

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization



**Report of the NAFO Commission and its Subsidiary Bodies
(STACTIC and STACFAD)**

42nd Annual Meeting of NAFO
21-25 September 2020
via WebEx

NAFO
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
2020

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PART I.
Report of the NAFO Commission

42nd Annual Meeting of NAFO, 21-25 September 2020
via WebEx

I. Opening Procedure

1. Opening by the Chair, Stéphane Artano (France, in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)

The 42nd Annual Meeting of NAFO was opened on Monday, 21 September 2020 at 08:04 hrs. Due to the global pandemic, the meeting was held by videoconference. Delegates were present from 13 NAFO Contracting Parties (Annex 3). The NAFO President and Chair of the Commission, Stéphane Artano (France, in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), in his opening remarks (Annex 4) welcomed delegates to the meeting and welcomed NAFO's newest Contracting Party, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK), which joined NAFO the previous week.

As an exception to the current practice that all Contracting Parties submit their opening remarks in writing for inclusion in the report, the President gave the floor to the UK for its opening remarks (Annex 5). Opening statements from Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, Japan, Ukraine and the USA are attached (Annexes 6-11).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat (Fred Kingston, Executive Secretary, and Ricardo Federizon, Senior Fisheries Management Coordinator) was appointed as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The provisional agenda which was circulated to all Contracting Parties in NAFO/20-197 of 22 July 2020 was modified:

- Cod in Division 3L which was agenda item 22.a was moved to agenda item 23.a.
- Witch flounder in Divisions 3NO was inserted as agenda item 23.b.

The adopted agenda is presented in Annex 2.

The summary of decisions and action taken by the Commission is presented in Annex 1.

4. Admission of Observers

Upon the invitation of the Executive Secretary, in accordance with the NAFO Rules for Observers, the following intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) attended this meeting: ABNJ Deep-Sea Fisheries Project, Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC), North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC), North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES), Sargasso Sea Commission, Southeast Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO), South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA), and Secretariat of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC). Opening statements from the FAO, NPAFC and SIOFA are attached (Annexes 12-14).

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) accredited with NAFO Observer Status that attended the 42nd Annual Meeting were: Ecology Action Centre (EAC).

5. Publicity

In accordance with established practice, the President reminded Contracting Parties that they have agreed that no public statements would be made until after the conclusion of the meeting when a press release would be prepared by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Chairs of the Commission and Scientific Council.

II. Supervision and Coordination of the Organizational, Administrative and Other Internal Affairs

6. Review of Membership of the Commission

With the recent accession of the UK, the Commission has thirteen (13) Contracting Parties: Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union (EU), France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) and the United States of America (USA).

7. Administrative and Activity Report by NAFO Secretariat

The Administrative Report and Financial Statements (COM Doc. 20-07 Rev.) was referred to STACFAD for its review.

8. Recruitment of NAFO Executive Secretary for the 2022-2025 term

The term of the current Executive Secretary, Fred Kingston, was extended for an additional year until the end of 2022.

9. NAFO Headquarters Agreement

The President noted that the signed Headquarters Agreement was circulated to Contracting Parties last year in NAFO/19-162.

Canada provided a Working Paper indicating that it hopes to ratify the Headquarters Agreement by the spring of 2021 (COM WP 20-19).

10. Review of the list of experts to serve as panelists under the NAFO Dispute Settlement provisions

The President referred to COM Working Paper 20-06 (Rev. 2) that listed, as of 21 September 2020, the experts nominated by Contracting Parties to serve as possible panelists in an ad hoc panel established under the dispute settlement provisions of the NAFO Convention (Article XV).

11. Guidance to STACFAD

The Administrative Report and Financial Statements (COM Doc. 20-07 Rev.) was already referred to STACFAD for its review under agenda item 7. The Chair of STACFAD, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA), was invited to prepare a report before the closing session.

12. Guidance to STACTIC

The President noted that a number of recommendations of Joint Commission-Scientific Council Working Groups that are up for adoption at this meeting would be referred to STACTIC.

The Chair of STACTIC, Kaire Märtin (EU), was invited to prepare a report before the closing session. The report of this week's STACTIC meeting and the STACTIC intersessional meeting held in May 2020, as well as STACTIC's recommendations, would be presented under agenda item 28.

III. Coordination of External Affairs

13. Report of Executive Secretary on External Meetings

The Executive Secretary referred to excerpts of the Administrative Report and Financial Statements (COM Doc. 20-07 Rev.), pages 5 to 7.

14. International Relations

a. Relations with other International Organizations

The Executive Secretary referred to Working Papers on developments over the past year concerning the Biological Diversity Beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) negotiations in the United Nations and concerning NAFO's international relations with other international organizations.

b. NAFO Members as Observers to External Meetings

At the last Annual Meeting (September 2019), it was agreed that the following NAFO Contracting Parties would represent NAFO at meetings of the following organizations during 2019/2020:

- Canada would represent NAFO at the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) and the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC).
- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) would represent NAFO at the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC).
- European Union would represent NAFO at the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and South Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA).
- Norway would represent NAFO at the South East Atlantic Fishery Organisation (SEAFO) and the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO).
- USA would represent NAFO at the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) and the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO).

The reports by these Observers were presented (COM WP 20-14, 15, 27, 28, 29, 36 and 37). The same Contracting Parties agreed to represent NAFO at the same meetings for 2020/2021.

c. Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Deep-Seas Project

The Executive Secretary referred to the Working Paper from the FAO concerning the results of the first phase of the ABNJ Deep Seas Project that ended in 2019, as well as the development of the second phase of the Project (now called the "ABNJ Deep Seas Fisheries Project) intended to begin in 2022 (COM WP 20-09). It was noted that NAFO will be asked to commit primarily in-kind contributions to this second phase of the Project, similar to NAFO's contributions to the first phase of the Project. This commitment by NAFO can be proposed and agreed later through the mail vote procedure.

15. Oil and Gas Activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area

The Executive Secretary referred to COM WP 20-10 outlining the NAFO Secretariat's actions over the last year under the information exchange arrangement between NAFO and Canada related to oil and gas activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA).

The EU thanked Canada for the information it has regularly provided to NAFO under the information exchange arrangement. Referring to information from the Scientific Council, the EU expressed concern over increasing activity of the oil and gas industry in the NRA this year, which is expected to continue, as well as the number of

incidents, including a 2019 oil spill that extended into the NRA. The EU noted that a proposed oil development project in the Flemish Pass will overlap with fishing grounds. These developments could pose a threat to the overall health of the ecosystem and NAFO's efforts to ensure the conservation of the resources in the Convention Area. The EU added that these activities should be reflected properly in NAFO's work in developing Ecosystem Summary Sheets.

IV. Joint Session of Commission and Scientific Council

16. Implementation of 2018 Performance Review Panel recommendations

The President referred to the Working Paper that outlined the status of the implementation of the recommendations of the 2018 Performance Review Panel (COM WP 20-22).

17. Presentation of scientific advice by the Chair of the Scientific Council

a. Response of the Scientific Council to the Commission's request for scientific advice

The Chair of the Scientific Council (SC), Carmen Fernandez (EU), presented this year's scientific advice. The scientific advice on fish stocks and other topics were formulated mainly during the SC meeting in June 2020 (SCS Doc. 20-14), except for Northern shrimp in Division 3M, which was formulated in November 2019 (SCS Doc. 19-23) and updated on 14 September 2020 during the NAFO/ICES *Pandalus* Assessment Group (NIPAG) meeting (SCS Doc. 20-20). Some request items were addressed and presented during the course this meeting (SCS Doc. 20-19) or deferred to next year. The advice represents the response of SC to the request from the Commission (COM Doc. 19-29). The advice on topics relating to risk-based management strategies and to ecosystem approach to fisheries management was taken on by the joint Working Groups at their subsequent meetings (see agenda items 18.b and 18.c). Outlined below (according to request item numbers in COM Doc. 19-29) is the overview of the Commission request and SC response, intended as a quick reference. The detailed advice to the requests is contained in the above-mentioned documents.

1. Assessment and Monitoring of Fish Stocks

- Cod in Division 3M. For any catch over 1000 t, the probability of being below B_{lim} exceeds the NAFO Precautionary Approach guidelines.
- Shrimp in Division 3M. SC advises that the catch in 2021 should not exceed the 2009 level (5 448 tonnes).
- American plaice in Division 3M. No directed fishing in 2021, 2022, and 2023.
- Thorny skate in Divisions 3LNO and Subdivision 3Ps. The stock has been stable at recent catch levels (approximately 3 511 tonnes, 2015-2019 average). SC advises no increase in catches. Applicable for 2021-2022.
- Witch flounder in Divisions 3NO. No directed fishing in 2021 and 2022 (assessment of this stock was done and advice is provided on SC's own accord).
- Monitoring of stocks: No change to stock status or previously issued advice on the following stocks: 3M Redfish, 3NO Cod, 3LNO American plaice, 3LNO Yellowtail founder, 3NO Capelin, 3O Redfish, 3NOPs White hake, 2+3 Roughhead grenadier, 6G Alfonsino, 3+4 Northern shortfin squid.

2. **2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut.** Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for 2021 derived from the Harvest Control Rule (HCR) is 16 498 tonnes. Exceptional Circumstances are not occurring.

3. **Impact of scientific trawl survey on VME in closed areas.** (This item was deferred to next year.)

4. **Task 2.2 of the Action Plan in the management and minimization of bycatch and discards.** (This item was deferred to next year.)

5. **Refinement of its work under Ecosystem Approach.** (The SC advice was already taken on by WG-RBMS and WG-EAFFM during the August 2020 meeting. See agenda items 18.b and 18.c.)
6. **Assessment of NAFO bottom fisheries in 2021.** (The SC advice was already taken on by WG-EAFFM during its August 2020 meeting. See agenda items 18.c.)
7. **Re-assessment of VME closures by 2020, including area #14.** (The SC advice was already taken on by WG-EAFFM during its August 2020 meeting. See agenda items 18.c.)
8. **Review of the NAFO Precautionary Approach (PA) Framework.** (The SC advice was already taken on by WG-RBMS during its August 2020 meeting. See agenda items 18.b)
9. **Bycatch and discards of Greenland sharks.** (This item was deferred to next year.)
10. **Development of a 3-5 year SC work plan.** (This item was deferred to next year.)
11. **Update assessment for 3LN redfish and five-year projections (2021-2025).** (The SC advice was already taken on by WG-RBMS during its August 2020 meeting. See agenda items 18.b.)
12. **Ecosystem Summary Sheet for 3LNO.** (The SC advice was already taken on by WG-EAFFM during its August 2020 meeting. See agenda items 18.c.)
13. **Submitted protocols for a survey methodology to inform the assessment of Splendid alfonsino.** (This item was deferred to next year.)
14. **Scientific advice of Cod 2J3KL (Canada), Witch flounder 2J3KL (Canada), and Pelagic *Sebastes mentella* (ICES).** SC endorses the scientific advice that removals from all sources must be kept at the lowest possible levels for Cod 2J3KL and Witch flounder 2J3KL, and that there should be zero catch in each of the years 2020 and 2021 for Pelagic *Sebastes mentella*.
15. **Possible sustainable management methods for northern shrimp in Division 3M.** SC recommends that the management of 3M shrimp be converted from existing “*effort regulation*” to “*catch regulations*” in line with all other stocks in the NRA.
16. **Updates resulting from relevant research related to the potential impact of activities other than fishing in the Convention Area.**
 On seabed litter: SC recommends that standard protocols for seabed litter data collection should be implemented by all CPs as part of their groundfish surveys conducted in the NRA.
 On offshore petroleum activities in 3KLMN: SC notes an increasing trend in oil and gas activities since the early 2000s. Results from the relevant research have been included where appropriate into the current 3LNO Ecosystem Summary Sheet (ESS).
17. **Productivity of 3M Cod.** SC responded in 2015 and 2019 regarding sorting grids to reduce possible bycatches and discards. SC advises that a seasonal closure (no directed fishery on 3M cod during the first quarter of the year) would protect spawning activity, reducing the number of spawning fish that are captured and allow them to spawn before becoming available to the fishery.
 However, SC is not at this point able to quantify the full effect of implementing these management measures (see Annex 15).
18. **Information on sea turtles, sea birds, and marine mammals in the NRA.** (This item was deferred to next year.)

b. Feedback to the Scientific Council regarding the advice and its work during this meeting

The Commission acknowledged the SC Reports and noted the presentation of advice. They engendered follow-up questions and enquiries for further clarification to which SC provided responses during the meeting. They pertain to Cod in Division 3M.

The Commission questions and SC responses were compiled in COM WP 20-38 and presented in Annex 15.

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c. Other issues as determined by the Chairs of the Commission and the Scientific Council

The COVID-19 circumstances compelled SC to meet virtually rather than in-person in June 2020. This resulted to a limited time available in addressing the 2019 Commission request items.

18. Meeting Reports and Recommendations of the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Groups

a. Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process (E-WG), 2020

The Executive Secretary referred to COM-SC WP 20-02, which is the recommendation from the Joint Commission-Scientific Council Efficiency Working Group. The Working Group recommended three (3) two-week periods where intersessional meetings by STACTIC and other Working Groups can be held, namely:

- 22 February to 2 March 2021,
- 19 April to 30 April 2021, and
- 12 to 23 July 2021.

Contracting Parties are not obliged to schedule meetings during these periods, but these dates may help in future planning of intersessional meetings.

The recommendations of the Working Group were **adopted** (Annex 16).

b. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS), February and August 2020

The co-Chairs, Jaqueline Perry (Canada) and Fernando González-Costas (European Union), presented the February meeting report (COM-SC Doc. 20-01) and August meeting report (COM-SC Doc. 20-04).

Key discussion items include, among others:

- Review of the Precautionary Approach Framework revision,
- 3LN Redfish Conservation Plan and Harvest Control Rule,
- Greenland halibut Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE),
- 3M Cod MSE.

Recommendations, specifically pertaining to Precautionary Approach Framework revision and to 3LN Redfish Conservation Plan, were forwarded to the Commission and SC (COM-SC WP 20-03).

The recommendations of the WG-RBMS were **adopted** (Annex 17).

In the conclusion of this agenda item, Jacqueline Perry indicated that she is stepping down as co-Chair. Ray Walsh (Canada) was appointed as her replacement. The Commission thanked her for her exemplary service to the Working Group.

c. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM), August 2020

The co-Chairs, Elizabethann Mencher (USA) and Carmen Fernández (EU), presented the August meeting report (COM-SC Doc. 20-03) and the recommendations (COM-SC WP 20-04).

Key discussion items include, among others:

- Re-Assessment of VME closures, including Area #14,
- Assessment of NAFO bottom fisheries,
- SC work on Ecosystem Approach,
- Ecosystem Summary Sheet for Divisions 3LNO.

Recommendations to this effect were forwarded to the Commission and the SC (COM-SC WP 20-04).

The recommendations of WG-EAFFM were **adopted** (Annex 18).

d. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG), April 2020

The co-Chairs of CESAG, Katherine Sosebee (USA) and Temur Tairov (Russian Federation), presented the April meeting report (COM-SC Doc. 20-02) and the recommendations (COM-SC WP 20-05).

Key discussion items, among others:

- 2019 catch estimates conducted by the Secretariat and forwarded to SC,
- Current NAFO CEM measures relating to reporting of catches,
- Implementation of the 2018 NAFO Performance Review Panel Recommendation #4.

The recommendations of CESAG were **adopted** (Annex 19).

19. Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for Scientific Advice on the Management in 2022 and Beyond of Certain Stocks in Subareas 2, 3, 4 and 6 and Other Matters

In accordance with the procedure outlined in FC Doc. 12-26, a steering committee was formed to assist in the drafting of the Commission request. The committee was comprised of the SC Coordinator with Martha Krohn (Canada), Leigh Edgar (Canada) and Cristina Ribeiro (European Union).

The Commission request to SC developed and presented by the committee in COM WP 20-06 (Rev. 7), was **adopted** (Annex 20).

V. Conservation of Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area

20. Recommendations of the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS), August 2020 (if more discussion is required)

There was no further discussion on the WG-RBMS report and recommendations as they were addressed under agenda item 18.b.

21. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area, 2021

The Quota Table and the Effort Allocation Scheme for Shrimp Fishery in NAFO Division 3M for 2021, presented in Annex 21, incorporate the TAC and effort allocation scheme decisions, as well as the update of the footnotes.

In regard to the inclusion of UK in the Quota Table and specifically to the quota allocation and adjustments to the percentage shares of Cod in Division 3M, EU and UK issued a joint statement:

The United Kingdom has now left the European Union and has acceded to the Convention on Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries as an independent Contracting Party.

Accordingly, the European Union and the United Kingdom inform the Commission of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) that they have reached agreement on a provisional arrangement for splitting between the two Contracting Parties the quota allocation of cod in NAFO Division 3M for 2021 only, such that the share for the United Kingdom will be 16.34% and the share for the European Union will be 83.66% of the European Union's current quota allocation for this stock.

The EU and the UK respectfully request that due record is made of this arrangement and that the resulting quota allocations for each of the Contracting Parties are recorded in the relevant quota table. This arrangement will have no impact on the quota allocations for the other Contracting Parties.

This provisional arrangement is without prejudice to the ongoing negotiations between the European Union and the United Kingdom on a bilateral fisheries agreement between the EU and the UK. The United Kingdom and the European Union will jointly notify the Commission should those negotiations conclude in a way, which requires the figures above to be adjusted.

a. Cod in Division 3M

The gist of the scientific advice as formulated during the SC June 2020 meeting is for any catch over 1000 tonnes, the probability of being below B_{lim} exceeds the NAFO Precautionary Approach guidelines. As requested by the Commission at this meeting, SC made recalculations of the projections between 500-1500 tonnes at 100-tonne intervals. The projections revealed that, at catch of 1100 tonnes, the risk levels ($P(SSB < B_{lim})$ and $P(F > F_{lim})$) remain unchanged (see agenda item 17.a and Annex 15).

Deliberations on this stock centered on how the scientific advice be applied in developing and deciding management measures. Some CPs considered the SC advice to be clear and were of the view that it should be followed completely. Other CPs were of the view that socio-economic factors should also be taken into consideration and the TAC could be set as high as 3000 tonnes without posing a significantly higher risk to the stock, as long as there are complementary flanking measures in place to protect the spawning stock and juvenile cod. In addition, it was recalled that acceptable levels of probability and risk specific to the 3M cod stock had not been agreed, and this matter should be subject to a more comprehensive discussion among managers in relation to the Precautionary Approach Framework (PAF).

The Commission **adopted** a TAC of 1 500 tonnes for 2021. In addition, flanking measures, such as time-area fishing limitations, port landing inspections and use of sorting grids designed to protect the spawning stock and juvenile cod, were **adopted** (Annex 22).

It was noted that while flanking measures are mostly in alignment with the SC advice, in-depth scientific evaluation on the effectiveness and practicality of these measures is necessary if these are to be applied beyond 2021. It confirmed that these measures are applicable to the conduct of a directed fishery for this stock only. A directed fishery for stocks other than 3M Cod, which by chance resulted in catch composition of 3M Cod comprising the largest percentage, is outside the scope of these measures.

Consequently, some Contracting Parties requested that their statement be included in the meeting record:

- **Cuba:** *We are not part of the consensus on Cod 3M but respect the decision of the majority of CPs.*
- **Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland)** *reserved its position on the decision to set the TAC at 1500 t for 2021, noting that such a reduction is unnecessarily drastic, that there is no clear consensus on the level of risk that should be applied to management of this stock, and that it does not appear to be the fisheries that are the decisive factor in the growth or decline of the stock.*
- **Norway:** *The 3M cod stock is in a bad condition, rapidly approaching B_{lim} . The current state has been predicted by the Scientific Council and their low TAC advice for 2021 of no more than 1000 tonnes, should not come as a surprise to anyone.*

Norway wanted as a minimum to adhere to the scientific advice and optimally a full closure was the preferred option, to allow for a quicker recovery of the stock.

Norway was therefore disappointed by and reluctant to accept the TAC of 1500 tonnes, which is seen as being outside the scientific advice and in conflict with the agreed PA guidelines.

However, in the spirit of compromise, Norway did not block consensus on the issue. That was done in the understanding that this was an exceptional situation and that NAFO is indeed committed to follow the PA guidelines as agreed by this forum.

b. American Plaice in Division 3M

It was **agreed** to maintain the moratorium applicable to 2021, 2022, and 2023.

c. Pelagic *Sebastes mentella* (oceanic redfish) in Sub-area 2 + Divisions 1F and 3K

The Commission **agreed** to rollover the TAC, which is set at zero, noting that the TAC might be adjusted in accordance with the footnote 3 of the Quota Table.

The Russian Federation issued a statement:

*The Russian Federation adheres to its position that there is a single stock of pelagic *Sebastes mentella* in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters, including the NAFO Convention Area. The Russian Federation reiterated its standpoint that studies into the redfish stock structure should be continued using all available scientific and fisheries data as a basis. Until new data on the stock structure are available, the Russia Federation will continue to regulate the pelagic fishery for *Sebastes mentella* based on the concept of the single stock structure of this stock.*

d. Splendid alfonsino in Sub-area 6

It was **agreed** to maintain the moratorium applicable to 2021.

e. Shrimp in Division 3M

It was **agreed** to rollover the management measure applicable to 2021 (See Annex 21).

This stock was under moratorium in 2011-2019 and it has been traditionally management through an effort allocation scheme (in terms of fishing days and number of fishing boats). It was recalled that when the Commission, at the 41st Annual Meeting in September 2019, agreed to re-open the fishery in 2020, it committed to an intersessional meeting in 2020 to explore other management options to be applied on this stock (e.g. TAC-based measures). The meeting did not happen due to COVID-19.

The Commission decided to have the intersessional meeting in early 2021 to explore alternative management options to be applied on this stock. EU presented a concept paper concerning moving from efforts scheme to a TAC and quotas scheme, for consideration and discussion at the intersessional meeting (Annex 23).

Iceland maintained its objection to the effort allocation scheme applied to this stock.

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22. Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks Straddling National Jurisdictions, 2021

a. Redfish in Divisions 3LN

Consistent with the SC projection and in accordance with the WG-RBMS recommendation, it was **agreed** to set the TAC at 18 100 tonnes, applicable to 2021 and 2022. (see Annex 17).

b. Skates in Divisions 3LNO

The Commission **agreed** to rollover the TAC for two years, i.e. 7 000 tonnes applicable to 2021 and 2022. Footnote 13 of the Quota Table was updated.

c. Greenland halibut in Sub-area 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO

As calculated by SC and consistent with the MSE and HCR (Article 10 of the NAFO CEM), it was **agreed** to set the TAC at 16 498 tonnes in 2+3KLMNO, 12 225 tonnes of which is allocated to the fishery in 3LMNO.

23. Other matters pertaining to Conservation of Fish Stocks

a. Cod in Division 3L

This item (originally agenda item 22.a) was included in the Commission agenda because of 2019 request item 14 which asked for a summary of the scientific assessment of three stocks: Cod 2J3KL (Canada), Witch 2J3KL (Canada), and Pelagic *Sebastes mentella* (ICES) (see COM Doc. 19-29). SC endorsed the advice that removals from all sources must be kept at the lowest possible level (see agenda item 17.a). Canada expressed that this is a domestic fishery entirely managed by Canada. EU expressed that, because of Article 7 of the NAFO CEM, this stock in Division 3L should be re-visited from time to time, particularly new assessment information when it is available.

There was no further discourse on this topic.

b. Witch flounder in Divisions 3NO

This item was inserted in the Commission agenda because SC, on its own accord, conducted a full assessment of this stock which advises no directed fishery applicable to 2021 and 2022. The Commission recalled that the 2021 TAC for this stock has been decided at the 41st Annual Meeting in Bordeaux, France. No further action was undertaken.

The Russian Federation issued a statement:

The current level of fishing with the established TAC instead of the fishing ban for 2020 did not actually lead to a deterioration in the stock status. The results of the Scientific Council assessment indicate a gradual recovery of the stock of Witch flounder, despite the fact that it has been fished since 2015.

Based on the results of the Scientific Council's assessment, the absence of fishing in 2021-2022 compared to the development of a TAC of 1,175 tons in the same period may have an extremely insignificant effect on the likelihood of a decrease in commercial biomass compared to B_{lim} , the difference is calculated in units of percent.

The issue of possible values of Witch flounder by-catch when the moratorium was proposed as recommendation. The total by-catch of Witch flounder by all 13 NAFO Contracting Parties could exceed the current actual catch of this stock and this is highly likely even its current TAC of 1175 tons.

VI. Ecosystem Considerations

24. Recommendations of the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM), August 2020 (if more discussion is required)

There was no further matter discussed under this agenda item.

25. Other matters pertaining to Ecosystem Considerations

There was no further matter discussed under this agenda item.

VII. Conservation and Enforcement Measures

26. Recommendations of the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG), April 2020 (if more discussion is required)

There was no further matter discussed under this agenda item.

27. Meeting Report and Recommendations of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Bycatches, Discards, and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in the NAFO Regulatory Area, April 2020

The Chair of WG-BDS, Temur Tairov (Russian Federation), presented the meeting report (COM Doc. 20-04) and the recommendations (COM WP 20-11).

Key discussion items include, among others:

- Finely grained temporal and spatial analysis of the haul by haul data, 2016-2019 and other complementary analyses conducted by the Secretariat,
- Continuing coordination with SC and STACTIC on matters related to the implementation of the *Action Plan in the Management and Minimization of Bycatch and Discards* (COM Doc. 17-26).

The recommendations were **adopted** (Annex 24).

28. Report of STACTIC from this Annual Meeting and Recommendations

The STACTIC Chair, Kaire Märtin (EU), presented the results of the meeting and the previous Intersessional meeting in May 2020. Due to time-constraints brought about by the virtual format of the meeting, the meeting report (see Part II) would be finalized by correspondence. The recommendations from other working groups which was forwarded to STACTIC (see agenda item 12) were deferred to the next Intersessional meeting. The Chair forwarded the following recommendations agreed by STACTIC for consideration and adoption:

- STACTIC WP 20-16 (Revised) *Suggestions for changes in the CEM (Proposal from Editorial Drafting Group)* (Annex 25),
- STACTIC WP 20-17 *Suggestions for changes in the CEM (Proposal from Editorial Drafting Group)* (Annex 26),
- STACTIC WP 20-24 *Proposed changes to the NAFO CEM relating to the observer reporting timeframe and template (Article 30.14.e)* (Annex 27),
- STACTIC WP 20-25 (Rev. 2) *Proposed changes to the NAFO CEM relating to 100% Port Inspection Benchmark for 3M Cod* (Annex 28),
- STACTIC WP 20-27 (Rev. 2) *Proposed changes to the NAFO CEM relating to reporting of the signalling the change of fishery (Article 9.3)* (Annex 29),

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- STACTIC WP 20-30 (Revised) *Proposed changes to the NAFO CEM relating to the mandatory waiting period following authorization* (Annex 30).

The Commission **adopted** all the recommendations.

In addition, the Commission accepted STACTIC WP 20-20 (Rev. 3) *DRAFT Annual Fisheries and Compliance Review 2020 (Compliance Report for Fishing Year 2019)* (Annex 31).

The Commission also agreed to request STACTIC to consider what control elements would be necessary for NAFO to adopt a landing obligation policy in order to encompass ongoing discussions in various NAFO bodies dealing with measures on discards.

On the guidance on COVID-19, the Commission agreed that STACTIC should compile, make a first review of, including appropriate recommendations, and report for decision-making to the Commission on the measures undertaken by Contracting Parties via the compliance review. The Annual Compliance Report for 2020 (to be produced in 2021), when indicating non-compliances by a CP with a given obligation on control, should identify as well any difficulties directly linked to the COVID pandemic to be differentiated from any other non-compliances. This first assessment role for STACTIC does not aim at revising the decision of CP to suspend a control measure, but to differentiate the reasons for the non-compliance of a measure between COVID and non-COVID-related ones.

29. Other matters pertaining to Conservation and Enforcement Measures

There was no further matter discussed under this agenda item.

VIII. Finance and Administration

30. Report of STACFAD from this Annual Meeting

The report of STACFAD (see Part III) was presented by the Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA). The report included recommendations for the adoption of the budget for 2020, the Auditor's Report for 2019 and the implementation of certain 2018 Performance Review Panel recommendations related to the Standing Committee. The Chair added that Robert Fagan (Canada) has been appointed the new Chair of STACFAD and Fiona MacKichan (UK) as its new vice-Chair.

31. Adoption of the 2021 Budget and STACFAD recommendations

The recommendations from STACFAD were the following:

STACFAD recommends that:

- **The 2019 Financial Statements be adopted.**
- **The amount maintained in the accumulated surplus account be set at \$285,000 of which \$200,000 would be sufficient to finance operations during the first three months of 2021, and of which \$85,000 would be a contingency fund available to be used for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.**
- **The recruitment and relocation fund be increased by \$12,000 to \$72,000 for future recruitment and relocation costs of internationally recruited staff.**
- **The performance review fund be increased by \$15,000 to \$30,000 for future costs associated with having an external performance review.**
- **The internship period be maintained for six (6) months during 2021.**

- **The budget for 2021 of \$2,451,000 be adopted.**
- **The Commission appoint the three Staff Committee nominees for September 2020–September 2021: Brian Healey (Canada), Ignacio Granell (European Union) and Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA).**
- **The 2023 Annual Meeting (to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, unless an invitation to host is extended by a Contracting Party and accepted by the Organization) be held 18–22 September 2023.**

The recommendations of STACFAD were **adopted**.

