

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization



**Report of the General Council and its Subsidiary Body (STACFAD)**

36<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO, 22-26 September 2014  
Vigo, Spain

NAFO  
Dartmouth, N.S., Canada  
2014

## Report of the General Council and its Subsidiary Body (STACFAD)

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## **PART I.**

### **Report of the General Council**

36th Annual Meeting of NAFO, 22-26 September 2014  
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#### **I. Opening Procedure**

##### **1. Opening by the Chair, Veronika Veits (EU)**

The 36th Annual Meeting of NAFO was convened on 22 September 2014 at 1000 hrs at the Palacio de Congresos Mar de Vigo, Vigo, Spain, with 180 delegates present from 11 NAFO Contracting Parties (Annex 1). The NAFO President and GC Chair, Veronika Veits (EU) welcomed all delegates to the meeting (Annex 2).

The Mayor of Vigo, Mr. Abel Caballero Alvarez, the Conseilleira do Medio Rural e do Mar of the Xunta de Galicia, Mrs. Rosa Quintana Carballo, and the Secretary General of Fisheries from the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Mr. Andres Hermida Trastoy, also welcomed delegates to Vigo.

Opening statements followed by European Union, Canada, the United States of America (USA), Russian Federation, Norway, Japan, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) and Republic of Korea. (Annexes 3-11).

##### **2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

Fred Kingston, the Executive Secretary, was appointed the rapporteur.

##### **3. Adoption of Agenda**

The Agenda was adopted as circulated (Annex 2). It was noted that the new Joint Advisory Group on Data Management will report to STACTIC but there may be budget implications associated with its work that need to be considered by STACFAD.

##### **4. Admission of Observers**

In accordance with the Rules for Observers and in advance of the meeting, the Executive Secretary had formally invited the following intergovernmental organizations to attend: Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS), Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES), International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (IMCS) Network, North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO), North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC), North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) and Southeast Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO).

During the 36th Annual Meeting, CCAMLR was represented by Norway and NEAFC was represented by Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland). Representatives from CPPS, IMCS Network, NPAFC and FAO were also present.

The following NGOs, which had been granted accredited observer status, were also present: Ecology Action Centre (EAC), International Coalition of Fisheries Associations (ICFA), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), PEW Environmental Foundation and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

Opening statements were made by the observers from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC), Pew Environmental Group, the World Wildlife Fund - Canada (WWF) and the Ecology Action Centre (EAC) (Annexes 12-16).

## 5. Publicity

The meeting 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 collaboration with the Chairs of the General Council, Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council.

## 6. Guidance to STACFAD necessary for them to complete their work (Monday)

With regard to the NAFO budget, STACFAD was advised to consider financial situations of Contracting Parties while maintaining a budget that was reasonable and efficient to allow the Organization to conduct its work.

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

### 7. Review of Membership of the General Council and Fisheries Commission

The membership of the General Council and Fisheries Commission has not changed since the 2013 Annual Meeting and is currently comprised of twelve (12) Contracting Parties: Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union (EU), France (*in respect of Saint-Pierre et Miquelon*), Iceland, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Ukraine and United States of America (USA).

### 8. Status of ratification process resulting from the adoption of the amended Convention and presentation of progress reports

To-date, six Contracting Parties have ratified the amended Convention, namely, Canada, Cuba, European Union, Iceland, Norway and Russian Federation. Other Contracting Parties updated the status of their ratification process. Contracting Parties were encouraged to continue their efforts to ratify the amended Convention.

It was noted that Contracting Parties and the Secretariat should begin to consider the implications of the adoption of the Amended Convention.

### 9. Status of NAFO Headquarters Agreement

Canada reported that it is ready to proceed with finalizing a Headquarters Agreement on the basis of the draft text reviewed at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting in 2009, since the issue of NAFO's immunity before the Canadian courts had recently been resolved by the Supreme Court of Canada. Since the review of the draft text of the Headquarters Agreement was done five years ago, it was felt that it would be beneficial to recirculate to Contracting Parties for a final review by STACFAD before proceeding. STACFAD, in its report to General Council, noted concerns of the Secretariat that the 2009 draft did not contain provisions related to the obligation of the host country, Canada, to provide the premises for the NAFO Headquarters nor the security of these premises, but recommended that alternate instruments could be developed to address these issues. It was also noted that the issue of NAFO's immunity is still a subject of a court proceedings.

### 10. Status of Implementation of Recommendations of the NAFO Performance Review Panel relevant to GC

At the last Annual Meeting, the Secretariat presented a document (GC Doc. 13/5) which compiled all feedback regarding the implementation of recommendations made by the NAFO Performance Review Panel into a single document. This document was updated this year (GC Doc. 14/08). The Chair reiterated that a regular review of progress was a good way forward. However, to streamline the process, in the future the overall review would be conducted only by the General Council.

It was noted that, as called for by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), that RFMOs should undertake regular performance reviews. While no specific agreement was reached on the timing of the next NAFO Performance Review, the Chair and some Contracting Parties suggested that it could begin in 2015. The next performance assessment could use the 2011 Review as a foundation for this future Review.

## **11. Administrative Report**

The Administrative Report was presented to STACFAD. (GC Doc. 14/01).

### **III. Coordination of External Affairs**

#### **12. Report of Executive Secretary on external meetings**

Since the last Annual Meeting, the Executive Secretary has participated in the following external activities: International Fisheries Commission Pension Society (IFCPS) (April 2014), FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) (June 2014) and the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN) (June 2014).

Other members of the Secretariat actively participated in the EU Stakeholder Meeting on the Revision of the Data Collection Regulation (January 2014) and the FAO Workshop on the Global Database for Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (May 2014).

An overview of these meetings is available in the Administrative Report (GC Doc 14/01).

#### **13. International Relations**

##### **a) Observers to other Organizations**

At the last Annual Meeting (September 2013), it was agreed that the following NAFO Contracting Parties would observe at meetings of the following organizations during 2013/2014: 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 meetings of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Norway would represent NAFO at meetings of the South East Atlantic Fishery Organisation (SEAFO) and the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO). The United States of America would represent NAFO at the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO). Reports by Observers were presented.

It was agreed that NAFO Contracting Parties would observe at the following meetings of 2014-2015: EU at ICCAT; USA at CCAMLR, NPAFC and NASCO; Norway at SEAFO and NAAMCO; and Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) at NEAFC.

##### **b) Deep-Sea ABNJ Project**

In 2013 NAFO was invited to be a partner in the FAO-GEF Project "Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living marine resources and ecosystems in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)". NAFO's participation will be guided by the activities table which was jointly prepared by FAO and the NAFO Secretariat and which may be modified as the project progresses. The NAFO support to the project would be an estimated in-kind contribution over the period of 2014-2018. This in-kind contribution represents staff time for activities and meeting expenses for work on deep sea fisheries, and administrative expenses for NAFO's current core activities and operations which are of direct relevance to deep sea fisheries. Almost all of the costs that are being implemented or planned are part of the regular work of NAFO.

FAO gave an update to General Council (GC WP 14/11, Annex 17) and it was agreed that this update would be given annually.

#### **14. Offshore petroleum exploration and production and their impact on fisheries and VMEs in the NAFO Regulatory Area**

The Executive Secretary gave a report on developments on the issue (GC WP 14/07)

In 2013 it was agreed NAFO would involve itself in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process being conducted by the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board (C-NLOPB). NAFO submitted comments to the draft SEA Report to the C-NLOPB and the comments appear to have been considered. One of the SEA Report's Conclusions was that it should consider the "establishment of a mechanism to share information between the operator/licence holders in the NAFO Regulatory Area and NAFO.

During the previous year, the NAFO Secretariat has also been in contact with an organization called "One Ocean". One Ocean is a private sector organization, established by the fishing and petroleum industries of the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador, with the objective to "facilitate communication and information exchange" between the two industries.

During 2014, on the research side, information on a Spanish research survey, including details of the research vessel's intended location on a given day, were conveyed to the oil and gas industry through the Secretariat. A direct line of communication was also established between the Spanish research vessel and oil and gas vessels. This ensured that both sides were not in the same area at the same time. On the fishing side, however, there have been a number of incidents in which both oil and gas seismic vessels and fishing vessels tried to operate in the same area at the same time, resulting in some economic loss to one or the other.

A number of Contracting Parties expressed their concern about the potential impact that offshore petroleum exploration and production may have on NAFO's efforts to protect stocks and vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs).

Contracting Parties agreed that the exchange of information is important to promoting coordination and communication between fisheries and hydrocarbons activities and gave a mandate to the Executive Secretary to work with the appropriate Canadian authorities to explore and implement a means for the appropriate and timely exchange of information necessary to avoid overlapping activities and mitigate potential conflicts between fisheries and hydrocarbons activities (GC WP 14/12Rev2, Annex 18). The Executive Secretary will report on this at the next annual NAFO meeting or intersessionally as required.

### **IV. Finance**

#### **15. Report of STACFAD at the Annual Meeting**

The report of STACFAD was adopted by the Chair, Deidre Warner-Kramer (USA). The report contained the adoption of the budget for 2015, the Auditor's Report for 2013, financial matters, personnel matters, and an update on the implementation of the Performance Review Panel recommendations.

#### **16. Adoption of the Budget and STACFAD recommendations for 2015**

STACFAD recommended:

- **the 2013 Auditors' Report be adopted.**
- **WBLI's proposal to provide audit services to the Organization for the 2014 and 2015 fiscal years be accepted.**
- **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 2015, and of which \$85,000 would be a contingency fund available to be used for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.**

- the General Council direct it to develop Terms of Reference intersessionally to review the existing NAFO Secretariat classification scheme, including salary scales and relevant employment benefits' to improve efficiency and support the priorities of the Organization and its Contracting Parties. The review will be performed by an external expert to be identified by STACFAD. The Terms of Reference will be completed by the end of November and circulated to General Council for review and approval. Results of the study are to be provided to STACFAD for review which will develop recommendation for consideration at the 2015 NAFO annual meeting.
- the Secretariat pursue alternate and additional methods to disseminate program information to prospective interns, particularly to nationals of NAFO member countries that have not yet participated.
- no amendment to Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure for Observers is required.
- the General Council endorse the progress achieved to implement the Performance Review Panel's recommendations in the area of finance and administration.
- the budget for 2015 of \$1,981,000 be adopted.
- General Council appoint the three nominees - Emilia Batista (EU); Joanne Morgan (Canada) and Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA).
- the dates of the 2017 Annual Meeting (to be held in Halifax, N.S., Canada, unless an invitation to host is extended by a Contracting Party and accepted by the Organization) to be as follows: 18 – 22 September 2017
- a new rule be inserted in the NAFO Financial Regulations as outlined in Annex 7 [of the STACFAD Report].
- (Concerning the Headquarters Agreement:) to undertake a process that would develop an alternate instrument (e.g. a memorandum of understanding) that would address these issues (provision of premises and security by host country) and be reviewed at the 2015 Annual Meeting.

