

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

Serial No. N2159

NAFO SCS Doc. 92/24

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 1992

Report of Scientific Council

Annual Meeting, 14-18 September 1992

Annual Meeting, September 1992

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REPORT OF SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

Annual Meeting, 14-18 September 1992

I. PLENARY SESSIONS

Chairman: H. Lassen

Rapporteur: T. Amaratunga

The Scientific Council met at the Holiday Inn, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, during 14-18 September 1992. Representatives attended from Canada, European Economic Community (EEC), Japan and the Russian Federation. In the absence of the Chairman V. P. Serebryakov (Russia), the Vice-Chairman, H. Lassen (EEC-Denmark), chaired this meeting. The Council was pleased to welcome three observers from S. Korea. The Assistant Executive Secretary was in attendance.

The meeting was preceded by the Special Session on "State-of-the-Art in Fish Stock Assessment: a Tutorial/Workshop on Calibration Methods and Their Practical Use" which was held at NAFO Headquarters, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, during 9-11 September 1992 with R. Mohn (Canada) and R. Cook (EEC-UK) as Co-conveners and participation by scientists from Australia, Canada, Denmark (Greenland), EEC, Japan and Russia.

The opening meeting was called to order on 14 September 1992 at 1200 hr.

The Chairman welcomed representatives to the 14th Annual Meeting. The Assistant Executive Secretary was appointed rapporteur. The Council adopted the Agenda recognizing that the General Council or the Fisheries Commission might have specific requests that the Council would have to address.

In considering the adoption of the Agenda, the Council was asked, further to the Report of the Special Meeting of the Scientific Council on the Cod in Div. 2J and 3KL (NAFO SCS Doc. 92/20), whether it would now be possible to provide catch options on this cod stock for 1993. This was not possible at the 1-4 June 1992 Meeting due to insufficient data and lack of understanding of the ongoing processes in the ecosystem. It was recognized that the Council was still in the same position as in June and no update of catch projections was possible. Until the October-December survey results become available, no further considerations are possible and the Council recognized that a complete reassessment of the stock would then be required.

The session was adjourned at 1235 hr.

The Council reconvened briefly on 15 and 16 September 1992 to discuss some questions posed to the Chairman during the Fisheries Commission Meeting. It was noted that the responses from the Council, which would be verbally presented by the Chairman to the Fisheries Commission, would be reflected in the minutes of the Fisheries Commission Meeting. However, with respect to the question on experimental fishing for capelin, the Council was informed that the Russian experiments in the Barents Sea had provided valuable scientific information. Recognizing the importance of such information, the Council recommended that the *Russian experience in the Barents Sea experimental fishing and how such data contributed to the assessment be presented to the June 1993 Scientific Council Meeting.*

The Council reconvened at 1600 hr on 17 September to address outstanding subjects which are reported under the relevant sections. The meeting was adjourned at 1650 hr.

The concluding session was called to order at 0900 hr on 18 September 1992, and the Council considered and adopted the reports of the Standing Committees and the report of this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 0945 hr.

Brief summaries of the Standing Committee Reports and other matters considered by the Scientific Council are given below in Sections II-VI. The Agenda, the List of Participants and Lists of Research (SCR) and Summary (SCS) Documents of this meeting are given in Appendix IV, V and VI respectively.

II. FISHERY SCIENCE (see STACFIS report, App. I)

1. Stock Assessments

The Council noted STACFIS had addressed the joint request for advice from Canada and Denmark/Greenland on the Greenland halibut in terms of the total area of stock distribution, and endorsed the report as presented in the STACFIS Report.

2. Report of Special Session

The Council endorsed the general discussions and conclusions on the Special Session on "State-of-the-Art in Fish Stock Assessment: a Tutorial/Workshop on Calibration Methods and Their Practical Use" presented to STACFIS by the co-conveners R. K. Mohn (Canada) and R. Cook (EEC-UK). The Council congratulated and thanked the co-conveners and also the participants whose enthusiasm contributed to the success of the Session. The Council endorsed the STACFIS and STACPUB recommendation to publish the revised Workbook as soon as possible.

3. Review of Current Arrangements for Conducting Stock Assessments

a) Updating List of Designated Experts

The Council noted that STACFIS had tentatively identified Designated Experts for the June 1993 assessments, and that the Secretariat would solicit confirmation of the nominations and their attendance.

b) Data Availability to Designated Experts

The Council agreed with STACFIS and STACREC that Contracting Parties should make all relevant data necessary to complete assessments available to Designated Experts well in advance of the June 1993 Meeting, in order to adequately conduct assessments on the fish stocks.

