



2010 Annual Meeting Press Release

## **NAFO Takes Stock Further Progress made on International Fishery Management**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Halifax, NS, Canada, 24 September 2010

At this week's meeting of NAFO – the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization - a range of conservation and management measures were adopted for fish stocks in international waters and straddling national fishing limits based on the precautionary approach. With a commitment to apply an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, NAFO agreed to further refine its provisions to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems from significant adverse impacts of bottom fisheries, which included the extended closure of 6 seamounts in international waters. To take stock of the effectiveness of NAFO as a regional fisheries management organization, an expert panel will work together over the next year to produce a performance assessment of the work of NAFO.

The meeting agreed on management measures for 20 fish stocks in or straddling the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA) in 2011. Following the reopening of Flemish Cap cod (Div. 3M) and Grand Bank redfish (Div. 3LN) last year and, based on new scientific advice, total allowable catch (TACs) for these stocks were increased. Fisheries for a number of other stocks remain closed. Based on the latest scientific advice on the continued very low level of the shrimp stock on the Flemish Cap, it was agreed that fisheries for shrimp in this area should not be permitted in 2011.

NAFO has agreed upon a progressive strategy to manage Greenland halibut in its Regulatory Area, developed by a working group comprising fishery managers and scientists. The new management strategy provides for the annual adjustment of the TAC according to defined rules and will be implemented for four years.

Over the next year NAFO will begin to develop Conservation Plans and Stock Rebuilding Strategies for protected and recovering fish stocks such as Cod Div. 3NO and American plaice Div. 3LNO. This will be a collaborative effort between fishery managers and scientists.

NAFO continues to develop its enforcement measures by implementing an improved system for recording daily catches of all species in the NRA. This allows for simplified reporting requirements and enhanced monitoring capability and will be incorporated in the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS).

NAFO continues to improve its management and conservation regime to fulfil its commitment to prevent significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems, as called for by UN General Assembly (UNGA) by, among other things, agreeing on a map of existing fishing areas.

Furthermore NAFO has agreed to extend the closure of 6 seamounts for the next 4 years; the implementation of impact assessments of bottom fishing; and application of a more comprehensive data collection protocol for coral and sponge species.

In 2011 NAFO will undergo a Performance Review by a panel of experts. The Panel will consist of external reviewers and experts from Contracting Parties. The Panel will assess the performance of NAFO against the objectives set out in the NAFO Convention and other relevant international instruments addressing the conservation and management of marine living resources.

To date the ratification of the amended NAFO Convention has been completed by two Contracting Parties. The internal processes continue and an update will be given during the next Annual Meeting.

Some results from a new joint multidisciplinary scientific survey (NEREIDA) that was successfully conducted by NAFO Contracting Parties to examine fishing resources and vulnerable marine ecosystems within the NRA were presented.

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

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**Backgrounder**

NAFO is an international intergovernmental fisheries science and management body that manages the fishery in the international portion of the Northwest Atlantic. The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting was held in the World Trade and Convention Centre, Halifax, NS, Canada and was attended by 180 delegates from all 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, Republic of Korea, Norway, Russian Federation, Ukraine and United States of America. The three bodies of NAFO, General Council (chaired by Terje Lobach, Norway), Fisheries Commission (chaired by Kate Sanderson, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) and Scientific Council (chaired by Ricardo Alpoim, EU-Portugal) and their subsidiary bodies met over the course of week to deliberate on management measures and scientific assessment regarding the international fisheries of the Northwest Atlantic. The scientific advice was presented. The meeting was also attended by observers from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Ecology Action Centre (EAC), the International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA) and the Sierra Club of Canada (SCC).

The Fisheries Commission agreed on management measures for the 20 fish stocks managed by NAFO. The scientific advice was elaborated at meetings held in October of 2009 and June of 2010. Scientific Council fully assessed the status of eleven stocks and monitored the status of other fish stocks. The overall picture is one of cautious optimism for the finfish.

NAFO has agreed upon a progressive strategy to manage Greenland halibut in its Regulatory Area. A special working group comprised of fisheries managers and scientists was established in 2009 to address the uncertainty of assessments of the Greenland halibut stock in NAFO Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO. The new management strategy allows for the adjustment of the TAC on an annual basis based on harvest control rules and is to be implemented for four years, followed by a review by Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council.

A new working group of fishery managers and scientists will be established with a mandate to develop Conservation Plans and Stock Rebuilding Strategies for important resources within the NAFO Convention Area, including cod in Div. 3NO and American plaice in Div. 3LNO.

Recognizing the value in protecting its Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME), NAFO continues to improve its management and conservation regime to fulfil its commitment to prevent significant adverse impacts on VMEs, as called for by UN General Assembly resolution 61/105. NAFO adopted a map of existing fishing areas that will identify new fishing areas. NAFO agreed:

- to extend the closure of six seamounts for an additional four years to protect the vulnerable marine ecosystems which live in these areas from impact from bottom fishing gears;
- to implement rigorous impact assessments of bottom fishing occurring outside of the NAFO fishing footprint, or if new scientific information comes to light on the existence of VMEs, or if significant changes occur in fishing conduct or technology; and
- to implement a more comprehensive data collection protocol for coral and sponge species encountered in exploratory and existing fishing areas.

Full-colour pictorial identification guides of deep-sea corals and sponges have been developed to assist in the recognition of these species.

In 2009 and 2010 the “NAFO Potential Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem-Impacts of Deep-sea Fisheries” (NEREIDA) programme conducted new multidisciplinary research surveys on vulnerable ecosystems and the effects of fishing activities. The survey was funded by EU-Spain, Canada, EU-United Kingdom and the Russian Federation. Specific objectives included to identify organisms that constitute Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME), describe ecology of deep-sea habitats studying distinct features in the area and to develop a GIS database. Deep-sea Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) took video footage of both pristine coral areas and areas where corals had been impacted by bottom contact gears.