All of STACFAD's recommendations were adopted by General Council and the work and report by STACFAD and the Secretariat commended. The budget was adopted with a slight increase.

## V. Closing Procedure

### 17. Election of Vice-Chair

The present Vice-Chair, Mr. Stéphane Artano from France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), who was first elected in September 2012, was re-elected and agreed to continue in this role.

### 18. Time and Place of Next Annual Meeting

No invitations were received during this meeting and so the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will be in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, during the dates of 21-25 September 2015.

### 19. Other Business

It was noted that this was Dean Swanson (USA) last Annual Meeting. The meeting recognized his hard work and various roles he has played throughout his years at NAFO. The Executive Secretary also noted that Barbara Marshall intends to retire before the next Annual Meeting after 36 years working for the Secretariat and expressed his appreciation for her dedication to the Organization.



**20. Press Release**

The Press Release of the Meeting was developed by the Executive Secretary through consultations with the Chairs of General Council, Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council. The agreed Press Release (Annex 19) was circulated and posted to the NAFO website at the conclusion of the meeting on Friday, 26 September.

**21. Adjournment**

The Chair noted that NAFO has achieved much this year and should be proud of its achievements. Delegates were thanked for their constructive work and were wished good travels.

The meeting was adjourned at 1430 hrs on Friday, 26 September 2014.

## **Annex 1. Participant List**

**NAFO President/GC Chair** - Veits, Veronika (EU)

**Chair of the Fisheries Commission** - Lapointe, Sylvie (Canada)

**Chair of Scientific Council** - Stansbury, Don (Canada)

**Chair of STACFAD** - Warner-Kramer (USA)

**Chair of STACTIC** - Martin, Gene (USA)

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## **Annex 2. Agenda**

### **I. Opening Procedure**

1. Opening by the Chair, Veronika Veits (EU)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Admission of Observers
5. Publicity
6. Guidance to STACFAD necessary for them to complete their work (Monday)

### **II. Supervision and Coordination of the Organizational, Administrative and other Internal Affairs**

7. Review of Membership of the General Council and Fisheries Commission
8. Status of ratification process resulting from the adoption of the amended Convention and presentation of progress reports
9. Status of NAFO Headquarters Agreement
10. Status of Implementation of Recommendations of the NAFO Performance Review Panel relevant to GC
11. Administrative Report

### **III. Coordination of External Affairs**

12. Report of Executive Secretary on external meetings
13. International Relations
14. Offshore petroleum exploration and production and their impact on fisheries and VMEs in the NAFO Regulatory Area

### **IV. Finance**

15. Report of STACFAD at the Annual Meeting
16. Adoption of the Budget and STACFAD recommendations for 2015

### **V. Closing Procedure**

17. Election of Vice-Chair
18. Time and Place of Next Annual Meeting
19. Other Business
20. Press Release
21. Adjournment

### **Annex 3. Opening Statement by the European Union**

Distinguished President, Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to say that the EU is extremely honoured to host the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of NAFO in Spain, and we thank our colleagues from the Spanish and Galician government for taking care of the practical arrangements so smoothly.

Vigo, being the biggest NAFO fishing port in Europe is indeed the perfect venue for yet another round of NAFO deliberations and for identifying NAFO priorities in 2015. This brings us closer to the people of the sea, the people who are actually making the effort to implement sometimes tough NAFO decisions.

Since the last Annual Meeting, we have all been working very hard: 4 working groups, 2 Joint NAFO-NEAFC groups on data management, a meeting of the Committee on Control (STACTIC) and a meeting of the Scientific Council.

This substantial intersessional work should allow NAFO to thrive in four key areas:

First of all, the move towards risk based management plans with the continuation of the existing plans and the development of new ones. This approach will help make the management of NAFO stocks more sustainable and predictable;

Secondly, a comprehensive eco-system approach, with extension in time of the current closures of vulnerable marine ecosystems and the consideration of new ones, but also by tackling the need to reduce and preferably eliminate discards in NAFO fisheries; Let me mention in this context our commitment to continue our support for the NEREIDA seabed mapping project. Its outcome will be crucial for the VME review in 2016.

Thirdly, better science as basis for sound management, through more and better data and the continuation of a strong dialogue between fisheries managers and scientists; Better science is crucial for sound management decisions and thus the performance of NAFO.

And finally an even stronger and more efficient control and enforcement system, in particular by launching a process for bringing NAFO's port state control in line with the FAO Port State Measures Agreement and for reinforcing NAFO's observer system.

Further to these key issues on our agenda, setting Total Allowable Catches or TACs will take the centre stage. In line with the EU's new Common Fisheries Policy adopted by the end of last year, the EU is firmly committed to following scientific advice and hopes that NAFO will take well balanced and responsible decisions that will address environmental, economic and social considerations.

We will also push once again for the introduction of a shark fins attached policy in NAFO, in line with the EU internal policy and global efforts to end the wasteful practice of shark finning.

As a last point, the EU is hopeful that progress will be made on the ratification of the Amended Convention so as to allow NAFO to use the new provisions as soon as possible. This goal seems within reach. The EU therefore calls on strengthened efforts from Contracting Parties concerned to accelerate their ratification process.

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

Thank you.



## **Annex 4. Opening Statement by Canada**

Good morning, Madame President, distinguished delegates, dignitaries, observers, ladies and gentlemen.

It's a pleasure for the Canadian delegation to participate at this annual meeting in the wonderful city of Vigo, home to Spain's deep sea fleet. I want to commend our hosts, the city of Vigo, the region, Spain, and the EU for selecting this venue, and the excellent arrangements that have been made by the Secretariat.

The rich history of our communities and their dependence on fishing in the North Atlantic places a duty on all of us to ensure our fisheries are managed sustainably. We believe NAFO has shown its capacity to achieve this goal in recent years, based on cooperation and hard work.

As noted in the 2011 NAFO Performance Review, the Organization has made significant improvements over the years, developing into a more robust, consensus-based organization, whose governing principles have been modernized and where enforcement measures are delivered in a co-operative manner.

Among the most recent examples of the evolution of NAFO are the establishment of the joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Groups, which met for the first time in 2014. We also saw greater transparency in these meetings, with the inclusion of observers.

Our commitment to cooperation and sustainable fisheries management can be linked to results in recent years, including the recovery of some groundfish stocks, including 3LN redfish and 3M cod. These are real success stories where we took a principled, science-based and precautionary approach to their re-opening. Another stock on the same road to recovery is 3NO witch flounder. As we move to reopen and as we rebuild we must be prudent, applying precautionary measures to ensure that the very real sacrifices in the past are not wasted, and we allow these stocks to rebuild.

Despite the progress NAFO has made, a number of challenges remain. We must continue to identify opportunities to strengthen our enforcement regime and improve compliance, including through effective follow-up on infringements.

Perhaps the greatest challenge facing NAFO today is the credibility of catch reports. Catch reporting is the foundation for accurate stock assessments and science, and these are the foundation for an effective fisheries management regime. The ad hoc Working Group on Catch Reporting met earlier this year and provided us with several recommendations that we must now implement. At the same time, there are other tools that have been presented that we must also consider if we want to effectively address this issue, including sharing of tow-by-tow data with the Secretariat, strengthening of the observer program and labelling by date.

The bycatch and discards working group, that met earlier this year, started to assess NAFO's bycatch and discards regime. This working group identified areas of work that need to be addressed. One recurrent theme was utility of having access to data in order to improve our understanding of the issue.

The recommendations of the Working Group on Risk-based management Strategies will add to the suite of precautionary-based rebuilding plans and management strategies for NAFO stocks. We have refined a General Framework on Risk Based management and continue to update existing management plans for a number of stocks. We are now in a position to adopt new risk-based management plans for 3LN redfish and we are looking forward to advancing a risk-based management strategy for 3M cod. Canada also hopes to see a plan developed for 3NO witch flounder in 2015.

Through the recommendations of the Working Group on an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management, NAFO has once again demonstrated that it is a global leader in managing the impacts of fishing on vulnerable marine ecosystems. The measures proposed by this working group will help further protect key concentrations of corals, sponges, seapens and other VMEs, and represent NAFO's commitment to its international obligations. The Working Group also made important progress on the identification of priorities through the Ecosystem Roadmap. These priorities will play an increasingly important role in the

future of NAFO, as we build a better understanding of interactions within ecosystems. NAFO has been a world leader in many areas, including the development and application of the Precautionary Approach. NAFO has the opportunity to do the same on an ecosystem approach to fisheries management in the NRA.

On administrative matters - we all face financial challenges. As we are all doing domestically, we must ensure that NAFO operates as effectively and efficiently as possible. Canada will be seeking zero nominal growth in our budget, and encourage us all to focus our capacity on our mandate and priorities.

We must also remember the importance of the Amendments to the 1978 NAFO Convention. As you know, at least nine of the twelve Contracting Parties must ratify the Amendments before they can come into force. We congratulate Iceland on their recent ratification of the amendments, bringing the total number to 6. We understand that some others are close to ratification. We are encouraged by this – and we need to start to prepare for the renewed convention.

The 36th annual meeting of NAFO provides an opportunity to build on the progress outlined above. There remain some real challenges but this gives us an opportunity to continue to move NAFO forward. The framework that NAFO has developed, including the communication between managers and scientists provides the mechanism to do this. I trust we will have a successful and productive meeting.

Thank you.

## **Annex 5. Opening Statement by the USA**

Thank you Madame President and Good Morning to everyone.

The United States would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Spain, the Region of Galicia and Vigo, and of course the European Union for bringing us back here for the 36th NAFO Annual Meeting. The beauty and history of this city make it a fitting location for this meeting. We also thank the Secretariat for its sustained excellent support. We are looking forward to a productive meeting.

It is with no small measure of pride that we took part in the outstanding intersessional work that has taken place since the last Annual Meeting. In our opinion the joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council work to develop and improve data and reporting capacity; implement precautionary and risk based management and decision making; address by-catch and related issues and implement ecosystem based fisheries management place NAFO on the cutting edge of regional fisheries management organizations. This uniting of purpose towards sustainability has not been seen in previous years, and although much work remains, the United States is more than satisfied that NAFO is on the right path.

In terms of the specific work before us, the United States is particularly hopeful that we will be able to find solutions to the challenges we face with regard to management of 3M cod, 3LM redfish, witch flounder, 3LNO skates, 3L shrimp and stocks in general. We continue to support the Scientific Council advice with regards to these and other stocks and we are hopeful that Contracting Parties will act in the same manner. We must also further advance NAFOs path breaking work to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems and there are important decisions to be made in this regard that must be made at this meeting.