4. Future Special Sessions

a) Special Session in September 1993

The Council agreed with the decisions of STACFIS regarding the Symposium on "Gear Selectivity/Technical Interactions in Mixed Species Fisheries". The Council endorsed the decisions on the co-convenership and the recommendation that the Symposium hosted by the Scientific Council be held in September 1993 titled "Gear Selectivity/Technical Interactions in Mixed Species Fisheries" with P. Stewart (EEC-UK) and E. Pikitch (USA) as co-conveners.

b) Proposed Theme for Special Session in September 1994

The Council endorsed the STACFIS recommendation that a Special Session Symposium titled "Impact of Anomalous Oceanographic Conditions at the Beginning of the 1990s in the Northwest Atlantic on the Distribution and Behaviour of Marine Life" be held in 1994, and that co-conveners be selected by a small working group.

The Council was pleased to note that the general topic titled "The Role of Marine Mammals in the Ecosystem" was selected for a Symposium in 1995. The Council endorsed the STACFIS view that the Symposium should be developed in collaboration with ICES, and that communications with the General Secretary of ICES and the ICES Statutory Committee on Marine Mammals should be initiated immediately.

III. RESEARCH COORDINATION (see STACREC report, see App. II)

1. Fishery Statistics

The Council noted with concern that data for 1989, 1990 and 1991 were still outstanding from EEC-France, France-SP and Norway, and that the lack of those data was seriously delaying the publication of the NAFO Statistical Bulletins.

2. Review of Report of CWP 15th Session, July 1992

The Council extended thanks and congratulations to H. P. Cornus (EEC-Germany) for chairing the CWP Session and welcomed the report presented to STACREC. The Council was pleased that, in accordance with the Council's proposals in 1990 and 1991, the CWP is undertaking a review of the STATLANT 21 questionnaire. The Council noted that STACREC will consider additional proposals during the June 1993 Meeting in preparation for the *ad hoc* Consultation of the CWP in September/October 1993.

With respect to CWP discussions on misreported official catch statistics, the Council endorsed the STACREC recommendation that the NAFO Statistical Bulletins clearly state the likely differences in the official statistics and cite where the data are found.

IV. PUBLICATIONS (see STACPUB report, App. III)

1. Review of Scientific Publications

The Council was pleased with the substantial progress made in review of papers since the June 1992 Meeting.

2. Editorial Matters

The Council endorsed the appreciation extended to W. R. Bowering for services in the general area of Scientific Council publications. The Council hoped that a new Associate Editor would be nominated in the near future.

3. Other Matters

The Council considered the STACPUB recommendation to find means of limiting the number of pages printed at the Secretariat each year. The Council concurred with STACPUB that issuing preliminary SCR Documents during the June Meeting and later printing final versions, represented a

significant duplication, which in some cases may be avoided. The Council agreed to consider this matter further at the June 1993 Meeting. The Assistant Executive Secretary was asked to use the Circular Letter Series to request pre-announcement of meeting participants and the number of papers being submitted, well in advance of the meeting. This would assist in determining the appropriate number of papers to be printed and prevent excess printing. It was agreed that preliminary assessments prepared by Designated Experts would be first issued for the meeting as working papers and later revised as necessary and issued as SCR Documents.

V. FUTURE MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

1. Scientific Council Meeting in June 1993

The Council confirmed the dates of 2-16 June 1993 for the meeting of the Council and its Standing Committees.

2. Annual Meeting and Special Session in September 1993

The Council decided to hold the Special Session during 13-15 September 1993, immediately after the Annual Meeting which the Council scheduled for 4 days; 7-10 September 1993.

3. Scientific Council Meeting in June 1994

The Council agreed on the tentative dates of 8-22 June 1994 for the meeting of the Council and its Standing Committees.

4. Annual Meeting and Special Session in September 1994

The Council decided to hold the Special Session during 14-16 September 1994, immediately before the Annual Meeting which is provisionally scheduled for 5 days; 19-23 September 1994.

5. Accommodations for the June Meetings

The Council noted with regret that there was a funding difficulty to rent space for the June Meetings outside NAFO Headquarters. With the entry of three new Contracting Parties in September 1992, the number of attendees is expected to increase. The Council was concerned that this would cause more cramped conditions in the main meeting room at NAFO Headquarters. It was also particularly noted that the lack of small meeting rooms and space for setting up laptop computers brought to the meeting by scientists will continue to hamper the work considerably.

