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Northwest Atlantic



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SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 1998

Annual Meeting, 6-18 September 1998

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REPORT OF SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

Annual Meeting, 6-18 September 1998

Chairman: H. P. Cornus

Rapporteur: T. Amaratunga

I. PLENARY SESSIONS

The Scientific Council met at the Hotel Altis, Lisbon, Portugal, during 6-18 September 1998. Representatives attended from Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), Estonia, European Union (France, Germany, Portugal and Spain), Iceland, Japan, Norway, Russian Federation and the United States of America. The Assistant Executive Secretary was in attendance.

The Executive Committee met briefly before the opening to discuss the plan of work.

The opening session of the Council was called to order in the Lisboa Room at 0900 hr on 6 September 1998.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to Portugal, and to this 20th Annual Meeting of NAFO. The Assistant Executive Secretary was appointed rapporteur.

At its opening the Council noted that the meeting during 6-8 September 1998 would be devoted to considerations of shrimp in Div. 3M and the special request from the Fisheries Commission on Div. 3LNO shrimp (see Agenda Annex 1, Item 8). STACFIS would carry out the assessment and the Council would then develop and adopt the advice and recommendations before adjourning for the Special Session of 9-11 September 1998.

During 6-8 September 1998, the Council conducted the work on shrimp in Div. 3M and in Div. 3LNO, and during 9-11 September 1998 the Scientific Council hosted the Special Session, the Symposium on "Variations in Maturation, Growth, Condition and Spawning Stock Biomass Production in Groundfish" (see Annex 1).

The Council reconvened at 0900 hours on 14 September 1998.

In considering the Agenda, the Council noted all other agenda items as listed in the Provisional Agenda would be undertaken during the 14-18 September 1998 sessions. The Chairman noted there were intersessional activities that the Council needed to address, and suggested two new agenda items (X.2 and 3 under Other Matters). The modified agenda was accordingly adopted (see Appendix V).

The Council was informed by the Assistance Executive Secretary that U. N. Wijkström, Chief Fishery Development Planning Service, FAO, was invited as an observer to present an update on the forthcoming "FAO Consultation on the Management of Fishery Capacity, Shark Fisheries and Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries" of 26-30 October 1998.

The Council also noted H. P. Cornus (EU-Germany) is the ICES observer at this 20th Annual Meeting.

Noting that the Council sessions would be subject to the changes in schedule of the Fisheries Commission, the Chairman's proposed revised work plan was accepted. The Council noted that some matters referred to the Standing Committees may in fact be addressed at plenary sessions.

The Chairman then proceeded with his update on intersessional activities. Particularly, reference to the Executive Committee Meeting immediately after the June 1998 Meeting of the Scientific Council was made, and the progress made in accordance with some of the Scientific Council recommendations were noted (see Section X.2).

The Council made special note that the Chairman had been in contact with the STACTIC Chairman regarding the protocol for data collection by NAFO Pilot Observer Program (see FC Working Paper 97/8), and that this would be further discussed between the STACTIC Chairman and the Council Chairman (see Section X.2 and 4).

It was also noted the Scientific Council had been invited to the Fisheries Commission Meeting to discuss further developments on the Precautionary Approach and the proposed joint meeting between the Scientific Council and the Fisheries Commission. It was agreed the Council would prepare a proposal and terms of reference for the joint meeting (see Section VII).

Having also discussed matters regarding the proposed intersessional activities, progress on the Working Group on storing biological data, the NAFO website, and the working procedures for the Scientific Council (see Section X), the session was adjourned at 1900 hours. The following sessions of the Council were called as required through 16 and 17 September 1998 to address outstanding items in the Agenda.

The concluding session was called to order at 0930 hours on 18 September 1998. The Council had at its session on 17 September 1998 considered and adopted the Reports of the Standing Committees STACFEN, STACFIS, STACREC and STACPUB. The Council on 18 September 1998 then adopted the Scientific Council Report of this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1100 hours on 18 September 1998.

The Agenda, List of Research (SCR) and Summary (SCS) Documents, and the List of Participants of this meeting are given in Appendix V, VI and VII, respectively.

II. FISHERIES ENVIRONMENT

The Council adopted Report of the Standing Committee on Fisheries Environment (STACFEN) is given at Appendix I.

III. FISHERY SCIENCE

The Council adopted Report of Standing Committee on Fishery Science (STACFIS) given at Appendix II. The Council agreed summary sheet and conclusions on shrimp in Div. 3M and shrimp in Div. 3LNO are presented in Section VI.a and b, respectively, of this report. The recommendations with respect to stock advice appear therein.

The recommendations made by STACFIS for the work of the Scientific Council as endorsed by the Council, are as follows:

Several recommendations from the September 1997 Meeting were not addressed and are repeated below:

- Age composition of the EU survey results should be estimated to provide insights into mortality and year-class strengths.
- Contracting Parties contribute to the catch and effort dataset according to the format specified in SCS Doc. 96/19.
- Estimates of overpack should be obtained for all nations fishing for shrimp in Div. 3M and these estimates be included in the catch statistics.

At this meeting STACFIS recommended that, for shrimp in Div. 3M:

- A refinement of the standardized CPUE index in relation to the appropriate analytical methods and addressing the changes in fishing technology over time be conducted.
- The implications of the change in the relative efficiency of the different codend mesh sizes used during the 1998 EU groundfish survey be evaluated.
- Relationships between shrimp in Div. 3M and those in adjacent areas in Div. 3LN and farther north in Div. 2J and 3K should be investigated.

Because the 1997 and 1998 Faroes surveys do not address the problem of providing a recruitment index, the 1996 **recommendation** was repeated. "A directed research survey for shrimp on Flemish Cap should be initiated with the primary goal of obtaining a reliable recruitment index, given that the EU-survey does not provide reliable estimates of shrimp at age two. The survey would also provide extensive data on the distribution and demography of the shrimp stock throughout the area. Hydrographic information should be collected, including data on currents, in conjunction with the survey."

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IV. RESEARCH COORDINATION

The Council adopted Report of the Standing Committee on Research Coordination (STACREC) is given at Appendix III.

The recommendation made by STACREC for the work of the Scientific Council as endorsed by the Council, is as follows:

"the Working Group on Biological Information Database proceed forward to develop a data exchange protocol and data format for a candidate stock based on the structure of the biological information files mentioned (in the STACREC Report). The work is to be undertaken by correspondence under the direction of the Chairman (E. De Cárdenas, EU Spain) and progress be reported at the June 1999 Meeting."

The recommendation reiterated by STACREC and endorsed by the Scientific Council as relevant to the Fisheries Commission is as follows:

"an expanded list of individually identified species of elasmobranchs be included in the STATLANT 21 A questionnaire and that the national authorities be requested to submit catch statistics with a maximum degree of detail."

V. PUBLICATIONS

The Council adopted Report of the Standing Committee on Publications (STACPUB) is given at Appendix IV.

The recommendations made by STACPUB and endorsed by the Scientific Council as relevant to the General Council are as follows:

" the Scientific Council report on the 1998 Symposium be placed on the NAFO website."

"the Scientific Council advice given in 1998 for various stocks should be placed on the NAFO website".

VI. MANAGEMENT ADVICE AND RESPONSES TO SPECIAL REQUESTS

1. Fisheries Commission

Further to the scientific advice and recommendation provided by the Council during its 6-18 June 1998 Meeting, the Council had agreed to conduct the assessment of shrimp in Div. 3M and respond to the special request from the Fisheries Commission on shrimp in Div. 3LNO, during this meeting.

a) Advice for 1999, Shrimp in Division 3M

The agreed Council recommendations for shrimp in Div. 3M were presented in the following summary.

Shrimp (Pandalus borealis) in Division 3M

Background: The fishery for shrimp on Flemish Cap began in April 1993, although occurrence of shrimp in the area has been known for many years:

Fishery and Catches: This multi-national fishery produced provisional catches as follows:

	Catch ¹	TAC	;
Year	(*000 tons)	Recommended	Agreed
1993	28	na ²	-
1994	24	tm ³	tm ³
1995	33	. tm ³	tm ³
1996	49	ndf ⁴	ers
1997	27	ipl ⁶	er
1998 (to August)) ⁷ 19	lpl ⁶ .	er ^s

I STACFIS estimates.

No advice.

³ Technical measures.

⁴ No directed fishery.

⁵ Effort regulations.

⁶ Lowest possible level.

⁷ STACFIS estimates to end of 1998 is about 30 000 tons.

The proportion of males in the catches increased such that they dominated the catches since 1994.

The fishery was unregulated in 1993. Sorting grates and a related by-catch regulation were introduced in 1994. Effort regulations were implemented in 1996 and have continued since then.

Data: Catch, effort and biological sampling data were available from the trawlers of several nations. A time series of biomass estimates was produced from catches of shrimp taken in EU groundfish surveys in Div. 3M from 1988 to 1998. One survey was conducted by Canada in 1996 and directed surveys for shrimp were conducted by Faroe Islands in 1997 and 1998. Biological samples of shrimp were obtained during all surveys. Oceanographic data were obtained from Canadian surveys on Flemish Cap in the summers of 1993, and 1995 through 1998.

Assessment: No analytical assessment was possible and the fishing mortality is unknown. Commercial fishery data (catch, effort and catch rates), research biomass indices and biological data from both sources were examined. *Commercial CPUE*: The CPUE data are difficult to interpret as an index of abundance due to major changes in fishing patterns between years and developing technology. Standardized catch rates indicate a substantial decline between 1993 and 1994 but no clear trend thereafter.

Recruitment: Evaluation of recruitment strength can presently only be inferred retrospectively from the relative importance of year-classes in the fishery. The 1988, 1993 and possibly the 1994 year-classes appear to be stronger than others. With currently available data no prediction of recruitment is possible.

Biomass: Indices of female biomass from the EUsurveys were relatively stable from 1995 to 1997. Although a large increase is indicated in 1998, the results of the survey were not comparable to the previous years because of different codend mesh size used in 1998 resulting from the loss of the standard gear during the survey. The Faroese surveys showed an increase in total biomass from 1997 to 1998, however, confidence intervals for the estimates were not available.



(*Values for 1994 and 1998 are not comparable because of different codend mesh size.)

State of the Stock: Scientific Council is not able to predict the biomass of the 1994 and 1995 yearclasses, which will remain in 1999. Scientific Council also is unable to estimate the size of subsequent yearclasses or predict possible recruitment. Although CPUE information has been used previously as an indicator of stock size, there are concerns about these data due to the technological changes which have occurred in the fishery but are not accounted for in the present model. It is therefore not possible for Scientific Council to provide any estimate of current or future stock size.

Recommendations: Scientific Council is unable to determine the absolute size of the stock. However, available data suggest the size of the stock is relatively stable or possibly showing an increase in biomass in 1998. The perception is now more optimistic than in 1997, although the Scientific Council is still concerned about the high proportion of males in the commercial catches. The average catch reported during the apparent period of stability was about 30000 tons, and the Scientific Council recommends that the catch in 1999 should not exceed 30 000 tons.

Special Comments: Scientific Council considers it important to recognize that its ability to assess the resource will not improve until a time series of research surveys directed for shrimp is developed which can allow for the prediction of recruitment.

Sources of information: SCR Doc. 98/29, 80, 81, 82, 83, 85, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92.

b) Other Requests for Management Advice

Shrimp in Divisions 3LNO

The Scientific Council was requested by the Fisheries Commission to: provide information on the shrimp stock in 3LNO with regards to catches in recent years. by-catches of groundfish in such fisheries, abundance indices and the distribution of the stock. The Scientific Council was also requested to: provide the information on annual yield potential for this stock.

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The following is the Scientific Council response:

Distribution: In Div. 3LNO northern shrimp occur mainly along the slope of the Grand Bank, primarily in depths between 150 and 500 m. Research vessel surveys showed that the distribution was widespread with densities greatest in Div. 3L. Occasional large catches occurred in Div. 3N, and few shrimp were caught in Div. 3O.

Catches: Catches of shrimp in Div. 3L from the Faroese experimental fishery totaled 355 tons in 1994, 83 tons in 1996, 482 tons in 1997, and 336 tons to date in 1998. Catches of shrimp in Div. 3LNO from other sources are negligible.

By catches: By catches of groundfish were estimated from the Faroese fishery in 1996 and 1997. The following table illustrates results, in kg of by-catch per ton of shrimp:

	Greenland halibut	Redfish	American plaice	Cod
With no grate	203.9	42.0	No data	25.6
With 22 mm grate	24.2	1.2	2.1	0.01

The data collected from trawls using a grate represent an average of 4 periods from November 1996 to August 1997, while the data collected from trawls without a grate came from November 1996. Scientific Council notes that these data were collected only in a portion of the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA) in Div. 3L, and that results from other areas in Div. 3LNO could be very different, given the different distributions of juvenile groundfish on the Grand Bank. It was also noted that the abundance of redfish. American plaice and cod in Div. 3LNO is presently low relative to historic levels, making it difficult to judge the effectiveness of grates in reducing by-catch during periods of higher fish abundance.

Biomass Indices: Biomass indices from Canadian autumn surveys in 1995-97 indicated that more than 90% of the resource was located in Div. 3L. The biomass index increased substantially over this period from about 6 300 tons in 1995 to 47 000 tons in 1997.

Biomass indices from Faroese surveys in spring 1997 and 1998 in a portion of the NRA (180-500 m) in Div. 3L were 3 300 tons in 1997 and 4 600 tons in 1998. However, these are not directly comparable due to differences in the trawls used in the two years.

Yield Potential: The shrimp resource in areas north of the Grand Bank (Div. 2J and 3K) expanded greatly in recent years and it is likely that the increase in the shrimp abundance on the adjacent Grand Bank is connected with this expansion. The production and recruitment of several strong year-classes of the late-1980s and early-1990s accounts for the increase, but the dynamics are not fully understood. Until the stock relationship is properly elucidated, it will not be possible to determine estimates of sustainable yield or to evaluate appropriate reference points.

2. Special Requests from Concurrent General Council and Fisheries Commission Meetings

There were no requests.

VII. DEVELOPMENT OF PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH

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1. Dates and Place of Spring 1999 Meeting (see also Section VIII.2)

The Council (on 14 September 1998) noted the dates of the Scientific Council Meeting of Spring 1999 will be subject to the Fisheries Commission decisions during this Annual Meeting. The Council proposed that the duration be 5 working days, and that the meeting should be held at a time suitable for the Fisheries Commission representatives. Scientific Council noted there was an invitation to hold the meeting in San Sebastian, Spain.

2. Terms of Reference for Spring 1999 Meeting

After considerable debate on the needs and objectives of the Scientific Council, and the coordination of these with the interests of the Fisheries Commission, it was proposed that, in accordance with the agreements at the June 1998 Meeting of the Scientific Council, the Scientific Council will meet in Spring 1999 to further address issues on the Precautionary Approach (PA). Recognizing the need to coordinate the outcome of this meeting with the views of the Fisheries Commission on the PA, Scientific Council agreed to the following Terms of Reference for the work during 5 days:

- 1) Hands-on with software implementation of methods relevant to PA.
- 2) Progress on development of reference points for NAFO stocks.
- 3) Address recommendations from May 1998 Meeting of the Joint Scientific Council and Fisheries Commission Working Group.
- Case specific studies:
 - a) Stock with closed fishery (cod in Div. 3NO)
 - b) Stock with open fishery (yellowtail flounder Div. 3LNO)
 - c) Stock for which qualitative methods are required (shrimp in Div.3M)
- 5) Preparation for joint Scientific Council and Fisheries Commission Working Group on the PA (to be held immediately after the 5-day meeting).

It is proposed the meeting will first be limited to Scientific Council members, and the outcome of these deliberations be forwarded by a select group of the Scientific Council members to the Fisheries Commission members.

3. Joint Meeting with Fisheries Commission on Precautionary Approach (see also Section VIII.3)

In accordance with the proposed Spring 1999 Meeting Terms of Reference (given above), the Scientific Council proposed that a Joint Scientific Council and Fisheries Commission Working Group Meeting on the Precautionary Approach be held in advance of the June 1999 Scientific Council Meeting.

It was proposed that the duration be 2 days, (note: the Fisheries Commission decision of 18 September 1998 revised this to 3 days), and the Scientific Council be represented at this meeting by a subgroup of members who participated in the meeting mentioned above.

