



2008 Annual Meeting Press Release

26 September 2008

NAFO advances its Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VIGO, SPAIN - The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization held its 30th Annual Meeting from the 22nd to the 26th of September, 2008. The Government of Spain hosted the meeting in Vigo, Spain. The meeting focused on the ecosystem aspects of the Northwest Atlantic, the establishment of fisheries management measures and improved monitoring and compliance.

NAFO takes additional action to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs)

Further to extensive precautionary area closures (seamounts, southern Grand Banks) in the last three years, in 2008 NAFO substantially advanced its protection of VMEs. NAFO scientists mapped areas that are likely to contain VMEs and gave advice on the impact of bottom fishing on sensitive habitats. NAFO adopted a number of measures for the international waters of the Northwest Atlantic including the requirement to stop fishing if evidence of VMEs is encountered.

NAFO defines its fishing "footprint"

This year NAFO identified existing bottom fishing areas ("footprint"), within the international waters of the Northwest Atlantic by compiling detailed information on fishing activities from 1987-2007. The areas outside the "footprint" constitute "new fishing areas" for which special exploratory fishing protocols will apply to prevent damage to yet untouched sensitive habitats. This will allow NAFO to establish ecosystem-friendly management regimes (including additional closures if necessary) for new fisheries.

NAFO fishery resources show improvement

The abundance of some straddling stocks of American plaice, redfish and cod is showing improvement. Others, such as yellowtail flounder and shrimps are already in relatively good condition. This is good news and encourages NAFO to continue with strengthening its management regime in the Northwest Atlantic.

NAFO enhances its monitoring and control

At this meeting, NAFO adopted new port state measures that will contribute to a tighter control and enforcement of the NAFO fisheries. From 2004 to 2007 fishing effort in the international waters of the Northwest Atlantic diminished by sixty percent. In 2007 NAFO conducted 296 at-sea inspections of which roughly five percent resulted in a citation. This rate of citation remained fairly constant since 2003.

NAFO amended Convention ready for ratification

At this Annual Meeting Contracting Parties agreed to a French translation of the amendments to the NAFO Convention adopted last year. Now the Depositary of the NAFO Convention, Canada, can give the green light to the ratification process by NAFO members. Meanwhile NAFO adopted a resolution to implement its commitment to an ecosystem-based fisheries management approach.

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Additional highlights of the meeting can be found in the attached backgrounder.

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**2008 Annual Meeting Press Release****22 - 26 September 2008****Backgrounder**

The 30th NAFO Annual Meeting was hosted by the Government of Spain in Vigo, Spain. The three bodies of NAFO, General Council (chaired by Terje Lobach, Norway), Scientific Council (chaired by Don Power, Canada) and Fisheries Commission (chaired by Vladimir Shibanov, Russia) and their subsidiary bodies met for one week at the Maritime Station. The 200 delegates from NAFO member countries came together to deliberate on management measures and scientific assessment regarding the international fisheries of the Northwest Atlantic. The meeting was also attended by observers from two other regional fisheries bodies; as well as from the Ecology Action Centre (EAC) and World Wildlife Fund Canada (WWF- Canada).

Over the course of the current year, NAFO devoted considerable time to develop strategies of implementing an ecosystem approach to fisheries management. During a number of meetings NAFO addressed the identification of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) in the Northwest Atlantic and adopted necessary management measures to protect sensitive habitats including determination of the NAFO fishing "footprint", requirement to stop fishing upon encounter of a VME and exploratory fishery protocols for "new" fishing areas. These steps are in line with the commitment by States made at the UN General Assembly in 2006 (UNGA Resolution 61/105), calling on protection of VMEs. The new measures also continue with previously adopted area closures for seamounts and southern Grand Banks.

The fishing "footprint" was determined by compiling detailed geographic information on bottom fishing locations from Contracting Parties in the period of 1987-2007. Any areas outside this "footprint" are labelled as "new fishing areas".

The advice on the status of fish stocks and the ecosystem given by the Scientific Council to the Organization and Coastal States was mainly elaborated at its main meeting in June. While many stocks remain in a poor condition there were signs of improvement in some stock of Atlantic cod and redfish. Details can be found on the NAFO website at www.nafo.int. The Fisheries Commission established TACs and quotas based on the scientific advice for the 21 fish stocks managed by NAFO.

NAFO again reviewed the compliance of fishing vessels with the NAFO conservation and management measures. The fishing effort in the NAFO Regulatory Area decreased from 10,000 fishing days in 2004 to only 4,000 fishing days in 2007. During these years NAFO conducted between 300 to 400 at-sea inspections per year and issued citations in about five percent of the cases.

In the past few years NGOs have continued to attend NAFO meetings, most notably the WWF Canada, the Ecology Action Centre and the Sierra Club of Canada.

NAFO agreed on a French translation of the amended NAFO Convention (adopted in English language in 2007). This now allows the Depositary of the NAFO Convention, Canada, to give the go ahead to other Contracting Parties to begin the ratification process through their own parliaments.

Attached is the table of NAFO Total Allowable Catches (TAC) and quotas agreed at this session.

