

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels, MARE/B2/IG

Subject: LDAC Advice in preparation for NAFO Annual Meeting 2024

Dear Mr López,

I want to thank you again for your contribution and advice in preparation for the NAFO Annual Meeting that took place in Halifax in September 2024. You were in contact with my team during the event and we appreciate your feedback on many issues raised during the meeting. It was an excellent collaboration exercise with a successful outcome for the European Union, particularly concerning the following topics:

- Cod 3M: Based on one-year scientific advice, NAFO adopted a TAC for 2025 of 12.613 tonnes, which corresponds to a level of catches of 2/3 Flim. This is consistent with last year's decision and as indicated in your advice, it provides a proper balance between biological and economic considerations, avoiding high fluctuations in the stock.
- Redfish 3LN: We agreed with your assessment that no directed fishery in 2025 was disproportionate considering the high uncertainty of the stock. And this is why we reached consensus to set a TAC of 6.000 tonnes for 2025, which still was a cautious decision considering that the TAC in recent years had been set at 18.000 tonnes.
- Northern cod 2J3KL: We supported your recommendation that this straddling fishery had to be reopened in NAFO Regulatory Area, following the Canadian decision of reopening their fishery in June. In this regard, we negotiated with all Parties and secured a fair share for the EU within the percentage that corresponds to all NAFO Parties (except for Canada).

I thank you for your overall contribution and look forward to our continued fruitful cooperation next year.

Should you have any further questions on this reply, please contact Ms Julia Rubeck, our Advisory Councils coordinator, via the functional mailbox MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,

(e-Signed) Charlina VITCHEVA

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