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**Report of the NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council
Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG) Meeting**

26 February 2025
via Webex

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1. Opening by co-Chair, Kathy Sosebee (United States of America)

The co-Chair, Kathy Sosebee (United States of America), opened the meeting at 09:01 hours (UTC -4 hours) on Wednesday, 26 February 2025 via Webex, and welcomed representatives from Canada, European Union, Japan, Russian Federation, and Ukraine (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat was appointed as rapporteur.

3. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted, as outlined in Annex 2.

4. Review of the current CESAG method

The co-Chair opened the discussions by reflecting on informal conversations that have been held in recent Scientific Council meetings relating to possible enhancements to the current CESAG method outlined in Annex 1 of [COM-SC Doc. 17-08](#).

a. Possible inclusion of logbook (haul by haul) data

The terms of reference for CESAG include a specific duty to consider and identify potential refinements of the catch estimate strategy, including the incorporation of haul-by-haul data within the strategy ([COM-SC Doc. 17-09](#)). Based on discussions in the Scientific Council and WG-ESA, it was noted that since the submission rates for the haul-by-haul data have improved in recent years, it could be included in the CESAG method. The NAFO Secretariat noted that the current timeline for the submission of the haul-by-haul data is 60 days following the end of a trip. This could make it difficult to have all the data available to meet the 01 May submission deadline to submit the CESAG data to the Scientific Council. CESAG agreed to recommend that the Commission review the timeline for the submission of haul-by-haul data.

Additionally, CESAG requested the NAFO Secretariat explore the inclusion of the haul-by-haul data into the CESAG method for presentation and discussion at the next CESAG meeting, with potential options for further aggregating / anonymizing the data, along with an update of the various data sources that are available at the NAFO Secretariat for estimating catches. It was noted that some Contracting Parties submitting data through part 4 of the CESAG method (Annex 1 of [COM-SC Doc. 17-08](#)) will have issues providing higher resolution data based on domestic privacy requirements.

b. Possible inclusion of all species in the CESAG method

The Scientific Council Chair, Diana González-Troncoso (European Union) highlighted the Scientific Council discussions around the need for catches for all species to facilitate the total catch index (TCI) calculations in the Scientific Council. The NAFO Secretariat noted that CESAG has been including all species for the catches in the NAFO Regulatory Area starting in 2020 ([COM-SC Doc. 20-02](#)), but that all species are not included for those Contracting Parties submitting data through part 4 of the CESAG method (Annex 1 of [COM-SC Doc. 17-08](#)). It was reiterated that those Contracting Parties submitting data through part 4 of the CESAG method will be unable to provide data for all species based on domestic privacy requirements.

CESAG also reflected on the importance of the STATLANT 21 data, noting it is a long-standing data source with the official catch statistics that are used for various purposes throughout the organization and encouraged Contracting Parties to ensure STATLANT data is submitted within the specified timelines and to work to address the existing data gaps identified by the Scientific Council at its June 2024 meeting.

5. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

6. Recommendations

CESAG recommended that:

- the NAFO Secretariat explore the haul-by-haul data to determine the feasibility of its incorporation in the CESAG method.
- the NAFO Secretariat continue to provide catch estimates for all species, based on the CESAG method protocol as outlined in Annex 1 of [COM-SC Doc. 17-08](#).
- the Commission review the 60-day timeline for the submission of haul-by-haul data, outlined in Article 28.8(c) of the NAFO CEM.

7. Date and time of next meeting

The CESAG catch estimates from 2024 will be finalized through correspondence. The next meeting will be held in autumn 2025.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 hours (UTC -4 hours).

Annex 1. List of Participants

CO-CHAIRS	Sosebee, Kathy (United States of America)
CANADA	Fagan, Robert Johnson, Kate Krohn, Martha Rowsell, Nicole Simpson, Mark
EUROPEAN UNION	Alpoim, Ricardo Garrido, Irene Gonçalves, Patrícia González-Costas, Fernando González-Troncoso, Diana
JAPAN	Kenji, Taki
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	Tairov, Temur
UKRAINE	Honcharuk, Ihor Varetska, Hanna
NAFO SECRETARIAT	Aker, Jana Bell MacCallum, Dayna Benediktsdóttir, Brynhildur LeFort, Lisa Perreault, Andrea

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by co-Chair, Kathy Sosebee (United States of America)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Review of the current CESAG method
 - a. Possible inclusion of logbook (haul by haul) data
 - b. Possible inclusion of all species in the CESAG method
5. Other Business
6. Recommendations
7. Date and time of next meeting
8. Adjournment