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[Adopted]

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

### **Initiation of a Performance Review of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization**

Given NAFO's significant progress implementing the recommendations of the 2018 Performance Review Panel, the United States and Canada propose that Contracting Parties initiate a new Performance Review process in 2025. NAFO has maintained a Performance Review Fund, which currently contains approximately 90 percent of the funds necessary for the next Review.

The United States and Canada propose that the Commission agree to establish a virtual working group that will meet intersessionally and develop recommendations for consideration at the 2026 Annual Meeting. The chair of STACFAD would chair the virtual working group. In addition, the chairs of Scientific Council, STACTIC, and the Commission should be members. In addition, any Contracting Party interested in participating in the virtual Working Group should designate a member and inform the Secretariat of their intent to participate. This virtual working group would:

- Discuss the scope and timeline for a third NAFO Performance Review.
- Develop draft Terms of Reference and criteria to conduct the third NAFO Performance Review.
  - This includes the composition of the review panel, the scope of the Review, and the work schedule, as well as the criteria for assessment of the performance of NAFO.
- Present these documents at the 2026 NAFO Annual Meeting to the Commission for review, and a recommendation on whether to launch the next Performance Review, if appropriate.

Given the success of the implementation of the 2018 Performance Review and ongoing concerns related to workload, the third Performance Review should focus on a smaller set of discrete issues, rather than a full, comprehensive review. Contracting Parties are encouraged to send potential topics to the working group for consideration.