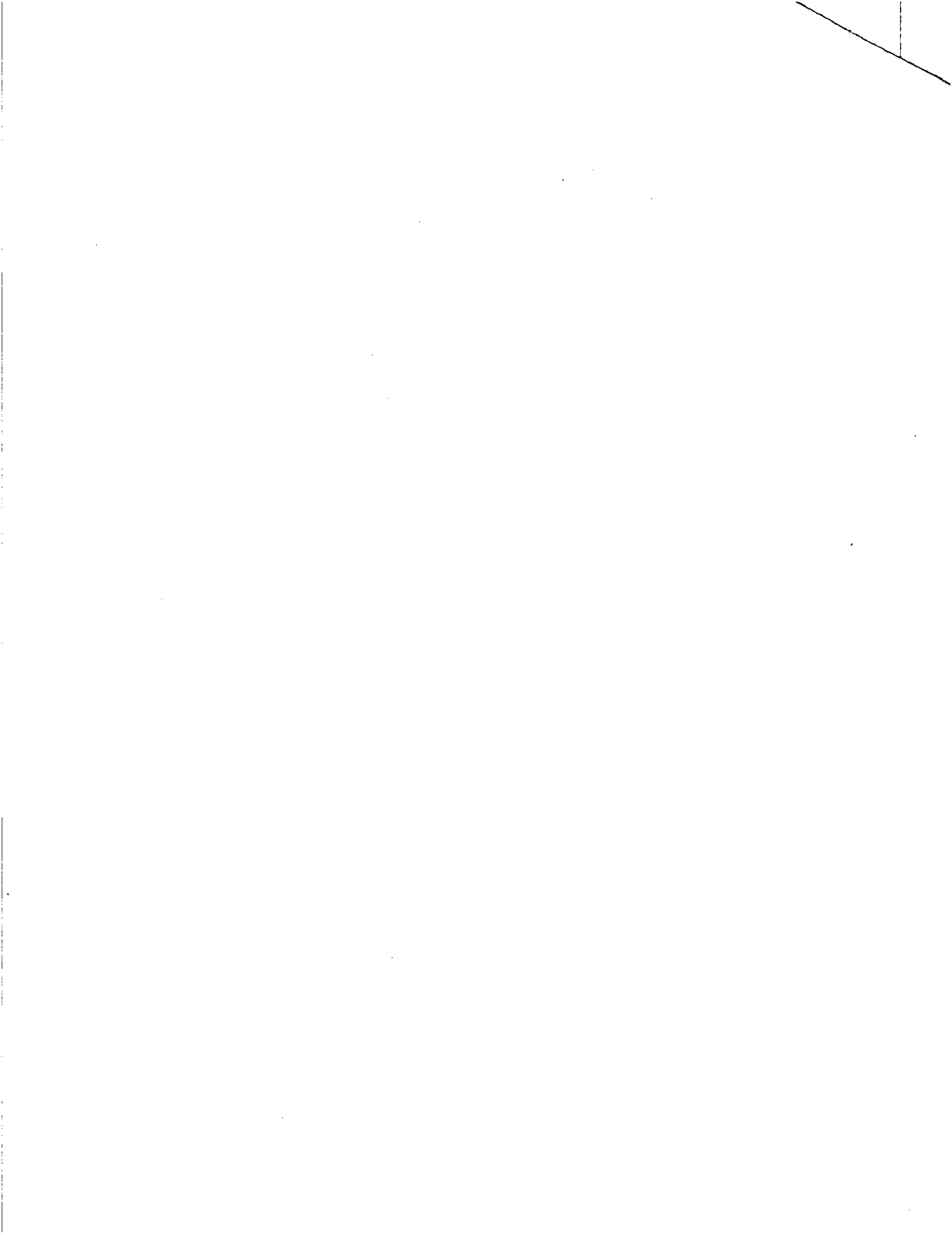
VI. ADOPTION OF REPORTS

At its concluding session, the Council reviewed and adopted the reports of the Standing Committees STACFIS, STACREC and STAC PUB.

The Chairman then proposed that the Council's report be adopted as presented. Recognizing that minor modifications would be made by the Chairman and the Assistant Executive Secretary, the Council adopted the report of this meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman noted D. B. Atkinson (Canada) will step down from the Chairmanship of STACFIS at the end of this meeting. The Chairman thanked him for his crisp and business-like way of handling the meetings which contributed considerably to the effective work of STACFIS. He welcomed H. P. Cornus (EEC) as Chairman of STACFIS, knowing that STACFIS will continue to function efficiently. The Chairman thanked the Assistant Executive Secretary for his help during the meeting and asked him to convey thanks of the Council to the Secretariat Staff for their efficient work during the meeting. He then closed the meeting thanking everybody for their contributions and wished them a safe journey home.



APPENDIX I. REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FISHERY SCIENCE (STACFIS)

Chairman: D. B. Atkinson

Rapporteur: Various

The Committee met at the Holiday Inn, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, during 14-18 September 1992 to consider and report on various matters referred to it by the Scientific Council. Representatives from Canada, EEC, Japan and the Russia Federation were present. Observers from S. Korea attended on 15 September 1992.

The meeting was preceded by the Special Session on "State-of-the-Art in Fish Stock Assessment: a Tutorial/Workshop on Calibration Methods and Their Practical Use" which was held at NAFO Headquarters during 9-11 September 1992. STACFIS received the Report of the Special Session prepared by the co-conveners R. K. Mohn (Canada) and R. Cook (EEC-UK) (Annex 1 of this report).

I. STOCK ASSESSMENTS

1. Greenland Halibut

STACFIS met during 14 to 16 September 1992 to respond to a joint request by Canada and Denmark (Greenland) for additional information on Greenland halibut. The request asked for specific comments in relation to the general questions posed for the June 1992 Meeting. The answers to the general questions are found in NAFO SCS Doc. 92/23, Serial No. N2139, p. 80-81. The three specific questions of the joint request and answers to them are given below.

a) Should Any Overall TAC be Subdivided by NAFO Divisions?