IX. Closing Procedure

32. Other Business

There was no further matter discussed under this agenda item.

33. Time and Place of Next Annual Meeting

The 43rd Annual Meeting will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada from 20 to 24 September 2021.

34. Press Release

The Press Release of the meeting was developed by the Executive Secretary, through consultations with the Chairs of the Commission and Scientific Council. The agreed Press Release (Annex 32) was circulated and posted to the NAFO website at the conclusion of the meeting on Friday, 25 September.

35. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned 11:25 hrs on Friday, 25 September 2019.

The summary of decisions and actions taken by the NAFO Commission is presented in Annex 1.

**Annex 1. Summary of Decisions and Actions of the Commission
from the 42nd Annual Meeting of NAFO**

ANNEX #	NAFO WORKING PAPER #	DOCUMENT TITLE	NAFO DOCUMENT #
16	COM-SC WP 20-02	Recommendations from the NAFO Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process (E-WG), 2020	COM-SC Doc. 20-07
17	COM-SC WP 20-03	Recommendations from the NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS), Aug. 2020	COM-SC Doc. 20-05
18	COM-SC WP 20-04	Recommendations from the NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM), Aug. 2020	COM-SC Doc. 20-06
19	COM-SC WP 20-05	Recommendations from the NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG), Apr. 2020	COM-SC Doc. 20-08
20	COM WP 20-32 (Rev. 7)	The Commission's Request for Scientific Advice on Management in 2022 and Beyond of Certain Stocks in Subareas 2, 3 and 4 and Other Matters	COM Doc. 20-16
		Quota Table and the Effort Allocation Scheme for the Shrimp Fishery in NAFO Division 3M for 2021	see Annex 21 (below)
22	COM WP 20-34 (Rev. 2)	Flanking Measures for directed fishery of COD 3M	COM Doc. 20-14
24	COM WP 20-11	Recommendations from the NAFO Commission Ad Hoc Working Group on Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in the NAFO Regulatory Area, Apr. 2020	COM Doc. 20-15
25	STACTIC WP 20-16 (Revised)	Changes to the NAFO CEM (by the Editorial Drafting Group)	COM Doc. 20-08
26	STACTIC WP 20-17	Edits to the NAFO CEM (by the Editorial Drafting Group)	COM Doc. 20-09
27	STACTIC WP 20-24	Observer reporting timeframe and template (Article 30.14.e)	COM Doc. 20-10
28	STACTIC WP 20-25 (Rev. 2)	100% Port Inspection Benchmark for 3M Cod	COM Doc. 20-11
29	STACTIC WP 20-27 (Rev. 2)	Reporting signalling the change of fishery (Article 9.3)	COM Doc. 20-12
30	STACTIC WP 20-30 (Revised)	Reduction of Mandatory Waiting Periods in NAFO (Article 25.5.a)	COM Doc. 20-13
31	STACTIC WP 20-20 (Rev. 3)	Annual Fisheries and Compliance Review 2020 (Compliance Report for Fishing Year 2019)	COM Doc. 20-17 (Rev.)
	STACFAD WP 20-01 to STACFAD WP 20-08	STACFAD Recommendations including the 2021 Budget	see agenda item 31 (above)

Annex 2. Agenda

I. Opening Procedure	
1.	Opening by the Chair, Stéphane Artano (France, in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)
2.	Appointment of Rapporteur
3.	Adoption of Agenda
4.	Admission of Observers
5.	Publicity
II. Supervision and Coordination of the Organizational, Administrative and other Internal Affairs	
6.	Review of Membership of the Commission
7.	Administrative and Activity Report by NAFO Secretariat
8.	Recruitment of NAFO Executive Secretary for the 2022-2025 term
9.	NAFO Headquarters Agreement
10.	Review of the list of experts to serve as panelists under the NAFO Dispute Settlement provisions
11.	Guidance to STACFAD
12.	Guidance to STACTIC
III. Coordination of External Affairs	
13.	Report of Executive Secretary on External Meetings
14.	International Relations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Relations with other International Organizations b. NAFO Members as Observers to External Meetings c. Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Deep-Seas Project
15.	Oil and Gas Activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area
IV. Joint Session of Commission and Scientific Council	
16.	Implementation of 2018 Performance Review Panel recommendations
17.	Presentation of scientific advice by the Chair of the Scientific Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Response of the Scientific Council to the Commission's request for scientific advice b. Feedback to the Scientific Council regarding the advice and its work during this meeting c. Other issues as determined by the Chairs of the Commission and the Scientific Council
18.	Meeting Reports and Recommendations of the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process (E-WG), 2020 b. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS), February and August 2020 c. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM), August 2020 d. Joint Commission–Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG), April 2020
19.	Formulation of Request to the Scientific Council for Scientific Advice on Management in 2022 and Beyond of Certain Stocks in Subareas 2, 3, 4, 6 and Other Matters

V. Conservation of Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area	
20.	Recommendations of the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS), August 2020 (if more discussion is required)*
21.	Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks in the Regulatory Area, 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cod in Division 3M b. American Plaice in Division 3M c. Pelagic <i>Sebastes mentella</i> (oceanic redfish) in Sub-area 2 + Divisions 1F and 3K d. Splendid alfonsino in Sub-area 6 e. Shrimp in Division 3M
22.	Management and Technical Measures for Fish Stocks Straddling National Jurisdictions, 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Redfish in Divisions 3LN b. Skates in Divisions 3LNO c. Greenland halibut in Sub-area 2 and Divisions 3KLMNO
23.	Other matters pertaining to Conservation of Fish Stocks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cod in Division 3L b. Witch flounder in Divisions 3NO
VI. Ecosystem Considerations	
24.	Recommendations of the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM), August 2020 (if more discussion is required)*
25.	Other matters pertaining to Ecosystem Considerations
VII. Conservation and Enforcement Measures	
26.	Recommendations of the Joint Commission–Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG), April 2020 (if more discussion is required)*
27.	Meeting Report and Recommendations of the Ad hoc Working Group on Bycatches, Discards, and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in the NAFO Regulatory Area, April 2020
28.	Report of STACTIC from this Annual Meeting and Recommendations
29.	Other matters pertaining to Conservation and Enforcement Measures
VIII. Finance and Administration	
30.	Report of STACFAD from this Annual Meeting
31.	Adoption of the 2021 Budget and STACFAD recommendations
IX. Closing Procedure	
32.	Other Business
33.	Time and Place of Next Annual Meeting
34.	Press Release
35.	Adjournment

Annex 3. Participant List

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Annex 4. Opening Statement by the NAFO President

Dear distinguished colleagues and friends,

I am very pleased to welcome you, virtually, to the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization. We are living in “interesting times”! The current global pandemic has presented us all with unprecedented and historic challenges – including the fact that we must meet virtually this week.

To begin, on behalf of all of us, I am extremely pleased to welcome the United Kingdom as NAFO’s 13th Contracting Party. I look forward very much to the valuable contribution the UK will provide to this Organization. I will also break my rule that Contracting Parties provide their opening statements in writing only, by allowing the UK to give its opening remarks after me!

As you know we were supposed to be meeting face-to-face in Halifax this week, however the pandemic has brought us to this virtual format. Meeting virtually is not ideal for our deliberations and will pose many challenges. Nevertheless, thanks to the work of Contracting Parties prior to today, we have focused the agenda, and thanks to the work Contracting Parties in the upcoming days, I am confident we will have a successful meeting

Despite the current global situation and its challenges, NAFO has remained productive and busy. After the global pandemic was declared, NAFO has conducted all its business virtually. Since early March, NAFO has held 14 virtual intersessional meetings to prepare for our Annual Meeting. We have made a lot of progress despite the pandemic and I want to thank Contracting Parties for their cooperation and understanding. In particular, I want to express my appreciation to the Scientific Council, and its Chair, for all the work it has done to provide us with all the necessary scientific advice to base the decisions we will have to make this week. We need to continue with our progress of the past few months, and in the upcoming days, we should address not only those issues that are essential for the 2021 fishing year but also those that continue the progress NAFO has made to further its commitment to the long term conservation and sustainable use of its fishery resources.

Meeting virtually was not the only big change for NAFO this year. This spring, Canada provided the NAFO Secretariat with new offices in downtown Halifax, by the waterfront. I am aware that the Executive Secretary had wanted to showcase these new offices for you this year, but sadly this will have to wait until later.

We have a lot of work to do this week. I want to reiterate my thanks to Contracting Parties for your positive contributions throughout the year, which I am sure will continue this week. I also want to thank Japan and the Republic of Korea, in particular, for sacrificing their evenings so we can all meet together in this format. Finally, I want to thank the Secretariat for its support throughout the year.

I now declare the 42nd Annual Meeting of NAFO officially open!

Annex 5. Opening Statement by United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK)

We would like to thank you, Chair, for providing the United Kingdom with an opportunity to make a short opening statement. We understand under normal circumstances opening statements are provided in writing only, but we appreciate the recognition that the addition of a new Contracting Party is not the norm, especially so close to an annual meeting, and we shall therefore keep it brief.

The UK is delighted to be taking part in NAFO discussions this year as an independent Contracting Party. We thank the NAFO secretariat for accommodating the UK's participation. This meeting represents the UK's first independent attendance of an RFMO since leaving the European Union at the start of this year. It is our intention to contribute fully to NAFO, and actively support the progress NAFO has made in managing the fisheries resources of the northwest Atlantic.

The UK has long been committed to sustainable fisheries, protecting the ecosystems that support those fisheries, and making fisheries management decisions based on the best available science. We shall continue to work closely with our neighbours and international partners to ensure the sustainable management of stocks. We look forward to a productive NAFO annual meeting, and to working with you all.

Thank you.

Annex 6. Opening Statement by the Delegation of Canada

Mister Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Canada is pleased to be a part of the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), being held in a virtual setting this year due to the challenging and unprecedented circumstances that have dramatically changed the way we live and work.

Each of NAFO's Standing Committees, Working Groups, the Scientific Council and the arrangement of the Annual Meeting itself needed to quickly adapt to a new way of operating to continue to advance the important work of the organization. It is a true testament to the commitment and determination of all Contracting Parties and participants that such considerable progress could be made this year.

In particular, it is important to highly commend the Scientific Council for accomplishing so much of their significant mandate over a virtual meeting. Their work remains critical to inform management decisions in support of the sustainable management of stocks. We, along with other Contracting Parties, share the concern about the continued heavy workload of the Council and urge all Contracting Parties to make every effort to expand their participation and increase the overall capacity of the Council.

It remains the consistent professionalism and extraordinary hard work of the NAFO Secretariat that made much of the progress this year possible. We extend our deepest appreciation to the Secretariat for organizing each of the intersessional meetings and the annual meeting this year. Their careful attention to meeting logistics and continued expertise in support of the Commission, the Scientific Council and other NAFO bodies is deeply appreciated by Canada and by all Contracting Parties.

While each of NAFO Working Groups were not able to achieve as much as originally planned, much effort was directed to revising timelines and work plans to outline clear direction on how we may be able to continue to advance many key initiatives in the short and medium term.

We are optimistic that the discussions this week will result in a clear path forward on the review of the Precautionary Approach with its renewed focus on co-operative dialogue between scientists and managers, the review of the management strategy for 3LN redfish, next steps in organizing the Ecosystem Workshop that will help identify our ecosystem objectives and elements of potential application of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, continued protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME), and a revised management scheme for 3M shrimp that reflects the modern conservation principles that have made NAFO a leader among Regional Fisheries Management Organizations.

Each of these elements contributes significantly to achieving NAFO's overall objectives and serve to promote and protect our ocean resources. We need to ensure that they remain healthy for future generations, while providing important economic opportunities to Canada, its coastal communities and to all Contracting Parties.

Annex 7. Opening Statement by the Delegation of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

The Faroe Islands and Greenland (DFG) would like to begin by conveying our appreciation and warm thanks to the Secretariat for their outstanding efforts to keep us all well informed and up to date on meetings and activities during a year with many challenges.

We would also like to welcome the United Kingdom as a new Contracting Party. We are looking forward to an active and constructive collaboration in the years to come.

This year has brought new and unforeseen challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has influenced our collaborative work in NAFO and made it difficult for Contracting Parties to follow the normal procedures with respect to control and enforcement measures. The Faroe Islands and Greenland have both been affected to some degree by this situation, but not as seriously as many other countries around the world and their fisheries administrations and industries, with whom we greatly sympathize.

Once again, this year, one of the key issues for our delegation is the conservation and sustainable management of the cod stock in 3M. While the substantial decline in stock size appears to be continuing, we are pleased to note a recent increase in recruitment. We are looking forward to discussing management options, which could also include technical measures and seasonal closures to help improve the state of the stock, while also allowing a viable fishery to continue. In the absence of a clearly defined HCR for this stock, and being aware that it is not necessarily the fishery itself that is impeding the growth of the stock, we as managers must evaluate the risks associated with different approaches, based on the best available scientific evidence and taking due account of social and economic factors.

We are further encouraged to see that the Scientific Council continues to advise a fishery for shrimp in 3M, which is positive after a 10-year closure. Our delegation is looking forward to continuing discussions over the coming year on moving from a system of fishing days to quotas.

The Faroe Islands and Greenland were looking forward to seeing the new NAFO Headquarters in Halifax and, not least, to enjoying the informal conversations with delegates that are so important for ensuring understanding and smooth collaboration. Under your able guidance Mr. Chair, we will nevertheless do our best to contribute to a constructive and successful outcome of this 42nd Annual Meeting, under these exceptional circumstances.

Annex 8. Opening Statement by the Delegation of the European Union

Mister Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, we would like to express our appreciation for the efforts made by the Chair, the NAFO Secretariat and the rest of NAFO Parties in order to organize the 42nd Annual Meeting of NAFO, which for the first time takes place virtually via webex. Taking into account the difficult circumstances caused by the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, we were all required to think about alternative ways for conducting the necessary business of this important organisation, so we could still discharge our mandate to ensure the long term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the Convention Area in a format that was safe, cost efficient and which in this case also happens to be greener.

Secondly, I would like to recognise the excellent preparatory work carried out ahead of this meeting, which should allow us to reach decisions that will contribute to the effective management of international fisheries that this organisation has been entrusted to manage. This year fishable biomass shows significant decline in several areas and the situation for a number of important stocks remains difficult. The Commission will again have to set TACs for fish stocks under the purview of NAFO that ensure their sustainable management for the years to come while taking into account environmental, economic and social considerations. The EU will continue to seek and support solutions based on the best available scientific advice, aiming to ensure long-term sustainability for the stocks and predictability for the industry and areas that depend on their exploitation.

The EU has carefully studied the advice emanating from the Scientific Council and will continue to support sustainable approaches for the long-term management of key stocks, such as cod, Greenland halibut and redfish, which are of particular importance to the EU. In this regard, special consideration must also be given to technical and control measures that can help us better achieve conservation objectives of NAFO.

We are aware of the situation of Northern shrimp in division 3M, and the need to discuss a new management regime based on a TAC and quota allocation, possibly together with other management options. After the heavy sacrifices and the establishment of a moratorium in 2010 to ensure the rebuilding of the stock, it was a positive step when this fishery was re-opened last year and this year's timely scientific advice will allow the Commission to assess the status of this stock. It would appear unlike that Contracting Parties would be able at this year's Annual Meeting to reach agreement on all the elements to allow for a transition to TAC and quota allocation for 3M shrimp, notably given that fact that the meeting will take place in a virtual format. The EU however believes that NAFO at this meeting could make a step forward in this process by agreeing on the possible building blocks upon which a future conversion mechanism could be based.

In addition, I would like to underline the importance of the Ecosystem Approach in NAFO while at the same time recognising the challenges in implementing such an approach. In this regard, I would like to recall the relevance of pursuing a global assessment of the ecosystem and its dynamics in order to allow for the best management decisions.

In the context of the 2020 re-assessment of VME closures, I reiterate the EU continuous support for a coherent policy protecting VMEs based on the latest and best science available and while recognising that this year's format for the meeting will likely require us to postpone the assessment of VME closures for another year.

Regarding control and enforcement, the EU will continue to promote compliance of the EU fleet with the NAFO rules in force, both at sea and in port, and measures that increase the efficiency of NAFO's control and inspection systems. The EU will also support giving a mandate to STACTIC to assess what elements of control would be necessary if NAFO were to adopt a landing obligation policy in order to encompass ongoing discussions in various NAFO bodies dealing with measures on discards.

The EU delegation looks forward to working with all Parties around the table in order to achieve the best possible result for NAFO stocks and ecosystems and to make this webex Annual Meeting a joint success.

Annex 9. Opening Statement by the Delegation of Japan

First of all, Japan would like to express its deepest gratitude to the NAFO Chairs and Secretariat staff for the excellent preparation and arrangements to hold the 42nd Annual Meeting in such unprecedented situation.

As Japan expressed in the past meetings, NAFO has played an important role for fisheries management through development of conservation and management measures for sustainable use of fishery resources based on scientific evidence. We should bear in mind that the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM) have been taken into account by other RFMOs.

On this occasion, Japan would like to draw the attention of Contracting Parties (CPs) on two specific issues and explain its view for this year's NAFO Annual Meeting, namely management measures for Cod (3M) and re-assessment of VME closures.

Regarding 3M Cod, the stock assessment conducted by the Scientific council (SC) indicated substantial decline of the population due to very low recruitment. Decision at the coming Commission meeting is critical for proper management of this stock in future. Japan therefore believes that the Commission should show its strong commitment for the conservation of this valuable stock, while taking into account the socio-economic impact on the fishery. Japan will collaborate with all CPs for a constructive discussion on this issue.

Regarding re-assessment of VME closures, Japan supports the recommendation of WG-EAFFM to roll-over the current closures for one year. This recommendation is reasonable given this year's abnormal situation that hinders in-depth discussion. Re-assessment of VME closures should be based on the best scientific evidence available and carried out in an objective manner. From this perspective, Japan considers the set of the criteria established by the FAO, and reflected to CEM Article 22. 4 (c) accordingly, should be given the highest regard and properly applied in the re-assessment.

Once again, I would like to repeat that, as the historic RFMO, NAFO has been serving a leading role among RFMOs. This year, almost all RFMOs are obliged to fulfil their mandate to manage fisheries resources without convening in-person meetings. NAFO is the first RFMO, as far as Japan is a member, to have its annual Commission meeting in a virtual format. Our practice and achievement for the coming days would be naturally referred to by other RFMOs. The Japanese Delegation is ready to work closely and cooperatively with other delegations to find good and reasonable solutions on every issue to be discussed. It sincerely hopes that this Annual meeting will be successfully and fruitfully concluded, thereby demonstrating our capability to overcome the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Annex 10. Opening Statement by the Delegation of Ukraine

We welcome all participants of the 42nd session of the NAFO.

First of all, we would like to express our gratitude to the NAFO Secretariat for its efforts to organize this meeting, despite the difficulties faced by the world community because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Continued cooperation of the Parties to the Convention is very important for implementation of main objectives of the NAFO Convention, namely, ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of marine resources in this Convention Area.

In this respect, it should be recalled that in due time Ukraine made an outstanding contribution to discovery and exploration of fish stocks of the World Ocean, including waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Certain types of fisheries were opened and developed in these waters together with some other States of the former USSR.

As a responsible fishery State and member of several international fisheries management organizations and bilateral agreements, as well as a signatory of main international maritime acts, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, Ukraine seeks to coordinate its efforts with other countries in this sphere.

Thus, Ukraine's accession to the NAFO in 1999 and further participation in its work is a logical continuation of our traditional fisheries activities.

During more than 20-year period of full membership of Ukraine in the NAFO, a number of reasons did not allow our country to fully exploit potential of its status in the Organization, and, unfortunately, current significant restrictions for Ukraine on access to living marine resources in the NAFO Area are not yet favorable for resumption of the Ukrainian fisheries in this part of the World Ocean which is especially important in the context of ensuring food security of our country.

In particular, it is important to remember that despite rich historical experience in fisheries in the NAFO Area as part of the USSR fleet, the position of Ukraine on its rights to use water bioresources had not been taken into consideration during allocation of the USSR "block-quota" in 2003, and the Ukrainian side hopes for more equitable approach on the part of the Member States to allocation of NAFO living marine resources limits at present.

We genuinely hope that the results of this meeting, in general, will ensure adoption of effective decisions for conservation of marine ecosystems and living marine resources of the NAFO Area, which will allow to continue their rational use on precautionary basis. We wish all mutual understanding and fruitful work at the end, that will bring a significant success, taking into account all the limitations, caused solely by distance form of the NAFO meetings this year.

Annex 11. Opening Statement by the Delegation of the United States of America (USA)

Mr. Chair, Delegates, Ladies, and Gentlemen, the United States is pleased to be here with everyone, albeit under somewhat different and challenging circumstances. Although we are very disappointed that we will not be able to see all of our NAFO colleagues in person, we trust that the strong relationships amongst NAFO Parties will help to ensure a successful and productive meeting. We are pleased to welcome the United Kingdom to the organization; we look forward to next year's meeting for a proper in-person congratulations. Along these lines, we would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank the NAFO Secretariat for their dedication and hard work to ensure that this Annual Meeting takes place. Under these extremely unusual circumstances, they have once again demonstrated their professionalism and commitment to NAFO and its members.

The on-going pandemic associated with COVID19 continues to affect all of us to various degrees and in various ways, and this 42nd NAFO meeting will give us an opportunity to examine how we are dealing with these challenges both on an individual member basis and as a regional fisheries management organization. Although the circumstances are difficult, the United States maintains its strong commitment to the standards we have set for ourselves relative to the conservation and management of NAFO and associated species. Thus, we will continue to insist that all of the Commission's management decisions be in line with the advice of the Scientific Council, and that these decisions be made in a collaborative and transparent fashion. We must work together to ensure that we adhere to these basic foundational principles of NAFO.

In support of these principles, we must continue to recognize and address the increasing demands on the Scientific Council and the need to ensure the availability of necessary and appropriate scientific expertise and resources. Given the current circumstances, we must recognize that the SC will face significant obstacles and potential delays as they respond to Commission requests. Some of these issues have been highlighted in the Report of the 2020 SC Meeting and others have undoubtedly not yet become apparent. For this reason, we must collaborate closely with the SC relative to setting 2020/2021 priorities to ensure that vital work can be completed – or to plan for the possibility that it will not be completed.

The United States will also continue to advocate for transparency – both in deliberations by NAFO bodies and in the decisions that result from those deliberations. Although plenary, sidebar, and other communications may be challenging in the online setting in which we are working this year, we are hopeful that a reasonable level of transparency will be maintained. On a related subject, we would like to note that we are pleased with the balance that is developing in STACTIC relative to participation by non-Governmental members of our delegations, and we look forward to continued discussions to codify fair and predictable measures for appropriate participation in that forum. The United States recognizes the commitment of NAFO to open discussion and information sharing, and we look forward to maintaining that principle this year.

Relative to NAFO stocks, while we welcome the continuing positive developments reported by the Scientific Council regarding the Division 3M shrimp stock, we also continue to urge precaution moving forward – particularly relative to the use of the previous effort-based management regime. The United States is still of the opinion that NAFO must engage in a transparent and open dialogue as soon as possible regarding how the fishery will be managed in the long-term.

The United States also looks forward to further discussion during this meeting relative to the application of the CEM to fishing operations during the COVID19 crisis. Although some discussions on this topic occurred via email and during the STACTIC intersessional meeting – and a number of papers on the subject have been submitted, we are concerned that there is still no common understanding regarding how emergency/interim measures will be applied by individual Contracting Parties, and no resolution regarding how such activities/decisions will be reported and dealt relative to the NAFO compliance process moving forward. This could impact CPs' reporting and, thus, scientific and management decisions relative to some stocks.

Thank you for your attention and, again, I am looking forward to a productive week.

Annex 12. Opening Statement by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Chair, Contracting Parties, Observers, and members of the Secretariat, it is with great pleasure that FAO is granted observer status to NAFO's annual meeting, a leading Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO) with whom FAO enjoys a close working relationship.

NAFO has been a valuable partner of the FAO/UNEP ABNJ Deep Sea Project (2014-2019) and contributed greatly to its success through in-kind contributions on the implementation of legal instruments, vulnerable marine ecosystem (VME) protection, deep-sea fisheries management, scientific cooperation, training, and Secretariat exchange programmes. This project finished in 2019 and FAO is in the process of developing a second phase for the Project, with GEF providing the majority of the project funding.

The second phase of the Deep-sea Fisheries Project (COM WP 20-09) will be implemented by FAO and builds upon the first phase, with a greater emphasis on supporting the sustainable management of deep-sea fisheries and the reduction of significant adverse impacts on biodiversity. Focal areas will be the application of the ecosystem approach to fisheries, the assessment and management of data-limited stocks, reducing impacts on VMEs and deepwater sharks, and cross-sectoral cooperation. The Deep-sea Fisheries Project held its Inception Workshop virtually in August 2020 with representation from all the deep-sea RFMOs. The NAFO Executive Secretary contributed to the Workshop with suggestions for the project's development. The project is currently being developed in partnership with RFMOs, industry, Government and NGOs, with an aim to finalize the project document in early 2021. An invitation has been extended to NAFO to be a partner in the Project's second phase and to continue its support to FAO in promoting sustainable fisheries and biodiversity conservation. NAFO's in-kind contributions will serve to support the project and development cooperation among RFMOs. The project is planned to run from 2022-2027.

Finally, FAO would like to acknowledge the active participation of NAFO Secretariat in the FAO-supported Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network. In addition, FAO wishes to express its appreciation for the technical collaboration and support of NAFO Secretariat to possible transformation of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) into a regional fishery management entity/arrangement.

Annex 13. Opening Statement by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC)

Dear Mr. Chair, distinguished delegates, observers, ladies and gentlemen:

I am Vladimir Radchenko, Executive Director of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC).

I am honoured to attend the NAFO 42nd Annual Meeting on behalf of the NPAFC in an observer capacity. I would like to extend the Commission's appreciation to the Honorable President Stéphane Artano, Vice-Chair Temur Tairov, members of the NAFO, including delegates from the NPAFC member countries, and Executive Secretary Fred Kingston for the invitation.

COVID-19 pandemics caused international organizations to cancel or postpone face-to-face meetings around the World. NPAFC held its 28th Annual Meeting in virtual e-mail format in May 2020 that required, even with simplified agendas, twenty-four days to complete. Significant time difference between cities in the NPAFC member countries (13 hours between Juneau and Moscow) and lack of opportunity to organize a synchronous interpretation in condition of quarantine in offices were the main difficulties prevented organizing of video sessions at our meeting. I am glad to see that the NAFO Secretariat solved the time difference problem and wish the best of success to the NAFO Annual Meeting. WebEx meeting experience will be extremely useful for the NPAFC Secretariat to prepare future events.

A regular practice of exchanging observers at the NAFO and NPAFC Annual Meeting is a valuable tool of information exchange in all areas of our organizations' activities. After the final report from the second NAFO Performance Review was presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting in Tallinn, a process to address the Performance Review recommendations, along with an annual progress reporting procedure is of particular interest for NPAFC. As a Canada-based international organization, NPAFC would appreciate to hear an update on the status of a NAFO Headquarters Agreement and details of administrative report. We are always interested in NAFO relations with other international organizations, conservation of fish stocks, and oil and gas exploration activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

NAFO Scientific Council has reached a considerable progress in implementation of ecosystem approach to fisheries management. New tools to assess the ecosystem productivity potential and a level of allowable catch withdrawal can increase the accuracy and coherence of scientific advice. Ecosystem approach implementation also creates new opportunities for inter-organizational scientific cooperation that is particularly important in a time of preparation to the Review Conference on the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. Fifteenth round of informal consultations of States parties to Agreement is postponed to March 2021.

The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) is another global-scale initiative that combines and multiplies efforts to deliver scientific knowledge, foster technological innovation, and build capacity to achieve the 2030 Agenda. NPAFC is currently discussing its potential involvement into the UN Decade-related activities with partners including the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) and the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC). Large-scale mutual scientific project could be based on outcome of the NPAFC high-seas expeditions and PICES international networking in small pelagic fish and physical/biological oceanographic research. Organizations with experience in research and management of common pelagic fish stocks will be also invited to participate. In particular, promising discussion took place with ICES Secretariat and Working Group on Science to Support Conservation, Restoration and Management of Diadromous Species (WGDIAD).

The NPAFC and NASCO are currently implementing the International Year of the Salmon (IYS). The IYS focal year was 2019, with projects and activities continuing into 2022. The IYS Wrap up symposium is planned for the autumn 2022. Despite NAFO does not deal with salmon, the IYS scope envisage participation of experts in outreach, education and communication working for similar projects and programs in fisheries science and

management. I hope that the NAFO Secretariat will include this event into the Organization's calendar when details become available.

Because the NAFO Commission will consider an appointment of NAFO members as observers to external meetings, I would like to take this opportunity to confirm that NPAFC looks forward to seeing the NAFO representative at the NPAFC 29th Annual Meeting in Hakodate, Japan in May 2021.

Wishing the best of success and spirit of cooperation to the NAFO Annual Meeting,

Thank you for your kind attention

Annex 14. Opening Statement by Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA)

La Réunion, 21st September 2020

Mr. Fred Kingston
Executive Secretary
Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
Summit Place • 1601 Lower Water Street • Suite 401
Halifax • Nova Scotia • B3J 3P6 • Canada

Subject: SIOFA statement for the 42nd Annual Meeting of Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization

Dear Mr. Chairman,
Dear Mr. Executive Secretary,

As the Executive Secretary of the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement, I would like to extend my thanks for the invitation to the 42nd Annual meeting of Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization. The SIOFA is still a very young RFMO with a lot to learn from its elders.

