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Publication of the NAFO register of fishing vessels and authorizations

Background

Several RFMOs have taken steps towards disclosing the register of notified fishing vessels to the public, including the details of the authorizations to operate under the auspices of the relevant RFMO. As agreed at the 2019 NAFO Annual Meeting, NAFO publishes in its website the identification of vessel notified to fish in NAFO in accordance with Article 25 of the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM). However, this vessel register does not include authorizations data or the details of the vessels other than flag state, name and call sign.

The publication of the authorization and vessels' details improves the transparency of the RFMO and allows the operators to confirm the status of their authorizations. For these purposes, the information in the public register and active authorizations should be public and updated following a modification of the authorizations notified by the flag State Contracting Party. The information on authorizations to be public should include the notifications to fish "Others" quotas.

As a safeguard for personal data protection and confidentiality, the public register of fishing vessels and authorizations should not include the names and addresses of the owner(s) and, where applicable, the charterers.

Proposal

Amend Article 25.13 of the NAFO CEM as follows:

13. Subject to the appropriate confidentiality requirements, the Executive Secretary:

(a) posts the register referred to in paragraph 12, to the NAFO MCS Website and ensures that it is made available to all Contracting Parties;

(b) posts in the public part of the NAFO Website:

(i) the register referred to in paragraph 12 except for the information referred to in paragraph 8(f); and

(ii) for fishing vessels with an active notification referred to in Article 5.3(e), the vessel identification, authorization date and relevant stock; and

(cb) deletes from the register any vessel that has not conducted fishing activities in the Regulatory Area for a period of two consecutive years, or that has been classified as IUU.