Terms of Reference:

- 1) Development of options for decision rules (management strategies) for each case-specific study:
 - a) Stock with closed fishery (cod in Div. 3NO)
 - b) Stock with open fishery (yellowtail flounder in Div. 3LNO)
 - c) Stock for which only limited data are available (shrimp in Div. 3M)

VIII. REVIEW OF FUTURE MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

1. Scientific Council Meeting on Northern Shrimp, November 1998

The Council reconfirmed that the meeting on northern shrimp for the assessments of shrimp in Subareas 0 and 1 and shrimp in Denmark Strait, will be held during 6-10 November 1998 at Greenland Home Rule Government, Denmark Office, Pilestræde 51, Copenhagen, Denmark.

The Council noted that the provisional agenda was circulated to Contracting Parties in accordance with Scientific Council Rules of Procedure, during this Annual Meeting.

2. Scientific Council Meeting on Precautionary Approach Spring 1999

The Council agreed to meet during 27 April to 1 May 1999 to address the Terms of Reference as outlined above (see Section VII.2). The meeting will be held in San Sebastian, Spain.

It was noted this meeting immediately precedes the Joint Scientific Council and Fisheries Commission Working Group on the Precautionary Approach Meeting. (see Section below)

3. Joint Meeting with Fisheries Commission on Precautionary Approach

The Joint Scientific Council and Fisheries Commission Working Group on the Precautionary Approach will meet 3-5 May 1999 to address the Terms of Reference as outlined above (see Section VII.3). The meeting will be immediately after the Scientific Council Meeting of 27 April to 1 May 1999, in San Sebastian, Spain.

4. Scientific Council Meeting, June 1999

The Council agreed to reschedule this meeting for 3-16 June 1999, which would be 2 days less than the 1998 June Meeting duration (note also: this is 2 days less than the previously announced dates of 2-17 June 1999). The meeting will thus begin on a Thursday and end on a Wednesday. The meeting is tentatively planned to be held at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada.

5. Special Session and Annual Meeting, September 1999

The Council noted it would meet during the Annual Meeting scheduled for 13-17 September 1999. This would be preceded by the Scientific Council hosted Symposium on "Pandalid Shrimp Fisheries – Science and Management at the Millennium", during 8-10 September 1999. The Council noted these meetings will be held in Nova Scotia, Canada. It was noted that further to Fisheries Commission decision at this Annual Meeting, the timing of the assessment of shrimp in Div. 3M will be changed to coincide with the Scientific Council Meeting in November (see Section X.1), when other shrimp assessments are done.

The Council also noted that no assessment of shrimp in Div. 3M will be necessary in 1999 in advance of the Symposium (8-10 September 1999) and the Annual Scientific Council Meeting (13-17 September 1999).

6. Scientific Council Meeting, June 2000

The Council at its Meeting of 3-18 June 1998 set tentative dates of 7-22 June 2000 for this meeting. The Council agreed the dates for the June 2000 Meeting will be subject to the Fisheries Commission decision on providing advice on some stocks biannually and the experience of the Council Meeting of June 1999 (see Section X.1).

IX. FUTURE SPECIAL SESSIONS

1. Progress Report on Symposium in 1999

The Council was pleased to note considerable progress in the plans for the Symposium "Pandalid Shrimp Fisheries – Science and Management at the Millennium", during September 1999.

The co-convenor, P. A. Koeller (Canada), informed the Council that all pertinent information has been in the website since the Symposium was announced, and it is updated as necessary. There were so far about 12 identified papers, including invited speakers.

2. Review of Proposal for Special Session 2000

The Council reviewed a proposal by O. Godo (Norway), M. Stein (EU-Germany) and S. J. Walsh (Canada), titled "Managing Marine Ecosystem Instability: a Century of Experience". While the proposal was somewhat broad, the Council saw its merit. The Council agreed that the authors be requested to consider a narrower theme more directed to the Northwest Atlantic and to the needs of the Scientific Council's work, and present a revised proposal to the June 1999 Meeting.

X. OTHER MATTERS

1. Scientific Council Working Procedures

The Council's discussions were initiated as a result of the very difficult time schedules and the heavy workloads especially during the annual assessment meetings in June.

The Chairman identified a fundamental difficulty that papers to be considered at the meeting are often not submitted in advance of the meeting. In addition, it was noted that a considerable amount of time is spent on review of papers, even though their contents with respect to the assessments may not be important. It was also noted that scientists, and particularly Designated Experts, may spend considerable time away from the Council Sessions during the meetings in order to complete their assessment reports. These and other incidental delays place a significant time constraint on the work of the Council, and consequently may affect the quality and review process of the Council report.

The Council had extensive discussion on this matter and attempted to find methods of improving the working procedures.

Having considered various methods, such as splitting the stocks to be considered into geographic areas or separating similar stocks for consideration at different meetings, the Council agreed on the following:

a) A more rigid approach be taken regarding the deadlines for submission of papers to the Council.

In this regard, it was agreed that papers should be submitted to the Secretariat and relevant Designated Experts, at least 10 days before the beginning of the meetings. However, it was noted that some papers, for example preliminary assessments papers and papers being submitted to STACFEN, may not be available within these time frames.

The Council also noted that the timing and data availability from research surveys conducted particularly in the spring and in mid/late summer would present difficulties in preparing scientific reports in advance of the meeting.

b) It was agreed that a proposal be presented to the Fisheries Commission to consider the assessment of some stocks on a bi-annual or multi-annual basis.

The Council proposed that beginning in 1999 a schedule for providing bi-annual (every two years) advice be initiated. The Council prepared and submitted a complete schedule to the Fisheries Commission (FC WP 98/7) for six stocks as follows:

"American plaice in Div. 3LNO, cod in Div. 3NO, witch flounder in Div. 3NO, redfish in Div. 3LN, American plaice in Div. 3M and cod in Div. 3M. These stocks are under moratoria or, in the case of cod in Div. 3M, the Scientific Council advice for 1999 is "no directed fishing". The Scientific Council does not expect a significant change in the state of these stocks in the near future and, therefore, proposes to provide advice every two years. The Scientific Council expects that this approach would result in a significant reduction in the duration of its June meetings (currently 17 days).

For these stocks, the Scientific Council will monitor their status annually. Should a significant change be observed in stock status (e.g. from surveys), the Scientific Council will evaluate this change and provide the appropriate advice.

To implement this system, the Scientific Council proposes to conduct the assessment of these six stocks on an alternating year basis as follows:

- In 1999, all six stocks will be assessed. The assessment advice, however, will pertain to
 different time periods to allow the introduction of the new scheme over the next three years.
- In 1999, advice will be provided for 2000 and 2001 for American plaice in Div. 3LNO, cod in Div. 3NO and redfish in Div. 3LN. The next assessment of these stocks will thus be conducted in 2001.
- In 1999, advice will be provided for 2000 for cod in Div. 3M, American plaice in Div. 3M and witch in Div. 3NO. The next assessment of these stocks will be conducted in 2000 with advice provided for 2001 and 2002. These stocks will then next be assessed in 2002.

The time horizon for the assessments are depicted in the Table below (check marks identify the year of the assessments):

Stock	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
A. plaice in Div. 3LNO	V.		V -		~
Cod in Div. 3NO	v .		~		· ·
Redfish in Div. 3LN	v		v 1		V
Cod in Div. 3M	v	· · · ·		v	-
A. plaice in Div. 3M	✓	~		v	
Witch in Div. 3NO	v	V .		~	

For several years, the Scientific Council was not in a position to provide advice for Capelin in Div. 3NO due to the absence of data. The Scientific Council proposes that it will give no advice until appropriate data are available."

The Council noted the Fisheries Commission, during its meeting on 18 September 1998, accepted the above proposed schedule.

Particularly with respect to the assessment of shrimp in Div. 3M, the Council noted there were many difficulties concerning the present September schedule. The major difficulties expressed were:

- The meeting length of the Scientific Council during the Annual Meeting is extended considerably.
- The data from research surveys conducted in July/August are often incompletely analyzed,
- The catch data from the current year is incomplete, noting that the fisheries proceed well into September and October.

Considering additionally that there are more advantages in postponing the assessment to November when other shrimp stocks are also assessed by the Scientific Council, the Council presented the following proposal (see FC Working Paper 98/9) to the Fisheries Commission:

"Scientific Council proposes to move the assessment of shrimp in Div. 3M to November when the assessments for shrimp in the Denmark Strait and shrimp in SA 0+1 are conducted. A meeting in November 1999 would deliver advice to the Annual Meeting in September 2000, for the year 2001 and annually thereafter. The Scientific Council does not expect that advice for the year 2000 will differ from that provided for 1999.

However, if continued monitoring during 1999-2000 detects a significant change of this stock, Scientific Council would provide intersessional advice."

The Council noted the Fisheries Commission, during its meeting on 18 September 1998, accepted the proposed schedule for assessment of shrimp in Div. 3M.

2. Chairman's Report on Intersessional Activities

The Chairman informed the Council that immediately after the June 1998 Meeting, the Executive Committee met at the Executive Secretary's office. The Committee addressed the Council's concerns expressed during its sessions and requested the Executive Secretary to act on the following matters:

a) The Council considered the meeting conditions and quality for the June Meeting at Keddy's Dartmouth Inn were not suitable, and an alternative meeting space needed to be arranged for the June 1999 Meeting.

The Executive Secretary agreed to this, and the Assistant Executive Secretary informed this meeting that the Ramada Renaissance Hotel at 240 Brownlow Ave., Burnside Park, Dartmouth, was provisionally booked for the June 1999 Meeting. The available Halifax/Dartmouth properties were checked by the Secretariat for appropriate space and availability in this consideration.

b) The computer facilities provided for Scientific Council work at the June 1999 Meeting needs to be upgraded to include a local area network (LAN). A proposal was submitted to the Executive Secretary. The Assistant

Executive Secretary confirmed that the document was attached to the Agenda of this 1998 Annual Meeting for consideration by STACFAD.

Considering other intersessional activities:

- The Chairman also informed the Council that he had written a letter to the Chairman of STACTIC regarding their request for protocol for data collection by NAFO Pilot Observer program. The Chairman had conveyed the Council's surprise, that the forwarded information (FC Working Paper 97/8) had not been recognized, and that there was a need for better communications between the different bodies of NAFO.
- With regards to Precautionary Approach, the Chairman had been in consultation with the Chairman of Fisheries Commission during the intersessional period. As per Section VII above, Scientific Council made its proposals for a joint meeting.
- In general, the Chairman noted that his intersessional communications to the Council members requesting ideas on making changes to the June meeting and developing Terms of References for the Precautionary Approach meetings, had poor or no responses.
- The Council considered all the recommendations made during the June 1998 Meeting regarding computer requirements for its work and the NAFO website development. The Council was concerned that many of these recommendations were not being seen by other NAFO bodies. It was therefore agreed that all recommendations relevant to the General Council and the Fisheries Commission would be listed from the Scientific Council as a General Council Working Paper (GC Working Paper 98/9) and Fisheries Commission Working Paper (FC Working Paper 98/14), respectively.

3. Review of Proposed Intersessional Activities

- The Chairman noted the Council will act on any response from STACTIC Chairman regarding developing better communications between the Council and STACTIC.
- The Council noted the recent catch data of elasmobranchs in the NAFO area had been summarized by the Secretariat for this meeting. It was noted in this preliminary tabulation only two elasmobranchs were identified on the species level.
- It was noted that steps needed to be taken to develop training programs in identification of elasmobranchs. The Council was pleased the Chairman had brought an identification key which could be printed for this purpose. This publication needed funding, and the Chairman proposed he would solicit this during this Annual Meeting.
- The Council was informed that progress was made by the Chairman. E. de Cárdenas (EU-Spain) of the *ad hoc* Working Group on Biological Information Database as reported in the Report of STACREC. Noting this approach will permit the use of computerized common datasets, rather than individual datasets, the Council thanked the Chairman and the Working Group for the valuable work and encouraged further work by the Working Group.

4. Other Business

Several items were discussed.

- The Council noted that the ICES/NAFO Working Group on Harp and Hooded Seals would be meeting in Tromsø, Norway, during 29 September-2 October 1998, and the Terms of Reference for that meeting was announced at this Council meeting. The Council reaffirmed that the report of the Working Group would be presented to the Scientific Council during the June 1999 Meeting by the Chairman of the Working Group.
- The Scientific Council welcomed U. Wijkström, FAO, Rome, the Chairman of the FAO Consultation on the Management of Fishery Capacity, Shark Fisheries and Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries. He presented a brief history of progress made to date and the objectives of the 26-30 October 1998 FAO Meeting. The Council noted that at this stage the meeting is not for technical proposals but for policy development. The Council reiterated its views that NAFO should be represented at this meeting in Rome, and noted an appropriate nominee may be announced by the Fisheries Commission.
- Further to the June 1998 comments by the Council, the Council reiterated the importance of NAFO participating in the FAO and non-FAO Regional Fisheries Bodies Meeting at FAO Headquarters, Rome,

during 11-12 February 1999. The Council particularly noted that the Chairman of this FAO meeting had been asked by the NAFO Scientific Council to include an agenda item to discuss the harmonization of nomenclature/abbreviations/definitions in the Precautionary Approach as requested by the Joint Scientific Council/Fisheries Commission Working Group On Precautionary Approach in May 1998. The Assistant Executive Secretary noted this would be addressed by the Chairman of the FAO meeting. Accordingly, it was agreed that the Scientific Council Chairman should attend the meeting to represent NAFO on this specific agenda item if the request of the NAFO Scientific Council is accepted by the Chairman of the FAO and non-FAO Regional Fisheries Bodies Meeting.

At its session on 17 September 1998, the Council reviewed the report of STACFAD regarding the proposed budgets for 1999 and 2000. The Council expressed serious concern that the Council's requests for funding for both website development and meeting computer requirements were not adequately addressed in the budget considerations.

The Executive Secretary was then specifically invited to the Council Meeting (17 September 1998 session) for clarifications on the concerns.

- With respect to the requests for budget line funds for the NAFO website development, the Executive Secretary explained that STACFAD had dismissed Scientific Council request on the grounds that it did not contain adequate details. However, the Executive Secretary confirmed that the necessary funds will be allocated to the development of the NAFO website with full consideration to the Scientific Council needs and the need of developing the website to meet current international standards. It was also agreed that the necessary computer technical training aspects will be addressed.

- With respect to computer facilities needed for conducting Scientific Council meetings, as described in the Scientific Council paper which was an annex to the STACFAD Agenda, the Executive Secretary reported that this paper appeared to have been inadvertently neglected during STACFAD deliberations. On this matter too, the Executive Secretary assured that the necessary computer facilities would be supplied for the June 1999 Meeting. The Council's interest in having a local area network (LAN) will also be addressed by the Executive Secretary as the meeting preparations were being developed.

- In general, the Council expressed its concerns to the Executive Secretary that the Scientific Council recommendations and needs were not being adequately recognized by the other NAFO bodies. In this regard the Executive Secretary saw no difficulty in Scientific Council representatives attending the STACFAD Meetings. It was also noted that the Council had at this meeting developed better communications particularly with the Fisheries Commission and STACTIC.

With regards to STACTIC discussion on data collection in the Pilot Observer Program, the Council was pleased to send representatives to the STACTIC meeting on the 17 September 1998. This was particularly to exchange views of how best the Fisheries Commission Pilot Observer Program data collection can address the data needs of the Scientific Council. Resulting from the exchange of information at the STACTIC Meeting, the Scientific Council will outline the specific data it would need. It was agreed that data collected by the Pilot Observer Program should be in a format harmonized among Contracting Parties, and that the pertinent data should be submitted to the Scientific Council via the Secretariat, in an electronic form. The Council noted that the data needed for scientific work did not require confidential information such as country and vessel name. In conclusion, it was agreed the Chairman of the Council will prepare a submission outlining the data needs to STACTIC.