Attending this meeting is of a great interest for us.

On a professional level, it is a great lesson on the arrangements and procedures a way older and well-established organization applies to attain its objectives.

Furthermore, both NAFO and SIOFA are mandated to regulate demersal fisheries within their own Area. The NAFO is a lot more advanced than SIOFA, particularly in its scientific capability, and its younger siblings have a lot to learn from its experience. Cooperation is of a great importance in our field of work and that is why I am grateful to be here with you for this virtual meeting.

Sincerely yours,
Thierry CLOT
Executive Secretary
SIOFA/APSOI



**Annex 15. Compilation of SC Response to Feedback Questions
Regarding its Scientific Advice**
(From COM WP 20-38)

**From
European Union
[COM WP 20-12]**

Regarding 3M cod:

The COM in its request for scientific advice for 2021 asked the Scientific Council to provide advice on gear, including sorting grids, area and time-based measures that could be used to protect and improve the productivity of the 3M cod stock.

With respects to the area closures, the Scientific Council in its June meeting responded to this COM request by advising that: “... **a seasonal closure** (no directed fishery on 3M cod during the first quarter of the year) would **protect spawning activity**, reducing the number of spawning fish that are captured and allowing them to spawn before becoming available to the fishery.”

In its response the SC further advised that “*The implementation of such measures should be **accompanied by a clear definition of the objectives** (determine if and how closure effectiveness could be monitored) and a **monitoring plan** to study the impact that these measures may have on the fishery and ecosystem.*”

As regards the two points highlighted above from the SC response, the EU would like to seek further guidance from the Scientific Council on the following points:

1. Should the seasonal closure of directed fisheries for 3M cod during the first quarter of the year be extended to the full Flemish cap area - NAFO division 3M - or should this prohibition instead, cover a particular area within the NAFO division 3M where the cod spawning biomass is likely to aggregate?

In the latter case, then the EU requests the SC to provide additional elements, based on the best available data, as to where the target fishery should be prohibited in light of the information available to identify the area for time/area closure.

**Scientific Council
responded:
[COM WP 20-24]**

There is no simple and general answer to which type of closure is better; the optimal closure design would be expected to depend on a multiplicity of factors. There are different opinions in the literature on the best type of closure to consider: seasonal, by area, or by area / season, although closure of a wide area seems to have the most support. Eero et al. (2019) concluded that “designing relatively small area closures appropriately is highly complex and data demanding and may involve trade-offs between positive and negative impacts on the stock. Seasonal closures covering most of the stock distribution during the spawning time are more robust to data limitations, and less likely to be counterproductive if sub-optimally designed.”

In the case of 3M cod, it seems clear that the spawning season is the first quarter of the year. While there is no research vessel survey information during this part of the year, some general inferences can be made from commercial fisheries data. The cod trawl fishery in the first quarter is concentrated in a fairly small area where catch rates (CPUE) are higher and mean size of fish is larger than in other areas/seasons, likely indicating a major spawning area. However, the data from the cod longline fishery do not show any clear spatial concentration in its activity. Therefore,

even if the trawl fishery allows identifying some important spawning areas, the limited spatial coverage of this fishery prevents from assuming that these are the only spawning areas within the Flemish Cap. Given the difficulty in identifying all spawning areas, the limited spatial distribution of this stock (restricted to the Flemish Cap), and the assumed objective of protecting the spawning activity of this stock, it is more appropriate to close the entire Flemish Cap to the fishery targeting cod during the identified spawning season than to close smaller areas. This option also has operational advantages in terms of simplicity of implementation and surveillance. It also reduces the effects of any displacement of fishing activity into areas with immature and recruiting fish.

In conclusion, the SC considers that, if a spawning closure is agreed, a total closure of the cod fishery in Flemish Cap during the first quarter of the year would be the preferred option to protect spawning activity based on the available data.

**From
European Union
[COM WP 20-12]**

2. What monitoring plan, besides the regular scientific campaigns and data collection programs carried out by CPs, would the SC advise to be put in place, considering the objective of the closures is to protect spawning biomass, to reduce spawning disturbance and therefore **contributing to decrease fishing mortality** and concomitantly **increase stock abundance**?

**Scientific Council
responded:
[COM WP 20-24]**

As the SC noted in its June report, the seasonal closure would protect spawning activity, reducing the number of spawning fish that are captured, and allowing them to spawn before becoming available to the fishery, but the spawning biomass itself is not protected by the closure (as the fish may still be caught in other quarters of the year). Therefore, a spawning closure will not result in decreases to fishing mortality.

Furthermore, while in principle improved recruitment might result from a spawning closure, there is no clear evidence that protecting fish during spawning directly translates into increases in recruitment/productivity, particularly at this time of low productivity of the stock.

If any closure is established, SC advises that it will be necessary to conduct ongoing analysis of the Flemish Cap cod fishery data in order to monitor the consequences of the management decisions (including the analysis of the redistribution of the fishing effort along the year and its potential effects on ecosystems, the variation of the cod catch composition in lengths/ages, and the bycatch levels of other fish species, benthos in general, and VME taxa in particular).

**From
European Union
[COM WP 20-12]**

3. If flanking measures were adopted, such as:
 - i. time/area closure during the first quarter, with the objective as detailed in point 2; and
 - ii. the implementation of sorting-grids in the Div. 3M cod fishery gear, with the objective of reduce catch of small and immature individuals of cod;

how would that affect the projections for total biomass under the different scenarios for the projected years and notably would there be catches beyond 1000 t where the probability of being below B_{lim} , beyond the year 2021, would remain within the NAFO Precautionary Approach guidelines?

**Scientific Council
responded:
[COM WP 20-24]**

SC advises that the suggested measures would not allow for catches above 1 000 t in 2021 without exceeding the PA framework limits in 2022.

If a seasonal closure proves to be effective in improving recruitment, it would affect the level of future recruitment, and hence, its effects on the stock would be observed in the medium / long-term; however, it would have little or no impact on short-term projections (2 years). In the short-term, this measure might result in lower average catch weights (as fish would be heavier in the first quarter, i.e. at spawning time, than in later quarters of the year) than used in the projections performed by SC in June. This, in turn, and assuming no other confounding effect would simultaneously occur, would also imply that a larger number of fish would need to be caught in order to reach the TAC, which is set in weight.

The implementation of sorting grids, which mainly affect the exploitation pattern of younger ages, would be expected to have a more immediate effect on the stock, because it would improve the protection of young fish by delaying their recruitment into the fishery. If the relatively good recruitment observed in 2019 (2018 cohort) holds true, implementation of sorting grids would increase the selection mean length and reduce the catch of the 2018 cohort in 2021 (when those fish will be of age 3), aiding in the recovery of the stock in the short-term.

SC is not at this point able to quantify the full effect of implementing these management measures.

**From DFG
[COM WP 20-17]**

Regarding 3M cod:

In its recommendation on 3M Cod for 2021, the SC notes again this year, as it did in its 2019 advice, that the strong year classes of 2009 to 2011 are dominant in the current SSB, but that subsequent recruitments (2012-2018) are much lower, leading to recent substantial declines in stock size and expectations that this will continue in the very near future under any fishing scenario.

At the same time, the SC report indicates a clear increase in recruitment to the stock in 2019, as shown in the graph on page 8 of the SC report (NAFO SCS Doc. 20/14). This has not,

however, been taken into consideration in this year's SC advice when projecting the development of the SSB and calculating the probabilities of different fishing levels reaching or exceeding Blim and Flim in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Although there is uncertainty in recruitment estimates for the current assessment year, the most recent survey data also suggests an increase in stock biomass for 2020 as a consequence of improved recruitment in 2019. As such, there are signs indicating that the decline in the stock in the coming years might not be as severe as the current projections indicate.

- The Scientific Council is therefore requested to provide supplementary advice on the projected scenarios, taking into account the documented increase in recruitment in 2019.

**Scientific Council
responded:
[COM WP 20-25]**

The current request notes that "the most recent survey data also suggests an increase in stock biomass in 2020 as a consequence of improved recruitment in 2019". SC understands this comment refers to the results of the 2020 EU survey in Division 3M. In this regard, SC notes that the results from the 2020 survey for the cod stock are preliminary, there has been no opportunity to subject them to sufficient quality checks or to any type of scientific analysis. As such, SC notes that it is too early to draw conclusions from those (preliminary) values at this stage.

The 3M cod stock assessment conducted by SC in June 2020 (SCS Doc. 20-14) is based on data until the end of year 2019. This followed the standard procedure for the assessment of this stock. The assessment does indeed indicate an increase in recruitment (age 1) in 2019, by comparison with the recruitment of previous years (2015-2018), which has been very low.

During the 2020 June SC meeting, the estimated value of recruitment (age 1) in 2019 was used to calculate stock abundance and biomass in 2019, as well as abundance at age 2 in 2020; in this respect, it was taken into account in the projections and included in the calculation of projected SSB in future years.

However, the recruitment assumed for the projected years (2020, 2021 and 2022) during the June SC meeting was taken from the Recruits per Spawner derived from the estimated recruitment for years 2016-2018 and not from the estimate of recruitment in 2019. This is the common procedure for most stock assessments, since the estimate of recruitment for the most recent year included in the stock assessment is more uncertain than the estimates of recruitment for earlier years, because information about cohort abundance is gained as more ages of the cohort are observed.

Despite the uncertainty of the 2019 recruitment estimate, and only to address the current request, a sensitivity analysis of the 3M cod projection has been performed, where the assumed recruitment for the projected years (2020, 2021, 2022) was taken from the Recruits per Spawner derived from the estimated recruitment of years 2017-2019. The results are virtually identical to those from the June projections and do not change the Scientific Council's perception of the recent dynamics of the 3M cod stock, since the recruitment in the projected years has very little impact on short-term forecasts, because small fish contribute very little to the fishery catches or the SSB.

**From
European Union
[COM WP 20-26]**

Regarding 3M cod:

In its advice on TAC for COD 3M the SC has based its response in results from short-term projection (3years) with four fishing mortality levels; namely 2/3 F_{lim} , $F=0$, catch=1000t and catch=3000t.

The EU would like to request the SC the preparation of short-term projections for additional catch levels, notably catch levels between 1000t up to 1500t, and intermediate catch levels within 100 tons steps.

The first year of the projection should assume a catch equal to the agreed TAC for that year.

Results from stochastic short-term projection should include:

- The 10%, 50% and 90% percentiles of the yield, total biomass, spawning stock biomass and exploitable biomass for each year of the projections
- The risks of stock population parameters increasing above or falling below available biomass and fishing mortality reference points. The table indicated below should guide the Scientific Council in presenting the short-term projections.

**Scientific Council
responded:
[COM WP 20-31]**

SC has conducted projections for catch levels between 500 t and 1500 t, at 100 t intervals, and the results are presented below.

SC notes that, although it is technically possible to conduct projections for any catch level and this has now been done for the additional catch levels requested, the uncertainty that exists in the projections of this stock prevents the SC from being able to reliably differentiate (based on scientific information) between fine-scale catch scenarios.. SC does not consider that the resolution of the assessment framework in terms of risk-of-going-below- B_{lim} in relation to TAC predictions to be as fine as 100 tons.

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	B		SSB		Yield
Median and 80% CI					
Catch=500 tons					
2020	48698	(42129 - 55567)	35738	(30117 - 41335)	8531
2021	35740	(30110 - 41951)	23110	(18574 - 27833)	500
2022	31624	(26499 - 37490)	19687	(16045 - 23502)	500
2023	28141	(23344 - 33786)	21528	(18030 - 25623)	
Catch=600 tons					
2020	48698	(42129 - 55567)	35738	(30117 - 41335)	8531
2021	35740	(30110 - 41951)	23110	(18574 - 27833)	600
2022	31527	(26398 - 37390)	19644	(15968 - 23387)	600
2023	27960	(23170 - 33603)	21338	(17822 - 25480)	
Catch=700 tons					
2020	48698	(42129 - 55567)	35738	(30117 - 41335)	8531
2021	35740	(30110 - 41951)	23110	(18574 - 27833)	700
2022	31430	(26299 - 37294)	19528	(15899 - 23311)	700
2023	27778	(22996 - 33421)	21168	(17674 - 25263)	
Catch=800 tons					
2020	48698	(42129 - 55567)	35738	(30117 - 41335)	8531
2021	35740	(30110 - 41951)	23110	(18574 - 27833)	800
2022	31330	(26198 - 37196)	19428	(15824 - 23189)	800
2023	27595	(22823 - 33234)	21009	(17517 - 25132)	
Catch=900 tons					
2020	48698	(42129 - 55567)	35738	(30117 - 41335)	8531
2021	35740	(30110 - 41951)	23110	(18574 - 27833)	900
2022	31236	(26099 - 37100)	19382	(15750 - 23145)	900
2023	27412	(22656 - 33053)	20878	(17402 - 24955)	
Catch=1000 tons					
2020	48698	(42129 - 55567)	35738	(30117 - 41335)	8531
2021	35740	(30110 - 41951)	23110	(18574 - 27833)	1000
2022	31132	(25996 - 37004)	19282	(15658 - 23080)	1000
2023	27230	(22475 - 32877)	20679	(17248 - 24831)	
Catch=1100 tons					
2020	48698	(42129 - 55567)	35738	(30117 - 41335)	8531
2021	35740	(30110 - 41951)	23110	(18574 - 27833)	1100
2022	31036	(25899 - 36901)	19188	(15512 - 22980)	1100
2023	27056	(22305 - 32690)	20528	(17066 - 24661)	
Catch=1200 tons					
2020	48698	(42129 - 55567)	35738	(30117 - 41335)	8531
2021	35740	(30110 - 41951)	23110	(18574 - 27833)	1200
2022	30936	(25797 - 36806)	19126	(15443 - 22874)	1200
2023	26877	(22127 - 32505)	20391	(16915 - 24511)	
Catch=1300 tons					
2020	48698	(42129 - 55567)	35738	(30117 - 41335)	8531
2021	35740	(30110 - 41951)	23110	(18574 - 27833)	1300
2022	30838	(25700 - 36709)	19032	(15379 - 22795)	1300
2023	26696	(21951 - 32315)	20207	(16724 - 24313)	
Catch=1400 tons					
2020	48698	(42129 - 55567)	35738	(30117 - 41335)	8531
2021	35740	(30110 - 41951)	23110	(18574 - 27833)	1400
2022	30743	(25602 - 36611)	18950	(15274 - 22730)	1400
2023	26519	(21772 - 32140)	20058	(16535 - 24161)	
Catch=1500 tons					
2020	48698	(42129 - 55567)	35738	(30117 - 41335)	8531
2021	35740	(30110 - 41951)	23110	(18574 - 27833)	1500
2022	30641	(25497 - 36516)	18840	(15217 - 22615)	1500
2023	26340	(21592 - 31957)	19888	(16437 - 24047)	

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	Yield			P(SSB < B _{lim})				P(F > F _{lim})			P(SSB ₂₃ > SSB ₂₀)
	2020	2021	2022	2020	2021	2022	2023	2020	2021	2022	
Catch=500t	8531	500	500	<1%	1%	8%	3%	4%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Catch=600t	8531	600	600	<1%	1%	8%	3%	4%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Catch=700t	8531	700	700	<1%	1%	9%	3%	4%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Catch=800t	8531	800	800	<1%	1%	9%	3%	4%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Catch=900t	8531	900	900	<1%	1%	9%	4%	4%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Catch=1000t	8531	1000	1000	<1%	1%	10%	4%	4%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Catch=1100t	8531	1100	1100	<1%	1%	10%	4%	4%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Catch=1200t	8531	1200	1200	<1%	1%	11%	5%	4%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Catch=1300t	8531	1300	1300	<1%	1%	11%	5%	4%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Catch=1400t	8531	1400	1400	<1%	1%	12%	6%	4%	<1%	<1%	<1%
Catch=1500t	8531	1500	1500	<1%	1%	13%	7%	4%	<1%	<1%	<1%



**Annex 16. Recommendations from the NAFO Working Group on Improving Efficiency of
NAFO Working Group Process (E-WG)**
(COM-SC WP 20-02 now COM-SC Doc. 20-07)

The Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process (E-WG) agreed on the following recommendation via correspondence.

The Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process recommends that:

- **For the 2021 NAFO year, the following two-week periods, be considered for NAFO intersessional meetings:**
 - **22 February – 05 March 2021;**
 - **19 April – 30 April 2021; and**
 - **12 – 23 July 2021**

Annex 17. Recommendations from the NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS)
(COM-SC WP 20-03 now COM-SC Doc. 20-05)

As always, these two-week periods would not require meetings of NAFO subsidiary bodies to meet during those dates nor would they preclude the scheduling of meetings of NAFO subsidiary bodies outside those dates.

The NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS) met via WebEx on 20-21 August and agreed on the following recommendations:

The WG-RBMS recommends that:

1. That in relation to the Precautionary Approach Framework revision, the Commission endorses the proposed workplan outlined in Annex 3, and the proposed funding proposal outlined in Annex 4.
2. That in relation to 3LN redfish Conservation Plan and Harvest Control Rule (Annex I.H of the NAFO CEM),
 - a. the Commission requests the Scientific Council to provide guidance on the process of conducting of a full review/evaluation of the management strategy at the end of the 7-year implementation period.
 - b. the Commission adopts a TAC of 18 100 t for 3LN Redfish, applicable for 2021 and 2022.
 - c. the Risk-based Management Strategy for 3LN Redfish outlined in Annex I.H of NAFO CEM be updated in accordance with Annex 5.

Annex 3. Precautionary Approach Framework Revision – Proposed Workplan

- Review of and proposal for ToRs related to mapping objectives: ToRs 1a, 1c and 1g. Deadline for results to SC: June 2021
- Present results to WG-RBMS after the June SC
- Review of and proposal for ToRs related to structural aspects and quantification of uncertainty and risk. Deadline for results to SC: ToRs 1b, 1d, 1e and 1f. Deadline for results November 2021
- The work in the previous bullet points would need to cover the data continuum, so that the framework could be applied to all NAFO stocks (data rich and data poor).
- Consider broad associated implications for stocks managed using a Management Procedure (HCR) based on a MSE.
- Workshop - (including the group of scientists and managers), around March 2022, to address the entire ToR and make a proposal of revision of the NAFO PA framework (to be later reviewed by the WG-RBMS).
- WG-RBMS 2022, based on the SC review work, would propose a new framework for the NAFO PA, to be presented to the NAFO Commission in September 2022.
- Time for CP's internal discussions and further work if required
- Final version of framework to be considered by the NAFO Commission in September 2023

SC and WG-RBMS will be kept informed of all progress in the work.

All timings are subject to change in response to the evolving COVID situation.

A second SC workshop (including the group of scientists and managers) would be held to develop the guidelines to support the implementation of the new NAFO PA framework, (between September 2022 and April 2023). The workshop would include case studies for reference points for, at least, several data-rich and data-poor stocks.

A small group would be responsible for carrying out technical work during a 2- to 3-year period going from November 2020 to October 2022/23. They would have to dedicate substantial work time over this period of time and would report to SC and WG-RBMS. This group would include some current SC members, possibly other scientists from Contracting Parties, and likely external experts, given SC workload concerns.

Annex 4. Precautionary Approach Framework Revision – Plan for the Work of External Experts

The **financial resources** used to support the contracting of **three external experts**;

These three independent experts should each: a. Assist in steering, b. Follow the process and c. (according to ToRs) Contribute to the work of the SC;

Their work should be detailed by proper Terms of Reference;

In terms of time allocation: Two different levels of time dedication. One expert with more time and closely accompanying the works, and the other two experts joining in key periodic moments (each six months for example). These levels do not intend to identify different levels of responsibility amongst the three experts.

In the light of the above, next steps should be:

- Preparation of the Grant application. Should happen between now and the NAFO Annual Meeting. This is a Task to be developed in close collaboration with the NAFO Secretariat (Who: European Union together with NAFO Secretariat)
- Identification of Independent experts; (Who: Contracting Parties by the NAFO Annual Meeting propose independent experts that potentially can do de job)
- Preparation of the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the work of the Independent Experts (Who: SC, before November 2020)

Annex 5. Proposed Update of Risk-Based management Strategy for 3LN Redfish as outlined in Annex I.H of the NAFO CEM

Risk-Based Management Strategy for 3LN Redfish

Adopted by NAFO in September 2014 for implementation effective January 1, 2015

Management Strategy/Harvest Control Rule:

A stepwise biannual catch increase reaching 18 100 tonnes by 2019-2020. (18 100t is the equilibrium yield in the 2014 assessment under the assumption of an MSY of 21 000 tonnes).

2015 TAC:	10 400 t
2016:	10 400 t
2017:	14 200 t
2018:	14 200 t
2019:	18 100 t
2020:	18 100 t
2021 TAC:	18 100 t
2022:	18 100 t

Review/Monitoring:

1. Scientific Council will monitor the performance of the HCR by examining the trends in the survey indices and by conducting a full assessment every 2-3 years and for the first time in 2016.
2. Conduct a full review/ evaluation of the management strategy at the end of the 7-year implementation period.

Annex 18. Recommendations from the NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM)
(COM-SC WP 20-04 now COM-SC Doc. 20-06)

The NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM) met via WebEx on 17–19 August 2020 (COM-SC Doc. 20-03) and agreed on the following recommendations:

The WG-EAFFM recommends that:

1. In relation to the re-assessment of VME closures, and acknowledging the Scientific Council advice regarding the status of VMEs, that all closures listed in Chapter 2, Article 17, “Area Restrictions for Bottom Fishing Activities” are rolled over for one year. Consequently,
 - a. Article 17.1 of the NAFO CEM should read: Until 31 December ~~2020~~ 2021, no vessel shall engage in bottom fishing activities in any of the areas illustrated in Figure 3 and defined by connecting the following coordinates specified in Table 5 in numerical order and back to coordinate 1.
 - b. Article 17.2 of the NAFO CEM should read: Until 31 December ~~2020~~ 2021, no vessel shall engage in bottom fishing activities in the area of Division 3O illustrated in Figure 4 and defined by connecting the coordinates specified in Table 6 in numerical order and back to coordinate 1.
 - c. Article 17.3 of the NAFO CEM should read: Until 31 December ~~2020~~ 2021, no vessel shall engage in bottom fishing activities in the areas 1-13 illustrated in Figure 5 and defined by connecting the coordinates specified in Table 7 in numerical order and back to coordinate 1.
2. That Black Coral taxa (Antipatharia) are added to the VME indicator species list. Consequently, Annex IE, part VI of the NAFO CEM “List of VME Indicator Species” should be appropriately amended (see Annex 3).
3. In relation to the 2021 re-assessment of bottom fishing as well as the discussion on the VME fishery closures, that Commission requests Scientific Council provide input and analysis of potential management options, with the goal of supporting meaningful and effective discussions between scientists and managers at the 2021 WG-EAFFM meeting.
4. The Commission, through STACTIC, insert a footnote in Annex II.N Fishing Logbook Information by Haul of the NAFO CEM, to clarify and match the definition of Start and End time of fishing in Annex II.M (see Annex 4).
5. In relation to the Scientific Council’s first recommendation with respect to COM request #5 and recognizing the limited nature of the 2020 virtual working group meeting, the Commission, through the WG-EAFFM, continue to consider this recommendations in 2021, and develop options of how ecosystem advice could inform management decisions, an issue which is directly linked to the results of the foreseen EAFM roadmap workshop.
6. Additionally, that the Commission request the Scientific Council to continue its work to develop models that support implementation of Tier 2 of the EAFM Roadmap.
7. In relation to the development of the ecosystem summary sheets, in particular consideration of non-fishery related activities, that the Commission requests Contracting Parties to proactively provide any relevant research to inform the Scientific Council’s work, as well as identify scientific and management experts in non-fisheries related sectors to participate in Scientific Council and WG-EAFFM discussions. Further, that the Secretariat and the Scientific Council work with other international organizations, such as the FAO and ICES, to bring in additional expertise to inform the Scientific Council’s work.

8. In relation to Chapter 2, Article 24 of the NAFO CEM, that STACTIC review the implementation of chapter 2, and suggest, as necessary, any revisions to WG-EAFFM with a view to improve the effectiveness of management measures. And that the Commission request the Scientific Council to also review the effectiveness of Chapter 2 from a scientific perspective and to report back at 2022 WG-EAFFM meeting. Consequently, Article 24 of the NAFO CEM should read: The provisions of this Chapter shall be reviewed by the Commission at its Annual Meeting no later than ~~2020~~ 2022.

**Annex 3. Revision to NAFO CEM Annex 1E, Table VI:
List of VME Indicator Species**

Common Name and FAO ASFIS 3- ALPHA CODE	Taxon	Family	FAO ASFIS 3- ALPHA CODE
Large-Sized Sponges (PFR - Porifera)	Asconema foliatum	Rossellidae	ZBA
	<i>Aphrocallistes beatrix</i>	Aphrocallistidae	
	<i>Asbestopluma (Asbestopluma) ruetzleri</i>	Cladorhizidae	ZAB (Asbestopluma)
	<i>Axinella</i> sp.	Axinellidae	
	<i>Chondrocladia grandis</i>	Cladorhizidae	ZHD (Chondrocladia)
	<i>Cladorhiza abyssicola</i>	Cladorhizidae	ZCH (Cladorhiza)
	<i>Cladorhiza kenchingtonae</i>	Cladorhizidae	ZCH (Cladorhiza)
	<i>Craniella</i> spp.	Tetillidae	ZCS (Craniella spp.)
	<i>Dictyaulus romani</i>	Euplectellidae	ZDY (Dictyaulus)
	<i>Esperiopsis villosa</i>	Esperiopsidae	ZEW
	<i>Forcepia</i> spp.	Coelosphaeridae	ZFR
	<i>Geodia barrette</i>	Geodiidae	
	<i>Geodia macandrewii</i>	Geodiidae	
	<i>Geodia parva</i>	Geodiidae	
	<i>Geodia phlegraei</i>	Geodiidae	
	<i>Haliclona</i> sp.	Chalinidae	ZHL
	<i>Iophon piceum</i>	Acarinidae	WJP
	<i>Isodictya palmata</i>	Isodictyidae	
	<i>Lissodendoryx (Lissodendoryx) complicata</i>	Coelosphaeridae	ZDD
	<i>Mycale (Mycale) lingua</i>	Mycalidae	
	<i>Mycale (Mycale) loveni</i>	Mycalidae	
	<i>Phakellia</i> sp.	Axinellidae	
	<i>Polymastia</i> spp.	Polymastiidae	ZPY
	<i>Stelletta normani</i>	Ancorinidae	WSX (Stelletta)
	<i>Stelletta tuberosa</i>	Ancorinidae	WSX (Stelletta)
	<i>Stryphnus fortis</i>	Ancorinidae	WPH
	<i>Thenea muricata</i>	Pachastrellidae	ZTH (Thenea)

Common Name and FAO ASFIS 3- ALPHA CODE	Taxon	Family	FAO ASFIS 3- ALPHA CODE
	<i>Thena valdiviae</i>	Pachastrellidae	ZTH (Thenea)
	<i>Weberella bursa</i>	Polymastiidae	
	<i>Enallopsammia rostrata*</i>	Dendrophylliidae	FEY
Stony Corals (CSS - Scleractinia)	<i>Lophelia pertusa*</i>	Caryophylliidae	LWS
	<i>Madrepora oculata*</i>	Oculinidae	MVI
	<i>Solenosmilia variabilis*</i>	Caryophylliidae	RZT
	<u><i>Stichopathes sp.</i></u>	<u>Antipathidae</u>	<u>OYX</u>
	<u><i>Leiopathes cf. expansa</i></u>	<u>Leiopathidae</u>	
	<u><i>Leiopathes sp.</i></u>	<u>Leiopathidae</u>	
	<u><i>Plumapathes sp.</i></u>	<u>Myriopathidae</u>	
<u>Black corals (AOZ- Antipatharia)</u>	<u><i>Bathypathes cf. patula</i></u>	<u>Schizopathidae</u>	
	<u><i>Parantipathes sp.</i></u>	<u>Schizopathidae</u>	
	<u><i>Stauropathes arctica</i></u>	<u>Schizopathidae</u>	<u>SOW</u>
	<u><i>Stauropathes cf. punctata</i></u>	<u>Schizopathidae</u>	
	<u><i>Telopathes magnus</i></u>	<u>Schizopathidae</u>	
		<i>Acanella arbuscula</i>	Isididae
	<i>Anthothela grandiflora</i>	Anthothelidae	WAG
Small Gorgonians (GGW)	<i>Chrysogorgia sp.</i>	Chrysogorgiidae	FHX
	<i>Metallogorgia melanotrichos*</i>	Chrysogorgiidae	
	<i>Narella laxa</i>	Primnoidae	
	<i>Radicipes gracilis</i>	Chrysogorgiidae	CZN
	<i>Swiftia sp.</i>	Plexauridae	
Large Gorgonians (GGW)	<i>Acanthogorgia armata</i>	Acanthogorgiidae	AZC
	<i>Calyptrophora sp.*</i>	Primnoidae	
	<i>Corallium bathyrubrum</i>	Coralliidae	COR (Corallium)
	<i>Corallium bayeri</i>	Coralliidae	COR (Corallium)
	<i>Iridogorgia sp.*</i>	Chrysogorgiidae	
	<i>Keratoisis cf. siemensii</i>	Isididae	

Common Name and FAO ASFIS 3- ALPHA CODE	Taxon	Family	FAO ASFIS 3- ALPHA CODE
	<i>Keratoisis grayi</i>	Isididae	
	<i>Lepidisis</i> sp.*	Isididae	QFX (Lepidisis)
	<i>Paragorgia arborea</i>	Paragorgiidae	BFU
	<i>Paragorgia johnsoni</i>	Paragorgiidae	BFV
	<i>Paramuricea grandis</i>	Plexauridae	PZL (Paramuricea)
	<i>Paramuricea placomus</i>	Plexauridae	PZL (Paramuricea)
	<i>Paramuricea</i> spp.	Plexauridae	PZL (Paramuricea)
	<i>Parastenella atlantica</i>	Primnoidae	
	<i>Placogorgia</i> sp.	Plexauridae	
	<i>Placogorgia terceira</i>	Plexauridae	
	<i>Primnoa resedaeformis</i>	Primnoidae	QOE
	<i>Thouarella (Euthouarella) grasshoffi</i> *	Primnoidae	
	<i>Anthoptilum grandiflorum</i>	Anthoptilidae	AJG (Anthoptilum)
	<i>Distichoptilum gracile</i>	Protoptilidae	WDG
	<i>Funiculina quadrangularis</i>	Funiculinidae	FQJ
	<i>Halipteris</i> cf. <i>christii</i>	Halipteridae	ZHX (Halipteris)
	<i>Halipteris finmarchica</i>	Halipteridae	HFM
Sea Pens (NTW – Pennatulacea)	<i>Halipteris</i> sp.	Halipteridae	ZHX (Halipteris)
	<i>Kophobelemnion stelliferum</i>	Kophobelemnidae	KVF
	<i>Pennatula aculeata</i>	Pennatulidae	QAC
	<i>Pennatula grandis</i>	Pennatulidae	
	<i>Pennatula</i> sp.	Pennatulidae	
	<i>Protoptilum carpenteri</i>	Protoptilidae	
	<i>Umbellula lindahli</i>	Umbellulidae	
	<i>Virgularia mirabilis</i>	Virgulariidae	
Tube-Dwelling Anemones	<i>Pachycerianthus borealis</i>	Cerianthidae	WQB
Erect Bryozoans (BZN – Bryozoa)	<i>Eucratea loricata</i>	Eucrateidae	WEL

Common Name and FAO ASFIS 3- ALPHA CODE	Taxon	Family	FAO ASFIS 3- ALPHA CODE
Sea Lilies (CWD – Crinoidea)	<i>Conocrinus lofotensis</i>	Bourgueticrinidae	WCF
	<i>Gephyrocrinus grimaldii</i>	Hyocrinidae	
	<i>Trichometra cubensis</i>	Antedonidae	
Sea Squirts (SSX – Ascidiacea)	<i>Boltenia ovifera</i>	Pyuridae	WBO
	<i>Halocynthia aurantium</i>	Pyuridae	
Unlikely to be observed in trawls; <i>in situ</i> observations only:			
Large xenophyophores	<i>Syringamina</i> sp.	Syringamminidae	

Annex 4. Revision to NAFO CEM Annex II.N, Fishing Logbook Information by Haul

Flag State	Vessel Call sign	Haul #	Gear Type	NAFO Div.	Start Year (YYYY)	Start Month (MM)	Start Day (DD)	Start Latitude (Decimal Degrees)	Start Longitude (Decimal Degrees)	Start Depth (m)	*Start Time UTC (HHMM)	End Year (YYYY)	End Month (MM)	End Day (DD)	End Latitude (Decimal Degrees)	End Longitude (Decimal Degrees)	End Depth (m)	*End Time UTC (HHMM)	Species (FAO 3-alpha Species Code)	Retained (LW kg)	Discarded (LW kg)	Comments	

* In the case of trawl fisheries, start is the time at the end of setting, finish is the time at the start of gear retrieval. In any other case, start is the time at the start of gear setting, finish is the end of gear retrieval.



