



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES

The Director-General

Brussels,
MARE/B2-C3

Dear Mr López, dear Mr Remisz,

I would like to thank LDAC for its advice submitted in preparation for the NAFO Annual Meeting, which took place in Halifax on 15 to 19 September 2025.

Your input was very valuable in shaping the EU position and contributed to a number of successful outcomes for the European Union. While you were already debriefed by my service on the Annual Meeting during your LDAC Working Group 2 meeting of 15 October, I would like to provide feedback on some of the key issues raised in your advice or during the Annual Meeting:

- **Cod in Div. 3M:** NAFO agreed on a TAC for 2026 of 15.360 tonnes, based on in line with the one-year scientific advice corresponding to a 1% risk of exceeding F_{lim} , together with the prolongation of the application of the flanking measures that had been adopted in 2020. We took good note of your recommendation to carry out selectivity trials and scientific sampling to assess the effectiveness of these measures and this has been added to the request to the Scientific Council for 2026. The EU delegation reiterated this need during the meeting, and DG MARE will continue working with Member States to facilitate data sharing and cooperation between the fleet and scientific institutes.
- **Redfish in Div. 3O:** We shared your view that a complete closure of the directed fishery would have been disproportionate, given the high uncertainty of the stock assessment and the low actual catches in recent years. The EU successfully advocated for a reduction of the TAC from 20.000 to 8.000 tonnes for 2026, striking a balance between conservation and socio-economic considerations.
- **Shrimp in Div. 3L:** The EU underlined the necessity of an assessment within NAFO's Scientific Council to ensure that next year's management decision for this

Mr Iván López van der Veen
Chairman Long Distance Advisory Council
ivan.lopez@pesqueraancora.com

Mr Emil Remisz
Chair of WG2 Long Distance Advisory Council
Atlantic and Pacific RFMOs and Access Arrangements
emil@paop.org.pl

straddling stock is guided by NAFO's own scientific advice and its precautionary framework approach.

I thank you once again for your overall contribution and look forward to our continued fruitful cooperation. Should you have any questions on this reply, please contact Ms Julia Rubeck, our Advisory Councils coordinator, via the functional mailbox MARE-AC@ec.europa.eu.

Yours sincerely,

Charlina VITCHEVA