with an inspection presence in the NAFO Regulatory Area to plan and coordinate inspection activities to maximise efficiency.
- STACTIC recommends that Contracting Parties prioritize compliance analyses and efforts on key measures, in particular monitoring and control efforts associated with derogations related to directed fisheries and bycatch rules in 2026.
- STACTIC recommends Contracting Parties continue to attempt to find consensus and where possible apply consistent methodologies for the verification of compliance with NAFO CEM provisions on catch recording and reporting in particular.
- STACTIC recommends Contracting Parties commit to follow up on all infringements in a timely and consistent manner and, depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with domestic law, take sufficiently deterrent judicial or administrative actions.
- STACTIC recommends that the application of the NAFO CEM on bycatch rules is harmonized, and that, to the extent necessary, the NAFO CEM provisions are revised to provide consistent outcomes.
- STACTIC recommends that Contracting Parties allocate sufficient resources to ensure compliance with the NAFO CEM port inspection benchmarks.
- STACTIC recommends that Contracting Parties support and promote technology developments for data, reporting, collection, and management to improve efficiency and accessibility of information, specifically regarding the continuing work on the observer application to reduce observer administrative burden; in addition to the MCS Website and the ePSC application.

Annex 23. NAFO IUU List Update [STACTIC WP 25-09 (Revised)]

This is the regular update on the NAFO IUU list in accordance with Article 53 of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures since the last STACTIC meeting:

The NAFO Provisional IUU List

The Secretariat has not received any record of new IUU vessels in the Northwest Atlantic from Contracting Parties since the 2006 Annual Meeting, however at the 2022 Annual Meeting STACTIC agreed to add all IUU listed vessels from other RFMOs be added to NAFO's Provisional IUU List (COM Doc. 22-09).

The following vessels are contained on NAFO's provisional IUU List for review by STACTIC:

- **Table 1A** NAFO Provisional IUU List – All IUU listed vessels listed from other RFMOs since the 2024 Annual Meeting of NAFO.
- **Table 1B** NAFO Provisional IUU List – All IUU listed IUU vessels de-listed by other RFMOs since the 2024 Annual Meeting of NAFO.

The NAFO provisional IUU List can be accessed on the Members' pages of the NAFO website at:

<https://members.nafo.int/Compliance/IUU>.

The NAFO IUU Vessel List

The NAFO IUU list was last reviewed by STACTIC at the Annual Meeting, September 2024 (STACTIC WP 24-09 (Revised)), and is presented in **Table 2**.

The NAFO IUU list can be accessed on the public pages of the NAFO website at:
<https://www.nafo.int/Fisheries/IUU>.

Table1A. NAFO Provisional IUU List – IUU listed vessels listed from other RFMOs since the 2024 Annual Meeting of NAFO.

IMO Number	Name	Previous Name(s)	Flag	Previous Flag(s)	IRCS	Previous IRCS	Original Date listed	Originating RFMO	Additional Information
Not applicable	IMUL-A-0168-PTM		Sri Lanka		Unknown		April 2025	IOTC	Added to the IOTC IUU list in April 2025
Not applicable	IMUL-A-0833-KLT		Sri Lanka		Unknown		April 2025	IOTC	Added to the IOTC IUU list in April 2025
Not applicable	IMUL-A-0892-KLT		Sri Lanka		4SF5790		April 2025	IOTC	Added to the IOTC IUU list in April 2025

Table1B. NAFO Provisional IUU List – IUU listed IUU vessels de-listed by other RFMOs since the 2024 Annual Meeting of NAFO.

IMO Number	Name	Previous Name(s)	Flag	Previous Flag(s)	IRCS	Previous IRCS	Original Date listed	Originating RFMO	Additional Information
Unknown	IMULA 0730 KLT/LAKPRIYA 14		Sri Lanka		4SF4482		June 2021	IOTC	De-listed from the IOTC list in April 2025 (IOTC-2025-CoC22-R[E])
8025082	El Shaddai	Banzare	South Africa		ZR6358		2020-07-08	SIOFA	De-listed from the SIOFA IUU list in July 2025 (SIOFA MoP 12 Report)

Table 2. NAFO IUU Vessel List - In accordance with Article 53.1(b), the NAFO IUU Vessel List was adopted at the 2024 Annual Meeting of NAFO. Updates, such as vessel name changes, from other RFMOs have been incorporated.

IMO Number	Name	Previous Name(s)	Flag	Previous Flag(s)	IRCS	Previous IRCS	Original Date listed	Originating RFMO	Additional Information
417000878	ABISHAK PUTHA 3		Unknown		4SFXXXX		14-Aug-20	SIOFA	
Unknown	ABUNDANT 1	YI HONG 06	Unknown		CPA 226		May 2017	IOTC	
Unknown	ABUNDANT 12	YI HONG 106	Unknown		CPA 202		May 2017	IOTC	
Unknown	ABUNDANT 3	YI HONG 16	Unknown		CPA 201		May 2017	IOTC	
Unknown	ABUNDANT 6	YI HONG 86	Unknown		CPA 221		May 2017	IOTC	
Unknown	ABUNDANT 9	YI HONG 116	Unknown		CPA 222		May 2017	IOTC	
20060010	ACROS NO. 2		Unknown	Honduras	Unknown		2006-10-16	ICCAT	
20060009	ACROS NO. 3		Unknown	Honduras	Unknown		2006-10-16	ICCAT	
Unknown	AKASH		India		Unknown		May 2023	IOTC	
Unknown	Al'Amir Muhammad		Egypt		Unknown		2018-07	GFCM	
7306570	Alboran II	White Enterprise	Unknown	Panama, St. Kitts & Nevis	Unknown		Gibraltar (31 March 2009)	NEAFC/NAFO	
7036345	Amorinn	Iceberg II/ Lome/ Noemi	Unknown		5VAN9		2003	CCAMLR	
Unknown	ANEKA 228		Unknown		Unknown		May 2015	IOTC	
Unknown	ANEKA 228; KM.		Unknown		Unknown		May 2015	IOTC	
Unknown	ANNAI VELAMKANNI		India		Unknown		May 2023	IOTC	
7236634	Antony	Urgora/Atlantic Oji Maru No.33/ Oji Maru No. 33	Unknown	Venezuela/ Honduras/ Panama/ Belize/ Indonesia	PQMG		2016	CCAMLR	
Unknown	ARPUTHA MATHA		India		Unknown		May 2023	IOTC	
7322897	Asian Warrior	Kunlun/ Taishan/ Chang Bai/ Hongshui/ Huang He 22/ Sima Qian Baru 22/ Corvus/ Galaxy/ Ina Maka/	Equatorial Guinea		3CAG		2003	CCAMLR/IOTC (2015)	

IMO Number	Name	Previous Name(s)	Flag	Previous Flag(s)	IRCS	Previous IRCS	Original Date listed	Originating RFMO	Additional Information
		Black Moon/ Red Moon/ Eolo/ Thule/ Magnus/Dorita							
9042001	Atlantic Wind	Zemour 2/ Luampa/ Yongding/ Jiangfeng/ Chengdu/ Shaanxi Henan 33/ Xiong Nu Baru 33/ Draco I/ Liberty/ Chilbo San 33/ Hammer/ Seo Yang No. 88/ Carran	Unknown	Equatorial Gunea	3CAE		2004	CCAMLR/IOTC (2015)	
Unique vessel ID: IND-TN-15- MM-5477	AVE MARIA		India		Unknown	Not Known	May 2024	IOTC	
Unique vessel ID: IND-TN-15-MM-9070	AVEMARIYA		India		Unknown		May 2022	IOTC	
9037537	Baroon	Lana/ Zeus/ Triton I	Unknown	Nigeria/ Mongolia/ Togo/ Sierra Leone	5IM376		2007-11-02	CCAMLR	
Unknown	BENEDICTA		India		Unknown		May 2023	IOTC	
Unknown	Bhaskara No. 10		Unknown	Indonesia	Unknown		2005-12-26	IATTC	
Unknown	Bhaskara No. 9		Unknown	Indonesia	Unknown		2005-12-26	IATTC	
Unknown	BIGEYE		Unknown		FN 003883		2006-10-23	ICCAT	
Unknown	BRAVO		Unknown		T8AN3		2004-08-24	ICCAT	

IMO Number	Name	Previous Name(s)	Flag	Previous Flag(s)	IRCS	Previous IRCS	Original Date listed	Originating RFMO	Additional Information
Unknown	Camelot		Unknown	Belize	Unknown		2005-12-26	IATTC	
6622642	Challenge	Perseverance/ Mila	Unknown		HO5381		2006	CCAMLR	
Unknown	CHI TONG		Unknown		Unknown		May 2015	IOTC	
Unknown	CHOTCHAINAVEE 35		Unknown	DJIBOUTI	Unknown		June 2019	IOTC	
7330399	Cobija	Cape Flower/Cape Wrath II	Unknown	Bolivia, Sao Tome, South Africa, Canada	CPB3000		2017	SEAFO / IOTC (2019) / CCAMLR (2023)	
Unknown	DANIAA		Unknown		3X07QMC		2008-11-14	ICCAT	
Unknown	Dragon III		Unknown	Cambodia	Unknown			IATTC	
Unknown	EASRON		India		Unknown		May 2023	IOTC	
Unknown	EL SHADAI		India		Unknown		May 2023	IOTC	
Unknown	EMMANUEL		India		Unknown		May 2023	IOTC	
7302548	Freedom 7	ZHI MING, No 101 Gloria	Cameroon		JVAW7		2006-10-16	ICCAT	
Unknown	FU HSIANG FA 18		Unknown		Unknown		May 2015	IOTC	
Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 01		Unknown		Unknown		June 2014	IOTC	
Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 02		Unknown		Unknown		June 2014	IOTC	
Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 06		Unknown		Unknown		June 2014	IOTC	
Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 08		Unknown		Unknown		June 2014	IOTC	
Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 09		Unknown		Unknown		June 2014	IOTC	
Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 11		Unknown		Unknown		June 2014	IOTC	
Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 13		Unknown		Unknown		June 2014	IOTC	
Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 17		Unknown		Unknown		June 2014	IOTC	
Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 20		Unknown		Unknown		June 2014	IOTC	
Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 21		Unknown		OTS 024 or OTS 089		May 2013	IOTC	IOTC indicates that there is no information on whether the two vessels FU HSIANG FA NO. 21 are the same vessels

IMO Number	Name	Previous Name(s)	Flag	Previous Flag(s)	IRCS	Previous IRCS	Original Date listed	Originating RFMO	Additional Information
Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 21		Unknown		Unknown		June 2014	IOTC	IOTC indicates that there is no information on whether the two vessels FU HSIANG FA NO. 21 are the same vessels
Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 23		Unknown		Unknown		June 2014	IOTC	
Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 26		Unknown		Unknown		June 2014	IOTC	
Unknown	FU HSIANG FA NO. 30		Unknown		Unknown		June 2014	IOTC	
7355662	FU LIEN NO 1		Unknown	Georgia	Unknown	4LIN2	2010-12-10	WCPFC	
Unknown	Full Rich		Unknown	Belize	HMEK3		May 2013	IOTC	
Unknown	GALA I	Manara II/ Roagan	Unknown	Libya	Unknown		2008-06-27	ICCAT	
Unknown	GIFT OF GOD		India		Unknown		May 2023	IOTC	
Unique vessel ID: IND-TN-15- MM-8696	GODS GIFT		India		Unknown	Not Known	May 2024	IOTC	
Unknown	Goidau Ruey No. 1	Goidau Ruey 1	Unknown	Panama	HO-2508		2009-06-06	IATTC	
7020126	GOOD HOPE	Toto	Nigeria		5NMU		2007	CCAMLR	
6719419	Gorilero	Gran Sol	Unknown	Sierra Leone, Panama	Unknown		La Coruna, Spain (September 2007)	NEAFC/NAFO	
Unknown	GUNUAR MELYAN 21		Unknown		Unknown		June 2008	IOTC	
Unknown	Hai Da 705		Unknown		Not Known	Not Known	2017-08-29	NPFC	
Unique vessel ID: IMUL-A- 1053TLE	HAMBANTOTA EXPRESS		Sri Lanka		4SF5385	Not Known	May 2024	IOTC	
8214645	HAN	SHUN HANG, VILA MOOSUN	Unknown	Panama, Tuvalu	V4BK5	H3DE	26-Jul-23	NPFC	
8524492	HE LI 1 HAO	Sinar Abadi 69	Unknown	Panamam, Indonesia	Unknown	HP7651	May 2023	IOTC	

IMO Number	Name	Previous Name(s)	Flag	Previous Flag(s)	IRCS	Previous IRCS	Original Date listed	Originating RFMO	Additional Information
7322926	Heavy Sea	Duero/ Julius/ Keta/ Sherpa Uno	Unknown		3ENF8		2004	CCAMLR	
Unknown	HOOM XIANG 101		Unknown	Malaysia	Unknown		June 2014	IOTC	
Unknown	HOOM XIANG 103		Unknown	Malaysia	Unknown		June 2014	IOTC	
Unknown	HOOM XIANG 105		Unknown	Malaysia	Unknown		June 2014	IOTC	
Unknown	Hoom Xiang II		Unknown	Malaysia	Unknown		March 2010	IOTC	
7332218	Iannis 1		Unknown	Panama	H03374		Indian Ocean (2007)	NEAFC/NAFO	
Unknown	IMULA 0846 KLT/GOD BLESS		Sri Lanka		Unknown		June 2021	IOTC	
Unique vessel ID: IMUL-A-0867- KLT	IMULA0867KLT & SAMPATH		Sri Lanka		Unknown	Not Known	May 2024	IOTC	
Unknown	IMUL-A-1028-TLE/DEWLI FISHING KUDAWELLA		Sri Lanka		Unknown		June 2021	IOTC	
Unique vessel ID: IMUL-A-2159- CHW	IMULA2159CHW & SANJANA PUTHA		Sri Lanka		Unknown	Not Known	May 2024	IOTC	
Unknown	IND-TN-15-MM8297/ARARAT/RESH MITHA		India		Unknown		June 2021	IOTC	
8004076	ISRAR 1		Unknown/Unclassified	Oman	A4BB5		2021-11-23	ICCAT	
8568694	ISRAR 2		Unknown/Unclassified	Oman	A4BA3		2021-11-23	ICCAT	
8568682	ISRAR 3		Unknown/Unclassified	Oman	A4BA5		2021-11-23	ICCAT	
6607666	Jinzhang	Hai Lung / Yele / Ray/ Kily/ Tropic/ Isla Craciosa/ Constant	Unknown	Sierra Leone, Belize, Equatorial Guinea,	PQBT		1905-06-28	CCAMLR/ SEAFO (2012)	

IMO Number	Name	Previous Name(s)	Flag	Previous Flag(s)	IRCS	Previous IRCS	Original Date listed	Originating RFMO	Additional Information
				South Africa					
Unknown	JYI Lih 88		Unknown		Unknown		38712	IATTC	
7929176	KIKI		Gambia		6WMP		2022-09-05	ICCAT	
Unknown	KIM SENG DENG 3		Unknown		Unknown		May 2015	IOTC	
7905443	Koosha 4		Iran, Islamic Republic of		9BQK		1905-07-03	CCAMLR	
Unknown	KUANG HSING 127		Unknown		Unknown		May 2015	IOTC	
Unknown	KUANG HSING 196		Unknown		Unknown		May 2015	IOTC	
Registry No. 12-0001812	Kuda Laut 03		Philippines		DUM4015		2023-12-08	WCPFC	
7325746	Labiko	Maine	Unknown	Guinea Conakry	3XL2		NEAFC Regulatory Area (29 Oct 2007)	NEAFC/NAFO	
Unknown	Liao Yuan Yu 071		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	42976	NPFC	
Unknown	Liao Yuan Yu 072		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	2017-08-29	NPFC	
Unknown	Liao Yuan Yu 9		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	2017-08-29	NPFC	
Unknown	LILA NO. 10		Unknown		Unknown		2006-10-16	ICCAT	
7388267	Limpopo	Ross/ Alos/ Lena/ Cap George	Unknown		Unknown		1905-06-25	CCAMLR	
Unique vessel ID: IND.TN.15.MM.106	LITTLESHA		India		Unknown		May 2022	IOTC	
Unknown	Lu Rong Shui 158 (鲁荣水158)		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	1905-07-10	NPFC	
Unknown	Lu Rong Yu 1189		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	42976	NPFC	

IMO Number	Name	Previous Name(s)	Flag	Previous Flag(s)	IRCS	Previous IRCS	Original Date listed	Originating RFMO	Additional Information
Unknown	Lu Rong Yu 612		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	2018-08-19	NPFC	
Unknown	Lu Rong Yuan YU 101		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	2017-11-13	NPFC	
Unknown	Lu Rong Yuan Yu 102		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	2017-11-13	NPFC	
Unknown	Lu Rong Yuan Yu 103		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	2017-11-13	NPFC	
Unknown	Lu Rong Yuan Yu 105		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	2017-11-13	NPFC	
Unknown	Lu Rong Yuan Yu 106		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	2017-11-13	NPFC	
Unknown	Lu Rong Yuan Yu 108		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	2017-11-13	NPFC	
Unknown	Lu Rong Yuan Yu 109		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	2017-11-13	NPFC	
Unknown	Lu Rong Yuan Yu 787		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	2018-08-19	NPFC	
Unknown	Lu Rong Yuan Yu 797		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	2018-08-19	NPFC	
Unknown	Lu Rong Yuan Yu Yun 958		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	2018-08-19	NPFC	
9038402	Lucas		Unknown		C5J128		2022-05-28	ICCAT	
Unknown	MAAN YIH HSING		Unknown		Unknown		May 2015	IOTC	
Unknown	MADURA 2		Unknown		Unknown		2004-11-16	ICCAT	
Unknown	MADURA 3		Unknown		Unknown		2004-11-16	ICCAT	
Unique vessel ID: IMULA0195TCO	MANGALA		Sri Lanka		Unknown		May 2022	IOTC	
Unique vessel ID: IND-TN-15- MM-5344	MANJU MATHA		India		Unknown	Not Known	May 2024	IOTC	

IMO Number	Name	Previous Name(s)	Flag	Previous Flag(s)	IRCS	Previous IRCS	Original Date listed	Originating RFMO	Additional Information
Unique vessel ID: IND-TN-15- MM-4683	MANJUMATHA		India		Unknown	Not Known	May 2024	IOTC	
Unknown	MARIA		Unknown		FN 003882		39013	ICCAT	
Unique vessel ID: IND-TN-15- MM-6756	MARIYAL		India		Unknown	Not Known	May 2024	IOTC	
Unknown	Marwan 1	AL WESAM 4, CHAICHANACHOKE 8	Somalia	DJIBOUTI, THAILAND	Unknown	HSN5721	May 2018	IOTC	
Unknown	MELILLA NO. 101		Unknown	Panama	Unknown		2006-10-16	ICCAT	
Unknown	MELILLA NO. 103		Unknown	Panama	Unknown		2006-10-16	ICCAT	
Unique vessel ID: IND-TN-15- MM-5383	MOTHER OF JESUS		India		Unknown	Not Known	May 2024	IOTC	
7385174	Murtosa		Unknown	Togo	Unknown		Aveiro, Portugal (since 2005)	NEAFC/NAFO	
Unknown	Neptune		Unknown	Georgia	Unknown	4LOG	40522	WCPFC/ IATTC	
Unknown	NEW BAI I NO. 168		Unknown		YGMY		2016-11-19	ICCAT	
8808654	Nika		Unknown	Panama	HP6686		1905-07-12	CCAMLR	
Unknown	NO 2 CHOYU		Unknown		Unknown		39006	ICCAT	
Unknown	NO. 3 CHOYU		Unknown		Unknown		2006-10-16	ICCAT	
8808903	Northern Warrior	Millennium/ Ship 3	Angola		PJSA		1905-07-08	CCAMLR	

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IMO Number	Name	Previous Name(s)	Flag	Previous Flag(s)	IRCS	Previous IRCS	Original Date listed	Originating RFMO	Additional Information
Unique vessel ID: IND.TN.15.MM.4569	NOVA		India		Unknown		May 2022	IOTC	
Unknown	OCEAN DIAMOND		Unknown		Unknown		2004-11-16	ICCAT	
8665193	OCEAN STAR No2		Unknown		YJRU6		2021-02-17	ICCAT	
7816472	Okapi Marta		Unknown/Unclassified	Belize	Unknown		2021-02-17	ICCAT	
Unknown	Orca		Unknown	Belize	Unknown			IATTC	
Unknown	ORIENTE NO.7		Unknown		Unknown		39006	ICCAT	
5062479	Perlon	Cherne/ Bigaro/ Hoking/ Sargo/ Lugalpesca	Unknown		5NTV21		1905-06-25	CCAMLR	
9319856	Pescacisne 1, Pescacisne 2	Zemour 1/ Kadei/ Songhua/ Yunnan/ Nihewan/ Huiquan/ Wutaishan Anhui 44/ Yangzi Hua 44/ Trosky/ Paloma V	Mauritania	Equatorial Guinea	9LU2119	3CAF	2008	CCAMLR/IOTC (2015)	
Unknown	PROGRESO	Al WESAM 5, CHAINAVEE 54	Unknown	Cameroon, DJIBOUTI, THAILAND	Unknown	HSN5447	May 2018	IOTC	
8819691	QIAN YUAN		Unknown	Panama	H3YK	5VEZ8	2023-07-26	NPFC	
Unknown	Reymar 6		Unknown	Belize	Unknown			IATTC	
9017666	RIWA	GLORIWAVE	Togo	Palau, Sierra Leone	5VIR8	T8A4017	45133	NPFC	
7825215	Sage	Chia Hao No. 66 / Chi Fuw No. 6	Unknown	Gambia, Belize	C5J82	V3IN2		IATTC	
Unknown	SAMUDERA PASIFIK NO. 18		Indonesia		YGGY		41603	ICCAT	

