



**Amendments to the NAFO Convention to come in to force today**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA, 18 MAY 2017-** Significant amendments to the Convention establishing the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), that were agreed in 2007, will come into force today, 18 May 2017.

These amendments are intended to modernize NAFO, particularly by incorporating an ecosystem approach to fisheries management. This approach includes safeguarding the marine environment, conserving marine biodiversity and minimizing the risk of long term adverse effects of fishing activities on the marine ecosystem. The amendments will also streamline NAFO's decision-making process, strengthen the obligations of Contracting Parties, Flag States and Port States, and institute a formal dispute settlement mechanism.

In practice, many of the obligations arising from these 2007 amendments have already been applied provisionally, allowing NAFO, for instance, to put in measures to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems. The full implications of the coming-into-force of these amendments will be discussed at NAFO's next Annual Meeting scheduled 18 – 22 September 2017 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

For more information on these amendments to the NAFO Convention please visit the NAFO website (<https://www.nafo.int>).

If you are interested in attending the NAFO Annual Meeting, 18- 22 September 2017, in Montreal, Quebec, please email [info@nafo.int](mailto:info@nafo.int)

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*The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) is an international fisheries and scientific organization founded in 1979. Since its inception, NAFO aims to conserve and sustain fishery resources in the northwest Atlantic. More information on NAFO can be found at [www.nafo.int](http://www.nafo.int)*