XI. ADOPTION OF REPORTS

1. Consideration of Report from the Symposium of 9-11 September 1998

The Scientific Council Special Session, the Symposium on "Variations in Maturation, Growth, Condition and Spawning Stock Biomass Production in Groundfish", with E. Aro (Finland), J. Burnett (USA) and M. J. Morgan (Canada) as co-convenors, held at the Hotel Altis, Lisbon, Portugal, was well attended with 77 participants, and generated stimulating thoughts toward the future. The Council endorsed the recommendations made during the Symposium as stated in the Symposium Report given in Annex 1 of this Report. As recommended by STACPUB in June 1998, the Council noted that the Symposium proceedings will be published in the Journal, within a short time frame.

The Council reviewed and adopted the Report of the Symposium as presented (Annex 1).

2. Committee Reports of Present Meeting

The Council at its session on 17 September 1998 considered and **adopted** the reports of its Standing Committees STACFEN, STACFES, STACREC and STACPUB. These reports are given in Appendix I, II, III and IV, respectively.

3. Report of Scientific Council

The Council at its concluding session on 18 September 1998 considered and adopted its own Report of this 6-18 September 1998 Meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the participants for the good cooperation during this meeting, noting some great steps forward, particularly in long discussions about the working procedures of Scientific Council and STACFIS, getting better communications with other bodies of NAFO such as the Fisheries Commission and STACFIS, and forwarding recommendations to the Fisheries Commission and General Council. He thanked Chairmen of Standing Committees and extended a special thanks to the representatives of Portugal for the great hospitality. The Chairman especially thanked the NAFO Secretariat for the efforts in supporting the Scientific Council work. There being no further business, he closed the meeting wishing everyone a safe trip home.



ANNEX 1. REPORT OF THE SYMPOSIUM

Variations in Maturation, Growth, Condition and Spawning Stock Biomass Production in Groundfish

Hosted by the Scientific Council of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) 9-11 September 1998

Co-convenors by E. Aro (Finland), J. Burnett (USA) and J. Morgan (Canada) Organized by the NAFO Secretariat, Hotel Altis, Lisbon, Portugal.

THE SYMPOSIUM

The Symposium on 'Variations in Maturation, Growth, Condition and Spawning Stock Biomass Production in Groundfish' was held during 9-11 September 1998 at Hotel Altis, Lisbon, Portugal, with E. Aro (Finland), J. Burnett (USA) and M. J. Morgan (Canada) as co-convenors. There were 77 participants from Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Greenland, Iceland, Japan, Norway, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

The Symposium was opened by H. P. Cornus (EU-Germany), Chairman of Scientific Council, who on behalf of the Scientific Council welcomed participants to Lisbon. In a brief presentation, the Chairman described the NAFO structure and the general objectives of the Symposium.

INTRODUCTION

Changes in maturation, growth and condition, duration of spawning season and the spatial distribution of spawning stock have been observed in several groundfish stocks, particularly in the North Atlantic. These variations have direct implications for spawner biomass production per recruit and management strategies that incorporate these parameters. The purpose of this Symposium was to discuss the causes and consequences of such variations, including evidence of environmental, density-dependent, predation or size-selective fishing effects and consequences for spawner biomass per recruit and population growth rate, as well as implications for management strategies.

Thematic presentations were made by 3 invited keynote speakers, to introduce different sessions of the Symposium, and an invited keynote presentation was made by two speakers to introduce the concluding discussions. These were 35 contributed papers, 28 of which were oral presentations and 7 were posters.

CONCLUSIONS, IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

I. General Conclusions

The following general points could be drawn from the Symposium:

- Realized fecundity (number of eggs spawned) is a function of energetic status of fish; 1st year of life may
 define fecundity.
- Size and condition of spawning female affect quality and viability of eggs and hence net reproductive output.
- Egg and larval mortality is significantly lower in 2nd time spawners than first time spawners.
- Determination of maturity should be accomplished (or at least verified) by microscopic means, not macroscopically.

- Temporal and spatial fishing patterns may alter age/size at maturity, fecundity, egg size and growth rates thereby affecting stock-recruitment relationships and biological reference points.
- Stock density can influence maturation rates
- Intensive fisheries favor early maturing sub-cohorts resulting in observed declines in maturity at age.
- Properly measuring and including parent-progeny relationships into stock assessments and scientific advice is essential for the proper management of fishery resources.
- Spawning stock biomass (SSB) as such may not be the best estimate for stock reproduction potential.
- Large fish produce larger and more viable eggs and larvae than smaller fish; large fish produce more batches of eggs per spawning and spawn over a longer period of time than smaller fish.
- The proportion of fish mature at age is a function of weight. Annual population egg production rates are more sensitive to variations in fecundity than variations in sex ratio or female maturity ogives.
- Periodicity in recruitment and stock abundance may be caused by cyclical patterns of climate variability.
- Onset of maturity occurs only when fish accumulate enough energy, or have sufficient energetic reserves, to undertake spawning and migration in the following year
- Not all mature fish participate in spawning.
- Accounting for unequal sex ratios is important in calculating SSB, particularly when male fish often mature earlier than females and do not live as long (perhaps due to spawning mortality).
- Fish are more susceptible to capture just after spawning because of their condition than at other times.
- Productivity of cold water stocks can differ substantially from warm water stocks due to slower growth and reduced condition.
- Variations in annual growth rates can have a significant impact on calculations of biomass and SSB. However, predicting these changes can be very difficult.
- Liver condition (HSI) may be a good barometer of stock reproductive potential.
- Reproduction has very significant energetic costs and consequences

II. Implications for Assessment and Management

For the management of fish stocks, changes in demographic parameters and vital rates of fish stocks can profoundly affect the assessment and management of these resources. Changes in these parameters have implications for all areas of stock assessment, including short-term projections, equilibrium calculations, retrospective analyses, and rebuilding strategies. The nature of the variability observed for these parameters (i.e. high or low frequency, trended, predictability) may dictate which methodological approaches to assessment calculations should be undertaken (e.g. running averages, annual estimates, predictive models).

III. Recommendations

In recent decades, stock assessment and management has taken into account Quadrant 1 and some factors in Quadrant 2 in the Figure below. However, it is evident that more research is needed to fill the gaps in Quadrant 3 and 4 as well as in Quadrant 2 such as age/size at maturity.



The Symposium recommended that the NAFO Scientific Council should establish a Working Group in order to:

- Explore and review availability of information and existing data on reproduction potential by areas and species
- Explore possibilities to develop standard internationally coordinated research protocols to estimate egg and larval production
- Explore and evaluate alternative methods to estimate reproductive potential annually as part of routine in monitoring and sampling schemes (such as HSI)
- Review possibilities to develop methods and applications to estimate stock's reproductive potential for assessment and management

The Working Group should work by correspondence in 1998-1999 and make a proposal for the June Scientific Council meeting in 1999.

The Symposium also recommended that whenever possible, stock assessments should take into account the following points and information when evaluating a stock's reproductive potential:

- Age and length at maturity
- Changes in mean weights-at-age
- The use of annual maturity ogives rather than "knife-edge" ogive for all years to estimate SSB
- Estimation of SSB
- Stock-Recruitment relationship plot
- Condition factor data trends if possible
- Age and sex specific condition factors
- Fecundity estimates
- Egg quality (size, viability), in relation to reproductive history and/or condition
- Apply maturity, fecundity, condition and egg quality data to compile stock reproductive potential
- Establish minimum safe threshold level of stock reproductive potential (conservation threshold)

TIMETABLE OF THE SYMPOSIUM

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Wednesday, 9 September 1998				
CHAIRPERSON: M. J. MORGAN				
0900-0930	Opening Welcome (Scientific Council Chairman HP. Cornus) Introductory remarks			
0930-1030	KEYNOTE ADDRESS: O. S. KJESBU. Reproductive investment in Atlantic cod <i>Gadus morhua</i> L.): comparisons between two different stocks and wild, captive and artificially reared specimens.			
1030-1050	Break			
1050-1110	OUELLETT, P., I. BERUBE, and Y. LAMBERT. Cod egg characteristics and viability related to maternal size and nutritional condition.			
1110-1130	SOLEMDAL, P., O. S. KJESBU, and M. FONN. Long-term studies on reproduction in cod: egg and early larvae mortality related to the batch spawning and the effect of multiple spawning.			
1130-1150	AJIAD, A., O. NAKKEN, and T. JAKOBSEN. Sexual difference in maturation of Northeast Arctic cod.			
1150-1330	Lunch break			
CHAIRPERSON	E. ARO			
1330-1350	SABORIDO-REY, F., O. S. KJESBU, and A. THORSEN. Buoyancy of Atlantic cod (Gadus morhua) larvae in relation to spawning experience: first and second time spawners.			
1350-1410	JUNQUERA, S., E. ROMAN, and X. PAZ. Changes in Greenland halibut growth, condition and fecundity in Flemish Cap - Flemish Pass area.			
1410-1430	GUNDERSEN, A. C., O. S. KJESBU, A. STENE, and K. H. NEDREAAS. Fecundity of Northeast Arctic Greenland halibut (<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>).			
1430-1450	KORSBREKKE, K. Variations in maturity of haddock in the Barents Sea in relation to year-class strength, age, size, sex and area.			
1450-1510	ROCHET, M-J. Fishing effects on maturity and fecundity in teleosts: their consequences for stock- recruitment relationships and spawning biomass per recruit.			
1510-1530	Break			
1530-1550	O'BRIEN, L. Factors influencing rates of maturation in the Georges Bank and Gulf of Maine Atlantic cod stocks.			
1550-1610	MURAWSKI, S.A., P. J. RAGO, and E. A. TRIPPEL. Why are western Atlantic groundfish maturing younger?			
1610-1630	WALSH, S. J., and M. J. MORGAN. Variation in maturation of yellowtail flounder (<i>Pleuronectes ferruginea</i>) on the Grand Bank.			

THURSDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 1998

CHAIRPERSON: J. BURNETT

- 0900-1000 KEYNOTE ADDRESS: TRIPPEL, E. A. Parent-progeny relationships: challenges to Groundfish Stock Assessments.
- 1000-1020 SABORIDO-REY, F., G. PEREZ-GANDARAS, and S. JUNQUERA. Spawning biomass variation in Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) in relation with changes in growth and maturation in Flemish Cap.
- 1000-1020 Break
- 1040-1100 COOK, R. and P. KUNZLIK. Growth and maturity for North Sea cod.
- 1100-1120 MACKENZIE, B. R., J. TOMKIEWICZ, F. KOSTER, and A. NISSLING. Quantifying and disaggregating the 'spawner' effect: incorporating stock structure, spatial distribution and female influences into estimates of annual population egg production.
- 1120-1140 MARTEINSDOTTIR, G., A. GUNDMUNDSDOTTIR, V. THORSTEINSSON, and G. STEFFANSON. Spatial variation in abundance, size composition and viable egg production of spawning cod (*Gadus morhua* L.) in Icelandic waters.
- 1140-1200 RIKHTER, V. A. On interpretation of plots of 'stock recruitment' relation of silver hake (*Merluccius bilinearis*) near the North-western Atlantic.
- 1200-1330 Lunch break
- CHAIRPERSON: E. ARO
- 1330-1350 TAYLOR, L., and G. STEFANSSON. Growth and maturation of haddock in Icelandic waters.
- 1350-1410 GODØ, O.R., and T. HAUG. Growth rate and sexual maturity in cod (Gadus morhua) and Atlantic halibut (Hippoglossus hippoglossus).
- 1410-1430 BURTON, M. B. M. Potential errors in measuring spawning stock biomass: determining the effects of non-participatory adults for some Atlantic groundfish species.
- 1430-1450 AJIAD, A., and T. JAKOBSEN. Management implications from sexual differences in maturation and spawning mortality of Northeast Arctic cod.
- 1450-1530 Poster viewing and Break
- 1530-1550 OZBILGIN, H., R. S. T. FERRO, and J. R. HUTCHEON. Seasonal variation in the biological condition and trawl codend selectivity of North Sea haddock, *Melanogrammus aeglefinus*.
- 1550-1610 WIGLEY, S. E., J. BURNETT, and P. J. RAGO. An evaluation of maturity estimates derived from two sampling schemes: are the observed maturation changes fact or artifact?
- 1610-1630 MORGAN, M. J. The effect of a change in perception of length distribution of a population on maturity-at-age, weight-at-age and spawning stock biomass.

FRIDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 1998

CHAIRPERSON: J. BURNETT

- 0900-1000 KEYNOTE ADDRESS: DUTIL, J.-D., M. CASTONGUAY, Y. LAMBERT, and D. GILBERT. Growth, condition and mortality relationships in Atlantic cod: should we factor in latitudinal and temporal variations in stock productivity?
- 1000-1020 SHELTON, P. A., G. R. LILLY, and E. COLBOURNE. Patterns in annual growth of 2J3KL cod and possible prediction for stock projections.
- 1020-1040 Break
- 1040-1100 RÄTZ, H-J., M. STEIN, and J. LLORET. Variation in growth and recruitment of Atlantic cod (Gadus morhua) off Greenland during the second half of the 20th century.
- 1100-1120 YARAGINA, N. A., and C. T. MARSHALL. Trophic influences on seasonal and interannual variation in the hepatosomatic index of Northeast Arctic cod.
- 1120-1140 MARSHALL, C. T., and N. A. YARAGINA. Consequences of variation in the liver condition for recruitment dynamics of Northeast Arctic cod.
- 1140-1200 LAMBERT, Y., and J-D. DUTIL. Energetic consequences of reproduction in Atlantic cod (Gadus morhua) in relation to pre-spawning level of energy reserve.
- 1200-1330 Lunch break
- CHAIRPERSON: M. J. MORGAN
- 1330-1430 **KEYNOTE ADDRESS:** F. M. SERCHUK, and S. MURAWSKI. Implications variations in maturation, growth, condition and spawning stock biomass production on groundfish management strategies: some real world examples.
- 1430-1600 Discussion and Summing up Symposium

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

(Symposium Co-convenors are in *italic*)

Brazil

Tomás, A.R.G. Insituto de Pesca, Av. Bartolomev de Gusmáo, 192, Santos, SP Phone: +55 13 227 5995 – Fax: +55 13 236 1900 - E-mail: ammarins@bignet.com.br

Canada

Atkinson, D.B.	Science Branch, Dept, of Fisheries & Oceans, P. O. Box 5667, St. John's, Nfld A1C 5X1
	Phone: +709-772-2052 - Fax: +709-772-4188 - E-mail: atkinson@athena.nwafc.nf.ca
Bowering, W.R.	Science Branch, Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans, P. O. Box 5667, St. John's, Nfld A1C 5X1
	Phone: +709-772-2054 - Fax: +709-772-4188 - E-mail: <u>bowering@athena.nwafc.pf.ca</u>
Brodie, W.B.	Science Branch, Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans, P. O. Box 5667, St. John's, Nfld A1C 5X1
	Phone: +709-772-3288 - Fax: +709-772-4188 - E-mail: brodie@athena.nwafc.nf.ca
Burton, M.P.M.	Dept. of Biology, Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, Nfld. A1B 3X9
	Phone: +709-737-3515 - Fax: +709-737-3015 - E-mail: everspm@morgan.ucs.ca