STACFIS recognizing that Greenland halibut forms a single stock complex, presents its advice for two components (SA 0+1 and SA 2+3). For 1993 this advice is 25 000 tons (SA 0+1) and 50 000 tons (SA 2+3). Neither of these assessments are analytical, but are based on catch and survey information generally applied.

STACFIS in its report of the June 1992 Meeting (NAFO SCS Doc. 92/23, Serial No. N2139, p. 85) concluded "until more is known of stock structure, precautionary measures to prevent concentration of effort of one segment of the stock should be considered. One such measure would be to distribute the TAC over the various Divisions inhabited by the stock."

STACFIS also noted (NAFO SCS Doc. 92/23, Serial No. N2139, p. 81) that with respect to Greenland halibut in Subarea 1, "for management purposes it may be considered to establish separate allocations for inshore and offshore areas".

STACFIS endorsed its previous advice, and remains of the opinion that prudent management should apportion the TAC by Divisions or Subareas.

b) What Would be the Implications of Changing the Current Geographic Distribution of Catches?

The stock structure of Greenland halibut in the Northwest Atlantic is not well understood and therefore no precise prediction of the effects of redistribution of catches can be made. Given that this stock may be separated into geographic components, STACFIS is concerned that any concentration of catches could exert high mortality on a single stock component. Such concentration could lead

to serious local over-exploitation. The distribution of Greenland halibut fisheries in recent years indicates that concentrations occur in the Davis Strait, Div. 0B and in the Regulatory Area at the border between Div. 3L and 3M. Given, however, the lack of knowledge on the stock structure and population size, the effect of these fisheries on the status of either total stock or a component of the stock is largely unknown. It follows from this that STACFIS is unable to assess the impact of geographic redistribution of catches.

c) What Proportion of the Stock Occurs Within the Waters of the Jurisdiction of the Coastal States?

Greenland halibut occurs on the slope of the continental shelf down to a depth of about 2 000 m, and the fishery on Greenland halibut ranges down to 1 500 m at present. The known area of occurrence in Subareas 0+1 is within the fishing zones of Canada and Greenland. The fishing zone of Canada in Subarea 2 + Div. 3K includes the entire continental shelf and all biomass of Greenland halibut in this area is therefore expected to be inside the Canadian fishing zone. The area of occurrence in Div. 3LN is partly in the Regulatory Area, while that in Div. 3M is entirely in the Regulatory area. Available information suggests seasonal migrations, particularly in the north-south direction.

STACFIS had some survey information to address the question for some seasons of the year for Div. 0B and Subarea 1. The main surveys in Subareas 0+1 were conducted in August-September by Japan/Greenland (down to 1 500 m) and later in the fall by GDR/USSR (down to 1 500 m). These surveys indicate an approximate 50:50 split of the surveyed biomass between Div. 0B and Subarea 1 (excluding the fjords). At present there is no current biomass estimate available for Div. 0A, but Greenland halibut is known to be present in this Division.

For the deeper parts of Subareas 2 and 3, down to about 1 500 m, data from one survey conducted by Canada in August-September in 1991 were available.

This survey found the density of Greenland halibut in the Regulatory Area to be lower than that found further north in the Canadian zone. Based on a single survey, it is not possible to estimate which proportion of the stock occurs in the Regulatory Area relative to the stock in Subareas 0, 1, 2, and 3.

II. REPORT OF SPECIAL SESSION (see Annex 1)

STACFIS agreed with the co-convenors that the tutorial/workshop had been a success, and congratulated and thanked them for their significant role in this.

STACFIS supports the recommendation of the co-convenors that the materials pertaining to the ICES tuning methods be included in a revised workbook. Further, STACFIS recommends that *all materials contained in working papers and circulations issued during the Special Session be included in a revised issue of the Workbook.*

III. REVIEW OF CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONDUCTING STOCK ASSESSMENTS

1. Updating List of Designated Experts

The following Designated Experts were tentatively identified for the June

1993 assessments:

- From the Science Branch, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Centre, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, P. O. Box 5667, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, A1C 5X1 [Telefax: (709) 772-2156],

for	Cod in Div. 3NO	C. A. Bishop
	Redfish in Div. 3LN	D. Power
	American plaice in Div. 3LNO	W. B. Brodie
	Witch flounder in Div. 3NO	W. B. Brodie
	Yellowtail flounder in Div. 3LNO	W. B. Brodie
	Greenland halibut in SA 2 + Div. 3KL	W. B. Brodie
	Roundnose grenadier in SA 2+3	D. B. Atkinson
	Capelin in Div. 3L	J. E. Carscadden
	Capelin in Div. 3NO	J. E. Carscadden
	Squid in SA 3+4	G. H. Winters

