



2009 Annual Meeting Press Release

25 September 2009

NAFO Flemish Cap Cod is Back**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

BERGEN, NORWAY - The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) held its 31st Annual Meeting from the 21st to the 25th of September, 2009. The Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries hosted the meeting in Bergen, Norway. The meeting focused on the establishment of stock management measures and continuing to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs).

NAFO stocks open after a decade

Two stocks previously under moratoria for more than 10 years have been reopened for directed fishing. Atlantic cod on the Flemish Cap (Div. 3M) and Redfish in Div. 3LN will be harvested once again by the international fleets. Quotas for these stocks have been allocated using pre-moratoria values.

NAFO Members remain committed to reduce by-catch to contribute to the rebuilding of Div. 3NO cod and other stocks.

NAFO closes additional areas

To further protect sensitive marine areas in the international waters of the Northwest Atlantic several areas near the Flemish Cap and Nose of the Grand Banks have been closed. This action reconfirms NAFO's commitment to protect vulnerable marine habitats and species. Twelve significant coral and sponge locations and five seamount areas are now closed to bottom fishing. NAFO will notify United Nations General Assembly that advances made at this meeting implies that fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area will not cause significant adverse impacts to VMEs.

NAFO defines its fishing footprint

In order to respond to UN calls, NAFO officially mapped areas in the NAFO Regulatory Area where bottom fishing has historically occurred. This "footprint" distinguishes between existing and new fishing areas. An encounter protocol will apply and Contracting Parties will complete assessments of their bottom fisheries for known or anticipated impacts on VMEs.

NAFO bolsters its vessel monitoring

NAFO continues to modernize the way it monitors the fisheries. Additional information to that being presently collected will be submitted automatically through the vessel monitoring system. These improvements will greatly improve traceability of the fishing vessels.

NAFO agreed on a performance review process

NAFO Contracting Parties have agreed to hold a working group meeting next year to develop terms of reference, assessment criteria and composition of a panel to review the Organization. The Working Group will report to the General Council.

New NAFO Executive Secretary

A new Executive Secretary has been appointed. Vladimir Shibarov from the Russian Federation will take up the post early in 2010 in Dartmouth, NS, Canada. Dr Shibarov has had many years of experience in NAFO through his involvement in Scientific Council and Fisheries Commission.

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

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**2009 Annual Meeting Press Release****21 - 25 September 2009****Backgrounder**

The 31st NAFO Annual Meeting was hosted by the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries and the Director General, Liv Holmefjord welcomed the 175 delegates to Bergen, Norway. 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, Russian Federation) and their subsidiary bodies met for one week at the Radisson SAS Royal Hotel, Bryggen. The 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 the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the Pew Environment Group.

The Fisheries Commission agreed on management measures for the 21 fish stocks managed by NAFO. 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 at low levels there were signs of improvement in some stocks. Two stocks previously under moratoria have been reopened. Directed fishing has been re-established for the first time in over ten years for Atlantic cod in Division 3M and Redfish in Divisions 3LN. The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for cod is set at 5,500 tons with a number of precautionary measures established to limit by-catches for this stock in other fisheries, and the TAC for redfish was set at 3,500 tons.

NAFO continues to take steps to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems by establishing coral and sponge protection zones in addition to closures already made in previous years. As well, protocols have been devised to minimize catches of these species. It is recognized that there are numerous international scientific research efforts underway to enhance the knowledge on benthic habitat, communities and species in the NAFO Regulatory Area, particularly the Spanish-led international survey in 2009-2010.

This year NAFO mapped areas in the international waters of the Northwest Atlantic where bottom fishing has occurred, in accordance with guidelines adopted by FAO. It is expected that the NAFO fishing "footprint" will be reviewed regularly.

The Port State Control measures adopted last year have improved the compliance by vessels fishing in the international waters. A total of 245 at-sea inspections conducted in 2008 resulted in only five infringements. Fishing vessels operating in the NAFO Regulatory Area continue to be monitored by VMS but will be subject to more frequent reporting procedures. These improvements, among other things, allow the inspection services to more accurately determine the locations of fishing vessels.