Campbell, J.S.	Science Branch, Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans, P. O. Box 5667, St. John's, Nfld A1C 5X1 Phone: +709-772-2000 - Fax: +709-772-6100 - E-mail: campbell@athena.nwafc.nf.ca
Dutil, J-D.	Min. des Peches et des Oceans, Institut Maurice-Lamontagne, C. P. 1000, 850 route de la Mar. Mont. Joli, Ouebec G5H 374
	Phone: +418-775-0582 - Fax: +418-775-0740 - E-mail: dutili@dto mno ac ca
Koeller, P.A.	Dent, of Fish & Oceans, Bedford Inst. of Oceanography, P.O.Box 1006, Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 4A2
	Phone: +902-426-539 - Fax: +902-426-1862 - E-mail: koellern@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Lambert, Y.	Peches et Oceans, Institut Maurice-Lamontagne, C. P. 1000, 850 route de la
	Mer, Mont-Joli, Quebec G5H 3Z4
	Phone: +418-775-0599 – Fax: -418-775-0740 – E-mail: <u>lamberty@mar.dfo-mpo.ec.ca</u>
Morgan, M.J.	Science Branch, Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans, P. O. Box 5667, St. John's, Nfld A1C 5X1
	Phone: +709-772-2261 - Fax: +709-772-4188 - E-mail: morgan@athena.nwafc.nf.ca
Ouellet, P.	Ministere des Peches et des Oceans, Institut Maurice-Lamontagne, C. P. 1000, 850 route de la
	Mer, Mont-Joli, Quebec G5H 3Z4
Parsons D.G	Phone: +418-7/5-06/5 - Fax: +418-7/5-0546 - E-mail: <u>ouelletp(a)dfo-mpo.gc.ca</u> Science Branch Dent of Fisheries & Oceans P. O. Box 5667. St. John's NBd. A1C 5X1
x misons, p.o.	Phone: +709-772-2093 - Fax: +709-772-4105 - E-mail: parsons@athena.nwafc.nf.ca
Rivard, D.	Fisheries and Oceans, Fisheries Research Branch, 200 Kent St., Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6
Shaltan DA	Phone: +613-990-0281 – Fax: +613-954-0807 – E-mail: <u>rivardd@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</u>
Sneiton, P.A.	Science Branch, Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans, P. O. Box 566/, St. John's, Nfld AIC 5X1 Bhone: +700, 772, 2341 Epsy +709, 772, 4188. E mail: shalter Gathere must for fee
Trippel, E.A.	Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans, Biological Station, St. Andrews, New Brunswick F0B 2X0
FF , -	Phone: +506-529-8854 - Fax: +506-529-5862 - E-mail: trippele@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Walsh, S.J.	Science Branch, Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans, P. O. Box 5667, St. John's, Nfld A1C 5X1
	Phone: +709-772-5478 - Fax: +709-772-4188 - E-mail: <u>walsh@athena.nwafc.nf.ca</u>
Denmark	
MacKenzie, B.K.	Danish Institute for Fisheries Research, Kavalergården 6, DK-2920, Charlottenlund Phone: +45 33 96 3403 – Fax: +45 33 96 3434 – E-mail: <u>brm@dfu.min.dk</u>
Faroe Islands	
Nicolaisen, Å.	Fiskorannsoknarstovan Noatun Postboks 3051 FR-1100 Torshavn
	Phone: +298 1 50 92 - Fax: +298 1 8264 - E-mail: <u>aninic@frs.fo</u>
T 1 1	
rinland	
Aro, E.	Finnish Game & Fisheries Research Institute, P. O. Box 6, FIN-00721 Helsinki
,	Phone: + 358 20575 1253 - Fax: +358 9 20575 1201 - E-mail: <u>eero.aro@rktl.fi</u>
F	
France	
Briand, D.	Institut Francais de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (IFREMER), B.P. 4240,
	F-9/500 Sant Pierre, St. Pierre et Miquelon Phone: +508 41 3083 - Eav: +508 41 4036 - E-mail: brianenm@cancom.net
Rochet, M-J.	IFREMER, Rue de l'Ile d'Yeu, B. P. 2105, 44311 Nantes Cedex 3
	Phone: +33 2 40 37 4121 - Fax: +33 2 40 37 4075 - E-mail: mirochet@ifremer.fr
Federal Republic o	f Germany
Cornus, H.P.	Institut für Seefischerei, Palmaille 9, D-22767, Hamburg
N	Phone: +49 40 38905194 - Fax: +49 40 38905 263 - E-mail: cornus.ish@bfa-fisch.de
Kätz, H-J.	Institut für Seefischerei, Palmaille 9, D-22767 Hamburg
Stein, M.	Institut für Seefischerei Fishery Oceanographic Dent. Palmaille 9. D-22767, Hamburg
	Phone: +49 40 38905 174 - Fax: +49 40 38905 263 - E-mail: stein.ish@bfa-fisch.de

Greenland

Jørgensen, O.A.	Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, Pilestæde 52, DK-1016, Copenhagen
Siegstad, H.	Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, P. O. Box 570, DK-3900 Nuuk Phone: +299 21095 - Fax: +299 25957 - E-mail: <u>helle@natur.gl</u>
Iceland	
Marteinsdottir, G.	Marine Research Institute, P. O. Box 1390, Skulagata 4, 121 Reykjavik Phone: +354 552 0240 - Fax: +354 562 3790 E-mail: runa@hafto.is
Skúladóttir, U.	Marine Research Institute, P. O. Box 1390, Skúlagata 4, 121 Reykjavík Phone: +354 552 2640 – Fax: +354 562 3790 – E-mail: <u>unnur(@:hafro.is</u>
Stefansson, G.	Marine Research Institute, P. O. Box 1390, Skulagata 4, 121 Reykjavik Phone: +354 552 0240 – Fax: +354 562 3790 – E-mail: <u>gunnar@hafro.is</u>
Japan	
Kawahara, S.	National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, 5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu 424 Phone: +81 543 36 6051 - Fax: +81 543 35 9642 - E-mail: <u>kawahara@enyo.affrc.go.jp</u>
Norway	
Ajiad, A.	Insitute of Marine Research, P. O. Box 1870 Nordnes, N-5014 Bergen Phone: +47 55 238 672 - Fax: +47 55 238 687 – E-mail: adnan@imr.no
Albert, O.T.	Norwegin Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ltd., P. O. Box 2511, N-9002 Tromsø Phone: +47 77 52 90 00 - Fax: +47 77 62 91 00 - E-mail: oleta@fiskforsk.norut.no
Bergstad, O.A.	Flødevigen Marine Research Laboratory, Institute of Marine Research, N-4817 His Phone: +47 370 59019 – Fax: +47 370 59001 – E-mail: odd.aksel.bergstad@imr.no
Godo, O.R.	Institute of Marine Research, P. O. 1870 Nordnes, N-5024, Bergen Phone: +47 55 238 500 - Fax: +47 55 238 687 - E-mail: <u>olavrune@imr.no</u>
Gundersen, A.C.	Moere Research, Section of Fisheries, P. O. Box 5075, N-6021 Aalesund Phone: +47 70 111358 – Fax: +47 70 138978 – E-mail: <u>agnes.gundersen@hials.no</u>
Høines, Å.	Institute of Marine Research, P. O. Box 1870 Nordnes, N-5024 Bergen Phone: +47 55 23 86 74 - Fax: +47 55 23 8687 - E-mail: <u>aageh@imr.no</u>
Jakobsen, T.	Institute of Marine Research, P. O. Box 1870 Nordnes, N-5024 Bergen Phone: +47 55 23 86 36 - Fax: +47 55 23 8687 - E-mail: torej@imr.no
Kjesbu, O.S.	Inst. of Marine Res., Dept. of Marine Environment, P.O.Box 1870 Nordnes, N-5024 Bergen Phone: +47 55 23 8487 - Fax: +47 55 23 8687 - E-mail: <u>olav.kjesbu@imr.no</u>
Korsbrekke, K.	Institute of Marine Research, P. O. Box 1870 Nordnes, N-5024 Bergen Phone: +47 55 23 8638 - Fax: +47 55 23 8687 - E-mail: <u>knutk@imr.no</u>
Marshall, C.T.	Institute of Marine Research, P. O. Box 1870 Nordnes, N-5024 Bergen Phone: +47 55 23 8475 - Fax: +47 55 23 8584 - E-mail: tara@imr.no
Stene, A.	Hoyskolen I Alesund, P. O. Box 5104, 6021 Alesund Phone: +47 70 11 1200 – Fax: +47 70 12 8978 – E-mail: <u>aste@hials.no</u>
Thorsen, A.	Institute of Marine Research, P. O. Box 1870 Nordnes, N-5024 Bergen Phone: +47 55 238 444 - E-mail: <u>anders.thorsen@imr.no</u>
Portugal	
Alpoim, R.	Inst. de Investigacao das Pescas e do Mar (IPIMAR), Av. de Brasilia, 1400 Lisbon Phone: +351 1 302 7000 - Fax: +351 1-301-5948 - E-mail: ralpoim@ipimar.pt
Avila de Melo, A.	Inst. de Investigacao das Pescas e do Mar (IPIMAR), Av. de Brasilia, 1400 Lisbon Phone: +351 1 301 7361 – Fax: +351 1 301 5948 – E-mail: amelo@ipimar.pt
Coelho, M.L.	Inst. de Investigacao das Pescas e do Mar (IPIMAR), Av. de Brasilia, 1400 Lisbon Phone: +351 1 302 7000 – E-mail: <u>lucilia@ipimar.pt</u>
Godinho, L.	Inst. de Investigacao das Pescas e do Mar (IPIMAR), Av. de Brasilia, 1400 Lisbon Phone: +3511 302 7000 - Fax: +3511-301-5948
Macara, M.H.M.	Inst. de Investigacao das Pescas e do Mar (IPIMAR), Av. de Brasilia, 1400 Lisbon Phone: +351 1 302 7000

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Santos, P.T. Dept. Zoologia e Antropologia, Faculdade de Ciencias do Porto, Pr. Gomes Teixeira, 4050 Porto Phone: +351 2 2050290 - Fax: +351 2 2004777 - E-mail: <u>ptsantos@fc.up.pt</u>
 Russian Federation
 Babayan, V.K. Russian Federal Research Inst. of Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO), 17, V. Krasnoselskaya,

	Moscow, 107140
	Phone: +70 95 264 9532 - Fax: +70 95 264 9187
Borisov, V.M.	Russian Federal Research Inst. of Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO), 17, V. Krasnoselskaya, Moscow, 107140
	Phone: +70 95 264 4583 - Fax: +70 95 264 9187
Lyubakov, Y.	Lisbo, Av. das Descobertas
•	Phone: +351 1 3010381 - Fax: +351 1 3015010
Rikhter, V.A.	Atlantic Scientific Research Institute of marine Fisheries and Oceanography (AtlantNIRO), 5 Dmitry Donskoy Street, Kaliningrad 23600
	Phone: +70 112 21 5645 - Fax: +70 112 21 9997 - E-mail: scomber@online.ru
Shibanov, V.N.	Knipovich Polar Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (PINRO), 6 Knipovich Street, Murmansk 183763
	Phone: +7 815 2 47 34 61 - Fax: +47 789 10 518 - E-mail: inter@pinro.murmansk.ru
Yaragina, N.	Knipovich Polar Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (PINRO), 6 Knipovich Street, Murmansk 183763
	Phone: +7 815 2 47 2231 - Fax: +47 789 10 518 - E-mail: <u>bottfish@pino.murmansk.ru</u>

Spain

De Cárdenas, E.	Institute Español de Oceanografia, Avenida de Brasil 31, 28020 Madrid, Spain Phone: +34 9 15974443 - Fax: +34 9 15974770 - E-mail: e.decardenas@md.ieo.es
Junquera, S.	Institute Español de Oceanografia, Cabo Estay – Canido, Aptdo 1552, E-36280 Vigo (Pontevedra) Phone: +34 9 86 49 2111 – Fax: 34 9 86 49 2351 – E-mail: susana.junquera@vi.jeo.es
Lloret, J.	Institute of Marine Sciences – CSIC, Marine Resources Dept., PasseigJoan de Borbó s/n, E-08039 Barcelona, Catalonia
	Phone: +34 9 32216416 - Fax: +34 9 32217340 - E-mail: <u>lloret@icm.csic.es</u>
Motos, L.	AZTI, Food & Fish., Tech., Inst., Satrustegi ib. 8, 20008 Denostia-San Sebastian Basque Country, Spain
	Phone: +34 9 43 316385 - Fax: +34 943 212162 - E-mail: lorenzo@rp.azti.es
Murua, H.	AZTI, Food & Fish., Tech., Inst., Satrustegi ib. 8, 20008 Donostia-San Sebastian Basque Country, Spain
	Phone: +34 9 43 316731 - Fax: +34 9 43 216221 - E-mail: hilario@rp.azti.es
Perez-Gandaras, G.	Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas, Eduardo Cabello, 6, 36208 Vigo
	Phone: +34 9 86 231930 – Fax: +34 9 86 292762 – E-mail: <u>german@iim.csic.es</u>
Saborido-Rey, F.	Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas, Eduardo Cabello, 6, 36208 Vigo
•	Phone: +34 9 86 231930 Fax: +34 9 86 292762 E-mail: fran@iim.csic.es
Vazquez, A.	Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas, Eduardo Cabello, 6, 36208 Vigo
•	Phone: +34 9 86 231930 - Fax: +34 9 86 292762 - E-mail: <u>avazquez@iim.csic.es</u>
Turkey	
Özbilgin, H.	Ege Üniversity, Fisheries Faculty, Fish Capture Department, Bornova 35100 – Izmir Phone: +90 (0) 232 3 884000 ext. 1826 – Fax: +90 (0) 232 3 883685 – E-mail: <u>ozbilgin@sufak.ege.edu.tr</u>

United Kingdom

Kunzlik, P. A. FRS Marine Laboratory, P. O. Box 107, Victoria Road, Aberdeen, Scotland Phone: +44 1224 295404 - Fax: +44 1224 295511 - E-mail: <u>p.kunzlik@markb.ac.uk</u>

United States of America

Burnett, J.	US Dept. of Commerce, NOAA/NMFS, NEFSC, 166 Water St., Woods Hole, MA 02543
·	Phone: +508-495-2286 - Fax: +508-495-2301 - E-mail: jburnett@whsun1.wh.whoi.edu
Jones, C.M.	Old Dominion University, 1034 W 45th St., Norfolk, Virginia 23529-0456
	Phone: +757-683-4497 - Fax: +757-683-5293 - E-mail: ciones/aodu.edu

Mayo, R.K.	US Dept. of Commerce, NOAA/NMFS, NEFSC, 166 Water St., Woods Hole, MA 02543 Phone: +\$08-495-2310 - Fax: +\$08-495-2393 - E-mail: ralph.mayo@noaa.gov
Murawski, S.	US Dept. of Commerce, NOAA/NMFS, NEFSC, 166 Water St., Woods Hole, MA 02543 Phone: +508-495-2303 - Fax: +508-495-2393 - F-mail: steve murawski@inoaa.gov
O'Brien, L.	US Dept. of Commerce, NOAA/NMFS, NEFSC, 166 Water St., Woods Hole, MA 02543 Phone: +508-495-2273 – Fax: +508-495-2393 – E-mail: lobrien@wbsun1 wh whoi edu
Pierce, D.E.	Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, 100 Cambridge St., Boston, MA 02202 Phone +617-727-303 - Fax: +617-727-7088 - F-mail: david nierce@state.ma.us
Serchuk, F.M.	US Dept. of Commerce, NOAA/NMFS, NEFSC, 166 Water St., Woods Hole, MA 02543 Phonese 1609 405 2245 Fear 1508 405 2259 Fear 1609 And 160
Wigley, S.E.	US Dept. of Commerce, NOAA/NMFS, NEFSC, 166 Water St., Woods Hole, MA 02543 Phone: +\$08-495-2359 - E-mail: swieley@whsun1.wh.whol.edu

NAFO SECRETARIAT

T. Amaratunga, Assistant Executive Secretary D. C. A. Auby, Word-Processing Secretary F. Keating, Administrative Assistant S. Goodick, Accounting Officer

SECRETARIAT ASSISTANCE

L. Nogueira, Direçao Geral das Pescas e Aquicultura DIFICIO Vasco da Gama, Alcantara 1350 Lisbon, Portugal

APPENDIX I. REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES ENVIRONMENT (STACFEN)

Chairman: M. Stein

Rapporteur: C. Jones

The Committee met at the Hotel Altis, Lisbon, Portugal on 15 September 1998, to consider environment-related topics referred to it by the Scientific Council. Scientists attended from Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), Estonia, European Union (France, Germany, Portugal and Spain), Iceland, Japan, Norway, Russian Federation and the United States of America.

The Committee reviewed the following documents: SCR Doc. 98/79, 109.

1. Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman welcomed the members to the September 1998 Meeting of STACFEN. He informed the Committee that he had made contact with R. Dickson, Centre for Environmental, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), United Kingdom, to give an invited lecture during the June 1999 STACFEN Meeting. He will talk about the most recent scientific findings concerning the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO). Resources concerning the funding are still to be explored by STACFEN Chairman.

2. Review of Oceanographic Information from Shrimp Meeting (6 to 8 September 1998)

The Chairman informed the Committee that there had been oceanographic information given during the 6-8 September 1998 of the Council meeting dealing with shrimp assessments, and that this was completely dealt with during that meeting (see STACFIS Report).