The Fisheries Commission conducts the annual compliance review and noted the continuing trend of increased compliance. Amendments to the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures were reviewed and revisions were made that strengthen protection of fish stocks. Increased TACs were decided for Flemish Cap cod (Div. 3M), Grand Bank redfish (Div. 3LN) and Greenland halibut in Subarea 2 + Div. 3KLMNO. TACs for other regulated species will be maintained. The biomass of shrimp in Div. 3M (Flemish Cap) continues to be a concern and so it was agreed that that a fishery on this stock will not be permitted. Fisheries for a number of other stocks continue to be closed.

A Performance Review will be conducted during 2011. A Review Panel consisting of experts from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) and from Contracting Parties, Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union and the Russian Federation, will assess the performance of NAFO against the objectives set out in the NAFO Convention and other relevant international instruments addressing the conservation and management of marine living resources. This is similar to assessments conducted by some other RFMOs and has been called for by UN General Assembly.

The 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting will be held in Halifax, NS, Canada.

### **Meetings**

Prior to the Annual Meeting, the following NAFO meetings were held: (1) Scientific Council for shrimp assessment (21-19 October 2009); (2) FC WG on Greenland Halibut Management Strategy Evaluation (WGMSE) (28-29 January); (3) SC Study Group on Rebuilding Strategies for Greenland Halibut (1-5 February); (4) GC Performance Assessment Working Group (PAWG) (26-28 April); (5) STACFAD Working Group (29-10 April) (6) Scientific Council (March-April by correspondence); (7) WGMSE (2-4 May); (8) FC WG of Fishery Managers and Scientists on VMEs (WGFMS) (5-7 May); (9) STACTIC (18-20 May) (10) Scientific Council (3-16 June); (11) WGMSE (16-17 September).

The table of NAFO TACs and quotas agreed at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting is attached.

NAFO Executive Secretary  
Dr Vladimir Shibanov

24 September 2010, Halifax, NS, Canada

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**Annex I.A**  
**Annual Quota Table**

**QUOTA TABLE. Total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tons) for 2011 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
	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		80	0.80	0	2556	42.60	500	6000	385 <sup>2,4</sup>	0	0	16575 <sup>5</sup>
Cuba		370	3.70	-	588	9.80	1750		385 <sup>2,4</sup>	-	-	-
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		2235	22.35	-	-		69 <sup>19</sup>		9627 <sup>2,3</sup>	-	-	-
European Union		5703 <sup>25</sup>	57.03	0 <sup>11</sup>	1094 <sup>26</sup>	18.23	7813 <sup>12</sup>	7000	$\frac{9627^{2,3}}{2503^{2,15}}$	0	0 <sup>11</sup>	-
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-		-	-		69 <sup>19</sup>		385 <sup>2,4</sup>	-	-	340 <sup>5</sup>
Iceland		-		-	-		-		9627 <sup>2,3</sup>	-	-	-
Japan		-		-	-		400	150	385 <sup>2,4</sup>	-	-	-
Korea		-		-	-		69 <sup>19</sup>	100	385 <sup>2,4</sup>	-	-	-
Norway		925	9.25	-	-		-		9627 <sup>2,3</sup>	-	-	-
Russian Federation		647	6.47	0	1726	28.77	9137	6500	9627 <sup>2,3</sup>	-	0	-
Ukraine								150	385 <sup>2,4</sup>			
United States of America		-		-	-		69 <sup>19</sup>		385 <sup>2,4</sup>	-	-	-
Others		40	0.40	0	35	0.60	124	100	-	0	0	85 <sup>5</sup>
<b>TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH</b>	<sup>*9</sup>	10000 <sup>23</sup>	100.0	<sup>*9,20</sup>	6000 <sup>16,24</sup>	100.0	10000 <sup>8</sup>	20000	12516 <sup>10,17</sup>	<sup>*21</sup>	<sup>*9</sup>	17000 <sup>21,22</sup>

Species	Witch		White hake	Capelin	Skates	Greenland halibut	Squid (Illex) <sup>1</sup>	Shrimp	
	3L	3NO						3NO	3NO
Canada		0	1765	0	2000	1910	N.S. <sup>6</sup>	15991	
Cuba		-		0		-	510	214	
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		-		-		221	-	214	
European Union		0 <sup>11</sup>	3529	0 <sup>11</sup>	7556	7466 <sup>18</sup>	N.S. <sup>6</sup> 611 <sup>13</sup>	1069 <sup>14</sup>	
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-		-		208	453	214	
Iceland		-		-		-	-	214	
Japan		-		0		1305	510	214	
Korea		-		-		-	453	214	
Norway		-		0		-	-	214	
Russian Federation		0	353	0	2000	1624	749	214	
Ukraine						-		214	
United States of America		-		-		-	453	214	
Others		0	353	-	444	0 <sup>7</sup>	794	0	
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	*9,20	*9	6000	*16,9	12000	12734	34000 <sup>20</sup>	19200 <sup>27</sup>	*9

\* 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 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 2010 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. Not more than 5000 tons may be fished before 01 July 2011. 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 2011 as compared to 2010, 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 214 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland out of a TAC of 19,200 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 2011 and 2012.
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 418 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 2013.
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 111 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 380 tons for Poland following their accession to the European Union.
26. Including fishing entitlements of 297 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.
27. For 2012, the TAC will be reduced to 17,000 tonnes. This TAC will be reviewed based on available Scientific Council advice on this stock.

**Annex I.B**  
**Effort Allocation Scheme for Shrimp Fishery in the**  
**NAFO Regulatory Area Div. 3M, 2011**

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

<sup>1</sup> 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.