



## **NAFO CONTINUES IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Vigo, Spain, 26 September 2014

The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) today announced measures to strengthen the scientific basis for management decisions, to increase compliance and to improve the quality of catch data it collects. These decisions were made at NAFO's 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting held in Vigo, Spain.

A review of closed areas for protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VME) was carried out this year and the current closures were extended until 2020. Two new closed areas were also adopted in the NAFO Area.

Witch flounder on the southern Grand Bank, has now recovered sufficiently to be reopened with a total allowable catch (TAC) of 1 000 t. This stock had been under a 20 year moratorium. Moreover the TAC for redfish on the northern Grand Bank increased by almost 50 % to 10 400 t.

Fishery Managers and Scientists will continue to work together on important issues. The mandates of the Joint Working Groups for Risk Based Management Strategies (RBMS), Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (EAFFM) and Catch Reporting (CR) will build on their previous year's work. The working group on By-catches, Discards and Selectivity will also continue.

Maintaining stability in catch opportunities and sustainability of stocks remains a priority for NAFO. A harvest control rule for redfish on the northern Grand Bank was adopted. Development of a management plan for cod on the Flemish Cap is underway.

Based on scientific advice most existing moratoria were extended to allow the rebuilding of stocks, while TACs and quotas for the rest were set. See the attached quota table for details. The Northern shrimp stock continues to decline and in order to be precautionary it has also been placed under moratorium.

Progress continues on recommendations from NAFO's 2011 Performance Review. Most of the actions developed in response to the recommendations have been completed or are ongoing.

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

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Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization  
2014 Annual Meeting Press Release

26 September 2014



## Backgrounder

NAFO is an international intergovernmental fisheries science and management body that manages the fishery in the international portion of the Northwest Atlantic. The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting was held during 22-26 September 2014 at the Palacio de Congresos Mar de Vigo, Vigo, Spain. The meeting was attended by 180 delegates from eleven 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 and United States of America). Ukraine was unable to attend the meeting.

The meeting was also attended by IGO observers from the Fisheries and Agricultural Organisation of the UN (FAO), Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO), International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Southeast Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO), Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) and International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network and NGOs, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA), the Ecology Action Centre, Pew Environmental Foundation and the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC).

The three bodies of NAFO, General Council (chaired by Veronika Veits, EU), Fisheries Commission (chaired by Sylvie Lapointe, Canada) and Scientific Council (chaired by Don Stansbury, Canada) and their subsidiary bodies met over the course of a week to deliberate on management measures and scientific assessment regarding the international fisheries of the Northwest Atlantic. Sessions of the joint Fisheries Commission/Scientific Council were also held to present results of meetings held over the course of the year and make plans for the future.

Existing moratoria on five NAFO stocks were carried over. Witch flounder in Div. 3NO was re-opened after a closure of 20 years. TACs and quotas were established for all other NAFO regulated stocks. In order to be precautionary a moratorium for the shrimp stock in Div. 3LNO has been agreed. The TAC for cod on the Flemish Cap was reduced by 5%. For redfish in Div. 3LN, a Harvest Control Rule has been agreed which foresees an incremental increase in TACs for the next 7 years, leading to exploitation at maximum sustainable yield (MSY) in 2021, subject to regular reviews. See attached quota table for details.

Two new areas have been closed to bottom fishing to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems, taking the total to 14. These new areas are in international waters of the NAFO Regulatory Area near the Flemish Cap.

Cooperation between Fishery Managers and Scientists continued. The joint working groups allow for greater collaboration to combine scientific and management information and to provide a strong forum to enable good management decisions. Next year these groups will continue to discuss matters such as catch reporting, risk based management strategies and ecosystem issues

Information collected on a tow-by-tow basis will be made available to scientists to enhance stock assessments and advice in the future.

Six NAFO Contracting Parties have now ratified the amended NAFO Convention. Other Members reported their progress to the meeting and, while promising, all were strongly encouraged to continue their efforts to ratify the amended Convention in their respective governments.

The status of the implementation of the recommendations from the 2011 NAFO Performance Review Panel were reviewed by NAFO. All constituent bodies continue to make progress and NAFO was pleased with work that has been and continues to be done.



The first two meetings of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management were successfully concluded. This group was created to provide advice on technical issues and to promote harmonisation and standardisation in the area of fisheries data management & communications for any Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs).

