



25th Annual Meeting of NAFO
15-19 September 2003

Press Release

1. The 25th Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) was held at the Holiday Inn Harbourview in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, during 15-19 September 2003, under the chairmanship of Enrique Oltuski (Cuba), President of NAFO.
2. The meeting was attended by 200 delegates from sixteen Contracting Parties - Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), Estonia, European Union, France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, Ukraine and United States of America.
3. Prior to the Annual Meeting, the following NAFO meetings were held during 2003: (1) Scientific Council Workshop on the Precautionary Approach to Fisheries Management (St. John's, NL, Canada, March 31 – April 4); (2) Working Group on the Allocation of Fishing Rights to the Contracting Parties of NAFO (Miami, FL, USA, March 26-27); (3) Conference Call of the STACTIC Working Group on the Pilot Project (14 April); (4) Dispute Settlement Procedures (DSP) Consultations (Brussels, Belgium, April 29-30); (5) Standing Committee on International Control (Copenhagen, Denmark, June 16-19); (6) Scientific Council Regular Meeting (Dartmouth, N.S., Canada, June 5-19).
4. The Scientific Council, under the chairmanship of Ralph K. Mayo (USA), conducted assessments of 20 stocks in the NAFO Convention Area during the past year, and advice was presented to the Fisheries Commission at this Annual Meeting. Most stocks in the NAFO Regulatory Area remain at low abundance, except for yellowtail flounder in Div. 3LNO and northern Shrimp in Div. 3M and in Div. 3LNO. In particular, the Scientific Council expressed concern with the 3LMNO Greenland halibut stock. As such, Scientific Council advised that a substantial reduction in catches is required in order to halt the decline in the biomass of this stock.

Scientific Council also reported progress in the further development of a Precautionary Approach framework. Building on the work of a Scientific Council sponsored Workshop on the Precautionary Approach to Fisheries Management, the Scientific Council presented a revised framework to the Fisheries Commission that offered flexibility in management actions while retaining the essential features of the framework proposed in 1997.

5. The Fisheries Commission, under the chairmanship of Dean Swanson (USA), considered the advice of the Scientific Council in relation to the conservation of fish stocks in the Regulatory Area and agreed to conservation and enforcement measures.

The Fisheries Commission established a 15-year rebuilding program for Divisions 3LMNO Greenland halibut with a TAC for the period 2004-2007. This is the first such rebuilding program to be set up in the history of the Organization and serves as an example of forward-looking, precautionary fisheries management.

The Fisheries Commission agreed to continuing conservation measures in shrimp fisheries on the Flemish Cap and Division 3L, yellowtail flounder in Divisions 3LNO, short-finned squid in Subareas 3 and 4, redfish in Division 3M, and Redfish in Subarea 2+Divisions 1F and 3K.

The Fisheries Commission agreed to continue moratoria ("no directed fishery") in 2004 on the following stocks: cod in Division 3M and Division 3L (that portion within the Regulatory Area) and Divisions 3NO, redfish in Division 3LN, American plaice in Divisions 3M and 3LNO, witch flounder in Division 3NO and 3L (that portion within the Regulatory Area); and capelin in Division 3NO. The Quota Table for 2004 was adopted (Attachment 1).

The Fisheries Commission also agreed to a reformatted and simplified version of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures.

The Fisheries Commission adopted rules governing the chartering of fishing vessels among NAFO Contracting Parties.

6. The General Council, under the chairmanship of Enrique Oltuski (Cuba), considered a number of substantive issues regarding NAFO's finances and internal and external policy, in the following way:
- the Standing Committee on Non-Contracting Party Fishing Activity in the Regulatory Area (STACFAC) was asked to continue, in conjunction with STACTIC where necessary, its work to implement the International Plan of Action on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area and to explore adoption of more stringent measures to combat IUU fishing;
 - to convey the concern expressed by NAFO members about the Non-Contracting Party fishing activities in the NAFO Regulatory, the President of NAFO will write to the flag states involved (Belize and the Dominican Republic) with a request that they take all appropriate actions to halt the undermining of NAFO conservation and management measures. STACFAC was requested to continue monitoring this activity.

7. The following elections of NAFO officers took place:

President of NAFO and Chair of General Council	- David Bevan (Canada)
Vice-Chair of General Council	- Terje Lobach (Norway)
Chair of Fisheries Commission (re-elected)	- Dean Swanson (USA)
Vice-Chair of Fisheries Commission (re-elected)	- Boris Prischepa (Russian Federation)
Chair of Scientific Council	- Joanne Morgan (Canada)
Vice-Chair of Scientific Council	- Antonio Vazquez (EU-Spain)
Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) (re-elected)	- Fred Kingston (EU)
Vice-Chair of STACFAD (re-elected)	- Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA)
Chair of the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)	- Martin Newman (EU)
Vice-Chair of STACTIC	- Mads Trolle Nedergaard (Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
Chair of the Standing Committee on Fisheries Science (STACFIS)	- Hilario Murua (EU-Spain)
Chair of the Standing Committee on Research Coordination (STACREC)	- Antonio Vazquez (EU-Spain)
Chair of the Standing Committee on Fisheries Environment (STACFEN) (re-elected)	- Eugene Colbourne (Canada)
Chair of the Standing Committee on Publications (STACPUB) (re-elected)	- Manfred Stein (EU-Germany)

