



NAFO MAKING WAVES: BANS ON BOTTOM FISHING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Halifax, Nova Scotia, CANADA, 25 September 2015—The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) held its 37th Annual Meeting over 21-25 September to make decisions for the fishery in 2016. In particular, the final total allowable catches (TACs) were announced for NAFO stocks, as well as the elimination of all bottom fishing on seamount areas.

“While some NAFO stocks are still at low levels, it seems clear that our efforts at conservation and the sustainable use of our fishery resources are bearing fruit,” says NAFO President Veronika Veits, “with evidence that stocks are rebounding, including some which have recently been reopened.”

The management of the cod and redfish (ocean perch) stocks on the Flemish Cap (Div. 3M), both of which are in a healthy state, can support an increase in catches over the next two years. Catches were also increased for witch flounder (grey sole) on the Grand Bank.

To protect marine ecosystems, in particular slow growing deep water corals, it was also decided that all bottom fishing is now banned on seamounts in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA). This decision is based on NAFO’s continuous efforts in maintaining the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management.

It was also decided that a mechanism will continue to exchange information about fisheries and oil and gas exploration activities to ensure smooth co-existence of these activities.

At this meeting, it was decided to start preparations for NAFO’s second performance review. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations called on all Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), such as NAFO, to undergo regular performance reviews. As a result, NAFO underwent their last performance review in 2011, and has since addressed all recommendations.

NAFO also agreed on additional technical measures to further improve compliance and enforcement measures in the northwest Atlantic, such as follow-up to infringements. NAFO noted that its latest comprehensive compliance review demonstrates a trend of continued increasing compliance.

For more information on TACs, the NAFO Quota Table is attached.

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(2016)

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

DRAFT - QUOTA TABLE. Total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tons) for 2016 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	
Stock Specification	COD 3L	COD 3M		COD 3NO	RED 3LN		RED 3M	RED 3O	REB 1F_2_3K (i.e. Sub-Area 2 and Div. 1F+3K)	PLA 3LNO	PLA 3M	YEL 3LNO
% of TAC			% of 3M Cod TAC			% of 3LN Redfish TAC						
Contracting Party												
Canada		111	0.80	0	4430	42.60	500	6000	0 ^{2,4}	0	0	16575 ⁵
Cuba		515	3.70	-	1019	9.80	1750		0 ^{2,4}	-	-	-
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		3114	22.35	-	-		69 ¹⁸		0 ^{2,3}	-	-	-
European Union		7945 ²⁴	57.03	0 ¹¹	1896 ²⁵	18.23	7813 ¹¹	7000	0 ^{2,3} 0 ^{2,15}	0	0 ¹⁰	-
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-		-	-		69 ¹⁸		0 ^{2,4}	-	-	340 ⁵
Iceland		-		-	-		-		0 ^{2,3}	-	-	-
Japan		-		-	-		400	150	0 ^{2,4}	-	-	-
Korea		-		-	-		69 ¹⁸	100	0 ^{2,4}	-	-	-
Norway		1289	9.25	-	-		-		0 ^{2,3}	-	-	-
Russian Federation		901	6.47	0	2992	28.77	9137	6500	0 ^{2,3}	-	0	-
Ukraine								150	0 ^{2,4}			
United States of America		-		-	-		69 ¹⁸		0 ^{2,4}	-	-	-
Others		56	0.40	0	63	0.60	124	100	-	0	0	85 ⁵
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	^{*9}	13931 15,22	100.0	^{*8,15}	10400 ²³	100.0	7000 ⁷	20000	0 ^{9,16}	^{*20}	^{*8,19}	17000 ^{15,20,21}

Annex I.A

(2016)

Species	Witch			White hake	Capelin	Skates	Greenland halibut	Squid (<i>Illex</i>) ¹	Shrimp	
	WIT 3L	WIT 3NO		HKW 3NO	CAP 3NO	SKA 3LNO	GHL 3LMNO	SQI 3_4 (i.e. Sub-areas 3+4)	PRA 3L	PRA 3NO
% of TAC			% of 3NO Witch TAC							
Contracting Party										
Canada		1303	60.00	294	0	1167	1644	N.S. ⁶	0	
Cuba		-			0		-	510	0	
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		-			-		189	-	0	
European Union		288 ¹⁰	13.27	588	0 ¹⁰	4408	6430 ¹⁷	<u>N.S.</u> ⁶ 611 ¹²	0 ¹³	
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-			-		180	453	0	
Iceland		-			-		-	-	0	
Japan		-			0		1124	510	0	
Korea		-			-		-	453	0	
Norway		-			0		-	-	0	
Russian Federation		559	25.73	59	0	1167	1399	749	0	
Ukraine							-		0	
United States of America		-			-		-	453	0	
Others		22	1.00	59	-	258	0 ⁷	794	0	
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	^{*8}	2172 ²⁷	100.00	1000 ^{15, 26}	^{*8, 19}	7000 ²⁸	10966	34000	0	^{*8}

* 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 2015 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. The provisions of Article 6.3 of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures shall apply.
9. In the case of the NEAFC decision which modifies the level of TAC in 2016 as compared to 2015, these figures shall be accordingly adjusted by NAFO and formalized through a mail vote.
10. 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).
11. Including allocations of 1571 t each for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania out of a sharing of 20,000 t, following their accession to the European Union.
12. Allocations of 128 t each for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as well as 227 t for Poland out of a TAC of 34,000 t, following their accession to the European Union.
13. Including allocations of 1.11% each for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland out of the TAC, following their accession to the European Union.
14. Allocation of 17.85% to Lithuania and 2.15% to Latvia following their accession to the European Union.
15. Applicable to 2016 and 2017.
16. The quota shares in footnotes 4 and 14 can only be fished in the NAFO Regulatory Area. If an increase in the overall TAC as defined in footnote 9 leads to an increase in these shares, the first 500 t of that increase shall be added to the quota share referred to in footnote 4.
17. Including an allocation of 360 t for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union.
18. Notwithstanding the provision of Article 5.2 (b) and without prejudice to future agreements on allocations, these quotas may be fished in their entirety by these Contracting Parties.
19. Applicable to 2016, 2017 and 2018.
20. 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.
21. Following the NAFO annual meeting and prior to 1 January of the succeeding year, at the request of the USA, Canada will transfer 1000 t of its 3LNO yellowtail quota to the USA.
22. The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1998 Quota Table. In 1999, a moratorium on cod in Division 3M was declared.
23. The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1997 Quota Table. In 1998, a moratorium on redfish in Division 3LN was declared.
24. Including fishing entitlements of 155 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 03/07) and allocation of 529 tons for Poland following their accession to the European Union.
25. Including fishing entitlements of 514 t 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.

26. 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.
27. 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.
28. Should catches exceed 5000 t, additional measures would be adopted to further restrain catches in 2017.

Annex I.B
Effort Allocation Scheme for Shrimp Fishery in the
NAFO Regulatory Area Div. 3M, 2016-2017

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

¹When 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.