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SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL - 2026

Canada's Coastal State Request to NAFO's Scientific Council for Scientific Advice – 2027

Canada would like to submit its request to NAFO's Scientific Council for advice on the following two species:

1. Greenland halibut (Subarea 0+1 (offshore))

Canada requests that the Scientific Council monitor the status of Greenland halibut (Subarea 0 + 1 (offshore), and, should a significant change be observed (e.g., based on results from surveys or commercial catch data), provide updated advice as appropriate, in the same format that was done in 2025 (i.e., updating the risk table in the new NAFO PA framework). A significant change would be considered the realized catch data far exceeding the set TAC level despite normal fishing effort or if the survey index is far below the projected index.

2. Northern shrimp (Subareas 1 and Division 0A)

Canada requests that the Scientific Council consider the following options in assessing and projecting future stock levels for Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in Subarea 1 and Division 0A:

The status of the stock should be determined and risk-based advice provided for catch options corresponding to Zmsy in 5,000t increments with forecasts for 2027 to 2029 (inclusive). These options should be evaluated in relation to Canada's Harvest Strategy (2022 revised version attached) and NAFO's Revised Precautionary Approach Framework.

Presentation of the results should include graphs and/or tables related to the following:

- Historical and current yield, biomass relative to Bmsy, total mortality relative to Zmsy, and recruitment (or proxy) levels for the longest time period possible;
- Total mortality (Z) and fishable biomass for a range of projected catch options (as noted above) for the years 2027 to 2029. Projections should include both catch options and a range of effective cod predation biomass levels considered appropriate by the Scientific Council. Results should include risk analyses of falling below: Bmsy, 80% Bmsy and Blim (30% Bmsy), and of being above Zmsy based on the 3-year projections, consistent with the Harvest Decision Rules in Canada's Harvest Strategy; and
- Total area fished for the longest time period possible.

Please provide the advice relative to Canada's Harvest Strategy as part of the formal advice (i.e., grey box in the advice summary sheet).