



NAFO IMPROVES INFORMATION SHARING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Halifax, NS, Canada, 27 September 2013

The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) today announced measures to improve the quality of catch data it collects, strengthen its compliance measures and support the scientific base upon which management decisions are based.

Based on scientific advice existing moratoria were extended to allow rebuilding of depleted stocks, while quotas for others were set. See attached quota table for details.

At this meeting NAFO agreed to expand a number of areas closed to bottom fishing, designed to protect deep-sea corals and sea pens. In 2014 NAFO is set to carry out a full review of its closed areas.

The implementation of the Performance Assessment Panel recommendations continues to be addressed in all NAFO Bodies. A compilation of the status of these recommendations was prepared and the NAFO was pleased with progress to date. In most cases action has been taken or is ongoing in order to address the recommendations from the Panel.

NAFO's Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council held a joint meeting this week to resolve discrepancies between official catch statistics and figures estimated by scientists. To improve transparency, daily catch reports submitted by vessels to the NAFO headquarters over a satellite system, currently used to monitor compliance with quotas, will be made available to scientists. This will help to validate their catch data from other sources.

Relations with our sister organization in the North East Atlantic, NEAFC, have been formalized with the establishment of a joint data management working group.

A general Framework for the ecosystem approach to fisheries management was adopted.

Terms of Reference for two new joint Working Groups of Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council were established at this meeting. In 2014 the groups will meet to discuss Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems and risk based management strategies for NAFO stocks.

A new Executive Secretary, Mr Fred Kingston was elected for a term beginning in January 2014. NAFO is pleased to welcome Mr Kingston and looks forward to working with him in the future.

Additional highlights of the meeting can be found in the attached backgrounder.

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Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization

2013 Annual meeting Press Release

27 September 2013



Backgrounder

NAFO is an international intergovernmental fisheries science and management body that manages the fishery in the international portion of the Northwest Atlantic. The 35th Annual Meeting was held during 23-27 September 2013 at the Westin Hotel, Halifax, NS, Canada. The meeting was attended by 160 delegates from eleven Contracting Parties (Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), European Union, France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, Russian Federation and United States of America). Ukraine was unable to attend the meeting.

The meeting was also attended by observers of IGOs from the Fisheries and Agricultural Organisation of the UN (FAO), Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO), International Commission for the Conservation of the Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), Southeast Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO) and Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), and NGOs, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Ecology Action Centre and Dalhousie University.

The three bodies of NAFO, General Council (chaired by Veronika Veits, EU), Fisheries Commission (chaired by Sylvie Lapointe, Canada) and Scientific Council (chaired by Carsten Hvingel, Norway) and their subsidiary bodies met over the course of a week to deliberate on management measures and scientific assessment regarding the international fisheries of the Northwest Atlantic.

All existing moratoria on NAFO stocks were carried over. TACs and quotas were established for all other NAFO regulated stocks. See attached quota table for details.

Five NAFO Contracting Parties have now ratified the amended NAFO Convention. Other Members reported their progress to the meeting and were strongly encouraged to continue their efforts to ratify the amended Convention in their respective governments.

The status of the implementation of the recommendations from the 2012 NAFO Performance Review Panel were reviewed by NAFO. All constituent bodies continue to make progress and NAFO was pleased with work that has been and continues to be done.

NAFO continues to address issues surrounding catch discrepancies. On the basis of the Peer Review Expert Panel recommendations, NAFO held frank and fruitful discussion between fisheries managers and scientists as to the best way to build confidence in the reliability of the data available to the organization. An *ad hoc* working group will continue the discussions next year. A number changes to NAFO regulations, allowing scientists access to data previously collected for compliance purposes, were agreed.

NAFO took further steps to enhance the dialogue between scientists and managers through the establishment of two joint working groups, answering to both NAFO Scientific Council and Fisheries Commission, on the ecosystem approach and risk-based approaches to stock management. These groups will provide a review of Scientific Council advice and drafting of measures for consideration by Fisheries Commission. These meetings will support open dialogue between managers and scientists, and be open to accredited observer organizations, improving transparency and accountability of NAFO. NAFO will also convene an *ad hoc* working group to look at discards, bycatch and selectivity issues.



