

46th ANNUAL MEETING OF NAFO - SEPTEMBER 2024

**Annual Fisheries and Compliance Review 2024
(Compliance Report for Fishing Year 2023)**

1.0 Introduction

The scope of this review covers the fishing activities of NAFO-registered vessels (Article 25 of NAFO CEM) which operated in the NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA) in 2023¹ (see Figure 1.0).

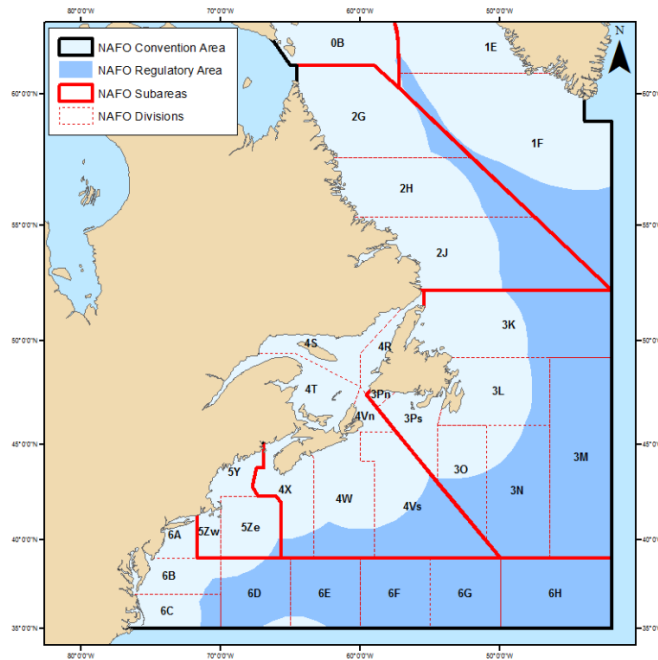


Figure 1.0. Divisions of the NAFO Convention Area and the Regulatory Area (dark blue).

This review was conducted in accordance with rules 5.1 and 5.2 of the NAFO Rules of Procedure. As part of the review process, the NAFO Secretariat compiled the 2023 information from a variety of data sources including vessel monitoring system (VMS), hail messages delivered by the vessels (Vessel Transmitted Information – VTI), electronic logbook (haul by haul) reports, port inspection reports (PSC3), at-sea inspection reports, reports on dispositions of infringements, and observer trip reports.

¹ According to Article 1.7 of the 2023 NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures (NAFO CEM), a fishing trip includes “the time from its entry into until its departure from the Regulatory Area and continues until all catch on board from the Regulatory Area is unloaded or transhipped”. All article and annex numbers in this report reference the 2023 NAFO CEM. Quantitative information presented in this report are summarized according to 2023 calendar year, unless otherwise indicated.

2.0 Fisheries in the NRA

2.1 Fishing effort by gear type

There are three main fisheries that take place within the NAFO Regulatory Area: groundfish (GRO - primarily in Divisions 3LMNO), shrimp (PRA in Division 3M), and pelagic redfish fisheries (REB - primarily in Divisions 1F and 2J). There was no directed fishing for shrimp in Division 3M or pelagic redfish in Divisions 1F and 2J in 2023. Table 2.2.1 summarizes the main fishing gears and fishing effort for trips in the NAFO Regulatory area that ended in 2023.

Bottom trawlers accounted for 95.36% of fishing effort in terms of fishing days, catching Atlantic cod, Greenland halibut, yellowtail flounder, redfish, thorny skate and silver hake in Divisions 3LMNO. Longline vessels accounted for 4.64% of the fishing effort catching Atlantic cod and Atlantic halibut.

Table 2.1.1. *Main fishing gears and fishing effort in the NAFO Regulatory Area for fishing trips that ended 2023.*

Fishing Gear	# Fishing vessels	# Fishing trips	Fishing days in NAFO RA	Main Species (FAO 3-alpha code)	NAFO Divisions
Longline	9	9	165	COD, HAL	3M, 3N, 3O
Bottom Trawl	25	70	3365	GHL, RED, HKS, YEL, SKA, COD	3L, 3M, 3N, 3O
Total	34	79	3530		

2.2 Effort distribution by depth in demersal fisheries other than shrimp

Hourly positions of fishing vessels are required to be transmitted through the VMS in accordance with Article 29.1 of the NAFO CEM. Figure 2.2.1 shows the distribution of fishing effort, in hours, for vessels fishing (assumed fishing speeds for the purpose of this analysis were between 0.5-5 knots) in Divisions 3LMNO. Most of the fishing effort in Divisions 3LMNO is at depths 500 meters and shallower, with an additional concentration of fishing effort around 1000 meters, which can be attributed to the Greenland halibut fishery.

