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**Report of the NAFO Scientific Council Intersessional Meeting – MSE Data Input Finalization
January 31, 2023, via Webex**

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**Report of the NAFO Scientific Council Intersessional Meeting- MSE Data Input Finalization,
January 31, 2023, via WebEx**

Chair; Karen Dwyer

1. Opening

The meeting was opened by the SC Chair Karen Dwyer (Canada) at 09:00 hours (UTC/GMT -4 hours in Halifax, Nova Scotia) on 31 January 2023.

The Chair welcomed participants, including representatives from Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroes and Greenland) the European Union, Japan and the United States of America. A full participants list is presented in Annex =I.

Scientific Council Coordinator Tom Blasdale was nominated as rapporteur of the meeting.

The agenda was adopted as circulated (Annex II).

2. Review of data series for 3LN redfish MSE

Andrea Perreault (Canada) presented work done to date on data selection for 3LN redfish in preparation for an updated management strategy (SCR 23/01).

Following discussion, it was agreed that the following data will be used going forward;

For Divisions 3L and 3N:

- Landings (Kt; 1959-2022)
- Abundance at length and stratified biomass for new index strata
 - Historic Canadian Fall, Spring and EU-Spain
 - Depth Canadian Fall, Spring and EU-Spain (deep and shallow)
 - Unconverted Canadian Fall, Spring and EU-Spain
- Commercial catch at length
 - All (1975-2021)
- Weight at length
 - Commercial weights: Portuguese commercial sampling (3LN; 1990-2019),
 - Survey weights: EU-Spain 3L (1997-2021, pre-1997 use mean 1997-2001) and 3N (2003-2019, pre-2003 fixed at mean 2003-2019 or use combined 3L)
 - Canadian survey weights: to be checked
- Maturity at length
 - not final

It was noted that in previous assessments of this stock, there was extra data from commercial fisheries (length frequencies and weights disaggregated by division) that had not been included and would be shared.

3. Review of data series for 2+3 GHM MSE

Paul Regular (Canada) presented data proposed for use in Operating Models for the 2023 Management Strategy Evaluation Review for Greenland Halibut in NAFO Subarea 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO (SCR 23/02).

The following data were agreed to be used going forward:

Survey data

Previously accepted surveys:

- Canada Autumn 2J3K (1996-2021)
- Canada Autumn 3LNO (1996-2020)
- Canada Spring 3LNO (1996-2019)
- EU 3M 0-1400m (2004-2021)
- EU 3M 0-700m (1995-2003)
- EU-Spain 3NO (1997-2021)

Proposed changes to Canadian survey series;

Exclude inshore strata using Campelen trawl in autumn surveys in 2J3K and 3LNO

Exclude deep strata in spring survey in 3LNO

EU Spain survey;

Proposal to integrate 3L data into 3NO series to make a 3LNO series (there was a discussion about possibly using a truncated 3NO series as an additional series for earlier years; to be decided at a later date)

Alternatives: keep 3L and 3NO as separate surveys or use just 3NO as in previous MSE

We will keep all options in play for now and see which is better from model fits.

Biological inputs:

Natural mortality; stick with values used in previous MSE ($M=0.12$). could also investigate 0.147

The issue of Canadian missing surveys was discussed. It was decided that an OM taking missing surveys into account might be attempted. The MSE and HCR should be implemented taking into account the data that we will have in the future (otherwise Exceptional Circumstances will be triggered frequently).

4. Other business

It was agreed that an additional meeting will be required before the April WG-RBMS meeting to agree on what will be presented to RBMS and to finalize the datasets to be used.

5. Close

The meeting closed at 14:45

ANNEX I. PARTICIPANTS LIST

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ANNEX II. SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL INTERSESSIONAL MEETING- MSE DATA INPUT FINALIZATION

**31 January 2023, via Webex
Meeting Agenda and Timetable**

	Topic	Presenter
09:00	Opening remarks/appointment of rapporteur	Karen Dwyer
09:20	Review of data series for 3LN redfish MSE	Andrea Perreault
10:30	Coffee break	
10:45	Review of data series for 3LN redfish MSE	Andrea Perreault
-	Discussion	All
12:30	Lunch	
13:30	3LN redfish discussion continued (if necessary) and conclusions	
14:00	Coffee break	
14:15	Review of data series for 2+3 GHL MSE	Paul Regular
16:00	Discussion	All
17:00	Other business/Close meeting	Karen Dwyer