

Application for Observer Status to NAFO Meetings

(General Council, Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council)

Applications may be sent to the **NAFO Secretariat** (info@nafo.int)

1. The Executive Secretary shall invite, as observers:
 - a) intergovernmental organizations that have regular contacts with NAFO as regards fisheries matters or whose work is of interest to NAFO or *vice-versa*; and
 - b) non-Contracting Parties identified as harvesting fishery resources in the Regulatory Area.
2. Any NGO that supports the general objectives of NAFO and with a demonstrated interest in the species under the purview of NAFO, and desires accreditation as observers to NAFO meetings, shall notify the Secretariat at least 100days in advance of the first meeting it wishes to attend. This application must include:
 - a) name, address, telephone, fax number of the organization;
 - b) address of all its national/regional offices;
 - c) aims and purposes of the organization and a statement that the NGO fully supports the objectives of NAFO, i.e., optimum utilization, rational management and conservation of the fishery resources of the NAFO Convention Area;
 - d) information on the organization's total number of members, its decision-making process and its funding;
 - e) a brief history of the organization and a description of its activities;
 - f) representative papers or other similar resources produced by or for the organization on the conservation, management, or science of fishery resources to which the Convention applies; and
 - g) a history of NAFO observer status granted/revoked.
3. Observer status shall apply to all non-restricted sessions, whether at the Annual Meeting or at intersessional meetings.
4. NGO applications shall be reviewed by the Executive Secretary who shall notify the Contracting Parties of the names and qualifications of NGOs having fulfilled the requirements stipulated in Rule 2. If one or more of the Contracting Parties object giving in writing its reasons within 30 days, the matter will be put to a vote by written procedure. Applications will then be considered as accepted in accordance with the procedures laid down in Article V para 2 of the Convention. The Executive Secretary shall also circulate any reasons given in a preliminary objection as well as any comments that Contracting Parties may include with their vote on this matter.
5. Any NGO with observer accreditation:
 - a) is required to register its representatives at the NAFO Secretariat at least *fourteen* days in advance of the meeting;
 - b) may be required to limit the number of their observers at any meeting due to conference room capacity. The Executive Secretary will transmit any such determination in the conditions of participation;
 - c) may be required to pay a fee, which will cover the additional expenses generated by their participation, as determined annually by the Executive Secretary;
 - d) that has not communicated with the Secretariat or attended at least one meeting in the previous three years shall cease to be an accredited NGO but may reapply in writing to the Executive Secretary; and
 - e) will have their accreditation reviewed by the Executive Secretary every five years taking into account any new information or development regarding the NGO since the last accreditation and circulate a summary of the review to Contracting Parties. If one or more of the Contracting Parties object to a renewal of the accreditation of the NGO with NAFO

giving in writing its reasons within 30 days, the matter will be put to a vote by written procedure. Renewal of the accreditation will then be considered as accepted in accordance with the procedures laid down in Article V para 2 of the Convention. The Executive Secretary shall also circulate any reasons given in a preliminary objection as well as any comments that Contracting Parties may include with their vote on this matter.

6. Observers admitted to a meeting:
 - a) shall be sent or otherwise receive the same documentation generally available to Contracting Parties and their delegations, except those documents deemed confidential by a Contracting Party or the Executive Secretary.
 - b) may attend meetings, as set forth above, but may not vote;
 - c) may make oral statements during the meeting upon the invitation of the Chair;
 - d) may only distribute documents at meetings via the general information table;
 - e) may engage in other activities as appropriate and as approved by the Chair;
 - f) may not use film, video, and audio recording devices, etc. to record meeting proceedings; and
 - g) may not issue press releases or other information to the media on agenda items under discussion during NAFO meetings.
7. Observers admitted to a meeting shall comply with the above and all rules and procedures applicable to other participants in the meeting. Failure to conform to these rules or any other rules that NAFO may adopt for the conduct of observers may result in removal from the meeting by the presiding officer and revocation of their observer accreditation status.
8. These rules shall be subject to review and revision, as appropriate. If any Contracting Party so requests, the adequacy of these rules shall be reviewed and assessed and, if necessary, amendments shall be adopted by General Council in the light of the need of NAFO to function effectively when conducting its business.