3. Review of Research Documents

Attention was drawn to a paper by Mason, Petrie and Topliss (SCR 98/79). This paper is a data report containing the sea surface temperatures in the NAFO area.

4. Russian/German Data Evaluation (Report on Workshop in Murmansk, 24 to 31 August 1998)

The results of the workshop funded by the Federal Republic of Germany and the Russian Federation were presented. At the workshop, scientists were able to perform geostrophic computations from the World Ocean Atlas dataset. From 1948-73, the United States Coast Guard collected data from July in most years to determine ice flow. These data which were sampled along the Seal Island-Cape Farewell Standard Oceanographic Section were used to calculate current speeds referenced to the 3 000 m level. Data showed periodic changes in current speeds in the NAFO area. When strong water mass gradients were present, strong geostrophic currents resulted.

Comparison with recruitment data from West Greenland cod revealed close, significant correlation during the 1950s and 1960s when strong recruitment paralleled high current speeds in the West Greenland Current System.

5. Other Matters

There being no other matters, the Chairman thanked the participants and the Secretariat and closed the meeting.

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

Chairman: R. K. Mayo

Rapporteurs: Various

The Committee met at the Hotel Altis, Lisbon, Portugal, at various times during 6-18 September, 1998 to consider and report on matters referred to it by the Scientific Council, particularly those pertaining to the provision of scientific advice on shrimp in Div. 3M. Representatives attended from Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), Estonia, European Union (France, Germany, Portugal and Spain), Iceland, Japan, Norway, Russian Federation and United States of America. The Assistant Executive Secretary was in attendance.

I. OPENING

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the participants. The agenda was adopted and the plan of work developed for the meeting.

II. STOCK ASSESSMENTS

1. Shrimp (Pandalus borealis) in Division 3M (SCR Doc. 98/29, 80, 81, 82, 83, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92)

a) Introduction

The shrimp fishery in Div. 3M began in late-April, 1993, when two Canadian offshore vessels were granted exploratory permits to fish in the area. Initial catch rates were favourable and, shortly thereafter, vessels from several Scandinavian countries joined. Fishing activity (monitored by Canada) increased to include about 50 vessels in early-July but subsequently declined over the remainder of 1993. Only 4 vessels were reported fishing shrimp at the end of December. Fishing continued into 1994 at low intensity. Activity increased over winter to include 17 vessels by late-February and remained near that level until late-March, decreasing thereafter. From early-April to mid-June, the number of vessels increased from 7 to 47 and then decreased steadily to 3 at the end of 1994.

This pattern of increasing activity to June-July followed by a decrease to the end of the year continued in subsequent years. The maximum number of vessels observed was 71 in July 1995, 91 in July 1996, 35 in June-July 1997 and 33 in June 1998.

STACFIS estimated catches (preliminary) were approximately 28 000 tons in 1993, 24 000 tons in 1994, 33 000 tons in 1995, 49 000 tons in 1996 and 27 000 tons in 1997. Catch statistics to August 1998 indicate removals of about 19 000 tons. This likely will result in a total catch of about 30 000 tons by the end of the year. Vessels from as many as 15 nations have participated since 1993.

It was acknowledged that overpack (i.e. actual weight > nominal package weight) has likely existed in the shrimp fishery on Flemish Cap, since its beginning in 1993. Estimates of the overpack vary with product type but are believed to range between 10 and 20%. Most catches in the table below are, therefore, underestimates. No new estimates of the overpack were provided. STACFIS estimates of preliminary catches (tons) by nation and year are given below.