The United States was particularly pleased with the work undertaken by the Ad hoc Working Group on By-catch, Discards and Selectivity. We were gratified that this work expressed support for the FAO Guidelines on By-catch and use them as a starting point. We feel that this valuable working group should continue to meet in the future working in collaboration with STACTIC and we will be tabling a proposal addressing the underlining foundational needs for by-catch and discard data collection and reporting at this meeting. In the coming days, you will also see a US proposal designed to improve monitoring and enforcement within NAFO through adoption of the use of the IMO numbering scheme. Likewise the United States will propose in STACTIC a consistent approach to address serious infringements detected at sea and in port.

Finally the United States is pleased with the work of the Working Group on Ecosystems Approach to Fisheries Management in particular the endorsement of the Road Map to EAF which we believe will be a model for all other RFMOs. We look forward to working with other partners this week in adopting the recommendations from that and the other intersessional working groups.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to tell you that this will be my last NAFO meeting. For the past dozen years it has not impossible for the Regional Administrator of our Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office to lead our NAFO delegation but this situation has changed and so it is my honor to announce that Mr. John Bullard, seated immediately to my right, is expected to be the next US Federal Commissioner. He has the full support of my immediate agency, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and he brings tremendous experience in fisheries management in the North Atlantic along with him. There's no doubt that he will serve NAFO and the United States with great distinction.

Thank you.

## **Annex 6. Opening Statement by the Russia Federation**

Madame President, distinguished delegates, observers, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to represent the Russian Delegation at the 36th Annual Meeting of NAFO.

On behalf of the Russian Delegation, I would like to thank the EU and Spanish authorities for hosting this annual meeting in this beautiful port city of Vigo and for the excellent arrangements. I would also like to extend my thanks to the NAFO Secretariat for the preparations for this meeting.

We would like to commend the excellent work undertaken by different NAFO bodies and working groups during the intersessional period. We are pleased with the work of the Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies and Scientific Council, which focused on development and evaluation of management strategies for the stocks. Together with the MSE approach for Greenland halibut stock currently in place, work to explore optimal management strategies for 3M cod and 3LN redfish is being undertaken. These stocks, along with 3M redfish and 3O redfish, are of the most importance to the Russian fleet.

Russia also supports the recommendations developed by the Ad hoc Working Group to Reflect on the Rules Governing Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity, and feels that it is necessary to pursue development of measures aimed at reducing discards in fisheries in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

We are supportive of the measures taken by NAFO to conserve vulnerable marine ecosystems, and we believe that a compromise, which allows for efficient protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems without making any considerable changes to the traditional and historically established fishing areas, will be found. There is a need for a balanced approach, which integrates the interests of fishermen while taking due regard of research findings and the best scientific information available. Special attention needs to be given to researches into bottom ecosystems conducted onboard fishing vessels. Russia is exploring the possibility to enhance these researches.

We have a full agenda ahead of us during this week. We are looking forward to a successful and productive work during this session.

Thank you for your attention!

## **Annex 7. Opening Statement by Norway**

Madame President, distinguished delegates and observers,

I would thank the Spanish authorities and the European Union for hosting and organizing this annual meeting. I would also express our sincere appreciation of the warm welcome we have received in this very important fisheries city. I would also thank the Secretariat for their hard work and important support.

NAFO has been faced with a number of challenges over the last years. We have, however, made significant progress in various areas. We are among the leading RFMOs when it comes to protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems from adverse impact from fisheries. It is, however, important that we establish clear rules in this respect so that NAFO can remain at the forefront, committed to complying with our international obligations.

When it comes to resource management, it is true, we have made some progress. But many of the stocks under NAFO's responsibility are still under moratorium while others are just recovering. Despite this it has been decided to fix TACs for stocks in a poor state against the advice given by the Scientific Council. Although some stocks might resist a higher fishing pressure a year or two, and thus provide some short term gains, this is not a viable solution in the long run. In order to provide for more long term sustainability we have initiated work to provide for management plans. When elaborating these plans, it is important that we do not open up for a variety of management options every year. That might lead us in a wrong direction and have the same discussions on the level of the outtake as we have today on the basis of yearly advice. It would be wise if we could strive to take the discussions on what kind of harvest level would optimize the catches in the long run when we elaborate management plans, and then we could hopefully avoid yearly discussions on the level of TACs.

Hopefully we will have fruitful discussions on these issues as well as all other issues on our agenda during this meeting. For our part we are ready to cooperate constructively with all parties with a view to obtaining the best possible results for NAFO.

## **Annex 8. Opening Statement by Japan**

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen.

First of all, on behalf of the Japanese delegation, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the European Union and the government of Spain for having hosted the 36th Annual meeting of NAFO in this beautiful city of Vigo and also thank the NAFO Secretariat for the good preparation and the hard work as always.

Last year, NAFO decided to establish some important joint Working Groups such as Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies, and Working Group on Ecosystems Approach Framework to Fisheries. This new approaches would be a great help to solve the issues which are difficult to resolve by single Committee. In this annual meeting, we will discuss several agenda items with the outcome of the Joint Working Groups. I hope we can find out solutions on unsolved items and achieve the goal in line with NAFO Convention.

Madam Chair, there are many important agendas in front of us. From Japan's point of view, protection of VMEs is one of the most challenging but important agendas. NAFO has discussed this issue in recent annual meetings and inter-sessional Working Groups, but we clearly need more discussion. Japan fully supports sustainable use of fisheries resources taking into account appropriate protection to VMEs. Madam chair, as Japan expressed in the joint inter-sessional Working Group in July, development of closed areas is not the only means to protect VMEs. NAFO is a fisheries management organization, so we should consider two objectives together, namely sustainable use of fishery resources and appropriate protection of VMEs. In this context, we would like to stress that current "move on rule" which is implemented effectively by other RFMOs, is the proper and realistic way to achieve the two objectives.

Finally Madam Chair, Japan is willing to work with friends for the success of this meeting.

Thank you.

## **Annex 9. Opening Statement by Cuba**

Good morning everybody.

Mr. President, distinguish delegates and observers.

On behalf of the Cuban delegation, let me express our gratitude to the authorities of the European Union, particularly of Spain and the city of Vigo, for the invitation and the opportunity to meet again in this beautiful and friendly place.

We are looking forward to a constructive meeting and of course, as always, we have ahead of us a very busy week.

Throughout the last decades, the North Atlantic Fishery Organization has achieved important milestones to become a modern, efficient and strong fisheries organization and to this end has been taking some measures such as the precautionary and ecosystem approaches, the fishing moratoria on a large number of stocks, by-catch reducing measures, multi-year protection plans and enhanced the transparency of the Organization.

The results of the General Council WG on the development of plans of action necessary for the implementation of the recommendations of the NAFO Performance Review Panel, the Amendment to the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, that we hope and urge the Contracting Parties to approve, are also examples of this important work.

During this week we will have again the opportunity to analyse the situation of stocks in the Convention area, the work developed by the different Commissions of the Organization, the plans for the recovery of several stocks that are still under moratoria or rebuilding process and all this need the compromise of all parties to ensure that those stocks have chance to recover.

We look forward to work with all delegations present at this meeting and that the discussions and decisions to be taken at this 36th Annual Meeting, will be testimonies of the NAFOs serious efforts in responding to the significant changes in the marine ecosystem as a result of adverse impacts of overfishing, climate changes and also a commitment to manage fisheries in a sustainable way for futures generations.

Thank you very much.

## **Annex 10. Opening Statement by Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)**

Madame Chair, distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The Faroe Islands and Greenland would first of all like to thank EU and Spain for their hospitality to host this Annual Meeting in Vigo, Spain. We appreciate all the hard work our Spanish hosts has put in the practical preparations of this meeting.

The Faroe Islands and Greenland will continue to work constructively with our NAFO partners in order to facilitate the implementation of the Performance Review Report recommendations. Among these the continuing work to address the discrepancies between the STATLANT and the STACFIS catch estimations, which was deemed a matter of great urgency by the Performance Review Panel. It is in the interest of all contracting parties, that the work with the implementation is carried out as soon as possible as the outcome will entail a more up-to-date and effective NAFO in all aspects of the organization's operations and improve the scientific advice on different stocks.

For DFG it is important, that NAFO endeavor to work for transparency in the transmission of data. The data provided for STACTIC must be sound and transparent.

The biological advice on NAFO stocks for the next year and beyond is as usual a mixed advice of stocks to be maintained under moratoria, of stocks in decline and of stocks that are healthy and growing. As last year The Faroe Islands and Greenland still note with increased concern that the shrimp stocks at Flemish Cap and the Grand Banks shows no sign of recovery and cessation in decline. Only a few years ago the shrimp stock at Grand Banks was in a very good shape with TAC's on 30.000 tonnes.

On the other hand we note with satisfaction that the cod stock in Division 3M continue to exhibit biomass improvements. However, the improvement of this stock may to some extent be at the expense of the declining shrimp stocks as cod prey on these stocks. This issue should be thoroughly examined along with other issues such as climate change effects on the stocks straddling patterns.

Madame Chair, our delegation would like to take this opportunity to convey our sincere appreciation and warm thanks to the Secretariat for once again having prepared this annual meeting so well.

Finally Madame Chair, the Faroe Islands and Greenland can assure you that we are looking forward to working constructively with all delegations in the week ahead of us to bring the many issues on our agenda to successful conclusion.

Thank you



### **Annex 11. Opening Statement by the Republic of Korea**

Good morning, madam Chair, all distinguished delegates and attendees to the 36th Annual meeting of NAFO.

It is my pleasant honor to extend my cordial greetings to all of you.

First of all, Korean delegation would like to thank the Spain Government and NAFO secretariat for hosting this meeting and inviting us to this beautiful Vigo.

Korea shares the objectives of the NAFO with all other delegations in this room.

And, Korea would like to make contributions to NAFO through actively participating in the process of establishing and enforcing fisheries conservation measures.

In the meantime, it would be also important to implement the conservation measures at a sensible level based on the best available science.

In this regard, I look forward to hearing many diverse and illuminating views and opinions of the delegates on important agendas. I hope this meeting will allow us to have progress and further yield fruitful and constructive results.

Thank you.

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

Thank you, Chair.

It is a pleasure for me to represent FAO at the 36th Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) in the beautiful city of Vigo.