Fishing in the NRA will be subject to more frequent monitoring and reporting.

The 32nd Annual Meeting of the Organization will be held in Canada. The table of NAFO TACs and quotas agreed at this session is attached.

Meetings

Prior to the Annual Meeting, the following NAFO meetings were held during 2009: (1) Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists on VMEs (19-20 March); (2) Standing Committee on International Control (5-7 May); (3) Scientific Council *ad hoc* Working Group on Assessment Methods for SA 2 + Div. 3KLMNO Greenland Halibut (1-3 June); (4) Scientific Council Regular Meeting (Dartmouth, Canada, 4-18 June); (5) *Ad Hoc* Working Group of Fisheries Managers and Scientists (17-18 September).

The meeting was attended by over 175 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 Interim Executive Secretary

25 September 2009, Bergen, Norway

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Quota Table 2010 (ADOPTED)

QUOTA TABLE. Total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tons) for 2010 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
Division/Contracting Party	3L	3M	% of 3M Cod TAC	3NO	3LN	% of 3LN Redfish TAC	3M	3O	Sub-Area 2 and Div. 1F+3K	3LNO	3M	3LNO
Canada		44	0.80	0	1491	42.60	500	6000	385 ^{2,4}	0	0	16575 ⁵
Cuba		204	3.70	-	343	9.80	1750		385 ^{2,4}	-	-	-
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		1229	22.35	-	-		69 ¹⁹		9627 ^{2,3}	-	-	-
European Union		3136 ²⁵	57.03	0 ¹¹	638 ²⁶	18.23	7813 ¹²	7000	9627 ^{2,3} 2503 ^{2,15}	0	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		509	9.25	-	-		-		9627 ^{2,3}	-	-	-
Russia		356	6.47	0	1007	28.77	9137	6500	9627 ^{2,3}	-	0	-
Ukraine								150	385 ^{2,4}			
United States of America		-		-	-		69 ¹⁹		385 ^{2,4}	-	-	-
Others		22	0.40	0	21	0.60	124	100	-	0	0	85 ⁵
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	*9	5500 ²³	100.0	*9	3500 ²⁴	100.0	10000 ⁸	20000	12516 ^{10,17}	*21,16	*9,16	17000 ^{21,22}

Species	Witch		White hake	Capelin	Skates	Greenland halibut	Squid (Illex) ¹	Shrimp	
Division/Contracting Party	3L	3NO	3NO	3NO	3LNO	3LMNO	Sub-areas 3+4	3L	3NO
Canada		0	1765	0	2000	1778	N.S. ⁶	24990	
Cuba		-		0		-	510	334	
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		-		-		206	-	334	
European Union		0 ¹¹	3529	0 ¹¹	7556	6951 ¹⁸	N.S. 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		0	353	0	2000	1512	749	334	
Ukraine						-		334	
United States of America		-		-		-	453	334	
Others		0	353	-	444	0 ⁷	794	0	
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	*9	*16,9	6000	*20,9	12000	11856	34000 ¹⁶	30000	*9

* Ban on fishing in force.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Quota to be shared by vessels from Canada, Cuba, France (St. Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, Korea, Ukraine and USA.
- Contracting Parties shall inform the Executive Secretary before 01 December 2009 of the measures to be taken to ensure that total catches do not exceed the levels indicated.
- 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. Not more than 5000 tons may be fished before 01 July 2010. 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 12, 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 2010 as compared to 2009, 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 2010 and 2011.
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 until at least 2012.
21. In lieu of Article 12.1 (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 12.1 (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.
22. 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.
23. The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1998 Quota Table. In 1999, a moratorium on Cod in Division 3M was declared.
24. The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1997 Quota Table. In 1998, a moratorium on Redfish in Division 3LN was declared.
25. Including fishing entitlements of 61 tons each for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in accordance with sharing arrangements of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission at its Annual Meeting in 2003 (FC Working Paper 03/7) and allocation of 209 tons for Poland following their accession to the European Union.
26. Including fishing entitlements of 173 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in accordance with sharing arrangements of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission at its Annual Meeting in 2003 (FC Working Paper 03/7) following their accession to the European Union.