- From the Instituto Investigaciones Marinas, Muelle de Bouzas, Vigo, Spain [Telefax: 34-86292762],

for	Cod in Div. 3M	A. Vazquez
	American plaice in Div. 3M	J. Zamarro

- From the Polar Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (PINRO), 6 Knipovich Street, Murmansk, 183763, Russia [Telex: 126 111 PINRO].

for	Redfish in Div. 3M	K. V. Gorchinsky
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- From the Greenland Fisheries Research Institute, Tagensvej 135, 1, DK-2200, Copenhagen, Denmark [Telefax: 45-35821850],

for	Northern shrimp in SA 0+1	To be designated
	Roundnose grenadier in SA 0+1	To be designated
	Wolffish in SA 1	To be designated
	Greenland halibut in SA 0+1	To be designated

- From the Institut für Seefischerei, Fischkai 35, D-2850, Bremerhaven, Germany [Telefax: 49-4038905129],

for	Redfish in SA 1	H. J. Rätz
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- From the Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Marine Fish Division, P. O. Box 1006, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, B2Y 4A2 [Telefax: (902) 426-7827]

for	Silver hake in Div. 4VWX	D. Waldron
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- From the Marine Research Institute, Skulagata 4, P. O. Box 1390, 121 - Reykjavik, Iceland [Telefax: 354-1623790],

for	Northern shrimp in Denmark Strait	U. Skuladottir
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The Secretariat was requested to solicit confirmation of the Designated Experts through communication with the various laboratories. In addition, the Secretariat should inquire as to whether the Designate will be attending the June 1993 Meeting. In instances where the Designate will not be attending, the laboratory should be requested to specify an alternate who will be attending, and who can discuss the assessment document(s) with the designate prior to attending the June 1993 Meeting.

2. Data Availability to Designated Experts

During the June 1992 Meeting, both STACFIS (NAFO SCS Doc. 92/23, Serial No. N2139, p. 33-34) and STACREC (NAFO SCS Doc. 92/23, p. 128) indicated the difficulties to Designated Experts, caused by late availability of commercial catch and sampling data. STACFIS reiterated these concerns and once again requested that Contracting Parties make all relevant data necessary for completion of assessments available to Designated Experts well in advance of the June assessment meeting. These data should be processed to the extent possible prior to transmittal.

IV. FUTURE SPECIAL SESSIONS

1. Special Session in September 1993

As a result of discussions during the June Meeting (NAFO SCS Doc. 92/23, Serial No. N2139, p. 110), it was concluded that a Special Session titled "Gear Selectivity/Technical Interactions in Mixed Species Fisheries" should be held in September 1993. At that time S. Walsh (Canada) and O. R. Godø (Norway) were identified as possible co-conveners. Subsequently it was learned that neither will be available.

After further discussion it was agreed that P. Stewart (EEC-UK) and E. Pikitch (University of Washington, Seattle, USA) should be approached concerning serving as co-conveners. Both accepted, but E. Pikitch is unable to finance her participation. STACFIS considers that her co-convenership is important in order to adequately cover the diversity of the topic. In addition, the opportunity to avail of E. Pikitch's unique expertise in the area of multispecies technical interactions should not be missed.

As such, STACFIS recommends that a Special Session be held in September 1993 titled "Gear Selectivity/Technical Interactions in Mixed Species Fisheries" with P. Stewart (EEC-UK) and E. Pikitch (USA) as co-conveners. In addition, STACFIS requests that Scientific Council take necessary steps to request that NAFO cover the travel and daily subsistence allowance for E. Pikitch.

2. Proposed Theme for Special Session in September 1994

During the June 1992 meeting a number of possible topics for a 1994 Special Session were discussed (NAFO SCS Doc. 92/23, Serial No. N2139, p. 111). After further discussion during this meeting, it is recommended that a Special Session be held in September 1994 titled "Impact of Anomalous Oceanographic Conditions at the Beginning of the 1990s in the Northwest Atlantic on the Distribution and Behaviour of Marine Life". A small working group was struck to solicit co-conveners for this symposium.

During discussions of possible topics for 1994, it became apparent that a session dealing with marine mammals would be timely and practical for 1995. STACFIS noted that the NAFO/ICES Working Group on Marine Mammals is scheduled to meet in October. The Secretariat was requested to communicate with the Secretariat of ICES prior to the ICES Statutory Meeting to request that the possibility of a Special Session dealing with marine mammals be placed on the agenda of the Working Group. The Working Group should be requested to consider the general topic "The Role of Marine Mammals in the Ecosystem". In particular, STACFIS is interested in their relationships with fisheries resources, as well as their own potential to be harvested. The Working Group should also consider possible co-conveners, as well as commenting on the merits of co-sponsorship.

3. Co-sponsorship With Other Organizations

STACFIS re-iterated that it agrees in principal with the concept of co-sponsorship with other organizations of Special Sessions but considered that this possibility should be evaluated on a case by case basis.