Annex 19. Recommendations from the NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG)
(COM-SC WP 20-05 **now** COM-SC Doc. 20-08)

The NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG) met via WebEx on 24 April 2020 (COM-SC Doc. 20-02) and agreed on the following recommendations:

The CESAG recommends that:

1. **The Commission request STACTIC to review the haul by haul reporting template (Annex II.N of the NAFO CEM) and investigate the practicality of adding the codend mesh size or hook size to the reporting requirements.**
2. **The Secretariat revise the 2019 catch estimates contained in COM-SC CESAG-WP 20-05 to include the remaining Canadian data and forward it (COM-SC CESAG-WP 20-05 Revised) to the Scientific Council by the 01 May deadline.**
3. **The Commission request STACTIC to continue to review current measures relating to reporting of catch by NAFO Division to identify and implement improvements which ensure the most reliable information is available for catch estimation, recognizing its importance in stock assessments.**
4. **A meeting be held in February 2021 to review and discuss the MRAG report recommendations for potential further enhancements to the CESAG methodology of catch estimation.**

Annex 20. The Commission's Request for Scientific Advice on Management in 2022 and Beyond of Certain Stocks in Subareas 2, 3 and 4 and Other Matters

(COM WP 20-32 (Rev. 7) **now** COM Doc. 20-16)

Following a request from the Scientific Council, the Commission agreed that items 1, 2, 8 and 11 should be the priority for the June 2021 Scientific Council meeting subject to resources and COVID-related restrictions.

1. The Commission requests that the Scientific Council provide advice for the management of the fish stocks below according to the assessment frequency presented below. In keeping with the NAFO Precautionary Approach Framework (FC Doc. 04-18), the advice should be provided as a range of management options and a risk analysis for each option without a single TAC recommendation. The Commission will decide upon the acceptable risk level in the context of the entirety of the SC advice for each stock guided and as foreseen by the Precautionary Approach.

Yearly basis	Two-year basis	Three-year basis
Cod in Div. 3M Northern shrimp in Div. 3M	Redfish in Div. 3M Northern shrimp in Div. 3LNO Thorny skate in Div. 3LNO Witch flounder in Div. 3NO Redfish in Div. 3LN White hake in Div. 3NO	American Plaice in Div. 3LNO American Plaice in Div. 3M Capelin in Div. 3NO Northern shortfin squid in SA 3+4 Redfish in Div. 3O Yellowtail flounder in Div. 3LNO Cod in Div. 3NO

To implement this schedule of assessments, the Scientific Council is requested to conduct a full assessment of these stocks as follows:

In 2021, advice should be provided for 2022 for Cod in Div. 3M and Northern shrimp in Div. 3M. With respect to Northern shrimp in Div. 3M, SC is requested to provide its advice to the Commission prior to the 2021 Annual Meeting based on the survey data up to and including 2021.

In 2021, advice should be provided for 2022 and 2023 for: Redfish in Div. 3M, Northern shrimp in Div. 3LNO, and White hake in Div. 3NO

In 2021, advice should be provided for 2022, 2023 and 2024 for: American plaice in Div. 3LNO, Capelin in Div. 3NO, Cod in Div. 3NO, Yellowtail flounder in Div. 3LNO

Advice should be provided using the guidance provided in **Annexes A or B as appropriate**, or using the predetermined Harvest Control Rules in the cases where they exist (currently Greenland halibut 2+3KLMNO).

The Commission also requests the Scientific Council to continue to monitor the status of all other stocks annually and, should a significant change be observed in stock status (e.g. from surveys) or in bycatch in other fisheries, provide updated advice as appropriate.

2. The Commission requests the Scientific Council to monitor the status of Greenland halibut in Subarea 2+Div. 3KLMNO annually to compute the TAC using the agreed HCR and determine whether exceptional circumstances are occurring. If exceptional circumstances are occurring, the exceptional circumstances protocol will provide guidance on what steps should be taken.
3. The Commission requests that the Scientific Council continue its evaluation of the impact of scientific trawl surveys on VME in closed areas, and the effect of excluding surveys from these areas on stock assessments.

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4. The Commission requests the Scientific Council to implement the steps of the Action plan relevant to the Scientific Council and in particular the tasks identified under section 2.2 of the Action Plan, for progression in the management and minimization of Bycatch and discards (COM Doc. 17-26).
 - Tasks outlined in Tasks 3.1 and 3.2 of the NAFO Action Plan in the Management and Minimization of Bycatch and Discards (COM Doc. 17-26).
5. The Commission requests that Scientific Council continue to refine work on the Ecosystem Road Map:
 - Continue to test the reliability of the ecosystem production potential model and other related models
 - Report on these results to WG-EAFFM and WG-RBMS to further develop how it may apply to management decisions
 - Develop options of how ecosystem advice could inform management decisions, an issue which is directly linked to the results of the foreseen EAFM roadmap workshop.
 - Continue its work to develop models that support implementation of Tier 2 of the EAFM Roadmap."
6. The Commission requests that the Scientific Council, in preparation of the re-assessment of NAFO bottom fisheries in 2021 and discussion on VME fishery closures:
 - Assess the overlap of NAFO fisheries with VME to evaluate fishery specific impacts in addition to the cumulative impacts for NRA fisheries;
 - Consider clearer objective ranking processes and options for objective weighting criteria for the overall assessment of significant adverse impacts and the risk of future adverse impacts;
 - Maintain efforts to assess all of the six FAO criteria including the three FAO functional SAI criteria which could not be evaluated in the current assessment.
 - Provide input and analysis of potential management options, with the goal of supporting meaningful and effective discussions between scientists and managers at the 2021 WG-EAFFM meeting;
 - Continue to work on the VME indicator species as listed in Annex IE, Section VI to prepare for the next assessment.
7. The Commission requests that the Scientific Council review the proposed revisions to Annex I.E, Part VI as reflected in COM-SC EAFFM-WP 18-01, for consistency with the taxa list annexed to the VME guide and recommend updates as necessary.
8. The Commission requests the Scientific Council to continue progression on the review of the NAFO PA Framework in accordance to the PAF review work plan approved in 2020 (NAFO COM-SC Doc. 20-04)
9. The Commission requests that the Scientific Council Work with WG- BDS to identify areas and times where bycatch and discards of Greenland sharks have a higher rate of occurrence in time for consideration by the Commission in 2021 to inform the development of measures to reduce bycatch in the NRA.
10. The Commission requests the Scientific Council to continue to develop a 3-5 year work plan, which reflects requests arising from the 2020 Annual Meeting, other multi-year stock assessments and other scientific inquiries already planned for the near future. The work plan should identify what resources are necessary to successfully address these issues, gaps in current resources to meet those needs and proposed prioritization by the Scientific Council of upcoming work based on those gaps.

11. The Commission requests that the Scientific Council, carry out a scoping exercise to provide guidance to the WG-RBMS on the process of conducting of a full review/evaluation of the management strategy of Div. 3LN redfish.
12. The Commission requests the Scientific Council review submitted protocols for a survey methodology to inform the assessment of Splendid Alfonsino. The Scientific Council to report on the outcome of this work at next Commission annual meeting.
13. The Commission requests that results from stock assessments and the scientific advice of Cod 2J3KL (Canada), Witch 2J3KL (Canada) and Pelagic *Sebastes mentella* (ICES Divisions V, XII and XIV; NAFO 1) to be presented to the Scientific Council (SC), and request the SC to prepare a summary of these assessments to be included in its annual report.
14. The Commission requests the Scientific Council, jointly with the Secretariat, to conduct ongoing analysis of the Flemish Cap cod fishery data by 2022 in order to:
 - (1) monitor the consequences of the management decisions (including the analysis of the redistribution of the fishing effort along the year and its potential effects on ecosystems, the variation of the cod catch composition in lengths/ages, and the bycatch levels of other fish species, benthos in general, and VME taxa in particular), and
 - (2) carry out any additional monitoring that would be required, including Div. 3M cod caught as bycatch in other fisheries during the closed period.
15. The Commission requests the Scientific Council,, in its future work, to consider whether other measures, such as depth restrictions, spatial and mesh changes, could reduce the catch of juvenile and immature cod across all fisheries in 3M.
16. The Commission requests the Scientific Council to continue to monitor and provide updates resulting from relevant research related to the potential impact of activities other than fishing in the Convention Area. Further, that the Secretariat and the Scientific Council work with other international organizations, such as the FAO and ICES, to bring in additional expertise to inform the Scientific Council's work.
17. The Commission requests the Scientific Council to provide information to the Commission at its next annual meeting on sea turtles, sea birds, and marine mammals that are present in NAFO Regulatory Area based on available data.
18. The Commission requests that the Scientific Council proceed with developing the ecosystem summary sheets for 3M and 3LNO move toward undertaking a joint Workshop with ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea) as part of a peer review of North Atlantic ecosystems.

ANNEX A: Guidance for providing advice on Stocks Assessed with an Analytical Model

The Commission requests the Scientific Council to consider the following in assessing and projecting future stock levels for those stocks listed above. These evaluations should provide the information necessary for the Fisheries Commission to consider the balance between risks and yield levels, in determining its management of these stocks:

1. For stocks assessed with a production model, the advice should include updated time series of:

- Catch and TAC of recent years
- Catch to relative biomass
- Relative Biomass
- Relative Fishing mortality
- Stock trajectory against reference points
- And any information the Scientific Council deems appropriate.

Stochastic short-term projections (3 years) should be performed with the following constant fishing mortality levels as appropriate:

- For stocks opened to direct fishing: $2/3 F_{msy}$, $3/4 F_{msy}$, $85\% F_{msy}$, $90\% F_{msy}$, $95\% F_{msy}$, $F_{msy} 0.75 X F_{status\ quo}$, $F_{status\ quo}$, $1.25 X Status\ quo$, $F=0$; TAC Status quo, $85\% TAC\ Status\ quo$, $90\% TAC\ Status\ quo$, $95\% TAC\ Status\ quo$
- For stocks under a moratorium to direct fishing: $F_{status\ quo}$, $F = 0$.

The first year of the projection should assume a catch equal to the agreed TAC for that year.

Results from stochastic short-term projection should include:

- The 10%, 50% and 90% percentiles of the yield, total biomass, spawning stock biomass and exploitable biomass for each year of the projections
- The risks of stock population parameters increasing above or falling below available biomass and fishing mortality reference points. The table indicated below should guide the Scientific Council in presenting the short-term projections.

F in 2022 and following years*	Yield 2022 (50%)	Yield 2023 (50%)	Yield 2024 (50%)	Limit reference points						P(B2024 > B2020)						
				P(F>F _{lim})			P(B<B _{lim})				P(F>F _{msy})			P(B<B _{msy})		
				2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024		2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024
2/3 F _{msy}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
3/4 F _{msy}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
85% F _{msy}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
90% F _{msy}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
95% F _{msy}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F _{msy}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
0.75 X F _{status quo}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F _{status quo}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1.25 X Status quo	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F=0	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
TAC Status quo	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
85% TAC Status quo	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
90% TAC Status quo	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
95% TAC Status quo	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

2. For stock assessed with an age-structured model, information should be provided on stock size, spawning stock sizes, recruitment prospects, historical fishing mortality. Graphs and/or tables should be provided for all of the following for the longest time-period possible:

- historical yield and fishing mortality;
- spawning stock biomass and recruitment levels;
- Stock trajectory against reference points
- And any information the Scientific Council deems appropriate

Stochastic short-term projections (3 years) should be performed with the following constant fishing mortality levels as appropriate:

- For stocks opened to direct fishing: $F_{0.1}$, F_{max} , $2/3 F_{max}$, $3/4 F_{max}$, $85\% F_{max}$, $75\% F_{status\ quo}$, $F_{status\ quo}$, $125\% F_{status\ quo}$,
- For stocks under a moratorium to direct fishing: $F_{status\ quo}$, $F = 0$.

The first year of the projection should assume a catch equal to the agreed TAC for that year.

Results from stochastic short-term projection should include:

- The 10%, 50% and 90% percentiles of the yield, total biomass, spawning stock biomass and exploitable biomass for each year of the projections
- The risks of stock population parameters increasing above or falling below available biomass and fishing mortality reference points. The table indicated below should guide the Scientific Council in presenting the short-term projections.

F in 2022 and following years*	Yield 2022	Yield 2023	Yield 2024	Limit reference points									P(B2024 > B2020)								
				P(F > F _{lim})			P(B < B _{lim})			P(F > F _{0.1})				P(F > F _{max})							
				2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024	2022	2023	2024		2022	2023	2024					
F _{0.1}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
F _{max}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
66% F _{max}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
75% F _{max}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
85% F _{max}	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
0.75 X F ₂₀₁₈	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
F ₂₀₁₈	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1.25 X F ₂₀₁₈	t	t	t	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

ANNEX B. Guidance for providing advice on Stocks Assessed without a Population Model

For those resources for which only general biological and/or catch data are available, few standard criteria exist on which to base advice. The stock status should be evaluated in the context of management requirements for long-term sustainability and the advice provided should be consistent with the precautionary approach.

The following graphs should be presented, for one or several surveys, for the longest time-period possible:

- a. time trends of survey abundance estimates
- b. an age or size range chosen to represent the spawning population
- c. an age or size-range chosen to represent the exploited population
- d. recruitment proxy or index for an age or size-range chosen to represent the recruiting population.
- e. fishing mortality proxy, such as the ratio of reported commercial catches to a measure of the exploited population.
- f. Stock trajectory against reference points

And any information the Scientific Council deems appropriate.

Annex 21. 2021 Annual Quota Table

CATCH LIMITATIONS – Article 5. Total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tons in live weight) for 2021 of particular stocks in Subareas 1-4 of the NAFO Convention Area.

Species	Cod				Redfish				American plaice		Yellowtail	
Stock Specification	COD 3L	COD 3M		COD 3NO	RED 3LN		RED 3M	RED 3O	REB 1F_2_3K (i.e. Sub-Area 2 and Divs. 1F+3K)	PLA 3LNO	PLA 3M	YEL 3LNO
% of TAC			% of 3M Cod TAC			% of 3LN Redfish TAC						
Contracting Party												
Canada		12	0.80	0	7 710	42.60	500	6 000	0 ¹	0	0	16 575
Cuba		56	3.70	-	1 774	9.80	1 750		0 ¹	-	-	-
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		335	22.35	-	-		69 ¹⁰		0	-	-	-
European Union		716 ⁵	47.71	0 ⁴	3 300 ⁴	18.23	7 813 ⁴	7 000	0 ⁷	0	0 ⁴	-
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-		-	-		69 ¹⁰		0 ¹	-	-	340
Iceland		-		-	-		-		0	-	-	-
Japan		-		-	-		400	150	0 ¹	-	-	-
Korea		-		-	-		69 ¹⁰	100	0 ¹	-	-	-
Norway		139	9.25	-	-		-		0	-	-	-
Russian Federation		97	6.47	0	5 207	28.77	9 137	6 500	0	-	0	-
Ukraine		-		-	-		-	150	0 ¹	-	-	-
United Kingdom		140	9.32	-	-		-			-	-	-
United States of America		-		-	-		69 ¹⁰		0 ¹	-	-	-
Others		6	0.40	0	109	0.60	124	100	-	0	0	85
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	*	1500	100.0 ¹³	*	18 100 ⁸	100.0 ¹⁴	8 448	20 000 ⁸	0 ^{3,9}	*	* ¹¹	17 000

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Species	Witch			White hake	Capelin	Skates	Greenland halibut	Squid (<i>Illex</i>)	Shrimp		Alfonsino	
	Stock Specification	WIT 3L	WIT 3NO							HKW 3NO		CAP 3NO
% of TAC			% of 3NO Witch TAC									
Contracting Party												
Canada		705	60.00	294	0	1 167	1 834	N.S. ²	0			
Cuba		-			0		-	510	0			
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		-			-		210	-	0			
European Union		156 ⁴	13.27	588	0 ⁵	4 408	7 168 ⁶	<u>N.S.²</u> 611 ⁵	0 ⁶			
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-			-		200	453	0			
Iceland		-			-		-	-	0			
Japan		-			0		1 253	510	0			
Korea		-			-		-	453	0			
Norway		-			0		-	-	0			
Russian Federation		302	25.73	59	0	1 167	1 560	749	0			
Ukraine		-			-		-	-	0			
United Kingdom		-			-		-	-				
United States of America		-			-		-	453	0			
Others		12	1.00	59	-	258		794	0			
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	^{*8}	1 175	100.00 ¹⁵	1 000	*	7 000 ^{8,12}	12 225	34 000 ⁸	0	*	*	



* Ban on fishing in force.

¹ Quota to be shared by vessels from Canada, Cuba, France (St. Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, Korea, Ukraine and USA.

² The allocations to these Contracting Parties are as yet undetermined, although their sum shall not exceed the difference between the total of allocations to other Contracting Parties and the TAC (= 29.467 tonnes).

³ Should NEAFC modify its level of TAC, these figures shall be adjusted accordingly by NAFO through a mail vote.

⁴ Including allocations to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in accordance with the sharing arrangement of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission in 2003 (FC WP 03-07), as applied by NAFO since 2005 following their accession to the European Union.

⁵ Including allocations to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in accordance with the sharing arrangement of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission in 2003 (FC WP 03-07), and to Poland, as applied by NAFO since 2005 following their accession to the European Union.

⁶ Including allocations to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, as applied by NAFO since 2005 following their accession to the EU.

⁷ Allocation of 17.85% to Lithuania and 2.15% to Latvia following their accession to the European Union.

⁸ Applicable to 2021 and 2022.

⁹ If an increase in the overall TAC as defined in footnote 3 leads to an increase in these shares, the first 500 tonnes of that increase shall be added to the quota share referred to in footnote 1.

¹⁰ Notwithstanding the provision of Article 5.3(b) and without prejudice to future agreements on allocations, these quotas may be fished in their entirety by these Contracting Parties.

¹¹ Applicable to 2021, 2022, and 2023.

¹² Should catches exceed 5 000 tonnes, additional measures would be adopted to further restrain catches in 2021.

Historical statements

¹³ The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1998 Quota Table. In 1999, a moratorium on cod in Division 3M was declared.

¹⁴ The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1997 Quota Table. In 1998, a moratorium on redfish in Division 3LN was declared.

¹⁵ The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1994 Quota Table. In 1995, a moratorium on witch flounder in Division 3NO was declared.

**Effort Allocation Scheme for Shrimp Fishery in the
NAFO Regulatory Area Div. 3M, 2021**

CONTRACTING PARTY	NUMBER OF FISHING DAYS ¹¹
Canada	114
Cuba	25 ³
Denmark – Faroe Islands – Greenland	402 129
European Union²	823 ³
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)	25 ³
Iceland	N/A
Japan	25
Korea	25
Norway	496 ³
Russia	525 ³
Ukraine	25 ³
USA	25
TOTAL	2 640

-
- 1 When the scientific advice estimates that the stock shows signs of recovery, the fishery shall be re-opened in accordance with the effort allocation key in place for this fishery at the time of the closure.
 - 2 Including fishing entitlements transferred from Poland (25 fishing days), Estonia (416 fishing days), Latvia (123 fishing days) and Lithuania (145 fishing days) following their accession to the European Union.
 - 3 In derogation of CEM Article 5.11 and CEM Article 9.4, the European Union will transfer 25 fishing days of its fishing days allocation for 2021 to France, in respect of St Pierre et Miquelon; Norway will transfer 25 fishing days of its fishing days allocation for 2021 to Ukraine; and the Russian Federation will transfer 25 fishing days of its fishing days allocation for 2021 to Cuba. The above transfers are without prejudice to the effort allocation key and are only for the year 2021. The 2021 catches under this interim regime will not create any catch history.

Annex 22. Flanking Measures for directed fishery of COD 3M
(COM WP 20-34 (Rev 3) **now** COM Doc. 20-14)

EU text proposal concerning Cod 3M in NCEM:

1. TAC for 2021 shall be 1500 tonnes in Annex I.A.
2. New paragraph in Article 5.5 under sub-heading "Closure of Fisheries for Stocks listed in Annex I.A and I.B": *"close its directed fishery for cod in Division 3M between 24:00 UTC 31 December 2020 and 24:00 UTC 31 March 2021"*.
3. New paragraph 9 in Article 13 under sub-heading "Use of Attachments": *"Each Contracting Party shall ensure that its trawl vessels conducting a directed fishery for cod in Division 3M, use a sorting grid for the purpose of reducing the catches of smaller individuals of cod. The minimum bar spacing of the sorting grid shall be 55 mm. The sorting grid must be placed in the top-side pannel of the trawl preceding the codend"*.
4. As recommended by STACTIC, to add the following new Article 7bis:

"Article 7 bis – 3M Cod¹":

Control Measures

1. *Each Contracting Party shall apply the following control measures for vessels with more than 1,250kg of 3M cod catches on board²:*
 - (a) *prohibit its vessels from landing or transshipping 3M cod catches in ports other than those designated in accordance with Article 43.*
 - (b) *require that at least 48 hours before its estimated time of arrival in port, a vessel or its representative on its behalf, advises the competent port authority of its estimated time of arrival, the estimated quantity of 3M cod retained on board, and information on the division or divisions where any other cod catches retained on board were taken.*
 - (c) *inspect each landing or transshipment of 3M cod in its ports and prepare an inspection report in the format prescribed in Annex IV.C, which it submits to the Executive Secretary within 14 working days from the date on which the inspection was completed. The PSC3 report shall identify and provide details of any infringement to the CEM detected during the port inspection. It shall include all relevant information available in reference to infringements detected at sea during the current trip of the inspected fishing vessel.*

Duties of the Executive Secretary

2. *The Executive Secretary posts without delay the port inspection report submitted in accordance with paragraph 1(c) to the NAFO MCS Website and ensures that it is made available to all Contracting Parties.*

- ¹ *STACTIC shall review this Article and propose amendments as appropriate to the Commission at its Annual Meeting in 2021. This Article is only applicable when the TAC for Cod in Division 3M in Annex I.A is under 3000 tonnes.*
- ² *Each Contracting Party shall inspect vessels with less than 1250 kg of 3M cod on board on a risk-based approach.*

5. In the context of the scientific work carried out on cod 3M, the Commission acknowledges that the Management Strategy Evaluation will resume when Scientific Council determines that conditions are such that there is a reasonable probability of success. The Commission supports the continuation of the technical work to solve the challenges posed by the strong variability observed in the stock dynamics and biological parameters. In this regard, the Commission strongly recommends that all relevant Contracting Parties give high priority to dedicated research to improve scientific knowledge on the biological parameters and other aspects relevant to improving understanding of the dynamics of this stock. [reference: 2019 (COM WP 19-42)]
6. Based on the recent SC response to the EU's question about what additional monitoring data is required, the Commission requests Scientific Council, jointly with the Secretariat, to conduct ongoing analysis of the Flemish Cap cod fishery data in order to:
- (1) monitor the consequences of the management decisions (including the analysis of the redistribution of the fishing effort along the year and its potential effects on ecosystems, the variation of the cod catch composition in lengths/ages, and the bycatch levels of other fish species, benthos in general, and VME taxa in particular), and
 - (2) carry out any additional monitoring that would be required, including 3M cod caught as bycatch in other fisheries during the closed period.
7. In addition, the Commission notes that the interim spawning closure period is being adopted on a precautionary basis for 2021 (according to Art 5.5 mentioned above), and this peak period will be the subject of future review to identify potential further refinement and will be discussed at the 2021 Annual Meeting.
8. Amend NAFO CEM Article 38.1.g to read “*using an unauthorized mesh or grid size contrary to Article 13*”.

Annex 23. Draft Concept Paper – Shrimp 3M
“Moving from efforts scheme to a TAC and quotas”
(COM WP 20-16)

Introduction

In line with the scientific advice, the Commission agreed to re-open the shrimp 3M fishery, which has been under a moratorium since 2011. This stock has traditionally been managed through an allocation based on effort (number of fishing days and fishing vessels among Contracting Parties).

Together with re-opening, the Commission agreed on a reduction of fishing effort (days) to 25% of the 2009 levels and that the measures based on the existing effort scheme would be applicable for 2020 only. At the same time, the Commission committed to do intersessional work during a meeting in the late spring 2020 to discuss a new management regime based on a TAC and quota allocation possibly together with other management options. However, due to spread of COVID-19, the intersessional meeting did not take place. This discussion will therefore take place at the 42nd NAFO Annual Meeting of 2020 but given its virtual format it may be difficult at this meeting to agree on all the elements necessary for a transition from an efforts scheme to a TAC and quota scheme.

Similar conversion discussion have proved to be difficult in the past. In 2008, Contracting Parties discussed the elimination of the effort management regime and the adoption of a Total Allowable Catch (TAC). The discussion on a quota allocation scheme revealed a certain convergence on the elements to be used in converting an allocation based effort days to scheme based on a TAC allocation. In the end, what Contracting Parties could not agree on the weight if any given to the existing allocation key for effort days and the weight given to realised fishing patterns (historical catches), the reference period(s) to be used and the weighting given to such periods if more than one. While one delegation was of the opinion that the 3M shrimp catches from 1993 to 2007 should form the sole basis for the quota distribution, other delegations thought that a blended formula was needed that took account not only the existing allocation key for effort days but also offered greater weight in a new allocation scheme to more recent years should have the greater impact on. Canada, EU, and the Russian Federation tabled a number of proposals based on blending formulas of effort days and average catches, choosing different fishing periods and weighing for these periods, reflected the different views. Norway presented a possible comprise proposal¹ that both Canada and the EU accepted as a possible basis for further work. However Contracting Parties were not able to agree and the matter remained unresolved during that meeting.