NAFO General Council
19 September 2003

NAFO Secretariat
Dartmouth, N.S. Canada

Annex I.A Annual Quota Table

(Revised)
QUOTA TABLE. Total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tons) for 2004 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		Yellow-tail	Witch		Capelin	Greenland halibut	Squid (Illex) ¹	Shrimp	
	3L	3M	3NO	3LN	3M	Sub-area 2 and Div. 1F + 3K	3LNO	3M	3LNO	3L	3NO	3NO	3LMNO	Sub-areas 3+4	3L	3NO
Canada		0	0	0	500	7500 ^{2,4}	0	0	14137 ⁵		0	0	2223	N.S. ⁶	10833	
Cuba		0	-	0	1750	7500 ^{2,4}	-	-	-		-	0	-	510	144	
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		0	-	-	69	25000 ^{2,3}	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	144	
European Union		0	0	0	3100	25000 ^{2,3}	0	0	290 ⁵		-	0	8203	N.S. ⁶	144	
France (St Pierre et Miquelon)		-	-	-	69	7500 ^{2,4}	-	-	-		-	-	-	453	144	
Iceland		-	-	-	-	25000 ^{2,3}	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	144	
Japan		-	-	-	400	7500 ^{2,4}	-	-	-		-	0	1519	510	144	
Korea		-	-	-	69	7500 ^{2,4}	-	-	-		-	-	-	453	144	
Norway		0	-	-	-	25000 ^{2,3}	-	-	-		-	0	-	-	144	
Poland		0	-	-	-	25000 ^{2,3}	-	-	-		-	0	-	227	144	
Estonia		0	0	0	1571	7500 ^{2,4}	-	0	-			0	-	128	144	
Latvia		0	0	0	1571	7500 ^{2,4}	-	0	-			0	-	128	144	
Lithuania		0	0	0	1571	7500 ^{2,4}	-	0	-			0	-	128	144	
Russia		0	0	0	9137	25000 ^{2,3}	-	0	-			0	1890	749	144	
Ukraine						7500 ^{2,4}									144	
United States of America		-	-	-	69	7500 ^{2,4}	-	-	-		-	-	-	453	144	
Others		0	0	0	124	-	0	0	73 ⁵		0	-	985 ⁷	794	0	
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	*	*	*8	*8	5000^{9,8}	32500¹¹	*8	*	14500¹⁰	*	*	*8	14820	34000	13000	*

- * Ban on fishing in force – The provisions of Article 8, paragraph 3 shall apply.
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, Poland 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, Estonia, France (St Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine and USA.
 5. Contracting Parties shall inform the Executive Secretary before 1 December 2003 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. Of which no more than 60% (591 t) may be fished before 1 May 2004
 8. Applicable to 2004 and 2005.
 9. 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 2500 tons may be fished before July 1, 2004. 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.
 10. The provisions of Article 8, paragraph 3 of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures shall apply.
 11. In the case of the NEAFC decision which modify the level of TAC for Oceanic Redfish in 2004 as compared to 2003, these figures shall be accordingly adjusted.

Annex I.B
Effort Allocation Scheme for Shrimp Fishery in the
NAFO Regulatory Area Div. 3M, 2004

CONTRACTING PARTY	NUMBER OF FISHING DAYS	NUMBER OF VESSELS
Canada	456	16
Cuba	100	1
Denmark		
– Faroe Islands	1606	8
– Greenland	515	14
Estonia	1667	8
European Union	457	13
France (in respect of St Pierre et Miquelon)	100	1
Iceland	N/A	N/A
Japan	100	1
Korea	100	1
Latvia	490	4
Lithuania	579	7
Norway	1985	32
Poland	100	1
Russia	2100	N/A
Ukraine	100	1
USA	100	1

Annex I.C

Rebuilding Plan for 3LMNO Greenland Halibut

Species	Greenland halibut	Greenland Halibut	Greenland halibut	Greenland halibut
Division/ Contracting Party	3LMNO 2004	3LMNO 2005	3LMNO 2006	3LMNO 2007
Canada	2223	2112	2056	1778
Cuba	-	-	-	-
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	-	-	-	-
European Union	8203	7793	7588	6562
France (St Pierre et Miquelon)	-	-	-	-
Iceland	-	-	-	-
Japan	1519	1443	1405	1215
Korea	-	-	-	-
Norway	-	-	-	-
Poland	-	-	-	-
Estonia	-	-	-	-
Latvia	-	-	-	-
Lithuania	-	-	-	-
Russia	1890	1796	1748	1512
Ukraine	-	-	-	-
United States of America	-	-	-	-
Others	985 ¹	935 ¹	912 ¹	789 ¹
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	14820	14079	13709	11856

¹ Of which no more than 60% may be fished before 1 May in each year.