IMO Number	Name	Previous Name(s)	Flag	Previous Flag(s)	IRCS	Previous IRCS	Original Date listed	Originating RFMO	Additional Information
Unknown	SAMUDERA PERKASA 11		Unknown		Unknown		May 2015	IOTC	
Unknown	SAMUDERA PERKASA 12		Unknown		Unknown		May 2015	IOTC	
Unique vessel ID: IND-TN-15- MM-8001	SEA ANGEL 2		India		Unknown	Not Known	May 2024	IOTC	
7424891	Sea Urchin	Aldabra/ Omoa I	Unknown		5IM207		2007	CCAMLR	
8692342	Sea View	AL WESAM 2, CHAINAVEE 55	Unknown	Cameroon, DJIBOUTI, THAILAND	Unknown	HSB3852	May 2018	IOTC	
8692354	Sea Wind	AL WESAM 1, SUPPHERMNAVEE 21	Unknown	Cameroon, DJIBOUTI, THAILAND	Unknown	HSN5282	May 2018	IOTC	
Unknown	SHARJI AMMA		India		Unknown		May 2023	IOTC	
Unknown	SHARON 1		Unknown		Unknown		Jun-08	ICCAT	
Unknown	SHENG JI QUN 3		Unknown		CPA 311		May 2017	IOTC	
Unknown	SHUEN SIANG		Unknown		Unknown		June 2014	IOTC	
Unknown	SHUN LAI	HSIN JYI WANG NO. 6	Unknown		CPA 514		May 2017	IOTC	
Unknown	SIN SHUN FA 6		Unknown		Unknown		May 2015	IOTC	
Unknown	SIN SHUN FA 67		Unknown		Unknown		May 2015	IOTC	
Unknown	SIN SHUN FA 8		Unknown		Unknown		May 2015	IOTC	
Unknown	SIN SHUN FA 9		Unknown		Unknown		May 2015	IOTC	
Unknown	SOUTHERN STAR 136		Unknown		Unknown		2005-03-08	ICCAT	
Unknown	SRI FU FA 168		Unknown		Unknown		June 2014	IOTC	
Unknown	SRI FU FA 18		Unknown		Unknown		June 2014	IOTC	
Unknown	SRI FU FA 188		Unknown		Unknown		June 2014	IOTC	
Unknown	SRI FU FA 189		Unknown		Unknown		June 2014	IOTC	
Unknown	SRI FU FA 286		Unknown		Unknown		June 2014	IOTC	
Unknown	SRI FU FA 67		Unknown		Unknown		June 2014	IOTC	
Unknown	SRI FU FA 888		Unknown		Unknown		June 2014	IOTC	

Report of the Commission,
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IMO Number	Name	Previous Name(s)	Flag	Previous Flag(s)	IRCS	Previous IRCS	Original Date listed	Originating RFMO	Additional Information
Unique vessel ID: IND-TN-15- MM- 7154	ST ANNES		India		Unknown	Not Known	May 2024	IOTC	
Unique vessel ID: IND-TN-15- MM- 8997	ST ANTONY		India		Unknown	Not Known	May 2024	IOTC	
Unique vessel ID: IND-TN-15- MM- 3793	ST MARYS		India		Unknown	Not Known	May 2024	IOTC	
Unknown	STAR OF THE SEA		India		Unknown		May 2023	IOTC	
8514772	STS-50	Ayda/ Sea Breeze/ Andrey Dolgov/ Std No. 2/ Sun Tai No. 2/ Shinsei Maru No. 2	Togo		5VDR2		Jul-05	CCAMLR	
9259070	Ta Fu 1		Unknown	Belize	Unknown		38712	IATTC	
Unknown	Tching Ye No 6		Unknown	Belize	V3GN		2009-06-06	IATTC	
Unknown	TIAN LUNG NO. 12		Unknown		Unknown		May 2015	IOTC	
7321374	Trinity	Enxembre, Yucutan Basin, Fontenova, Jawhara	Unknown	Ghana, Panama	Unknown		Tema, Ghana (Sep 2011)	NEAFC/NAFO	
Unknown	Unknown (This vessel indicated its name as “ Zhou Yu 808 (舟漁 808)” when sighted)		Unknown - raised flag of China		Not Known	Not Known	2018	NPFC	
Unknown	Unknown (This vessel indicated its name as “ZHOU YU 809 (舟漁 809)” when sighted)		Unknown - raised flag of China		Unknown	Not Known	2018	NPFC	

IMO Number	Name	Previous Name(s)	Flag	Previous Flag(s)	IRCS	Previous IRCS	Original Date listed	Originating RFMO	Additional Information
Unknown	Unknown (vessel displaying the name LU RONG YUAN YU 197 鲁荣远渔 197)		Unknown		Unknown		2020	NPFC	
Unknown	Unknown (vessel displaying the name LU RONG YUAN YU 582 鲁荣远渔 582)		Unknown		Unknown		2020	NPFC	
Unknown	Unknown (vessel displaying the name LU RONGYUAN YU 581 鲁荣远渔 581)		Unknown		Unknown		2020	NPFC	
8907888	AN TON	WAN TONG, ZHONG FU HAO 111, HUMBOLDY BAY	Bangladesh	Comoros, Cameroon, Panama, Liberia	TJM0159	H04706	26-Jul-23	NPFC	
8994295	Wen Teng No. 688		Unknown	Belize	V3TK4		26-Dec-05	IATTC	
7826233	XING HAI FENG	OCEAN LION	Unknown	Panama, Equatorial Guinea	3FHW5		June 2005	IOTC	
Unknown	YAHOVA NICY		India		Unknown		May 2023	IOTC	
Unknown	YI HONG 3		Unknown		Unknown		May 2015	IOTC	
Unique vessel ID: IND.TN.15.MM.5707	YONA		India		Unknown		May 2022	IOTC	
Unknown	YU FONG 168		Unknown	Chinese Taipei	BJ4786		2009-12-11	WCPFC / IOTC (2015)	
Unknown	YU MAAN WON		Unknown	Georgia	Unknown		May 2007	IOTC	
Unknown	Yuanda 6 (Assumed from MMSI number)		Unknown - raised flag of China		Unknown	Not Known	1905-07-11	NPFC	
Unknown	Yuanda 8 (Assumed from MMSI number)		Unknown - raised flag of China		Unknown	Not Known	2019	NPFC	

IMO Number	Name	Previous Name(s)	Flag	Previous Flag(s)	IRCS	Previous IRCS	Original Date listed	Originating RFMO	Additional Information
Unknown	YUTUNA 3	HUNG SHENG NO. 166	Unknown		CPA 212		May 2017	IOTC	
Unknown	YUTUNA NO. 1		Unknown		CPA 302		May 2017	IOTC	
Unknown	Zhe Ling Yu Leng 90055		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	2017-08-29	NPFC	
Unknown	Zhe Ling Yu Leng 905		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	2017-08-29	NPFC	
Unknown	Zhexiang Yu 23029		Unknown - raised flag of China		Unknown	Not Known	1905-07-11	NPFC	
Unknown	Zhou Yu 651		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	42976	NPFC	
Unknown	Zhou Yu 652		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	2017-08-29	NPFC	
Unknown	Zhou Yu 653		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	2017-08-29	NPFC	
Unknown	Zhou Yu 656		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	2017-08-29	NPFC	
Unknown	Zhou Yu 657		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	2017-08-29	NPFC	
Unknown	Zhou Yu 658		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	2017-08-29	NPFC	
Unknown	Zhou Yu 659		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	2017-08-29	NPFC	
Unknown	Zhou Yu 660		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	2017-08-29	NPFC	
Unknown	Zhou Yu 661		Unknown		Unknown	Not Known	2017-08-29	NPFC	



Press Release

Annex 24. NAFO HOLDS 47th ANNUAL MEETING IN HALIFAX AND MAKES ANNUAL TAC DECISIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HALIFAX, CANADA, 19 September 2025-The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) held its 47th Annual Meeting in Halifax, Canada. NAFO's Contracting Parties continued to collaborate to advance the Organization's management of the fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic, noting the significance of holding the meeting during the 30th anniversary year of the adoption of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement. The NAFO delegates were welcomed to Halifax at the start of the meeting, 15 September, by His Honour The Honourable Mike Savage, ONS, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, and the Chair of the Commission, Deirdre Warner-Kramer.

"This year marks 30 years since the adoption of the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement, which set the modern foundation for the work of regional fisheries management organizations. NAFO has done better than many to adapt its work to meet these modern standards, starting with our amended Convention, which enshrined transparency and the precautionary and ecosystems approaches to fisheries management at the center of our work," remarked NAFO President, Deirdre Warner-Kramer.

This meeting marked the first meeting where NAFO applied its new Precautionary Approach Framework (PAF) to fisheries management, which was adopted last year after a comprehensive review. The new PAF ensures NAFO continues to lead with sustainability-focused fisheries management backed by strong science.

NAFO agreed to begin its third performance review of the Organization, which will aim to address ongoing concerns with workload challenges while ensuring NAFO's work still remains grounded in strong science. The last performance review of NAFO took place in 2018, with all recommendations having since been addressed.

Additionally, NAFO elected Joost Paardekooper (European Union) as the new NAFO President and Chair of the Commission for a two-year term, and Ray Walsh (Canada) as the vice-Chair of the Commission for a two-year term. NAFO also renewed Brynhildur Benediktsdóttir, as the Executive Secretary, for a second four-year term.

The 48th Annual Meeting will take place 21-25 September 2026, in Lithuania.

The total allowable catches and quotas for 2026 can be found [here](#). Meeting reports for the NAFO Commission and the Scientific Council will be made available on the NAFO website at a later date.

For further inquiries, please contact:
Dayna Bell MacCallum
Senior Scientific Information Administrator
NAFO Secretariat Tel: +1 902 468-5590 ext. 203
E-mail: dbell@nafo.int

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

47th Annual Meeting of NAFO, 15 – 19 September 2025
Halifax, Canada

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Report of the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)

47th Annual Meeting of NAFO, 15 – 19 September 2025
Halifax, Canada

1. Opening by the Chair, Patrick Moran (United States of America)

The STACTIC Chair, Patrick Moran (United States of America), opened the meeting at 14:00 (UTC-3) on Monday, 15 September 2025, at the Halifax Convention Centre in Halifax Canada and via Webex. The Chair welcomed representatives from the following Contracting Parties (CPs) – Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat (Catherine Thompson) was appointed as rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Chair introduced the provisional agenda and asked representatives if there were any comments or additions. There were no comments or additions, and the agenda was adopted (Annex 2).

Following the rules outlined in the *Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) Rules of Procedure regarding data confidentiality and participation in meetings* ([COM Doc. 22-19](#)), the Chair highlighted nominations for in-camera sessions for agenda item 4 (limited to STACTIC WP 25-02 and STACTIC WP 25-03 and associated revisions and discussions) and agenda item 6 (if the NAFO Secretariat was intending to display any information from the MCS Website). STACTIC WP 25-02 and STACTIC WP 25-03, and associated revisions and discussions under agenda item 4, were agreed to be held in an in-camera session. The Secretariat noted that they planned to display a potential new feature in the MCS Website, therefore, discussions under agenda item 6 were agreed to be held in an in-camera session.

4. Annual Compliance Review 2024

The Secretariat presented the Draft 2024 Compilation of Fisheries Reports table in STACTIC WP 25-02 (Rev. 5), and the summary of inspection information for 2024 in STACTIC WP 25-03 (Rev. 6). Contracting Parties provided comments and corrections. One Contracting Party requested that in the future, Tables 1 and 3 in STACTIC WP 25-03 (Rev. 6) include a sub-total and grand total for each Flag State, which allows for easier comparison.

The Secretariat presented the draft annual fisheries and compliance review in STACTIC WP 25-04 (Rev. 4), and Contracting Parties offered some clarifications throughout the draft. Representatives from Canada, the European Union, and the United Kingdom worked on the conclusions and recommendations sections. The final version of the draft Compliance Review is outlined in STACTIC WP 25-04 (Rev. 5). Canada noted that in the future, it would be helpful to have more time to process and analyse the information in the compliance review, such as species trends, and suggested that a small group convene ahead of the 2026 STACTIC Annual Meeting. The Chair suggested this process could happen more informally amongst Contracting Parties.

The Secretariat presented the summary of observer information for 2024 in STACTIC WP 25-08 (Rev. 6) and noted that comments and corrections have been received and incorporated since the 2025 Intersessional Meeting. Contracting Parties discussed Part III of the document, in which Parties are requested to provide a *summary of fishing trips where the figures of the observers in Part 4.B of the observer trip report are the same or very similar to the figures reported by the Master*. Canada noted that a concise definition for the phrasing “same or very similar” would be useful and proposed a +/- 10% threshold measure. The European Union expressed

support for establishing a threshold of +/- 10%, and that the exercise does not occur for each tow, but for the entire fishing trip. The United States of America questioned the goal of the exercise for STACTIC review. If Contracting Parties want to use a certain percent difference between the observer data and the master data as a risk assessment tool, that can be an internal metric and not something STACTIC necessarily need review. Further, the United States of America pointed out the Part 4.B of Annex II.M includes both retained and discarded catch figures, and the data for the observer report could be more clearly organized. The European Union explained, in camera, the operational use for these figures. Contracting Parties agreed to continue discussions and work on a revised template for STACTIC WP 25-08 (Rev. 6) at the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.

The Secretariat presented the overview of chartering arrangements and compliance in STACTIC WP 25-16. Canada sought clarification whether the 2025 Charter arrangements be included in the 2024 assessment, based on Article 26.15 of the NAFO CEMs.

The Secretariat presented the at-sea inspection information in STACTIC WP 25-17. The United States of America expressed interest in working with the Secretariat to revise the tables in the working paper in order to provide STACTIC with more meaningful and useful information. Canada expressed support for revising the tables, noting that a review of Article 31.7 of the NAFO CEM can help inform this work. The United States of America, Canada, and other interested Contracting Parties will propose revisions to the format of the At-Sea Inspection Information working paper at the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The draft annual fisheries and compliance review outlined in STACTIC WP 25-04 (Rev. 5) be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **Discussions continue on a revised template for STACTIC WP 25-08 (Rev. 6) at the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.**
- **The United States of America, Canada, and other interested Contracting Parties will propose revisions to the format of the At-Sea Inspection Information working paper STACTIC WP 25-17 at the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.**

5. Annual compliance review format

Canada presented STACTIC WP 25-10 (Revised), which outlines potential revisions to the compliance review format. The revised discussion paper focuses on developing succinct conclusions and recommendations aligned with the chronology of the NCEM and inclusion of case studies as part of the annual compliance review. Contracting Parties and the NAFO Secretariat thanked Canada for the discussion paper and asked clarifying questions, particularly on the expectation for section 5.1.5 on Activity Mapping. Canada welcomes further comments on the discussion paper ahead of the 2026 Intersessional Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Discussions on the compliance review format, as outlined in STACTIC WP 25-10 (Revised), will continue at the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.**
- **Contracting Parties will further reflect on STACTIC WP 25-10 (Revised) and provide Canada with feedback prior to the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.**

6. NAFO Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Website

The Secretariat demonstrated a new feature of the MCS website, which provides a live feed of active vessels in the Regulatory Area. Contracting Parties thanked the Secretariat for the demonstration and agreed to add the enhancement to the website, with the addition of a legend for vessel speeds.

7. Report and Recommendations of the Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR)

The Chair of the Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR) (Brent Napier, Canada) provided a summary of the meeting that took place in August 2025 (COM Doc. 25-06). During the meeting, the WG-OPR reviewed the Work Progress Update and evaluated the tasks listed in the document. All items were discussed and deemed to be “complete”, and the updates are reflected in STACTIC WP 25-11 (Revised). STACTIC agreed that the work of the WG-OPR, as outlined in the Terms of Reference ([COM Doc. 23-25](#)), has been completed. STACTIC thanked the WG-OPR Chair for the summary of the meeting discussions and adopted the meeting report.

The European Union presented STACTIC OPR-WP 25-04 (Rev. 6) which outlines a possible revision of Articles 1, 30 and 38 of the NAFO CEM in order to incorporate an electronic observation program. Contracting Parties, including the United Kingdom and the United States of America discussed that STACTIC should seek to review and strengthen the standards of the electronic observation program over time. Contracting Parties thanked the European Union for the working paper and amended the review period for the implementation of the observer program to 2027 and the implementation of the electronic observation program to 2026.

The United States of America, along with interested Contracting Parties, will review the Rules on Confidentiality in Annex II.B of the NAFO CEM and provide a discussion paper ahead of the 2026 Intersessional Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The proposal for revision of Articles 1, 30 and 38 of the NAFO CEM in order to incorporate an electronic observation program in STACTIC OPR-WP 25-04 (Rev. 6) be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **The United States of America, along with other interested Contracting Parties, will review the Rules on Confidentiality in Annex II.B and provide a discussion paper ahead of the 2026 Intersessional Meeting.**

8. Report and Recommendations of the Working Group on the Introduction of FLUX UN/CEFACT Standard for fisheries data exchanges in NAFO (WG-FLUX)

The Chair of the Working Group on the Introduction of FLUX UN/CEFACT Standard for fisheries data exchanges in NAFO (WG-FLUX) (Imogen Smith-Devey, United Kingdom) provided a summary of the meeting that took place on the 2nd and 3rd of September 2025 (COM Doc. 25-07). During the meeting, the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) Secretariat shared their experience with FLUX migration, and Contracting Parties asked clarifying questions. The European Union and the United Kingdom also shared their experiences with FLUX implementation, including benefits and challenges.

STACTIC thanked the WG-FLUX Chair for the summary of the meeting and discussed the feasibility of transitioning to FLUX in NAFO. Contracting Parties raised concerns with the costs associated with FLUX. Canada noted that it would be helpful to know the domestic cost of implementing FLUX from Parties that have undergone the process. The United States of America agreed and also indicated that before any decisions can be made, it is necessary to understand the complete cost of implementation, operation, and maintenance of a hybrid FLUX model to the Organization and how those costs would potentially be absorbed by the Contracting Parties. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, and Iceland expressed support for the proposal and a full transition to FLUX in NAFO. Other Contracting Parties noted that they do not currently have the infrastructure to support a transition to FLUX. Contracting Parties discussed the functionality of a hybrid system, meaning some Parties use FLUX and others maintain the NAF format. The Secretariat noted that a hybrid system would be technologically possible.

It was **agreed** that:

- **STACTIC adopt the recommendations of the WG-FLUX Report (COM Doc. 25-07).**
- **The WG-FLUX Chair will consult with the NAFO Secretariat ahead of the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting to assess what information is required from the WG-FLUX to allow for a complete cost analysis to operate and maintain the current NAF system, a hybrid NAF and FLUX model, and a single FLUX model.**
- **The WG-FLUX would meet again before the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting to continue the work of the group.**

9. New and pending proposals on enforcement measures: Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM

The European Union proposed a new article in the NAFO CEM with requirements related to Automatic Identification Systems (AIS) on board vessels in STACTIC WP 25-13 (Revised). The new requirements would obligate vessels with length overall >15 meters, equipped with AIS, to maintain it fully operational and activated while present in the Regulatory Area. Some Contracting Parties expressed concerns with the proposal, noting that requirements for vessel equipment are outside of the scope of federal fisheries agencies. Concerns were also raised about data privacy and the cost associated with AIS. Contracting Parties agreed to continue discussion on the feasibility of AIS at the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) presented a proposal for amending NAFO CEM Annex II.K in STACTIC WP 25-20. Based on experience with the processing of PSC-1 and PSC-3 forms, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) noticed that a few products and product codes are missing from Annex II.K, therefore proposing the addition of codes FIA, FMF, HED and LGS, as outlined in the working paper. Canada objected to the addition of “LGS” as it describes a specific reference to crab product which is a sedentary species sovereign to Canada. The European Union proposed to postpone the discussion to the Intersessional Meeting to incorporate other product codes. Contracting Parties thanked Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) for the discussion paper and agreed to provide comments on the proposal ahead of the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Discussions on requirements related to Automatic Identification Systems (AIS), as outlined in STACTIC WP 25-13 (Revised), continue at the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.**
- **Comments on STACTIC WP 25-20 be provided to Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) ahead of the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.**

10. Discussion on the review of Article 4 of the NAFO CEM

The NAFO Secretariat presented a detailed summary of the research plans that have been received to date in 2025 in STACTIC WP 25-06 (Revised). Canada requested that future reviews of the Article 4 measures include information on whether the Scientific Council has endorsed the research plans. Contracting Parties agreed to update the provision of Article 4.7 of the NAFO CEM to review the measures in 2026.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The Secretariat will present an updated summary of the research plans at the 2026 STACTIC Annual Meeting.**
- **Contracting Parties will update the provision of Article 4.7 of the NAFO CEM to review the measures in 2026.**

11. Review of specific measures in Article 6 of the NAFO CEM**a. Measures relating to the cod fishery in Division 3M**

In accordance with Article 6.11 of the NAFO CEM, Contracting Parties reviewed the measures referred to in paragraphs 8 (i) and 8 (ii) adopted in [COM Doc. 24-10](#). To support the review, the Secretariat presented a data analysis in STACTIC WP 25-24. The United States of America expressed its view that this analysis highlights potential inequalities in the oversight of fishing activities across Parties, and recommends that STACTIC take this under advisement and consider reporting mechanisms to help ensure consistent enforcement.