In order to contribute to harmonization and standardization in the development of fisheries related electronic recording and reporting systems enhance fisheries related data communications in the entire North Atlantic, a joint working group - NEAFC/NAFO Advisory Group on Data Management -has been established to review the design of relevant frameworks and any technical issue related to the generating, storing, transmitting and use of fisheries related data, including data processing, protocols, standards and data security and confidentiality.

NAFO welcomes a newly elected Executive Secretary, Mr Fred Kingston. Mr Kingston, a Canadian citizen, leaves a long career with European Union in Ottawa, Canada to begin a new job managing the NAFO Secretariat in Dartmouth, Canada in January. Thanks were offered to the out-going Executive Secretary, Dr Vladimir Shibanov for his service to NAFO. NAFO also welcomed new Scientific Council chair Don Stansbury (Canada).

The 36th Annual Meeting will be held in Galicia, Spain in September 2014.

Prior to the Annual Meeting, the following NAFO meetings were held: Scientific Council/NIPAG Meeting on Shrimp Assessment, Tromsø, Norway, 17-24 October 2012; Scientific Council WGEAFM, Dartmouth, NS, Canada, 21-30 November 2012; Joint NEAFC/NAFO Ad hoc Working Group on the future of AGDC, in London, UK , 29-31 January 2013, Joint NAFO/ICES Working Group on Deep-water Ecology (WGDEC), IMR Flodevigen, Norway, 11-15 March 2013; International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society Annual Meeting, Victoria, BC, Canada, 09-11 April 2013; Fisheries Commission Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (WGFMS-VME) in Halifax, NS, Canada, 23-25 April 2013; Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC), London, UK, 7-9 May 2013; Scientific Council and its Standing Committees, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, 7-20 June 2013; Fisheries Commission Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists on Conservation Plans and Rebuilding Strategies (WGFMS-CPRS) in Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, 9–11 July 2013; The World Conference on Stock Assessment Methods for Sustainable Fisheries (co-sponsored by NAFO) in Boston, MA, USA, 15-19 July 2013; Joint NAFO/ICES Working Group on Harp and Hooded Seals (WGHARP) at PINRO in Murmansk, Russia, 26-30 August 2013.

Reports of all NAFO meeting are finalized following the meeting end and are posted on the public NAFO website. Reports from General Council and Fisheries Commission (and Standing Committees) can be accessed at <http://www.nafo.int/publications/frames/proceedings.html> and Scientific Council Reports at <http://www.nafo.int/publications/frames/sci-reports.html>.

The table of NAFO TACs and quotas agreed at the 35th Annual meeting can be found at <http://www.nafo.int/fisheries/quota.pdf>

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27 September 2013, Halifax, NS, Canada

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Annual Quota Table

QUOTA TABLE. Total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tons) for 2014 of particular stocks in Subareas 1-4 of the NAFO Convention Area. The values listed include quantities to be taken both inside and outside the 200-mile fishing zone, where applicable.

Species Division/Contracting Party	Cod				Redfish					American plaice		Yellowtail
	3L	3M	% of 3M Cod TAC	3NO	3LN	% of 3LN Redfish TAC	3M	3O	Sub-Area 2 and Div. 1F+3K	3LNO	3M	3LNO
Canada		116	0.80	0	2982	42.60	500	6000	0 ^{2,4}	0	0	16575 ⁵
Cuba		537	3.70	-	686	9.80	1750		0 ^{2,4}	-	-	-
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		3246	22.35	-	-		69 ¹⁹		0 ^{2,3}	-	-	-
European Union		8281 ²⁵	57.03	0 ¹¹	1276 ²⁶	18.23	7813 ¹²	7000	0 ^{2,3} 0 ^{2,15}	0	0 ¹¹	-
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-		-	-		69 ¹⁹		0 ^{2,4}	-	-	340 ⁵
Iceland		-		-	-		-		0 ^{2,3}	-	-	-
Japan		-		-	-		400	150	0 ^{2,4}	-	-	-
Korea		-		-	-		69 ¹⁹	100	0 ^{2,4}	-	-	-
Norway		1343	9.25	-	-		-		0 ^{2,3}	-	-	-
Russian Federation		940	6.47	0	2014	28.77	9137	6500	0 ^{2,3}	-	0	-
Ukraine								150	0 ^{2,4}			
United States of America		-		-	-		69 ¹⁹		0 ^{2,4}	-	-	-
Others		58	0.40	0	42	0.60	124	100	-	0	0	85 ⁵
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	^{*9}	14521 ²³	100.0	^{*20,9}	7000 ²⁴	100.0	6500 ⁸	20000 ¹⁶	0 ^{10,17}	^{*21}	^{*9,16}	17000 ^{21,22,16}