Meetings

Prior to the Annual Meeting, the following NAFO meetings were held during 2008: (1) Scientific Council Study Group on Rebuilding Strategies for Greenland Halibut (21-23 February); (2) Fisheries Commission Intersessional, (30 April – 7 May); (3) Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (26-30 May); (4) Scientific Council Regular Meeting (Dartmouth, Canada, 5-19 June); Standing Committee on International Control (1-3 July); *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists (8-12 September).

The meeting was attended by over 200 delegates from twelve Contracting Parties – Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, Russia, Ukraine and United States of America.

NAFO Executive Secretary
26 September 2008, Vigo. Spain

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(ADOPTED)

Quota Table 2009 and Effort Allocation Scheme

QUOTA TABLE. Total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tons) for 2009 of particular stocks in Subareas 1-4 of the NAFO Convention Area. The values listed include quantities to be taken both inside and outside the 200-mile fishing zone, where applicable.

| Species | Cod | | | Redfish | | | | American plaice | | Yellowtail | Witch | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------|-----------------|
| | 3L | 3M | 3NO | 3LN | 3M | 3O | Sub-Area 2 and Div. 1F+3K | 3LNO | 3M | 3LNO | 3L | 3NO |
| Canada | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 500 | 6000 | 385 ^{2,4} | 0 | 0 | 16575 ⁵ | | 0 |
| Cuba | | 0 | - | 0 | 1750 | | 385 ^{2,4} | - | - | - | | - |
| Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland) | | 0 | - | - | 69 ¹⁹ | | 9627 ^{2,3} | - | - | - | | - |
| European Union | | 0 ¹¹ | 0 ¹¹ | 0 ¹¹ | 7813 ¹² | 7000 | $\frac{9627^{2,3}}{2503^{2,15}}$ | 0 | 0 ¹¹ | - | | 0 ¹¹ |
| France (St. Pierre et Miquelon) | | - | - | - | 69 ¹⁹ | | 385 ^{2,4} | - | - | 340 ⁵ | | - |
| Iceland | | - | - | - | - | | 9627 ^{2,3} | - | - | - | | - |
| Japan | | - | - | - | 400 | 150 | 385 ^{2,4} | - | - | - | | - |
| Korea | | - | - | - | 69 ¹⁹ | 100 | 385 ^{2,4} | - | - | - | | - |
| Norway | | 0 | - | - | - | | 9627 ^{2,3} | - | - | - | | - |
| Russia | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9137 | 6500 | 9627 ^{2,3} | - | 0 | - | | 0 |
| Ukraine | | | | | | 150 | 385 ^{2,4} | | | | | |
| United States of America | | - | - | - | 69 ¹⁹ | | 385 ^{2,4} | - | - | - | | - |
| Others | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 124 | 100 | - | 0 | 0 | 85 | | 0 |
| TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH | *22 | *23 | *16 | *26 | 8500 ⁸ | 20000 | 12516 ^{10,17} | *24 | *22 | 17000 ^{24,25} | *16 | *20 |

| Species | White hake | Capelin | Skates | Greenland halibut | Squid (Illex) ¹ | Shrimp | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|---|--------------------|------------|
| | | | | | | 3L | 3NO |
| Division/Contracting Party | 3NO | 3NO | 3LNO | 3LMNO | Sub-areas 3+4 | 3L | 3NO |
| Canada | 2500 | 0 | 2250 | 1778 | N.S. ⁶ | 24990 | |
| Cuba | | 0 | | - | 510 | 334 | |
| Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland) | | - | | 206 | - | 334 | |
| European Union | 5000 | 0 ¹¹ | 8500 | 6951 ¹⁸ | <u>N.S.</u> ⁶ 611 ¹³ | 1670 ¹⁴ | |
| France (St. Pierre et Miquelon) | | - | | 194 | 453 | 334 | |
| Iceland | | - | | - | - | 334 | |
| Japan | | 0 | | 1215 | 510 | 334 | |
| Korea | | - | | - | 453 | 334 | |
| Norway | | 0 | | - | - | 334 | |
| Russia | 500 | 0 | 2250 | 1512 | 749 | 334 | |
| Ukraine | | | | - | | 334 | |
| United States of America | | - | | - | 453 | 334 | |
| Others | 500 | - | 500 | 0 ⁷ | 794 | 0 | |
| TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH | 8500 | *21 | 13500 | 11856 | 34000²⁰ | 30000 | *22 |

* Ban on fishing in force.

1. Any quota listed for squid may be increased by a transfer from any "coastal state" as defined in Article 1, paragraph 3 of the NAFO Convention, provided that the TAC for squid is not exceeded.
Transfers made to Contracting Parties conducting fisheries for squid in the Regulatory Area shall be reported to the Executive Secretary, and the report shall be made as promptly as possible.
2. The Contracting Parties shall notify the Executive Secretary every second week of catches taken by its vessels from this allocation until accumulated reported catch reaches 50%, after which time weekly notification shall apply. The Executive Secretary shall notify without delay all Contracting Parties the dates on which accumulated reported catch taken by vessels of Contracting Parties estimated equal to 50% and then 100% of that allocation.
3. Quota to be shared by vessels from Denmark (Greenland and Faroe Islands), European Union, Iceland, Norway and Russia. Catches in the NAFO Convention Area shall be deducted from the quotas allocated in the NEAFC Convention Area.
4. Quota to be shared by vessels from Canada, Cuba, France (St. Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, Korea, Ukraine and USA.
5. Contracting Parties shall inform the Executive Secretary before 01 December 2008 of the measures to be taken to ensure that total catches do not exceed the levels indicated.

