



**NAFO AGREES TO FURTHER MEASURES TO PROTECT VULNERABLE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS (VMEs)  
AT ITS 43<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

**Halifax, Canada, 24 September 2021** – The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) achieved significant progress with key decisions on the sustainable management of NAFO-managed fish stocks, the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VME) and its review of its Precautionary Approach Framework.

Notably, a number of measures were adopted to enhance its protection for Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs), in particular to safeguard black coral and sea pens. These measures include:

- Through the addition of seven (7) new closed areas, as well as revisions to the boundaries of existing closures, all seamounts at fishable depths within the NAFO Regulatory Area are now protected,
- In addition to a five (5) year rollover of the current closures to protect VMEs in the NAFO Regulatory Area, five (5) further areas will be closed for this same duration,
- As a precautionary measure, an additional four (4) VMEs closed areas were adopted for two (2) years to allow the Scientific Council to conduct additional analysis incorporating the most recent fishery data.

This demonstrates NAFO's commitment to the ecosystem approach to fisheries management and, specifically, to the protection of VMEs, which has been an obligation for regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) since 2008, following United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolutions.

In addition, significant decisions were made regarding the following:

- Progress achieved to review NAFO's Precautionary Approach Framework.
- Continued additional conservation measures for cod in Div. 3M, including maintaining a port inspection effort and limiting bycatches during the first quarter closure of 2022.
- NAFO elected Temur Tairov (Russian Federation) as NAFO's new President and Chair of the Commission and Deirdre Warner Kramer (USA) as Vice Chair of the Commission. Karen Dwyer (Canada) was elected Chair of the Scientific Council and Diana González Troncoso (EU) was elected as Vice Chair of the Scientific Council.

NAFO agreed on the closure of the shrimp fishery in Div. 3M for 2022 and will continue to work intersessionally to review the current management approach this stock.

The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will take place 19–23 September 2022, in Portugal.

\* The 2022 total allowable catch (TAC)\* and quota decisions are attached.

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**(2022)**  
**ANNEX I – FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**

**Annex I.A – Annual Quota Table**

**DRAFT** CATCH LIMITATIONS 2022– Article 5. Total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tons in live weight) for 2022 of particular stocks in Subareas 1–4 of the NAFO Convention Area.

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 Divs. 1F+3K)	PLA 3LNO	PLA 3M	YEL 3LNO
% of TAC			% of 3M Cod TAC			% of 3LN Redfish TAC						
Contracting Party												
<b>Canada</b>		32	0.80	0	7 710	42.60	500	6 000	0 <sup>1</sup>	0	0	19 500
<b>Cuba</b>		148	3.70	-	1 774	9.80	1 750	-	0 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-
<b>Denmark (Faroe Islands &amp; Greenland)</b>		894	22.35	-	-		69 <sup>10</sup>	-	0	-	-	-
<b>European Union</b>		1 908 <sup>5</sup>	47.71	0 <sup>4</sup>	3 300 <sup>4</sup>	18.23	7 813 <sup>4</sup>	7 000	0 <sup>7</sup>	0	0 <sup>4</sup>	-
<b>France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)</b>		-		-	-		69 <sup>10</sup>	-	0 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	400
<b>Iceland</b>		-		-	-		-	-	0	-	-	-
<b>Japan</b>		-		-	-		400	150	0 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-
<b>Korea</b>		-		-	-		69 <sup>10</sup>	100	0 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-
<b>Norway</b>		370	9.25	-	-		-	-	0	-	-	-
<b>Russian Federation</b>		259	6.47	0	5 207	28.77	9 137	6 500	0	-	0	-
<b>Ukraine</b>		-		-	-		-	150	0 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-
<b>United Kingdom</b>		373	9.32	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>United States of America</b>		-		-	-		69 <sup>10</sup>	-	0 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	-
<b>Others</b>		16	0.40	0	109	0.60	124	100	-	0	0	100
<b>TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH</b>	*	4 000	100.0 <sup>13</sup>	*	18 100	100.0 <sup>14</sup>	10 933	20 000	0 <sup>3,9</sup>	* <sup>11</sup>	* <sup>8</sup>	20 000 <sup>8</sup>