All and a second se		the second se				
`````	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998 ¹
Canada	3 724	1 041	970	906	807	426
EU/Denmark	800	400	200	,		720
EU/Portugal	300		150		170	203
EU/Spain	240	300	158	50	421	243
Estonia	- 10	1 081	2 092	1 900	3 240	3129
Faroe Islands	8 545	6 567	5 987	8 677	7 387	6 866
Greenland	3 788	2 275	2 400	1 107	105	853
Iceland	2 243	2 300	7 623	21 077	6 483	4 072
Latvia		300	350	1940	997	675
Lithuania		1 225	675	2 900	1 785	1707
Norway	7 183	8 460	9 534	5 595	3 663	983
Poland					288	
Russia		300	2838	4 444	1 090	
Honduras St. Vincent	1 265	75			150	
Total	28 088	24 324	32 977	48 596	26 586	19 157

¹ STACFIS estimate to August not including joint-ventulre arrangements.

### b) Input Data

### i) Commercial fishery data (SCR Doc. 98/80, 82, 85, 87, 89, 90, 92)

Information from the fleets of several nations showed that the spatial distribution of effort differed among years. Fishing effort shifted to the west and southwest portions of the Flemish Cap in 1994 and 1995, compared to 1993 but returned to the eastern slope in 1996. In 1998 data from several fleet showed a concentration of effort in the north. Further, fishing effort occurred in much shallower depths in both 1995 and 1996. In 1997, the Icelandic fleet showed an overall shift in effort back to the deeper water.

A data set was constructed from the logbooks of Canadian, Greenlandic, Icelandic and Norwegian vessels and was used to monitor trends in CPUE. For the calculation of standardized CPUE, the data were selected for single trawls only and Norwegian data were omitted due to lack of geographical information.

Standardized CPUEs from the integrated data set, addressing differences due to seasonality, area and fishing power, showed a large decrease from 1993 to 1994 and thereafter have remained stable. STACFIS noted that the standardization model requires further investigation, particularly addressing the technological changes that have taken place in the fishery.

The composition of the shrimp catch has also changed over time. The percentage of males (numbers) increased from about 44% in 1993 to 72% in 1995, decreased to 57% in 1997 and increased slightly to 62% in 1998. In 1996, 59% of the catch in numbers was due to males of the 1993 year-class which was also heavily fished in 1995. In 1997, about 56% of shrimp caught were males of the 1993 and 1994 year-classes and in 1998 57% were males of the 1994 and 1995 year-classes. The large females caught in 1994 were the remains of the 1988 year-class, which did not contribute significantly to the fishery in subsequent years.

Data on shrimp discarding from the Canadian and Greenlandic shrimp fisheries in 1998 showed that discard levels remained low as in previous years, indicating that shrimp of all sizes were being kept.

Data on catch composition from Canada, Norway and Iceland showed that redfish (*Sebastes* spp.) occurred most frequently as by-catch. Species such as cod and Greenland halibut were taken only in small quantities. In 1993 and 1994 redfish by-catch was high but has since declined to negligible levels (<1%).

Although redfish by-catch was much lower during the 1995 -98 period, it is not clear whether this was due to the reduction of maximum bar spacing from 28 mm in 1994 to 22 mm in 1995 or to the absence of strong redfish recruitment.

### ii) Research survey data

**Environmental data** (SCR Doc. 98/86). The water mass over the Flemish Cap is a mixture of Labrador Current and North Atlantic Current waters. Oceanographic data from the summer of 1998 on the Flemish Cap were presented and compared to the long-term (1961-90) average, and to conditions during the summer of 1997. The cold near-surface temperatures (0.5 to 2.0°C below normal) experienced over the Cap during 1993, 1995 and 1996 had warmed to 0.5 to 1.5°C above normal in July of 1997 and increased to 2°C above normal by the summer of 1998. Bottom temperatures over the Cap were slightly below normal during 1997 but up to 0.5°C above normal during 1998, Upper layer (top 100 m) salinities were above the long-term mean (by 0.2-0.5 PSU) during both 1997 and 1998, otherwise about normal. In general the colder than normal temperatures experienced over the continental shelf and on the Flemish Cap from the late-1980s up to 1995 moderated by the summer of 1996 and continued above normal up to July of 1998. As in previous years, summer chlorophyll levels in the upper 100-m of the water column over the Cap were higher compared to the adjacent Grand Bank. Dissolved oxygen levels were about normal for the region. Both the measured currents and the geostrophic estimates, while showing considerable differences and variability between years, indicate a general anticyclonic circulation around the Flemish Cap.

EU surveys (SCR Doc. 98/81). EU groundfish surveys were conducted on Flemish Cap in July from 1988 to 1998. Minimum trawlable biomass estimates of shrimp were calculated (see text Table below) from the catches obtained using a groundfish bottom trawl. Relative shrimp biomass from 1991 to 1993 was substantially higher than during the 1988-90 and 1994-97 periods. The 1994 estimate is likely biased downward due to a larger mesh liner in the codend of the trawl. The 1998 estimates, which showed increases for both male and female components, cannot be compared to earlier years due to a change in codend mesh size resulting from the loss of the standard gear during the survey.

Vane	Biomass Index	Average catch per mile	Standard Error	Female Biomass Index (tons)
Ical	(1013)	(\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\	Standard Error	(1015)
1988	2 164	1.54	± 0.28	1 874
1989	1 923	1.37	± 0.24	1 340
1990	2 139	1.53	± 0.21	. 1 132
1991	8 211	5.83	± 0.71	5,362
1992	16 531	11.75	± 1.86	11 509
1993	9 256	6.57	± 1.04	6 839
1994*	3 337	2.37	± 0.35	2 823
1995	5 413	3.85	± 0.44	4 286
1996	6 502	4.62	± 0.34	4 149
l <b>99</b> 7	5 096	3.62	±0.25	3 807
1998*	16 620	11.81	±0.80	8 091

* not comparable to others years because of different codend mesh size.

The surveys also showed that biomass in most years was highest in the western, northern and northeastern parts of the Flemish Cap, and in depths ranging from about 250 to 550 m. In 1994 and 1995, proportionately more biomass was found in western and south-western areas while catch-per-tow in some eastern strata declined substantially, consistent with the westward shift in commercial fishing effort. Fishing effort by some fleets in 1996 returned to the eastern slopes where the survey showed an improvement of shrimp catch rates over the previous two years. In 1997, a large area of low density was observed in the north, which was more extensive than in previous years. High concentrations were present in the southwestern and southeastern areas in 1998, but little commercial activity occurred in these areas.

Age interpretation of the size distributions from the 1988 to 1994 surveys and the 1993 and 1994 commercial fishery samples identified the 1988 year-class as strong. This year-class contributed substantially to the fishery in 1993 and 1994 but was less important in 1994. The recruitment of the 1991 year-class helped maintain catch rates in the 1994 fishery. By 1995, the 1988 year-class was no longer important to the fishery and, although catch numbers were dominated by the 1992 and 1993 year-classes, the latter was not well represented in the 1995 survey. The 1993 year-class was dominant throughout the area surveyed in 1996 and in commercial fishery catches during the first half of that year. The 1996 survey did not detect the 1994 year-class, which appeared in the fishery and a Canadian survey during the second half of 1996. In 1997, samples from the EU survey showed the same size/age groups of males and females that were evident in the fishery. Survey samples in 1998 were dominated by males at age two and three, but were not comparable to previous years due to the changes in mesh size mentioned above. The magnitude of the impact of this change will be evaluated and reported to STACFIS at the June 1909 meeting.

**Faroese survey** (SCR Doc. 98/83). Stratified-random surveys were conducted in June 1997 and in July 1998 by a Faroese shrimp trawler. Single and twin Angmassalik 3000 shrimp trawls with 40 mm codend mesh size were used in 1997 and results were standardized for area swept. In 1998 only single trawls were used. Ages 1 through 6 were present in the length frequency data in both years. The minimum trawlable biomass, estimated by areal expansion, was about 16 000 tons in 1997 and 22 800 tons in 1998 but the uncertainty in the estimates has not been quantified. Any real increase in biomass would likely be due to the continued growth and recruitment of the 1994 and 1995 year-classes.

### iii) Fecundity study (SCR Doc. 98/88)

A study designed to investigate individual potential fecundity of *Pandalus borealis* showed that maturation of shrimp from Flemish Cap was similar to that observed in the Barents Sea and that there was no significant egg loss during spawning. Average fecundity was similar to that observed in Barents Sea but lower than in Sptizbergen.

#### c) Assessment Results

Commercial CPUE. The CPUE data are difficult to interpret as an index of abundance due to major changes in fishing patterns between years (e.g. targeting small shrimp in shallow water or larger in deeper water and the dominance of twin trawling in recent years). Standardized catch rates indicate a substantial decline between 1993 and 1994 but no clear trend thereafter (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Shrimp in Div. 3M: Standardized CPUE index.

*Recruitment.* Evaluation of recruitment strength can presently only be inferred retrospectively from the relative importance of year classes in the fishery. The 1988, 1993 and possibly the 1994 year-classes appear to be stronger than others. With currently available data, no prediction of recruitment is possible.

*Biomass.* Indices of female biomass from the EU-surveys were relatively stable from 1995 to 1997 (Fig. 2). Although a large increase is indicated in 1998, the results of the survey were not comparable to the previous years (see section b.ii). The Faroese surveys showed an increase in total biomass from 1997 to 1998, however, confidence intervals for the estimates were not available.





State of the Stock. STACFIS is not able to predict the biomass of the 1994 and 1995 year-classes which will remain in 1999. Further, as noted above, STACFIS is unable to estimate the size of subsequent yearclasses or predict possible recruitment. Although CPUE information has been used previously as an indicator of stock size, there are concerns about these data due to the technological changes which have occurred in the fishery but are not accounted for in the present model. It is therefore not possible for STACFIS to provide any estimate of current or future stock size.

STACFIS noted, however, that there are indications of increases in biomass between 1997 and 1998 in both commercial and research data although interpretation of this is uncertain.

STACFIS considers it important to recognize that its ability to assess the resource will not improve until a time series of research surveys directed for shrimp is developed which can allow for the prediction of recruitment.

#### d) Reference Points

The precautionary, qualitative "Traffic Light" checklist proposed by Caddy (SCR Doc. 98/8), was viewed positively as a first step to applying the Precautionary Approach to shrimp in Div. 3M and, possibly, to other stocks which can be described as data poor (time series and/or quality). The method has the potential for incorporating data on stock composition, distribution, environment, predators, etc.

### e) Research Recommendations

Progress was made on some of the research recommendations from 1997. Stomach content data from the 10 main groundfish species on Flemish Cap are being investigated for consumption of shrimp, and the possible development of a recruitment index and a report on progress should be available in 1999. A standardized database for biological samples was prepared for two nations, but more information is necessary.

Several recommendations from the September 1997 Meeting were not addressed and are repeated below:

- Age composition of the EU survey results should be estimated to provide insights into mortality and yearclass strengths.
- Contracting Parties contribute to the catch and effort dataset according to the format specified in SCS Doc. 96/19.
- Estimates of overpack should be obtained for all nations fishing for shrimp in Div. 3M and these
  estimates be included in the catch statistics.

At this meeting STACFIS recommended that, for shrimp in Div. 3M:

- A refinement of the standardized CPUE index in relation to the appropriate analytical methods and addressing the changes in fishing technology over time be conducted.
- The implications of the change in the relative efficiency of the different codend mesh sizes used during the 1998 EU groundfish survey be evaluated.
- Relationships between shrimp in Div. 3M and those in adjacent areas in Div. 3LN and farther north in Div. 2J and 3K should be investigated.

Because the 1997 and 1998 Faroes surveys do not address the problem of providing a recruitment index, the 1996 **recommendation** was repeated. "A directed research survey for shrimp on Flemish Cap should be initiated with the primary goal of obtaining a reliable recruitment index, given that the EU-survey does not provide reliable estimates of shrimp at age two. The survey would also provide extensive data on the distribution and demography of the shrimp stock throughout the area. Hydrographic information should be collected, including data on currents, in conjunction with the survey."

### 2. Shrimp in Divisions 3LNO

STACFIS noted that the Scientific Council will provide information on shrimp in Div. 3LNO as requested by the Fisheries Commission (see Annex 1, item 8).

### III. ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONDUCTING STOCK ASSESSMENTS IN 1999

### i. Update List of Designated Experts

The list of Designated Experts for 1998 was reviewed and the following were tentatively identified for the 1999 assessments:

From the Science Branch, Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Centre, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, P. O. Box 5667, St. John's, Newfoundland AIC 5X1, Canada
 [Telefax: +709 772-4188 - Tel. No.: see list of participants - E-mail: Surname@athena.nwafc.nf.ca]

for	Cod in Div. 3NO	D. Stansbury
	Redfish in Div. 3LN	D. Power
	American plaice in Div. 3LNO	M. J. Morgan
	Witch flounder in Div. 3NO	W. R. Bowering
	Yellowtail flounder in Div. 3LNO	S. J. Walsh
	Greenland halibut in SA 2 + Div. 3KLMNO	W. B. Brodie
	Roundnose grenadier in SA 2+3	D. B. Atkinson
	Squid in SA 3+4	E. G. Dawe
	Shrimp in Div. 3LNO	D. Parsons
	-	

From the Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas, Eduardo Cabello, 6, 36208 Vigo, Spain [Telefax: +34 9 86 292762 - Tel No.: +34 9 86 231930 - E-mail: avazquez@iim.csic.es]

for Cod in Div. 3M

A. Vazquez

- From the Instituto Espanol de Oceanografia, Cabo Estay - Candido, Aptdo 1552, E-36280 Vigo (Ponteverda), Spain

[Telefax: +34 9 86 492351 - Tel No.: +34 9 86 492111 - E-mail: susana.junquera@vi.ieo.es]

for Roughead Grenadier in SA 2+3

S. Junquera

From the Instituto Espanol de Oceanografia, Avenida de Brasil 31, 28020 Madrid, [Telefax: +34 91 5974770 - Tel. No.: +34 91 5974443 - E-mail: e.decardenas@md.ieo.es]

for American plaice in Div. 3M

E. de Cárdenas

 From the Institute de Investigação das Pescas e do Mar (IPIMAR), Av. Brasilia, 1400 Lisbon, Portugal [Tel. No.: +351 1 301 7361 - Fax: +351 1 301 5948 - E-mail: amelo@ipimar.pt]

for Redfish in Div. 3M

#### A. Avila de Melo

From the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, P. O. Box 570, DK-3900 Nuuk, Greenland [Telefax: +299 25957 - Tel No.: +299 21095 - E-mail: helle@natur.gh.gl]

for Northern shrimp in SA 0+1

H. Siegstad

From the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, Box 2151, DK-1016, Copenhagen K. Denmark [Telefax: +45 33 693406 - Tel No.: +45 33 603461 - E-mail: grfioaj@inet.uni2.dk]

 for
 Roundnose grenadier in SA 0+1
 O. Jørgensen

 Greenland halibut in SA 0+1
 O. Jørgensen

 From the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, P. O. Box 570, DK-3900 Nuuk, Greenland [Telefax: +299 25957 - Tel No.: +299 21095 - E-mail: claus@natur.gh.gl]

for Greenland halibut in Div. 1A

C. Simonsen

H. J. Rätz

H. J. Rätz

- From the Institut fur Seefischerei, Palmaille 9, D-22767 Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany [Telefax: +49 40 38905 263 - Tel No.: +49 40 38905 169 - E-mail: hajoraetz@msn.com]

> for Redfish in SA 1 Other Fish in SA 1

From the Marine Research Institute, Skulagata 4, P. O. Box 1390, 121 - Reykjavik, Iceland [Telefax: +354 562 3790 - Tel No.: +354 552 0240- E-mail: unnur@hafro.is]

for Shrimp in Div. 3M

U. Skúladóttir

 From Knipovich Polar Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (PINRO), 6 Knipovich Street, Murmansk, 183763, Russia [Telefax: +47 789 10518 - Tel No.: +47 789 10423 - E-mail: inter@pinro.murmansk.ru]

for Capelin in Div. 3NO

V. Shibanov

- The designated expert for the following stock is yet to be determined

for Northern shrimp in Denmark Strait

The Secretariat was requested to confirm the availability of the Designated Experts from their respective laboratories. Confirmation of Designated Experts is requested by 1 January 1999 and no response by that time will be taken to mean no objection to the nomination.

### 2. Protocol for Compiling Assessment Reports

STACFIS reviewed several proposals to modify existing protocol for reviewing assessment results as well as modifications to the structure of the STACFIS report. In general it was agreed that greater integration of basic fishery and survey data in advance of the Scientific Council meeting would be enable STACFIS to devote more attention to assessment analyses rather than the review of background data. This approach depends on timely exchange of data for each stock among experts and adherence to deadlines for submission of documentation and data (10 days before the begin of June meeting) by the Designated Expert as required by the Scientific Council. STACFIS also noted the progress of the ad-hoc Working Group on Biological Information Data Base developing means of electronic exchange and archival of basic assessment data, and encourages further work in this area. It is intended that data be exchanged at the summary level only, leaving quality assurance and summarization of the data in the hands of experts from each country who are most familiar with the collection

and processing of the data. The advantages of this approach become more evident in subsequent years as data formats become standardized, leading to an archive for all summary data on a given stock.

As a second step in the process of revising STACFIS protocol, the order of presentation of the assessments would be changed to reflect an area-based approach. While this approach is presently in place to some degree, the present order of presentation often reflects the availability of documentation rather than a prescribed order. The structure of the STACFIS report would also be revised to reflect this area-based approach. For example, all assessments from the Flemish Cap would be presented in sequence in the report, preceded by an overview of the area which would incorporate brief discussions of overall trends in the fishery (i.e. catch and effort) and in the stock as determined from fishery-independent means. The overview section would also contain a brief description of the environment if available. STACFIS suggests at least 3 distinct areas: Div. 3M, Div. 3LNO, and Subareas 0 and 1. An additional section, containing results for the widely distributed stocks such as Greenland halibut in Subareas 2 and 3 and *Illex* in Subareas 3 and 4 would complete the STACFIS report.

STACFIS will review these matters in further detail at the June 1999 Scientific Council meeting.

#### IV. OTHER MATTERS

### 1. Review of SCR and SCS Documents

STACFIS noted that there were no additional SCR and SCS documents to be reviewed.

#### 2. Other Business

#### a) Acknowledgments

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked the participants and the Secretariat for their work during the meeting, and adjourned the meeting.

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

### Chairman: V. N. Shibanov

### Rapporteur: L. Motos

The Committee met at the Hotel Altis, Lisbon, Portugal, during 16 September, to discuss various matters pertaining to statistics and fisheries research, as referred to it by the Scientific Council. Representatives attended from Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), Estonia, European Union (France, Germany, Portugal and Spain), Iceland, Japan, Norway, Russian Federation and United States of America.

### 1. Opening

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming participants. L. Motos (EU Spain) was appointed rapporteur. In the review of the Provisional Agenda, the Chairman proposed additional items will be incorporated under Other Matters. The Committee then adopted the agenda.