Species	Witch		White hake	Capelin	Skates	Greenland halibut	Squid (Illex) ¹	Shrimp	
	3L	3NO	3NO	3NO	3LNO	3LMNO	Sub-areas 3+4	3L	3NO
Canada		0	294	0	1167	1716	N.S. ⁶	3580	
Cuba		-		0		-	510	48	
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		-		-		197	-	48	
European Union		0 ¹¹	588	0 ¹¹	4408	6709 ¹⁸	<u>N.S.⁶</u> 611 ¹³	240 ¹⁴	
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-		-		187	453	48	
Iceland		-		-		-	-	48	
Japan		-		0		1173	510	48	
Korea		-		-		-	453	48	
96*10Norway		-		0		-	-	48	
Russian Federation		0	59	0	1167	1460	749	48	
Ukraine						-		48	
United States of America		-		-		-	453	48	
Others		0	59	-	258	0 ⁷	794	0	
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	*9,20	*9	1000 ²⁷	*9,16	7000	11442	34000 ²⁰	4300	*9

* Ban on fishing in force.

1. Any quota listed for squid may be increased by a transfer from any “coastal state” as defined in Article 1, paragraph 3 of the NAFO Convention, provided that the TAC for squid is not exceeded. Transfers made to Contracting Parties conducting fisheries for squid in the Regulatory Area shall be reported to the Executive Secretary, and the report shall be made as promptly as possible.
2. The Executive Secretary shall notify without delay all Contracting Parties the dates on which accumulated reported catch taken by vessels of Contracting Parties estimated equal to 50% and then 100% of that allocation.
3. Quota to be shared by vessels from Denmark (Greenland and Faroe Islands), European Union, Iceland, Norway and Russia. Catches in the NAFO Convention Area shall be deducted from the quotas allocated in the NEAFC Convention Area.
4. Quota to be shared by vessels from Canada, Cuba, France (St. Pierre et Miquelon), Japan, Korea, Ukraine and USA.
5. Contracting Parties shall inform the Executive Secretary before 01 December 2013 of the measures to be taken to ensure that total catches do not exceed the levels indicated.
6. The allocation to these Contracting Parties are as yet undetermined, although their sum shall not exceed the difference between the total of allocations to other Contracting Parties and the TAC (= 29.458 tons).
7. In 2005, the previous 935 t “Others” quota was assigned to three Contracting Parties. When the TAC exceeds 30,000 t the next 1,300 t beyond 30,000 will be allocated to an Others quota which can be accessed by those who do not hold Greenland halibut allocation. In deciding the relevant contributions of Contracting Parties to the 1,300 t Others quota, the Fisheries Commission will take into account the fact that some Contracting Parties received a benefit from the 935 t quota which was reassigned in 2005.
8. Not more than 3250 tons may be fished before 01 July 2014.
9. The provisions of Article 6, paragraph 1.b) of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures shall apply.
10. In the case of the NEAFC decision which modifies the level of TAC in 2014 as compared to 2013, these figures shall be accordingly adjusted by NAFO and formalized through a mail vote.
11. Including fishing entitlements of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union and in accordance with sharing arrangements of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission at its Annual Meeting in 2003 (FC Working Paper 03/7).
12. Including allocations of 1571 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania out of a sharing of 20,000 tonnes, following their accession to the European Union.
13. Allocations of 128 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania as well as 227 tonnes for Poland out of a TAC of 34,000 tonnes, following their accession to the European Union.
14. Including allocations of 48 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland out of a TAC of 4,300 tonnes, following their accession to the European Union.
15. Allocation of 17.85% to Lithuania and 2.15% to Latvia following their accession to the European Union.
16. Applicable to 2014 and 2015.
17. The quota shares in footnotes 4 and 15 can only be fished in the NAFO Regulatory Area. If an increase in the overall TAC as defined in footnote 10 leads to an increase in these shares, the first 500 tonnes of that increase shall be added to the quota share referred to in footnote 4.
18. Including an allocation of 375 tonnes for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union.
19. Notwithstanding the provisions of footnote 8 and Article 5.2 (b) and without prejudice to future agreements on allocations, these quotas may be fished in their entirety by these Contracting Parties.
20. Applicable to 2014, 2015 and 2016.
21. In lieu of Article 6.1 (a) and (b) of the CEM, the following by-catch provisions for American plaice only in the 3LNO yellowtail fishery shall apply: Contracting Parties fishing for yellowtail flounder allocated under the NAFO allocation table will be restricted to an overall Am. plaice by-catch harvest limit equal to 15% of their total yellowtail fishery as calculated in accordance with Article 6.1 (c). If a Scientific Council projection indicates that this rate is likely to undermine stock recovery or cause an unreasonable delay in reaching B_{lim} , this rate may be subject to a reassessment by the Fisheries Commission.
22. Following the NAFO annual meeting and prior to January 1 of the succeeding year, at the request of the USA, Canada will transfer 1000 tonnes of its 3LNO yellowtail quota to the USA.
23. The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1998 Quota Table. In 1999, a moratorium on cod in Division 3M was declared.

