



**NAFO STRENGTHENS ITS PROTECTION MEASURES FOR HABITATS AND SPECIES  
IN THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**VARADERO, CUBA, 23 SEPTEMBER 2016-** The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) took place from the 19-23 September. The delegates were welcomed by the Cuban Minister of Food Industry, Ms. Maria del Carmen Concepción González. NAFO continued to make progress in further developing its implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management. Along with the traditional total allowable catch (TAC) and quota decisions, significant decisions were made regarding the following:

- **NAFO agreed to undergo its second performance review.** This performance review will be completed by the next Annual Meeting in September 2017. It will address: conservation and management; compliance and enforcement; governance; science; international cooperation; financial and administrative issues. The previous NAFO performance review took place in 2011. All of those recommendations have been addressed. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has called on all Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) to undergo regular performance reviews to ensure that they are following best practices.
- **NAFO has agreed to align its port State control measures with the FAO Port State Measures Agreement** which recently came into force. The proposed changes will help to further prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU). The FAO port State measures are internationally recognized in the fishing industry and NAFO's alignment will further increase consistency amongst port States.
- In continuation of its protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) **NAFO closed an additional 239 km<sup>2</sup> of its Regulatory Area to protect significant concentrations of sea pens.** Sea pens are considered a VME indicator species. This brings the total area of the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA) protected from bottom fishing to about 380,511 km<sup>2</sup>, representing around 15% of the NRA.
- **NAFO will launch a management strategy evaluation (MSE) for Greenland halibut** for completion at the next Annual Meeting in September 2017
- **NAFO has put rules in place to prohibit the removal of shark fins on board vessels.**
- NAFO's Executive Secretary, Mr. Fred Kingston, was renewed for a second four-year term ending at the end of 2021.

For more information on the TACs decided upon at the meeting, the NAFO Quota Table is attached.

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**BACKGROUNDER:**

NAFO is an intergovernmental fisheries science and management body. NAFO was founded in 1979 as a successor to ICNAF (International Commission of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries) (1949-1978). NAFO's overall objective is to contribute through consultation and cooperation to the optimum utilization, rational management and conservation of the fishery resources of the NAFO Convention Area.

The NAFO Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries applies to most fishery resources of the Northwest Atlantic except salmon, tunas/marlins, whales, and sedentary species (e.g. shellfish). Currently, NAFO manages 19 stocks [comprised of 11 species]. NAFO has 12 Contracting Parties (Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Ukraine and United States of America. These Contracting Parties meet in September each year to decide conservation and management measures for the following year and intersessionally throughout the year.

NAFO is comprised of the following:

- General Council – Responsible for internal affairs and external relations,
- Fisheries Commission – Responsible for the management and conservation of the fishery resources of the Regulatory Area (waters outside the EEZs). It annually decides on the NAFO fisheries regulations, TACs and quotas (NAFO *Conservation and Enforcement Measures*),
- Scientific Council – Gives advice upon request on the status of fish stocks in the NAFO Convention Area to Fisheries Commission and Coastal States; and
- NAFO Secretariat – Headquarters located in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada.

For more information on NAFO, or to view all of NAFO's reports, please visit [www.nafo.int](http://www.nafo.int).



**ANNEX I – FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**  
**ANNEX I.A – DRAFT ANNUAL QUOTA TABLE**

CATCH LIMITATIONS – Article 5. Total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tons in live weight) for 2017 of particular stocks in Subareas 1-4 of the NAFO Convention Area.

Species	Cod				Redfish					American plaice		Yellowtail
	COD 3L	COD 3M	% of 3M Cod TAC	COD 3NO	RED 3LN	% of 3LN Redfish TAC	RED 3M	RED 3O	REB 1F_2_3K (i.e. Sub-Area 2 and Divs. 1F+3K)	PLA 3LNO	PLA 3M	YEL 3LNO
<b>% of TAC</b>												
<b>Contracting Party</b>												
<b>Canada</b>		111	0.80	0	6 049	42.60	500	6 000	0 <sup>1</sup>	0	0	16 575
<b>Cuba</b>		515	3.70	-	1 392	9.80	1 750		0 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-
<b>Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)</b>		3 114	22.35	-	-		69 <sup>12</sup>		0	-	-	-
<b>European Union</b>		7 945 <sup>15</sup>	57.03	0 <sup>4</sup>	2 589 <sup>16</sup>	18.23	7 813 <sup>5</sup>	7 000	0 <sup>08</sup>	0	0 <sup>4</sup>	-
<b>France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)</b>		-	-	-	-		69 <sup>12</sup>		0 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	340
<b>Iceland</b>		-	-	-	-		-		0	-	-	-
<b>Japan</b>		-	-	-	-		400	150	0 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-
<b>Korea</b>		-	-	-	-		69 <sup>12</sup>	100	0 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-
<b>Norway</b>		1 289	9.25	-	-		-		0	-	-	-
<b>Russian Federation</b>		901	6.47	0	4 085	28.77	9 137	6 500	0	-	0	-
<b>Ukraine</b>								150	0 <sup>1</sup>			
<b>United States of America</b>		-	-	-	-		69 <sup>12</sup>		0 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-
<b>Others</b>		56	0.40	0	85	0.60	124	100	-	0	0	85
<b>TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH</b>	*	13 931 <sup>18</sup>	100.0	*	14 200 <sup>19</sup>	100.0	7 000	20 000 <sup>9</sup>	0 <sup>3,10</sup>	* <sup>13</sup>	*	17 000 <sup>14</sup>

