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Data Collection on Marine Pollution in the NAFO Regulatory Area

Under the 2017 Convention on Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, Contracting Parties are called “to minimize pollution and waste originating from fishing vessels.” Art. III(i). Currently, there is no infrastructure within the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (CEM) to effectively enforce this obligation. While Contracting Parties, as signatories to MARPOL Annex V., have some prescribed international obligations to eliminate and reduce the amount of garbage being discharged into the sea from ships, those requirements can quickly be diluted or lost without a clear mandate from NAFO. As a first step in developing a program that effectively manages and enforces against vessel pollution and waste in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA), it would be useful to understand the scope of the problem. In 2022, STACTIC requested that the NAFO Scientific Council provide some information related to this question. However, they were unable to devote the necessary resources to answer this question.

Therefore, in an effort to better understand what is occurring within the NRA, we recommend that observers record information related to pollution and waste. Specifically, under “Part 3: Trip Observations” of the Observer Report in Annex II.M of the NAFO CEM, provide specific space for observers to catalogue any observation or interaction with marine pollution or waste.

Part 3. Trip Observations

Enter observation on:

Observations	Y/N	Details
Any instance of obstruction, intimidation, interference with or otherwise prevention of the observer from performing his/her duties.		
Summary of potential non-compliance with the CEM (please include references)		
Functioning of the satellite tracking device (report all interruptions, interference and malfunctions)		
Transshipments (report all)		
At-Sea Inspections (report dates, times and any other observation)		
Waste or other marine debris (including position, date, time, and description of waste)		
Any other observation		