As Contracting Parties did not reach a consensus, the fishing days' regime remained in place until 2010, when the fishery was closed due to the decreasing biomass of the stock. In this regard, Iceland had historically showed preference for a TAC and quota system and in 2008 expressed again their concerns that the effort allocation key based on fishing days could lead to over-fishing.

1 A blend formula considering two elements: effort days and one fishing period (1996 - 2007), allocating different weight to each element (1/3 and 2/3 respectively).

Building blocks

Drawing on lessons from the past negotiation experiences, it would seem unlikely that Contracting Parties would be able at this year's Annual Meeting on all the elements to allow for a transition to TAC and quota allocation for 3M shrimp, notably given that fact that the meeting will take place in a virtual format that will limit the time available for discussions and will prevent that kind of informal bilateral and plurilateral interactions in the margins of the meeting that are usually so critical for finding a compromise solution.

Therefore, this paper attempts to outline the possible building blocks upon which a future conversion mechanism could be based. The building blocks would reflect general principles or criteria that would be the basis for further discussions. An agreement on these elements would channel and facilitate future discussion and considerations. In light of the discussions that have previously taken place, notably in 2008, a conversion from the current scheme towards a TAC and quota allocation scheme should in order to enable a compromise be based on a blended formula with the following elements:

- current allocation key for effort days. This allocation has been already accepted by most Contracting Parties and can be converted into allocation key for quotas (including proxy values for Iceland);
- the realised fishing patterns (historical catches) that have been updated and reflect those calculated by the NAFO; These catch values, together with effort allocation keys reflect respective interest, and fishing patterns of Contracting Parties;
- Some degree of differentiation in the weighting given to different fishing periods;
- An agreement on the respective weighting to give to the above 3 elements.

Way forward

Agreeing on the building blocks for a future conversion from effort to a catch limitation would facilitate and allow future negotiations to focus on the fishing periods to be included and the weighting between the different elements.

Until a new allocation key is agreed at an intersessional meeting to be organised in 2021 before the Annual Meeting, and provided that this would be consistent with the scientific advice, the current scheme would be rolled-over for one additional year.

Annex 24. Recommendations from the NAFO Commission Ad hoc Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS)

(COM WP 20-11 now COM Doc. 20-15)

The NAFO Commission Ad hoc Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in the NAFO Regulatory Area met via WebEx on 30 April 2020 (COM Doc. 20-04) and agreed on the following recommendations:

The WG-BDS agreed that:

- 1. The Secretariat conducts complementary analysis of the haul by haul data in accordance to the further guidance from the working group and in further support of Tasks 2.1 and 2.2 of the *NAFO Action Plan in the Management and Minimization of Bycatch and Discards***
- 2. The Commission includes in its SC request for advice at the 2020 Annual meeting, the tasks outlined in Tasks 3.1 and 3.2 of the *NAFO Action Plan in the Management and Minimization of Bycatch and Discards* (COM Doc. 17-26).**

Annex 25. Changes in NAFO CEM (by the Editorial Drafting Group)
(STACTIC WP 20-16 (Revised) **now** COM Doc. 20-08)

In November 2019, members of the EDG met via WebEx to review the draft changes to the 2020 NAFO CEM and highlighted a few items that required further discussion by the EDG in STACTIC EDG WP 20-01. The EDG met on 25 August 2020 and proposed the following edits to the NAFO CEM.

CEM	Issue	Suggestion				
5.15.i	Use of the term “notified”	New draft: posts without delay the information notified provided in accordance with subparagraph 5.3(e) to the NAFO MCS Website and ensures that is made available to all Contracting Parties				
10.4.c	Use of the term “notified”	New draft: Each Contracting Party shall notify the Executive Secretary the name of every port it has so designated. Any subsequent change to the list shall be notified provided in replacement of the previous one no less than fifteen days before the change comes into effect.				
10.7.b	Use of the term “notified”	New draft: posts without delay the list of designated ports notified provided by the Contracting Parties for the purpose of this Article as well as any subsequent changes to the NAFO MCS Website and ensures that it is made available to all Contracting Parties;				
25.8.j	estimation of freezing capacity or, if possible, certification of refrigeration system will be provided	Discussion required on the meaning of this paragraph. Suggestion to delete “will be provided” but further discussion required.				
30.14.h	Paragraph could be interpreted as the observer completing inspection activities. Requires further discussion.	Discussion required: make themselves available to inspectors at sea, or in port upon arrival of the vessel, for the purposes of inspecting providing information related to the fishing activities of the vessel;				
Article 30.14.j	“per haul or set” should be moved to the end of the sentence. Its current placement is grammatically incorrect, as it interrupts the list of data to be collected	for all observed hauls/ sets that contain Greenland shark, record the number, estimated weight, length (estimated if measured length is not possible), and measured length (estimated length if measured length is not possible) per haul or set, the sex, and catch disposition (alive, dead, unknown) of each individual Greenland shark per haul or set .				
Article 37.6	suggest “the report of at-sea inspection” be changed to “at-sea inspection report” for consistency with 37.2.b.	The Executive Secretary posts without delay the report of at-sea inspection report to the NAFO MCS Website and ensures it is made available to all Contracting Parties.				
Annex IV.A Part 3	“Contracting Party” is used, but should be “flag State” in the instance of a non-Contracting Party vessel being sighted	New Draft: 3. VESSEL SIGHTED <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Contracting Party-Flag State</td> <td style="width: 30%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Vessel Name, International Radio Call Sign (IRCS), Side Number, IMO Number</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Contracting Party-Flag State		Vessel Name, International Radio Call Sign (IRCS), Side Number, IMO Number	
Contracting Party-Flag State						
Vessel Name, International Radio Call Sign (IRCS), Side Number, IMO Number						

Annex 26. Edits to the NAFO CEM (by the Editorial Drafting Group)
(STACTIC WP 20-17 now COM Doc. 20-09)

Below are potential edits flagged by the NAFO Secretariat that were reviewed by the Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) in STACTIC EDG WP 20-02. The EDG agreed to forward the following corrections to STACTIC.

Article 28.9.f

Current:

- (f) makes the logbook data specified in Article 28.8(b) available to Scientific Council upon their request, without the vessel's and flag State identification, in line with the data confidentiality rules as specified in Annex II.B...*

The Secretariat notes that the reference to Article 28.8(b) should be 28.8(c). A new article 28.8(b) was inserted in the 2020 NAFO CEM (see COM Doc. 19-12), and this reference was not updated accordingly.

Proposed correction:

- (f) makes the logbook data specified in Article 28.8(~~b~~c) available to Scientific Council upon their request, without the vessel's and flag State identification, in line with the data confidentiality rules as specified in Annex II.B...*

Article 51.2.f

Current:

- (f) where it permits entry, ensure the vessel is inspected by duly authorized officials knowledgeable in the CEM and that the inspection is carried out in accordance with Article 43 paragraphs 11 – 18; and*

The Secretariat notes that the reference to Article 43 paragraphs 11-18 should be Article 43 paragraphs 11-17 as article 43 only contains 17 paragraphs. This typo was present in the original document adopted for the Port State measures chapter in FC Doc. 16-06.

Proposed correction:

- (f) where it permits entry, ensure the vessel is inspected by duly authorized officials knowledgeable in the CEM and that the inspection is carried out in accordance with Article 43 paragraphs 11 – ~~18~~7; and*

Annex 27. Observer reporting timeframe and template – Article 30(14)(e)(STACTIC WP 20-24 now COM Doc. 20-10)**Background**

The reporting obligations for vessels established in Article 28(6)(c) NAFO Control and Enforcement Measures (NCEM) require the catch report (CAT) “of the *quantity of catch retained and quantity discarded by species for the day preceding the report*” to be “*sent daily before 12:00 UTC unless otherwise submitted in a COX report.*”

Article 30(14)(e) of the NCEM requires each flag Contracting Party shall ensure that observers assigned to their vessel, without however clarifying the reporting period to be used by the observer:

(e) *transmit daily, whether the vessel is fishing or not, before 12:00 UTC to the Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) of the flag State Contracting Party, in accordance with Annex II.G, the OBR report, by division.*

As a result, observers might report on a 24 hours basis but transmitting data relating to a difference timeframe than the one which is mandatory for the master. Thus, it is proposed the reporting period to be specified.

Proposal

In order to align the reporting period and to facilitate the assessment and control of the reported information, it is proposed to amend Article 30(14)(e) as follows:

(e) *transmit daily, whether the vessel is fishing or not, before 12:00 UTC to the Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) of the flag State Contracting Party, in accordance with Annex II.G, the OBR report, by division, with the information for the day preceding the report.*

Annex 28. 100% Port Inspection Benchmark for 3M Cod – Article 7 bis
(STACTIC WP 20-25 (Rev. 2) now COM Doc. 20-11)

Background

The Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for 3M cod recommended for 2021 by the NAFO Scientific Council represents a sharp decline in catches compared to 2020. In view of the status of the stock additional measures to the TAC are being considered, including spatio-temporal closures and the use of selectivity devices to reduce the fishing mortality of juveniles.

In the context of reduced fishing opportunities, enhanced control is necessary to ensure compliance with the management measures and to guarantee an accurate data of 3M cod catches. The inspection of landings ensures the verification of the quantities caught and is deemed as an important tool to prevent misreporting. In view of the status of the stock it is proposed as regards 3M cod to implement the same port inspection benchmark that applies to Greenland halibut under Article 10(4)(e) of NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEM). In order to facilitate that each Contracting Party inspects each landing of 3M cod in its ports, additional elements for control such as designated ports and prior notifications are also proposed.

Proposal

In CEM, after Article 7, to add the following “**Article 7 bis – 3M Cod**¹”:

Control Measures

1. *Each Contracting Party shall apply the following control measures for vessels with more than 1,250 kg of 3M cod catches on board²:*
 - (a) *prohibit its vessels from landing or transshipping 3M cod catches in ports other than those designated in accordance with Article 43.*
 - (b) *require that at least 48 hours before its estimated time of arrival in port, a vessel or its representative on its behalf, advises the competent port authority of its estimated time of arrival, the estimated quantity of 3M cod retained on board, and information on the division or divisions where any other cod catches retained on board were taken.*
 - (c) *inspect each landing or transshipment of 3M cod in its ports and prepare an inspection report in the format prescribed in Annex IV.C, which it submits to the Executive Secretary within 14 working days from the date on which the inspection was completed. The PSC3 report shall identify and provide details of any infringement to the CEM detected during the port*

-
- 1 STACTIC shall review this Article and propose amendments as appropriate to the Commission at its Annual Meeting in 2021. This Article is only applicable when the TAC for Cod in Division 3M in Annex I.A is under 3000 tonnes.
 - 2 Each Contracting Party shall inspect vessels with less than 1250 kg of 3M cod onboard on a risk-based approach.

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inspection. It shall include all relevant information available in reference to infringements detected at sea during the current trip of the inspected fishing vessel.

Duties of the Executive Secretary

2. *The Executive Secretary posts without delay the port inspection report submitted in accordance with paragraph 1(c) to the NAFO MCS Website and ensures that it is made available to all Contracting Parties.*

Annex 29. Reporting signalling the change of fishery – Article 9(3)
(STACTIC WP 20-27 (Rev. 2) **now** COM Doc. 20-12)

Background

The NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEM) require a vessel fishing for shrimp and other species on the same trip to transmit a report to the Executive Secretary signalling the change of fishery, in order to calculate the 3M shrimp fishing days accordingly.

This requirement does not specify how the notification is to be sent by the vessel, nor does it include a link to the flag State Contracting Party. In order to clarify how these reports should be channelled, the role of the different actors and to make this information available in the NAFO MCS Website, it is proposed to amend the wording in Article 9(3).

Proposal

In CEM Article 9(3), to amend the text as follows:

Each Contracting Party shall:

- a) ensure that it receives from its vessels ~~A vessel~~ fishing for shrimp and other species on the same trip ~~shall transmit a notification report to the Executive Secretary~~ signalling the change of fishery and indicating date and time in UTC of the change of fishery.*
- b) ~~The flag State Contracting Party shall transmit the notification report to the Executive Secretary without delay.~~
*The number of fishing days shall be calculated accordingly.**

In CEM, after Article 9(7), to insert the following sub-title and paragraph 8:

Duties of the Executive Secretary

- 8. The Executive Secretary posts the report referred to in paragraph 3 to the NAFO MCS Website.

Annex 30. Reduction of Mandatory Waiting Periods in NAFO (Article 25.5.a)
(STACTIC WP 20-30 (Rev.) **now** COM Doc. 20-13)

Background

Canada has noted that the requirement to submit vessel authorizations no later than 30 days in advance of a vessel's entry to the NRA is creating a 30-day waiting period for new vessels. In the digital age, this creates an undue burden on industry, despite their authorization being available in near-real-time on the NAFO Monitoring Control and Surveillance (MCS) website.

To provide a more efficient process, Canada proposes that Contracting Parties consider adjusting the 30-day notice required in Article 25.5.a.

Proposed Amendments:

Article 25 – Vessel Requirements

Authorization to Conduct Fishing Activities

5. Each Contracting Party shall transmit to the Executive Secretary by electronic means:

(a) the individual authorization (AUT message) for each vessel from the list of notified vessels it has authorized to conduct fishing activities in the Regulatory Area, hereinafter referred to as an “authorized vessel”, in the format prescribed in Annex II.C3 and no later than ~~530~~ 50 days before the start of the fishing activities for the calendar year ~~(AUT message)~~.

Each authorization shall in particular identify the start and end dates of validity and the species for which directed fishery is allowed, unless exempted in Annex II.C.3. If the vessel intends to fish for regulated species referred to in Annexes I.A or I.B, the identification shall refer to the stock, where the regulated species is associated to the area concerned;

Annex 31. Annual Fisheries and Compliance Review 2020
(Compliance Report for Fishing Year 2019)
 (STACTIC WP 20-20 Rev. 3 now COM Doc. 20-17 Rev.)

1.0 Introduction

The scope of this review covers the fishing activities of NAFO-registered vessels which operated in the NAFO Regulatory Area in 2019¹ (see Figure 1.0).

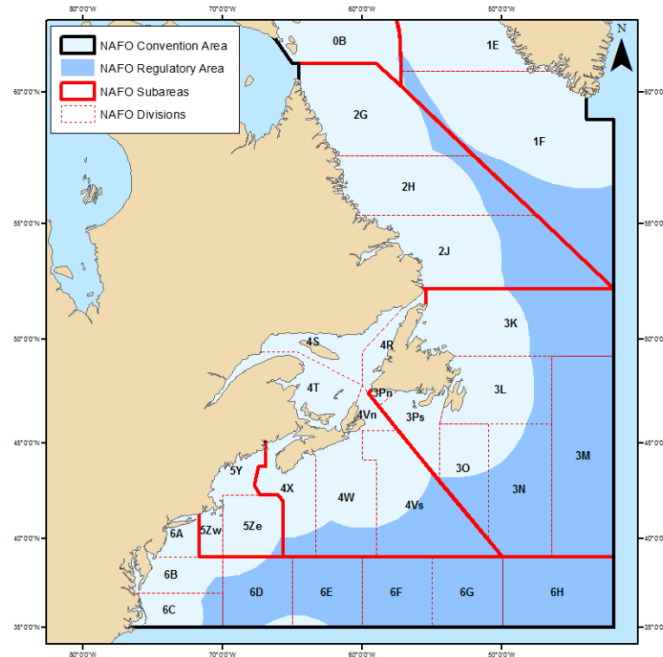


Figure 1.0. Divisions of the NAFO Convention Area and the Regulatory Area (dark blue).

This review is being undertaken in accordance with NAFO Rules of Procedure 5.1 and 5.2. As part of the review process, the Secretariat compiled 2019 information from the following sources: vessel monitoring system (VMS) and hail messages delivered by the vessels (Vessel Transmitted Information – VTI), electronic logbook (haul by haul) reports, Port Inspection Reports, At-sea Inspection Reports and Reports on Dispositions of Infringements provided by the Contracting Parties, and Trip Observer Reports sent to the Secretariat.

¹ According to Article 1.7 of the 2019 NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NCEM), a fishing trip includes “the time from its entry into until its departure from the Regulatory Area and continues until all catch on board from the Regulatory Area is unloaded or transhipped”. All article and annex numbers mentioned in this report have reference to the 2019 NCEM. Quantitative information presented in this report are summarized according to 2019 calendar year, unless otherwise indicated.

2.0 Fisheries in the NAFO Regulatory Area

2.1 Fishing effort by gear type

NAFO traditionally identifies three main fisheries in its Regulatory Area: the groundfish (GRO - primarily in Div. 3LMNO), shrimp (PRA - primarily in Div. 3L and Div. M) and pelagic redfish fisheries (REB - primarily in Div. 1F and Div. 2J). The PRA and the REB fisheries have been under moratoria. In 2019, fisheries in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA) comprised demersal fisheries and the pelagic fisheries on alfonosinos and redfish. There were 131 trips by 47 fishing vessels spending a total of 4674 days in the NRA (Table 2.1.1). One vessel (class size 5) spent 10 fishing days, as part of its fishing trip, in Division 6G catching alfonosinos. Another four vessels spent 46 fishing days in Div. 1F targeting pelagic redfish (REB) under the unilateral quota established by the Russian Federation.

Smaller vessels (<500 MT) tend to use longlines to fish for cod in Div. 3M and Atlantic halibut. The vast majority of the effort comes from larger vessels (> 500 MT) which account for 93% of fishing effort in terms of fishing days. The larger vessels use bottom trawl and fish in Divisions 3LMNO. The major species caught by the bottom trawlers are cod, Greenland halibut, yellowtail flounder, redfish, and thorny skate (see Table 2.3.1).

Table 2.1.1. *Fishing Effort in the NAFO Regulatory Area in 2019.*

Vessel Class	# of fishing vessels	# of fishing trips	Main Gear	f = Total Fishing Days	Fishing Trip Range (days)	Main Species	Fishing Area
Class 4 vessels (less than 500 MT)	5	11	Longline, bottom trawl	176	12-25 days	Cod, Yellowtail flounder	Flemish Cap (for cod); Tail of the Grand Banks (for yellowtail flounder)
Class 5 vessels (500-1000 MT)	14	40	Bottom Trawl, longline	1431	5-81 days	Cod, Greenland halibut, redfish, skates	Flemish Cap; Tail and Nose of the Grand Banks
Class 6 vessels (1000-2000 MT)	24	74	Bottom Trawl	2829	2-98 days	Cod, Greenland halibut, redfish, skates	Flemish Cap; Tail and Nose of the Grand Banks
Class 7 vessels (> 2000 MT)	4	6	Bottom Trawl	238	20-68 days	Cod, Greenland halibut, redfish, skates	Flemish Cap; Tail and Nose of the Grand Banks
Total	47	131		4674			

2.2 Effort Distribution by depth of groundfish vessel

The requirement of providing the speed and course information in the position reports of Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). Hourly positions are required to be transmitted. However, activities, whether steaming or fishing, are not indicated in the position reports. In this analysis, speeds

between 0.5 and 5 knots were assumed to be fishing speeds. Figure 2.2.1 shows the distribution of fishing effort in hours of groundfish vessels is presented. About half of all groundfish effort is at depths 400 meters and shallower (longliners and trawlers catching skates, redfish and cod). Figure 2.2.1 also shows a concentration of fishing effort around 1000 meters and this can be attributed to the Greenland halibut fishery.

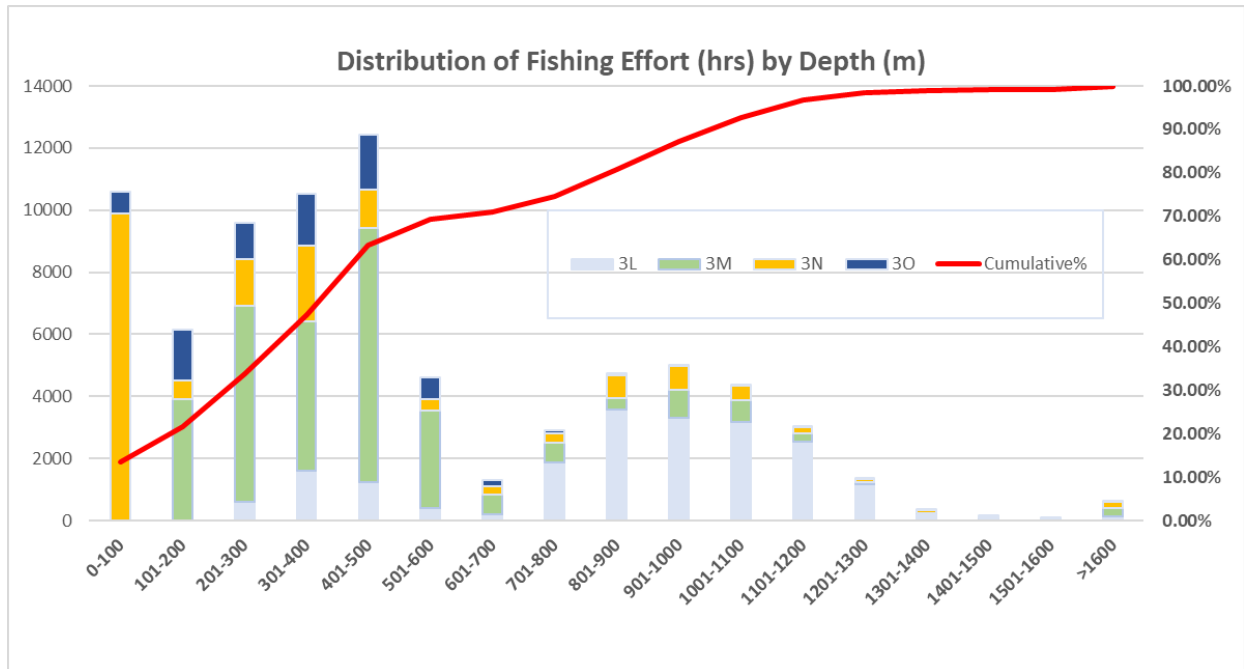


Figure 2.2.1. Distribution of fishing effort (in hours) by depth (m) in the NRA in 2019. Vessels are assumed to be fishing at speed in the range of 0.5-5.0 knots.

2.3 Catches in the NAFO Regulatory Area

A grand total of 72 350 t of fish (71 110 t retained + 1 240 t rejected) were caught by vessels authorized to fish in the Regulatory Area in 2019 (Tables 2.3.1 and 2.3.2). In terms of quantities caught, the stocks 3M Cod, 3LMNO Greenland halibut, 3M Redfish, 3LN Redfish, 3O Redfish, 3LNO Yellowtail flounder and 3NO Skates constitute the major groundfish fishery in the NRA.

Table 2.3.1 Total reported retained catches (in tonnes) of species (in FAO 3-alpha code) by Division in calendar 2019 (Source: CA field of CAT Reports).

Division	1F	3L	3M	3N	3O	6G	Total
Species subject to catch limitations (as listed in the Quota Table)							
CAP							
COD		51.2	16039.1	346.7	98.4		16535.4
GHL		7486.3	1267.8	909.5	6.3		9669.8
HKW				13.6	86.8		100.4
PLA		33.9	266.6	915.5	138.5		1354.5
REB	1382.5						1382.5
RED		4470.7	10590.4	7018.1	5113.0		27192.3
SKA		46.5	46.6	1820.5	1103.6		3017.2
SQI			1.0	52.0	122.3		175.2
WIT		22.6	145.5	174.4	213.9		556.4
YEL		1.3	0.0	9510.7	68.4		9580.4
Subtotal	1382.5	12112.4	28357.0	20760.9	6951.1		69564.0
Selected species not listed in the Quota Table							
ALF						1.4	1.4
ANG				0.2	4.8		5.0
CAT		3.1	29.3	1.0			33.4
HAD			0.0	0.1	2.4		2.5
HAL		66.7	159.9	325.8	186.5		738.9
HKS				46.4	447.8		494.2
RHG		77.9	16.7	27.6	0.0		122.2
RNG		23.9	12.6	0.3	0.0		36.9
Subtotal		171.7	218.6	401.4	641.5	1.4	1434.5
Sharks							
BSK							0.0
DGX							0.0
GSK							0.0
POR			0.4				0.4
SHX							0.0
SMA							0.0
SRX							0.0
CFB							0.0
Subtotal		0.0	0.4				0.4
MZZ		8.1	19.5	72.5	9.6	0.2	109.8
TOTAL	1382.5	12292.2	28595.5	21234.8	7602.2	1.6	71108.7

Table 2.3.2 *Total reported rejected catches (in tonnes) of species (in FAO 3-alpha code) by Division in calendar year 2019 (Source: RJ field of CAT Reports).*

Rejected (RJ)					
Division	3L	3M	3N	3O	Total
<i>Species subject to catch limitations (as listed in the Quota Table)</i>					
CAP			1.87	0.005	1.88
COD	0.2	0.6	9.9		10.70
GHL	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.06
HKW	0.3			0.6	0.93
PLA	0.1	5.0	1.3	0.1	6.47
REB	0.3				7.75
RED	2.2	14.3	3.2	30.8	43.00
SKA	19.2	5.3	313.5	0.0	337.93
SQI			0.0	0.4	0.39
WIT	0.2	3.9	2.3	2.0	8.32
YEL			10.2	0.0	10.23
Subtotal	22.4	29.1	342.3	33.9	427.65
<i>Selected species not listed in the Quota Table</i>					
					0.00
ALF					0.00
ANG				0.0	0.01
CAT	24.7	26.6	6.8	3.7	61.90
HAD				0.3	0.26
HAL	0.1	1.6	0.0	0.0	1.81
HKS			2.7	11.9	14.61
RHG	260.4	42.2	9.2	0.1	311.93
RNG	48.3	23.8	4.0		76.10
Subtotal	333.5	94.3	22.7	16.1	466.61
<i>Sharks</i>					
					0.00
BSK		4.2		3.5	7.70
DGX	5.7	1.4	0.2	0.2	7.46
GSK	54.6	38.2	39.6	41.1	173.54
POR	0.2	0.1	0.4	4.6	5.29
SHX	1.0	0.8			1.80
SMA			0.7	7.2	7.90
SRX		2.2			2.18
CFB		0.1	0.1		0.16
Subtotal	61.4	47.0	41.1	56.5	206.02
MZZ	21.6	10.4	105.9	1.6	139.48
TOTAL	439.0	180.9	511.9	108.1	1239.75

3.0 Inspection and Surveillance

Chapter VI of the NCEM outlines the general provisions and protocol of the at-sea inspection and surveillance in the NRA. Inspectors from Canada, the European Union, and the United States of America were deployed onboard of patrol vessels of Canada (Canada, EU and USA NAFO Inspectors) and European Union (EU and Canada inspectors). The inspectors are tasked to carry out NAFO inspection duties at sea.

3.1 Patrol Activity

Five (5) patrol vessels were deployed by the CPs with inspection presence. In all 358 patrol-days were spent in the NRA. The total length of time each patrol vessel exercised its patrol duties in 2019 varied between 12 days and 177 days. However, there were 105 days when no patrol vessel, 175 days when there was one patrol vessel, 85 days when there was more than one patrol vessel present in the NRA. Figure 3.1 shows the time of the year the patrol vessels were present in the NRA.

In addition, in 2019, Canada deployed surveillance planes, collectively flying 202 hours with 698 vessel sightings in the NRA. No vessel from non-Contracting Party suspected of conducting IUU fishing activities was spotted.

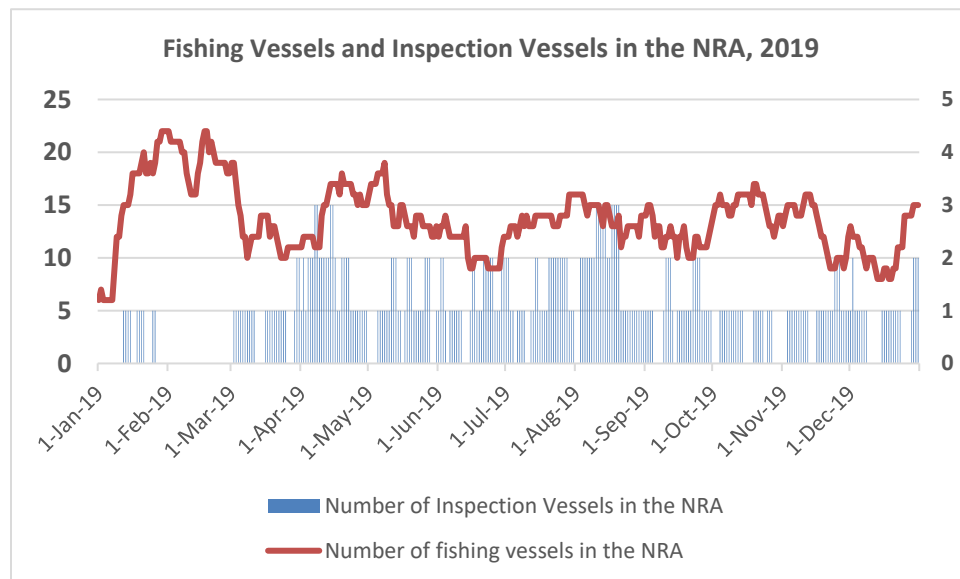


Figure 3.1 *Inspection Vessel Presence in the NRA in 2019.*

3.2 At-sea inspections

A total of 106 at-sea inspections were conducted. In five of these inspections at sea, 11) Apparent Infringements (AI) were detected – two (2) serious and nine (9) non-serious AI as per Article 38 definition. Details of the apparent infringements and their disposition can be found in Section 4.2.