Contracting Parties noted that the derogations under Article 6.8(i) and (ii) may be utilized later this fishing year. However, there is not sufficient information to make clear recommendations or conclusions on the measures at this time. In 2026, STACTIC will review and assess the provisions in paragraphs 8(i) and 8(ii), including whether the provisions led to an increase in 3M Redfish bycatches or directed fishery. The United Kingdom presented a proposal in STACTIC WP 25-25 (Rev. 2), and STACTIC agreed to forward the proposal to the Commission for adoption.

It was **agreed** that:

- **STACTIC WP 25-25 (Rev. 2) is forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**

b. Measures relating to the yellowtail flounder fishery

In accordance with Article 6.12 of the NAFO CEM, STACTIC assessed if the provisions in paragraphs 6.3(g) and 6.8(bis) led to an increase on American plaice bycatches or directed fishery on American plaice; and reviewed paragraphs 6.3(g) and 6.8(bis). To support the review, the Secretariat presented an updated analysis outlined in STACTIC WP 25-22 (Revised). Contracting Parties noted that the derogation under Article 6.8(bis) was utilized on two fishing trips where there was an increased level of American plaice bycatch.

STACTIC agreed that it would be appropriate for the Commission to discuss measures relating to the yellowtail flounder fishery and whether or not the derogation should be extended to the end of 2026. The European Union expressed concerns over the available data and the potential impacts of the measure on stocks and the relevance of the derogation.

The European Union also highlighted that its inspectors have been finding the various derogations difficult to understand and to verify. The European Union would prefer a more uniform approach. Given the limited fishing activity in the yellowtail flounder fishery, there remained insufficient information beyond these preliminary observations to provide substantive recommendations on these measures. Contracting Parties agreed to continue to prioritize this assessment in expectation of more substantial data that would support the development of concrete recommendations to the Commission, including whether the provisions in paragraphs 6.3g and 8 bis led to an increase on American plaice bycatches or directed fishery on American plaice.

It was **agreed** that:

- **There was insufficient information beyond preliminary observations to provide substantive recommendations on these measures.**
- **Contracting Parties would continue to prioritize this assessment in expectation of more substantial data that would support the development of concrete recommendations to the Commission.**

c. Numbering of Article 6.8 of the NAFO CEM

Contracting Parties discussed the numbering of Article 6.8, as recommended at the November 2024 EDG Meeting and the 2025 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting. The United Kingdom proposed renumbering of Article 6.8 in STACTIC WP 25-15 (Rev. 6), which aims to improve clarity and readability. Contracting Parties agreed to adopt the revisions proposed by the United Kingdom and revisit the discussion at the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, as further revisions may be needed. The European Union also highlighted that the review in Article 6.12 only calls for review of Article 6.8(bis) but not Art. 6.8(ter).

It was **agreed** that:

- **STACTIC WP 25-15 (Rev. 6) be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**

12. Discussion on the definition of directed fisheries and bycatches

At the September 2025 WG-BDS meeting, it was noted that STACTIC was assessing the derogation measures in Article 6 of the NAFO CEM and would provide any analysis to the Commission.

The United States of America highlighted that the derogations provided in Article 6.8 contain internal inconsistencies regarding the use of the term “directed fishery” and how it is defined under Article 5.2. For example, the derogations outlined in Article 6.8(i) and bis provide where a vessel is conducting a directed fishery for a certain stock, the first two times that catches of another stock comprise the largest percentage by weight of the total catch in a haul, they shall be considered as incidental catch. Under this scenario, the above-mentioned provisions use directed fishery to mean both “intended catch and the largest percentage of “actual catch” in a haul. The United States of America noted that the various usage of the term in the CEMs in confusing and should be addressed.

It was noted that these discussions and relevant documentation under agenda item 11 would be provided to the Commission in the meeting report. Contracting Parties agreed to continue discussions on the definition of directed fisheries and bycatches at the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Discussions on the definition of directed fisheries and bycatches continue at the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.**

13. Closure of Others quota - Article 5.5(h) of the NAFO CEM

The Secretariat presented a summary of the Others quota where the NAFO Secretariat issued closure notifications in accordance with Article 5.15(d)(ii) from 2022-2025 in STACTIC WP 25-18. Canada requested that an uptake percentage be included in the working paper to highlight overruns of the Others quota, and the working paper was revised by the Secretariat (STACTIC WP 25-18 (Revised)). The European Union requested that total quota allocation for the stocks be included in the summary document, and the Secretariat agreed to provide this information in subsequent documents.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The Secretariat will present an updated summary of the Others quota closures at the 2026 STACTIC Annual Meeting.**

14. Practical application of Port State Measures in NAFO

Iceland presented an analysis of port inspection data in STACTIC WP 25-21, noting that, based on the results, the percent difference does not warrant a uniform calculation standard. Contracting Parties thanked Iceland for the proposal and discussed preferred next steps. Norway expressed support for the proposal and noted that Contracting Parties should continue using their preferred approach. Canada noted, given the marginal differences outlined in Iceland's comparison, there was no issue with employing two methods, however, STACTIC should still pursue the potential for a single-method approach. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) suggested moving towards a harmonized approach when the electronic inspection forms are implemented. The United States of America suggested that Contracting Parties publish which method they are using to the NAFO website to enhance transparency. The United Kingdom noted that Contracting Parties should work to develop a harmonized approach and questioned whether these discussions can continue at the inspector's workshop.

Additionally, as requested at the 2025 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, the Secretariat presented an analysis of the port inspection data to facilitate the review of declared catches versus inspected landed catches and the impacts of using two different denominators in STACTIC WP 25-23. Contracting Parties noted that, similar to the analysis presented by Iceland, there are not many instances where the different denominators result in significant differences at the species level. Some Contracting Parties did note that while not significant, there are still differences, and discussions should continue on this issue, noting the preference of some Contracting Parties to move to a harmonised approach. The European Union emphasized that the discussions on methodologies to be used, should lead towards a common understanding on a threshold for enforcement related to the margin of tolerance. Furthermore, the European Union highlighted that NAFO CEM provides a margin of tolerance between inspector's estimations and logbook figures, that triggers the re-routing of vessels to port. The absence of a common margin of tolerance for port inspections prejudices the enforcement of the at-sea rule. Contracting Parties agreed to revisit this discussion at the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Discussions on the practical application of Port State Measures in NAFO continue at the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.**

15. Review of current IUU list pursuant to Article 53 of the NAFO CEM

The Secretariat presented the NAFO IUU list update in STACTIC WP 25-09 (Revised) and it was agreed to forward it to the Commission for adoption.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The changes proposed to the IUU List in STACTIC WP 25-09 (Revised) be referred to the Commission for adoption.**

16. Outdated reporting terminology in the NAFO CEM

The Secretariat highlighted outdated reporting language in the NAFO CEM in STACTIC WP 25-19, and Contracting Parties agreed to forward the working paper to the Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) for review and action.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The changes proposed to the reporting language in the NAFO CEM in STACTIC WP 25-19 be forwarded to the Editorial Drafting Group (EDG).**

17. Other Business

The European Union stated their intention to host the next NAFO Inspectors Workshop, scheduled for the last week of May 2026.

18. Election of Chair and vice-Chair

According to Rule 5.4 of the NAFO Rules of Procedure: Commission “The Committees shall elect, to serve for two years, their own Chairperson and vice-Chairperson, who shall be allowed a vote.” Contracting Parties have re-elected Patrick Moran (United States of America) as Chairperson and Brent Napier (Canada) as vice-Chairperson.

19. Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next STACTIC Intersessional Meeting will take place in May 2026, and the host will be confirmed via correspondence.

20. Adoption of Report

The report was adopted on 18 September 2025, prior to the adjournment of the meeting.

21. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 (UTC-3) on 18 September 2025. The Chair thanked meeting participants for their cooperation and input. The participants likewise expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Chair for his leadership as well as to the Secretariat for their arrangements/technical work.

Annex 1. List of Participants

CHAIR	Moran, Patrick (United States of America)
CANADA	Barbour, Natasha Browne, Dion Hickey, Jenelle Lambertucci, Peter Napier, Brent
DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF THE FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND)	Gaardlykke, Meinhard Holm, Jannik Lamhauge, Majbritt Oksen, Alvilde
EUROPEAN UNION	Babcionis, Genadijus Belmonte, Luis. Chamizo, Carlos Ferreira, Carlos Galetti, Fabio Head, Francois Quintans, Miguel Shrives, Jonathan Wysocka, Malgorzata
FRANCE (IN RESPECT OF ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON)	Couston, Constance Larrat, Clemence
ICELAND	Ingibergsson, Jón Gunnar Ragnarsson, Njall
JAPAN	Batori, Koji Hagiya, Sachio Hyoue, Suzuki Iwano, Taisuke Mitome, Haruki Morishita, Joji Moronuki, Hideki
NORWAY	Aalén, Lene Frotvedt, Kristin
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	Jin, Ho-Jeong Lee, Seung Eun
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	Shulaeva, Anna Skryabin, Ilya Titov, Yuri Zukov, Ivan
UNITED KINGDOM	Murphy, Paul Smith-Devey, Imogen Windebank, James

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Jaburek, Shannah Haily, Rebecca Hale, Bo Pohl, Katherine Provencher, Eric Reid, Eric
NAFO SECRETARIAT	Aker, Jana Kendall, Matthew Laycock, DJ Thompson, Catherine

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair, Patrick Moran (United States of America)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Annual compliance review 2024
5. Annual compliance review format
6. NAFO Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Website
7. Report and Recommendations of the Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR)
8. Report and Recommendations of the Working Group on the Introduction of FLUX UN/CEFACT Standard for fisheries data exchanges in NAFO (WG-FLUX)
9. New and pending proposals on enforcement measures: Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM
10. Discussion on the review of Article 4 of the NAFO CEM
11. Review of specific measures in Article 6 of the NAFO CEM
 - a. Measures relating to the cod fishery in Division 3M
 - b. Measures relating to the yellowtail flounder fishery
 - c. Numbering of Article 6.8 of the NAFO CEM
12. Discussion on the definition of directed fisheries and bycatches
13. Closure of Others quota - Article 5.5(h) of the NAFO CEM
14. Practical application of Port State Measures in NAFO
15. Review of current IUU list pursuant to Article 53 of the NAFO CEM
16. Outdated reporting terminology in the NAFO CEM
17. Other Business
18. Election of Chair and vice-Chair
19. Time and Place of Next Meeting
20. Adoption of Report
21. Adjournment

PART III. Report of the NAFO Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)

47th Annual Meeting of NAFO, 15-19 September 2025
Halifax, Canada

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

47th Annual Meeting of NAFO, 15-19 September 2025
Halifax, Canada

1. Opening by the Chair, Robert Fagan, (Canada)

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Robert Fagan (Canada) at 14:00 hours (UTC -3 hours) on Monday, 15 September 2025. Representatives participated from Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, Norway, United Kingdom, United States of America and the NAFO Secretariat (Annex 1).

Following the process established in prior years, the Secretariat circulated “*Advance Agreement of Agenda Items by Correspondence and STACFAD Recommendations*” to STACFAD Members in advance of the meeting. Prior to the session, several clarification questions were addressed by the Secretariat.

This process of advance agreement continued to allow Contracting Parties to efficiently reach agreement on routine matters in advance by correspondence. The Chair thanked delegates for their continued flexibility and cooperation to facilitate this process.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat was appointed as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The provisional agenda as circulated in NAFO/25-164 of 19 July 2025 was modified to include “*Annual Meeting hosting*” under agenda item 15 “*Other Matters*”.

The revised agenda was adopted as presented in Annex 2.

4. Audited Financial Statements for 2024

As previously agreed, Baker Tilly Nova Scotia Inc. performed the audit for the 2024 fiscal year, in accordance with the NAFO Financial Regulations. The draft audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024 were circulated to the Heads of Delegations and STACFAD delegates in advance of the meeting. The financial statements are presented as drafts until they are reviewed by STACFAD and approved by the Organization.

The excess of revenues over expenditures for 2024 was \$183,539 while the previous year’s deficiency was \$78,336. It should be noted that although the financial statements may show annual deficiencies, excess funds in the operating fund from the prior year and other revenue help finance annual operations.

Total expenditures incurred for the fiscal period ending 2024, as shown in the draft financial statements, amounted to \$2,384,021, which was \$251,979 under the approved budget of \$2,636,000. Overall savings for the year can be attributed to reduced travel and meeting costs with meetings being held virtually as well as a vacant staff position for nine months of the year.

The operating fund had a balance of \$474,433 at the beginning of the year which was used to reduce contributions from Contracting Parties in 2024. As approved at the September 2024 Annual Meeting, the contingency fund remained at \$285,000; funds of \$24,524 were transferred from the relocation fund to the operating fund to cover relocation expenses incurred during the year; the relocation fund was increased by \$12,000 to \$37,050 and the performance review fund was increased by \$15,000 to \$90,000. The balance of the

operating fund at the end of the year was \$655,496 which was available to reduce contributions from Contracting Parties in 2025.

STACFAD recommends that:

- **The Audited Financial Statements for 2024 be adopted.**

The NAFO Financial Regulations (Rule 9.10) state that the Auditors shall serve for a maximum of five years. The Secretariat presented a proposal to extend the maximum term that the Auditors can serve (STACFAD WP 25-02).

A routine audit firm rotation is meant to ensure objectivity, enhance audit quality, and mitigate risks associated with long-term auditor-client relationships. Extending the term so that an auditor can serve up to a maximum of 10 years would allow auditors to develop a deep understanding of complex businesses, improving audit quality. This longer tenure can also be both cost effective and less disruptive. Combining term limits with a periodic review by STACFAD fosters both continuity and independence. This balanced approach upholds transparency, supports audit quality, and aligns with international best practices.

The Committee agreed with the Secretariat's proposal that Rule 9.10 of the NAFO Financial Regulations be amended to extend the term that the Auditors can serve to a maximum of 10 years.

STACFAD recommends that:

- **Rule 9.10 of the NAFO Financial Regulations be amended as follows:**
- **The Auditors shall serve an initial term of five (5) years and may be reappointed for one additional term of five (5) years. No audit firm shall serve for more than ten (10) consecutive years.**

5. Administrative and Activity Report by the NAFO Secretariat

The Administrative and Activity Report was reviewed by the Committee. All Contracting Parties were encouraged to share it among their delegation as it provides a comprehensive summation of Secretariat activities for the period September 2024 to August 2025 (COM Doc. 25-04 Revised).

6. Projected Financial Statements for 2025

Financial Statement estimates for 2025 (projected to 31 December) have been provided by the Secretariat in COM Doc. 25-04 Revised.

Operating Expenses for 2025

The operating budget for 2025 was approved at \$2,746,000 while expenditures for the year are projected to come in at \$2,706,000, or \$40,000 under the approved budget.

The departure of the Scientific Council Coordinator in early 2024 left a staff position vacant for the remainder of 2024 and into the first quarter of 2025. This vacancy resulted in direct savings in salary and benefits. The position was filled in 2025, normalizing personnel costs for the remainder of the year.

The Secretariat supported a high volume of meetings throughout the year, both in-person and virtual. Despite the increased activity, all meeting-related expenses are expected to remain within their allocated budgets. No significant variances are anticipated across the remaining accounts. Spending is generally aligned with budget expectations.

Assessed Contributions

At the beginning of 2025, the accumulated surplus included \$655,496 in the operating fund, which was deemed to be in excess of the needs of the Organization. From this amount, \$655,495 was allocated towards the 2025 approved operating budget. Therefore, to meet the 2025 operations budget of \$2,746,000, Contracting Parties were assessed contributions in the amount of \$2,090,505.

Balance Sheet

The Organization's cash position on 31 December 2025 is estimated to be \$733,113 while contributions of \$90,722 are currently outstanding from one Contracting Party. The cash balance should be sufficient to finance appropriations in early 2026 pending the receipt of annual payments for 2026. In recent years, the cash value of outstanding significant contributions was concerning for the Secretariat's ability to meet its future financial obligations. While these concerns have eased, the Secretariat will continue to monitor the situation.

7. Review of Accumulated Surplus and Funds

According to the NAFO Financial Regulations, STACFAD and the Commission 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.

In addition, the Organization shall also maintain a recruitment and relocation fund, up to a maximum of \$100,000, for relocation costs of internationally recruited staff. The Organization shall also maintain a performance review fund to pay costs associated with having an external performance review. The performance review fund balance shall be kept at a maximum of \$100,000.

The accumulated surplus account is estimated to have \$810,000 on 31 December 2025 as shown in STACFAD WP 25-03.

STACFAD recommends that:

- The amount maintained in the contingency fund shall be set at \$285,000 of which \$200,000 would be sufficient to finance operations during the first three months of 2026, and of which \$85,000 would be available to be used for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.
- The recruitment and relocation fund be increased by \$12,000 for future recruitment and relocation costs of internationally recruited staff.
- The performance review fund be increased by \$10,000 for future costs associated with having an external performance review.
- The balance remaining, estimated to be \$375,950, shall be maintained in the Operating Fund and applied to reduce annual contributions due from each Contracting Party for the following year.

8. Personnel Matters

The Secretariat provided an update on the recruitment process of the vacant Scientific Council Coordinator position in STACFAD WP 25-09.

At the 46th Annual Meeting of NAFO in September 2024, STACFAD was advised that the initial recruitment of the NAFO Scientific Council Coordinator (SCC) was unsuccessful. It had been proposed that the SCC position be restructured to include more direct scientific work in support of the Scientific Council (SC). It was hoped that this realignment could address some of the workload issues of the Scientific Council, and to potentially attract more applicants to the position.

The recruitment of a NAFO Senior Science Coordinator with a restructured job description and revised job title was initiated in the autumn of 2024 and concluded with the successful hiring of Andrea Perreault. Andrea started her new position with the NAFO Secretariat on 24 February 2025.

At this time, the SC is determining the direct science tasks that it would like the NAFO Senior Science Coordinator to perform, then the Secretariat will be able to assess the ability to complete the tasks, identify an effective realignment of responsibilities, and consider any potential cost implications from staff reclassifications.

9. Internship Program

At the 2024 Annual Meeting, STACFAD recommended a review of the NAFO Internship Program to ensure it remains mutually beneficial for both the Secretariat and participating interns. The NAFO Secretariat presented the results of the evaluation in STACFAD WP 25-10, and in line with the STACFAD recommendation, specific attention was given to the monthly stipend and the structure of work projects.

The review found that the current monthly stipend of CAD \$2,250 per month is no longer competitive, especially given rising living costs in the Halifax Regional Municipality. Comparisons with Nova Scotia's minimum wage and the Government of Canada's student pay rates suggest that a revised stipend ranging from CAD \$3,061 to \$4,090 (based on a 37.5-hour work week) would better reflect market standards and attract a broader pool of qualified applicants.

The Secretariat also assessed the nature of past intern assignments, which have largely focused on fisheries science and management. The primary function of the NAFO Secretariat is to provide administrative support to its members therefore it has limited ongoing or large projects that may be relevant to these fields leaving interns to fill gaps with administrative tasks or independent work.

To improve engagement, the program will expand to include roles in database management, website development, meeting coordination, and other functions relevant to the Secretariat. Additional enhancements include creating a project bank aligned with annual workloads, collaborating with Contracting Parties to develop targeted intern projects, and exploring remote internship options. These changes aim to improve recruitment, increase flexibility, and ensure interns are meaningfully contributing to NAFO's objectives.

To improve both the intern experience and the overall effectiveness of the internship program, STACFAD recommends:

- **To increase the monthly stipend to range from CAD \$3,061 to \$4,090 (based on a 37.5-hour work week) depending on the qualifications of the successful intern(s). The placement(s) would be for a duration of up to 25 weeks annually.**
- **To adjust the monthly stipend periodically as appropriate to keep it aligned with Government of Canada's student pay rates.**
- **To implement the proposed enhancements to the NAFO internship and ensuring it continues to provide valuable opportunities for interns while supporting the Organization's operational needs.**

10. Report on the Annual Meeting of the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS), 2025

The annual meeting of the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS) was hosted by the Government of United States of America during 29 April–01 May 2025 in Washington, DC, USA, with an option to join by videoconference. The meeting was attended by the Executive Directors and Finance Officers of the seven International Fisheries Commissions with headquarters located in Canada and the United States of America. NAFO was represented by Brynhildur Benediktsdóttir, Executive Secretary, and Stan Goodick, Deputy

Executive Secretary/Senior Finance and Staff Administrator. The IFCPS Directors appointed by the Governments of Canada and the United States of America also attended the meeting.

Background information on the pension plan, investment returns, actuarial valuation and administration was presented within the information paper STACFAD WP 25-04.

The next annual meeting of the IFCPS will be hosted by the Government of Canada during the week of 20 April 2026 in Ottawa, Canada. It was agreed that the meeting would provide a virtual/hybrid option for those not able to attend in-person.

11. NAFO Resolutions

At the 2024 Annual Meeting of NAFO, COM WP 24-05 was presented by the Secretariat to review the NAFO Resolutions presented on the NAFO public website.

In the past, resolutions were reviewed at Annual Meetings, but this has not been done since the 2015 Annual Meeting. To explore best practices, the NAFO Secretariat reviewed how other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) present resolutions to remain informative and relevant to the general public.

The Secretariat identified two practical amendments to improve the clarity and relevance of the NAFO Resolutions page (STACFAD WP 25-05). First, reinstating a periodic review would help determine whether any resolutions should be removed from the website to ensure the content remains current. Second, linking to original meeting reports, in addition to providing the full text of each resolution, would offer valuable context and clarify intent, particularly as resolutions may become outdated or replaced over time. These changes are straightforward to implement and are expected to enhance context for the general public without requiring significant resources.

After discussion, it was agreed that a three-year review cycle would more effectively enable the Commission to assess whether any NAFO Resolutions should be removed or deemed outdated, obsolete, or superseded by subsequent developments.