Application of an Information Security and Management System (ISMS) for NAFO and an external audit of NAFO's current IT-system data will be undertaken.

NAFO will explore an arrangement to exchange appropriate and timely information necessary to avoid overlapping activities and mitigate potential conflicts between fisheries and hydrocarbon activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

NAFO is pleased to be a partner in the FAO VME Database project. In 2015, information on NAFO closed areas will contribute to a global review of the implementation of the UN General Assembly Resolutions that request the protection of VMEs.

The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will be held in Halifax, NS, Canada in September 2015.

Prior to the Annual Meeting, the following NAFO meetings were held: 15-18 October 2013 Joint ICES-NAFO Symposium - "Gadoid Fisheries: The Ecology and Management of Rebuilding", St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada; 19-28 November 2013 Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Science and Assessment (WGESA) (formerly WGEAFM) in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada; 3-4 February 2014 Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Ad Hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting in Halifax, NS, Canada; 5-7 February 2014 Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS) in Halifax, NS, Canada; 18-19 March 2014 NAFO-NEAFC Joint Advisory Group on Data Management in Dartmouth, NS, Canada; 24-28 March 2014 Joint ICES/NAFO Working Group on Deep-water Ecology in ICES, Copenhagen, Denmark; 23-25 April 2014 International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society Annual Meeting in La Jolla, California, USA; 5 May 2014 Scientific Council Ad Hoc Working Group on Div. 3M Cod Catches (WebEx); 05-07 May 2014 Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) Intersessional Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark; 13 May 2014 Scientific Council Working Group on Development of a Management Strategy for Div. 3LN Redfish (WebEx); 30 May-12 June 2014 Scientific Council and its Standing Committees Meeting in Halifax, NS, Canada; 7-8 July 2014 Fisheries Commission Ad Hoc Working Group on Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in Dartmouth, NS, Canada; 9-11 July 2014 Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM) in Halifax, NS, Canada; 10-17 September, Scientific Council and NIPAG Shrimp Assessment Meeting, Nuuk, Greenland.

Reports of all NAFO meeting are finalized following the meeting end and are posted on the public NAFO website. Reports from General Council and Fisheries Commission (and Standing Committees) can be accessed at <http://www.nafo.int/publications/frames/proceedings.html> and Scientific Council Reports at <http://www.nafo.int/publications/frames/sci-reports.html>.

The table of NAFO TACs and quotas agreed at the 36th Annual Meeting can be found at <http://www.nafo.int/fisheries/quota.pdf>

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26 September 2014, Vigo, Spain

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(2015)

**ANNEX I – FISHERIES MANAGEMENT****Annex I.A - Annual Quota Table**

QUOTA TABLE. Total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tons) for 2015 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 Division/Contracting Party	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		110	0.80	0	4430	42.60	500	6000	0 <sup>2,4</sup>	0	0	16575 <sup>5</sup>
Cuba		511	3.70	-	1019	9.80	1750		0 <sup>2,4</sup>	-	-	-
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		3083	22.35	-	-		69 <sup>19</sup>		0 <sup>2,3</sup>	-	-	-
European Union		7867 <sup>25</sup>	57.03	0 <sup>11</sup>	1896 <sup>26</sup>	18.23	7813 <sup>12</sup>	7000	0 <sup>2,3</sup> 0 <sup>2,15</sup>	0	0 <sup>11</sup>	-
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-		-	-		69 <sup>19</sup>		0 <sup>2,4</sup>	-	-	340 <sup>5</sup>
Iceland		-		-	-		-		0 <sup>2,3</sup>	-	-	-
Japan		-		-	-		400	150	0 <sup>2,4</sup>	-	-	-
Korea		-		-	-		69 <sup>19</sup>	100	0 <sup>2,4</sup>	-	-	-
Norway		1276	9.25	-	-		-		0 <sup>2,3</sup>	-	-	-
Russian Federation		893	6.47	0	2992	28.77	9137	6500	0 <sup>2,3</sup>	-	0	-
Ukraine								150	0 <sup>2,4</sup>			
United States of America		-		-	-		69 <sup>19</sup>		0 <sup>2,4</sup>	-	-	-
Others		55	0.40	0	63	0.60	124	100	-	0	0	85 <sup>5</sup>
<b>TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH</b>	<sup>*9</sup>	13795 <sup>23</sup>	100.0	<sup>*20,9</sup>	10400 <sup>16,24</sup>	100.0	6700 <sup>8</sup>	20000	0 <sup>10,17</sup>	<sup>*16,21</sup>	<sup>*9,20</sup>	17000 <sup>21,22</sup>