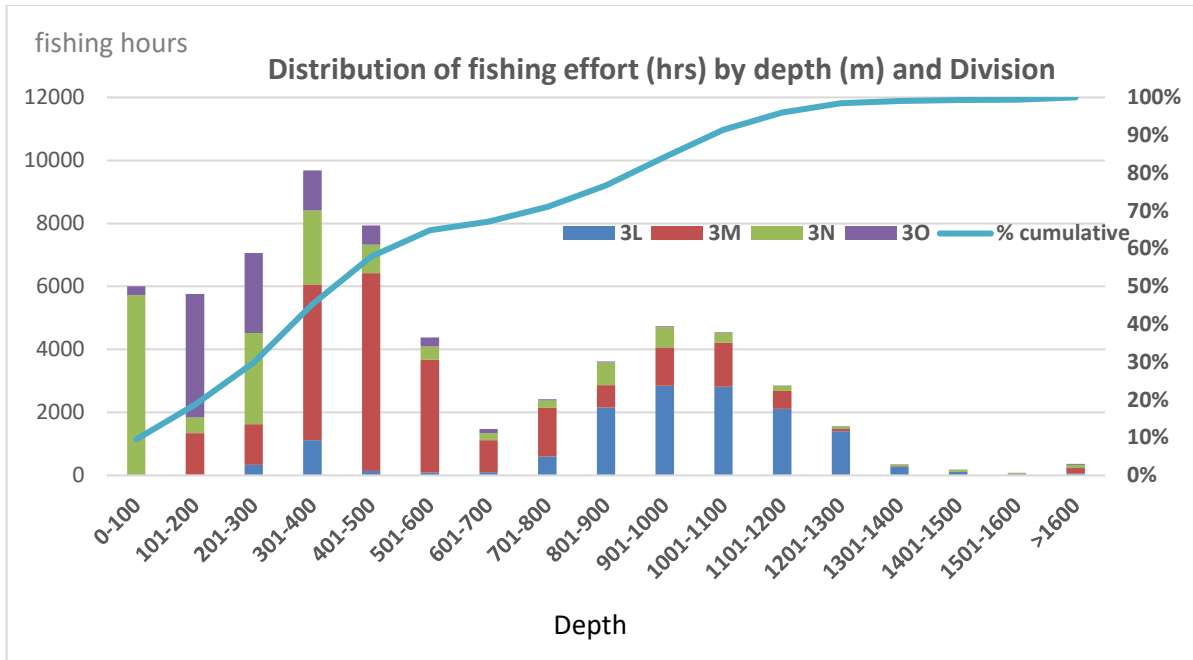


Figure 2.2.1. *Distribution of fishing effort (in hours) by depth (m) in the NRA in 2023. Vessels are assumed to be fishing at speed in the range of 0.5-5.0 knots.*

2.3 Catches in the NAFO Regulatory Area

A total of 49 786.56 t of fish (48 771.79 t retained + 1 014.77 t discarded) were caught by vessels authorized to fish in the Regulatory Area in 2023 (Tables 2.3.1 and 2.3.2).

Table 2.3.1 *Total reported retained catches (in tonnes) of species (in FAO 3-alpha code) by Division in calendar 2023 (Source: CA field of CAT Reports).*

Species	Common name	3L	3M	3N	3O	Total
<i>Species subject to catch limitations (as listed in Annex I of the NAFO CEM)</i>						
COD	Atlantic cod	61.90	6096.71	248.04	53.89	6460.54
GHL	Greenland halibut	6511.33	2206.16	673.98	0.86	9392.33
HKW	White hake			62.51	337.04	399.55
PLA	American plaice	45.21	105.59	398.94	79.60	629.34
RED	Atlantic redfishes nei	1648.98	9795.51	6492.29	3053.57	20990.35
SKA	Raja rays nei	56.96	26.73	1534.13	397.81	2015.63
WIT	Witch flounder	21.37	40.28	37.45	109.46	208.55
YEL	Yellowtail flounder			2512.30	4.70	2517.00
<i>Species not listed in Annex I</i>						
ANG	American angler			2.04	58.30	60.34
CAA	Atlantic wolffish		30.72	2.32		33.03
CAB	Northern wolffish			6.17		6.17
CAS	Spotted wolffish		17.63	0.95		18.58
CAT	Wolffishes		6.17			6.17
HAD	Haddock			1.15	29.28	30.42
HAL	Atlantic halibut	29.52	148.60	285.97	86.98	551.07
HKR	Red hake			0.13		0.13
HKS	Silver hake			158.34	5190.99	5349.33
RHG	Roughhead grenadier	21.15	19.55	31.56		72.25
RNG	Roundnose grenadier	20.07	2.85	3.63		26.56
USK	Tusk (Cusk)		2.99	1.45		4.44
TOTAL		8416.50	18499.49	12453.35	9402.46	48771.79