3.3 Port Inspections

According to Article 43.10, the port State Contracting Party shall carry out inspections of at least 15% of all such landings or transshipments during each reporting year, unless otherwise required in a recovery plan in which case 100% coverage is required. Greenland halibut (GHL) is the only species which presence in the landing would require a port inspection (see Article 10). Port inspection reports are accomplished by port States using a PSC3 form (Annex IV.C).

In evaluating the compliance of port State authorities to Article 10, only trips with GHL onboard were considered. Table 3.3.1 shows the coverage levels (based on the number of trips) of port inspections for vessels that had GHL onboard. One landing of a Russian flagged vessel in DFG-Faroe Islands was not inspected by the port Contracting Party.

Table 3.3.1 *Fishing trips with Greenland halibut (GHL) catch (based on the Catch-on-Exit (COX) for the trip) and percent coverage of port inspections for that trip.*

CP	Number of trips with GHL > 0	Total amount of GHL (t)	Number of trips with GHL > 0 and PSC3	Total amount of reported landed GHL (t)	Port Inspection Coverage (% based on number of trips)
CAN	2	2.3	2	2.3	100%
EU	47	6964.2	47	6964.2	100%
DFG	1	211.6	1	235	100%
JPN	6	1104.9	6	1104.9	100%
RUS	9	1557.2	8	1493.3	89%
Overall	65	9840.2	64	9799.7	99.58%

In evaluating compliance with Port State Control measures outlined in Chapter VII of the NCEM, a review of the submission of Port State Control Prior Request (PSC1) and Port Inspection reports (PSC3) is presented in Table 3.3.2. The minimum coverage is 15% (Article 43.10).

Table 3.3.2 *The number of PSC1s and corresponding PSC3s received by the NAFO Secretariat port States.*

Port State	PSC1 (prior request)	Number of PSC1s with intention to land catch	PSC3 (port inspection report from port State authority)	% Coverage (#PSC3 received / #PSC1 received)
Canada	16	8	8	100%
DFG (Faroe Islands)	4	4	4	100%
EU	5	5	5	100%
FRA (St. Pierre et Miquelon)	8	8	3	38%
Iceland	10	6	1	17%

4.0 Compliance

In this section, reporting obligations and apparent infringements (AIs) are examined. AIs are detected by at-sea inspectors and by port inspection authorities (see Section 3).

4.1 Reporting Obligations

The NCEM requires fishing vessels and flag State Contracting Parties (through the Fisheries Monitoring Centre) and port State Contracting Parties to provide reports on the fisheries activity within a determined time frame. Compliance of port State Contracting Parties to reporting requirements is discussed in Section 3.3.

4.1.1 Vessel Activity Reporting

4.1.1.1 Vessel Transmitted Information (VTI) – Catch-on-Entry (COE), Daily Catch Reports (CAT), and Catch-on-Exit (COX)

The Fisheries Monitoring Centres (FMCs) of flag States are responsible for transmitting the VTI reports to the Secretariat. The COE and COX are transmitted identifying the catches on board when entering and leaving the NRA. COE-COX information is used to estimate the fishing-days effort in a fishing trip. The CATs are daily catch quantities reported by species and by Division while on a fishing trip. CATs are used to monitor the quota uptakes by the fleet of the Contracting Parties.

In Table 4.1.1.1, the number of COE, COX, and CAT, as well as of fishing trips and fishing effort-days in the NRA, is presented. All identified 2019 fishing trips had corresponding COE and COX.

In total 4 481 CATs were received within the calendar year 2019, lower than the number of fishing days. That is because mere presence on a particular date (as reflected by the VMS position reports) is considered as a fishing day, as per Article 1.6 definition.

Table 4.1.1.1 *Fishing effort and VTI statistics in the NRA, 2019.*

Number of fishing trips identified	131
Fishing Days	4674
Number of Daily Catch Reports (CATs)	4481
Number of Trips with Catch on Entry Reports (COEs)	131
Number of Trips with Catch on Exit Reports (COXs)	131

No major technical issue was encountered in transmission and receipt of the VTI reports. All expected reports, including the Daily Catch reports (CAT), were received by the Secretariat.

The timely receipt of the CATs allowed an effective monitoring of the quota uptakes and the effective implementation of quota transfers and charter arrangements.

4.1.1.2. Catch reporting on sharks

Article 28.6.g requires that all shark catches be reported at the species level, to the extent possible. When species specific reporting is not possible shark species shall be recorded as either large sharks (SHX) or dogfishes (DGX).

The 2019 CAT reports were examined and not all shark catches were reported to the species level. It is not known how many species of the retained sharks were reported within the code SHX. Greenland shark constitutes the bulk of the total shark catches by weight (see table 4.1.1.2).

Table 4.1.1.2. Amount of shark catches (t) as reported in CATs in 2019.

3-Alpha Code	Scientific name	Common Name	Retained (t)	Rejected (t)	Total (t)	Percentage
BSK	<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>	Basking shark	0.0	7.7	7.7	3.8%
DGX	<i>Squalidae</i>	Dogfishes	0.0	7.5	7.5	3.7%
GSK	<i>Somniosus microcephalus</i>	Boreal (Greenland) shark	0	173.5	173.5	86.0%
POR	<i>Lamna nasus</i>	Porbeagle	0.4	5.3	5.7	2.8%
SHX	<i>Squaliformes</i>	Large sharks (NS)	0.0	1.8	1.8	0.9%
SMA	<i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i>	Shortfin mako shark	0.0	7.9	7.9	3.9%
CFB	<i>Centroscyllium fabricii</i>	Black dogfish	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1%
Subtotal			0.4	203.8	206.2	100.0%

4.1.1.3 Electronic Fishing logbook (haul by haul) Reports

The submission of logbook data on a haul by haul basis became mandatory in 2015 (Article 28.8.b). The electronic fishing logbook information (haul by haul data) must be submitted to the Secretariat in the format prescribed in Annex II.N. for all hauls of the fishing trip (Article 288.c). The Secretariat has received haul by haul reports for all 131 trips that were completed in 2019.

4.1.1.4 Position reporting – Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

According to Article 29, every fishing vessel operating in the NRA shall be equipped with a satellite monitoring device capable of continuous automatic transmission of position to its land-based Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC) of the flag States, which in turn is transmitted to the Secretariat in real time. The transmission of position reports (POS) shall be no less frequently than once an hour.

The Secretariat can confirm that the requirement is fully complied with. In 2019, a total of 138 317 POS reports were received. Occasionally, technical problems were encountered by the fishing vessels or FMCs. During these occasions, the POSs were transmitted manually. Technical issues were usually resolved within a few days through the coordination between the Secretariat and the FMC.

4.1.1.5 Closed Areas and Exploratory Fisheries

As of 2019, in total 20 areas in NAFO have been closed to bottom fishing including six seamounts and 14 areas with significant concentration of coral, sponges and sea pens, one coral protection zone, and six seamounts. The measures concerning the protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) from bottom fishing are stipulated in Chapter II of the NCEM.

Based on the VMS positions, no bottom fishing was detected within the closed areas.

The Secretariat did not receive a notification from a Contracting Party concerning its intention to conduct exploratory fisheries (as defined in Article 18) in 2019.

4.1.1.6 Vessel activity after 3M redfish 50%- and 100%-TAC uptake notifications

The stock 3M redfish is the only stock listed in the Quota table which Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is considerably less than the sum of the quotas. The Secretariat monitors the TAC uptake through the daily catch reports it receives from the vessels and FMCs. When the TAC is projected to be reached, CPs are notified and are required to instruct their vessels to cease directed fishery on the stock starting on the date projected by the Secretariat.

Figure 4.1.1.6 shows the total daily catches and the percentage of cumulative catch derived from CAT reports. According to Article 5.5.d of the NCEM, not more than 50% of the TAC may be fished before 01 July. A total of 19 vessels were targeting 3M redfish in early 2019. On 02 April 2019, the five-day prior notification of 50%-TAC uptake was circulated, projecting that the 50%-uptake of the TAC would be taken by 07 April 2019, at which time the fishery would be suspended until 30 June. On 31 July 2019, the 96-hour notification was circulated, advising that 100% of the TAC was projected to be reached by 04 August. By the projected closure date, 100.3% of the 10500 t-TAC was fished. No directed fishery on this stock was conducted after the closure.

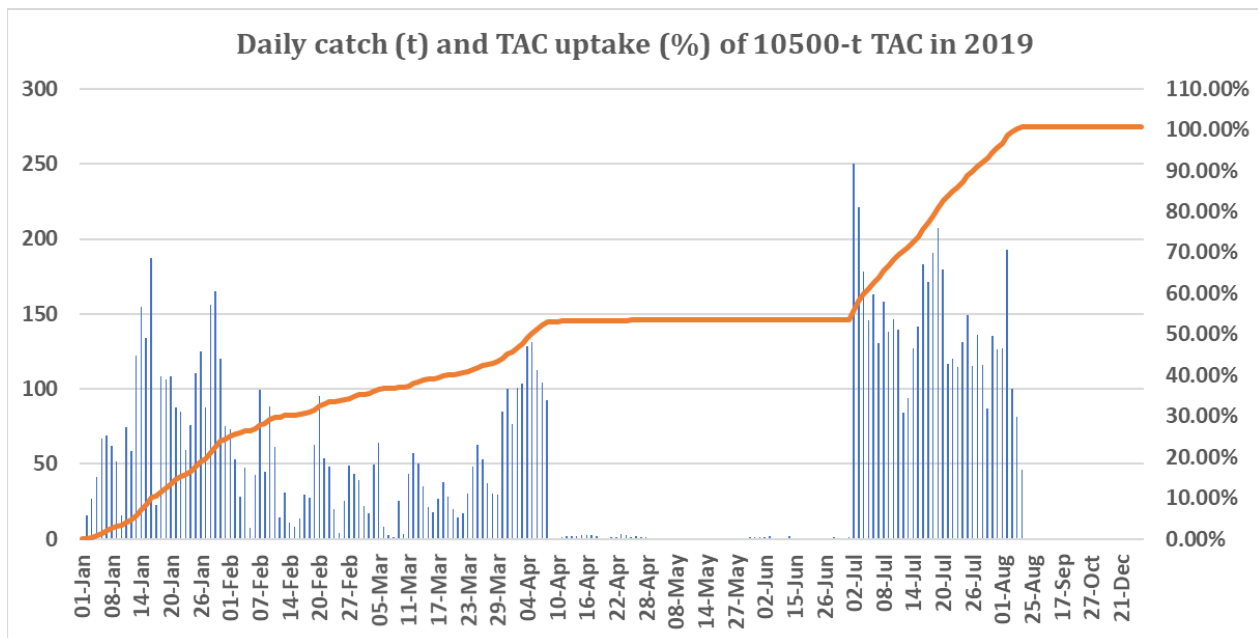


Figure 4.1.1.6 Daily catches of 3M redfish and TAC uptake in 2019. Source: 2019 CATs.

4.1.1.7 Chartering arrangement

Article 26 allows chartering arrangements between two CPs – the chartering CP (with quota) and the flag State CP (with fishing vessel). Catches by the vessel are counted against the quota of the chartering CP. In 2019 one (1) arrangement was made with a fishing possibility of 340 t of yellowtail founder.

Through the daily catch reports of the vessel where chartering catches are identified, the Secretariat could monitor the implement of the arrangement. According to the daily catch reports, the charter catches amounted to 357 t. With regards to the submission of the documentations (Article 26.7 and

26.8) and reporting of implementation dates (Article 26.9), both Parties of the charter complied to the requirements.

4.1.2 Observer Reports

In 2019, the NAFO Observer Scheme outlined in Article 30 was revised. Flag State Contracting Parties are required to have 100% observer coverage under Article 30.5, however, may allow its vessels to carry an observer for less than 100%, but not less than 25% of the fishing trips conducted by its fleet (Article 30.6).

In evaluating the compliance to observer trip report submission (see Article 30.14.a), trips were grouped according to the implementation of Article 30.5 or 30.6 which requires 100% or >25% coverage, respectively.

Under Article 30.5, there were 111 fishing trips identified. From these, trip observer reports from 106 trips were received by the Secretariat, a 94.6% coverage. The five (5) missing reports could be attributed to the non-submission by the Russian Federation. The Russian Federation agreed to submit the outstanding reports following the 2020 Annual Meeting.

Under Article 30.6, there were 16 trips from the fleet of a CP and only one (1) trip had an observer report submitted, a 6.5% coverage. Another CP had four (4) trips from its fleet and two (2) had an observer report, a 50% coverage.

4.2 Apparent Infringements detected at-sea and at-port

In 2019, a total of five (5) vessels were cited with AI by inspectors at sea and port authorities. Details on the nature of the AIs and their disposition are provided in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2 *Details of Apparent Infringements (AI) detected by inspectors at-sea and by port authorities in 2019 and their disposition. AIs presented in bold were considered “serious” by the inspectors as per Article 38 definition.*

CP	Vessel code	Inspection Date	AI's detected at-sea. Serious AIs are indicated in bold.	Confirmation in port of AI detected at sea	AI's detected in port (PSC3: Section E.1.B. c.	Follow-up to AI (Article 40)
DFG	9	08-Mar-20			Misrecording of catches	Case Closed - fine 350000 Danish krona + 733000 Danish krona for the illegal fish (121000 EUR)
DFG	6	24-Apr-19	Stowage Plan - Art.28.5(a)(i); 28.5 (b); 38 (m)			CASE CLOSED - The vessel paid the fine of 25.000 Danish krona (3.400 €).
EU	1	14-Aug-19	Capacity Plan - Art. 25.9			CASE CLOSED - Preliminary investigation concluded that the capacity plan was in order and certified.
DFG	8	05-Aug-19	Stowage Plan and No observer on board - Art. 28.3; 28.5 (b); 28.5 (c); 25.8 (i); 25.9; 25.10; 30.5; 38.1.(r); 38.1 (m)	-	-	CASE PENDING Fined 75.000 Danish krona (10.200 €). The Master did not accept, and the case was send to court on 6 Mrch 2020.
EU	41	06-Nov-19	Product labelling - Art. 27.1. (e)			CASE CLOSED Port verification concluded that labelling of cod product was in order. OTH was used instead of GUH since cod presentation had collars on.
EU	43	07-Nov-19	-	Art. 28.2 (b); 28.3 (a); 28.5 (a)	Mis-recording of catch Art. 28.2 (b)	CASE PENDING - Enforcement procedure on-going

4.3 Follow-up to apparent infringements

NCEM Article 39 spells out obligations of a flag State Contracting Party that has been notified on an apparent infringement. It includes taking immediate judicial or administrative action in conformity with the national legislation of the flag State Contracting Party and ensuring that sanctions applicable in respect of infringements are adequate in severity.

Article 40 requires Contracting Parties to report on the disposition of the AIs. The legal resolution of AIs may take more than a year. Contracting Parties shall continue to list such infringements on each subsequent report until it reports the final disposition of the infringement. In Table 4.3, a summary of status of AI cases in the last five years (2015-2019) and their resolution are presented.

Table 4.3 *Resolution of citations (by at-sea inspectors and port authorities) against vessels fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area by year in which the citations were issued (as of May 2020). A citation is an inspection report that lists one or more apparent infringement. Inspections carried out for confirming a previous citation are not included.*

Year	Number of Inspection Reports with AI citation/s	Number of Resolved Cases	Number of Pending Cases*	% Resolved
2015	3	2	1	67%
2016	11	8	3	73%
2017	7	7	0	100%
2018	6	5	1	83%
2019	5	3	2	60%

* still under investigation, litigation, or appeal.

5.0 Trends and Analysis

Five-year trends (2015-2019) on effort and catch, reporting obligations of CPs and observers, compliance by fishing vessels, and at-sea inspections and AIs are presented in this section.

5.1 Effort and Catch

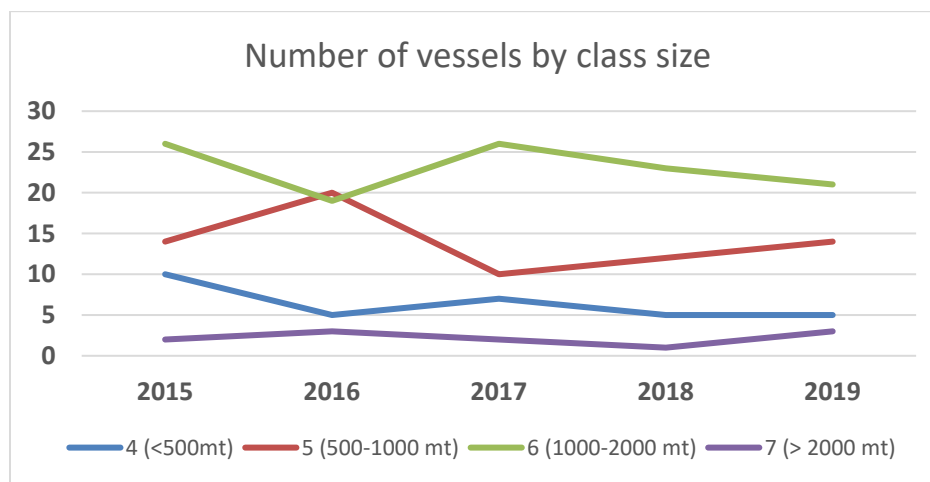
Trends in fishing effort and catches are presented in Table 5.1, Figures 5.1.1, 5.1.2 and 5.1.3.

Observations:

- Fishing effort (in fishing days) is the highest in 2019 in the 2015-2019 period. The increase in fishing effort can be attributed to the increase of TAC for 3M Cod and 3LN Redfish. (Table 5.1). For 3M Cod, the TAC increase in 2019 was 57% from the previous year (from 11145 t to 17500). For 3LN, the TAC increase was 27% from 14200 t to 18100 t.
- In Divisions 3LMNO, Greenland halibut, cod, yellowtail flounder, and redfish continue to be the most dominant catch in their respective divisions. Redfish is the second most dominant catch in Divisions 3LNO.
- Catch and Catch per unit effort (CPUE is t/fishing day) was also observed to the highest in 2019. The increase can also be attributed to the increase of TAC of 3M Cod and 3LN Redfish.

Table 5.1. *Fishing days, as defined by Article 1.6, by fishing gear.*

	Longline	Midwater-trawl	Bottom-Trawl	TOTAL
2015	272	93	3785	4150
2016	260	181	3873	4314
2017	314	0	3558	3872
2018	304	82	3719	4105
2019	321	56	4297	4674

**Figure 5.1.1** *Number of fishing vessels in Divisions 3LMNO by class size, 2015-2019. The class sizes are based on the STATLANT classification.*

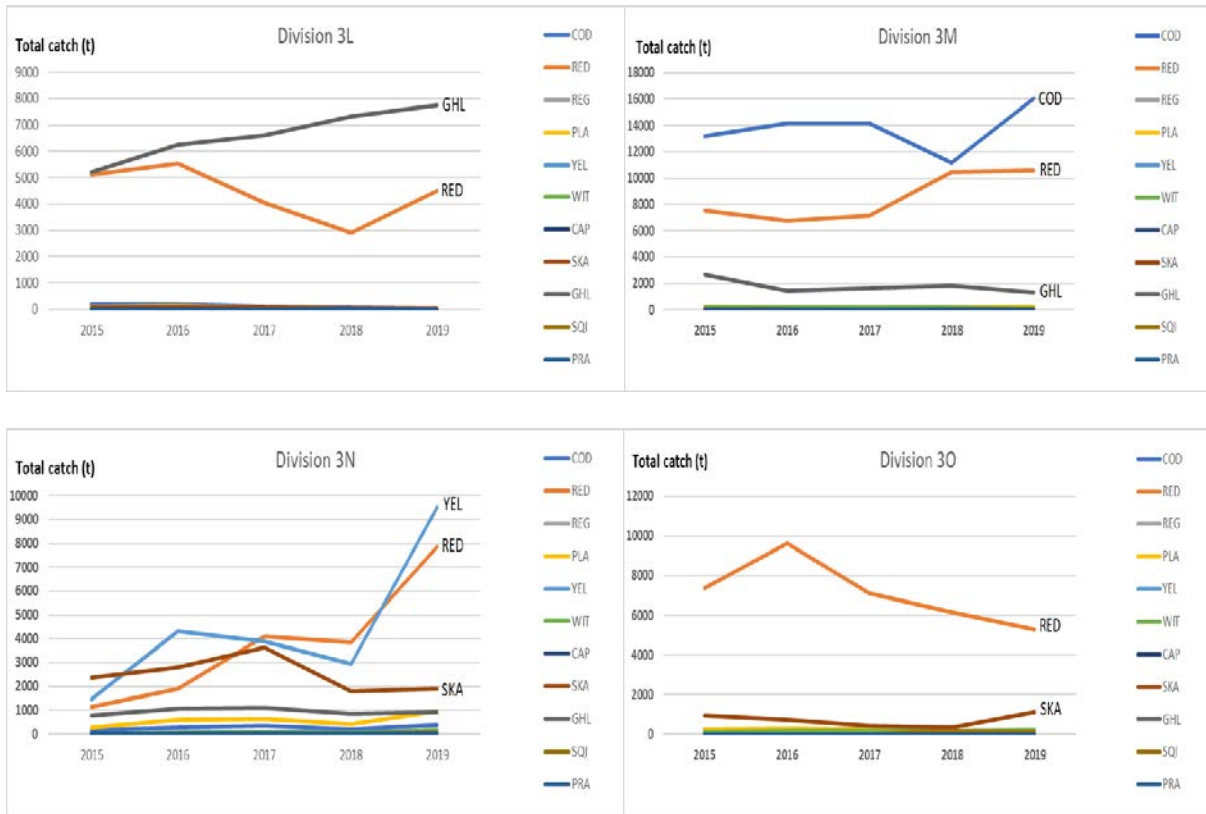


Figure 5.1.2 Catches (in tonnes) by Division of selected species managed by TAC, 2014-2019 (Source: CATs).

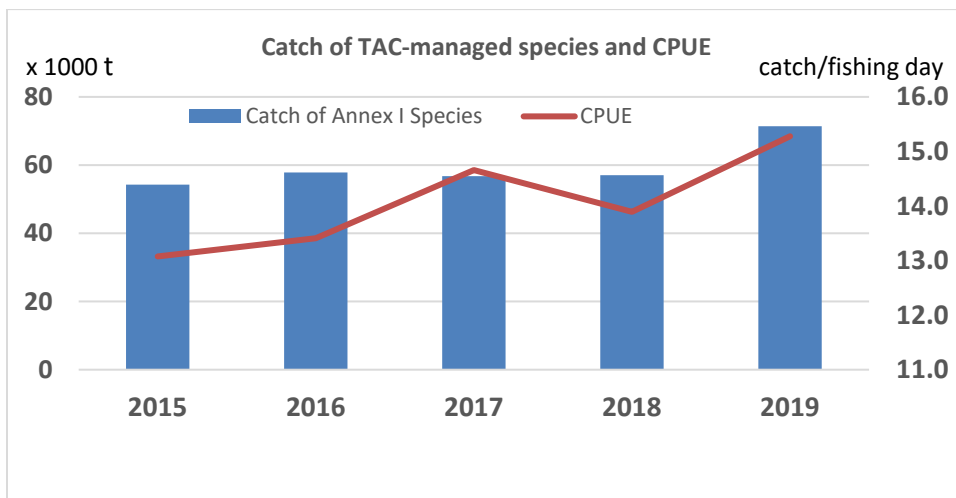


Figure 5.1.3 Catch of TAC-managed species and CPUE in 2015 -2019, expressed in total catch of TAC-managed species per fishing day. Data Source: CATs and VMS reports.

5.2 Reporting Obligations by Contracting Parties

Compliance to reporting obligations is quantified as a percentage coverage – the ratio of the fishing trips accounted for by the reports and of the total number of relevant fishing trips. A 100% coverage would mean that all expected reports were delivered to the Secretariat, less than 100% means some fishing trips did not have a corresponding report. Figure 5.2 presents the percentage coverage of port inspections reports on vessels with Greenland halibut landings (in accordance to Article 10.4), observer reports from vessels operating under Article 30.5 (flag State CPs did not apply Article 30.6), and electronic fishing logbook reports in accordance with Article 28.8.b.

The year 2019 saw the marked improvement in the submission rates of reports which require 100% coverage. In 2019, the submission rates of electronic logbook reports (Article 28.8.b), trip observer reports (Article 30.5), and port inspections reports (Article 10.4) are 100%, 94.6%, and 96.9%, respectively.

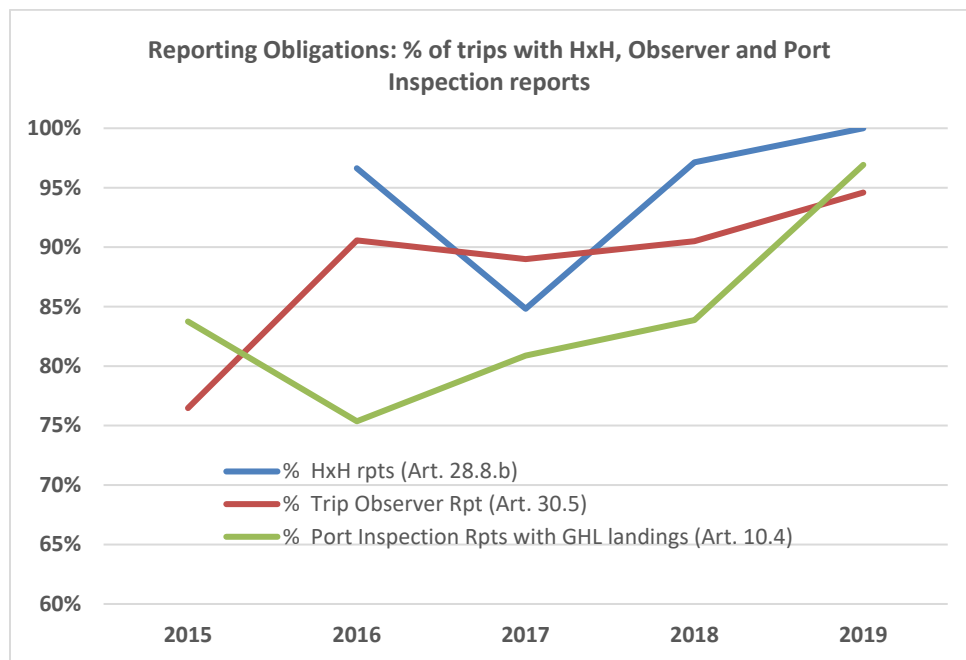


Figure 5.2 *Percentage coverage of Port Inspections reports with Greenland halibut landings reports (Arts. 10.4 and 42.10), Observer Trips Reports on fishing vessels operating under Article 30.5 (flag State CPs did not apply Article 30.6), and Haul by Haul reports (Article 28.8.b and Annex II.N), 2015-2019.*

5.3 Compliance by Fishing vessels

In the 5-year review period, VMS and VTI requirements (Article 28 and 29) have been fully complied with.

Hourly position reports (POS), as well as the Daily Catch Reports by Division (CATs), were transmitted to the Secretariat while the vessels were in the NRA. The Catch-on-Entry (COE) and Catch-on-Exit (COX) reports for each fishing trip were also transmitted.

5.4 Inspections and Apparent Infringements

At-sea inspection rates, computed as a ratio of the number of at-sea inspections and the total fishing effort (fishing days), in the period 2015-2019 are presented in Figure 5.4.1. Frequency of AI cases in the period 2015-2019 are presented in Figure 5.4.2.

Inspection rates have remained steady with less than 1% inter-annual difference. The 2019 inspection rate (2.27%) is the lowest in five years.

With regards to AIs detected at sea and at port, mis-reporting of catches have remains to be the most common AI (Figure 5.4.2). There is no other discernable trend with regards to the nature and frequency of the AIs.

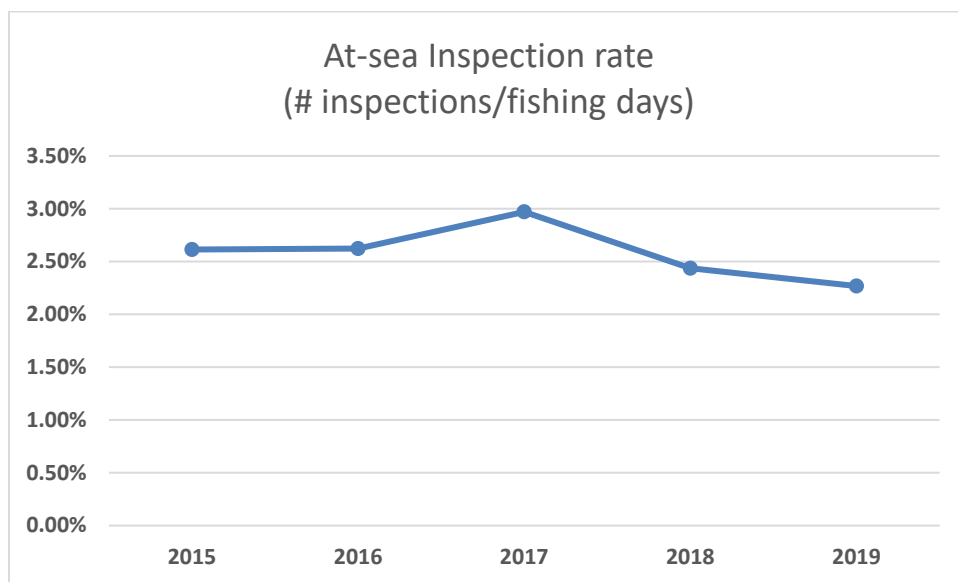


Figure 5.4.1 *Inspection rates (number of at-sea inspections/fishing days) in the NAFO Regulatory Area, 2015-2019.*

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
By-catch requirements	•	••••	••		
Catch communication violations		•			
Directed fishing of moratorium stock		•	•		
Directed fishing of stock without quota allocation				•	
Evidence tampering		•			
Fishing after date of closure		•			
Gear requirements - mesh size, illegal attachments			•		
Inspection protocol	•	•			
Mis-recording of catches - inaccurate recording	••	•••••• ••	••••	••••	••
Mis-recording of catches -stowage	•	•	•••	•	••••••
Product labelling			•	••	••
Quota requirements		••			
Vessel requirements - capacity plans		•		••	••
Committing an infringement where there is no observer on board					•

Figure 5.4.2 *Frequency of apparent infringement cases detected by at-sea inspectors and port authorities in 2015-2019. Black and blue dots represent apparent infringement issued at sea and at port, respectively.*

6.0 Conclusions

In NAFO, there are three main fisheries conducted mainly with trawl gear and a limited presence of longline gear. The total catches increased from around 56,000 tonnes in 2018 to approximately 72,000 tonnes in 2019.