To improve the clarity and accessibility of the NAFO Resolutions page, STACFAD agreed to:

- **Periodic Review:** The Secretariat will present a working paper to the Commission every three (3) years, starting in 2026, for consideration and review of the NAFO Resolutions.
- **Enhanced Documentation:** In addition to the full text of the NAFO Resolution, the Secretariat will add links to original meeting documents for each adopted resolution, providing additional context for public understanding.

12. Budget Estimate for 2026

The 2026 budget estimate, as prepared by the Secretariat, was presented in COM WP 25-01. Additional details and highlights on the 2026 budget estimate were provided in STACFAD WP 25-06.

Budget Estimate 2026	Approved Budget 2025
\$2,749,000	\$2,746,000

The 2026 budget estimate of \$2,749,000 represents a modest increase of \$3,000, or 0.1%, over the prior year's approved budget.

Although the overall increase to the budget is only up 0.1%, there are various fluctuations in the individual budget categories as follows:

The equipment budget is down \$7,000 from the consolidation of the office copier and print production printer due to reduced printing requirements.

The internship budget is up \$4,000 as the monthly stipend was adjusted to align with the Government of Canada student rates of pay and account for the increased cost of living in Halifax.

The Sessional meetings budget is down \$89,000 mainly due to the 2026 Annual Meeting being held in Lithuania and costs for the Secretariat to travel to Lithuania are significantly lower than when the Secretariat hosts the Annual Meeting in Halifax. The Inter-sessional Scientific meetings budget is down \$25,000 due to the prior year's budget including funds to accommodate travel costs for Scientific Council representatives to attend a joint NAFO/ICES/FAO symposium. The Inter-sessional Commission and Other Meetings budgets are up \$5,000 and \$6,000 respectively due to increased travel costs.

The personnel services budget has risen by \$77,000 from the previous year. NAFO adheres to the salary scales of similar positions in the Public Service of Canada, which include routine economic and salary step increases. Secretariat staffing is expected to be at full capacity for 2026 with eleven members.

The recruitment and relocation budget is up \$30,000 due to relocation costs being deferred from 2025 for the recruitment of the Science Coordinator.

The Secretariat has endeavored to maintain the remaining budget items at or near the level of the budget in previous years.

STACFAD recommends that:

- **The budget for 2026 of \$2,749,000 (Annex 3) be adopted.**

13. Budget Forecast for 2027 and 2028

The preliminary budget forecast for 2027 (\$2,900,000) and 2028 (\$2,975,000) (Annex 4) was provided in COM WP 25-01. The forecasts were approved in principle, and it was noted that the budget for 2027 will be reviewed in detail at the next Annual Meeting.

14. Adoption of 2025/2026 Staff Committee Appointees

The NAFO Staff Committee was established to address the rare occurrence when a staff conflict cannot be resolved internally. In such an instance, the Staff Committee may be asked to intervene and to assist in achieving a solution through mediation. The Staff Committee has not been called on since its inception in 2005.

The Secretariat members nominated the following people to serve as members of the Staff Committee for September 2025–September 2026: Robert Fagan (Canada), Imogen Gibbins (United Kingdom) and Mar Sacau Cuadrado (European Union).

STACFAD recommends that:

- **The Commission appoint the three Staff Committee nominees for September 2025–September 2026: Robert Fagan (Canada), Imogen Gibbins (United Kingdom) and Mar Sacau Cuadrado (European Union).**

15. Other Business

• **Annual Meeting Hosting**

As noted previously, Contracting Parties have been strongly encouraged, whenever possible, to provide more than 12 months' notice of their intention to extend an invitation to host a NAFO Annual Meeting. This advance notice helps avoid unnecessary fiscal implications associated with the Organization making non-refundable deposits to secure conference space.

At the 2024 Annual Meeting, the Commission established a funding model to help offset the costs of hosting a NAFO Annual Meeting. Beginning with the 2027 Annual Meeting, a contribution of CAD \$100,000 will be made available to Contracting Parties that host the Annual Meeting, with any expenses beyond this amount remaining the responsibility of the host.

The establishment of this funding model intended to enable Contracting Parties to extend an invitation to host further in advance; however, it was felt that creating a deadline to extend such an invitation would further reduce financial risk and the challenges associated with booking meeting space in Halifax.

To ensure adequate time to secure a suitable venue in Halifax and avoid financial penalties from non-refundable deposits, STACFAD recommends that:

- **Following each Annual Meeting, and when an invitation has not been received to host the Annual Meeting in two years time, the Secretariat will circulate a list of venues available in Halifax together with the deadlines to secure each location.**
- **Contracting Parties intending to host a NAFO Annual Meeting should extend a formal invitation no later than 31 December of the year two years prior. For example, to host the 2027 Annual Meeting, the invitation to host should be extended by 31 December 2025.**
- **If no invitation is received by the deadline, the Secretariat will inform Contracting Parties and proceed to secure a venue in Halifax.**

16. Election of vice-Chair

According to Rule 5.4 of the NAFO Rules of Procedure: Commission *"The Committees shall elect, to serve for two years, their own Chairperson and vice-Chairperson, who shall be allowed a vote."*

The current Chair, Robert Fagan (Canada), anticipates being unable to complete his full-term ending in September 2026 due to changing job responsibilities. At such time, the vice-Chair would be called on to serve as interim Chair.

The current vice-Chair, Imogen Gibbins (United Kingdom), was nominated and re-elected in September 2025.

17. Time and Place of 2026–2028 Annual Meetings

It was previously agreed that the dates for the 2026–2027 Annual Meetings be as follows:

2026	-	21–25 September in Lithuania
2027	-	20–24 September

STACFAD reviewed and recommended the dates for the 2028 Annual Meeting as follows:

2028 - 18–22 September

STACFAD recommends that:

- **The 2028 Annual Meeting be held 18–22 September in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, unless an invitation to host is extended by a Contracting Party and accepted by the Organization.**

18. Adjournment

The final session of the STACFAD meeting adjourned on 15 September 2025. The meeting report was adopted by correspondence.

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

Annex 1. List of Participants

CHAIR	Fagan, Robert (Canada)
CANADA	Marsden, Dale
DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF THE FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND)	Katzke Simonsen, Julie
EUROPEAN UNION	Blazkiewicz, Bernard Demblon, Jessica
FRANCE (IN RESPECT OF ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON)	Thiam, Mafal
JAPAN	Mitome, Haruki
NORWAY	Hinchliffe, Kristi Veierød
UNITED KINGDOM	Gibbins, Imogen
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Mencher, Elizabethann Morgan, Clark
NAFO SECRETARIAT	Goodick, Stan LeFort, Lisa

Annex 2. Agenda

1.	Opening by the Chair, Robert Fagan, (Canada)
2.	Appointment of Rapporteur
3.	Adoption of Agenda
4.	Audited Financial Statements for 2024
5.	Administrative and Activity Report by the NAFO Secretariat
6.	Projected Financial Statements for 2025
7.	Review of Accumulated Surplus and Funds
8.	Personnel Matters
9.	Internship Program
10.	Report on the Annual Meeting of the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS), 2025
11.	NAFO Resolutions
12.	Budget Estimate for 2026
13.	Budget Forecast for 2027 and 2028
14.	Adoption of 2025/2026 Staff Committee Appointees
15.	Other Business
	• Annual Meeting Hosting
16.	Election of vice-Chair
17.	Time and Place of 2026–2028 Annual Meetings
18.	Adjournment

Annex 3. Budget Estimate for 2026

NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

Budget Estimate for 2026

(Canadian Dollars)

	Approved Budget 2025	Projected Expenditures 2025	Preliminary Budget Forecast 2026	Budget Estimate 2026
1 Communications	\$29,000	\$29,000	\$29,000	\$29,000
2 Computer Services	72,000	72,000	72,000	73,000
3 Equipment	26,000	22,000	23,000	19,000
4 Fishery Monitoring	48,000	48,000	50,000	50,000
5 Hospitality Allowance	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
6 Internship	14,000	14,000	14,000	18,000
7 Materials and Supplies	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
8 Meetings				
a) Sessional	241,000	236,000	244,000	152,000
b) Inter-sessional Commission	50,000	50,000	50,000	55,000
c) Inter-sessional Scientific	50,000	50,000	30,000	25,000
d) Other Meetings and Travel	45,000	45,000	45,000	50,000
Subtotal Meetings	386,000	381,000	369,000	282,000
9 Personnel Services				
a) Salaries	1,390,000	1,365,000	1,450,000	1,449,000
b) Superannuation and Annuities	457,000	457,000	463,000	464,000
c) Medical and Insurance Plans	115,000	123,000	120,000	133,000
d) Employee Benefits	115,000	101,000	119,000	108,000
e) Additional Help	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Subtotal Personnel Services	2,079,000	2,048,000	2,154,000	2,156,000
10 Professional Services	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
11 Publications	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
12 Recruitment and Relocation (Note 1)	0	0	0	30,000
	\$2,746,000	\$2,706,000	\$2,803,000	\$2,749,000

Note 1: Recruitment and relocation expenses shall be paid from the available funds in the Recruitment and Relocation Fund. Balance in the fund as of 01 January 2025 was \$37,050.

Notes on Budget Estimate 2026
(Canadian Dollars)

Item 1	Communications		\$29,000
	Phone and internet services	\$23,000	
	Postage and Courier	6,000	
Item 2	Computer Services		\$73,000
	Computer hardware, software, supplies, support and website hosting.		
Item 3	Equipment		\$19,000
	Purchases	\$10,000	
	Maintenance	5,000	
	Leases (photocopier)	4,000	
Item 4	Fishery Monitoring		\$50,000
	Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) annual maintenance fee including programming changes as required due to changes to CEM.	\$47,000	
	Oracle database annual maintenance	3,000	
Item 8(a)	NAFO Sessional Meetings		\$152,000
	Annual Meeting, September 2026		
	SC Meeting, June and October 2026		
Item 8(b)	NAFO Inter-sessional Commission Meetings		\$55,000
	General provision for Commission inter-sessional meetings.		
Item 8(c)	NAFO Inter-sessional Scientific Meetings		\$25,000
	Provision for inter-sessional meetings, symposia and a general provision for unforeseen expenses necessarily incurred by SC required for the provision of answering requests for advice from the Commission.		
Item 8(d)	Other Meetings and Travel		\$50,000
	International Meetings regularly attended by the NAFO Secretariat which may include the following: Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA), Committee on Fisheries (COFI), Co-ordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP), Fisheries Resources Monitoring Systems (FIRMS), International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS), Inspector Workshops, Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN), United Nations, etc.		

Item 9(a)	Salaries Salaries budget estimate for 2026.		\$1,449,000
Item 9(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.		\$464,000
Item 9(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.		\$133,000
Item 9(d)	Employee Benefits Employee benefits as per the NAFO Staff Rules including overtime, repatriation grant, termination benefits, vacation pay, and home leave travel for internationally recruited members of the Secretariat.		\$108,000
Item 9(e)	Additional Support Other assistance as required.		\$2,000
Item 10	Professional Services Professional Services (audit, consulting, legal fees, and insurance) Professional development, training and public relations.	\$33,000 12,000	\$45,000
Item 11	Publications Production costs of NAFO publications, booklets, brochures, posters, etc.		\$12,000
Item 12	Recruitment and Relocation Relocation costs for the NAFO Science Coordinator deferred from 2025.		\$30,000

Annex 4. Preliminary Budget Forecast for 2027 and 2028

NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

Preliminary Budget Forecast for 2027 and 2028

(Canadian Dollars)

	Preliminary Budget Forecast 2027	Preliminary Budget Forecast 2028
1 Communications	\$30,000	\$30,000
2 Computer Services	74,000	75,000
3 Equipment	19,000	19,000
4 Fishery Monitoring	52,000	54,000
5 Hospitality Allowance	3,000	3,000
6 Internship	18,000	18,000
7 Materials and Supplies	32,000	32,000
8 Meetings		
a) Sessional	253,000	254,000
b) Inter-sessional Commission	55,000	55,000
c) Inter-sessional Scientific	25,000	25,000
d) Other Meetings and Travel	50,000	50,000
	<u>383,000</u>	<u>384,000</u>
9 Personnel Services		
a) Salaries	1,507,000	1,566,000
b) Superannuation and Annuities	470,000	476,000
c) Medical and Insurance Plans	139,000	146,000
d) Employee Benefits	113,000	111,000
e) Additional Help	2,000	2,000
	<u>2,231,000</u>	<u>2,301,000</u>
10 Professional Services	46,000	47,000
11 Publications	12,000	12,000
12 Recruitment and Relocation	-	-
	<u>\$2,900,000</u>	<u>\$2,975,000</u>

Annex 5. Preliminary Calculation of Billing for Contracting Parties for 2026

**Preliminary calculation of billing
for the 2026 financial year
(Canadian Dollars)**

Budget Estimate	\$2,749,000
Deduct: Amount Allocated from Accumulated Surplus	-\$375,950
Amount Allocated from Relocation Fund	-\$30,000
Funds required to meet 2026 Administrative Budget	\$2,343,050

Part A

Contracting Parties	2023 nominal catches (metric tons)	Catch %	NAFO Convention Article IX.2.a,b,c			
			10%	30%	60%	Subtotal
Canada	103,403	29.29%	\$79,778	\$54,070	\$411,769	\$545,617
Cuba	-	0.00%	-	\$54,070	-	\$54,070
Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) (Note 2)	180,250	51.05%	\$139,067	\$54,070	\$717,676	\$910,813
European Union	40,343	11.43%	-	\$54,070	\$160,688	\$214,758
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)	11	0.00%	\$8	\$54,070	\$0	\$54,078
Iceland	-	0.00%	-	\$54,070	-	\$54,070
Japan	1,196	0.34%	-	\$54,070	\$4,780	\$58,850
Norway	2,171	0.61%	-	\$54,070	\$8,576	\$62,646
Republic of Korea	-	0.00%	-	\$54,070	-	\$54,070
Russian Federation	5,684	1.61%	-	\$54,070	\$22,634	\$76,704
Ukraine	-	0.00%	-	\$54,070	-	\$54,070
United Kingdom	-	0.00%	-	\$54,070	-	\$54,070
United States of America	20,028	5.67%	\$15,452	\$54,070	\$79,712	\$149,234
Total	353,086	100.00%	\$234,305	\$702,910	\$1,405,835	\$2,343,050

Part B

Contracting Parties	Subtotal from Part A	NAFO Convention Article IX.2.d (Note 1)						Total contribution
		% Contribution	Catch % minus DFG	10%	30%	60%	Subtotal	
Canada	\$545,617	23.28%	59.82%	\$52,743	\$15,741	\$226,006	\$294,490	\$840,107
Cuba	\$54,070	2.31%	-	-	\$15,741	-	\$15,741	\$69,811
Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) (Note 2)	\$910,813	38.87%	-	-\$62,965	-\$188,892	-\$377,790	-\$629,647	\$281,166
European Union	\$214,758	9.17%	23.34%	-	\$15,741	\$88,174	\$103,915	\$318,673
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)	\$54,078	2.31%	0.01%	\$6	\$15,741	\$36	\$15,783	\$69,861
Iceland	\$54,070	2.31%	-	-	\$15,741	-	\$15,741	\$69,811
Japan	\$58,850	2.51%	0.69%	-	\$15,741	\$2,605	\$18,346	\$77,196
Norway	\$62,646	2.67%	1.26%	-	\$15,741	\$4,758	\$20,499	\$83,145
Republic of Korea	\$54,070	2.31%	-	-	\$15,741	-	\$15,741	\$69,811
Russian Federation	\$76,704	3.27%	3.29%	-	\$15,741	\$12,427	\$28,168	\$104,872
Ukraine	\$54,070	2.31%	-	-	\$15,741	-	\$15,741	\$69,811
United Kingdom	\$54,070	2.31%	-	-	\$15,741	-	\$15,741	\$69,811
United States of America	\$149,234	6.37%	11.59%	\$10,216	\$15,741	\$43,784	\$69,741	\$218,975
Total	\$2,343,050	100.00%	100.00%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,343,050

Note 1

The annual contribution of any Contracting Party which has a population of less than 300,000 inhabitants shall be limited to a maximum of 12% of the total budget. When this contribution is so limited, the remaining part of the budget shall be divided among the other Contracting Parties in accordance with Article IX.2.a,b and c of the NAFO Convention.

Note 2

Faroe Islands 2,510 metric tons
Greenland 177,740 metric tons

Report of the NAFO Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process (E-WG) Meeting

04 December 2025
Virtual

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2. Appointment of Rapporteur	2
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4. Finalize schedule for upcoming meetings scheduled for 2026.....	2
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Report of E-WG,
04 December 2025

Report of the NAFO Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process (E-WG) Meeting

04 December 2025
Virtual

1. Opening by the Chair, Brynhildur Benediktsdóttir (NAFO Secretariat)

The Chair, Brynhildur Benediktsdóttir (NAFO Secretariat) opened the meeting on Thursday, 04 December 2025 and welcomed the Chairs and co-Chairs of the NAFO subsidiary bodies, standing committees and working groups (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. Finalize schedule for upcoming meetings scheduled for 2026

The schedule for upcoming meetings scheduled for 2026 was reviewed in COM-SC WP 25-01 (Rev. 3) and the discussions of the working group are reflected in COM-SC WP 25-01 (Rev. 4) (Annex 3).

5. Consider the three two-week periods during the NAFO year for scheduling of possible intersessional meetings in 2027

To assist with meeting planning, the working group selects three two-week periods annually during which meetings of NAFO subsidiary bodies and working groups may be held. The working group discussed whether identifying these periods continues to be beneficial, and it was agreed that this practice is useful, particularly for the planning purposes of Contracting Parties and Chairs.

It was further noted that these two-week periods do not require subsidiary bodies to meet during those dates, nor do they preclude scheduling meetings outside them. The three two-week periods during the NAFO year, proposed for scheduling possible intersessional meetings in 2027, were presented in COM-SC Working Paper 25-02.

The Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process recommends that:

- **For the 2027 NAFO year, the following two-week periods, be considered for NAFO intersessional meetings:**
 - **15 – 26 February 2027;**
 - **12 – 23 April 2027; and**
 - **12 – 23 July 2027**

The above-mentioned periods will be presented to Commission and Scientific Council for consideration and adoption at the 2026 Annual Meeting of NAFO.

6. Other Matters

The following other matters were discussed under this agenda item:

a. Vacancies

As noted at the recent Annual Meeting of NAFO in September, the working group reiterated that several Chair, co-Chair, and Designated Expert positions remain vacant which will need to be filled to complete the work of NAFO in 2026. It was agreed that a notification be circulated to all Contracting Parties encouraging them to identify individuals within their delegations to fill the following roles:

Chair Positions:	Designated Expert Positions:
CESAG – co-Chair from the Commission	Ecosystem Designated Expert 3LNO
PA-WG – Chair from the Scientific Council	Northern Shortfin Squid in SA 3 & 4
STACFEN – Chair from the Scientific Council	Thorny skate in Div. 3LNO
WG-ESA – co-Chair from the Scientific Council	White hake in Div. 3NO
WG-RBMS – co-Chair from the Scientific Council	

b. Working Group Meeting Planning and Budget Considerations

The working group noted that, as the meeting schedule remains full each year, effective travel planning and budgeting are essential to ensure full participation by all Contracting Parties.

To support this, several suggestions were made for consideration when scheduling working group meetings:

- Whenever possible, invitations to host by a Contracting Party should be issued well in advance. This would facilitate travel planning and budgeting by Contracting Parties as well as the Secretariat, when the meetings are not held in Halifax.
- Whenever possible, meetings could be divided into smaller segments. For example, shorter virtual meetings could take place in advance of in-person meetings to address key issues allowing for the longer in-person meetings to be completed in less time.
- Scheduling meetings back-to-back with other NAFO meetings could further help reduce travel costs for both Contracting Parties and the Secretariat.

c. Role of Accredited Observers at NAFO Meetings

It was noted that there may be a need to review the current Rules of Procedure in relation to accredited observer participation in NAFO Meetings, and for Chairs to clarify expectations at the beginning of each meeting to ensure clarity for all meeting participants. The Executive Secretary noted that they would raise this concern with the Chairs of the Commission, Scientific Council and STACFAD.

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting to be scheduled virtually during the last week of November or the first week of December 2026.

The exact date and time(s) to be determined following the Annual Meeting of NAFO in September 2026.

Report of E-WG,
04 December 2025

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 hours (UTC -4 hours, Time in Halifax).

