

**46<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF NAFO - SEPTEMBER 2024**

**Squid Fishery**

**Background**

- (1) A serious infringement could be identified with respect to paragraph 1 of Article 38 of NAFO CEM, if the non-targeted stock unintentionally comprises the largest percentage in weight in a situation where the mesh size required for the targeted stock under paragraph 2 of Article 13 is not complied with. It is understood that the targeted stock is the stock for which a vessel conducts “directed fishery” defined in paragraph 2 of Article 5 of NAFO CEM.
- (2) For example, when fishing for squid with the legal mesh size (60 mm), however, in reality, there might be a possibility that redfish can be by-caught accidentally and it comprises the largest percentage in weight. Since the mesh size requirement for the redfish fishery is no smaller than 90 mm or 130 mm, this fishery operation could be identified with infringement against the mesh size requirement. This possibility deprived Japanese vessels of their fishing opportunity to fish for squid as a result.
- (3) To address this issue, Japan proposed a derogation by modifying Article 11 of NAFO CEM, and this was adopted at 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting last year. Following this derogation, Japan intended to conduct the first Squid Fishery scheduled from 21st August to 2nd September, duration of which had been reported to the Secretariat in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 7. However, considering the effect of Hurricane Ernesto, the vessel adjusted the original plan and conducted it in division 30 on 1<sup>st</sup> September, but squid (*Illex*) was not caught by this haul and the move on rule was triggered in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 5.
- (4) Recognizing that this derogation continues to be necessary to ensure opportunity for squid fishery and collection useful data, Japan proposes to keep this derogation until 2026 and collect as many practical data as possible, with following necessary modification to Article 11 of NAFO CEM. Japan believes that this would also contribute to possible development of a new solution to minimize catch of by-catch or non-target species.

**Modifications**

**Article 11 – Squid**

**Duty of the Executive Secretary**

9. The exemption referred to in paragraphs 2 to 8 shall apply during **2025 and 2026**, and be reviewed by STACTIC.