

**Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization**

**2006 Annual Meeting Press Release**

**22 September 2006**

**NAFO Reform in Full Swing**

**DARTMOUTH, NS, CANADA** –The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) made great progress with its ground-breaking reform agenda during the annual meeting from 18-22 September 2006. About 200 delegates from 12 member countries were able to resolve a number of issues related to an integrated oceans management approach, strengthened decision-making processes and improved control of the fisheries in the international waters of the Northwest Atlantic.

**NAFO Moving Towards an Ecosystem Approach**

NAFO is committed to an ecosystem approach to fisheries management which will be reflected in the Convention. The new provisions include an expansion of NAFO's mandate to minimize harmful impact on living marine resources and marine ecosystems, and that preserve marine biological diversity.

**NAFO Toughens Monitoring, Control and Surveillance**

NAFO adopted measures to strengthen the follow-up of infringements and to ensure the application of sanctions against vessels committing serious infringements. Other important provisions restrict port access for vessels that engage in illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. These measures go hand in hand with the new blacklist for IUU vessels that NAFO will publish for the first time on its website.

**NAFO Will Improve Decision-Making**

NAFO is developing an improved decision making process within the Organization. A new objection procedure is being considered to place extra burden on individual parties that do not want to implement Commission decisions. The planned provisions foresee a mechanism for impartial review panels and dispute settlement procedures.

**NAFO Undertakes Important Efforts to Protect Seamounts**

NAFO takes an important first step to protect sensitive deepwater habitats such as seamounts and corals. Delegates decided to impose a ban on bottom trawling on seamounts in the Northwest Atlantic. In addition, Scientific Council has been requested to assess corals in the NAFO Convention Area which will allow their future protection.

**NAFO Adopts a Resolution to Reduce Sea Turtle Mortality**

NAFO adopted a resolution that will contribute to the protection of sea turtles and expand our knowledge of these vulnerable animals in the Northwest Atlantic. Measures in this regard will include reducing the bycatch of sea turtles in fishing operations, extensive scientific data collection programmes, and the sharing of data with other international organizations.

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**Additional highlights of the meeting can be found in the attached background.**

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**2006 Annual Meeting (18 – 22 September 2006)**

## **Backgrounder**

France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon) celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of joining NAFO and invited all to a beautiful reception on Wednesday evening. During this occasion the Préfet de Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, Monsieur Yves Fauquer, addressed NAFO delegates, stressing the importance of fishery resources for the population of Saint Pierre et Miquelon.

The **General Council** was chaired by David Bevan (Canada). It discussed the new Convention text and reviewed administrative matters.

Under the chairmanship of Antonio Vázquez (EU) the **Scientific Council** conducted assessments of fish stocks in the NAFO Convention Area during its three meetings over the last 12 months and reported its recommendations to Fisheries Commission. Highlights included that shrimp stocks continue to be strong in the Northwest Atlantic together with yellowtail flounder that has been on a recovery path since 1997. Thorny skate biomass continues to be stable but at a lower level than during the mid-1990s. On the other hand, many other stocks are at low levels and the Scientific Council had to advise that a moratorium for nine stocks needed to be maintained.

The Scientific Council noted a continuous warming of the sea in the Northwest Atlantic since the mid-1990s.

The meeting was preceded by an international **Symposium entitled “Environmental and Ecosystem Histories in the Northwest Atlantic – What Influences Living Marine Resources?”** 58 participants reviewed climatic, physical and biological factors, dynamics and comparisons of the ecosystems, as well as social and economic consequences of change throughout the Northwest Atlantic area.

The next NAFO symposium will be held in October 2007 and is entitled “Reproductive and Recruitment Processes in Exploited Marine Fish Stocks”. The objective of the symposium is to review the reproduction, early life history, and recruitment in exploited fish. It will take place in Lisbon, Portugal after the Annual Meeting 2007.

**NAFO Fisheries Commission**, chaired by Vladimir Shibanov (Russian Federation) discussed and adopted a number of fishery measures for the NAFO Regulatory Area. **Attached is the table of Total Allowable Catches (TAC) and quotas agreed at this session.**

### **Meetings**

Prior to the Annual Meeting, the following NAFO meetings were held during 2006: (1) Working Group on Reform (Montreal, Canada, 25-28 April); (2) Scientific Council Regular Meeting (Dartmouth, N.S., Canada, 1-15 June); (3) Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) (Copenhagen, Denmark, 12-15 June). (4) Working Group on Reform (Lunenburg County, NS, Canada, 12-15 September).

The meeting was attended by about 200 delegates from twelve 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, Russia, Ukraine and United States of America.