## Annex I.A

(2017)

Species	Witch			White hake	Capelin	Skates	Greenland halibut	Squid ( <i>Illex</i> )	Shrimp	
	WIT 3L	WIT 3NO	% of 3NO Witch TAC	HKW 3NO	CAP 3NO	SKA 3LNO	GHL 3LMNO	SQI 3_4 (i.e. Sub-areas 3+4)	PRA 3L	PRA 3NO
<b>Contracting Party</b>										
Canada		1 303	60.00	294	0	1 167	1 644	N.S. <sup>2</sup>	0	
Cuba		-			0		-	510	0	
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		-			-		189	-	0	
European Union		288 <sup>4</sup>	13.27	588	0 <sup>4</sup>	4 408	6 430 <sup>11</sup>	<u>N.S.</u> <sup>2</sup> 611 <sup>6</sup>	0 <sup>7</sup>	
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-			-		180	453	0	
Iceland		-			-		-	-	0	
Japan		-			0		1 124	510	0	
Korea		-			-		-	453	0	
Norway		-			0		-	-	0	
Russian Federation		559	25.73	59	0	1 167	1 399	749	0	
Ukraine							-		0	
United States of America		-			-		-	453	0	
Others		22	1.00	59	-	258	0	794	0	
<b>TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH</b>	<sup>*13</sup>	2 172 <sup>20</sup>	100.00	1 000	<sup>*9</sup>	7 000 <sup>9, 17</sup>	10 966	34 000 <sup>13</sup>	0	*

\* Ban on fishing in force.

- 1 Quota to be shared by vessels from Canada, Cuba, France (St. Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, Korea, Ukraine and USA.
- 2 The 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 fishing entitlements of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union and in accordance with sharing arrangements of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission at its Annual Meeting in 2003 (FC Working Paper 03/07).
- 5 Including allocations of 1 571 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania out of a sharing of 20 000 tonnes, following their accession to the European Union.
- 6 Allocations of 128 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as well as 227 tonnes for Poland out of a TAC of 34 000 tonnes, following their accession to the European Union.
- 7 Including allocations of 1.11% each for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland out of the TAC, following their accession to the European Union.
- 8 Allocation of 17.85% to Lithuania and 2.15% to Latvia following their accession to the European Union.
- 9 Applicable to 2017 and 2018.
- 10 If an increase in the overall TAC as defined in footnote 3 leads to an increase in these shares, the first 500 tonnes of that increase shall be added to the quota share.
- 11 Including an allocation of 360 tonnes for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union.
- 12 Notwithstanding the provision of Article 5.3 (b) and without prejudice to future agreements on allocations, these quotas may be fished in their entirety by these Contracting Parties.
- 13 Applicable to 2017, 2018 and 2019.
- 14 Following the NAFO annual meeting and prior to 1 January of the succeeding year, at the request of the USA, Canada will transfer 1,000 tonnes of its 3LNO yellowtail quota to the USA.
- 15 Including fishing entitlements of 155 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in accordance with sharing arrangements of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission at its Annual Meeting in 2003 (FC Working Paper 03/07) and allocation of 536 tonnes for Poland following their accession to the European Union.
- 16 Including fishing entitlements of 514 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in accordance with sharing arrangements of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission at its Annual Meeting in 2003 (FC Working Paper 03/07) following their accession to the European Union.
- 17 Should catches exceed 5 000 tonnes, additional measures would be adopted to further restrain catches in 2018.

**Historical statements**

- 18 The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1998 Quota Table. In 1999, a moratorium on cod in Division 3M was declared.
- 19 The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1997 Quota Table. In 1998, a moratorium on redfish in Division 3LN was declared.
- 20 The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1994 Quota Table. In 1995, a moratorium on witch flounder in Division 3NO was declared.