



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
**DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES**

**THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

Brussels,  
A2/EG D(2014)

**LDAC**  
Mr Antonio Cabral (Chair)  
C/ Doctor Fleming 7,  
2º derecha  
28036 Madrid  
SPAIN

**Subject: LDAC Recommendation for the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the NAFO Convention**

*Your ref: R-04-14/WG2*

Dear Mr Cabral,

Thank you for the Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC) recommendation for the 36<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO). We greatly appreciate the contribution of the LDAC in the process of defining an EU position in the preparation of the Annual Meeting. The LDAC recommendations together with the discussions at the technical meeting that took place on 27 August 2014 and during the Annual Meeting are highly valuable tools for us in this context.

The outcome of the NAFO Annual Meeting 2014 is highly satisfactory for the European Union and we hope that LDAC perceives the result in the same way.

NAFO decided on Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for stocks under the purview of NAFO based on scientific advice and continued moving towards long term management plans. NAFO also decided that the existing Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) closures remain in place until the end of 2020 and enlarged the closure system by two additional areas for which science confirmed the presence of VMEs. Furthermore, NAFO issued a mandate for the Executive Secretary to engage with Canada in order to establish an information exchange mechanism between NAFO and Canadian oil and gas authorities.

Most decisions are in line with the LDAC recommendations. In particular, NAFO increased the TAC for Greenland Halibut based on the Harvest Control Rule, adopted a Harvest Control that allows to increase the TAC for redfish in divisions 3LN in view of stock developments, while the TAC for redfish in division 3M was slightly increased to include a by-catch allowance after the 100% closure. Also the directional decrease in the TAC for cod in division 3M that was only possible in view of the additional scientific

advice issued during the meeting should be appreciated. We regret though that witch flounder in divisions 3NO was opened as this risks to be premature and to create a high level of discards. We are pleased that this year NAFO took the necessary decision to close shrimp fishery in divisions 3 LN and this stock is thus finally treated in the same way as shrimp in division 3M.

You will have the opportunity to discuss the outcome of the 36<sup>th</sup> NAFO Annual meeting in greater length with a Commission representative at the next LDAC Working Group 2 meeting that will take place in London on 4 November 2014.

Thank you for your continued interest and constructive input. If you have any question on this reply, you can contact Ms Evangelia Georgitsi, coordinator of the Advisory Councils ([evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu](mailto:evangelia.georgitsi@ec.europa.eu); +32.2.295.04.43).

Yours sincerely,



Lowri Evans

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