Table 2.3.2 Total reported rejected catches (in tonnes) of species (in FAO 3-alpha code) by Division in calendar year 2023 (Source: RJ field of CAT Reports).

Species	Common name	3L	3M	3N	3O	Total
<i>Species subject to catch limitations (as listed in Annex I of the NAFO CEM)</i>						
COD	Atlantic cod	0.04	4.36	1.50	0.00	5.90
GHL	Greenland halibut	1.18	0.73	0.05		1.95
HKW	White hake		0.01	0.10	4.71	4.82
PLA	American plaice	0.95	2.61	19.73	1.03	24.33
RED	Atlantic redfishes nei	0.72	2.03	0.19	0.84	3.77
SKA	Raja rays nei	1.98	11.92	58.42	0.38	72.71
WIT	Witch flounder	1.43	3.02	0.99	13.13	18.57
YEL	Yellowtail flounder			18.28	0.27	18.54
<i>Species not listed in Annex I</i>						
ALC	Baird's slickhead			0.30		0.30
ANG	American angler				0.08	0.08
ANT	Blue antimora	8.19	6.24	5.27		19.70
CAA	Atlantic wolffish	0.03	0.01	2.69		2.73
CAB	Northern wolffish		1.06	3.90		4.96
CAP	Capelin			3.25	0.02	3.26
CAS	Spotted wolffish	0.02		0.03		0.05
CAT	Wolffishes	17.24	42.43	6.79	1.43	67.89
CIN	Muksun		0.10			0.10
CRA	Marine crabs nei			0.01	0.09	0.10
CRJ	Jonah crab			0.08		0.08
CRK	Atlantic rock crab			0.25		0.25
CRQ	Queen crab			1.22	0.03	1.25
CUX	Sea cucumbers nei			136.40	0.15	136.55
GDE	Threadfin rockling	11.48	7.06	0.78		19.32
HAD	Haddock		0.30		0.05	0.35
HAL	Atlantic halibut			0.03	0.20	0.22
HKR	Red hake	1.46	1.83	0.31		3.60
HKS	Silver hake			3.86	89.70	93.56
JEL	Jellyfishes nei	1.03				1.03
MJW	Toad, lyre crabs nei			0.05		0.05
RHG	Roughhead grenadier	155.70	111.55	24.08	1.66	292.99
RNG	Roundnose grenadier	38.18	35.17	11.56		84.91
SAN	Sandeels nei			0.14		0.14
SCU	Sculpins			4.88		4.88
SWO	Swordfish		0.42		0.33	0.75
<i>Sharks</i>						
BSK	Basking shark		1.60		3.00	4.60
CFB	Black dogfish			0.11		0.11
DGS	Picked dogfish		0.13		0.01	0.14
DGX	Dogfish sharks nei	1.95	3.07	1.08	0.52	6.62
DUS	Dusky shark		0.35			0.35
GSK	Greenland shark	36.35	46.63	14.30	3.50	100.78
POR	Porbeagle		0.24	0.56	5.14	5.93
SHX	Dogfish sharks, etc. nei	0.16	0.05	1.38		1.59
SKX	Sharks, rays, skates, etc. nei			0.05	0.26	0.31
SMA	Shortfin mako		1.34	2.42	0.56	4.32
SRX	Rays, stingrays, mantas nei		0.40			0.40
TOTAL		278.07	284.65	324.99	127.06	1014.77

3.0 Inspection and Surveillance

Chapter VI of the NAFO CEM outlines the general provisions and protocols for the at-sea inspection and surveillance scheme in the NRA. Canada, the European Union, and the United States of America deployed patrol vessels and their inspectors in the NRA in 2023.