V. OTHER MATTERS

1. Review of Scientific Papers

STACFIS noted that one Research Document (NAFO SCR Doc. 92/84, Serial No. N2145) was received after the 3-17 June 1992 Meeting. Because this document provides information concerning a 1991 0-group capelin survey in Div. 3LNO, it was agreed to defer its review until June 1993.

2. Acknowledgements

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked all of the participants for their contributions, and extended a special thanks to the Secretariat for their usual excellent assistance and support.

The Chairman also noted that with the closing of this meeting, his term comes to an end. He thanked all Committee members for their continued support and assistance during his two-year term. He expressed special gratitude to the Secretariat for their support, noting in particular the important role the Assistant Executive Secretary played in this. He also welcomed the new Chairman, H. P. Cornus (EEC-Germany) and wished him every success during his two-year term.

ANNEX 1. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL SESSION ON STATE-OF-THE-ART
IN FISH ASSESSMENT: A TUTORIAL/WORKSHOP ON CALIBRATION
METHODS AND THEIR PRACTICAL USE

The Special Session on "State-of-the-Art in Fish Assessment: a Tutorial/Workshop on Calibration Methods and Their Practical Use" hosted by the Scientific Council with R. K. Mohn (Canada) and R. Cook (EEC-UK) as co-conveners, was held at NAFO Headquarters in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, during 9-11 September 1992. The Special Session was attended by scientists from Australia, Canada, Denmark (Greenland), EEC-Denmark, EEC-France, EEC-Germany, EEC-Portugal, EEC-UK, EEC-Spain, Japan and the Russia Federation (see list below).

The basic format for the 3-day session consisted of morning lectures and afternoon hands-on working groups. The morning lecture periods were broken into subsections dealing with basics of Virtual Population Analysis, *ad hoc* tuning methods, Laurec-Shepherd method and ADAPTive calibration; with opportunities to discuss specific problems. The final day lecture session addressed diagnostics and included a discussion on research and contemporary topics. The afternoon hands-on sessions provided examples for computer manipulations of the data. The small groups of computer users had the opportunity of addressing specific concerns, questions and clarifications with the co-conveners as well as scientists in the session knowledgeable about the contemporary methods of calibration.

The participants agreed the Special Session was a good idea and successfully carried out, and it should be done again. The format of prepared material and lectures in the morning with hands-on sessions in the afternoons worked well. The number of the participants was about optimal and it would have been difficult to accommodate many more. The broad range of expertise among the participants proved to be beneficial in that the more experienced helped the others. On the other hand the broad range made it more difficult to keep everyone interested while assuring that beginners were not lost. Depending on the topic, future sessions might benefit from targeting or screening the level of experience in the participants.

Participant feedback, in the form of the questionnaires, evaluation sessions and casual conversation, was quite positive. The overwhelming majority of participants expressed an interest in attending a similar workshop in 1-3 years. A particularly useful comment from the evaluation session was that a series of increasing difficulty examples would have helped to bridge the gap between the Workbook examples and real fisheries data. More feedback during the sessions would have helped the conveners, but a specific recommendation on how this might be achieved is not obvious.

The computer facilities worked well, especially considering the fact that everyone brought their own hardware, software and systems. A printer would have improved productivity, especially a laser printer. Future workshops should assure that sufficient numbers of computers are available and that software and data are distributed before the meeting.

We recommend that the lecture notes on the ICES tuning methods be incorporated into the Workbook so that its coverage of current methods will be more complete.

The conveners would like to thank the NAFO Secretariat for prompt and professional services provided both before and during the Workshop.

List of ParticipantsAustralia

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APPENDIX II. REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH COORDINATION (STACREC)

Chairman: A. Avila de Melo

Rapporteur: W. Brodie

The Committee met at Holiday Inn in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, on September 14 and 15, 1992. Representatives from Canada, EEC, Japan and the Russia Federation were present.

1. Acquisition of STATLANT 21A and 21B Reports

At present, two STATLANT 21A reports for 1991 are still outstanding; those for Norway and France (M and SP). These same two components have not yet submitted STATLANT 21B forms for 1989 to 1991.

Following a recommendation of the Scientific Council in June 1992, STACREC noted that the Executive Secretary sent a letter to the heads of delegations of Contracting Parties presenting a draft proposal for an amendment to the Rules of Procedure requesting that STATLANT 21A and 21B forms should be provided to the Scientific Council no later than 15 May and 30 June, respectively.

2. Acquisition of Statistical Information

STACREC again noted that the 1983-85 data for France have not yet been received separately for each component (M and SP).

In June 1992, STACREC suggested that all the relevant stock assessment data collected by other Standing Committees (STACTIC, STACFAC) should be made available to the Designated Experts prior to the June assessment meeting. The Executive Secretary, on behalf of the Scientific Council, had already addressed this question to the above-mentioned bodies. The type of data being requested is the number of fishing days by fleet/month/Division and all annual catch and effort levels by species/Division for non-Contracting Party fleets.