24. The allocation key of this stock is based on the 1997 Quota Table. In 1998, a moratorium on redfish in Division 3LN was declared.
25. Including fishing entitlements of 161 tons each for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in accordance with sharing arrangements of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission at its Annual Meeting in 2003 (FC Working Paper 03/7) and allocation of 552 tons for Poland following their accession to the European Union.
26. Including fishing entitlements of 346 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania in accordance with sharing arrangements of the former USSR quota adopted by the Fisheries Commission at its Annual Meeting in 2003 (FC Working Paper 03/7) following their accession to the European Union.
27. Should a Contracting Party experience higher than normal catches per unit of effort (CPUE) and conclude that a shift to high availability levels of white hake during the fishing season – such as what was apparently the case in 2002 and 2003 – is taking place, then that Contracting Party shall notify the Executive Secretary and submit a summary of evidence for its conclusion (higher than normal CPUE and any other additional relevant information). On this basis, a mail vote will be submitted to the Fisheries Commission as to whether an exceptional increase in the availability of fish occurs. The TAC shall remain at 1000t until the results of the vote are complete and the catch limitation provided for in Annex I. A. of the NCEM will apply. In case of a positive vote, the TAC is confirmed to be 2,000 metric tons. In the case of negative vote, the TAC shall remain at 1,000 metric tons.

**Effort Allocation Scheme for Shrimp Fishery in the
NAFO Regulatory Area Div. 3M, 2014**

CONTRACTING PARTY	NUMBER OF FISHING DAYS¹	NUMBER OF VESSELS¹
Canada	0	0
Cuba	0	0
Denmark		
Faroe Islands	0	0
Greenland		0
European Union	0	0
France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon)	0	0
Iceland	N/A	N/A
Japan	0	0
Korea	0	0
Norway	0	0
Russia	0	N/A
Ukraine	0	0
USA	0	0

¹When the scientific advice estimates that the stock shows signs of recovery, the fishery shall be re-opened in accordance with the effort allocation key in place for this fishery at the time of the closure.