Annex 1. List of Participants

CHAIR OF COMMISSION	Paardekooper, Joost (European Union)
VICE-CHAIR OF SC	Simpson, Mark (Canada)
CHAIR OF STACFAD	Fagan, Robert (Canada)
CHAIR OF STACTIC	Moran, Patrick (United States of America)
CO-CHAIR OF CESAG	Simpson, Mark (Canada)
CO-CHAIRS OF WG-EAFFM	Mencher, Elizabethann (USA) Sacau Cuadrado, Mar (European Union)
CO-CHAIR OF WG-RBMS	Walsh, Ray (Canada)
NAFO SECRETARIAT	Benediktsdóttir, Brynhildur Aker, Jana Goodick, Stan Guile, Sarah LeFort, Lisa Perreault, Andrea

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair, Brynhildur Benediktsdóttir (NAFO Secretariat)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Finalize schedule for upcoming meetings scheduled for 2026 (COM-SC WP 25-01 Rev.)
5. Consider the three two-week periods during the NAFO year for scheduling of possible intersessional meetings in 2027 (COM-SC WP 25-02)
6. Other Matters
 - a. Vacancies
 - b. Working Group Meeting Planning and Budget Considerations
 - c. Role of Accredited Observers at Meetings
7. Date and Time of Next Meeting
8. Adjournment

Annex 3. 2026 NAFO Meeting – Tentative Schedule
(COM-SC Working Paper 25-01 Rev. 4)

The following NAFO Meetings are scheduled, or are to be scheduled, for 2026:

Date	Meeting	Venue
20 January	Performance Review Working Group to develop Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the 2026 Performance Review of NAFO <i>* Subsequent meetings will aim to be scheduled during the April and/or August period for scheduling of Working Group meetings.</i>	<u>Virtual</u>
16–27 Feb.	<i>* First period for the scheduling of Working Group meetings</i>	
13–24 Apr.	<i>* Second period for the scheduling of Working Group meetings</i>	
<u>April (TBC)</u>	NAFO Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS) Meeting <i>* If possible, the half-day meeting to be scheduled during the April period for scheduling of Working Group meetings.</i>	<u>Virtual</u>
Prior to 30 Apr.	NAFO Joint Commission–Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG) Meeting	via correspondence unless new issues emerge
Prior to the STACTIC Intersessional (TBD)	NAFO STACTIC Working Group on the Introduction of FLUX UN/CEFACT Standard for fisheries data exchanges in NAFO (WG-FLUX) Meeting <u>In consultation with the STACTIC Chair, a doodle poll to be circulated to identify a suitable date</u>	<u>TBD</u>
<u>Early May (TBD)</u>	NAFO Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) Intersessional Meeting <u>In consultation with the STACTIC Chair, suitable meeting dates to be identified</u>	<u>Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada (TBC)</u>
<u>To be proposed: 05 May</u>	NAFO SC STACREC Data Review Meeting	Virtual
<u>To be proposed: 06 May</u>	NAFO Scientific Council Precautionary Approach Working Group (PA-WG) Meeting	Virtual
29 May –11 Jun.	NAFO Scientific Council and its Standing Committees Meeting	Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
10–21 Aug.	<i>* Third period for the scheduling of Working Group meetings</i>	
<u>To be proposed: Week of 03 August</u>	NAFO Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM) Meeting <u>Format: In-person meeting</u> <u>Duration: 2 to 2.5 days</u>	<u>Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada (TBC)</u>

Date	Meeting	Venue
<u>To be proposed: Week of 03 August</u>	NAFO Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS) Meeting <u>Format: In-person meeting</u> <u>Duration: 2 to 2.5 days</u>	<u>Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada (TBC)</u>
15–17 Sep.	Scientific Council and STACFIS Shrimp Assessment Meeting	<u>Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada (TBC)</u>
21–25 Sep.	NAFO 48 th Annual Meeting	Lithuania
Oct./ Nov. TBD	NAFO STACTIC Editorial Drafting Group of the NAFO CEM (EDG) Meeting	<u>Virtual</u>
10–19 Nov.	NAFO Working Group on Ecosystem Science and Assessment (WG-ESA) Meeting	TBD
<u>Last week of Nov. or first week of Dec.</u>	NAFO Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process (E-WG) Meeting	Virtual

* As always, these two-week periods would not require meetings of NAFO subsidiary bodies to meet during those dates nor would they preclude the scheduling of meetings of NAFO subsidiary bodies outside those dates.

** Please note, the meeting dates have not all been confirmed and may be subject to change.

Report of the NAFO *ad hoc* virtual working group to consider the initiation of a potential third Performance Review of NAFO (WG-PR) Meeting

20 January 2026
via Webex

1.	Opening by the Chair, Robert Fagan (Canada)	2
2.	Appointment of Rapporteur	2
3.	Adoption of Agenda	2
4.	Development of the Draft Terms of Reference for the third Performance Review of NAFO	2
5.	Other Matters	3
6.	Date and Time of Next Meeting	3
7.	Adjournment	3
	Annex 1. List of Participants	4
	Annex 2. Agenda	5

Report of the NAFO *ad hoc* virtual working group to consider the initiation of a potential third Performance Review of NAFO (WG-PR) Meeting

20 January 2026
via Webex

1. Opening by the Chair, Robert Fagan (Canada)

The Chair, Robert Fagan (Canada), opened the meeting at 09:02 hours (UTC -4 hours) on Tuesday, 20 January 2026, and welcomed representatives from Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, Japan, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, the United States of America, as well as the Chair of the Commission, the Chair and vice-Chair of the Scientific Council, and the Chair of STACTIC (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat was appointed as rapporteur of this meeting.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated (Annex 2).

4. Development of the Draft Terms of Reference for the third Performance Review of NAFO

The Chair summarized the decisions leading up to the creation and tasking for this working group. It was noted that at the 2024 NAFO Annual Meeting, the Commission agreed that a working group be established to discuss the scope and timeline and draft a Terms of Reference and criteria for the third NAFO Performance Review and present the documents to the Commission at the 2026 Annual Meeting ([COM Doc. 24-20](#)). At the 2025 NAFO Annual Meeting, the Commission, noting the workload issues of the Scientific Council, agreed that the Terms of Reference and criteria to conduct the third NAFO Performance Review should be focused on the assessment of the scientific process within NAFO ([COM Doc. 25-18](#)).

The Chair presented a first draft of the Terms of Reference for the third NAFO Performance Review that was circulated in advance of the meeting in COM PR-WP 26-02. The Chair noted that the draft was based on the Terms of Reference from the 2018 NAFO Performance Review, but with the scope focused on the issue of the scientific process within NAFO as requested by the Commission. The working group participants thanked the Chair for initiating the drafting of the document and discussed several aspects of the draft Terms of Reference.

There were discussions relating to the composition of the performance review panel. It was noted that it would be strongly recommended for one of the experts to have a background in fisheries science for the panel to best understand the nature of the workload of the Scientific Council. It was also noted that in the last performance review process, the external panelists could not be from a NAFO Contracting Party. It was agreed that further discussions would be required on defining the criteria for the external panelists, noting that if panel participation was limited to outside of NAFO Contracting Parties, it could significantly limit the number of potential candidates. It was also noted that the 2018 performance review panel indicated for future performance review exercises that NAFO should consider including an expert nominated by accredited observers as a member of the panel; it was agreed that this approach should be considered, but that Contracting Parties should make the ultimate decision on which experts would be included on the panel.

Discussions were also had relating to the details to be included in the scope of the performance review. The working group discussed whether the scope should include reference to specific detailed issues (e.g. the distribution of participants from Contracting Parties within the Scientific Council) and/or a list of elements, or whether the scope should remain broad to allow the panel some flexibility when completing the review. There was general agreement that there should be some flexibility in the scope, but that work would need to continue to develop the wording for the draft Terms of Reference.

The working group also reflected on the draft work schedule for the process, noting the consideration of having a draft of the panel report available for review by the Scientific Council at its June 2027 meeting. There was also discussion on whether the joint Commission–Scientific Council working groups should also have an opportunity to review the report before submission to the Commission. The working group also discussed the timeline and if there was openness to having a list of potential candidates in advance of the 2026 Annual Meeting to be able to quickly advance the timeline. Working group participants discussed the possibility but noted there may be concern with identifying potential candidates in advance of the Commission’s decision, and that further discussion on this would be required.

The Chair thanked the working group participants for the productive discussions and noted that the feedback received will be included in the next draft of the Terms of Reference. The working group participants also agreed to submit additional written comments to the NAFO Secretariat by 30 January 2025 for inclusion in the next draft.

5. Other Matters

No other matters were discussed.

6. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The Chair highlighted the proposed workplan for this working group in COM PR-WP 26-01. The working group will work secretarially to update the draft Terms of Reference, with the next virtual meeting to be scheduled during 13–24 April 2026.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 hours (UTC -4 hours) on Tuesday, 20 January 2026.

The report was adopted via correspondence following the end of the meeting.

Annex 1. List of Participants

CHAIR	Fagan, Robert (Canada)
SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL CHAIR	González-Troncoso, Diana (European Union)
SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL VICE-CHAIR	Simpson, Mark (Canada)
COMMISSION CHAIR	Paardekooper, Joost (European Union)
STACTIC CHAIR	Moran, Patrick (USA)
CANADA	Krohn, Martha Marsden, Dale Rowsell, Nicole
DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND)	Nygård Bak, Rebekka
EUROPEAN UNION	Demblon, Jessica Merino Buisac, Adolfo
JAPAN	Iwano, Taisuke Mitome, Haruki Morishita, Joji
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	Tairov, Temur
UNITED KINGDOM	Gawlyk, Joe Sharples, James
USA	Mencher, Elizabethann
NAFO SECRETARIAT	Benediktsdóttir, Brynhildur Aker, Jana Goodick, Stan LeFort, Lisa Perreault, Andrea Thompson, Catherine

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair, Robert Fagan (Canada)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Development of the Draft Terms of Reference for the third Performance Review of NAFO
5. Other Matters
6. Date and Time of Next Meeting
7. Adjournment

**Report of the NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on
Risk-Based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS) Meeting**

09 April 2026
via Webex

1.	Opening by co-Chair, Ray Walsh (Canada)	2
2.	Appointment of rapporteur	2
3.	Adoption of agenda.....	2
4.	Precautionary Approach Framework.....	2
	a. Stocks with expected updated reference points for May 2026.....	2
	b. Guidance to the Scientific Council for providing advice under the revised PAF (COM Doc. 25-16) when projections are not possible	2
5.	2+3KLMNO Greenland Halibut MSE exceptional circumstances	2
6.	Progress on the MSE process for 3LN redfish	3
7.	Initial discussions on Commission Request 11 (COM Doc. 25-13) relating to 3LNO shrimp.....	3
	a. Canadian MSE.....	3
	b. Commission Request #11	3
8.	Marine Stewardship Council requirements under its Standard 3.0	3
9.	Other Business.....	3
10.	Recommendations	4
11.	Adoption of report	4
12.	Adjournment	4
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**Report of the NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on
Risk-Based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS) Meeting**

09 April 2026
via Webex

1. Opening by co-Chair, Ray Walsh (Canada)

The co-Chair, Ray Walsh (Canada) opened the meeting at 09:02 hours (UTC -3 hours) on Thursday, 09 April 2026 via Webex. It was noted that the Scientific Council co-Chair position for the WG-RBMS remains vacant, and Contracting Parties were encouraged to identify a candidate to fill that role. The WG-RBMS co-Chair welcomed representatives from Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, Japan, Norway, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, and the United States of America (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat was appointed as rapporteur.

3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted, as outlined in Annex 2.

4. Precautionary Approach Framework

a. Stocks with expected updated reference points for May 2026

The Chair of the Scientific Council, Diana González-Troncoso (European Union), provided an update on the NAFO stocks where reference points have not yet been developed for application in the Revised Precautionary Approach Framework (PAF). It was also noted that the Precautionary Approach Working Group (PA-WG) was scheduled to meet in May 2026 to complete this work for stocks with full assessments in 2026, but that the Chair position for that working group remains vacant. As such, the May 2026 PA-WG meeting was canceled, and the work will be undertaken during the 2026 June Scientific Council meeting, which may have an impact on the workload of the Scientific Council as there are 10 stocks scheduled for full assessment this year in June.

b. Guidance to the Scientific Council for providing advice under the revised PAF ([COM Doc. 25-16](#)) when projections are not possible

The WG-RBMS co-Chair provided background for this agenda item, highlighting that at the 2025 Annual meeting, the Commission noted the prescriptive advice coming from the Scientific Council in June 2025 relating to Div. 30 redfish and requested that advice should be provided as a range of options with associated risks. The Scientific Council flagged that in the case of redfish in Div. 30, recent Fs have kept the stock in the Critical Zone. In addition, as the Div. 30 redfish is assessed using an index-based approach, it was not possible to provide the range of Fs required in the PA table. This happens with several stocks assessed and the Scientific Council requested guidance on how to proceed in these cases when going forward. It was noted that the intent of the revised PAF was to provide advice that informs the Commission's decisions, including risk tolerance, but not for the Scientific Council to prescribe management decisions and risk tolerance levels. It was noted that it would be difficult to provide concrete guidance for the Scientific Council during this meeting, but Canada agreed to work intersessionally, with assistance from interested Contracting Parties, to draft guidance for further discussion at the upcoming WG-RBMS meeting in August 2026.

5. 2+3KLMNO Greenland Halibut MSE exceptional circumstances

The Chair of the Scientific Council provided an update indicating that there will be no exceptional circumstances triggered in 2026 relating to the availability of survey indices, as none of the inputs are exceeding two missing values from a five-year period. The occurrence of any additional exceptional

circumstances will be analyzed at the Scientific Council meeting in June 2026 and presented to the WG-RBMS at the August 2026 meeting. Participants thanked the Scientific Council Chair for the update and noted the improvement in the survey coverage in recent years.

6. Progress on the MSE process for 3LN redfish

Doug Butterworth (Japan) provided an update on progress for the MSE for Divs. 3LN redfish, noting that work is ongoing on the development of the operating models, which will be discussed further at the Scientific Council meeting in June 2026. A further update will be provided to WG-RBMS at the August 2026 meeting.

7. Initial discussions on Commission Request 11 ([COM Doc. 25-13](#)) relating to 3LNO shrimp

a. Canadian MSE

Nicholas Duprey (Canada) presented an overview on the northern shrimp MSE process that has been undertaken by Canada. The presentation highlighted that in December 2024, a new two-stock population structure and a new assessment model were adopted by the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat (CSAS). It was also noted that the new two-stock population structure—comprising the North Stock Assessment Region and South Stock Assessment Region (which encompasses NAFO Divs. 3LNO)—was accepted by Scientific Council in September 2025. An overview of newly developed operating models, performance statistics and harvest decisions rules for the MSE, which were developed as part of a subsequent CSAS peer review process in Canada in December 2025, was also presented. It was noted that additional domestic decisions within Canada, which would have implications for the MSE process, are still pending; Canada will provide further updates to the WG-RBMS during the August 2026 meeting.

b. Commission Request #11

The Chair of Scientific Council requested clarification on Commission Request 11 ([COM Doc. 25-13](#)). It was clarified that, given the peer review provided at the December 2025 CSAS meeting, the Commission was not seeking an in-depth peer review of the operating models developed for the South Stock Assessment Region (SSAR), but was requesting that the Scientific Council evaluate the general adequacy of the operating models developed in December 2025 in terms of their suitability for application in the NAFO context, drawing on experience from MSEs that have been implemented in NAFO previously. The review of the operating models is expected to occur at the June 2026 SC meeting. Further discussions on the MSE will take place at the August 2026 WG-RBMS meeting and the September 2026 Commission meeting.

8. Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) requirements under its Standard 3.0

The WG-RBMS co-Chair provided an update on the ongoing correspondence with the MSC in relation to the progress on the review process focussed on the MSC Fisheries Standard Toolbox ([COM-SC Doc. 24-03](#); [COM-SC Doc. 25-02](#)). At the 2025 Annual Meeting, it was agreed to send follow-up correspondence to the MSC requesting an update, and a follow-up response was received and circulated to Contracting Parties on 08 April 2026 (NAFO/26-101). The response from the MSC indicated that, while not a final decision, the current proposal would not require NAFO fisheries to adopt harvest strategies tested using MSE. The MSC further noted that a second round of policy development is scheduled, with a review period expected for Q3/Q4 of 2026. WG-RBMS expressed an interest in continuing to monitor this issue, with some indicating support for direct engagement with a representative from MSC, including possibly through their attendance at a future meeting. The co-Chair agreed to discuss this with the NAFO President and NAFO Secretariat.

9. Other Business

The Chair of Scientific Council noted the number of vacancies for Scientific Council Chair positions (WG-RBMS, WG-ESA, PA-WG and STACFEN) and Designated Experts (Northern Shortfin Squid in Subareas 3 & 4, thorny skate in Divs. 3LNO, white hake in Divs. 3NO and the Ecosystem Designated Expert for Divs. 3LNO) and

encouraged Contracting Parties to find ways to ensure that positions are filled before the June 2026 Scientific Council meeting.

10. Recommendations

There were no recommendations from this meeting.

11. Adoption of report

The report was adopted via correspondence following the end of the meeting.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 hours (UTC -3 hours).

The next WG-RBMS meeting will take place from 05–07 August 2026 in Halifax, Canada.

Annex 1. List of Participants

CO-CHAIR	Walsh, Ray
CANADA	Bourgeois, Vanessa Burns, Adam Burridge, Angela Chapman, Bruce Duprey, Nicholas Fagan, Robert Koen-Alonso, Mariano Krohn, Martha Marsden, Dale Muir, Carlie Rayner, Gemma Rideout, Rick Rowsell, Nicole Simpson, Mark
DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND)	Nygård Bak, Rebekka Svarrer Wang, Ulla
EUROPEAN UNION	Alpoim, Ricardo Belmonte, Luis Billiet, Stijn Demblon, Jessica Garrido, Irene Gonçalves, Patricia González-Costas, Fernando González-Troncoso, Diana (SC Chair) Granell, Ignacio Näks, Liivika Teixeira, Isabel Tuvi, Aare Vielmini, Ilaria
JAPAN	Butterworth, Doug Iwano, Taisuke Mitome, Haruki Taki, Kenji
NORWAY	Hallfredsson, Elvar Sandberg, Per
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	Fomin, Konstantin Tairov, Temur
UNITED KINGDOM	De Oliveira, José Gawlyk, Joe Weiland, Molly
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Jaburek, Shannah Kelly, Moira Tyhach, Lea Warner-Kramer, Deirdre Williams, Kirsten Wintering, Rebecca
NAFO SECRETARIAT	Benediktsdóttir, Brynhildur Aker, Jana Bell MacCallum, Dayna LeFort, Lisa Perreault, Andrea

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by co-Chairs, [SC co-Chair TBD] and Ray Walsh (Canada)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Precautionary Approach Framework
 - a. Stocks with expected updated reference points for May 2026
 - b. Guidance to the Scientific Council for providing advice under the revised PAF (COM Doc. 25-16) when projections are not possible
5. 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut MSE exceptional circumstances
6. Progress on the MSE process for 3LN redfish
7. Initial discussions on Commission Request 11 (COM Doc. 25-13) relating to 3LNO shrimp
 - a. Canadian MSE
 - b. Commission Request #11
8. Marine Stewardship Council Requirements Under its Standard 3.0
9. Other Business
10. Recommendations
11. Adoption of report
12. Adjournment

Report of the NAFO *ad hoc* virtual working group to consider the initiation of a potential third Performance Review of NAFO (WG-PR) Meeting

28 April 2026
via Webex

1.	Opening by the Chair, Robert Fagan (Canada)	2
2.	Appointment of Rapporteur	2
3.	Adoption of Agenda	2
4.	Development of the Draft Terms of Reference for the third Performance Review of NAFO	2
5.	Other Matters	2
6.	Date and Time of Next Meeting	2
7.	Adjournment	2
	Annex 1. List of Participants	3
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Report of the NAFO *ad hoc* virtual working group to consider the initiation of a potential third Performance Review of NAFO (WG-PR) Meeting

28 April 2026
via Webex

1. Opening by the Chair, Robert Fagan (Canada)

The Chair, Robert Fagan (Canada), opened the meeting at 09:04 hours (UTC -3 hours) on Tuesday, 28 April 2026, and welcomed representatives from Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, Japan, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, the United States of America, as well as the Chair of the Commission, and the Chair and vice-Chair of the Scientific Council (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat was appointed as rapporteur of this meeting.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted (Annex 2).

4. Development of the Draft Terms of Reference for the third Performance Review of NAFO

The working group Chair opened the discussions on the draft Terms of Reference and thanked participants for their input on the draft since the last meeting. The Chair noted that comments that have been incorporated into the latest draft (COM PR-WP 26-02 (Revised)) were those that provided additional clarification on the intended scope following the direction from the Commission. Some comments received were noted, but considered better suited for potential future, more comprehensive performance reviews. Noting that, the Chair opened the draft Terms of Reference for further input and discussions within the working group. The working group discussed potential revisions to the draft Terms of Reference to further clarify the scope and the procedures outlined. The discussion points on the draft Terms of Reference were noted, and the Chair invited additional written comments to be provided to the NAFO Secretariat on the draft by 12 May 2026. It was agreed that the Chair will work with the Secretariat to incorporate the comments and circulate another draft to participants for review.

5. Other Matters

No other matters were discussed.

6. Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the work on developing the draft Terms of Reference for the third Performance Review of NAFO will continue via correspondence. Additional meetings may be schedule as and when required.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 hours (UTC -3 hours) on Tuesday, 28 April 2026.

The report was adopted via correspondence following the end of the meeting.