I would like to briefly draw your attention to a few areas of FAO work that may be of interest. FAO continues to work at reducing illegal, unreported and unregulated (or IUU) fishing through a range of instruments, including the 2009 Port State Measures Agreement [FAO Agreement on Port State Measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing] which is now ratified/acceded or approved by eleven parties; the Voluntary Guidelines for Flag State Performance which are now endorsed by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI), as well as through the continued development of the Global Record of Fishing Vessels, Refrigerated Transport Vessels and Supply Vessels (or the "Global Record"). FAO is now in the process of conducting a global capacity development programme, through a series of regional workshops, to facilitate accession to the Port State Measures Agreement to bring it into force as soon as possible and ensure that it is accepted internationally in the widest possible manner.

FAO has recently entered into a collaborative programme with the secretariat of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to support developing countries in meeting the CITES requirements for the newly listed shark and ray species. Please contact me if you would like further information on this project.

FAO looks forward to further collaboration with NAFO through existing partnerships such as the Fisheries Resource Monitoring Systems (FIRMS) network and the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) Deep Seas Project which I will present in greater detail this week.

We wish you fruitful deliberations over the course of the week and hope to be able to welcome all of you again to Vigo for the Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries which will take place here in October 2015.

Thank you.

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

Dear Madam Chair, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission, I would like to extend our appreciation to members of the NAFO General Council and the Executive Secretary Dr. Fred Kingston for inviting NPAFC to attend the 36th NAFO Annual Meeting. The NPAFC considers this meeting as a good opportunity to strengthen our cooperation in fields of information exchange, planning, organizational, and publication activities to further the attainment of the objectives of our Conventions.

The main NPAFC objective is to promote the conservation of anadromous stocks in the Convention Area. The Commission attains its goals through coordination of the NPAFC Parties' enforcement activities, promotion on the national and mutual scientific research on Pacific salmon, and supporting the exchanges of catch, effort and stock enhancement information. NPAFC meets challenges of the 21st century same as the other international fishery management organizations worldwide. The challenges include climate change effects on anadromous stocks, persistence of the illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the high seas, funding restraints, which complicate the Commission's activities, and so on. In this tricky environment, our organizations need to tighten relationships to facilitate exchange of experiences and ideas to conform enforcement and scientific plans to the requirements of global long-term perspectives. The NPAFC hopes to gain many experiences from NAFO such as the method of catch estimation for assessing the incidental catches of Pacific salmon; conservation and enforcement measures; scientific advice on fish stocks; NAFO Internship Program, and other matters of mutual interests.

The NPAFC is busy preparing for the 2015 Annual Meeting and International Symposium, which will be conducted in Kobe, Japan, on May 11-15 and 17-19, 2015. This symposium will review recent research on ecological mechanisms regulating marine distribution and production of anadromous populations, climate change impacts on salmonid populations, retrospective analysis of key populations as indicators of conditions in North Pacific marine ecosystems, and implications of stock identification and model development for management of salmon and steelhead.

As for many previous years, NPAFC looks forward to seeing the NAFO representative at the 23rd Annual Meeting in Kobe to participate discussion of matters relevant to the conservation of salmon and ecologically related species in ocean habitats.

Thank you for your kind attention.

## **Annex 14. Opening Statement by WWF (World Wildlife Fund-Canada)**

Thank you Madam Chair. Distinguished Delegates and observers, on behalf of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), I would like to thank our EU and Spanish hosts, NAFO Secretariat and Contracting Parties for welcoming us to this meeting in Vigo. It is a great pleasure to be here.

WWF has participated as an observer in NAFO annual and scientific council meetings for the past nine years. We are very pleased with the increased transparency in NAFO's decision-making processes. Plenary discussions and working groups' openness to observers have become "the rule" and not the exception in the past few years.

As years go by, we learn more and more about the important role of the Atlantic Ocean and about its associated threats. For example, a recent study has confirmed that the Atlantic Ocean is the biggest heat sink, not the Pacific as previously thought. The IPCC most recent report has also indicated that ocean acidification is more severe in northern parts of the North Atlantic and around the poles. And the Convention on Biological Diversity has produced a report emphasizing that ocean acidification is currently occurring at an unprecedented rate, subjecting marine organisms to an additional, and worsening, environmental stress.

In challenging times like these, it is of utmost importance to join efforts to ensure increased productivity and the long-term sustainability of fishing resources for food security and sustainable livelihoods. These long-term benefits depend upon healthy and resilient marine ecosystems.

It is with this in mind that WWF calls upon NAFO Contracting Parties to continue making progress on the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs). As science evolves, we increasingly learn about the relevant role played by VMEs for marine ecosystems. This is a very important Annual Meeting for VMEs because all current closures will expire at the end of this year, and because of the upcoming UN review of the implementation of the UN General Assembly Resolutions on the protection of VMEs. The Scientific Council conducted a review of the current closures and has identified new VME areas, using best available scientific methods. We hope that in this meeting, NAFO takes appropriate conservation and management measures in line with this scientific information. Therefore, WWF urges NAFO to:

- Incorporate the VME definitions provided by the Scientific Council into NAFO's regulations for consistency;
- Renew all current closures;
- Extend the current closures to areas where VMEs are known to occur, including in areas 4, 30, and the New England and Corner Rise Seamount chains; and
- Create new closures including in proposed areas 15, as well as 13 and 14 combined.
- We also encourage further scientific research to advance our knowledge of VMEs in the NAFO regulatory area.

Another priority for WWF this year concerns catch data accuracy and the need for enhanced reporting procedures – a fundamental issue that underpins NAFO's performance, effectiveness and credibility. We were encouraged to see the steps taken last year towards resolving this complex issue, and we urge NAFO to take further meaningful steps, including through the adoption of a mandatory electronic tow-by-tow reporting system to the Secretariat, as well as a system for cross-verification of different data sources.

We would like to highlight that a world-class Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAF) Roadmap has been developed by NAFO scientists. The roadmap is a milestone along NAFO's journey towards placing a healthy and productive ecosystem at the centre of the complex fisheries management decisions. Therefore we urge NAFO's bodies to prioritize the elements highlighted in the roadmap workplan to further advance its implementation in the Northwest Atlantic.

In addition, WWF would like to call upon all contracting parties to follow scientific advice and in cases where scientific advice may not be conclusive go with a more precautionary TAC or approach. And finally, we'd like

to call all Contracting Parties that haven't yet done so, to ratify the 2007 Amendment to the NAFO Convention to enable a true modernization of this RFMO in accordance with international law.

A number of other important elements have been addressed by our WWF position paper. I would be happy to share copies and further discuss WWF's position during the meeting.

Thank you very much.

Muchas gracias.

### **Annex 15. Opening Statement by Pew Environmental Group**

Thank you Madam Chair, and like my colleague from WWF we appreciate the opportunity to attend this meeting as observers and the increasing transparency of NAFO generally to participation from non-governmental organizations.

I'll be brief as the positions of the Pew Environmental Group are reflected in a joint position paper that was put together by the Ecology Action Center and the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition.

I just wanted to say that in light of the 2015 UN General Assembly Review of the Implementation of the Resolutions in relation to the management of deep sea fisheries on the high seas, we will be participating in this meeting and listening with keen interest to the debates and the decisions that will be made by the Commission this year. Our major interest is on the long-term sustainability of deep sea species and fish stocks; and the protection of VMEs. We don't see these as mutually exclusive objectives or goals.

Thank you.

## **Annex 16. Opening Statement by the Ecology Action Centre (Member of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition)**

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Fellow Observers, on behalf of the EAC as a member of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, we appreciate the opportunity to once again attend NAFO as an official observer. We are also happy to be back in the city of Vigo. We want to make particular note of the welcomed improvement in transparency of NAFO Working Group meetings over the past year.

This meeting is particularly important, given the upcoming review in 2015 of the implementation of the United Nations General Assembly Sustainable Fisheries Resolutions.

Our primary concern continues to be the mitigation of fishing impacts on the marine ecosystem for which NAFO has competence. Over the past several years, NAFO has made good progress in implementing the United Nations General Assembly Sustainable Fisheries Resolutions 61/105 /, 64/72 and 66/68 which outline measures to and stress the urgency of protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems and sustainably managing deep sea fisheries.

This year we urge NAFO to permanently close existing closed areas and to protect all additional areas recommended by the Scientific Council through the work of the WG-EAFM, where significant concentrations of VMEs have been identified. We recommend that NAFO close all areas recommended and ensure that all known VME concentrations, including seamounts, are closed to destructive fishing practices. Full and permanent protection measures will allow NAFO to refocus on other important issues to the improvement of fisheries management in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

While NAFO has made progress on protecting the marine ecosystem upon which all Contracting Parties depend for the provision of valuable fisheries resources, there remain key areas for improvement including accurate catch reporting, ending fishing of unregulated species, improved data collection of bycatch and ensuring best practices for management of all species in the NRA, including sharks. We support NAFO to approve any proposal for fins naturally attached, particularly as this practice is already occurring in the coastal waters of several Contracting Parties.

We also urge Contracting Parties to support efforts to better understand the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on rebuilding efforts of NAFO stocks.

Our specific recommendations will be circulated and are available on the table for observer information. We look forward to this week's meeting and seeing further progress at NAFO, and continued transparency of decision making.

Thank you.

## **Annex 17. FAO Activities on Deep-sea Fisheries in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction**

(GC Working Paper 14/11)

This report includes information on upcoming activities under the newly approved project “Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation of Deep Sea Living Resources in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)”. This project was approved in June of this year and is one of four under the ABNJ Programme. Components 1, 2, and 3 are led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and Component 4 is led by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation and Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). Recruitment is currently underway for project staff, including the Project Coordinator/Deep Sea Fisheries Specialist and the Area-Based Planner.

Upcoming activities that may be of interest to NAFO and its members are listed below. There are a range of other activities included in the project that promote collaboration and sharing of experiences on deep-sea fisheries and associated biodiversity.

### **PROJECT COORDINATION/PLANNING**

- **Project inception meeting:** In late 2014/early 2015, once the project manager is hired there will be a project inception meeting for the ABNJ Deep Sea project with partners. We would be pleased to invite NAFO or a NAFO member to participate.