3. Review of Requirements for Submission of Sampling Information

In June, 1992, STACREC expressed its concern about a possible severe drop in the amount of information from the commercial fisheries in the Regulatory Area. This was related to probable cuts in funding to national sampling programs expected to occur beginning in 1993. In order to stress this concern, STACREC recommends that *the fishery authorities in each country/Contracting Party be contacted and urged to get a representative level of sampling of their commercial fleets.* It was noted that an observer program has been proposed by the Fisheries Commission, and STACREC welcomed any data collected through this project, namely length and age sampling of the commercial catches. Nevertheless, these data could not entirely replace those being collected in the national sampling programs at present.

4. Review of Report of CWP Fifteenth Session, July 1992

H. P. Cornus (EEC-Germany) represented STACREC at the 15th Session of CWP held at NAFO Headquarters, from 8-14 July 1992 and STACREC congratulated him for being selected as Chairman of that meeting. STACFIS was presented a summary of the CWP Meeting, outlining the following main points relevant to NAFO:

- CWP concluded that for high seas fisheries, statistics already exist on a national level, but for various reasons are not published or reported. Collection of these statistics by FAO should be

coordinated with the regional agencies (such as NAFO).

- CWP recommended that the STATLANT reporting system for ICES and NAFO be reviewed before the 16th Session of CWP.

STACREC concluded that any revision of the STATLANT 21B reports should be done with the goal of making these catch and effort data more usable in stock assessments. To achieve this purpose, the first step would be to review the log-book format currently in use in order to obtain representative catch rates from the commercial fisheries. A possible way to accomplish this would be to have the catch and effort data available on a haul-by-haul basis, allowing definition of directed effort by species and associated catches. Accordingly, national representatives at STACREC are requested to develop ideas on this matter for the June 1993 Meeting, at which time STACREC will discuss proposals for the revision of both logbooks and STATLANT 21B forms.

- CWP recognized that the misreporting of official catch statistics has been a serious problem within agencies such as NAFO. CWP noted that the scientific estimates of catch levels are generally accepted as being more reliable than the officially reported figures and therefore the scientific estimates are the ones used in all stock assessments. Acknowledging that member countries are not prepared to allow these catches as official figures, CWP recommended that ICES and NAFO publications of official statistics 1) clearly state that the catches presented may differ from those used in stock assessments, and 2) refer to the publication(s) where the total catches used in the assessments are provided.

In recognition of these statements, STACREC recommends that future publications of NAFO statistical Bulletin should clearly state that catches presented may differ from those used in stock assessments and refer to the publication(s) where the total catches used in the assessments are provided.

5. Other Matters

No other matters were discussed.

6. Acknowledgments

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked the rapporteur and the participants, and extended his thanks to the Secretariat for their assistance in preparation for the meeting.

APPENDIX III. REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS (STACPUB)

Chairman: H. Lassen

Rapporteur: Various

The Committee met at the Holiday Inn, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, on 16 September 1992. In attendance were H. Lassen (EEC) (Chairman), A. Vazquez (EEC), V. A. Rikhter (Russian Federation) and the Assistant Executive Secretary (T. Amaratunga).

1. Review of Scientific Publications

The Assistant Executive Secretary informed STACPUB that editorial work on papers had progressed substantially.

The review work on all papers submitted for the single issue of Studies with respect to the 1991 Cod Symposium were completed with most papers ready for galley proofs, while a few had been forwarded to authors for their final considerations. The publication should be completed in late-1992.

The work on the issue of the Journal with respect to papers from the 1989 Special Session had also progressed well. All papers were now in the hands of the Secretariat and the review process of the final three papers would be completed shortly. STACPUB was pleased the publications would be completed after the long unforeseen delays.

The editorial work on the papers for the next regular issue of the Journal had also progressed well and the publication should be completed in late-1992.

Many papers for the next regular issue of Studies were also ready but STACPUB agreed that this publication could take a lower priority, particularly considering the heavy workload on Secretariat printing.

There was no update on the proposed publication of the papers from the 1990 Canada/USSR Scientific Council Meeting on Capelin.

STACPUB noted the recommendation made by the co-conveners of the Special Session that the Workbook prepared for that meeting be revised and the ICES tuning methods be incorporated. Recognizing the value of the Workbook to other scientists as well, STACPUB recommended that *the Workbook prepared for the September 1992 Special Session be revised and published as a single issue of NAFO Scientific Council Studies*. STACPUB also welcomed the idea of including the group photograph of the participants in that publication. It was hoped the publication would be completed as soon as possible.

2. Promotion and Distribution of Scientific Publicationsa) Invitational Papers

STACPUB was informed that work on the invited papers on West Greenland cod stocks was steadily progressing, with H. Lassen generally coordinating the compilation. Substantial progress was anticipated before the next STACPUB meeting in June 1993.

b) Promotion of the Journal

STACPUB had no new information to consider at this meeting. However, members agreed that any change in name or scope of the Journal should be considered before promotional actions are taken. STACPUB

agreed this matter should be completely reviewed during the June 1993 Meeting. It was also agreed that STACPUB members should research to identify where the Journal is presently cited in indexes and databases.