NAFO Executive Secretary

22 September 2006, Dartmouth, NS, Canada

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**Annex I.A**  
**Annual Quota Table**

QUOTA TABLE. Total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas (metric tons) for 2007 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	Cod			Redfish				American plaice		Yellowtail	Witch	
Division/Contracting Party	3L	3M	3NO	3LN	3M	3O	Sub-Area 2 and Div. 1F+3K	3LNO	3M	3LNO	3L	3NO
Canada		0	0	0	500	6000	520 <sup>2,4</sup>	0	0	14624 <sup>5</sup>		0
Cuba		0	-	0	1750		520 <sup>2,4</sup>	-	-	-		-
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		0	-	-	69		13010 <sup>2,3</sup>	-	-	-		-
European Union		0 <sup>11</sup>	0 <sup>11</sup>	0 <sup>11</sup>	7813 <sup>12</sup>	7000	13010 <sup>2,3</sup> 3383 <sup>2,15</sup>	0	0 <sup>11</sup>	-		0 <sup>11</sup>
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-	-	-	69		520 <sup>2,4</sup>	-	-	300 <sup>5</sup>		-
Iceland		-	-	-	-		13010 <sup>2,3</sup>	-	-	-		-
Japan		-	-	-	400	150	520 <sup>2,4</sup>	-	-	-		-
Korea		-	-	-	69	100	520 <sup>2,4</sup>	-	-	-		-
Norway		0	-	-	-		13010 <sup>2,3</sup>	-	-	-		-
Russia		0	0	0	9137	6500	13010 <sup>2,3</sup>	-	0	-		0
Ukraine						150	520 <sup>2,4</sup>					
United States of America		-	-	-	69		520 <sup>2,4</sup>	-	-	-		-
Others		0	0	0	124	100	-	0	0	76 <sup>5</sup>		0
TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH	*	* <sup>16</sup>	*	*	5000 <sup>8</sup>	20000	16914 <sup>10,17</sup>	*	* <sup>16</sup>	15000 <sup>9</sup>	*	* <sup>16</sup>

Species	White hake	Capelin	Skates	Greenland halibut	Squid (Illex) <sup>1</sup>	Shrimp	
Division/Contracting Party	3NO	3NO	3LNO	3LMNO	Sub-areas 3+4	3L	3NO
Canada	2500	0	2250	1778	N.S. <sup>6</sup>	18325	
Cuba		0		-	510	245	
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)		-		206	-	245	
European Union	5000	0 <sup>11</sup>	8500	6951 <sup>18</sup>	<u>N.S.</u> <sup>6</sup> 611 <sup>13</sup>	1225 <sup>14</sup>	
France (St. Pierre et Miquelon)		-		194	453	245	
Iceland		-		-	-	245	
Japan		0		1215	510	245	
Korea		-		-	453	245	
Norway		0		-	-	245	
Russia	500	0	2250	1512	749	245	
Ukraine				-		245	
United States of America		-		-	453	245	
Others	500	-	500	0 <sup>7</sup>	794	0	
<b>TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH</b>	<b>8500</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>13500</b>	<b>11856</b>	<b>34000</b>	<b>22000</b>	<b>*</b>

\* Ban on fishing in force – The provisions of Article 9, paragraph 3 shall apply.

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 Contracting Parties shall notify the Executive Secretary every second week of catches taken by its vessels from this allocation until accumulated reported catch reaches 50%, after which time weekly notification shall apply. 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 1 December 2006 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 1300 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. Each Contracting Party shall notify the Executive Secretary every second week of catches taken by its vessels from this stock until accumulated reported catch reaches 50%, after which time weekly notification shall apply. Not more than 2500 tons may be fished before July 1, 2007. The Executive Secretary shall notify without delay all Contracting Parties of the date on which, for this stock, accumulated reported catch taken by vessels of the Contracting Parties is estimated to equal 50% and then 100% of the TAC.
9. The provisions of Article 9, paragraph 3 of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures shall apply.
10. In the case of the NEAFC decision which modifies the level of TAC in 2007 as compared to 2006, 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 245 tonnes each for Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland out of a TAC of 22000 tonnes, following their accession to the European Union
15. Allocation of 3019 tonnes for Lithuania and 364 tonnes to Latvia following their accession to the European Union.
16. Applicable to 2007 and 2008.
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 389 tonnes for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania following their accession to the European Union.

**Annex I.B**  
**Effort Allocation Scheme for Shrimp Fishery in the**  
**NAFO Regulatory Area Div. 3M, 2007**

CONTRACTING PARTY	NUMBER OF FISHING DAYS	NUMBER OF VESSELS
<b>Canada</b>	456	16
<b>Cuba</b>	100	1
<b>Denmark</b>		
– Faroe Islands	1606	8
– Greenland	515	14
<b>European Union</b>	3293 <sup>1</sup>	33 <sup>1</sup>
<b>France (in respect of St Pierre et Miquelon)</b>	100	1
<b>Iceland</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>Japan</b>	100	1
<b>Korea</b>	100	1
<b>Norway</b>	1985	32
<b>Russia</b>	2100	N/A
<b>Ukraine</b>	100	1
<b>USA</b>	100	1

<sup>1</sup> Including fishing entitlements transferred from Poland (100 fishing days with one vessel), Estonia (1667 fishing days with 8 vessels), Latvia (490 fishing days with 4 vessels) and Lithuania (579 fishing days with 7 vessels) following their accession to the European Union.