Annex 1. List of Participants

CHAIR	Fagan, Robert (Canada)
SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL CHAIR	González-Troncoso, Diana (European Union)
SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL VICE-CHAIR	Simpson, Mark (Canada)
COMMISSION CHAIR	Paardekooper, Joost (European Union)
CANADA	Krohn, Martha Marsden, Dale Rowsell, Nicole
DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND)	Nygård Bak, Rebekka
EUROPEAN UNION	Demblon, Jessica Merino Buisac, Adolfo
JAPAN	Iwano, Taisuke Mitome, Haruki
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	Tairov, Temur
UNITED KINGDOM	Gawlyk, Joe
USA	Mencher, Elizabethann Pohl, Katie Wintering, Rebecca
NAFO SECRETARIAT	Benediktsdóttir, Brynhildur Aker, Jana Bell MacCallum, Dayna Goodick, Stan Perreault, Andrea Thompson, Catherine

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair, Robert Fagan (Canada)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Development of the Draft Terms of Reference for the third Performance Review of NAFO
5. Other Matters
6. Date and Time of Next Meeting
7. Adjournment

Report of the NAFO Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) Intersessional Meeting

06–08 May 2026
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

1.	Opening by the Chair, Patrick Moran (United States of America)	2
2.	Appointment of Rapporteur	2
3.	Adoption of Agenda	2
4.	Annual Compliance Review 2025	2
5.	Annual compliance review format.....	3
6.	NAFO MCS website and application development	4
7.	New and pending proposals on enforcement measures: Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM.....	4
8.	Review of specific measures in Article 6 of the NAFO CEM.....	5
	a. Measures relating to the cod fishery in Division 3M	5
	b. Measures relating to the yellowtail flounder fishery	6
	c. Measures relating to the squid fishery	6
9.	Update from the Editorial Drafting Group (EDG)	6
10.	Report and recommendations of the Working Group on the Introduction of FLUX UN/CEFACT Standard for fisheries data exchanges in NAFO (WG-FLUX).....	6
11.	Review of the Electronic observation program	7
12.	Half-year review of the implementation of new NAFO CEM measures	7
13.	Discussion on the definition of directed fisheries and bycatches.....	7
14.	Flag State Performance Review	7
15.	Practical application of port State measures in NAFO	8
16.	Review of Annex II.B of the NAFO CEM	8
17.	Review of current IUU list pursuant to NAFO CEM Article 53	9
18.	Review and evaluation of practices and procedures	9
19.	Other business	9
	a. NAFO Inspectors' Workshop	9
20.	Time and place of next meeting	9
21.	Adoption of the report	9
22.	Adjournment	9
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	Annex 2. Agenda	14

Report of the NAFO Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) Intersessional Meeting

06–08 May 2026
Halifax, Canada

1. Opening by the Chair, Patrick Moran (United States of America)

The Chair, Patrick Moran (United States of America), opened the meeting at 09:00 hours on Wednesday, 06 May 2026. The Chair welcomed representatives, both in-person and virtually, from the following Contracting Parties: Canada, Denmark (in Respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Norway, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, Ukraine and the United States of America (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat (Catherine Thompson) was appointed as rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Chair introduced the provisional agenda and asked representatives if there were any comments or additions. The European Union proposed the addition of the NAFO Inspectors' Workshop under agenda item 19 (Other Business).

Following the rules outlined in the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) Rules of Procedure regarding data confidentiality and participation in meetings (COM Doc. 22-19), the Chair highlighted a nomination for in-camera sessions for discussions on STACTIC WP 26-01 and STACTIC WP 26-02, and agenda item 6, only if the Secretariat intends to display any Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) website information that is intended exclusively for control purposes. However, there were no in-camera discussions because all attendees were government representatives or Commissioners.

The agenda was adopted, with the changes highlighted above, as outlined in Annex 2.

4. Annual Compliance Review 2025

The NAFO Secretariat presented the draft Compilation of Fisheries Reports 2025 in STACTIC WP 26-01 (Rev. 3). Contracting Parties thanked the Secretariat for their work and provided comments and clarifications.

The NAFO Secretariat also presented the Summary of Inspection Information for 2025 in STACTIC WP 26-02 (Revised). The Secretariat noted that, following a request from the 2025 Annual Meeting, sub-totals by inspection party for at-sea and port inspections are included in Table 1 in Part I. The European Union noted that some inspection reports were submitted and uploaded to the MCS Website almost a year after the inspection took place.

The United States of America recommended that STACTIC further reflect on Part III of the working paper, questioning whether STACTIC could identify any trends or patterns in the infringements, and if any modifications to the CEMs or enforcement were needed. It was suggested that STACTIC consider whether a vessel-by-vessel analysis would provide more useful information than a year-by-year analysis.

Canada included an update on their Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) activity in STACTIC WP 26-02 (Rev. 2) and also delivered a presentation on their RPAS and processes. Contracting Parties thanked Canada for the presentation and asked follow-up questions.

The NAFO Secretariat presented the Summary of Observer Information for 2025 in STACTIC WP 26-03 (Revised). The European Union highlighted discrepancies in the submissions, particularly on missing or incorrect information. As noted in their submission, Norway explained that it's unclear how to calculate the percentage derogated in Part II (*Comparison of Fishing Activities With and Without An Observer*) of the template. Two Contracting Parties suggested basing the percent derogated on number of fishing days in the case where an observer is not on board for a whole fishing trip.

Contracting Parties acknowledged that there are varying interpretations of the template and more clear instructions would be beneficial. One Contracting Party suggested changing the language from “percent derogated” to “percent observed” to better align with the text of Article 30.4 of the CEM. The European Union highlighted that the aim of the exercise is specifically to check how Contracting Parties are implementing Article 30 and that observers collect independent information to that of the Master of the vessel. The European Union raised that four Contracting Parties had Observer and Master figures exactly matching by kilogram, which according to the European Union, suggests a lack of independent data recording. The European Union stated that in the past there had been vessels in these fisheries, that had been cited for infringements related to mis recording of catches, not identified by observers.

Contracting Parties discussed the table in the working paper titled: *Summary of fishing trips where the figures of the observer in Part 2 of the observer trip report are the same or very similar to the figures reported by the master for observed tows*. The European Union suggested changing the exercise from a calculation at the haul-by-haul level to one on the fishing trip level, as each trip has many hauls. Contracting Parties noted that the purpose of this exercise is to ensure that observers are reporting independent data. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) noted that if there's figures that are not matching, there needs to be an explanation why. It was noted that Japan has added context as to why the figures are matching, and it may be useful for all Parties to provide similar explanations. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) suggested adding columns to include the observer figures, master figures, and landed figures for comparison.

The United Kingdom noted that it would be useful to have clear instructions on what Contracting Parties should be including in the Article 30 reporting template, as it seems Parties have varying interpretations of how to complete the tables. Contracting Parties agreed to revisit this discussion of the Article 30 reporting template at the 2026 Annual Meeting. The NAFO Secretariat presented the first draft Annual Fisheries and Compliance Review in STACTIC WP 26-04 (Revised), and Contracting Parties provided initial comments and clarifications. Canada offered to facilitate a meeting with interested Parties to draft the conclusions and recommendations sections ahead of the 2026 Annual Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties provide any necessary revisions to STACTIC WP 26-01 (Rev. 4), STACTIC WP 26-02 (Rev. 2), STACTIC WP 26-03 (Rev. 3), and STACTIC WP 26-04 (Rev. 2) ahead of the 2026 STACTIC Annual Meeting.**
- **Canada and the Secretariat to coordinate a meeting with interested Contracting Parties to review STACTIC WP 26-04 (Rev.2), with the aim of drafting the conclusions and recommendations sections, prior to the 2026 STACTIC Annual Meeting.**

5. Annual compliance review format

Canada re-presented potential revisions to the compliance review format in STACTIC WP 25-10 (Revised), which was first introduced at the STACTIC Intersessional Meeting in May 2025. The intent of the proposal was to stimulate discussion on evolving the compliance review to enhance STACTIC's core mandate of evaluating compliance in support of advising the Commission on compliance patterns, trends, issues and mitigating measures, as well as to increase compliance and Contracting Party accountability. Contracting Parties expressed support for revising the compliance review format, while also noting concerns relating to increased workload for Contracting Parties and the Secretariat. Some Contracting Parties noted that there are many

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obligations within the CEM and any revisions to the report should simplify the compliance process, rather than add to it. Canada agreed to update STACTIC WP 25-10 (Revised) for presentation at the 2026 Annual Meeting and welcomed additional comments from Contracting Parties in advance of the meeting to support the continuance of this discussion.

Canada also noted that in other RFMOs, such as the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), compliance reviews also focus on Contracting Party obligations in addition to vessel-specific obligations, and this might be something for NAFO to consider given its effectiveness in other RFMOs. Canada presented a discussion paper on an accountability process intended to address Contracting Party-level non-compliance in STACTIC WP 26-13, noting that NAFO has a process to address non-compliance at the vessel level, but not at the Contracting Party level. One way of achieving this is through a Notification Letter, as detailed in the discussion paper. Canada clarified that this type of letter would be sent from the STACTIC Chair, not from the Secretariat, to the Contracting Party to advise of non-compliance and to ask remediation.

Contracting Parties thanked Canada for the proposal and expressed support for enhancing accountability measures, while also noting concerns relating to the capacity of creating new infrastructure and processes for assessing Contracting Party non-compliance, as well as, the workload for Contracting Parties, and whether this falls under the mandate of STACTIC. Canada welcomes further comments on the working paper, with the intention of providing a revised version at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties would provide comments to Canada on STACTIC WP 25-10 (Revised) and STACTIC WP 26-13 ahead of the 2026 STACTIC Annual Meeting to support further discussion.**

6. NAFO MCS website and application development

The NAFO Secretariat presented updated functionalities of the observer application. The Secretariat highlighted the observer status flow, which displays the flow of the observer message from the FMC to the Secretariat. The observer application is designed to operate without internet access, as data is stored locally within the browser until internet access is available. The Secretariat offered to provide more detailed demonstrations of the application to Contracting Parties, if desired. Some Contracting Parties, including the United Kingdom, will start utilizing the observer application during 2026; usage of the application will serve as an alternate means of reporting both the daily observer reports (OBRs) as outlined in Annex II.G, and the observer trip report as outlined in Annex II.M.

The Secretariat was also asked to provide an update on the status of the ePSC system. It was noted that due to the workload of finalizing the observer application, there has not been much progress made on the ePSC system, but that the work will be continuing.

7. New and pending proposals on enforcement measures: Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM

In STACTIC WP 26-07, Canada proposed amendments to Article 6.3(g)(iii) with the intent of applying the same procedures to 100% port inspections within the yellowtail fishery as in other NAFO fisheries with the same 100% port inspection requirement. Contracting Parties offered minor comments and clarifying questions, broadly agreeing with the intention to ensure port inspection processes are consistent, though discussing whether placement in Article 6 is the best course of action. Canada will continue to engage with Contracting Parties on the proposal with the intention of providing a revised version of the paper ahead of the 2026 Annual Meeting.

The European Union proposed amendments to Article 5.9 of the NAFO CEM in STACTIC WP 26-08 (Revised). The European Union noted that the proposal aims to strengthen transparency and accountability in quota

transfers by introducing mandatory notification requirements for vessel-specific allocations. Contracting Parties expressed support for developing a more transparent system, while also raising questions around how vessel-specific allocations would be monitored. One Contracting Party noted that domestically, quota transfers are not designated to one vessel at the time of the transfer. Contracting Parties discussed whether monitoring of the quota can be done by the Parties themselves and whether this could be a voluntary system rather than a uniform approach. The European Union clarified that the proposed amendment was not changing the practice of current quota transfers between Contracting Parties. Rather the proposal is to address vessel specific quota transfers when a Contracting Party has no quota allocated for that particular stock in accordance with Annex I.A. The proposal would allow inspectors to better plan control, by allowing them access to information on specific vessels, their quota uptake and thus what specific bycatch rules should apply. The European Union mentioned that the monitoring of vessel specific quota uptake would not be a new task for the Secretariat. However, an interim solution would be required, where the communication of exhausted quota would be provided to the Executive Secretary for disclosure to Contracting Parties with an inspection presence in the NAFO RA. The European Union also thanked Contracting Parties for their initial comments and noted that they remain open to further feedback on the proposal.

The European Union presented a proposal on surveillance procedures in STACTIC WP 26-09, which included proposed amendments to Article 33 and Annex IV.A of the NAFO CEM. The European Union proposed the inclusion of the term “footage” to the surveillance procedures. Contracting Parties thanked the European Union for the proposal and agreed to forward the proposal to the Commission for adoption.

Canada proposed a recognition for joint At-Sea Inspections under the NAFO Joint Inspection and Surveillance scheme in STACTIC WP 26-10. The European Union expressed support for the proposal but had concerns with the changes to the inspection report and questioned what the process would be if there are three Contracting Parties on one vessel. They proposed a discussion on the paper at the Inspectors’ Workshop at the end of May.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties provide comments to Canada on STACTIC WP 26-07 ahead of the 2026 STACTIC Annual Meeting for further discussion.**
- **Contracting Parties provide comments to the European Union on STACTIC WP 26-08 (Revised) ahead of the 2026 STACTIC Annual Meeting.**
- **The proposal on surveillance procedures in STACTIC WP 26-09 be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **Contracting Parties provide comments to Canada on STACTIC WP 26-10 ahead of the 2026 STACTIC Annual Meeting.**
- **The Inspectors’ Workshop continue discussions on STACTIC WP 26-10 at its upcoming meeting.**

8. Review of specific measures in Article 6 of the NAFO CEM

a. Measures relating to the cod fishery in Division 3M

In accordance with Article 6.13 of the NAFO CEM, Contracting Parties are tasked with reviewing the measures referred to in Article 6.10 to assess whether the provisions led to an increase in 3M redfish bycatches or directed fishery.

The United Kingdom delivered a presentation outlining its internal procedures for monitoring use of the derogations in Article 6.10. In this context, the United Kingdom presented several practical tools, including flow diagrams and a MS Excel-based tracking tool, designed to facilitate haul-by-haul monitoring of catch levels and

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to support understanding of the measures. The United Kingdom confirmed its willingness to share these tools with other Contracting Parties and invited feedback to support further refinement. Contracting Parties thanked the United Kingdom for their presentation.

Contracting Parties requested that the Secretariat update the data analysis of the cod fishery in Division 3M, which was presented at the 2025 Annual Meeting in STACTIC WP 25-24. The Secretariat will provide an updated analysis at the 2026 Annual Meeting which will include 2026 fishing data to support STACTIC's review of the measures.

b. Measures relating to the yellowtail flounder fishery

The Chair noted that in accordance with Article 6.14 of the NAFO CEM, STACTIC is required to assess if the provisions in Articles 6.3(g) and 6.9(a) led to an increase on American plaice bycatches or directed fishery on American plaice; and review Articles 6.3(g) and 6.9(a). The Secretariat presented an updated analysis of the yellowtail fishery in STACTIC WP 26-12, and Contracting Parties agreed to review the analysis ahead of the 2026 Annual Meeting. The Secretariat will provide an updated analysis at the Annual Meeting which will include 2026 fishing data.

c. Measures relating to the squid fishery

In accordance with Article 11.9 of the NAFO CEM, the exemption referred to in Articles 11.2 to 11.8 shall apply during 2025 and 2026 and be reviewed by STACTIC. Japan explained that sufficient data has not yet been accumulated and indicated that it may propose a further extension of the derogation. Due to the absence of sufficient data at this time, Contracting Parties agreed to discuss the review of the measures to the 2026 Annual Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The NAFO Secretariat will update the data analysis of the cod fishery in Division 3M for presentation at the 2026 STACTIC Annual Meeting.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat will update the yellowtail fishery analysis in STACTIC WP 26-12 for presentation at the 2026 STACTIC Annual Meeting.**
- **Contracting Parties will review the measures relating to the cod, yellowtail and squid fisheries at the 2026 STACTIC Annual Meeting.**

9. Update from the Editorial Drafting Group (EDG)

The review of the 2026 draft NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM) was completed by correspondence, so there was no meeting of the Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) in 2025. Iceland noted an inconsistency in the language of Article 38 (j) of the CEM, and the European Union noted an inconsistency in the language of Article 5. These discrepancies will be forwarded to the EDG for review.

10. Report and recommendations of the Working Group on the Introduction of FLUX UN/CEFACT Standard for fisheries data exchanges in NAFO (WG-FLUX)

The United Kingdom recently welcomed a new Chair of the WG-FLUX, Luke Smith. The Chair has been in contact with the Secretariat to plan an in-person meeting in advance of the 2026 Annual Meeting. If any Contracting Party is interested in hosting the meeting, they are encouraged to contact the Secretariat. The United Kingdom noted that tasking from the Annual Meeting was for the WG-FLUX and the Secretariat to assess what information is required to allow for a complete cost analysis to operate and maintain the current NAF system, a hybrid NAF and FLUX model, and a single FLUX model.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The WG-FLUX Chair and the NAFO Secretariat will coordinate a meeting in advance of the 2026 STACTIC Annual Meeting.**

11. Review of the Electronic observation program

In accordance with Article 30.13 of the 2026 NAFO CEM, STACTIC is tasked with reviewing the implementation of the Electronic Observation Program. The European Union noted that there have not been any operators to date utilizing the Electronic Observation Program. Discussions on this item will continue at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

12. Half-year review of the implementation of new NAFO CEM measures

The NAFO Secretariat was tasked with reporting on its experience in the implementation of binding measures adopted by the Commission at the 2025 Annual Meeting, which came into force in January 2026 (NAFO/25-252 of 25 November 2025). The Secretariat indicated that there's nothing to report at this time. Canada requested that for future reviews, the Secretariat produces a paper with a list of the new NAFO CEM measures, as a reminder for Contracting Parties.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The NAFO Secretariat will produce a paper with a list of the new NAFO CEM measures, to catalogue the review exercise.**

13. Discussion on the definition of directed fisheries and bycatches

Contracting Parties discussed the definition of directed fisheries and bycatches, noting the inconsistencies in the interpretation of these definitions. The United Kingdom suggested an exercise to address inconsistencies in the terminology within the CEM, but not changing the definitions themselves per se; there are instances in the CEM where the terms "directed" and "targeted" may be used incorrectly. STACTIC will revisit the discussion paper on instances of "directed fishing" in the CEM, and the Secretariat will update previous work (e.g. STACTIC EDG-WP 24-01 and STACTIC EDG-WP 24-02) to facilitate further discussion at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Discussions on the definition of directed fisheries and bycatches continue at the 2026 STACTIC Annual Meeting.**
- **The NAFO Secretariat will update previous work (e.g. STACTIC EDG-WP 24-01 and STACTIC EDG-WP 24-02) to facilitate further discussion at the 2026 STACTIC Annual Meeting.**

14. Flag State Performance Review

At the 2024 STACTIC Annual Meeting, it was agreed that all Contracting Parties will complete the self-assessment of flag State performance in accordance with the criteria set out in the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for flag State performance for initial presentation at the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.

Norway submitted a draft document, based on a review conducted in 2018 for the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC). Some Contracting Parties noted that they were in the process of drafting the assessment.

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Contracting Parties discussed both the purpose and feasibility of the exercise, noting that the self-assessment is onerous and may result in the duplication of effort. Norway noted that the purpose of the summary report is to identify improvements in the NAFO CEM, but it's unclear how this will be achieved. The European Union questioned whether this assessment would be necessary for every Contracting Party, including those that don't conduct fishing activity in the NAFO Regulatory Area. Some Contracting Parties suggested using Norway's assessment as a working model and selecting the criteria within the assessment that feels useful for NAFO. Iceland suggested creating a table similar to the one in STACTIC WP 26-03 (Revised) as a way to summarize each flag State assessment against the FAO Guidelines.

It was agreed that Contracting Parties will postpone the deadline for the assessment to the 2027 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting. Discussions on the assessment will continue at the 2026 Annual Meeting, particularly on the purpose, format, and desired outcome of the assessment.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties will complete the self-assessment of flag State performance in accordance with the criteria set out in the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for flag State performance for initial presentation at the 2027 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.**
- **Contracting Parties will continue discussions on the self-assessment of flag State performance at the 2026 STACTIC Annual Meeting.**

15. Practical application of port State measures in NAFO

At the 2025 STACTIC Annual Meeting, it was agreed that discussions on the practical application of Port State Measures in NAFO continue at the 2026 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting. Canada noted that NPFC are utilising the FAO Global Information Exchange System (GIES) and shared its experience uploading inspection data to the platform. In doing so, Canada highlighted that the GIES applies a methodology for calculating percentage differences between landed and logged catches that differs from the two approaches currently used within NAFO during PSC inspection processes. This is something Canada is reviewing, with the intention of providing additional information at the 2026 Annual Meeting. The European Union noted that there was a recommendation to move towards the GIES system in NAFO, but that might take a long time for some Contracting Parties to implement.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Discussions on the practical application of Port State Measures in NAFO will continue at the 2026 STACTIC Annual Meeting.**

16. Review of Annex II.B of the NAFO CEM

The United States of America presented a discussion paper on amendments to NAFO's Rules on Confidentiality in STACTIC WP 26-11. The paper serves as a starting point for updating the Rules on Confidentiality within Annex II.B. and draws from processes within other RFMOs.

Contracting Parties thanked the United States of America for the proposal and expressed support for updating Annex II.B. The Secretariat has provided initial comments on the proposal, which will be reflected in the revised working paper. Contracting Parties agreed to review the proposal ahead of the 2026 Annual Meeting so that further discussions can take place.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Discussions on the review of Annex II.B will continue at the 2026 STACTIC Annual Meeting.**

17. Review of current IUU list pursuant to NAFO CEM Article 53

The NAFO Secretariat presented the latest version of the NAFO Provisional IUU list in STACTIC WP 26-05, noting that there are two additions to the provisional IUU list. An updated version of the working paper will be presented at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

18. Review and evaluation of practices and procedures

The NAFO Secretariat presented the latest list of Contracting Party practices and procedures in STACTIC WP 26-06.

19. Other business

a. NAFO Inspectors' Workshop

The European Union will host the NAFO Inspectors' Workshop in Lisbon, Portugal from May 26–28, 2026. The European Union requested confirmation of participation from Contracting Parties, and whether they plan on presenting at the meeting.

20. Time and place of next meeting

The next STACTIC meeting will be held in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 21–25 September 2026.

21. Adoption of the report

The report was adopted on 08 May 2026, prior to the adjournment of the meeting.

22. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 hours on 08 May 2026. Contracting Parties expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Chair for his leadership. The Chair and Contracting Parties thanked the NAFO Secretariat for their support.