3. Review of the Editorial Board

STACPUB noted with regret that W. R. Bowering had resigned from the Editorial Board. Special appreciation was extended to him for his long valuable contributions to the editorial work of the Journal and STACPUB work in general.

STACPUB considered a possible alternate and agreed that a decision will soon be made after discussion between the Assistant Executive Secretary and the Chairman of STACPUB.

4. Review of Papers for Possible Publication

The Assistant Executive Secretary reported that authors of 9 out of the 22 papers nominated at the June 1992 Meeting who were invited to submit their papers for consideration for publication in either the Journal or Studies had responded positively.

5. Other Matters

The Assistant Executive Secretary informed STACPUB that the number of pages printed in 1992 had been considerable and that ways to reduce the number of pages printed should be discussed. STACPUB noted issuing preliminary SCR Documents during the June meeting and later printing final versions, represented a significant duplication, which in some cases could be avoided. It was recommended that *the Scientific Council consider ways of limiting the number of pages to be printed at the Secretariat.*

There being no further business the Chairman thanked the participants and adjourned the meeting.

APPENDIX IV. AGENDA FOR SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING - 14-18 SEPTEMBER 1992

- I. Opening (Chairman: V. P. Serebryakov)
 1. Appointment of rapporteur
 2. Adoption of agenda
 3. Plan of work
- II. Fishery Science (STACFIS Chairman: D. B. Atkinson)
 1. Stock assessments
 - a) Greenland halibut in terms of the total area of stock distribution (see Annex 1 - joint request from Canada and Denmark/Greenland)
 2. Report of Special Session on "State-of-the-Art in Fish Stock Assessment: a Tutorial/Workshop on Calibration Methods and Their Practical Use" (9-11 September 1992 with R. K. Mohn (Canada) and R. M. Cook (EEC-UK) as Conveners)
 3. Review of current arrangements for conducting stock assessments
 - a) Updating list of Designated Experts
 - b) Data availability to Designated Experts
 4. Future Special Sessions
 - a) Special Session in September, 1993 on "Gear Selectivity/Technical Interactions in Mixed Species Fisheries"
 - b) Proposed theme for Special Session in September 1994
 - c) Co-sponsorship with other organizations
 5. Other matters
- III. Research Coordination (STACREC Chairman: A. de Melo)
 1. Acquisition of STATLANT 21A and 21B reports
 2. Publication of statistical information
 3. Review of requirements for submission of sampling information
 4. Review of Report of CWP 15th Session, July 1992
 5. Other matters
- IV. Publications (STACPUB Chairman: H. Lassen)
 1. Review of Scientific Publications
 2. Promotion and distribution of scientific publications
 - a) Invitational papers
 - b) Promotion of the Journal

3. Editorial matters
 4. Review of papers for possible publication
 - a) Review of proposals from past meetings
 - b) Contributions to present meeting
 - c) Other contributions
 5. Other matters
- V. Review of Future Meeting Arrangements
1. June 1993 Meeting of the Scientific Council
 2. Special Session and Annual Meeting, September 1993
 3. June 1994 Meeting of the Scientific Council
- VI. Other Business
- VII. Adoption of Reports
1. Committee Reports of present meeting (STACFIS, STACREC, STACPUB)
 2. Report of Scientific Council, September 1992
- VIII. Adjournment

JOINT REQUEST BY CANADA AND DENMARK (GREENLAND) TO THE SCIENTIFIC
COUNCIL FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON GREENLAND HALIBUT

Canada and Denmark (Greenland) have both requested that the Scientific Council assess at its meeting June 3-17, 1992, the status of Greenland halibut not only for the portion of the stock in Subareas 0+1 but also in terms of the total area of stock distribution.

The two coastal states now ask jointly that the Scientific Council include in their report, comments on the following specific elements of the general questions posed already:

- a) Should any overall TAC be sub-divided by NAFO Divisions (or combinations of Divisions)?
- b) What would be the implications of changing the current geographic distribution of catches?
- c) What proportion of the stock occurs within the waters under the jurisdiction of the coastal states?



APPENDIX V. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS - 14-18 SEPTEMBER 1992

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APPENDIX VI. LIST OF RESEARCH AND SUMMARY DOCUMENTS

RESEARCH DOCUMENTS (SCR)

<u>SCR #</u>	<u>Ser. #</u>	
92/84	N2145	<u>Bakanev, V. S.</u> Evaluation of index for 0-group capelin abundance in NAFO Divisions 3LNO in November 1991.

SUMMARY DOCUMENTS (SCS)

<u>SCS #</u>	<u>Ser. #</u>	
92/24	N2159	Report of Scientific Council Meeting, September 1992.