## Annex I.A (2022)

Species	Witch			White hake	Capelin	Skates	Greenland halibut	Squid ( <i>Illex</i> )	Shrimp		Alfonsino
Stock Specification	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	ALF 6 (i.e. Sub-area 6)
% of TAC			% of 3NO Witch TAC								
Contracting Party											
Canada		705	60.00	294	0	1 167	1 763	N.S. <sup>2</sup>	0		
Cuba		-		-	0	-	-	510	0		
Denmark (Faroe Islands & Greenland)		-		-	-	-	202	-	0		
European Union		156 <sup>4</sup>	13.27	588	0 <sup>5</sup>	4 408	6 892 <sup>6</sup>	<u>N.S.<sup>2</sup></u> 611 <sup>5</sup>	0 <sup>6</sup>		
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-		-	-	-	193	453	0		
Iceland		-		-	-	-	-	-	0		
Japan		-		-	0	-	1 205	510	0		
Korea		-		-	-	-	-	453	0		
Norway		-		-	0	-	-	-	0		
Russian Federation		302	25.73	59	0	1 167	1 500	749	0		
Ukraine		-		-	-	-	-	-	0		
United Kingdom		-		-	-	-	-	-	-		
United States of America		-		-	-	-	-	453	0		
Others		12	1.00	59	-	258		794	0		
<b>TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH</b>	*	1 175	100.00 <sup>15</sup>	1 000 <sup>8</sup>	* <sup>11</sup>	7 000 <sup>12</sup>	11 755	34 000	0 <sup>8</sup>	*	*

Symbol	Definition
-	Contracting Party does not have a quota allocation
*	Ban on fishing in force
0	Contracting Party has quota, but the TAC is zero
Blank	No quota allocation defined

- <sup>1</sup> Quota to be shared by vessels from Canada, Cuba, France (St. Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, Korea, Ukraine and USA.
- <sup>2</sup> The allocations 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 (= 29.467 tonnes).
- <sup>3</sup> Should NEAFC modify its level of TAC, these figures shall be adjusted accordingly by NAFO through a mail vote.
- <sup>4</sup> Including allocations to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in accordance with the sharing arrangement of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission in 2003 (FC WP 03-7), as applied by NAFO since 2005 following their accession to the European Union.
- <sup>5</sup> Including allocations to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in accordance with the sharing arrangement of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission in 2003 (FC WP 03-7), and to Poland, as applied by NAFO since 2005 following their accession to the European Union.
- <sup>6</sup> Including allocations to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, as applied by NAFO since 2005 following their accession to the EU.
- <sup>7</sup> Allocation of 17.85% to Lithuania and 2.15% to Latvia following their accession to the European Union.
- <sup>8</sup> Applicable to 2022 and 2023.
- <sup>9</sup> If an increase in the overall TAC as defined in footnote 3 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 1.
- <sup>10</sup> Notwithstanding the provision of Article 5.3(b) and without prejudice to future agreements on allocations, these quotas may be fished in their entirety by these Contracting Parties.
- <sup>11</sup> Applicable to 2022, 2023, and 2024.
- <sup>12</sup> Should catches exceed 5 000 tonnes, additional measures would be adopted to further restrain catches in 2022.

#### Historical statements

- <sup>13</sup> The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1998 Quota Table. In 1999, a moratorium on cod in Division 3M was declared.
- <sup>14</sup> The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1997 Quota Table. In 1998, a moratorium on redfish in Division 3LN was declared.
- <sup>15</sup> 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.

**(2022)**  
**ANNEX I – FISHERIES MANAGEMENT**  
**Annex I.B Effort Allocation Scheme for Shrimp Fishery in the**  
**NAFO Regulatory Area Div. 3M**

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

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<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.