### **GENERAL DEEP-SEA FISHERIES**

- **The review of the Northwest Atlantic Ocean chapter in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the *Worldwide Review of Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas (WWR)*** (November 2014 to February 2015): Working with RFMO/As and other stakeholders, the *Worldwide Review of Bottom Fisheries in the High Seas* (FAO, 2009) will be updated and expanded. The last review covered deep-sea fisheries for the period 2003-2006 using information acquired from a questionnaire circulated to some 40 countries and regional bodies. The updated review will address information gaps identified in the last review and will take into account progress made on monitoring of data-poor deep-sea stocks, and benefit from updated stock assessment for key species and new advances in assessment technologies. The review will be organized in close collaboration with the relevant regional bodies. As in the first edition, there will be a dedicated chapter on the NAFO region which will also be reviewed by a NAFO expert.
- **Species identification guides for vulnerable deep-sea species:** FAO has a programme on development of identification tools for deep-sea species for those regions that do not yet have their own guide. The main objective of these guides is to assist in the implementation of fisheries management (e.g. bycatch requirements, recording of catches, inspection, etc.) by providing user-friendly guides for use onboard vessels by observers, non-scientists and scientists, and to enhance scientific assessment. The first series covered deep-sea cartilaginous fishes of the Indian Ocean and the South East Atlantic. An online working group on sponges of the Atlantic has been established to discuss the development of tools and capacity development activities. A manual on collection of data on deep-sea species is also being produced and will be published by January 2015. Training workshops for the use of the FAO deep-sea species guidelines are also underway. The first workshop was held last June in on identifying deep-sea cartilaginous fishes in the Indian Ocean. FAO is also developing an application for the identification of shark fins by photograph in collaboration with CITES.
- **Encounter protocols workshop:** this workshop is planned for 2015 in Norway, and will be organized by FAO in collaboration with the Institute of Marine Research (IMR). The overall objective of the workshop will be to facilitate sharing of best practices and effective solutions across regions on VME encounter protocols among RFMOs, the fishing industry, and others. The expected outputs include a technical document containing a global review of current experience and practice with regards to encounter protocols as well a technical guidance for further adaption.



- **Industry symposium 2015:** this symposium will be organized back-to-back with the Conference for the 20th Anniversary of Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) in Vigo, Spain in September 2015. This symposium will provide a forum to discuss industry best practices in deep-sea fisheries and to consolidate issues to be brought forward to the industry day of the Conference for the 20th Anniversary of CCRF.
- **Global reviews and best practices on assessment and management of key deep-sea species:** Following up on the Alfonsino Workshop and global review, it is expected a review on another species group will be organized towards the end of 2015, likely focused on orange roughy.

## VULNERABLE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

- **VME Portal:** The VME portal will provide general information on VMEs including sections on relevant publications, relevant international instruments, links to VME-related tools and terminology. Both the VME portal and database will be released this in October 2014.
- **VME Database:** The VME Database will be released in October 2014 and will contain comprehensive information on VME-related measures in ABNJ for each regional fisheries body. This database and website will serve as a tool for those involved in RFMOs and also as an informational and awareness building tool for the general public. The information in the VME DataBase is currently being reviewed by each RFMO and other relevant multi-lateral bodies.
- **Workshop and publication on current practices for identification and management of VMEs** (tentatively February 2015, Swakopmund, Namibia): A review of current practices on the identification of VMEs for each region will be developed as well as a summary of “best practices” that will result from the review of each region’s work in relation to VMEs. The UNGA Resolutions 61/105, as well as subsequent resolutions, and the Deep-sea Fisheries Guidelines, provide recommendations or guidance on how to identify and conserve VMEs, but the application and operationalization of this guidance has posed challenges. This has produced a variety of practices within and among the regions. Scientific progress for the identification of VMEs – including the interpretations of the criteria, selection of indicators and thresholds, ensuring a sound knowledge base and incorporation of new data collection methodologies e.g. through underwater ROV surveys and towed cameras, and in delineating areas containing VMEs – have produced a wide range of best practices which need to be capitalized upon. Therefore, an international workshop will be held to document regional processes and discuss and select the “best practices” in use for different data and information scenarios. The report on best practices will be produced and made available after peer-reviewing by an appropriate group of experts including members of deep-sea RFMO/As and other competent regional organizations. It will include a chapter on NAFO and participants from NAFO will be invited to review the draft chapter as well as participate in the workshop.

## COMMUNICATION ON DEEP-SEA FISHERIES

- **DGroups information sharing:** an online discussions forum for fisheries and marine professionals exists to facilitate the sharing of news and information. NAFO members are invited to participate and share relevant information on deep-sea fisheries events, publications or other information. Access to the groups can be requested via <https://dgroups.org/fao/dgroups-deepsea-fisheries-in-the-high-seas>.
- **Common Oceans website** - <http://www.commonoceans.org/>: Information along with the Project Document which details the project work and timing is available on this website. NAFO is invited to share news or press releases with the communications officer of the ABNJ Programme for posting on this website.

	2014			2015			
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	2 <sup>nd</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup>
VME database and portal review and launch							
Inception meeting for the ABNJ Deep Seas Project							
VME practices document development							
VME practices workshop							
Group discussions on deep-sea sponges of the N. Atlantic							
WWR Chapter development							
Encounter protocols workshop							
Industry Symposium (Vigo)							
Deep-sea Species Review workshop							



## **Annex 18. Proposal for a Mandate to the NAFO Executive Secretary to engage with appropriate Canadian authorities regarding information exchange**

(GC WP 14/12Rev2 now GC Doc. 14/02)

### **Explanatory Note:**

Noting the interactions that have occurred between research, fishing and seismic vessels operating in the NRA;

Noting that the exchange of information is important to promoting coordination and communication between fisheries and hydrocarbons activities,

### **It is recommended:**

That the General Council give the NAFO Executive Secretary the following mandate:

The Executive Secretary work with Canada to explore and implement a means for the appropriate and timely exchange of information necessary to avoid overlapping activities and mitigate potential conflicts between fisheries and hydrocarbons activities.

Elements to explore include:

- a) the sharing of information on oil and gas activities, research and fishing activities and the channels for doing so, including the role of the NAFO Secretariat; and
- b) notification to the NAFO Secretariat, NAFO Contracting Parties and, where appropriate, vessels authorized to fish in the NAFO Regulatory Area of planned seismic activities, noting the desirability of providing information (such as area and date) well in advance and updating it as appropriate to allow fishing operators to plan their activities.

The means of communication should be sufficiently flexible to be applied to other NAFO Coastal States should they undertake these activities in the NRA in the future.

The Executive Secretary will report on this to the next annual NAFO meeting or intersessionally as required.

## **Annex 19. Press Release**

### **NAFO CONTINUES IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECOSYSTEM APPROACH**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Vigo, Spain, 26 September 2014**

The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) today announced measures to strengthen the scientific basis for management decisions, to increase compliance and to improve the quality of catch data it collects. These decisions were made at NAFO's 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting held in Vigo, Spain.

A review of closed areas for protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VME) was carried out this year and the current closures were extended until 2020. Two new closed areas were also adopted in the NAFO Area.

Witch flounder on the southern Grand Bank, has now recovered sufficiently to be reopened with a total allowable catch (TAC) of 1 000 t. This stock had been under a 20 year moratorium. Moreover the TAC for redfish on the northern Grand Bank increased by almost 50 % to 10 400 t.

Fishery Managers and Scientists will continue to work together on important issues. The mandates of the Joint Working Groups for Risk Based Management Strategies (RBMS), Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (EAFFM) and Catch Reporting (CR) will build on their previous year's work. The working group on By-catches, Discards and Selectivity will also continue.

Maintaining stability in catch opportunities and sustainability of stocks remains a priority for NAFO. A harvest control rule for redfish on the northern Grand Bank was adopted. Development of a management plan for cod on the Flemish Cap is underway.

Based on scientific advice most existing moratoria were extended to allow the rebuilding of stocks, while TACs and quotas for the rest were set. See the attached quota table for details. The Northern shrimp stock continues to decline and in order to be precautionary it has also been placed under moratorium.

Progress continues on recommendations from NAFO's 2011 Performance Review. Most of the actions developed in response to the recommendations have been completed or are ongoing.

## **PART II.**

### **Report of the Standing Committee on Finance and Administration (STACFAD)**

36th Annual Meeting of NAFO, 22-26 September 2014  
Vigo, Spain

#### **1. Opening by the Chair**

The first session of STACFAD was opened by the Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA) on 22 September 2014. The Chair welcomed delegates and members of the NAFO Secretariat to the meeting.

Present were delegates from Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, Japan, Norway, Russian Federation, and the United States of America and members of the NAFO Secretariat (Annex 1).

#### **2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

The NAFO Secretariat was appointed as Rapporteur.

#### **3. Adoption of Agenda**

The provisional agenda (Annex 2) was adopted with the addition of two points under Agenda Item 18 – Other Matters:

- i) Acceptance of voluntary contributions, and
- ii) Review of the draft Headquarters Agreement.

#### **4. Auditors' Report for 2013**

The auditing firm of WBLI Chartered Accountants performed the audit of the financial statements of the Organization for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2013. The financial statements and report to the General Council were circulated to the Heads of Delegation of the General Council and to STACFAD delegates in advance of the Annual Meeting.

The Senior Finance and Staff Administrator for NAFO presented the Draft Independent Auditors' Report and Financial Statements of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization for the year ended December 31, 2013. As auditing standards do not permit Auditors to sign and date the Auditors' Report until after the statements are reviewed and approved, the financial statements will be shown as draft statements until they are reviewed by STACFAD and approved by the Organization at the Annual Meeting. It was noted that the total expenditures incurred for the fiscal period ending 2013 amounted to \$1,910,318, which was \$20,318 over the approved budget of \$1,890,000.

Consistent with prior years, the Independent Auditors' Report noted that the Organization: (1) has not recorded or met all disclosure requirements for employee future benefits, including the pension plan assets, liabilities and unfunded deficit, and (2) has a policy not to capitalize its capital assets. Furthermore, the audit determined the financial affairs of the Organization had been conducted in accordance with the Financial Regulations and budgetary provisions of NAFO and presented, in all material respects, a fair and accurate accounting of the financial affairs of the Organization.

**STACFAD recommends that the 2013 Auditors' Report be adopted.**

At the 2013 Annual Meeting, the Organization revised Financial Regulation 7.10 to reflect its decision to restrict the length of time a firm carrying out the NAFO audit shall serve to a maximum term of five years. STACFAD proposed that the Secretariat consult with the current Auditors, WBLI Chartered Accountants, to

see if the current contract may be extended for an additional two years and at comparable rates. In light of this decision, the Secretariat received a proposal from WBLI Chartered Accountants to provide audit services for the 2014 and 2015 fiscal years. Fees for 2014 were proposed to stay at the same rates as 2013 while the fees for 2015 were proposed to increase by 5%.

**STACFAD recommends that WBLI's proposal to provide audit services to the Organization for the 2014 and 2015 fiscal years be accepted.**

## **5. Administrative and Activity Report by Secretariat**

Under this item, the Executive Secretary highlighted NAFO administrative matters and activities for the period September 2013 to August 2014 (GC Doc. 14/1).

