



**NAFO SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL REPORTS ON STATUS OF FISH STOCKS AND ECOSYSTEMS OF THE
NORTHWEST ATLANTIC**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Halifax, NS, Canada, 8 July 2014

The Scientific Council of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) last week released its advice on the status of certain fish stocks in the northwest Atlantic. The report is available at:

<http://www.nafo.int/science/frames/science-june14.html>

In particular, advice for 2015 and future years is available for Cod and American plaice on the Flemish Cap, and Redfish, American Plaice, Witch Flounder and Thorny Skate on the Grand Bank. Advice is also provided on Greenland Halibut, in accordance with this stock's management plan, and work on the development of management plans for cod and redfish was started.

Last year multi-annual advice was provided for Redfish on the Flemish Cap and Yellowtail Flounder, White Hake, Capelin, Cod, Witch Flounder and Redfish on the Grand Bank. Scientific Council reviewed the status of these stocks and reiterated its previous advice.

Additionally, advice was provided to Canada and Greenland for stocks of Greenland Halibut, Wolffish, American Plaice and Redfish in the Davis Strait.

At this meeting Scientific Council reviewed closures in place to protect Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs). Since 2008, NAFO has closed 13 areas to bottom fishing and implemented further restrictions to fishing on seamounts and areas outside of historically fished grounds. These steps were taken to protect VMEs from significant adverse impacts of bottom fishing activities and to cease bottom fishing activities in areas where VMEs are likely to occur, in accordance with several United Nations General Assembly Resolutions. The Council also reviewed oceanographic and climate data from the northwest Atlantic, and discussed the potential implications of climate change on exploited fish stocks. All this advice will inform the decision-making process of NAFO's Fisheries Commission, when it meets in Vigo, Spain, 22 – 26 September 2014, to decide on quotas and other conservation measures for 2015.

For further information please contact:

Barbara Marshall
Information Officer
NAFO Secretariat
Tel: +902 468-8598

E-mail: bmarshall@nafo.int

The **Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization** (NAFO) is an intergovernmental fisheries management and science organization founded in 1979. NAFO aims at ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the northwest Atlantic and, in so doing, safeguarding the marine ecosystems in which these resources are found. NAFO manages 19 commercial stocks, comprised of 11 species.

###