### 2. Fisheries Statistics

#### a) Progress Report on Secretariat Activities in 1998

### i) Acquisition of STATLANT 21 data

The Assistant Executive Secretary presented the updated table of STATLANT 21A and 21B data received to 14 September 1998.

	STAT	ILANT 21A (dea	dline 15 May)	STATLANT 21B (deadline 30 June)		
Country	1995	1996	1997	1995	1996	1997
BGR	-		-	-	•	•
CAN-M	04 Jul 96	20 May 97	22 Jun 98	26 Feb 96	04 Mar 98	• -
CAN-N	31 May 96	16 May 97	02 Jun 98	21 Apr 97	-	-
CAN-Q	14 May 96	20 Jun 97	12 May 98	02 July 97	26 Aug 97	02 Sep 98
CUB	30 May 97	30 May 97	27 may 98	30 May 97	30 May 97	-
EST	16 Sep 97	17 Sep 97	· -	16 Sep 97	17 Sep 97	27 May 98
E/DNK	15 Aug 96		•	15 Aug 96	-	
E/FRA-M	-		- '	-	-	-
E/DEU	No fishing	04 Jun 97	23 Mar 98	No fishing	24 Jun 97	18 Mar 98
E/NLD	No fishing	No fishing	•	No fishing	No fishing	-
E/PRT	12 May 96	14 May 97	24 Apr 98	04 Sep 96	04 Sep 97	-
E/ESP	05 Sep 96	04 Jun 97	14 Sep 98	11 Sep 96	14 Sep 98	14 Sep 98
E/GBR	No fishing	16 July 97	-	No fishing	-	· _
FRO	24 Oct 97	24 Oct 97	-	-	-	
GRL	20 Aug 96	06 Jun 97	28 May 98	09 Oct 96	-	-
ISL	27 May 96	16 May 97	24 July 98	· -	12 Jun 97	-
JPN	02 Apr 96	14 Apr 97	14 Apr 98	02 Apr 96	24 Apr 97	14 Apr 98
KOR	No fishing	-	-	No fishing	, <b>-</b>	-
LVA	21 May 96	17 Apr 97	22 Apr 98	21 May 96	17 Apr 97	04 Jun 98
LTU	17 Feb 98	17 Feb 98	17 Feb 98	17 Feb 98	17 Feb 98	-
NOR	31 May 96	22 May 97	-	27 Jun 96	-	-
POL	No fishing	•	· •	No fishing	-	-
ROM	•	-	-	-	-	-
RUS	23 May 96	22 July 97	03 Apr 98	14 Jul 96	08 Jul 98	-
USA	-	-	-	-	-	•
FRA-SP	18 Jul 96	06 Mar 97	-	12 Sep 96	06 Mar 97	-
HND*	-	-	-	-	*	-
VEN*	-	-	*	<del>-</del> .	-	+

* Non-Contracting Party.

ii) Publication of Statistical Information

There were no statistical publications since June 1998.

### b) Update on the Establishment of NAFO Internet Website

STACREC was informed that this item was discussed during STACPUB and Scientific Council meetings.

### 3. Review of SCR and SCS Documents

No documents were available for presentation at the current STACREC Meeting.

### 4. Other Matters

#### a) Working Group on Biological Information Database

The Chairman, on behalf of the *ad hoc* Working Group (E. De Cárdenas, EU Spain), which was established in September 1997, presented a first approach to setting up a NAFO scientific database for transmission of fisheries data. The database was described to comprise five kinds of files in which scientific data on catch, effort, length and age compositions, mean weight-at-age, selectivity and tagging can be stored.

STACREC agreed that the implementation of such a format could improve the way to handle scientific information, which usually is very dispersed in National Research Reports. It was agreed this could be the basis to implement a scientific database compilation, which could be very useful for scientific assessment.

STACREC recommended that the Working Group on Biological Information Database proceed forward to develop a data exchange protocol and data format for a candidate stock based on the structure of the biological information files mentioned above. The work will be undertaken by correspondence under the direction of the Chairman (E. De Cárdenas, EU Spain) and it was agreed that the progress be reported at the June 1999 Meeting.

### b) Shark, Other Elasmobranchs and Non-utilized Resources

STACREC noted that ICES has incorporated a list of species of sharks and skates into the STATLANT 27A questionnaire. It was suggested that a similar list of elasmobranch species be presented for the June 1999 Scientific Council Meeting, including all species likely to occur as by-catches in current fisheries.

STACTREC reiterated the recommendation made at the June 1998 Meeting that an expanded list of individually identified species of elasmobranchs be included in the STATLANT 21 A questionnaire and that the national authorities be requested to submit catch statistics with a maximum degree of detail.

#### c) Publication of Conversion Factors

STACREC noted that as a result of joint work of EU statistical office and FAO an extensive list of conversion factors has been finalized. About 300 conversion factors from the North Atlantic have been compiled. STACREC was informed that FAO had undertaken the preparation of the publication.

# d) CWP 18th Session, July 1999 Session

STACREC noted that the CWP 18th Session will be held in Luxembourg in July 1999, and the Scientific Council had recommended (in June 1998) that the Assistant Executive Secretary and STACREC Chairman should attend that meeting.

It was noted that the Scientific Council usually nominated a national representative to also attend. STAREC was not able to make a nomination during this meeting. STACREC requested the national representatives to consider this matter and a national nominee be presented to the Scientific Council in the near future.

# e) Data Harmonisation Exercise

At the June 1998 Meeting, the Scientific Council was informed of the STATLANT data harmonization exercise conducted between NAFO and FAO. STACREC noted that a substantial number of discrepancies had been identified between the NAFO and FAO databases, and reiterated its concern that harmonization of the data sets be continued. In order to do this, the results were given to various (4) national representatives during the June 1998 Meeting. The Secretariat reported that no reactions had been received to date. STACREC requested the national representatives to address this issue and report back to the Assistant Executive Secretary in the near future.

### f) Acknowledgements

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Secretariat, the rapporteur and all meeting participants for their contributions.

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### APPENDIX IV. REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS (STACPUB)

### Chairman: W. B. Brodie

### Rapporteur: W. B. Brodie

The Committee met at Hotel Altis in Lisbon, Portugal on September 17, 1998. In attendance were W. B. Brodie (Chairman) (Canada), D. B. Atkinson (Canada) for J. Morgan (Canada), V. A. Rikhter (Russian Federation), F. M. Serchuk (U.S.A.), M. Stein (EU-Germany), A. Vazquez (EU-Spain), and the Assistant Executive Secretary (T. Amaratunga).

### 1. Opening

The Chairman welcomed the Committee, and the agenda was adopted.

### 2. Review of Scientific Publications

### a) Status of Papers from 1998 Symposium

STACPUB noted that papers from the 1998 Symposium will undergo the usual peer review process for publication in a volume of the Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Science. The Symposium convenors had agreed to coordinate the review and editorial process in consultation with the Assistant Executive Secretary. Papers presented during the Symposium are due at the NAFO Secretariat by the end of September. STACPUB recommended that the Scientific Council report on the 1998 Symposium be placed on the NAFO website.

### b) Other Reviews

Volume 23 of the Journal was delayed, waiting for confirmation from the author on galleys for one paper. STACPUB agreed the author will be contacted, and if the galleys are correct, the paper should be published. If the galleys are not acceptable, and not returned with corrections by 15 October 1998, the paper will be withdrawn from Volume 23.

### 3. Production Costs and Revenues for Scientific Council Publications

#### a) Review of Costs and Revenues

STACPUB noted that the dialogue on the budgetary process of NAFO, begun in June 1998, between the Executive Committee of Scientific Council and the Executive Secretary should continue. These discussions should also include costs related to the NAFO website.

### 4. Promotion and Distribution of Scientific Publications

### a) Invitational Papers

An invitational paper on shrimp, along with 2 other manuscripts, are the only papers currently available for publication in Volume 24 of the Journal. Should this be the situation after Volume 23 is published, a decision will be taken whether to publish Volume 24 with only 3 papers, or to wait until other papers are ready for inclusion in this volume. In the meantime, efforts will be made to speed up the review and editorial process for manuscripts currently under consideration for publication, to see if they can be published in Volume 24.

### , b) Distribution of Abstracts from Research Documents - ASFA

The NAFO Secretariat will change forms and announcements to request abstracts for SCR Documents. The Index and Lists of Titles will be made available electronically, and ASFA will be informed. The electronic versions will be arranged in such a way as to facilitate searches, e.g. for keywords, etc.

### c) NAFO Website

STACPUB recommended that Scientific Council advice given in 1998 for various stocks should be placed on the NAFO website.

### d) Scientific Citation Index (SCI)

A letter was written by the Chairman of STACPUB in early September requesting inclusion of the Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Science in SCI.

### 5. Review of Papers for Possible Publication

# a) Papers Presented at the September 1998 Meeting

SCR Document 98/79 was considered, and it was concluded that this paper could be placed on the NAFO website, following consultation with the authors. SCR Doc. 98/80 was also considered, and the author will be contacted with suggestions on upgrading the paper for future publication.

#### b) Contributions not Considered at the 1998 June Meeting

There were no further papers from the June 1998 Meeting recommended for publication. It was noted that any paper received since the June 1998 Meeting, which is considered for Scientific Council Studies, should receive a preliminary review by an Associate Editor, prior to the usual editorial process currently in place for such papers.

### 6. Other Matters

STACPUB examined the current report of STACFAD and noted with concern that only \$5 000 (of the requested \$16 000) had been budgeted in 1999 for the modernization and maintenance of the NAFO website. As well, no funds were allocated for staff training, or for the computer system requested by Scientific Council for its June 1999 Meeting. It was concluded that these decisions would have a negative impact on Scientific Council work in the upcoming year.

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked the participants and the NAFO Secretariat for their work, and the meeting was adjourned.

### APPENDIX V. AGENDA SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING, 6-18 SEPTEMBER 1998

- I. Opening (Chairman: H.-P. Cornus)
  - 1. Appointment of Rapporteur
  - 2. Adoption of Agenda
  - 3. Attendance of Observers
  - 4. Plan of work
- II. Fisheries Environment (STACFEN Chairman: M. Stein)
  - 1. Chairman's introduction: report activities
  - 2. Review of oceanography information from shrimp meeting (6 to 8 September 1998)
  - 3. Review of research documents
  - 4. Russian/German data evaluation (Report on Workshop in Murmansk, 24 to 31 August 1998)
  - 5. Other matters
- III. Fishery Science (STACFIS Chairman: R. K. Mayo)
  - 1. Opening
  - 2. Matters related to stock assessments
    - a) Assessment of Shrimp in Division 3M (see Annex 1)
    - b) Information on Shrimp in Divisions 3LNO (see Annex 1, item 8)
  - 3. Arrangements for conducting stock assessments in 1999
    - a) Update list of Designated Experts
    - b) Protocol for compiling assessment reports
  - 4. Other matters
    - a) Review of SCR and SCS Documents
    - b) Other business
- IV. Research Coordination (STACREC Chairman: V. Shibanov)
  - 1. Opening
  - 2. Fisheries statistics
    - a) Progress report on Secretariat activities in 1998
      - i) Acquisition of STATLANT 21 data
      - ii) Publication of statistical information
    - b) Update on the establishment of NAFO Internet Website
  - 3. Review of SCR and SCS Documents
  - 4. Other matters
    - a) Working Group on biological information database
    - b) Other business
- V. Publications (STACPUB Chairman: W.B. Brodie)
  - 1. Opening
  - 2. Review of scientific publications
    - a) Status of papers from 1998 Symposium
    - b) Other reviews

3. Production costs and revenues for Scientific Council publications

a) Review of costs and revenues

- 4. Promotion and distribution of scientific publications
  - a) Invitational papers
  - b) Distribution of Abstracts from Research Documents ASFA
  - c) NAFO Website
  - d) Scientific Citation Index (SCI)
- 5. Review of papers for possible publication
  - a) Papers presented at the September 1998 Meeting
  - b) Contributions not considered at the 1998 June Meeting
- 6. Other matters

VI. Management Advice and Responses to Special Requests

- 1. Shrimp in Division 3M
- 2. Shrimp in Divisions 3LNO
- 3. Special Requests from concurrent Fisheries Commission meeting
- VII. Development of Precautionary Approach
  - 1. Dates and place of Spring 1999 meeting
  - 2. Terms of reference for Spring 1999 meeting
  - 3. Joint Meeting with Fisheries Commission on Precautionary Approach
- VIII. Review of Future Meeting Arrangements
  - Scientific Council Meeting on Northern Shrimp November 1998 (see Annex 2 and 3)
  - 2. Scientific Council Meeting on Precautionary Approach Spring 1999
  - 3. Joint Meeting with Fisheries Commission on Precautionary Approach
  - 4. Scientific Council Meeting June 1999
  - 5. Special Session and Annual Meeting 1999
  - 6. Scientific Council Meeting June 2000
- IX. Future Special Sessions
  - .1. Progress Report on Symposium in 1999
  - 2. Review of Proposal for Special Session 2000
- X. Other Matters
  - 1. Scientific Council Working Procedures
  - 2. Chairman's Report on intersessional activities
  - 3. Review of proposed intersessional activities
  - 4. Other business

XI. Adoption of Reports

- 1. Consideration of report from the Symposium of 9-11 September 1998
- Committee reports of present meeting (STACFEN, STACFIS, STACREC, STACPUB)
- 3. Report of Scientific Council 6-18 September 1998
- XII. Adjournment

### ANNEX 1. FISHERIES COMMISSION'S REQUEST FOR SCIENTIFIC ADVICE ON MANAGEMENT IN 1999 OF CERTAIN STOCKS IN SUBAREAS 3 AND 4

 The Fisheries Commission with the concurrence of the Coastal State as regards the stocks below which occur within its jurisdiction, requests that the Scientific Council, at a meeting in advance of the 1998 Annual Meeting, provide advice on the scientific basis for the management of the following fish and invertebrate stocks or groups of stocks in 1999:

> Cod (Div. 3NO; Div. 3M) Redfish (Div. 3LN; Div. 3M) American plaice (Div. 3LNO; Div. 3M) Witch flounder (Div. 3NO) Yellowtail flounder (Div. 3LNO) Capelin (Div. 3NO) Squid (Sub-areas 3 and 4) Shrimp (Div. 3M) Greenland halibut (Sub-areas 2 and 3)

- . The Commission and the Coastal State request the Scientific Council to consider the following options in assessing and projecting future stock levels for those stocks listed above:
  - a) For those stocks subject to analytical-type assessments, the status of the stocks should be reviewed and management options evaluated in terms of their implications for fishable stock size in both the short and long term. As general reference points, the implications of fishing at F_{0.1}, F₁₉₉₇ and F_{max} in 1999 and subsequent years should be evaluated. The present stock size and spawning stock size should be described in relation to those observed historically and those expected in the longer term under this range of options.

Opinions of the Scientific Council should be expressed in regard to stock size, spawning stock sizes, recruitment prospects, catch rates and TACs implied by these management strategies for 1999 and the long term. Values of F corresponding to the reference points should be given. Uncertainties in the assessment should be evaluated.

- b) For those stocks subject to general production-type assessments, the time series of data should be updated, the status of the stock should be reviewed and management options evaluated in the way described above to the extent possible. In this case, the general reference points should be the level of fishing effort or fishing mortality (F) which is calculated to be required to take the MSY catch in the long term and two-thirds of that effort level.
- c) For those resources of which only general biological and/or catch data are available, no standard criteria on which to base advice can be established. The evidence on the stock should be evaluated in the context of management requirements for the long-term sustainability.
- d) Spawning stock biomass levels that might be considered necessary for maintenance of sustained recruitment should be recommended for each stock. In those cases where present spawning stock size is a matter of scientific concern in relation to the continuing productive potential of the stock, management options should be offered that specifically respond to such concerns.
- e) Presentation of the results should include the following:
  - i) For stocks for which analytical-type assessments are possible:
    - A graph of yield and fishing mortality for at least the past 10 years.
    - A graph of spawning stock biomass and recruitment levels for at least the past 10 years.
    - A graph of catch options for the year 1999 over a range of fishing mortality rates (F) at least from F_{0.1} to F_{max}.
    - A graph showing spawning stock biomass at the beginning of 1999 corresponding to each catch option.
    - Graphs showing the yield-per-recruit and spawning stock per recruit values for a range of fishing mortality.
  - ii) For stocks for which advice is based on general production models, the relevant graph of production on fishing mortality rate or fishing effort.

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In all cases, the three reference points, actual F,  $F_{0,1}$  and  $F_{max}$  should be shown?

3. In 1996, the Fisheries Commission requested that the Scientific Council comment on Article 6 and Annex II of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. Nating the progress made by the Scientific Council on the development of a framework for implementation of the Precautionary approach, the Fisheries Commission requests that the Scientific Council provide in their June 1998 report the following information for the 1998

Annual Meeting of the Fisheries Commission for all stocks under the responsibility of the Fisheries Commission (i.e. cod in 3M and 3NO, American place in 3M and 3LNO, yellowtail flounder in 3LNO, witch flounder in 3NO, redfish in 3M and 3LN, Greenland halibut in SA 2+3, capelin in 3NO, shrimp in 3M and squid in SA 3+4):

- a) the limit and target precautionary reference points described in Annex II indicating areas of uncertainty;
- b) information including medium term consideration and associated risk or probabilities which will assist the Commission to develop the management strategies described in paragraphs 4 and 5 of Annex II in the Agreement;
- c) information on the research and monitoring required to evaluate and refine the reference points described in paragraphs 1 and 3 in the Agreement Annex II; these research requirements should be set out in order of priority considered appropriate by the Scientific Council; and,
- d) any other aspect of Article 6 and Annex II of the Agreement which the Scientific Council considers useful for implementation of the Agreement's provisions regarding the precautionary approach to capture fisheries.
- The Fisheries Commission requests that the Scientific Council develop criteria to be evaluated during any consideration of possible fisheries reopenings.
- 5. The Fisheries Commission with the concurrence of the Coastal State requests that the Scientific Council continue to provide information, if available, on the stock separation in Div. 2J+3KL and the proportion of the biomass of the cod stock in Div. 3L in the Regulatory Area. Information is also requested on the age composition of that portion of the stock occurring in the regulatory Area.
- 6. The Fisheries Commission with the concurrence of the Coastal State requests that the Scientific Council review available information, including any Canadian assessment documentation on the stock status, and provide advice on catch levels for the 2J3KL witch flounder resource. Any information pertaining to the relative distribution of the resource within the stock area, as well as changes in this distribution over time should also be provided.
- 7. The Fisheries Commission requests that the Scientific Council undertake a review of the historical and current status of Illex squid in Subareas 3 and 4, and in Subareas 5 and 6, and to describe the major aspects of the biology and population dynamics of the species in these regions. The Council is further requested to describe the Illex fisheries in these regions and review the basis for considering Illex in SA 3, 4, 5 and 6 as a unit stock.
- 8. The Fisheries Commission requests that the Scientific Council provide information on the shrimp stock in 3LNO with regards to catches in recent years, by-catches of groundfish in such fisheries, abundance indices and the distribution of the stock. The Scientific Council is also requested to provide information on annual yield potential for this stock.