Annex 1. List of Participants

CHAIR

Moran, Patrick. Foreign Affairs Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of International Affairs, Trade, and Commerce. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, (NOAA), 1315 East-West Hwy., Silver Spring, MD 20910 USA
Email: Pat.Moran@noaa.gov – [In-person]

CANADA

Barbour, Natasha. Senior Compliance Program Officer, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Centre, 80 East White Hills, St. John's, NL A1C 5X1
Email: Natasha.barbour@dfo-mpo.gc.ca – [Virtual]

Browne, Dion. Senior Compliance Officer, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Centre, 80 East White Hills, St. John's, NL A1C 5X1
Email: Dion.Browne@dfo-mpo.gc.ca – [In-person]

Harvey, Kyna. FMC Regional Staff Officer, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Centre, 80 East White Hills, St. John's, NL A1C 5X1
Email: Kyna.Harvey@dfo-mpo.gc.ca – [Virtual]

Hickey, Jenelle. FMC Regional Staff Officer, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Centre, 80 East White Hills, St. John's, NL A1C 5X1
Email: Jenelle.Hickey@dfo-mpo.gc.ca - [Virtual]

Napier, Brent. Director, Enforcement Policy and Programs, Conservation and Protection, Fisheries and Ocean Canada, 200 Kent Street, Ottawa, ON K1A 0E6
Email: Brent.Napier@dfo-mpo.gc.ca – [In-person]

Pennell, Shila. Fishery Officer, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Centre, 80 East White Hills, St. John's, NL A1C 5X1
Email: Shila.Pennell@dfo-mpo.gc.ca [In-person]

Villalobos, Massiel. Compliance Program Officer, Fisheries and Ocean Canada, 300 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0S5, Canada
Email: massiel.villalobos@dfo-mpo.gc.ca – [Virtual]

DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF THE FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND)

Gaardlykke, Meinhard. Adviser, The Faroe Islands Fisheries Inspection, Yviri við Strond 3, P. O. Box 1238, FO-110 Torshavn, Faroe Islands
Email: meinhardg@vorn.fo – [In-person]

Holm, Jannik. Greenland Fisheries and Hunting Control Authority, Akqusinersuaq 48 A 3900 Nuuk, Greenland
Email: jaho@nanoq.gl – Mobile +299 53 5900 – [In-person]

Jacobsen, Petur Meinhard. The Faroe Islands Fisheries Inspection, Yviri við Strond 3, P. O. Box 1238, FO-110 Torshavn, Faroe Islands
Email: peturmj@vorn.fo – [In-person]

Oksen, Alvilde. Greenland Fisheries and Hunting Control Authority, Akqusinersuaq 48 A 3900 Nuuk, Greenland
Email: alok@nanoq.gl – [In-person]

Schandorf, Jacqui. Greenland Fisheries and Hunting Control Authority, Akqusinersuaq 48 A 3900 Nuuk, Greenland
Email: jacs@nanoq.gl – [In-person]

EUROPEAN UNION

Babcionis, Genadijus. Administrator, European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA), Avenida Garcia Barbon 4, E-36201, Vigo, Spain
Email: genadijus.babcionis@efca.europa.eu – [In-person]

Belmonte Gonzalez, Luis. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment. C/ Velázquez, 144, 28071 Madrid, Spain
Email: lbelmonte@mapa.es – [Virtual]

Bouts, Leon. European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA)
Email: leon.bouts@efca.europa.eu – [Virtual]

Chamizo, Carlos. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment. C/ Velázquez, 144, 28071 Madrid, Spain
Email: cchamizo@mapa.es – [Virtual]

Neidigk, Ralph. Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung.
Email: ralph.neidigk@ble.de – [Virtual]

Poviliūnė, Eglė. Fisheries Service under the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania
Email: egle.poviliune@zuv.lt – [Virtual]

Quintans, Miguel. European Commission–Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries 1049
Bruxelles/Brussel, Belgium
Email: miguel.quintans@ec.europa.eu – [In-person]

Shrives, Jonathan. European Commission.
Email: Jonathan.SHRIVES@ec.europa.eu – [In-person]

Serrão, Miguel. Direcao-Geral de Recursos Naturais, Seguranca, Servicos Maritimos, 1449-030 Av^a Brasília
LISBOA, Portugal
Email: mserrao@dgrm.mm.gov.pt – [Virtual]

Wysocka, Malgorzata, European Commission.
Email: Malgorzata.WYSOCKA@ec.europa.eu – [Virtual]

FRANCE (IN RESPECT OF ST. PIERRE ET MIQUELON)

Couston, Constance. Deputy Head of Maritime and Port Affairs, Direction des Territoires, de l'Alimentation et de la Mer de Saint-Pierre et Miquelon
Email: constance.couston@equipement-agriculture.gouv.fr – [In-person]

Larrat, Clémence. Policy officer, General Directorate for Maritime Affairs, Fisheries and Aquaculture
Email: clemence.larrat@mer.gouv.fr – [Virtual]

ICELAND

Ingibergsson, Jón Gunnar. Icelandic Coast Guard, Skógarhlíð 14, 105 Reykjavík, Iceland
Email: jong@lhg.is – [In-person]

Ragnarsson, Njáll. MSC Specialist, Surveillance Department. Directorate of Fisheries. Fiskistofa, Dalshrauni 1, 220 Hafnarfjörður, Iceland
Email: Njall.Ragnarsson@fiskistofa.is – [In-person]

Traustason, Þórarinn Sigurður. Head of Surveillance, Directorate of Fisheries. Fiskistofa, Dalshrauni 1, 220 Hafnarfjörður, Iceland
Email: Thorarinn.S.Traustason@fiskistofa.is – [In-person]

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JAPAN

Batori, Koji. Assistant Chief, Fisheries and Resources Management Division, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Japan, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku. 100-8907 Toyko, Japan
Email: koji_batori820@maff.go.jp – [Virtual]

Iwano, Taisuke. Assistant Director, International Affairs Division, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Japan, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku. 100-8907 Toyko, Japan
Email: taisuke_iwano460@maff.go.jp – [In-person]

Suzuki, Hyoe. Assistant Director, Fisheries and Resources Management Division, Resources Management Department, Fisheries Agency, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Japan, 1-2-1 Kasumigaseki, Chiyoda-ku. 100-8907 Tonko, Japan
Email: hyoe_suzuki110@maff.go.jp – [Virtual]

NORWAY

Frotvedt, Kristin. Senior Adviser. Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries, P. O. Box 185, Sentrum, 5804 Bergen, Norway
Email: krfro@fiskeridir.no – [In-person]

Wangensten, Per. Senior Adviser, Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries, P. O. Box 185, Sentrum, 5804 Bergen, Norway
Email: pewan@fiskeridir.no – [In-person]

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Kolykhalov, Aleksey. Deputy Head of the Monitoring Centre of the Federal Agency for Fisheries
Email: akolukhalov@cfmc.ru – [Virtual]

Pashkina, Anastasiya. State Inspector, Severomorskoe Territorial Department of the Federal Agency for Fisheries, 7 Kominterna St., Murmansk 183038
Email: pashkina@murmansk.fish.gov.ru – [Virtual]

Shkanova, Nadezda. Chief State Inspector, Severomorskoe Territorial Department of the Federal Agency for Fisheries, 7 Kominterna St., Murmansk 183038
Email: shkanova@murmansk.fish.gov.ru – [Virtual]

Tairov, Temur. Representative of the Federal Agency for Fisheries of the Russian Federation in Canada, 47 Windstone Close, Bedford, Nova Scotia, B4A4L4
Email: pr-canada@fish.gov.ru – [In-person]

Titov, Yuri, Head of International and Information Development Service of the Monitoring Centre of the Federal Agency for Fisheries
Email: ytitov@cfmc.ru – [Virtual]

Zukov, Ivan, Deputy head of the information and Analytical Service of the Federal Agency for Fisheries
Email: izhukov@cfmc.ru – [Virtual]

UNITED KINGDOM

Murphy, Paul. (MMO) Marine Management Organisation, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7AR, United Kingdom.
Email: Paul.Murphy@marinemanagement.org.uk – [In-person]

Windebank, James. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Seacole Building, 2
Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF, United Kingdom.
Email: james.windebank@defra.gov.uk – [In-person]

UKRAINE

Chernenko, Oleksiy - Head of the Division of State Supervision (Control) in the Field of Water Bioresources
Protection of the Department for the Organization of Water Bioresources Use, Aquaculture, and
Scientific Support of the State Agency of Ukraine for the Development of Melioration, Fisheries and Food
Programs.
Email: alexchern@meta.ua – [Virtual]

Ohorodnik, Artem. Deputy Head Division of International Cooperation of the State Agency of Ukraine for the
Development of Melioration, Fisheries and Food Programs
Email: inter@darg.gov.ua – [Virtual]

Osadchyi, Maksym. Chief Specialist of the Division of State Supervision (Control) in the Field of Water
Bioresources Protection of the Department for the Water Bioresources Use, Aquaculture, and Scientific
Support of the State Agency of Ukraine for the Development of Melioration, Fisheries and Food Programs
Email: maksosa2003@gmail.com – [Virtual]

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Jaburek, Shannah. Fishery Policy Analyst, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries
Office, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA),
55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930, USA
Tel: +1 978 282 8456 – Email: shannah.jaburek@noaa.gov – [In-person]

Pohl, Katherine. Attorney Advisor, Office of General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation, Greater Atlantic
Regional Office, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), 55 Great Republic Drive,
Gloucester, MA 01930 USA
Tel: +1 978 281 9107 – Email: katherine.pohl@noaa.gov – [In-person]

Provencher, Eric. Supervisory Enforcement Officer, Office of Law Enforcement, District 1- New England,
Boston Field Office, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration (NOAA) USA
Email: eric.provencher@noaa.gov – [In-person]

NAFO SECRETARIAT

Summit Place, 1601 Lower Water Street, Suite 401, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada – Tel: +1 902 468-5590	
Brynhildur Benediktsdóttir, Executive Secretary	Email: bbenediktsdottir@nafo.int
Aker, Jana. Fisheries Management Coordinator	Email: jaker@nafo.int
Kendall, Matt. Senior IT Manager	Email: mkendall@nafo.int
Laycock, DJ. Database Developer/Programmer Analyst	Email: dlaycock@nafo.int
Thompson, Catherine, Fisheries Information Administrator	Email: cthompson@nafo.int

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair, Patrick Moran (United States of America)
2. Appointment of rapporteur
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Annual compliance review 2025
5. Annual compliance review format
6. NAFO MCS website and application development
7. New and pending proposals on enforcement measures: Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM
8. Review of specific measures in Article 6 of the NAFO CEM
 - a. Measures relating to the cod fishery in Division 3M
 - b. Measures relating to the yellowtail flounder fishery
 - c. Measures relating to the squid fishery
9. Update from the Editorial Drafting Group (EDG)
10. Report and recommendations of the Working Group on the Introduction of FLUX UN/CEFACT Standard for fisheries data exchanges in NAFO (WG-FLUX)
11. Review of the Electronic observation program
12. Half-year review of the implementation of new NAFO CEM measures
13. Discussion on the definition of directed fisheries and bycatches
14. Flag State Performance Review
15. Practical application of port State measures in NAFO
16. Review of Annex II.B of the NAFO CEM
17. Review of current IUU list pursuant to NAFO CEM Article 53
18. Review and evaluation of practices and procedures
19. Other business
 - a. NAFO Inspector' Workshop
20. Time and place of next meeting
21. Adoption of report
22. Adjournment

Report of the NAFO Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM) Meeting

03-05 August 2026
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

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Report of the NAFO Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM) Meeting

03-05 August 2026
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

1. Opening by the co-Chairs, Mar Sacau Cuadrado (European Union) and Elizabethann Mencher (United States of America)

The meeting was opened by the co-Chairs, Mar Sacau Cuadrado (European Union) and Elizabethann Mencher (United States of America), at 09:32 hours (UTC -3 hours) on Monday, 03 August 2026. The co-Chairs welcomed participants attending in-person and virtually from Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, Iceland, Japan, Norway, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, and the United States of America, and the Chairs of the Commission and the Scientific Council (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat was appointed as rapporteur of this meeting.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The working group agreed to add one additional item under agenda item 7 to discuss the prototype TCI app developed by the Scientific Council for assessing candidate TAC options in relation to the 2TCI Ecosystem Reference Point. Additionally, two items under “Other Business” were added: an update on the Scientific Council’s workload and an update on the ad hoc virtual working group to consider the initiation of a potential third Performance Review of NAFO (WG-PR).

The agenda was adopted following the revisions above and is outlined in Annex 2.

4. Presentation of Scientific Council responses to Commission requests for advice (COM Doc. 25-13) relevant to WG-EAFFM

The co-Chair of WG-EAFFM, Mar Sacau Cuadrado (European Union), provided a summary of the Scientific Council advice relevant to the WG-EAFFM ([SCS Doc. 26/12](#)). The co-Chair presented a summarized overview of each of the responses, noting that the advice would be discussed in detail in subsequent agenda items. The working group thanked the Scientific Council for their work and the co-Chair for the presentation.

5. VME and SAI Assessments

a. Update on the centralized data repository (COM Request 6.a)

On behalf of the Scientific Council, Andrew Kenny (United Kingdom) provided an update on the response to Commission request #6.a on the centralized data repository. Andrew Kenny reported on the ongoing work to develop and populate the repository, including plans to incorporate additional data layers (e.g. VME KDE and SDM files, gridded biomass), together with associated metadata and documentation to support traceability and reproducibility and to ensure appropriate recognition of data contributors through a standard acknowledgement statement. The repository was noted as an important tool for the Scientific Council during the upcoming SAI reassessment process. The working group thanked the Scientific Council for the work to date and appreciated the progress.

b. Update on reassessment of VMEs and impact of bottom fisheries on VMEs for 2027 including potential management options in the reassessment of bottom fisheries (COM Request 6.b)

The working group reviewed the Scientific Council response to Commission request #6.b, which noted that the SC had updated the delineation of VMEs in the NAFO Regulatory Area using data from the research vessel surveys conducted between 1995-2024. The general areas of the updated VMEs are highly consistent with prior analyses. SC notes the estimated areas of most VME functional groups increased relative to the 2019 assessment, with large gorgonian corals and black corals showing comparatively little change. The largest increase was observed for small gorgonian corals, which also identified new polygons on the Flemish Cap, some of which overlap with existing closures and thereby increase their conservation value. Despite these changes in estimated area, there was high spatial congruence between the 2019 and 2025 analyses. Scientific Council agreed to a workplan for the 2027 reassessment of SAI and associated management options for NAFO bottom fisheries (Table 1). The SC also noted that, due to changes in available resources after the 2025 WG-ESA meeting, several of the secondary SAI indicators used in the 2021 SAI assessment cannot be updated for the 2027 assessment. However, the primary SAI indicators (proportion of VME protected, VME at risk and VME impacted) will be recalculated using the newly updated VME and fishery effort data sets, and used in the 2027 assessment of SAI and management options. The 2021 assessment showed that considering secondary SAI metrics did not change the overall outcome of the assessment from when it was conducted solely on the basis of primary SAI metrics, but secondary metrics were useful to further consolidate the assessment results.

Table 1. Timeline of key processes/events to deliver finalised set of management options as part of the next reassessment of bottom fisheries.

Stage / Timing	Process / Event	Key Output / Results	Purpose / Outcome
By March 2027 (latest)	Intersessional online meeting of WG-ESA	Maps and tables summarising results of all analytical steps, including draft management options	Present and review scientific outputs and supporting evidence for improving VME closures design to minimize the risk of SAI
March/ April 2027	Participation of managers in WG-ESA/ WG-EAFFM intersessional meeting	Direct engagement and communication of scientific rationale and methodology, including early sharing of draft management options	Early involvement of managers to inform and gather initial feedback on draft management options ahead of the SC meeting where the management options will be formalized
June 2027 (SC)	Scientific Council	Proposed management options (e.g. new VME closures and/or boundary adjustments)	Scientific review of the SAI-VME assessment and management options, and development of the formal SC advice to COM on these matters
July 2027 (WG-EAFFM)	Review by WG-EAFFM	Further evaluation and potential refinement of proposed management options	Potential agreement on a finalised set of management options to be recommended to COM for adoption

If required (2027)	Additional intersessional WG-EAFFM	Further discussion of management options	Resolve outstanding issues (if needed)
September 2027 Annual Meeting	Submission to Commission	Final agreed management options	Consideration for adoption and implementation

The working group thanked the Scientific Council for the work and supported the updated VME polygons as presented and encouraged the Scientific Council to continue the work as outlined in the workplan (Table 1). WG-EAFFM underscored that this proposed timeline is contingent on WG-ESA being able to complete its work at its November 2026 meeting and flagged that the Commission should be made aware that WG-ESA may not be able to meet this timeline due to meeting logistics.

WG-EAFFM discussed and supported a proposal presented by Canada to amend Commission request #6.b, as outlined in COM-SC EAFFM-WP 26-04, with the aim of improving the integration of scientific and management perspectives in the VME management process. The proposal requests that the Scientific Council, wherever relevant, develop multiple potential management options for any VME areas for Commission consideration in the reassessment of bottom fisheries. The proposal further requests that, where potential fishery closures are identified, the SC should aim to provide multiple boundary options, where appropriate, to inform the consideration of trade-offs between fishing activities and conservation objectives. The proposal also included a joint WG-EAFFM/WG-ESA intersessional meeting in spring 2027 to facilitate early input from managers and inform the proposed management options in advance of the June 2027 Scientific Council meeting. This meeting is reflected in the workplan above for March/April 2027 as drafted by SC, and the proposal noted the importance of allowing for discussion of the management options identified, and for managers to potentially request modifications to the initial management options, while being mindful of workload implications.

6. Review of the bottom fishing closure dates

The working group discussed that under Article 17 of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM), the bottom fishing closures are in place until 31 December 2026 and noted that because of the 2024 Commission decision to delay the reassessment until 2027 ([COM Doc. 24-25](#)), this date is no longer aligned with the Scientific Council timeline. As a result, the working group agreed to recommend updating all of the relevant bottom fishery closure dates from 31 December 2026 to 31 December 2027 in Article 17 of the NAFO CEM with the caveat that if the Scientific Council is unable to complete the full review in 2027, the Commission may need to consider extending the fishery closure dates further.

7. Ecosystem Roadmap

a. Ecosystem Roadmap Document (COM Request 5)

On behalf of the Scientific Council, Mariano Koen-Alonso (Canada) presented the response to Commission request #5 on the development of a reference document detailing the Ecosystem Roadmap ([SCS Doc. 26/12](#) and COM-SC EAFFM-WP 26-01). Mariano Koen-Alonso reported that comments received from one Contracting Party following the 2025 WG-EAFFM meeting had been integrated, including changes in language to maintain consistency with the NAFO Convention, the inclusion of climate change elements in the document and emphasis on the adaptive nature of the Roadmap.

Contracting Parties highlighted the importance of the Roadmap as a guiding framework for implementing an ecosystem approach to fisheries in NAFO and expressed their appreciation for the work of the Scientific Council to support implementation of the Roadmap including the progress made on the document. The working group also discussed the relationship between this work, the Scientific Council capacity challenges, and potential recommendations arising from a proposed performance review focused on addressing those challenges.

The co-Chairs expressed their gratitude to the Scientific Council for the document, and, underscoring the challenging workload of the Scientific Council over the next year, offered to draft the next version in collaboration with the Secretariat. To support that work, the WG-EAFFM co-Chairs requested Contracting Parties to submit comments by 04 September 2026 on the most recent draft. The co-Chairs will update the document and share it with WG-EAFFM members to facilitate an intersessional online exchange of views and edits, with a view to having a document for consideration at the 2027 WG-EAFFM meeting.

b. TCI App

On behalf of the Scientific Council, Mariano Koen-Alonso (Canada) presented a prototype application developed by the Scientific Council to assist managers in evaluating the impacts of candidate Total Allowable Catch (TAC) values on the risk of exceeding the 2TCI Ecosystem Reference Point, as well as a draft questionnaire for testers. The application allows managers to modify candidate TAC values for individual stocks and view, in real-time, the resulting changes in the scoped Catch/TCI ratios for the corresponding functional guilds and Ecosystem Production Units (EPUs). The working group thanked the Scientific Council for the work on the application and did not note any concerns regarding its functionality. Discussions were also held on the interpretation and use of 2TCI in NAFO, with the working group noting that it is an Ecosystem Reference Point intended to inform management discussions by flagging an increased risk of ecosystem overfishing, rather than serving as an automatic management trigger.

The working group noted that the information currently provided by the Scientific Council on the ecosystem sustainability of catches was sufficient and did not identify a need for further development or refinement of the application, noting the ongoing capacity concerns in the Scientific Council. Consequently, while acknowledging the work undertaken, the working group did not support further work on the application at this stage.

8. Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) (COM Request 6.c)

On behalf of the Scientific Council, Andrew Kenny (United Kingdom) provided an update on the response to Commission request #6.c on the materials developed for the potential submission of the fishery closures for coral VME protection as OECMs, and highlighted the draft submission document contained in COM-SC EAFFM-WP 26-02 (Revised). The proposed submission includes Fishery Closure Areas 7, 7a, 8, 9, 11, 11a, 12, 13, 14a and 14b, selected based on their role in protecting coral VMEs and their potential suitability for recognition as OECMs. The selected areas were assessed against the relevant OECM criteria, including geographic definition, governance and management arrangements, and their capacity to deliver effective and long-term conservation outcomes for coral VMEs. The working group agreed not to include Fishery Closure Area 10 in the proposed submission at this stage, noting its overlap with oil and gas exploration activities and the associated cross-sectoral considerations regarding its assessment and reporting as an OECM, and to update the document and associated maps to ensure consistency with the document on the six sponge areas previously submitted as OECMs. The working group supported that the Secretariat submit the fishery closures and justifications for coral VME protection (7, 7a, 8, 9, 11, 11a, 12, 13, 14a and 14b) as outlined in COM-SC EAFFM-WP 26-02 (Rev. 2) once updated, to the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP WCMC) for inclusion in the World Database on OECMs.