6. The allocation to these Contracting Parties are as yet undetermined, although their sum shall not exceed the difference between the total of allocations to other Contracting Parties and the TAC (= 29.458 tons).
7. In 2005, the previous 935 t "Others" quota was assigned to three Contracting Parties. When the TAC exceeds 30,000 t the next 1,300 t beyond 30,000 will be allocated to an Others quota which can be accessed by those who do not hold Greenland halibut allocation. In deciding the relevant contributions of Contracting Parties to the 1,300 t Others quota, the Fisheries Commission will take into account the fact that some Contracting Parties received a benefit from the 935 t quota which was reassigned in 2005.
8. Each Contracting Party shall notify the Executive Secretary every second week of catches taken by its vessels from this stock until accumulated reported catch reaches 50%, after which time weekly notification shall apply. Not more than 4250 tons may be fished before 01 July 2009. The Executive Secretary shall notify without delay all Contracting Parties of the date on which, for this stock, accumulated reported catch taken by vessels of the Contracting Parties is estimated to equal 50% and then 100% of the TAC.
9. The provisions of Article 9, paragraph 1.b) of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures shall apply.
10. In the case of the NEAFC decision which modifies the level of TAC in 2009 as compared to 2008, these figures shall be accordingly adjusted by NAFO and formalized through a mail vote.
11. Including fishing entitlements of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union and in accordance with sharing arrangements of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission at its Annual Meeting in 2003 (FC Working Paper 03/7).
12. Including allocations of 1571 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania out of a sharing of 20,000 tonnes, following their accession to the European Union.
13. Allocations of 128 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as well as 227 tonnes for Poland out of a TAC of 34,000 tonnes, following their accession to the European Union.
14. Including allocations of 334 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland out of a TAC of 30,000 tonnes, following their accession to the European Union
15. Allocation of 2,234 tonnes for Lithuania and 269 tonnes to Latvia following their accession to the European Union.
16. Applicable to 2009 and 2010.
17. The quota shares in footnotes 4 and 15 can only be fished in the NAFO Regulatory Area. If an increase in the overall TAC as defined in footnote 10 leads to an increase in these shares, the first 500 tonnes of that increase shall be added to the quota share referred to in footnote 4.
18. Including an allocation of 389 tonnes for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union.
19. Notwithstanding the provisions of footnote 8 and without prejudice to future agreements on allocations, these quotas may be fished in their entirety by these Contracting Parties.
20. Applicable to 2009, 2010, and 2011.
21. Applicable until at least 2012.
22. The provisions of Article 11, paragraph 1.b) shall apply.
23. Contracting Parties fishing for other species in Division 3M will be restricted to a cod by-catch limit of 10% by haul and an 8% limit on landings.
24. In lieu of Article 11.1 (a) and (b) of the CEM, the following by-catch provisions for American plaice only in the 3LNO yellowtail fishery shall apply: Contracting Parties fishing for yellowtail flounder allocated under the NAFO allocation table will be restricted to an overall Am. plaice by-catch harvest limit equal to 13% of their total yellowtail fishery as calculated in accordance with Article 11.1 (c). For 2010, the by-catch percentage will increase to 15% unless a Scientific Council projection indicates that this rate is likely to undermine stock recovery or cause an unreasonable delay in reaching B_{lim} , in which case the increase may be subject to a reassessment by the Fisheries Commission"
25. Following the NAFO annual meeting and prior to January 1 of the succeeding year, at the request of the USA, Canada will transfer 1000 tonnes of its 3LNO yellowtail quota to the USA.
26. By-catch of Redfish 3LN in other fisheries is limited to 10%.

Annex I.B
Effort Allocation Scheme for Shrimp Fishery in the
NAFO Regulatory Area Div. 3M, 2009

| CONTRACTING PARTY | NUMBER OF FISHING DAYS | NUMBER OF VESSELS |
|---|------------------------|-------------------|
| Canada | 456 | 16 |
| Cuba | 100 | 1 |
| Denmark | | |
| Faroe Islands | 1606 | 8 |
| Greenland | 515 | 14 |
| European Union | 3293 ¹ | 33 ¹ |
| France (in respect of St Pierre et Miquelon) | 100 | 1 |
| Iceland | N/A | N/A |
| Japan | 100 | 1 |
| Korea | 100 | 1 |
| Norway | 1985 | 32 |
| Russia | 2100 | N/A |
| Ukraine | 100 | 1 |
| USA | 100 | 1 |

¹ Including fishing entitlements transferred from Poland (100 fishing days with one vessel), Estonia (1667 fishing days with 8 vessels), Latvia (490 fishing days with 4 vessels) and Lithuania (579 fishing days with 7 vessels) following their accession to the European Union.