- 9. The Fisheries Commission requests the Scientific Council to evaluate the impact, in terms of changes in spawning biomass per recruit and yield per recruit, as well as the implication on effort in the short term and long term resulting from the use of a mesh size of 155 mm versus 130 mm for the 2+3 Greenland halibut stock in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

### ANNEX 2. CANADIAN REQUEST FOR SCIENTIFIC ADVICE ON MANAGEMENT IN 1999 OF CERTAIN STOCKS IN SUBAREAS 0 TO 4

 Canada requests that the Scientific Council, at its meeting in advance of the 1998 Annual Meeting, provide advice on the scientific basis for the management of the Roundnose grenadier in Subareas 2 and 3 in 1999.

It is also suggested that, subject to the concurrence of Denmark (Greenland), the Scientific Council, prior to the 1998 Annual Meeting of NAFO, provide advice on the scientific basis for management in 1999 of the following stocks:

### Shrimp (Subareas 0 and 1) Greenland halibut (Subareas 0 and 1) Roundnose grenadier (Subareas 0 and 1)

The Scientific Council has noted previously there was no biological basis for making two separate assessments for the Greenland halibut throughout Subareas 0-3, but has advised that separate TACs be maintained for different areas of the distribution of Greenland halibut. The Council is asked therefore, subject to the concurrence of Denmark (Greenland) as regards Subarea 1, to provide an overall assessment of status and trends in the total stock throughout its range and comment on its management in Subareas 0+1 for 1999. In particular, the Council is asked to advise on appropriate TAC levels separately for SA 0+1, for SA 2 + Division 3K and for Divisions 3LMNO, and to make recommendations on the distribution of fishing effort within each of these three geographic areas. The Council is asked also to provide information on present harvest patterns in terms of yield per recruit and on distributional variation of the resource in recent years.

With respect to shrimp, it is recognized that the Council may, at its discretion, delay providing advice until later in the year, taking into account data availability, predictive capability, and the logistics of additional meetings.

- 2. Canada requests the Scientific Council to consider the following options in assessing and projecting future stock levels for those stocks listed above:
  - a) For those stocks subject to analytical dynamic-pool type assessments, the status of the stock should be reviewed and implications of fishing at  $F_{0,1}$  in 1999 and subsequent years should be evaluated. The present stock size should be described in relation to those observed historically and those to be expected at the  $F_{0,1}$  level in both the short and long term. In those cases where present spawning stock size is a matter of scientific concern in relation to the continuing productive potential of the stock, management options should be considered to rebuild the spawning stock. All results should be expressed in terms of stock sizes, catch rates and TACs implied for 1999 and the long term.
  - b) For those stocks subject to general production-type assessments, the status of the stock should be reviewed and management options evaluated in the way described above to the extent possible. In this case, the general reference point should be the level of fishing effort (F) which is two-thirds that calculated to be required to take the MSY catch in the long term.
  - c) For those resources on which only general biological and/or catch data are available, no standard criteria on which to base advice can be established. The evidence on stock status should, however, be weighed against a strategy of optimum yield management and maintenance of stock biomass at levels of about two-thirds that of the virgin stock.

In addition to the above, the Scientific Council should also provide information on the application the Precautionary Approach for those stocks, as determined during the special March 1998 meeting of the Scientific Council.

- The Scientific Council is requested to review the status of the cod stock in Divisions 2J+3KL and to provide estimates of the current size of the total and spawning biomass, together with a description of recent trends.
- 4. Subject to the concurrence of Denmark (Greenland), the Scientific Council is requested to address the following questions related to Greenland halibut in Subareas 0 and 1:
  - a) The Scientific Council is requested to describe the spawning times and locations as well as nursery areas for Greenland halibut in Subareas 0 and 1 and the relationships with the Greenland halibut resources in southern areas.
  - b) Concern has been expressed regarding the impact of shrimp fishing in Greenland halibut nursery areas with respect to discards of young Greenland halibut. The Scientific Council is therefore asked to quantify the by-catch of Greenland halibut (by size and age) from the shrimp fishery in the nursery areas of Davis Strait and describe the potential loss in both yield and contribution to the spawning stock. The Scientific Council is also asked to comment on the measures that could be taken to eliminate or reduce substantially these by-catches.
  - c) It is recognized that answers to these questions may be difficult to precisely quantify given the limitations of the existing database. Accordingly, the Scientific Council is asked to comment on the research required to adequately answer these and related questions regarding the status of the stock of Greenland halibut throughout the Davis Strait area.
- 5. For Roundnose grenadier in Subareas 0+1, the advice of the Scientific Council has been constrained by the lack of scientific information on this stock, as there are no recent estimates of biomass for the entire stock area. Subject to the concurrence of Denmark (Greenland), the Scientific Council is requested to comment on the research required to allow the Council to provide advice on TAC levels for that stock.

P. S. Chamut Assistant Deputy Minister Department of Fisheries and Oceans Ottawa, Canada

# ANNEX 3. DENMARK (GREENLAND) REQUEST FOR SCIENTIFIC ADVICE ON MANAGEMENT OF CERTAIN STOCKS IN 1999

- Denmark, on behalf of Greenland, request the Scientific Council of NAFO in advance of the 1998 Annual Meeting, provide advice on the scientific basis for management of the following stocks in Subarea 1 in 1999 and as many years forward as data allow:
  - i) Redfish (by species, if possible)
  - ii) Any other stock of invertebrates and finfish of commercial interest, for which data allow a status report

It is also suggested that, subject to the concurrence of Canada, advice be given for the following stocks overlapping Subareas 0 and 1:

- i) Greenland halibut
- ii) Roundnose grenadier

### 2. In the analyses on which management advice will be based, the following should be included:

In its 1993 report, the Scientific Council has noted that the offshore component of Greenland halibut, in Subareas 0 and 1, was distributed equally between these Subareas. Further in its 1995 report, the Scientific Council noted that the biomass of the inshore component in Subarea 1 was unknown. The Council is therefore asked to provide further information on following topics:

- a) allocation of TACs to appropriate Subareas (Subareas 0 and 1).
- b) allocation of TAC for Subarea 1 inshore areas.
- Denmark, on behalf of Greenland, further requests that the Scientific Council of NAFO before December 1998, provide advice on the scientific basis for management of the Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in Subareas 0 and 1 in 1999 and as many years forward as data allow.

Further, in cooperation with ICES, the Council is requested to advise on the scientific basis for management of the Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in the Denmark Strait and adjacent areas east of southern Greenland.

Director On behalf of Ministry for Fisheries, Hunting & Agriculture

# APPENDIX VI. LIST OF RESEARCH AND SUMMARY DOCUMENTS, SEPTEMBER 1998

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# **RESEARCH DOCUMENTS (SCR)**

SCR No.	Ser. No.	Author(s) and Title
98/78,*	N3077	RIKHTER, V. A. On interpretation of plots of "stock-recruitment" relation of silver hake (Merluccius bilinearis) from the north-western Atlantic. (Symposium Paper)
98/79	N3080	MASON, C. S., B. PETRIE, and B. J. TOPLISS. Satellite measurements of sea surface temperature: an application to regional ocean climate.
98/80	N3081	KULKA, D.W. Update on the by-catch in the NAFO Division 3M shrimp fishery, 1993- 1997.
98/81	N3082	DEL RIO, J. L. Northern shrimp (Pandalus borealis) on Flemish Cap in July-August, 1998.
98/82	N3083	SIEGSTAD, H. The Greenland fishery for northern shrimp ( <i>Pandalus borealis</i> ) on Flemish Cap, NAFO Division 3M, in 1997 and 1998.
98/83	N3084	NICOLAJSEN, A. An area swept estimate of the northern shrimp ( <i>Pandalus borealis</i> ) stock biomass on Flemish Cap (NAFO Division 3M) in July 1998.
98/84	N3085	NICOLAJSEN, A. An area swept estimate of the northern shrimp ( <i>Pandalus borealis</i> ) stock biomass on the Nose of Grand Bank (NAFO Division 3L) in June 1998.
98/85	N3086	PARSONS, D. G., and P. J. VIETCH. The Canadian fishery for northern shrimp (Pandalus borealis) on Flemish Cap (NAFO Division 3M), 1993 to 1998.
98/86	N3087	COLBOURNE, E. Oceanographic conditions on the Flemish Cap during the summer of 1998, with comparisons to the previous year and the 1961-1990 average.
<del>9</del> 8/87	N3088	GODØ, O. R. Updated catch and effort data from the Norwegian fishery for shrimp on Flemish Cap, 1997-1998.
98/88	N3089	SUDNIK SVETLANA, A. On absolute individual fecundity of shrimp (Pandalus borealis) at Flemish Cap.
98/89	N3090	SKÚLÁDOTTIR, U. The Icelandic shrimp fishery (Pandalus borealis Kr.) at the Flemish Cap in 1993-1998.
98/90	N3091	SKULADOTTIR, U. The age composition and proportions of males and females in the commercial catches of shrimp ( <i>Pandalus borealis</i> Kr.) at Flemish Cap in 1993-1998.
98/91	N3092	PARSONS, D. G., P. J. VEITCH, and D. W. KULKA. Distribution, biomass, abundance and some biological characteristics of shrimp ( <i>Pandalus borealis</i> ) in NAFO Division 3LNO inferred from data obtained during Canadian research trawl surveys, 1995-1998.
98/92	N3093	PARSONS, D. G. The international fishery for shrimp ( <i>Pandalus borealis</i> ) in Division 3M (Flemish Cap), 1993-1998.
98/93*	N3094	BURTON, M. P. M. Potential errors in measuring spawning stock biomass: determining the effects of non-participatory adults for some Atlantic groundfish species.
98/94*	N3095	COOK, R. M., P. KUNZLIK, J. HISLOP, and D. POULDING. Models of growth and maturity for North Sea cod.

* Papers presented at 9-11 September 1998 Symposium.

SABORIDO-REY, F., O. S. KJESBU, and A. THORSEN. Buoyancy of Atlantic cod (Gadus 98/97* N3098 morhua) larvae in relation to spawning experience: first and second time spawners. 98/98* N3099 SHELTON, P. A., G. R. LILLY, and E. COLBOURNE. Patterns in the annual weight increment for 2J+3KL cod and possible prediction for stock projection. 98/99* N4000 MORGAN, M. J. The effect of a change in perception of length distribution of a population on maturity-at-age, weight-at-age and spawning stock biomass. 98/100* N4001 WIGLEY, S. E., J. M. BURNETT, and P. J. RAGO. An evaluation of maturity estimates derived from two different sampling schemes: are the observed changes fact or artifact? 98/101* N4002 RÄTZ, H-J., M. STEIN, and J. LLORET. Variation in growth and recruitment of Atlantic cod (Gadus morhua) off Greenland during the second half of the 20th century. 98/102* N4003 KORSBREKKE, K. Variations in maturity of haddock in the Barents Sea in relation to yearclass strength, age, size, sex and area. 98/103* N4004 AJIAD, A., T. JAKOBSEN, and O. NAKKEN. Sexual difference in maturation of Northeast Arctic cod. O'BRIEN, L. Factors influencing rates of maturation in the Georges Bank and Gulf of Maine 98/104* N4005 Atlantic cod stocks. 98/105* N4006 WALSH, S. J., and M. J. MORGAN. Variation in maturation of yellowtail flounder (Pleuronectes ferruginea) on the Grand Bank. 98/106* N4007 TAYLOR, L., and G. STEFANSSON. Growth and maturation of haddock (Melangrammus aeglefinus) in Icelandic waters. 98/107* N4008 GUNDERSEN, A. C., O. S. KJESBU, A. STENE, and K. H. NEDREAAS. Fecundity of Northeast Arctic Greenland halibut (Reinhardtius hippoglossoides). STENE, A., A. C. GUNDERSEN, O. T. ALBERT, P. SOLEMDAL, and K. H. NEDREAAS. 98/108* N4009 Early development of Northeast Arctic Greenland halibut (Reinhardtius hippoglossoides). 98/109 N4010 STEIN, M., and V.A. BOROVKOV. Second Report of Joint Russian/German Project "Assessment of short-time climatic variations in the Labrador Sea". 98/110 N4011 GODØ, O. R., and T. HAUG. Growth rate and sexual maturity in cod (Gadus morhua) and Atlantic halibut (Hippoglossus hippoglossus). SUMMARY DOCUENTS (SCS)

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98/19 N4013 NAFO. Report of Scientific Council, 6-18 September 1998 Meeting.

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JUNQUERA, S., E. ROMAN, X. PAZ, and G. RAMILO. Changes in Greenland halibut

growth, condition and fecundity in Northwest Atlantic (Flemish Pass, Flemish Cap and

JAKOBSEN, T., and A. AJIAD. Management implications from sexual differences in

# APPENDIX VII. LIST OF REPRESENTATIVES, ADVISERS/EXPERTS AND OBSERVERS, SEPTEMBER 1998

# CANADA

Representatives:	
Atkinson, D.B.	Science Branch, Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans, P. O. Box 5667, St. John's, Nfld A1C 5X1 Phone: +709-772-2052 - Fax: +709-772-4188 - E-mail: atkinson@athena.nwafc.nf.ca
Bowering, W.R.	Science Branch, Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans, P. O. Box 5667, St. John's, Nfld A1C 5X1 Phone: +709-772-2054 - Fax: +709-772-4188 - E-mail: <u>bowering@athena.nwafc.nf.ca</u>
Advisers/Experts:	
Brodie, W.B.	Science Branch, Dept. of Fisheries & Occans, P. O. Box 5667, St. John's, Nfld AIC 5X1 Phone: +709.772-3288 - Fax: +709-772-4188 - F-mail: brodie@athena.nwafc.nf.ca
Campbell, J.S.	Science Branch, Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans, P. O. Box 5667, St. John's, Nfld A1C 5X1 Phone: +709-772-2000 - Fax: +709-772-6100 - E-mail: campbell@attena.pwafc.nf.ca
Parsons, D.G.	Science Branch, Dept. of Fisheries & Oceans, P. O. Box 5667, St. John's, Nfid A1C 5X1 Phone: +709-772-2093 - Fax: +709-772-4105 – E-mail: parsons@athena.nwafc.nf.ca
Koeller, P.A.	Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, P. O. Box 1006, Dartmouth, N.S. B2Y 4A2 Phone: +902-426-539 - Fax: +902-426-1862 - E-mail: <u>koellerp@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca</u>
Rivard, D.	Fisheries and Oceans, Fisheries Research Branch, 200 Kent St., Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6 Phone: +613-990-0281 – Fax: +613-954-0807 – E-mail: <u>rivardd@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</u>
	DENMA DY
	DENMARK
	GREENLAND
Representative:	
Siegstad, H.	Greenland Inst. of Natural Resources, P. O. Box 570, DK-3900 Nuuk Phone: +299 21095 - Fax: +299 25957 - E-mail: <u>helle@natur.gl</u>
	FAROE ISLANDS
Advisor/Expert:	
Nicolajsen, A.	Fiskorannsoknarstovan, Noatun, Postboks 3051, FR-1100, Torshavn Phone: +298 1 50 92 – Fax: +298 1 8264 – E-mail: <u>aninic@frs.fo</u>
	ESTONIA
Representative:	
Saat, T.	Representative of Estonia to NAFO, Estonian Marine Institut, 18b Viljandi Road, Tallinn, 112 16 Phone: +372 6 281 570 - Fax: +372 6 281 573 - E-mail: <u>tsaat@ut.ee</u>
, ,	EUROPEAN UNION (EU)
Representative:	
Hagström, O.	European Commission DGXIV UnitC-1, Rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium Phone: +32 2 2058912 – Fax: +32 2 2955621 – E-mail: <u>ulle.hagstroem@dg14.cec.be</u>
Advisers/Experts:	
Briand, D.	Institut Francais de Recherche pour l'Exploitation de la Mer (IFREMER), B.P. 4240, F-97500 Saint Pierre, St. Pierre et Miquelon

Phone: +508 41 3083 - Fax: +508 41 4936 - E-mail: brianspm@cancom.net

EUROSTAT, European Commission, Jean Monnet Bldg., B.P. 1907, L-2920 Luxembourg Phone: +352 4301 37249 – Fax: +352 4301 37318 – E-mail: <u>david.eross@eurostat.eec.be</u> EUROSTAT, European Commission, Jean Monnet Bldg., B.P. 1907, L-2920 Luxembourg

Phone: +352 4301 33744 - Fax: +352 4301 37318 - E-mail: michel.henrard@eurostat.cec.be

Cross, D.

Henrard, M.

Cornus, H.P.	Institut für Seefischerei, Palmaille 9, D-22767, Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany
·	Phone: +49 40 38905194 - Fax: +49 40 38905263 - E-mail: cornus.ish@bfa-fisch.de
Rätz, H-J.	Institut für Seefischerei, Palmaille 9, D-22767 Hamburg
· .	Phone: +49 40 38905 169 - Fax: +49 40 38905 263 - E-mail: hajoraetz@msn.com
Stein, M.	Institut für Seefischerei, Fishery Oceanographic Dept., Palmaille 9, D-22767, Hamburg
	Phone: +49 40 38905 174 - Fax: +49 40 38905 263 - E-mail: stein.ish@bfa-fisch.de
Alpoim, R.	Inst. de Investigação das Pescas e do Mar (IPIMAR), Av. de Brasilia, 1400 Lisbon, Portugal
•	Phone: +3511 302 7000 - Fax: +3511-301-5948 - E-mail: ralpoim@ipimar.pt
Avila de Melo, A.	Inst. de Investigacao das Pescas e do Mar (IPIMAR), Av. de Brasilia, 1400 Lisbon, Portugal
	Phone: +3511 302 7000 - Fax: +3511-301-5948 - E-mail: amelo@ipimar.pt
Godinho, M.L.	Inst. de Investigação das Pescas e do Mar (IPIMAR), Av. de Brasilia, 1400 Lisbon, Portugal
	Phone: +3511 302 7000 - Fax: +3511-301-5948 - E-mail: lgodinho@ipimar.pt
De Cárdenas, E.	Institute Español de Oceanografia, Avenida de Brasil 31, 28020 Madrid, Spain
	Phone: +34 91 5974443 - Fax: +34 91 5974770 - E-mail: e.decard <u>enas@md.ieo.es</u>
Junquera, S.	Institute Español de Oceanografia, Cabo Estay - Canido, Aptdo 1552, E-36280 Vigo (Pontevedra
•	Phone: +34 9 86 49 2111 - Fax: 34 9 86 49 2351 - E-mail: susana.junquera@ivi.jeo.es
Motos, L.	AZTI, Food & Fish., Tech., Inst., Satrustegi ib. 8, 20008 Donostia-San Sebastian
	Basque Country, Spain Phone: $\pm 24,042,216295$ Eas: $\pm 24,043,212162$ E mail: lorenze@rm estimation
Vazquez A	Institute de Investigaciones Marinas, Eduardo Cabello, 6, 36208 Vigo
· madata u	Phone: +34 9 86 231930 - Fax: +34 9 86 292762 - E-mail: avazouez@iim.csic.es

### FINLAND

Representative

Aro, E.

Finnish Game & Fisheries Research Institute, P. O. Box 6. FIN-00721 Helsinki Phone: + 358 20575 1253 - Fax: +358 9 20575 1201 - E-mail: eero.aro@rktl.fi

### ICELAND

**Representative:** 

Skúladóttir, U.

Marine Research Institute, Skúlagata 4, Pósthólf Box 1390, 121 Reykjavik Phone: +354 552 2640 - Fax: +354 562 3790 - E-mail: unnur@hafro.is

### JAPAN

**Representative:** 

Kawahara, S.

National Research Institute of Far Seas Fisheries, 5-7-1 Orido, Shimizu 424 Phone: +81 543 36 6051 - Fax: +81 543 35 9642 - E-mail: kawahara@enyo.affrc.go.jp

### NORWAY

Adviser/Expert:

**Representatives:** 

Godo, O.R.

Institute of Marine Research, P. O. 1870, N-5024, Bergen Phone: +47 55 238 500 - Fax: +47 55 238 687 - E-mail: <u>olavrune@imr.no</u>

#### **RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

-	
Rikhter, V.A.	Atlantic Scientific Research Institute of marine Fisheries and Oceanography (AtlantNIRO), 5 Dmitry Donskoy Street, Kaliningrad 23600
	Phone: +70 112 21 5645 - Fax: +70 112 21 9997 - E-mail: scomber@online.ru
Shibanov, V.N.	Knipovich Polar Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (PINRO), 6 Knipovich Street, Murmansk 183763
	Phone: +7 815 2 47 34 61 - Fax: +47 789 10 518 - E-mail: inter@pinro.mumansk.ru
Babayan, V.K.	Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO), 17, V., Krasnoselsks/aya Moscow, 107140
	Phone: +70 95 264 9532 - Fax: +70 95 264 9187

Borisov, V.M.

Russian Federal Research Institute of Fisheries and Oceanography (VNIRO), 17, V., Krasnoselsks/aya, Moscow, 107140 Phone: +70 95 264 4583 - Fax: +70 95 264 9187

#### **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (USA)**

### **Representatives:**

Serchuk, F.M.

National Marine Fisheries Service, NEFSC, 166 Water St., Woods Hole, MA 02543 Phone: +508-495-2245 - Fax: +508-495-2258 - E-mail: fred.serchuk@noaa.gov

### Advisers/Experts:

Mayo, R.K.

lones, C.M.	Old Dominion University, 1034 W 45th St., Norfolk, Virginia 23529-0456
	Phone: +757-683-4497 Fax: +757-683-5293 E-mail: ciones@odu.edu
Pierce, D.E.	Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, 100 Cambridge St., Boston, MA 02202
	Phone +617-727-393 - Fax; +617-727-7988 - E-mail: david.nierce@state.ma.us

National Marine Fisheries Service, NEFSC, 166 Water St., Woods Hole, MA 02543 Phone: +508-495-2310 - Fax: +508-495-2393 - E-mail: ralph.mayo@noaa.gov

#### **OBSERVERS**

Cornus, H.P. Institut für Seefischerei, Palmaille 9, D-22767, Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany (ICES) Phone: +49 40 38905194 - Fax: +49 40 38905263 - E-mail: cornus.ish@bfa-fisch.de Wijkström, U.N. Fishery Development Planning Service, Fishery Policy and Planning Division, Fisheries Department, (FÃO) FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 0100 Rome Phone: + 39 6 57053156 - Fax: +39 6 57056500 - E-mail: ulf.wiikstrom@fao.org

#### NAFO SECRETARIAT

L. I. Chepel, Executive Secretary

- T. Amaratunga, Assistant Executive Secretary D. C. A. Auby, Word-Processing Secretary
- F. Keating, Administrative Assistant
- S. Goodick, Accounting Officer
- B. J. Cruikshank, Senior Secretary
- G. Moulton, Statstical Officer.
- F. E. Perry, Desktop Publishing/Documents Clerk
- R. Myers, Graphic Arts/Printing Technician

### SECRETARIAT ASSISTANCE

L. Nogueira, Direçao Geral das Pescas e Aquicultura DIFICIO Vasco da Gama, Alcantara 1350 Lisbon, Portugal