Annex I.A (cont'd)

(2015)

Species	Witch			White hake	Capelin	Skates	Greenland halibut	Squid ( <i>Illex</i> ) <sup>1</sup>	Shrimp	
	3L	3NO	% of 3NO Witch TAC	3NO	3NO	3LNO	3LMNO	Sub-areas 3+4	3L	3NO
Canada		600	60.00	294	0	1167	1731	N.S. <sup>6</sup>	0	
Cuba		-			0		-	510	0	
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		-			-		199	-	0	
European Union		133 <sup>11</sup>	13.27	588	0 <sup>11</sup>	4408	6768 <sup>18</sup>	N.S. <sup>6</sup> 611 <sup>13</sup>	0 <sup>14</sup>	
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-			-		189	453	0	
Iceland		-			-		-	-	0	
Japan		-			0		1183	510	0	
Korea		-			-		-	453	0	
Norway		-			0		-	-	0	
Russian Federation		257	25.73	59	0	1167	1473	749	0	
Ukraine							-		0	
United States of America		-			-		-	453	0	
Others		10	1.00	59	-	258	0 <sup>7</sup>	794	0	
<b>TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH</b>	<sup>*9,16</sup>	1000 <sup>28</sup>	100.00	1000 <sup>27</sup>	<sup>*9</sup>	7000 <sup>16,29</sup>	11543	34000 <sup>16</sup>	0	<sup>*9</sup>

## Annex I.A (contd)

- \* 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 1 December 2014 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. Notwithstanding Article 5.3(b), in 2015, the Executive Secretary shall inform Contracting Parties by electronic means 5 calendar days in advance of the date on which the available data indicates that total reported catch reaches 6500 t. Subsequently, directed fishery will cease when 6500 t has been taken as determined by the Executive Secretary. The remainder of the TAC can be retained as by catch and shall be limited to 5% of catches of cod in Division 3M. When 100% of the TAC has been taken as determined by the Executive Secretary, no more redfish in Division 3M shall be retained on board in accordance with Article 5(3)(c).
  9. The provisions of Article 6.3 of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures shall apply.
  10. In the case of the NEAFC decision which modifies the level of TAC in 2015 as compared to 2014, 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 1.11% each for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland out of the TAC, following their accession to the European Union.
  15. Allocation of 17.85% to Lithuania and 2.15% to Latvia following their accession to the European Union.
  16. Applicable to 2015 and 2016.
  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 379 tonnes for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union.
  19. Notwithstanding the provisions of footnote 8 and Article 5.2 (b) and without prejudice to future agreements on allocations, these quotas may be fished in their entirety by these Contracting Parties.
  20. Applicable to 2015, 2016 and 2017.
  21. In lieu of Article 6.3 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 15% of their total yellowtail fishery as calculated in accordance with Article 6.4. If a Scientific Council projection indicates that this rate is likely to undermine stock recovery or cause an unreasonable delay in reaching  $B_{lim}$ , this rate may be subject to a reassessment by the Fisheries Commission.
  22. Following the NAFO annual meeting and prior to 1 January 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 161 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 552 tons for Poland following their accession to the European Union.
  26. 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 03/7) following their accession to the European Union.
  27. Should a Contracting Party experience higher than normal catches per unit of effort (CPUE) and conclude that a shift to high availability levels of white hake during the fishing season – such as what was apparently the case in 2002 and 2003 – is taking place, then that Contracting Party shall notify the Executive Secretary and submit a summary of evidence for its conclusion (higher than normal CPUE and any other additional relevant information) within one month. On this basis, a mail vote will be submitted to the Fisheries Commission as to whether an exceptional increase in the availability of fish occurs. The TAC shall remain at 1,000t until the results of the vote are complete and the catch limitation provided for in Annex I. A. of the NCEM will apply. In case of a positive vote, the TAC is confirmed to be 2,000 metric tons. In the case of negative vote, the TAC shall remain at 1,000 metric tons.
  28. 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.
  29. Should catches exceed 5000t, additional measures would be adopted to further restrain catches in 2016.

**Annex I.B**  
**Effort Allocation Scheme for Shrimp Fishery in the**  
**NAFO Regulatory Area Div. 3M, 2015**

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 – Greenland	0	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.