## **6. Financial Statements for 2014**

### Budgetary Expenses

The Executive Secretary informed the Committee that numerous cost saving measures have been implemented at the NAFO Secretariat in an effort to control expenditures. In particular, the hiring of the new Office Administrator was delayed by five months; various meetings have been hosted at the Secretariat to reduce hotel and equipment rental costs; a review of current publications including binding methods and the quantity printed was conducted; monthly phone charges are being reviewed as well as a concentrated attitude towards savings on all purchases.

As a result of the above noted cost savings measures, expenditures for 2014 are projected to be at \$1,839,000 or \$51,000 under the approved budget of \$1,890,000. These savings of \$51,000 will be returned to the accumulated surplus and will be available to reduce Contracting Parties contributions in 2015.

All remaining 2014 operating expenses are anticipated to be on or near budget for the year.

### Assessed Contributions

At the beginning of the 2014, the accumulated surplus had \$213,767 which, was deemed to be in excess of the needs of the Organization and was allocated towards the 2014 operating budget. Therefore, in order to meet the 2014 operations budget of \$1,890,000, Contracting Parties were assessed contributions in the amount of \$1,676,233.

### Balance Sheet

The Organization's cash position at December 31, 2014 is estimated to be \$582,949. The cash balance should be sufficient to finance appropriations in early 2015 pending the receipt of annual payments by Contracting Parties in the spring of 2015.

It was noted that Ukraine's 2014 contribution of \$41,906 was outstanding.

## **7. Review of Accumulated Surplus and Contingency Funds**

According to the Financial Regulations of the Organization, STACFAD and General Council 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 to the good conduct of the business of the Organization.

The Secretariat noted the accumulated surplus account at December 31, 2014 is estimated to be \$563,000.

**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 2015, and of which \$85,000 would be a contingency fund available to be used for unforeseen and extraordinary expenses.**

## 8. Personnel Matters

The Executive Secretary presented to the Committee a summary report on personnel matters at the NAFO Secretariat. One staff member was eligible for promotion, and the Committee was in agreement with the proposed promotion.

Two proposals were presented under this matter. Canada proposed that a review of the NAFO Staff Classification system be performed. Canada also noted that in the Public Service of Canada, the separation indemnity has been eliminated and it proposed to amend the separation indemnity provisions under NAFO Staff Rule 9.5 to reflect this.

The Committee agreed to continue working on this intersessionally and to develop recommendations for consideration at the 2015 NAFO Annual Meeting. Canada will be initiating the intersessional process to work with STACFAD members in the coming months.

**STACFAD recommends that the General Council direct it to develop Terms of Reference intersessionally to review the existing NAFO Secretariat classification scheme, including salary scales and relevant employment benefits' to improve efficiency and support the priorities of the Organization and its Contracting Parties. The review will be performed by an external expert to be identified by STACFAD. The Terms of Reference will be completed by the end of November and circulated to General Council for review and approval. Results of the study are to be provided to STACFAD for review which will develop recommendation for consideration at the 2015 NAFO annual meeting.**

## 9. Internship Program

The Secretariat presented a report on the activities of the internship program which occurred during the year, including the tasks performed by one intern hosted at the Secretariat in 2014.

The intention of the internship program is to provide an opportunity for nationals from all NAFO member countries a chance to participate. In this context, the Committee recommends the Secretariat pursue alternate and additional methods to disseminate program information to prospective interns, particularly to nationals of NAFO member countries that have not yet participated.

The Committee once again endorsed the continuation of the internship program recognizing the considerable benefits to the Secretariat.

**The Committee recommends that the Secretariat pursue alternate and additional methods to disseminate program information to prospective interns, particularly to nationals of NAFO member countries that have not yet participated.**

## 10. Rules of Procedure

During the previous Annual Meetings, the Committee has been reviewing Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure for Observers which states "Observer status shall apply to all non-restricted sessions."

Agreement on the principle of openness and transparency was previously achieved, but there was not consensus on a general rule regarding observer attendance at meetings of the Standing Committees and Working Groups, in addition to plenary sessions of the General Council, Fisheries Commission, and Scientific Council.

The current practice is that in the event of requests by accredited observers to attend a NAFO meeting, other than a plenary session of the NAFO constituent bodies, the Chair of that meeting, through consultation with all Contracting Parties on a consensus basis, shall determine if it could be deemed “non-restricted.” Nevertheless, a Contracting Party may still request that any meeting or particular agenda item thereof be restricted to delegates of Contracting Parties only.

The Committee agreed that the current practice is working well and follows the principle of openness and transparency while allowing flexibility when required. STACFAD agreed that there was no need to take this issue up at the next Annual Meeting unless a Contracting Party so requested.

**STACFAD recommends that no amendment to Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure for Observers is required.**

### **11. Report of the Annual Meeting of the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS)**

The Annual Meeting of the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS) was held 23-25 April 2014 in La Jolla, California, USA, and the Secretariat provided the Committee with an update on the highlights of the meeting. Background information on the pension plan, investment performance, financing/funding issues, as well as plan design changes which affect employee/employer contribution rates, were distributed for the information of members. A copy of the Annual Statistical Report for NAFO was also included with the information paper.

The latest actuarial valuation of the pension plan's assets and liabilities was performed on 1 January 2014. The report indicates that NAFO's pension fund has a deficiency of \$2,296,000. The majority of this deficit has already been addressed by STACFAD after the two previous valuations in 2008 and 2011. However, the net deficiency which occurred in the current valuation period was \$686,000. Consequently, additional funding of \$72,500 per year, amortized over 15 years, is required to cover this new deficiency.

The 2015 budget estimate includes a provision for this new charge within the Superannuation and Annuities budget line item.

### **12. Update on implementation of Performance Review Panel recommendations tasked to STACFAD**

STACFAD reviewed the progress to date on the implementation of those particular recommendations of the PRP relevant to STACFAD on the basis of a report from the Secretariat.

It was noted of the four outstanding items that two have been implemented, one item has been deferred and one item discussed as summarized in STACFAD WP 14/06 (Annex 3).

The Committee recognized the PRP recommendation to withhold reimbursement of any budget surplus to Contracting Parties in arrears of their full contributions (PRP Recommendation 7.1.9) but determined that such a change was not required.

**STACFAD recommends that the General Council endorse the progress achieved to implement the Performance Review Panel's recommendations in the area of finance and administration.**

### **13. Budget Estimate for 2015**

The Committee reviewed the 2015 budget estimate as detailed in GC Working Paper 14/01 (Rev3). Keeping in mind the significant efforts undertaken the last three years to keep the budget at or near the previous year's budget, the 2015 budget estimate contained numerous budget categories which were maintained at already reduced levels. Furthermore, costs saving measures introduced by the Secretariat in 2014 have also assisted with keeping budget increases to a minimum.



The Committee noted that the latest actuarial valuation of the NAFO Pension plan showed that the plan is in a deficit or unfunded position of \$2.3 million vs. the unfunded position from three years ago of \$1.8 million. The increase in the unfunded liability requires additional annual payments of \$72,500 for the next 15 years. This supplementary payment has been included in the Superannuation and Annuities budget line item.

The 2015 budget estimate of \$1,981,000 represents an increase of \$91,000 or 4.8% over the prior years approved budget. Bearing in mind that the additional payment towards the increase in the pension plan deficit represents \$72,500 or 3.8% of the proposed budget, the remaining increase to the 2015 budget represents \$18,500 or slightly less than 1%.

<i>Approved Budget 2014</i>	<i>Preliminary Budget Forecast 2015</i>	<i>Budget Estimate 2015</i>
<i>\$1,890,000</i>	<i>\$1,956,000</i>	<i>\$1,981,000</i>

The ES recalled the efforts to reduce NAFO spending in the previous year, which resulted in savings of about \$51,000 from the approved budget. These efforts will continue in the 2015 budget year.

**STACFAD recommends that the budget for 2015 of \$1,981,000 (Annex 4) be adopted.**

**A preliminary calculation of billing for the 2015 financial year is provided in Annex 5.** The preliminary calculation of billing is based on the budget estimate of \$1,981,000 and shall be reduced by any amount determined by the General Council to be in excess of the needs of the accumulated surplus account.

The accumulated surplus account at December 31, 2014 is estimated to be \$563,000 and the recommended minimum balance in the accumulated surplus account for operations and emergency use for the 2015 fiscal year is \$285,000. This allows for \$278,000 (\$563,000-\$285,000) to be applied towards the 2015 billing.

**Funds required to meet the 2015 administrative budget and appropriated from Contracting Parties are estimated to be \$1,703,000 (\$1,981,000 - \$278,000).**

The Secretariat was also requested to provide additional information indicating those costs that were fixed versus discretionary amounts. The Secretariat was also requested to continue to work to minimize costs to the extent possible and maximize efficiencies. The Secretariat was also requested to work with the International Fisheries Commission Pension Society to ensure costs passed onto the Organization are kept at a minimum.

#### **14. Budget Forecast for 2016 and 2017**

STACFAD reviewed the preliminary budget forecast for 2016 (\$2,032,000) and 2017 (\$2,082,000) (Annex 6) and approved the forecast in principle. It was noted that the budget for 2016 will be reviewed in detail at the next Annual Meeting.

#### **15. Adoption of 2014/2015 Staff Committee Appointees**

The Secretariat would like to thank Estelle Couture, Rafael Duarte and Deirdre Warner-Kramer for serving on the Staff Committee for the 2013-2014 term.

Furthermore, the Secretariat members nominated the following people to serve as members of the Staff Committee for September 2014 – September 2015: Emilia Batista (EU); Joanne Morgan (Canada) and Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA).

**STACFAD recommends that General Council appoint the three nominees.**

## 16. Time and Place of 2015 – 2017 Annual Meetings

As previously agreed, the 2015 and 2016 Annual Meetings will be held 21–25 September and 19–23 September, respectively. The meetings will be held in Halifax, N.S., Canada, unless an invitation to host is extended by a Contracting Party and accepted by the Organization.

**STACFAD recommends that the dates of the 2017 Annual Meeting (to be held in Halifax, N.S., Canada, unless an invitation to host is extended by a Contracting Party and accepted by the Organization) to be as follows:**

**18 – 22 September 2017**

## 17. Election of Chair

Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA) was re-elected Chair, and delegates expressed their gratitude for her fine leadership over the past three years.

## 18. Other Matters

### i. Acceptance of Voluntary Contributions

Currently the NAFO Financial Rules are silent regarding the receipt of voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties. In other RFMOs, rules stipulate that the Executive Secretary can accept payments, provided that voluntary contributions are in line with the organizations policies and objectives. A modification of the NAFO Financial Rules to this end could provide clarity.

**The Committee recommended that a new rule be inserted in the NAFO Financial Regulations as outlined in Annex 7.**

### ii. Review of the draft Headquarters Agreement

STACFAD reviewed the draft Headquarters Agreement (Annex 8). The current draft agreement focuses on the privileges and immunities granted to the Organization, however does not detail the obligation of the host country, Canada, to provide the premises for the NAFO Headquarters nor the security of these premises.