Overall compliance with reporting obligations is high and has continued to improve in recent years. Contracting Parties are providing the required compliance indicators necessary to complete the compliance review process.

7.0 Recommendations

STACTIC recommends that all Contracting Parties continue to strive for coordination and collaboration.

STACTIC recommends that all Contracting Parties maintain and continue efforts to protect stocks that are subject to moratorium.

STACTIC includes in its Compliance Review the observers' compliance to Article 30.14.j, a new article in the 2020 NCEM concerning the collection of biological information on Greenland shark.

STACTIC recommends Contracting Parties to continue to urge masters to improve recording of sharks at species level (Section 4.1.1.2).

STACTIC recommends Contracting Parties continue to strive towards 100% submission of Observer Trip reports, the electronic logbook data reports (haul by haul) and Port Inspection reports, as the catch information contained in these reports are utilized by the Scientific Council and other working groups (e.g. CESAG, WG-BDS) in the fish stock assessment work (Section 5.2 and Figure 5.2).

STACTIC reflects whether the 5-yr average at-sea inspection rate of 2.5% is adequate and also notes a slow decrease in overall at-sea inspections (Sec 5.4 and Fig 5.4.1). STACTIC encourages Contracting Parties to continue to maintain inspection presence in the NRA (Section 3.1) and to continue to cooperate among them for at-sea deployments.

STACTIC reminds Contracting Parties about the requirement to inspect 100% of GHL landings.

STACTIC recommends Contracting Parties to continue cooperation and discussions on best practices for both at sea and port inspections.

STACTIC recognizes a marked improvement in report submission rates in 2019.

STACTIC encourages Contracting Parties to continue to explore ways to address repeated non-compliance by vessels in the NRA, as noted in the 2018 Performance Review.

STACTIC recommends Contracting Parties continue to ensure the protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems.



NAFO Northwest Atlantic
Fisheries Organization

PRESS RELEASE

Committed to **Conservation** and **Management** of **Fisheries** and **Ecosystems** in the Northwest Atlantic

Annex 32. 2020 Press Release

NAFO HOSTS 42nd ANNUAL MEETING VIRTUALLY AND WELCOMES UNITED KINGDOM AS A NAFO CONTRACTING PARTY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Halifax, Canada, 25 September 2020- The 42nd Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) took place from 21-25 September. Due to the current global pandemic, NAFO conducted the Annual Meeting virtually for the first time in its history. During the opening session, delegates from all the NAFO Contracting Parties were welcomed to the meeting by NAFO President, Stéphane Artano. The NAFO President also formally welcomed NAFO's newest Contracting Party, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which joined NAFO earlier this month. The United Kingdom is NAFO's 13th Contracting Party.

Despite the limitations imposed this year by the current global pandemic, NAFO continued to have a productive meeting. NAFO further advanced its revision of its Precautionary Approach (PA) Framework with the adoption of a detailed three-year workplan. Under this workplan, it is expected that NAFO's revised PA Framework will be finalized by September 2023. NAFO also adopted a number of decisions related to the further development of its ecosystem approach framework to fisheries management and the upcoming review of its measures to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) from bottom fishing activities. In particular, these decisions include a rollover of the current VME closures in the NAFO Regulatory Area for an additional year, pending a more comprehensive review in 2021.

In addition, to the traditional total allowable catch (TAC)* and quota decisions, significant decisions were made regarding the following:

- Additional conservation measures were agreed for cod in Div. 3M including a closure of the directed fishery from January until March 2021; increased port inspection requirements; and introduction of sorting grids to protect juvenile fish.
- Streamlined vessel authorization process.
- The term of the Executive Secretary, Fred Kingston, was extended for an additional year until the end of 2022.

NAFO is also planning intersessional work to review the current management approach for shrimp in Div. 3M and a workshop to identify ecosystem level objectives in advance of the 2021 Annual Meeting.

The 43rd Annual Meeting will take place 20-24 September 2021, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

* The 2021 TACs and quotas are attached.

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PART II.
Report of the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)

42nd Annual Meeting of NAFO, 21-25 September 2020
 via WebEx

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Report of the Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC)

42nd Annual Meeting of NAFO, 21-25 September 2020

1. Opening by the Chair, Kaire Märtin (European Union)

The Chair opened the meeting at 08:00ADT on Monday, 21 September 2020 via WebEx. The Chair welcomed representatives from the following Contracting Parties (CPs) – Canada, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Norway, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

Jana Aker (NAFO Secretariat) was appointed as rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The following additions were made to the agenda under agenda Item 20 – Other Business:

- a. VISMA Contract Renewal
- b. Update regarding NAFO security breach
- c. IMO numbers
- d. Report and recommendations of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)
- e. Recommendations from NAFO working groups

The agenda was adopted, as amended (Annex 2).

The Chair noted that the NAFO ad hoc Working Group on STACTIC Participation (WG-SP) was not able to meet in March of this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Contracting Parties agreed to follow the procedure established at the 2019 Annual Meeting as an interim solution for this meeting without prejudice to any other future possible decisions about the issue of participation, which was that Contracting Parties identify agenda items and/or working papers which they deemed to be of a sensitive nature and discussed in an in-camera (closed) session. The in-camera (closed) sessions would be restricted to government officials and NAFO Commissioners from each delegation. Following the in-camera (closed) discussions, the Chair would report out the results or recommendations in open session. Canada, the European Union and Russian Federation reiterated their preference for all STACTIC deliberations to be open only to Government Officials of Contracting Parties due to the sensitive nature of the STACTIC discussions and information. The United States of America reiterated its preference for STACTIC discussions to be open to all Contracting Party representatives to allow for full transparency. For this meeting, Contracting Parties agreed to discuss agenda items 13.b and 19, as well as STACTIC WP 20-02 (Rev. 3), STACTIC WP 20-23, and STACTIC WP 20-29 in a closed session. The Chair thanked Contracting Parties for the compromised way forward, but noted a solution was still required for this issue.

4. Compliance review 2020 including review of apparent infringement reports and of chartering arrangements

The NAFO Secretariat presented the Summary of Inspection Information for 2019 in STACTIC WP 20-03 (Rev. 3) and noted the updates received following the STACTIC Intersessional meeting had been incorporated. Contracting Parties provided additional updates at this meeting, and the final version is outlined in STACTIC WP 20-03 (Rev. 5). The European Union noted that there was still some information on port inspections missing in the working paper, and encouraged those Contracting Parties that have conducted port inspections to provide the relevant information to the NAFO Secretariat. The NAFO Secretariat presented the overview of chartering arrangements in STACTIC WP 20-14 for information.

The NAFO Secretariat presented the draft Annual Fisheries and Compliance Review 2020 in STACTIC WP 20-20. Contracting Parties offered some clarifications throughout the draft Compliance Review and representatives from the United States of America, Canada, and the European Union volunteered to continue work on the conclusions and recommendations sections. The final version of the draft Compliance Review is outlined in STACTIC WP 20-20 (Rev. 3). The Russian Federation noted that they will be submitting outstanding observer reports to the NAFO Secretariat following the meeting.

During an in-camera (closed) session, the NAFO Secretariat presented the updated draft Compilation of Fisheries Reports 2019 in STACTIC WP 20-02 (Rev. 3). Contracting Parties provided further updates to the document, including an update on an infringement that was issued to a vessel from the Faroe Islands during a port inspection, and the final version was presented in STACTIC WP 20-02 (Rev. 4).

It was **agreed** that:

- **The draft Annual Compliance Review outlined in STACTIC WP 20-20 (Rev. 3) be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**

5. Review of Article 30 of the NAFO CEM

The NAFO Secretariat presented a Summary of Observer Information for 2019 in STACTIC WP 20-09 (Revised) and noted the document has been updated following input received after the Intersessional meeting. It was noted that clarity was needed around the purpose of the reporting requirements in Article 30.10.d of the NAFO CEM as it was unclear whether the reporting exercise is about compliance with the specified timelines or the effectiveness of the measures. Contracting Parties did note some issues with some of the requirements outlined in Article 30, and agreed to further discuss some deficiencies of these issues (i.e. two-way communication device, reporting templates, reporting timelines, etc...) at the 2021 STACTIC Intersessional meeting. Contracting Parties also thanked Norway for the report in relation to Article 30.6.e of the NAFO CEM, and encouraged other Contracting Parties invoking Article 30.6 to submit similar reports.

It was **agreed** that:

- **STACTIC discuss the issues relating to the Article 30 requirements at the 2021 Intersessional meeting.**

6. New and Pending Proposals on Enforcement Measures: Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM

Norway presented a joint Norway / European Union proposal for the inclusion of vessels from IUU list of other RFMOs to the NAFO IUU list in STACTIC WP 20-21. Contracting Parties thanked Norway and the European Union for the proposal but expressed some concern with the process for updating the IUU list and the criteria other RFMOs are using for listing vessels as IUU. Norway and the European Union, following consultation with other Contracting Parties, opted to continue working on the proposal for presentation at the 2021 STACTIC Intersessional meeting. The United States offered to assist the ongoing drafting efforts.

During an in-camera (closed) session, the European Union presented a proposal on product form presentation (Annex II.K of the NAFO CEM) in STACTIC WP 20-23. The European Union reflected on the discussion at the 2020 Intersessional meeting, noting there was no product form code available for gutted and headed with collars left on, and the proposed new code would cover that product form. Contracting Parties expressed concerns with the insertion of a new product form code, and noted that the GUH code is currently being used differently by different Contracting Parties, mainly associated to the conversion factors used. Some Contracting Parties use GUH for gutted and headed with collars on. The European Union thanked Contracting Parties for their input and withdrew the proposal, noting they would continue to use the code OTH for fish that are gutted and headed with the collars left on, and welcomed text from other Contracting Parties to resolve this issue in the future.

The European Union presented a proposal on the observer reporting timeframe and template (Article 30.14.e) in STACTIC WP 20-24. Contracting Parties thanked the European Union for the proposal, noting that it clarifies the existing requirements and agreed to forward it to the Commission for adoption.

The European Union presented a proposed revision to Article 12.1.d of the NAFO CEM relating to the prohibition of a commercial fishery on Greenland sharks in STACTIC WP 20-26, noting that the current use of “directed fishery” could create issues as Greenland sharks are large enough that they could be classified as a directed fishery based on the definition outlined in Article 5.2 of the NAFO CEM. Some Contracting Parties expressed concern with the wording in the proposal, with Norway noting they were not able to support a proposal that was adding a new discard obligation to the NAFO CEM, which is in contradiction to those Contracting Parties that have a landing obligation. Norway further explained that a similar discard obligation had been proposed for Greenland shark at the Annual Meeting in 2018, and that a proposal for a derogation for Contracting Parties with a landing obligation had been discussed. However, the Contracting Parties had agreed to the current prohibition against conducting a directed fishery for Greenland shark. Norway explained that they could not go along with the text proposed by the European Union unless a derogation for Contracting Parties with a landing obligation was included, and forwarded a proposal to the European Union. It was confirmed that the retention for the purpose of scientific measurements by the observer were permitted prior to discarding Greenland shark. The European Union thanked Contracting Parties for their feedback and withdrew the proposal from this meeting.

The European Union proposed a revision to Article 9.3 of the NAFO CEM relating to the reporting requirement signalling the change of fishery in STACTIC WP 20-27. Contracting Parties thanked the European Union for the proposal and offered some suggestions for clarity and agreed to forward the revision in STACTIC WP 20-27 (Rev. 2) to the Commission for adoption. During the discussion, it was clarified that fishing days for 3M PRA are calculated based on the definition in Article 1.6 of the NAFO CEM.

During an in-camera (closed) session, Canada presented a discussion paper on measures concerning vessels demonstrating repeat non-compliance of serious infringements in the NAFO Regulatory Area in STACTIC WP 20-29. Canada highlighted that the discussions on this issue have been ongoing since 2016 with contributions from Contracting Parties and hoped that this version of the proposal allowed all Contracting Parties the flexibility to apply the measures within their domestic regulations. Contracting Parties thanked Canada for their continued efforts to address this issue but noted some reservations with the existing proposal and agreed to provide specific comments to Canada. Canada thanked Contracting Parties for the feedback and agreed to work with Contracting Parties intersessionally and develop a revised proposal for the 2021 STACTIC Intersessional meeting.

Canada presented a discussion paper on the mandatory waiting period following authorization in STACTIC WP 20-30, noting that the requirement for the existing 30-day timeframe may no longer be required with the digital transmission of the information. Contracting Parties were in agreement with Canada that the timeframe could be reduced, and the Secretariat noted that the AUT messages are automatically updated on the MCS website, but some buffer time may want to be included in case there are any technical issues with the message transmission. Canada thanked Contracting Parties for the support and presented a proposal for a 5-day waiting period in STACTIC WP 20-30 (Revised). Contracting Parties thanked Canada for the proposal and agreed to forward it to the Commission for adoption.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Norway, the European Union, and the United States will continue working on the proposal for the inclusion of vessels from IUU lists of other RFMOs to the NAFO IUU list and provide an update at the 2021 STACTIC Intersessional meeting.**
- **The proposed changes to the NAFO CEM relating to the observer reporting timeframe and template (Article 30.14.e) outlined in STACTIC WP 20-24 be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **The proposed changes to the NAFO CEM relating to the reporting requirement signalling the change of fishery (Article 9.3) outlined in STACTIC WP 20-27 (Revised) be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **Canada will work with Contracting Parties intersessionally to receive feedback on STACTIC WP 20-29 relating to measures concerning vessels demonstrating repeat non-compliance of serious infringements in the NAFO Regulatory Area and present a revised proposal at the 2021 STACTIC Intersessional meeting.**
- **The proposed changes to the NAFO CEM relating to the waiting period for vessel authorization in STACTIC WP 20-30 (Revised) be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**

7. Discussions on the interpretation of Article 10 of the NAFO CEM

This item was deferred to the 2021 STACTIC Intersessional meeting.

8. Practical application of Port State Measures in NAFO

This item was deferred to the 2021 STACTIC Intersessional meeting.

9. Marking of gears

This item was deferred to the 2021 STACTIC Intersessional meeting.

10. NAFO MCS website and application development

This item was deferred to the 2021 STACTIC Intersessional meeting.

11. Report and recommendations of the Editorial Drafting Group (EDG)

The Chair of the Editorial Drafting Group (EDG), Patrick Moran (USA), presented the meeting summary of the EDG meeting that took place on 25 August in STACTIC WP 20-18. The Chair of the EDG noted that in addition to the proposals being forwarded to STACTIC by the EDG, the EDG also requested the Secretariat to conduct an analysis on bycatch interpretations, which was discussed under agenda item 13, and requested advice from the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM), which was discussed under agenda item 20.d. The United States of America highlighted the recommendation from the EDG meeting summary (STACTIC WP 20-18) that stated *the EDG request STACTIC to review the text in Article 6.2.c to clarify the "Others" quota use in bycatch considerations* and committed to draft a proposal on this recommendation for discussion at the 2021 STACTIC Intersessional meeting.

The EDG Chair presented STACTIC WP 20-15 which outlined a recommendation to delete Annex II.I Part B of the NAFO CEM as there was no reference to this annex in the NAFO CEM. Some Contracting Parties noted that the codes in this annex could be used in the surveillance report form and may also be useful for moving to an ERS system of reporting. It was agreed not to delete Part B of the annex and request the EDG to investigate the possibility of inserting a relevant reference to the annex in Article 33 of the NAFO CEM or as a footnote to the Surveillance Report in Annex IV.A.

The EDG Chair presented suggestions for changes in the NAFO CEM in STACTIC WP 20-16. Norway expressed concern with the change proposed to Article 5.15.f, noting the proposal changed the meaning of the Article. Contracting Parties agreed to remove the proposed change to Article 5.15.f from the document and refer this matter back to the EDG for further discussion. Contracting Parties agreed to forward the other proposed edits outlined in STACTIC WP 20-16 (Revised) to the Commission for adoption.

The EDG Chair presented further edits relating to correcting existing references in the NAFO CEM in STACTIC WP 20-17 and Contracting Parties agreed to forward these changes to the Commission for adoption.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The United States of America will draft a proposal relating to the EDG recommendation for STACTIC to review the text in Article 6.2.c to clarify the “Others” quota use in bycatch considerations for presentation at the 2021 STACTIC Intersessional meeting.**
- **The EDG review the NAFO CEM for the possible insertion of a reference to Annex II.I Part B in Article 33 or as a footnote to the Surveillance Report in Annex IV.A.**
- **The EDG further review the edit to Article 5.15.f in STACTIC WP 20-16.**
- **The edits to the NAFO CEM outlined in STACTIC WP 20-16 (Revised) be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **The edits to the NAFO CEM outlined in STACTIC WP 20-17 be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**

12. Review of Current IUU list Pursuant to NAFO CEM, Article 53

At the 2020 Intersessional meeting, the European Union agreed to provide an update on relevant IUU listed vessels. The European Union noted that the IUU listed vessel Murtosa remains in port in Portugal in poor condition but still floating. The vessel should remain on the NAFO IUU list until the vessel has been scrapped.

13. Bycatches and Discards

The NAFO Secretariat presented STACTIC WP 20-31 providing an update on the data analysis requested by the EDG. The NAFO Secretariat noted that, due to data processing issues, there is a large quantity of discard data in the database that cannot be attributed to an individual haul. This issue has made it difficult to accurately calculate the thresholds, since calculating the total catch in an individual haul is not possible for much of the data at this point. The European Union also noted that the same work is currently being completed by the WG-BDS and that the Secretariat should work to present consistent results to both groups. Denmark (in Respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) reiterated their suggestion to have a simpler definition of bycatch in NAFO and noted the need to continue the bycatch discussions in a face to face meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The Secretariat will continue working on the data analyses requested by the EDG and the WG-BDS.**
- **The discussions on the bycatch provisions continue at the 2021 STACTIC Intersessional meeting.**

a. Results of the WG-BDS meeting

The NAFO Secretariat noted that the meeting report of the Ad hoc Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) was now available in COM Doc. 20-04 and that the group also had an informal meeting on 18 September 2020 to discuss the data analyses going forward. The European Union reiterated that the Secretariat work to present consistent results to both the WG-BDS and STACTIC, and Norway noted the importance of having these discussions in both groups, in particular with

regard to how to address the problem of bycatches and discards. The next meeting of the WG-BDS is scheduled for the winter of 2021.

b. Sorting grids and other possible measures for 3M Cod

During an in-camera (closed) session, the Chair highlighted the request from the Commission in COM Doc. 19-30, which stated *the Commission requests STACTIC to consider the feasibility of introducing a requirement for the use of sorting grids in trawl fishery for 3M cod*. The Chair asked for guidance from Contracting Parties familiar with the use of sorting grids. Contracting Parties reflected on their experiences with sorting grids but noted that further information was required before specific measures could be proposed. STACTIC agreed that the introduction of the requirement to use sorting grids for the trawl fishery for 3M Cod seems feasible from a control and enforcement perspective by means of at-sea inspections, and to forward this assessment to the Commission. The specific parameters of the requirements would need to be developed in consultation with technical experts, the Scientific Council, and the Commission.

During an in-camera (closed) session, the European Union presented a proposal for 100% Port Inspection Benchmark for 3M Cod in STACTIC WP 20-25. The European Union noted the importance of the proposal with the likely reduction in the TAC for 3M Cod, and that this proposal aligns with the port inspection measure currently in place in the NAFO CEM for Greenland halibut. Contracting Parties thanked the European Union for the proposal and noted support for the concept presented but expressed some concerns with the proposal as drafted. Contracting Parties collaborated with the European Union to revise the proposal in a way that all Contracting Parties could agree with in STACTIC WP 20-25 (Rev. 2). STACTIC clarified that the prior notification period referred to in this proposal was only applicable to vessels that were not covered under the Port State Control Measures outlined in Chapter VII of the NAFO CEM, and that footnote 1 and 2 in the proposal were only applicable to the proposed Article 7 bis, not the entirety of Article 7. Some concerns were raised with the reference to a threshold value of 1,250 kg appearing in the proposed Article 7 bis. Some Contracting Parties also expressed a strong preference to avoid referring to the applicability of the provision based on a 3000 tonnes TAC level. These concerns were addressed with the addition of footnotes 1 and 2, which also included an agreement to review the provision in 2021. Canada requested that the placement of Article 7bis under Article 7-Cod Recovery Plans be reviewed by EDG at a future date. Contracting Parties then agreed to forward the revised proposal to the Commission for adoption.

It was **agreed** that:

- **It is feasible, from an enforcement perspective, to require the use of sorting grids for the trawl fishery for 3M Cod, but the specific parameters of the requirements would need to be developed in consultation with technical experts, the Scientific Council and the Commission.**
- **The proposal relating to 100% port inspection benchmark for 3M Cod outlined in STACTIC WP 20-25 (Rev. 2) be forwarded to the Commission for adoption.**
- **The EDG is to review the placement of Article 7bis under Article 7-Cod Recovery Plans.**

14. Discussion of data classification and access rights

This item was deferred to the 2021 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting.

15. Discussion on garbage disposal onboard vessels

The European Union presented an updated proposal for specific requirements in the NAFO CEM to address the issue of marine pollution in STACTIC WP 20-22. The European Union noted that this proposal clarifies the definitions of garbage and plastic, and measures for discarding such waste. Contracting Parties thanked the European Union for their continued efforts on this proposal, noting that they agree with the need for a reduction in marine pollution. All Contracting Parties but the European Union indicated that to address NAFO issues on marine pollution by inserting a reference to MARPOL Annex V in the NAFO CEM would be a preferable

way forward, at least as a first step, noting that this was recently agreed to in NEAFC. The European Union noted the need for specific measures in the NAFO CEM, in order for those measures to be enforceable given the limited scope of MARPOL in NRA, the lack of tailor-made provisions to address NAFO specific issues, and the need for clarity on the vessels requirements for inspectors and operators without a reference to another instrument. The European Union acknowledged the lack of appetite to adopt specific measures after three years of discussions on this subject, noted that the fisheries are very different from those in NEAFC and reflected on the recent adoption of specific measures in other RFMOs, such as CCAMLR, endorsed by several NAFO Contracting Parties. Contracting Parties were not able to agree on a way forward on this item at this meeting and agreed to continue the discussion at the 2021 STACTIC Intersessional meeting. The United States of America and Norway agreed to work on a proposal relating to the insertion of a reference to MARPOL Annex V in the NAFO CEM for presentation 2021 STACTIC Intersessional meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The discussion on garbage disposal onboard vessels continue at the 2021 STACTIC Intersessional meeting**
- **The United States of America and Norway will work on a proposal relating to the insertion of a reference to MARPOL Annex V in the NAFO CEM for presentation 2021 STACTIC Intersessional meeting.**

16. Discussion on labour conditions onboard vessels

The Secretariat noted that not all Contracting Parties have provided their Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for labour conditions to the NAFO MCS Website and the Chair encouraged Contracting Parties to submit the information to the NAFO Secretariat.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Contracting Parties provide the Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for labour conditions to the NAFO Secretariat for inclusion on the NAFO MCS Website.**

17. Discussion of the reporting of shark catches in the NAFO Regulatory Area

Natasha Barbour (Canada) provided an update on behalf of the small working group responsible for the work on standardizing the identification and data collection requirements for Greenland sharks. It was noted that Canada, the European Union, Denmark (in Respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), and the United States of America were still committed to this initiative, but that there has not been much progress to date. The group encouraged Contracting Parties to submit any relevant information and noted the work will continue with an update being provided to STACTIC in 2021.

It was **agreed** that:

- **Canada, the European Union, Denmark (in Respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), and the United States of America continue the work on standardizing the identification and data collection requirements for Greenland sharks and provide an update to STACTIC in 2021.**

18. Implementation of the Performance Review Recommendations

The Chair highlighted STACTIC WP 20-28 outlining the status of the recommendations from the 2018 Performance Review that are relevant to STACTIC. The Chair suggested, in the interest of time, that a full discussion on the recommendations be deferred to the 2021 STACTIC Intersessional meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **A full discussion on the recommendations from the 2018 Performance Review outlined in STACTIC WP 20-28 be postponed to the 2021 STACTIC Intersessional meeting.**

19. Issues relating to the impacts of COVID-19

During an in-camera (closed) session, the Chair provided an overview of the provisions in the NAFO CEM that Contracting Parties had reported having difficulty complying with due to COVID-19 at the 2020 Intersessional meeting. The specific NAFO CEM Measures were Article 10.4 (100% port inspection for GHL), Article 30.5 (100% observer coverage), Article 30.8.c (where practicable, ensure observers are not deployed on consecutive trips), Article 43.10 (15% port inspection coverage), and Chapter VI (At-sea Inspection Scheme). Contracting Parties provided updates on the status of these issues since the Intersessional meeting, noting that operations are starting to return to normal levels, but there are still some exceptions, and that could change if the pandemic starts to extend again. Contracting Parties continued the discussions on the role of STACTIC in relation to the compliance with the NAFO CEM measures during the pandemic, noting that the Commission needs still to provide guidance to STACTIC on its role with regard to the COVID-related difficulties.

The United States reiterated its concern with continuing with an unbridled ad-hoc waiver process, and maintained that the most transparent and equitable process by which to handle emergency measures arising out of the global pandemic is to suspend specific measures for a defined period by way of vote. Temporarily suspending specific measures through consensus provides all Contracting Parties with sufficient notice of their obligations and clear bounds of conduct while still affording those Parties capable of fulfilling any suspended obligation the opportunity to do so. Absent temporary suspensions, the United States suggested formalizing and setting clear parameters around the process by which Contracting Parties are derogating.

There are two main views with regard to the expected STACTIC's role, to be decided by the Commission: (a) to compile, make a first review of, including appropriate recommendations, and report for decision-making to the Commission on the measures undertaken by Contracting Parties and associated difficulties to comply with NCEM, to be reflected in the compliance review. (b) to compile and report to the Commission, identifying difficulties to comply with the CEM and identifying best practices, but without scrutinizing or making a full compliance review of the specific measures taken by each Contracting Party, since the responses to the pandemic differed from Contracting Party to Contracting Party.

Contracting Parties agreed to develop an annex to the Compliance Review for the 2020 fishing year outlining the measures taken by each Contracting Party in response to COVID-19. Canada agreed to provide the template for this annex at the 2021 STACTIC Intersessional meeting. This information would provide the rationale for certain measures not being complied with, but also would be a useful tool for reviewing the measures and facilitate discussions for best practices to address any situations like COVID-19 that may arise in the future. The Chair noted that the COVID-19 situation may return to previous levels, and Contracting Parties may again have difficulty complying with the measures, and encouraged Contracting Parties to notify the NAFO Secretariat of these instances so they can compile the information.

It was **agreed** that:

- **STACTIC will create an annex to the Compliance review in 2021 (for the 2020 fishing year) outlining Contracting Party responses to the COVID-19 pandemic with the aim to compile relevant information to facilitate further discussions.**
- **Canada will draft a template for the annex to the Compliance review for the 2020 fishing year relating to the COVID-19 measures for the 2021 STACTIC Intersessional meeting.**

20. Other business**a. VISMA Contract Renewal**

The NAFO Secretariat requested permission from STACTIC to renew the existing contract with Visma as the VMS service provider for an additional year, with the details outlined in STACTIC WP 20-19. The NAFO Secretariat confirmed that STACFAD had approved this item in the budget and Contracting Parties agreed the Secretariat move forward with the contract renewal for 1 year.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The NAFO Secretariat renew the existing contract with Visma for an additional year.**

b. Update regarding NAFO security breach

The NAFO Secretariat provided a brief summary of the NAFO security breach that occurred in May 2020, and noted further information was provided to Heads of Delegation.

c. IMO numbers

Denmark (in Respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) highlighted that there is an issue with the IMO requirements, where the IMO number includes the 3-alpha code IMO prefix, but the current NAF systems only allow for the seven digit number. Denmark (in Respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) noted that this is currently being discussed in PECMAC and may be forwarded to JAGDM and wanted to make STACTIC aware of the issue.

d. Report and recommendations of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)

The vice-Chair of JAGDM (Natasha Barbour, Canada) presented an update on the requests from the EDG to JAGDM that were discussed at the 10 September 2020 meeting. The vice-Chair of JAGDM noted that two working papers were forwarded from the EDG with requests to determine the technical implications to the proposed changes in Annex II.C, Annex II.D (JAGDM-2020-02-08) and Annex II.J (JAGDM-2020-02-09). The advice from JAGDM was that these changes did have technical implications and would require further review. STACTIC thanked the vice-Chair of JAGDM for the presentation, agreed with JAGDM and decided to forward the review of the changes to Annex II.J back to the EDG for further assessment.