9. Scoping document for potential meeting to explore approaches for integrating information related to climate change throughout Scientific Council operations (COM Request 10)

On behalf of the Scientific Council, Mariano Koen-Alonso (Canada) provided an update on the response to Commission request #10 on the development of a scoping document for a potential meeting to identify actionable strategies for the practical integration of climate change considerations across Scientific Council operations ([SCS Doc. 26/12](#) and COM-SC EAFFM-WP 26-03). WG-EAFFM agreed that it did not support moving forward with the proposed meeting in 2027.

10. Continued discussions on Greenland shark bycatch

The WG-EAFFM co-Chair opened the floor for the continued discussion on Greenland shark bycatch and the workplan that was outlined at the 2024 WG-EAFFM meeting ([COM-SC Doc. 24-02](#)). There were no updates provided by the working group and some clarity was requested on the purpose of the discussion. It was noted that discussions on Greenland shark bycatch in NAFO were first initiated from Commission request #8 in 2017 ([SCS Doc. 17/01](#)) and were tasked to the WG-EAFFM at the 2023 Annual Meeting ([COM Doc. 23-28](#)). The working group discussed the current measures outlined in Article 12 of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures, with some participants noting that the measures are sufficient, but welcomed additional discussions if the available data indicates there are issues that the current measures are not accounting for. In preparation for conversations at WG-EAFFM in 2027, the working group requested the Secretariat to compile available observer data and background information on Greenland shark bycatch to inform future discussions. The analysis should include, where possible, the identification of potential spatial, temporal, and/or targeted fishery trends/patterns.

11. Other Business

a. Scientific Council workload

The Scientific Council Chair, Diana González-Troncoso (European Union), provided an update on the ongoing Scientific Council workload and capacity challenges. The 2026 June meeting had an exceptionally heavy agenda and, given the increasing number of requests and declining participation, the Scientific Council was unable to fully address all requests from the Commission. The SC Chair also highlighted vacancies for 2027 for Designated Experts (DEs) for several stocks, the 3LNO Ecosystem Designated Expert (EDE) and the Chair of STACPUB, as well as a co-Chair of WG-ESA, and all the challenges these have created. The 2026 STACFEN meeting was cancelled due to a lack of Chair, and as such no environmental information was reviewed and made available to SC. This marked the first time that STACFEN had not met since its creation. It was further noted that vacancies in the DE positions resulted in two stocks - 3LNOPs thorny skate and 3NOPs white hake – not being assessed or monitored in 2026. In addition, due to workload constraints, 3LNO American plaice did not undergo a full assessment. The working group thanked the SC Chair for the presentation and update, and reiterated their great concern with the gravity of the situation.

b. Performance Review

The Chair of the *ad hoc* virtual working group to consider the initiation of a potential third Performance Review of NAFO (WG-PR), Robert Fagan (Canada), provided an update on the progress that the working group has made towards the development of the draft Terms of Reference and criteria to conduct the third NAFO Performance Review with a focus on the Scientific Process. The Chair reported that the draft Terms of Reference have been developed through virtual meetings and by correspondence, and that the latest version of the documents have been circulated to the working group, with the intention of making them available on the Annual Meeting SharePoint in mid-August to allow Contracting Parties to have ample time to review in advance of the meeting.

12. Recommendations

The WG-EAFFM agreed to forward the following recommendations to the Scientific Council and the Commission for consideration and adoption at the 2026 Annual Meeting of NAFO:

1. **In relation to the habitat impact assessment component of the Roadmap (VME and SAI analyses), the WG-EAFFM recommends that the Commission:**
 - a. **Requests the Scientific Council to complete the reassessment of VMEs and impact of bottom fisheries on VMEs for 2027, and provide input and analysis of potential management options, with the goal of supporting meaningful and effective discussions between scientists and managers at the 2027 WG-EAFFM meeting.**

- b. **Requests the Scientific Council, wherever relevant, to develop multiple potential management options for any VME areas for Commission consideration in the reassessment of bottom fisheries. Where potential fishery closures are identified, the SC should aim to provide multiple boundary options, where appropriate, to inform the consideration of trade-offs between fishing activities and conservation objectives.**
 - c. **In consultation with the Scientific Council, approve the spring 2027 WG-EAFFM/WG-ESA virtual intersessional meeting to inform the development of management options.**
- 2. **In relation to discussions on the review of the bottom fishing closure dates, the WG-EAFFM recommends that the Commission update the VME closure dates in Articles 17.1, 17.2, and 17.3 of the NAFO CEM from 31 December 2026 to 31 December 2027.**
- 3. **In relation to discussions on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs), the WG-EAFFM recommends that the Commission requests the Secretariat to submit the fishery closures for coral VME protection (7, 7a, 8, 9, 11, 11a, 12, 13, 14a and 14b) as outlined in COM-SC EAFFM-WP 26-02 (Rev. 2), to the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP WCMC) for inclusion in the World Database on OECMs.**
- 4. **In relation to discussions on Greenland shark bycatch, the WG-EAFFM recommends that the Commission requests the Secretariat to provide a summary and analysis of the observer data related to Greenland shark. The analysis should include, where possible, the identification of potential spatial, temporal, and/or targeted fishery trends/patterns, and provide an updated presentation at the 2027 WG-EAFFM meeting.**
- 5. **In relation to the Scientific Council's workload, WG-EAFFM reiterated the dire shortage of Chairs and Designated Experts noted in 2025, and the WG's strong concern, and recommends the Commission encourage Contracting Parties to find ways to ensure the positions are filled by the close of the September 2026 Annual Meeting.**

13. Adoption of the Report

The report was adopted via correspondence following the end of the meeting.

14. Adjournment

The working group paused to commemorate the recent passing of Dr. Ricardo Alpoim (Portugal), a great scientist, valued colleague, and friend. His contributions to the Scientific Council and the joint working groups over his near 30 years of experience with NAFO are immeasurable. Ricardo will be deeply missed by all those who had the privilege of knowing and working with him.

The meeting was adjourned at 13:28 hours (UTC -3 hours) on Tuesday, 04 August 2026.

Annex 1. List of Participants

CO-CHAIRS	Mencher, Elizabethann (USA) Sacau Cuadrado, Mar (European Union)
SC CHAIR	González Troncoso, Diana
COM CHAIR	Paardekooper, Joost
CANADA	In-person Bourgeois, Vanessa Fagan, Robert Fuller, Susanna Kenchington, Ellen Koen Alonso, Mariano Krohn, Martha Marsden, Dale Muir, Carlie Rayner, Gemma Simpson, Mark Virtual Coombs, Samantha Rideout, Rick
DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND)	Virtual Svarrer Wang, Ulla
EUROPEAN UNION	In-person Billiet, Stijn Demblon, Jessica Virtual Belmonte, Luis Cortina Burgueño, Ángela Duran Muñoz, Pablo Garrido Fernández, Irene Gonçalves, Patrícia Leocadio, Ana Mancebo, C. Margarita Näks, Liivika Teixeira, Isabel Tuvi, Aare
ICELAND	In-person Bragi Bragason, Agnar
JAPAN	Virtual Iwano, Taisuke Mitome, Haruki Taki, Kenji
NORWAY	Virtual Bakke, Gunnstein Hallfredsson, Elvar H.
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	Virtual Fomin, Konstantin Tairov, Temur

UNITED KINGDOM	In-person Kenny, Andy Sharples, James Virtual Gawlyk, Joe Weiland, Molly
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	In-person Jaburek, Shannah Williams, Kirsten Wintering, Rebecca Virtual Kelly, Moira
NAFO SECRETARIAT	In-person Benediktsdóttir, Brynhildur Aker, Jana Bell MacCallum, Dayna Guile, Sarah LeFort, Lisa Perreault, Andrea Thompson, Catherine

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by the co-Chairs, Mar Sacau Cuadrado (European Union) and Elizabethann Mencher (United States of America)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Presentation of Scientific Council responses to Commission requests for advice (COM Doc. 25-13) relevant to WG-EAFFM
5. VME and SAI Assessments
 - a. Update on the centralized data repository (COM Request 6.a)
 - b. Update on reassessment of VMEs and impact of bottom fisheries on VMEs for 2027 including potential management options in the reassessment of bottom fisheries (COM Request 6.b)
6. Review of the bottom fishing closure dates
7. Ecosystem Roadmap
 - a. Ecosystem Roadmap document (COM Request 5)
 - b. TCI app
8. Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) (COM Request 6.c)
9. Scoping document for potential meeting to explore approaches for integrating information related to climate change throughout Scientific Council operations (COM Request 10)
10. Continued discussions on Greenland shark bycatch
11. Other Business
 - a. Scientific Council workload
 - b. Performance review
12. Recommendations
13. Adoption of the Report
14. Adjournment

Report of the NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS) Meeting

05-07 August 2026
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

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	b. Guidance to the Scientific Council for providing advice under the revised PAF (COM Doc. 25-16) when projections are not possible	3
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Report of the NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS) Meeting

05-07 August 2026
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

1. Opening by co-Chairs, Ray Walsh (Canada) and Diana González-Troncoso (European Union)

The co-Chairs, Ray Walsh (Canada) and Diana González-Troncoso (European Union) opened the meeting at 14:02 hours (UTC -3 hours) on Wednesday, 05 August 2026. The co-Chairs welcomed representatives in-person and virtually from Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, Iceland, Japan, Norway, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Chairs of the Commission and the Scientific Council (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat was appointed as rapporteur of this meeting.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The working group agreed to add one additional item under agenda item 4 to discuss the SC response to Commission request 4 on stock summary sheets for stocks that are managed under MSE. Additionally, three items under “Other Business” were added: SC response to Commission request 12 to consider a plan for carrying out benchmarks, the summary sheet traffic light application, and an update on the Scientific Council’s workload.

The agenda was adopted following the revisions above and is outlined in Annex 2.

4. 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut

a. Application of the 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut Management Strategy (COM Request 2)

The Scientific Council Chair, Diana González-Troncoso (European Union), provided an update on the Scientific Council response to Commission request 2, on the application of the 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut Management Strategy ([SCS Doc. 26/12](#)). It was noted that exceptional circumstances are not occurring and that the lower TAC derived from the management procedure (MP) reflected the survey-based target and slope components of the MP, which indicated only limited recent improvement in the stock indices compared to the most likely forecast for the stock at the time of the review.

The working group highlighted an apparent misalignment between the recent increases in the survey indices compared to the decrease in the TAC. It was clarified that while some individual survey indices were increasing, others were not. The combined index used in the harvest control rule is increasing at a slower rate than had been projected, but remains within the range of the MSE simulations.

The projected rate was required to achieve the agreed stock rebuilding objective of reaching B_{msy} by 2044, which led to the introduction of a correction factor (control parameter μ) in 2024 that reduced the TAC output of the Management Procedure. It was noted that, without applying μ , the 2044 rebuilding target would not be achieved. However, no information was provided on when B_{msy} would be reached in the absence of the correction factor, and it was therefore not possible during the meeting to quantify the extent of the delay that would result from not applying μ .

The working group discussed whether it would be appropriate to request that Scientific Council conduct further analysis. However, the working group also reflected on the review of the MSE process that is scheduled to be completed in 2027 ([COM-SC Doc. 24-03](#) and [COM-SC Doc. 25-04](#)). It concluded that further analysis could form part of this work and could be captured as part of the Commission request for advice in 2027.

Noting the discussions, the WG-RBMS agreed to recommend to the Commission that the Management Procedure be applied to set the TAC for 2027, consistent with the Scientific Council advice.

b. Development of Stock Summary Sheets for NAFO managed stocks that are evaluated using MSE processes (COM Request 4)

Diana González-Troncoso (European Union) provided an update on the Scientific Council response to Commission request 4 ([SCS Doc. 26/12](#)) on the development of stock summary sheets for NAFO managed stocks that are evaluated using MSE processes. An example summary sheet for 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut was presented and discussed by the working group. Noting that the stock summary sheet was not expected to add substantially to the Scientific Council workload, the working group agreed to adopt the template as presented and to incorporate MSE-managed stocks into the regular advice request (Commission request 1), with technical details provided in the STACFIS report and advice communicated through a summary sheet.

5. Progress on the MSE process for 3LN redfish (COM Request 3)

Mariano Koen-Alonso (Canada) provided an update on the Scientific Council response to Commission request 3, relating to the progress towards an MSE for redfish in Divs. 3LN ([SCS Doc. 26/12](#)). It was noted that work is ongoing to develop operating models for the stock and the Scientific Council considers it worthwhile to continue exploring such operating models, subject to resource availability and work prioritization, while reiterating that benchmark processes are considered by SC a higher priority than MSE at this time. The working group thanked the Scientific Council for their continued work on the Divs. 3LN redfish MSE process, flagging it as a priority item for the Commission, and noted their support for its continued development.

6. Precautionary Approach Framework

a. Updates on reference points (COM request 7)

Diana González-Troncoso (European Union) presented an update on the Scientific Council's progress towards updating stock reference points under the revised Precautionary Approach Framework in response to Commission request 7 ([SCS Doc. 26/12](#)). The working group thanked the Chair for the update, and noted that this work supports the core work of NAFO, and that the development of stock reference points needs to continue to be a priority. The working group also noted the stocks that could not be assessed in 2026 due to the lack of Designated Experts, and encouraged Contracting Parties to work towards filling these roles in the Scientific Council.

b. Guidance to the Scientific Council for providing advice under the revised PAF ([COM Doc. 25-16](#)) when projections are not possible

Following the discussions at the April 2026 WG-RBMS meeting ([COM-SC Doc. 26-01](#)), Canada presented a proposal to provide guidance to the Scientific Council for the provision of stock advice where projections are not possible under the revised Precautionary Approach Framework (COM-SC RBMS-WP 26-01). The working group had productive discussions on the working paper and welcomed the document. Canada noted that it would continue to seek input from Contracting Parties to further refine the proposal in advance of the 2026 Annual Meeting.

c. Initial review of outdated PAF references in the NAFO CEM

It was highlighted that the current text of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM) relating to 3NO cod in Article 7 and 3LNO American plaice in Article 8 include references to the previous Precautionary Approach Framework ([FC Doc. 04-18](#)). The working group noted these references and highlighted that these stocks are currently below the limit reference points, and that the potential upcoming work on benchmark assessments could inform the necessary changes to these Articles. The working group agreed to review this again at a future meeting.

7. Continued discussions relating to 3LNO shrimp (COM Request 11)

a. Scientific Council response to Commission request 11

Diana González-Troncoso (European Union) provided an update on the Scientific Council response to Commission request 11 ([SCS Doc. 26/12](#)), on their assessment and consideration of the operating models (OMs) underlining the MSE developed for the SSAR stock of shrimp by Canada. The SC advised that the OMs were considered suitable for application in the NAFO context, and were conceptually broadly consistent with other OMs developed by NAFO. The working group thanked the Scientific Council for their work and the Scientific Council Chair for the update.

b. Canadian MSE

Nicholas Duprey (Canada) provided an update on the Canadian Northern shrimp Management Strategy Evaluation, including objectives, operating models, key performance metrics, the harvest decision rule (HDR) and allocation approach, the upcoming MSE schedule and the advances to date in the exceptional circumstances protocol. Participants asked detailed questions relating to the objectives, HDR and allocation approach, and the performance metrics used in the MSE process, as well as on the ongoing development of the exceptional circumstances protocol. The working group accepted the Management Strategy and Canada confirmed that it will invite Scientific Council scientists to the triennial review processes to ensure NAFO participation.

8. Marine Stewardship Council Requirements Under its Standard 3.0

It was noted that there has not been an update on the ongoing correspondence with the MSC in relation to the progress on the review process focussed on the MSC Fisheries Standard Toolbox since the April 2026 WG-RBMS meeting ([COM-SC Doc. 26-01](#)). The latest correspondence indicated that the MSC review is ongoing and that a public review period is still expected in Q3/Q4 of 2026. The NAFO Secretariat will share any further updates received with Contracting Parties as they become available.

9. Other Business

a. Commission request 12 to Scientific Council to consider a plan for carrying out benchmarks

Diana González-Troncoso (European Union) provided an update on the Scientific Council response to Commission request 12 on considering a plan for carrying out benchmark assessments ([SCS Doc. 26/12](#)). It was noted that the Scientific Council had identified 3LNO American plaice and 3NO cod as candidate stocks to undergo a benchmark process together, in order to capitalize on shared expertise for review and consideration of shared data sources, common ecosystem considerations, and other relevant factors. Other stocks that could benefit from a benchmark process were also highlighted. The working group noted benchmark processes as high priority and supported the proposed benchmark process for 3LNO American plaice and 3NO cod. Further discussions on priority setting and resource allocation are expected to occur in September.

b. Stock summary sheet traffic light application

Diana González-Troncoso (European Union) presented an update from the Scientific Council on the traffic light approach used in the stock summary sheets that stemmed from the revised Precautionary Approach Framework ([SCS Doc. 26/12](#)). The working group thanked the Scientific Council Chair for the update.

c. Scientific Council workload

Diana González-Troncoso (European Union) provided an update on the ongoing Scientific Council workload challenges. It was noted that the workload for the June meeting was very heavy, and that increases in requests have made it difficult to address all requests fully over the year. The SC Chair flagged the ongoing Designated Expert and Chair vacancies, and the challenges which these have created. Some Chair positions in the Scientific Council have been filled but it was noted that some Chairs have had to take on multiple Chairing roles. It was noted that vacancies in the Designated Expert positions resulted in two stocks, 3LNOPs thorny skate and 3NOPs white hake, not being assessed or monitored in 2026, and so advice was not given. A similar situation will occur in September if a Designated Expert is not appointed for SA 3+4 squid. In addition, due to workload constraints, 3LNO American plaice did not undergo a full assessment. The working group reiterated their concern with the current capacity issues with the Scientific Council and noted that several core elements to the work have not been completed. The working group encouraged Contracting Parties to find solutions to fill the vacant positions and roles.

10. Recommendations

The WG-RBMS agreed to forward the following conclusions and recommendations to the Commission:

- 1. In relation to the application of the 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut Management Strategy, WG-RBMS recommends, consistent with the Scientific Council advice, the continued application of the harvest control rule to set the TAC for 2027.**
- 2. In relation to the template for the stock summary sheet for stocks under MSE proposed by the Scientific Council in [SCS Doc. 26/12](#), WG-RBMS recommends that the Commission adopt the template and to incorporate MSE-managed stocks into the regular advice request (Commission request 1).**
- 3. In relation to the Scientific Council workload, WG-RBMS recommends that all Contracting Parties should aim to provide the necessary human resources to fill the vacant positions and roles in the Scientific Council to ensure they can complete their work.**

11. Adoption of the Report

The report was adopted via correspondence following the end of the meeting.

12. Adjournment

The working group paused to commemorate the recent passing of Dr. Ricardo Alpoim (Portugal), a great scientist, colleague, and friend. His contributions to the Scientific Council and the joint working groups over his near 30 years of experience with NAFO are immeasurable. To say that he will be greatly missed is an understatement.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 hours (UTC -3 hours) on Thursday, 06 August 2026.

Annex 1. List of Participants

CO-CHAIRS	González Troncoso, Diana (European Union) Walsh, Ray (Canada)
SC CHAIR	González Troncoso, Diana
COM CHAIR	Paardekooper, Joost
CANADA	In-person Bourgeois, Vanessa Burns, Adam Chapman, Bruce Duprey, Nicholas Fagan, Robert Fuller, Susanna Koen Alonso, Mariano Krohn, Martha Muir, Carlie Rayner, Gemma Simpson, Mark Virtual Coombs, Samantha Rideout, Rick Rowsell, Nicole
DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND)	Virtual Svarrer Wang, Ulla
EUROPEAN UNION	In-person Billiet, Stijn Demblon, Jessica Virtual Belmonte, Luis Cortina Burgueño, Ángela Garrido Fernández, Irene Gonçalves, Patrícia Leocadio, Ana Mancebo, C. Margarita Näks, Liivika Teixeira, Isabel Tuvi, Aare
ICELAND	In-person Bragi Bragason, Agnar
JAPAN	Virtual Butterworth, Doug S. Iwano, Taisuke Taki Kenji Mitome, Haruki

NORWAY	Virtual Hallfredsson, Elvar H. Sandberg, Per
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	Virtual Fomin, Konstantin Tairov, Temur
UNITED KINGDOM	In-person Gawlyk, Joe Sharples, James
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	In-person Jaburek, Shannah Williams, Kirsten Wintering, Rebecca Tyhach, Lea Virtual Kelly, Moira Mencher, Elizabethann
NAFO SECRETARIAT	In-person Benediktsdóttir, Brynhildur Aker, Jana Bell MacCallum, Dayna Guile, Sarah LeFort, Lisa Perreault, Andrea Thompson, Catherine

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by co-Chairs, Ray Walsh (Canada) and Diana González-Troncoso (European Union)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut
 - a. Application of the 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut Management Strategy (COM Request 2)
 - b. Development of Stock Summary Sheets for NAFO managed stocks that are evaluated using MSE processes (COM Request 4)
5. Progress on the MSE process for 3LN redfish (COM Request 3)
6. Precautionary Approach Framework
 - a. Updates on reference points (COM request 7)
 - b. Guidance to the Scientific Council for providing advice under the revised PAF (COM Doc. 25-16) when projections are not possible
 - c. Initial review of outdated PAF references in the NAFO CEM
7. Continued discussions relating to 3LNO shrimp (COM Request 11)
 - a. Scientific Council response to Commission request 11
 - b. Canadian MSE
8. Marine Stewardship Council Requirements Under its Standard 3.0
9. Other Business
 - a. Commission request 12 to Scientific Council to consider a plan for carrying out benchmarks
 - b. Stock summary sheet traffic light application
 - c. Scientific Council workload
10. Recommendations
11. Adoption of report
12. Adjournment