It was also noted that the issue of NAFO's immunity is still a subject of a court proceedings. Although Canada noted its readiness to move forward with the draft Headquarters Agreement, the conclusion of this process may be delayed until the legal proceedings are resolved.

Canada said that changing the current draft Headquarters Agreement may be a difficult and lengthy process. Canada, in consultation with the Secretariat, will develop an alternate mechanism to address these matters.

**The Committee agreed to undertake a process that would develop an alternate instrument (e.g. a memorandum of understanding) that would address these issues and be reviewed at the 2015 Annual Meeting.**

## 19. Adjournment

The final session of the STACFAD meeting adjourned on 25 September 2014.

Gratitude was expressed to the Committee members for its service in dealing with difficult matters this week, and to the NAFO Secretariat for its excellent support.

**Annex 1. List of Participants**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Contracting Party</b>
Elise Lavigne	Canada
Esben Ehlers	Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
Herbert Schuller	European Union
Masanori Wada	Japan
Guri Male Breigutu	Norway
Yulia Badina	Russian Federation
Deirdre Warner-Kramer Patrick Moran	United States of America
Fred Kingston Stan Goodick Lisa LeFort Alexis Pacey	NAFO Secretariat

## **Annex 2. Agenda**

1. Opening by the Chair, Deirdre Warner-Kramer (USA)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Auditors' Report for 2013
5. Administrative and Activity Report by NAFO Secretariat
6. Financial Statements for 2014
7. Review of Accumulated Surplus and Contingency Fund
8. Personnel Matters
9. Internship Program
10. Rules of Procedure Re: Observers
11. Report of the Annual Meeting of the Fisheries Commissions Pension Society
12. Update on implementation of PRP recommendations tasked to STACFAD
13. Adoption of 2015 Staff Committee Appointees
14. Time and Place of 2015 - 2017 Annual Meetings
15. Budget Estimate for 2015
16. Budget Forecast for 2016 and 2017
17. Election of Chair
18. Other Matters
  - i. Acceptance of Voluntary Contributions
  - ii. Review of the draft Headquarters Agreement
19. Adjournment

### Annex 3. STACFAD Responses to PRP Recommendations

PRP Recommendation #	Recommendation Text	Status
7.1.9	Reimbursement of the budget surplus in one year to the following year's contributions is in keeping with many other international organizations. However, the PRP advises that consideration should be given to withholding any reimbursement of budget surplus amounts to Contracting Parties in arrears (see below) of their full contributions.	GC requests STACFAD to consider amending Rule 4.6 of the NAFO Financial Regulations.  The Committee recognized the PRP recommendation but determined no change to the NAFO Financial Regulations was required.
7.1.10	The PRP suggests that application of cost-recovery measures could be considered as a way of alleviating potential financial stress on NAFO Contracting Parties.	Cost recovering options being implemented by the Secretariat.
7.2.3	Taking into account the relevant existing best practices, there is a need to amend certain provisions of the NAFO Staff Rules pertaining to the rights and obligations of NAFO Secretariat Staff, particularly dismissal or termination of appointment. In so doing, and given the Organization's intergovernmental nature, special attention should be given the relevant provisions of the prevailing Canadian legislation as well as international law in terms of Secretariat staff employment rights, obligations and conditions.	The Secretariat will present proposed changes to the Staff Rules upon conclusion of the current legal case.
7.2.7	The Executive Secretary's role in disseminating high-quality information about NAFO should be recognized, along with that of other senior Staff. Consideration of an Organizational communications strategy and media policy may also be of merit. The PRP further suggests that it is worth considering clarification of the Executive Secretary's responsibilities, along with those of other office bearers, for the communication of such information.	A new NAFO Communications Strategy has been adopted by the Organization.

**Annex 4. Budget Estimate for 2015**

## NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

## Budget Estimate for 2015

(Canadian Dollars)

	Approved Budget 2014	Projected Expenditures 2014	Preliminary Budget Forecast 2015	Budget Estimate 2015
1. Personal Services				
a) Salaries	\$996,000	\$971,000	\$1,032,000	\$1,029,000
b) Superannuation and Annuities	291,000	291,000	291,000	358,000
c) Medical and Insurance Plans	95,000	90,000	99,000	91,000
d) Employee Benefits	77,000	76,000	69,000	67,000
Subtotal Personal Services	1,459,000	1,428,000	1,491,000	1,545,000
2. Additional Help	0	0	15,000	1,000
3. Communications	26,000	25,000	26,000	24,000
4. Computer Services	31,000	31,000	31,000	31,000
5. Equipment	31,000	30,000	31,000	28,000
6. Fishery Monitoring	36,000	36,000	36,000	36,000
7. Hospitality Allowance	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
8. Internship	5,500	5,500	16,000	6,000
9. Materials and Supplies	28,500	27,500	30,000	28,000
10. NAFO Meetings				
a) Sessional	103,000	93,000	101,000	114,000
b) Inter-sessional Scientific	31,000	31,000	40,000	25,000
c) Inter-sessional Other	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Subtotal NAFO Meetings	164,000	154,000	171,000	169,000
11. Other Meetings and Travel	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
12. Professional Services	46,000	46,000	46,000	51,000
13. Publications	13,000	12,000	13,000	12,000
14. Recruitment and Relocation	12,000	6,000	12,000	12,000
	\$1,890,000	\$1,839,000	\$1,956,000	\$1,981,000

Notes on Budget Estimate 2015  
(Canadian Dollars)

Item 1(a)	<b>Salaries</b> Salaries budget estimate for 2015.	\$1,029,000
Item 1(b)	<b>Superannuation and Annuities</b> Employer's pension plan which includes employer's contributions, administration costs, actuarial fees and the required annual payment towards previous pension plan deficits. Annual required payment towards pension plan deficit from the January 2014 actuarial valuation	\$358,000 \$285,500 72,500
Item 1(c)	<b>Group Medical and Insurance Plans</b> Employer's portion of Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance, Group Life Insurance, Long Term Disability Insurance and Medical Coverage.	\$91,000
Item 1(d)	<b>Employee Benefits</b> Employee benefits as per the NAFO Staff Rules including overtime, repatriation grant, termination benefits, vacation pay, and travel to home country for internationally recruited members of the Secretariat.	\$67,000
Item 2	<b>Additional Support</b> Other assistance as required.	\$1,000
Item 3	<b>Communications</b> Phone, fax and internet services Postage Courier/Mail service	\$24,000 \$17,000 4,000 3,000
Item 4	<b>Computer Services</b> Computer hardware, software, supplies and support.	\$31,000
Item 5	<b>Equipment</b> Leases (print department printer, photocopier and postage meter) Purchases Maintenance	\$28,000 \$18,000 5,000 5,000
Item 6	<b>Fishery Monitoring</b> Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) annual maintenance fee including programming changes as required due to changes to CEM	\$36,000

Item 10(a)	<b>NAFO Sessional Meetings</b> Annual Meeting, September 2015, Halifax, Canada SC Meeting, June 2015, Halifax, Canada SC Meeting, September 2015, St. John's, Canada	\$114,000
Item 10(b)	<b>NAFO Inter-sessional Scientific Meetings</b> Provision for inter-sessional meetings and a general provision for unforeseen expenses necessarily incurred by SC required for the provision of answering requests for advice from FC.	\$25,000
Item 10(c)	<b>NAFO Inter-sessional Other</b> General provision for GC and FC inter-sessional meetings.	\$30,000
Item 11	<b>Other Meetings and Travel</b> International Meetings regularly attended by the NAFO Secretariat: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts (ASFA)</li> <li>2. Co-ordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics (CWP)</li> <li>3. Fisheries Resources Monitoring Systems (FIRMS)</li> <li>4. International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (IFCPS)</li> <li>5. United Nations</li> </ol>	\$35,000
Item 12	<b>Professional Services</b> Professional Services (audit, consulting, legal fees, and insurance) Professional Development and Training Information Systems Audit Public Relations	\$51,000 \$35,000 8,000 5,000 3,000
Item 13	<b>Publications</b> 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.	\$12,000



## Annex 5. Preliminary Budget Forecast for 2016 and 2017

### NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

#### Preliminary Budget Forecast for 2016 and 2017

(Canadian Dollars)

	Preliminary Budget Forecast 2016	Preliminary Budget Forecast 2017
1. Personal Services		
a) Salaries	\$1,074,000	\$1,120,000
b) Superannuation and Annuities	358,000	356,000
c) Medical and Insurance Plans	95,000	95,000
d) Employee Benefits	62,000	65,000
Subtotal Personal Services	1,589,000	1,636,000
2. Additional Help	10,000	10,000
3. Communications	24,000	25,000
4. Computer Services	31,000	32,000
5. Equipment	28,000	28,000
6. Fishery Monitoring	37,000	37,000
7. Hospitality Allowance	3,000	3,000
8. Internship	5,500	5,500
9. Materials and Supplies	29,500	29,500
10. NAFO Meetings		
a) Sessional	115,000	116,000
b) Inter-sessional Scientific	25,000	25,000
c) Inter-sessional Other	30,000	30,000
Subtotal NAFO Meetings	170,000	171,000
11. Other Meetings and Travel	35,000	35,000
12. Professional Services	46,000	46,000
13. Publications	12,000	12,000
14. Recruitment and Relocation	12,000	12,000
	\$2,032,000	\$2,082,000

Report of STACFAD, 22-26 Sept 2014

**Preliminary calculation of billing for Contracting Parties  
against the proposed estimate of \$1,981,000 for the 2015  
financial year (based on 12 Contracting Parties to NAFO)  
(Canadian Dollars)**

Budget Estimate	\$1,981,000
Deduct: Amount from Accumulated Surplus (pending approval from General Council)	<u>278,000</u>
Funds required to meet 2015 Administrative Budget	<u>\$1,703,000</u>
60% of funds required =	\$1,021,800
30% of funds required =	\$510,900
10% of funds required =	\$170,300

Annex 6

2014 Billing for comparison purposes		
Approved Budget 2014		\$1,890,000
Deduct: Accumulated Surplus		<u>213,767</u>
Funds required 2014 Budget		<u>\$1,676,233</u>
Nominal Catches for 2011	% of Total Catch in the Convention Area	2014 Annual Contribution
384,218	51.09%	\$648,080.23
1,438	0.19%	43,816.73
162,059	21.55%	297,591.58
41,612	5.53%	97,523.23
902	0.12%	43,329.49
126	0.02%	42,106.97
-	-	41,905.83
-	-	41,905.83
3,497	0.47%	46,632.80
7,889	1.05%	52,466.10
-	-	41,905.83
150,271	19.98%	278,968.38
752,012	100.00%	<u>\$1,676,233.00</u>