The vice-Chair of JAGDM also noted that a full report of the 10 September 2020 meeting will be circulated to STACTIC Participants when it is finalized and reminded Contracting Parties that JAGDM is still in search of a Chair.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The EDG continue discussion on the proposed changes to Annex II.J of the NAFO CEM.**

e. Recommendations from NAFO working groups

The Commission forwarded recommendations from CESAG in COM-SC WP 20-05 and the WG-EAFFM in COM-SC WP 20-04 to STACTIC and requested them to review the recommendations addressed to STACTIC. Contracting Parties agreed to defer the discussions on the recommendations to the 2021 STACTIC Intersessional meeting.

It was **agreed** that:

- **The recommendations addressed to STACTIC from CESAG in COM-SC WP 20-05 and from the WG-EAFFM in COM-SC WP 20-04 be discussed at the 2021 STACTIC Intersessional meeting.**

21. Time and Place of next meeting

The next STACTIC Intersessional meeting will be held during the week of 10 May 2021. The NAFO ad hoc Working Group on STACTIC Participation (WG-SP) will meet one day prior to the start of the 2021 STACTIC Intersessional meeting. The meetings will be held at the NAFO Secretariat in Halifax, Canada.

22. Adoption of Report

The report was discussed during the meeting and adopted via correspondence following the end of the meeting.

23. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 09:00 hours ADT on 25 September 2020.

Annex 1. List of Participants

Kaire Märtin (EU)	STACTIC Chair
Natasha Barbour Dion Browne Mike Hurley Lloyd Slaney	Canada
Signe Bork Hansen Meinhard Gaardlykke Petur Meinhard Jacobsen Michael Dennis Pedersen Mads T. Nedergaard	Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
Xosé Tubio Aronne Spezzani Miguel Quintans Corinne Jacobi Peter Jørgen Eliassen Epp Meremaa Carlos Chamizo Gema De Frutos Eglė Radaitytė Miguel Serrao Genadijus Babcionis Meit Grossmann	European Union
Mehdi Bouchelaghem David Girier	France (in Respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)
Jóhann Ásmundsson Birgir H Björnsson	Iceland
Yuki Kinoshita Hiroyuki Morita Hideki Moronuki Yoshihiko Takekawa	Japan
Hilde Ognedal	Norway
Alexey Bakhtov Anastasiya Romashevskaya Anna Shulaeva Ilya Skryabin Alexander Tremsin Artem Vilkin	Russian Federation
James Windebank	United Kingdom
LCDR Kathy Cyr LCDR Jamie Fredrick Mike Henry Shannah Jaburek Charles Lynch Elizabethann Mencher Patrick Moran	United States of America

Katie Pohl Eric Reid Kathryn Roy Richard Usher	
Jana Aker Matt Kendall DJ Laycock	NAFO Secretariat

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair, Kaire Märtin (European Union)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Compliance review 2020 including review of apparent infringement reports and of chartering arrangements
5. Review of Article 30 of the NAFO CEM
6. New and Pending Proposals on Enforcement Measures: Possible revisions of the NAFO CEM
7. Discussions on the interpretation of Article 10 of the NAFO CEM
8. Practical application of Port State Measures in NAFO
9. Marking of gears
10. NAFO MCS website and application development
11. Report and recommendations of the Editorial Drafting Group (EDG)
12. Review of Current IUU list Pursuant to NAFO CEM, Article 53
13. Bycatches and Discards
 - a. Results of the WG-BDS meeting
 - b. Sorting grids and other possible measures for 3M Cod
14. Discussion of data classification and access rights
15. Discussion on garbage disposal onboard vessels
16. Discussion on labour conditions onboard vessels
17. Discussion of the reporting of shark catches in the NAFO Regulatory Area
18. Implementation of the Performance Review Recommendations
19. Issues relating to the impacts of COVID-19
20. Other business
 - a. VISMA Contract Renewal
 - b. Update regarding NAFO security breach
 - c. IMO numbers
 - d. Report and recommendations of the Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)
 - e. Recommendations from NAFO working groups
21. Time and Place of next meeting
22. Adoption of Report
23. Adjournment

PART III.
Report of the NAFO Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)

42nd Annual Meeting of NAFO, 21-25 September 2020
 via WebEx

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Report of the NAFO Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD) Meeting

42nd Annual Meeting of NAFO, 21-25 September 2020
via WebEx

1. Opening by the Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA)

The first session of STACFAD was opened by the Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA) at 10:00 hours on Tuesday, 22 September 2020. The Chair welcomed representatives to the meeting from Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, Norway, Russian Federation, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and the NAFO Secretariat (Annex 1).

Under the unusual circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and with travel restrictions being in place, the Chair thanked delegates for their flexibility and willingness to maximize the efficiency of STACFAD's virtual work by being able to handle most of the routine items in advance of the meeting.

To facilitate the process, the Chair identified agenda items that could be coded "open limited" or "advance agreement by correspondence". This format allowed these agenda items to be quickly adopted, noting the draft recommendations which were also provided in advance of the meeting.

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat was appointed as Rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated (Annex 2).

4. Audited Financial Statements for 2019

Grant Thornton LLP performed the audit for the 2019 fiscal year, in accordance with the NAFO Financial Regulations. The draft audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2019 were circulated to the Heads of Delegations and STACFAD delegates in advance of the meeting. As is practice, the financial statements are presented as draft until after they are reviewed by STACFAD and approved by the Organization.

The excess of revenues over expenditures for 2019 was \$58,862 (2018 – deficiency of \$79,552)

Total expenditures incurred for the fiscal period ending 2019, as shown in the draft financial statements, amounted to \$2,208,549, which was \$65,451 under the approved budget of \$2,274,000. It was noted that the total expenditures included an extraordinary item of \$11,394 for the MSC Website in which grant revenue was received to offset the expense. Excluding this extraordinary item, expenses for the year were \$76,845 under budget.

The operating fund had a balance of \$340,004 at year end which was used to reduce 2020 Contributions from Contracting Parties. As approved at the September 2019 Annual Meeting, the contingency fund remained at \$285,000; the relocation fund was increased to \$60,000 and the newly established performance review fund was set at \$15,000.

STACFAD recommends that:

- **The 2019 Financial Statements be adopted.**

5. Administrative and Activity Report by NAFO Secretariat

Highlights of the Secretariat's activities for the period September 2019 to August 2020 have been summarized in the Administrative and Activity Report (COM Doc. 20-07 Revised).

6. Financial Statements for 2020

Financial Statements projected to 31 December 2020 have been provided by the Secretariat in COM Doc. 20-07 (Revised).

Operating Expenses for 2020

The operating budget for 2020 was approved at \$2,369,000 while expenditures for the year are projected to be at \$2,254,000, or \$115,000 under the approved budget. Overall savings for the year can be attributed to the reduction in travel and meeting costs with meetings being held virtually, although, some cost overages were incurred in computer and professional services as a result of the Secretariat's servers being compromised by a cyberattack. Some minor costs were also incurred because of the Headquarters relocation although these were covered by additional funds being added to the 2020 equipment and supplies budget.

All remaining 2020 operating expenses are anticipated to be on or near budget for the year. The above noted cost savings of \$115,000 will be returned to the accumulated surplus and will be available to reduce Contracting Parties contributions in 2021.

Assessed Contributions

At the beginning of 2020, the accumulated surplus had \$340,004, which was deemed to be in excess of the needs of the Organization and was allocated towards the 2020 operating budget. Therefore, in order to meet the 2020 operations budget of \$2,369,000, Contracting Parties were assessed contributions in the amount of \$2,028,996.

Balance Sheet

The Organization's cash position at 31 December 2020 is estimated to be \$1,167,490. The cash balance will be sufficient to finance appropriations in early 2021 pending the receipt of annual payments by Contracting Parties in the Spring of 2021. Assessed contributions from the Republic of Korea and Ukraine for 2020 are currently outstanding.

7. Review of Accumulated Surplus and Funds

According to the NAFO Financial Regulations, STACFAD and the Commission shall review the amount available in the accumulated surplus account during each Annual Meeting. The accumulated surplus account shall be set at a level sufficient to temporarily finance operations during the first three months of the year, plus an amount up to a maximum of 10% of the annual budget for the current financial year to be used for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses. In addition, the Organization shall also maintain a recruitment and relocation fund, up to a maximum of \$100,000, for relocation costs of internationally recruited staff. In addition, the Organization shall also maintain a performance review fund to pay costs associated with having an external performance review. The performance review fund balance shall be kept at a maximum of \$100,000.

The accumulated surplus account at 31 December 2020 is estimated to be \$764,000.

STACFAD recommends that:

- **The amount maintained in the accumulated surplus account be set at \$285,000 of which \$200,000 would be sufficient to finance operations during the first three months of 2021, and of which \$85,000 would be a contingency fund available to be used for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.**
- **The recruitment and relocation fund be increased by \$12,000 to \$72,000 for future recruitment and relocation costs of internationally recruited staff.**
- **The performance review fund be increased by \$15,000 to \$30,000 for future costs associated with having an external performance review.**

8. Update on the NAFO websites

As agreed at the last Annual Meeting of NAFO, the *Ad Hoc* virtual NAFO Website Re-Design Working Group: Data Classification reconvened in 2020. It was noted that during the meeting in June 2020, the *Ad Hoc* virtual Working Group agreed that before a formal policy could be developed, specifically in regards to the posting and distribution of meeting documentation, that feedback was required from NAFO Bodies, Standing Committees, and Working Groups. This feedback would be sought during upcoming meetings in 2020/2021.

STACFAD endorses the recommendation of the *Ad Hoc* virtual Working Group, and an update will be provided at the 2021 Annual Meeting of NAFO (COM Doc. 20-06).

9. Personnel Matters

No personnel matters were presented this year.

10. Review of the Recruitment Process for the NAFO Executive Secretary

The second and final term of the current Executive Secretary's (ES) contract is scheduled to conclude at the end of 2021. A recruitment process for the next ES was scheduled to be launched in 2021 with an appointment for the 2022-2025 term. However, due to the unprecedented circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, a decision was made by the Heads of Delegations to extend the contract of the current Executive Secretary for at least another year.

Even though the recruitment process for the NAFO Executive Secretary has been delayed, the Chair encouraged Contracting Parties to review STACFAD WP 20-02 in anticipation for discussion at an upcoming Annual Meeting of NAFO.

11. Internship Program

Activities and tasks of the 2020 NAFO internship program were presented in STACFAD WP 20-03. The NAFO internship was postponed for the second half of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic allowing only one intern to participate.

The Committee recognized the considerable benefits of the internship program to the Organization and the intern themselves. It is hoped that the internship program may resume in 2021.

STACFAD recommends that:

- **The internship period be maintained for six (6) months during 2021.**

12. Report on the Annual Meeting of the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS)

The annual meeting of the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS) scheduled to be hosted by the U.S. Department of State during 15-17 April 2020 in Washington, DC, USA. As a result of current travel restrictions, the meeting was held by video-conference. The meeting was attended by the Executive Directors and Finance Officers of the seven International Fisheries Commissions with headquarters located in Canada and the United States of America. NAFO was represented by Fred Kingston, Executive Secretary, and Stan Goodick, Deputy Executive Secretary/Senior Finance and Staff Administrator. Also attending the meeting were the IFCPS Directors appointed by the Governments of Canada and the United States of America. Background information on the pension plan, audit, actuarial valuation, electronic files, society governance, as well as the financial status, was presented within the information paper (STACFAD WP 20-04).

The Commissions which are members of the Pension Plan of the IFCPS, rely on an actuarial valuation to ensure the Plan's sustainability and inter-generational equity as well as determining the required employee/employer current year service contributions and potential special deficit payments. The latest funding valuation of the Plan's assets and liabilities was performed as of 01 January 2020 by the actuarial firm, Mercer (Canada) Limited. In accordance with the results from the January 2020 preliminary valuation, the 2021 budget estimate includes a provision for the following costs within the Superannuation and Annuities budget line item.

Deficit Payment	\$310,260
Employer Current Service and Admin. Costs	\$178,740
Total	\$489,000

The next annual meeting of the IFCPS will be hosted by the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) 13-15 April 2021 in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.

13. Implementation of 2018 Performance Review Panel recommendations

STACFAD WP 20-05 provided an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2018 Performance Review Panel, specifically those assigned for STACFAD's future consideration:

Recommendation 26, Chapter V.3.2 *"Recommends NAFO makes all working documents publicly available, unless otherwise requested by a Contracting Party or subject to confidentiality rules". [pg. 36]*

Recommendation 35, Chapter VII.1 *"Recommends NAFO develops an annual operational plan for the NAFO Secretariat outlining key objectives and specifying resources required to meet these objectives." [pg. 48]*

Recommendation 36, Chapter VII.2 *"Recommends NAFO initiates a process to design a new visual identity for NAFO that reflects the role and responsibilities of the Organization." [pg. 48].*

As the 2020 Annual Meeting is taking place virtually, agenda items were prioritized for time limitations. For that reason, recommendation 35 and recommendation 36 (a new visual identity and draft annual operational plan) are currently being developed by the NAFO Secretariat for presentation to STACFAD at the 2021 Annual Meeting of NAFO.

It was further noted that recommendation 26 was addressed under agenda item 8 *"Update on the NAFO websites"* (see above).

14. Budget Estimate for 2021

The 2021 budget estimate, as prepared by the Secretariat, was provided in COM WP 20-05 (Revised). Additional details and highlights on the 2021 budget estimate were provide in STACFAD WP 20-08.

Approved Budget 2020	Preliminary Budget Forecast 2021	Budget Estimate 2021 (Revised)
\$2,369,000	\$2,417,000	\$2,451,000

In light of the decision by Heads of Delegation to extend the contract of the current Executive Secretary and to postpone the recruitment process for at least another year, the budget estimate was revised to remove the recruitment costs for 2021.

The 2021 budget estimate of \$2,451,000 represents an increase of \$82,000 or 3.5% over the prior years approved budget.

The personnel services budget accounts for an increase of \$65,000 or 2.74% of the total increase for 2021. NAFO follows the salary scales of similar positions held in the Public Service of Canada which provide for routine economic and salary step increases. In addition, superannuation and annuities include the employer's contributions, administration costs, actuarial fees, and the required annual payment towards previous pension plan deficits. The latest funding valuation of the pension plan's assets and liabilities was performed as of 01 January 2020 and changes to assumptions used in the valuation (i.e. - decrease in net discount rate) resulted in an increase to the employer current service costs..

The computer services budget increased by \$7,000. This can be attributed to security enhancements implemented to NAFO's firewall, servers, and software.

The sessional meetings budget increased by \$8,000. This can be attributed to anticipated increases in hosting the Annual Meeting in Halifax.

The intersessional scientific meetings budget increased by \$5,000 as it includes a sponsorship of a Joint NAFO/ICES 2021 symposium on decadal oceanographic variations in the North Atlantic.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the planned NAFO WG-EAFFM Workshop of fisheries managers and scientists to draft ecosystem objectives, which was scheduled to take place over 2 days in Brussels in August 2020 (immediately before the WG-EAFFM and WG-RBMS meetings), had to be postponed. The planning of this workshop continues, and it is expected to take place sometime in 2021. The Working Group inquired if it may be possible for NAFO to find money to cover the expenses of the 5 or so corresponding invited external experts. STACFAD noted that the budget estimate currently does not include a provision for workshop expenses, however, these could potentially be paid out of the contingency fund if so approved.

STACFAD recommends that:

- **The budget for 2021 of \$2,451,000 (Annex 3) be adopted.**

A preliminary calculation of billing for the 2021 financial year is included in Annex 5.

15. Budget Forecast for 2022 and 2023

The preliminary budget forecast for 2022 (\$2,545,000) and 2023 (\$2,510,000) (Annex 4) was provided in COM WP 20-05 (Revised). It was noted that the decision to extend the contract for the current Executive Secretary

for one or two years was still under discussion by the Commission and therefore recruitment and relocation expense projections may change. The forecasts were approved in principle and it was noted that the budget for 2022 will be reviewed in detail at the next Annual Meeting.

16. Adoption of 2020/2021 Staff Committee Appointees

The NAFO Secretariat has a mechanism in place known as the NAFO Staff Committee to help in the rare event that a conflict cannot be solved internally in which the Staff Committee may be asked to intervene and to assist in achieving a solution through mediation. The Staff Committee has not been called on since its inception in 2005.

The Secretariat members nominated the following people to serve as members of the Staff Committee for September 2020–September 2021: Brian Healey (Canada), Ignacio Granell (European Union) and Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA).

STACFAD recommends that:

- **The Commission appoint the three Staff Committee nominees for September 2020–September 2021: Brian Healey (Canada), Ignacio Granell (European Union) and Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA).**

17. Other Business

No other matters were discussed under this agenda item.

18. Election of Chair

According to Rule 5.4 of the NAFO Rules of Procedure: Commission *“The Committee shall elect, to serve for two years, their own Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, who shall be allowed a vote.”*

Robert Fagan (Canada) was nominated and elected as Chair for a two-year term.

This appointment results in a vacancy in the vice-Chair position. The Chair encouraged nominations for the vice-Chair position be submitted.

The Committee expressed its sincere appreciation to the outgoing Chair for her expertise and guidance over the past ten years.

19. Time and Place of 2021-2023 Annual Meetings

As previously agreed, the 2021 and 2022 Annual Meetings will be held 20-24 September and 19-23 September, respectively. The meetings will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, unless an invitation to host is extended by a Contracting Party and accepted by the Organization.

STACFAD recommends that:

- **The 2023 Annual Meeting (to be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, unless an invitation to host is extended by a Contracting Party and accepted by the Organization) be held 18–22 September 2023.**

The Committee strongly reiterated Contracting Parties strive, whenever possible, to provide more than 12 months notice of the intention to extend an invitation to host a NAFO Annual Meeting to avoid unnecessary fiscal implications of the Organization having to make a non-refundable deposit to secure conference space.

Report of STACFAD, 21-25 September 2020

20. Adjournment

The final session of the STACFAD meeting adjourned at 10:45 hours on 22 September 2020.

Gratitude was expressed to the Committee members for their effective cooperation this week, and to the NAFO Secretariat for its excellent support.



Annex 1. List of Participants

Fagan, Robert (vice-Chair) Johnson, Kate	Canada
Christensen, Steen	Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
Blazkiewicz, Bernard Marot, Laura	European Union
Monneau, Marianna Servetto, Camille	France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)
Hosokawa, Natsuki Iino, Kenro Morita, Hiroyuki Moronuki, Hideki	Japan
Fagerbakke, Sara-Lier Vikanes, Ingrid	Norway
Badina, Julia Tairov, Temur	Russian Federation
Demianenko, Kostiantyn Didenko, Oleksandr Ohorodnik, Artem Paramonov, Valerii	Ukraine
Brown, Alice Daramola, Mary	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Mencher, Elizabethann Warner-Kramer, Deirdre (Chair)	United States of America
Kingston, Fred Goodick, Stan LeFort, Lisa	NAFO Secretariat

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Audited Financial Statements for 2019
5. Administrative and Activity Report by NAFO Secretariat
6. Financial Statements for 2020
7. Review of Accumulated Surplus and Funds
8. Update on the NAFO websites
9. Personnel Matters
10. Review of the Recruitment Process for the NAFO Executive Secretary
11. Internship Program
12. Report of the Annual Meeting of the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS)
13. Implementation of 2018 Performance Review Panel recommendations
14. Budget Estimate for 2021
15. Budget Forecast for 2022 and 2023
16. Adoption of 2020/2021 Staff Committee Appointees
17. Other Business
18. Election of Chair
19. Time and Place of 2021-2023 Annual Meetings
20. Adjournment

Annex 3. Budget Estimate for 2021

NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

Budget Estimate for 2021

(Canadian Dollars)

	Approved Budget 2020	Projected Expenditures 2020	Preliminary Budget Forecast 2021	Budget Estimate 2021
1 Personnel Services				
a) Salaries	\$1,186,000	\$1,186,000	\$1,217,000	\$1,221,000
b) Superannuation and Annuities	470,000	470,000	474,000	489,000
c) Medical and Insurance Plans	99,000	97,000	104,000	102,000
d) Employee Benefits	72,000	73,000	77,000	80,000
Subtotal Personnel Services	1,827,000	1,826,000	1,872,000	1,892,000
2 Additional Help	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
3 Communications	24,000	27,000	25,000	27,000
4 Computer Services	54,000	58,000	56,000	61,000
5 Equipment	33,000	33,000	29,000	27,000
6 Fishery Monitoring	42,000	42,000	43,000	42,000
7 Hospitality Allowance	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
8 Internship	11,000	4,000	11,000	11,000
9 Materials and Supplies	35,000	31,000	32,000	31,000
10 NAFO Meetings				
a) Sessional	178,000	35,000	179,000	186,000
b) Inter-sessional Scientific	25,000	20,000	30,000	30,000
c) Inter-sessional Other	37,000	14,000	37,000	40,000
Subtotal NAFO Meetings	240,000	69,000	246,000	256,000
11 Other Meetings and Travel	39,000	6,000	39,000	40,000
12 Professional Services	45,000	139,000	45,000	45,000
13 Publications	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
14 Recruitment	-	-	-	-
	\$2,369,000	\$2,254,000	\$2,417,000	\$2,451,000

Notes on Budget Estimate 2021
(Canadian Dollars)

Item 1(a)	Salaries Salaries budget estimate for 2021.	\$1,221,000
Item 1(b)	Superannuation and Annuities Employer's pension plan which includes employer's contributions, administration costs, actuarial fees and the required annual payment towards previous pension plan deficits.	\$489,000
Item 1(c)	Group Medical and Insurance Plans Employer's portion of Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, Group Life Insurance, Long Term Disability Insurance and Medical Coverage.	\$102,000
Item 1(d)	Employee Benefits Employee benefits as per the NAFO Staff Rules including overtime, repatriation grant, termination benefits, vacation pay, and home leave travel for internationally recruited members of the Secretariat.	\$80,000
Item 2	Additional Support Other assistance as required.	\$2,000
Item 3	Communications Phone, fax and internet services Postage and Courier	\$27,000 \$20,000 7,000
Item 4	Computer Services Computer hardware, software, supplies, support and website hosting.	\$61,000
Item 5	Equipment Leases (print department printer, photocopier and postage meter) Purchases Maintenance	\$27,000 \$14,000 10,000 3,000
Item 6	Fishery Monitoring Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) annual maintenance fee including programming changes as required due to changes to CEM Oracle database annual maintenance	\$42,000 \$39,000 3,000

Item 10(a)	NAFO Sessional Meetings Annual Meeting, September 2021, Halifax, Canada SC Meeting, June 2021, Halifax, Canada SC Meeting, October 2021	\$186,000
Item 10(b)	NAFO Inter-sessional Scientific Meetings Provision for inter-sessional meetings, symposia and a general provision for unforeseen expenses necessarily incurred by SC required for the provision of answering requests for advice from the Commission.	\$30,000
Item 10(c)	NAFO Inter-sessional Other General provision for Commission inter-sessional meetings.	\$40,000
Item 11	Other Meetings and Travel International Meetings regularly attended by the NAFO Secretariat which may include the following: Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA), Committee on Fisheries (COFI), Co-ordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP), Fisheries Resources Monitoring Systems (FIRMS), International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS), Inspector Workshops, Regional Fishery Body Secretariats' Network (RSN), United Nations, etc.	\$40,000
Item 12	Professional Services Professional Services (audit, consulting, legal fees, and insurance) Professional Development and Training Public Relations	\$45,000 \$29,000 11,000 5,000
Item 13	Publications Production costs of NAFO publications, booklets, brochures, posters, etc., which may include the following: Conservation and Enforcement Measures, Convention, Inspection Forms, Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science, Meeting Proceedings, Rules of Procedure, Scientific Council Reports, Staff Rules, Secretariat Structure, etc.	\$14,000
Item 14	Recruitment and Relocation Recruitment process for the next NAFO Executive Secretary has been delayed due to continued uncertainties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.	\$0

Annex 4. Preliminary Budget Forecast for 2022 and 2023

NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

Preliminary Budget Forecast for 2022 and 2023

(Canadian Dollars)

	Preliminary Budget Forecast 2022	Preliminary Budget Forecast 2023
1 Personnel Services		
a) Salaries	\$1,221,000	\$1,255,000
b) Superannuation and Annuities	490,000	494,000
c) Medical and Insurance Plans	108,000	112,000
d) Employee Benefits	75,000	78,000
Subtotal Personnel Services	1,894,000	1,939,000
2 Additional Help	2,000	2,000
3 Communications	27,000	27,000
4 Computer Services	62,000	62,000
5 Equipment	27,000	27,000
6 Fishery Monitoring	43,000	44,000
7 Hospitality Allowance	3,000	3,000
8 Internship	11,000	11,000
9 Materials and Supplies	32,000	33,000
10 NAFO Meetings		
a) Sessional	189,000	191,000
b) Inter-sessional Scientific	30,000	30,000
c) Inter-sessional Other	40,000	40,000
Subtotal NAFO Meetings	259,000	261,000
11 Other Meetings and Travel	40,000	40,000
12 Professional Services	46,000	47,000
13 Publications	14,000	14,000
14 Recruitment and Relocation	85,000	-
	\$2,545,000	\$2,510,000

Annex 5. Preliminary Calculation of Billing for Contracting Parties for 2021

Preliminary calculation of billing for the 2021 financial year (Canadian Dollars)



Budget Estimate	\$2,451,000
Deduct: Amount Allocated from Accumulated Surplus	\$377,000
Funds required to meet 2021 Administrative Budget	\$2,074,000

Part A

Contracting Parties	2018 nominal catches (metric tons)	Catch %	NAFO Convention Article IX.2.a,b,c			
			10%	30%	60%	Subtotal
Canada	172,387	39.64%	\$94,403	\$47,862	\$493,279	\$635,544
Cuba	-	-	-	\$47,862	-	\$47,862
Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) (Note 2)	160,072	36.80%	\$87,659	\$47,862	\$457,939	\$593,460
European Union	40,632	9.34%	-	\$47,862	\$116,226	\$164,088
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)	950	0.22%	\$520	\$47,862	\$2,738	\$51,120
Iceland	-	-	-	\$47,862	-	\$47,862
Japan	2,963	0.68%	-	\$47,862	\$8,461	\$56,323
Norway	2,541	0.58%	-	\$47,862	\$7,217	\$55,079
Republic of Korea	-	-	-	\$47,862	-	\$47,862
Russian Federation	10,070	2.32%	-	\$47,862	\$28,869	\$76,731
Ukraine	-	-	-	\$47,862	-	\$47,862
United Kingdom	-	-	-	\$47,862	-	\$47,862
United States of America	45,318	10.42%	\$24,818	\$47,862	\$129,665	\$202,345
Total	434,933	100.00%	\$207,400	\$622,206	\$1,244,394	\$2,074,000

Part B

Contracting Parties	Subtotal from Part A	NAFO Convention Article IX.2.d (Note 1)					Subtotal	Total contribution
		% Contribution	Catch % minus DFG	10%	30%	60%		
Canada	\$635,544	30.63%	62.72%	\$27,166	\$8,615	\$129,672	\$165,453	\$800,997
Cuba	\$47,862	2.31%	-	-	\$8,615	-	\$8,615	\$56,477
Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) (Note 2)	\$593,460	28.61%	-	-\$34,458	-\$103,380	-\$206,748	-\$344,586	\$248,874
European Union	\$164,088	7.91%	14.78%	-	\$8,615	\$30,557	\$39,172	\$203,260
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)	\$51,120	2.46%	0.35%	\$150	\$8,615	\$724	\$9,489	\$60,609
Iceland	\$47,862	2.31%	-	-	\$8,615	-	\$8,615	\$56,477
Japan	\$56,323	2.72%	1.08%	-	\$8,615	\$2,233	\$10,848	\$67,171
Norway	\$55,079	2.66%	0.92%	-	\$8,615	\$1,902	\$10,517	\$65,596
Republic of Korea	\$47,862	2.31%	-	-	\$8,615	-	\$8,615	\$56,477
Russian Federation	\$76,731	3.70%	3.66%	-	\$8,615	\$7,567	\$16,182	\$92,913
Ukraine	\$47,862	2.31%	-	-	\$8,615	-	\$8,615	\$56,477
United Kingdom	\$47,862	2.31%	-	-	\$8,615	-	\$8,615	\$56,477
United States of America	\$202,345	9.76%	16.49%	\$7,142	\$8,615	\$34,093	\$49,850	\$252,195
Total	\$2,074,000	100.00%	100.00%	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,074,000

Note 1

The annual contribution of any Contracting Party which has a population of less than 300,000 inhabitants shall be limited to a maximum of 12% of the total budget. When this contribution is so limited, the remaining part of the budget shall be divided among the other Contracting Parties in accordance with Article IX.2.a,b and c of the NAFO Convention.

Note 2

Faroe Islands 3,444 metric tons
Greenland 156,628 metric tons