Contracting Parties	Nominal Catches for 2012	% of Total Catch in the Convention Area	% of Total Catch in the Convention Area			2015 Preliminary Billing
			10%	30%	60%	
Canada	500,305	57.91%	\$104,956.80	\$42,575.00	\$591,724.38	\$739,256.18
Cuba	960	0.11%	-	42,575.00	1,123.98	43,698.98
Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) (1)	156,492	18.12%	32,829.78	42,575.00	185,150.16	260,554.94
European Union	36,198	4.19%	-	42,575.00	42,813.42	85,388.42
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)	1,065	0.12%	223.42	42,575.00	1,226.16	44,024.58
Iceland	-	-	-	42,575.00	-	42,575.00
Japan	-	-	-	42,575.00	-	42,575.00
Republic of Korea	-	-	-	42,575.00	-	42,575.00
Norway	3,140	0.36%	-	42,575.00	3,678.48	46,253.48
Russian Federation	11,806	1.37%	-	42,575.00	13,998.66	56,573.66
Ukraine	-	-	-	42,575.00	-	42,575.00
United States of America	153,919	17.82%	32,290.00	42,575.00	182,084.76	256,949.76
	863,885	100.00%	\$170,300.00	\$510,900.00	\$1,021,800.00	<u>\$1,703,000.00</u>
Funds required to meet 1 January - 31 December 2015 Administrative Budget						<u>\$1,703,000.00</u>

(1) Faroe Islands 3,633 metric tons  
Greenland 152,859 metric tons

## **Annex 7. Voluntary Contributions**

### **Background**

Currently the NAFO Financial Rules are silent regarding the receipt of voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties. In other RFMOs, rules stipulate that the Executive Secretary can accept payments provided that voluntary contributions are in line with the organizations policies and objectives. A modification of the NAFO financial rules to this end on basis of the financial rules of ICCAT could provide clarity.

### **Proposal - New Rule to be inserted in Financial Regulations**

#### **Rule 6 - Trust funds**

**The Executive Secretary may accept on behalf of NAFO voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties, or from other sources subject to agreement by the Contracting Parties, provided that the purposes for which such voluntary contributions have been made are consistent with the policies, aims and activities of NAFO.**

**The Executive Secretary shall establish trust funds to cover such voluntary contributions and shall report on their receipt and use to the General Council/STACFAD.**

#### **Proposed amendments (in bold) to current Rule 6 (to be re-numbered Rule 7)**

##### Books of Accounts

#### **Rule 7**

**7.1** Appropriate separate accounts shall be kept for:

- i.** the receipts and expenditures of the Organization;
- ii.** and for the contributions and disbursements for each scientific research project established under the Scientific Research Fund; and
- iii.** trust funds.

**7.2** The Executive Secretary shall establish detailed financial procedures in order to ensure financial administration and the exercise of economy.

**7.3** The Executive Secretary shall maintain such accounting records as are necessary for each financial year, including:

##### General Operating Budget

- a) income and expenditures;
- b) the status of appropriations, including:
  - i) the original budget appropriations;
  - ii) transfers between appropriation categories;
  - iii) amounts charged against appropriation categories;
- c) the status of the accumulated surplus account;
- d) funds held in currencies other than Canadian dollars.

##### Scientific Research Fund

- a) contributions and disbursements for each scientific research project;
- b) the status of the funds for each scientific research project.

##### **Trust Funds**

**a) contributions and disbursements for each trust fund;**

**b) the status of the funds for each trust fund.**

- 7.4 The annual financial statements shall be submitted by the Executive Secretary to the Auditors no later than 30 days following the end of the financial year.
- 7.5 The Executive Secretary may, after full investigation, authorize the writing off of losses of cash, stores, and other assets, provided that a statement of all such amounts written off shall be submitted to the General Council and the Auditors with the annual financial statements.

**Re-numbering of subsequent Rules.**

## **Annex 8. Draft Headquarters Agreement**

The Government of Canada and the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, wishing to conclude an agreement respecting the headquarters of the Organization in Canada, have agreed as follows:

### Article 1 Definitions

For the purposes of the present Agreement:

- a) "Convention" means the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, signed on 24 October 1978 in Ottawa, Canada.
- b) "NAFO" means the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization, established under Article II of the Convention.
- c) "Representative of members of NAFO" means a representative of a Contracting Party to the Convention and shall be deemed to include all delegates, deputy delegates, advisers, technical experts and secretaries of delegations.
- d) "Officials of NAFO" means the President, the Executive Secretary and internationally recruited staff of NAFO.

### Article 2

NAFO shall have in Canada the legal capacities of a body corporate, including the capacity to contract, to acquire and dispose of property, and to institute legal proceedings.

### Article 3

NAFO, its property and its assets, wherever located and by whomsoever held, shall enjoy immunity from every form of judicial process except in so far as in any particular case the Executive Secretary of NAFO has expressly waived its immunity. Such waiver shall be understood not to extend to any measure of execution, save with the express consent of the Executive Secretary. NAFO shall establish guidelines as to the circumstances in which the Executive Secretary may waive any immunity of NAFO, and as to the method in which any such waiver shall be made.

### Article 4

The premises of NAFO shall be inviolable. The property and assets of NAFO, wherever located and by whomsoever held, shall be immune from search, requisition, confiscation, expropriation and any other form of interference, whether by executive, administrative, judicial or legislative action, except with the consent of and under the conditions agreed to by the Executive Secretary of NAFO. This Article shall not prevent the reasonable application of fire protection regulations.

### Article 5

The archives of NAFO, and in general all documents belonging to it or held by it, shall be inviolable wherever located.

### Article 6

NAFO, its assets, income and other property shall be:

- a) exempt from all direct taxes except for charges for public utility services;
- b) exempt from customs duties and taxes in respect of articles imported or exported by NAFO in the furtherance of its function; articles imported under such exemption shall not be sold or disposed of in Canada except under conditions agreed to by the Government of Canada.
- c) exempt from customs duties and prohibitions and restrictions on imports and exports in respect of its publications.

## Article 7

NAFO shall enjoy in Canada, for its official communications, treatment not less favourable than that accorded by the Government of Canada to any other Government including its diplomatic mission in the matter of priorities, rates and taxes on mails, cables, telegrams, radiograms, telephotos, telephone and other communications; and press rates for information to the press and radio. No censorship shall be applied to the official correspondence and other official communications of NAFO.

## Article 8

NAFO shall have the right to use codes and to despatch and receive its correspondence by courier or in bags, which shall have the same immunities and privileges as diplomatic couriers and bags.

## Article 9

Representatives of members of NAFO shall, to such extent as may be required for the performance of their functions, enjoy the following privileges and immunities:

- a) immunity from personal arrest or detention and from seizure of their personal baggage, and, in respect of words spoken or written and all acts done by them in their capacity as representatives, immunity from legal process of every kind;
- b) inviolability for all papers and documents;
- c) the right to use codes and to receive papers or correspondence by courier or in sealed bags;
- d) exemption in respect of themselves and their spouses from immigration restrictions, alien registration or national service obligations in the state they are visiting or through which they are passing in the exercise of their functions;
- e) the same facilities in respect of currency or exchange restrictions as are accorded to representatives of foreign governments on temporary official missions;
- f) the same immunities and facilities in respect of their personal baggage as are accorded to diplomatic envoys; and also,
- g) such other privileges, immunities and facilities not inconsistent with the foregoing as diplomatic envoys enjoy, except that they shall have no right to claim exemption from customs duties on goods imported (otherwise than as part of their personal baggage) or from excise duties or sales taxes.

## Article 10

In order to secure, for the representatives of members of NAFO complete freedom of speech and independence in the discharge of their duties, the immunity from legal process in respect of words spoken or written and all acts done by them in discharging their duties shall continue to be accorded, notwithstanding that the persons concerned are no longer the representatives of members of NAFO.

## Article 11

Privileges and immunities are accorded to the representatives of members of NAFO, not for the personal benefit of the individuals themselves, but in order to safeguard the independent exercise of their functions in connection with NAFO. Consequently a member not only has the right but is under a duty to waive the immunity of its representative in any case where in the opinion of the member the immunity would impede the course of justice, and it can be waived without prejudice to the purpose for which the immunity is accorded.

## Article 12

Officials of NAFO shall:

- a) be immune from legal process in respect of words spoken or written and all acts performed by them in their official capacity;
- b) be exempt from taxation on the salaries and emoluments paid to them by NAFO;

- c) be immune from national service obligations;
- d) be immune, together with their spouses and relatives dependent on them, from immigration restrictions and alien registration;
- e) be accorded the same privileges in respect of exchange facilities as are accorded to the officials of comparable ranks forming part of diplomatic missions to the Government concerned;
- f) be given, together with their spouses and relatives dependent on them, the same repatriation facilities in time of international crisis as diplomatic envoys;
- g) have the right to import free of duty their furniture and effects at the time of first taking up their post in the country in question.

#### Article 13

Privileges and immunities are granted to officials in the interests of NAFO and not for the personal benefit of the individuals themselves. The Executive Secretary shall have the right and the duty to waive the immunity of any official in any case where, in his opinion, the immunity would impede the course of justice and can be waived without prejudice to the interests of NAFO. In the case of the Executive Secretary, the General Council shall have the right to waive immunity.

#### Article 14

NAFO shall co-operate at all times with the appropriate authorities in Canada to facilitate the proper administration of justice, secure the observance of police regulations and prevent the occurrence of any abuse in connection with the privileges, immunities and facilities mentioned in this Agreement.

#### Article 15

Nothing in this Agreement exempts a Canadian citizen, residing or ordinarily resident in Canada, from liability for any taxes or duties imposed by any law in Canada.

#### Article 16

Any dispute between NAFO and the Government of Canada concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement or any supplementary agreement, which is not settled by negotiation or other agreed mode of settlement, shall be referred to a tribunal of three arbitrators for final decision. One arbitrator shall be designated by the President of NAFO, and another by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada. The two arbitrators shall appoint a third arbitrator.

#### Article 17

1. This Agreement shall enter into force in accordance with an Exchange of Notes between the Executive Secretary of NAFO and the Government of Canada.
2. This Agreement may be revised at the request of either Party, through consultations on the modifications in question.
3. This Agreement may be renounced by either Party, upon provision of two years notice.

Done at \_\_\_\_ [location] \_\_\_\_\_, on \_\_ [date] \_\_\_\_\_, in the English and French languages, each version being equally authentic.

\_\_\_\_\_  
[representative of Canada]

\_\_\_\_\_  
[representative of NAFO]