3.1 Patrol Activity

In 2023, seven (7) patrol vessels were deployed in the NAFO Regulatory Area by Contracting Parties with an inspection presence, accounting for 183 patrol-days (Table 3.1). There were 216 days with no patrol vessel, 117 days when there was one patrol vessel, and 32 days when there was more than one patrol vessel present in the NRA. Figure 3.1 shows the time of the year the patrol vessels were present in the NRA in relation to the number of fishing vessels present. In addition, Canada deployed surveillance aircraft, collectively flying 388 hours, with 556 vessel sightings in the NRA. The European Union completed a total of 10 RPAS flight hours, with five (5) sightings.

Table 3.1 *The total number of patrol vessels, patrol vessel deployments, and patrol days in the NAFO Regulatory area in 2023 by Contracting Party with Inspection Presence.*

Contracting Party with Inspection Presence	Number of Patrol Vessels	Number of Deployments	Number of Patrol Days
Canada	3	18	87
European Union	3	7	88
United States of America	1	1	8
Total	7	26	183

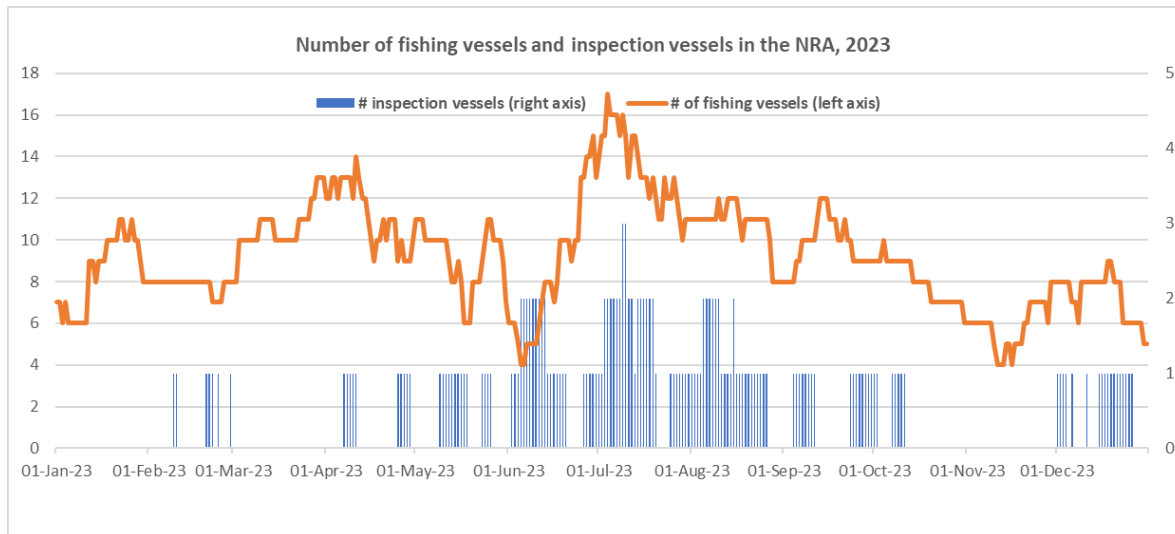


Figure 3.1 *Fishing vessel and inspection vessel presence in the NAFO Regulatory Area in 2023.*

3.2 At-sea inspections

A total of 72 at-sea inspections were conducted in 2023, and seven (7) inspections resulted in the issuance of infringements, five (5) of which were considered serious. In total, there were twelve infringements issued in 2023 during at-sea inspections. A summary of the infringements and their disposition can be found in Section 4.2. Table 3.2 outlines the total number of at-sea inspections completed by each Contracting Party.

Table 3.2. *The number of at-sea inspections completed by each inspection Contracting Party (Canada, the European Union, and the United States of America) for each flag State Contracting Party participating in fishing activities.*

CP	Number of inspections by Canada					Number of inspections by the European Union					Number of Inspections by the United States of America**	
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2022	2023
CAN	4*	4*	8	1	0	0	2	2	2	3	0	0
DFG	3	0	3	1	0	1	1	0	5	6	0	0
EU	64	8	25	37	20	21	25	22	20	28	4	2
FRA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JPN	0	0	1	0	0	2	3	2	2	2	0	0
NOR	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
RUS	11	0	3	3	3	1	4	0	2	6	0	1
USA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Inspections completed in accordance with domestic procedures.

** During the period of 2019-2023, the United States of America deployed an inspection vessel in the NRA in 2022 and 2023.

3.3 Port inspections

Under Article 10.4(e) of the NAFO CEM, landings of Greenland halibut from Divisions 2+3KLMNO are subject to port inspections if the quantity of this stock on board represents either more than 5% of the total catch or more than 2 500kg. In evaluating compliance with the port inspection measures outlined in Article 10 of the NAFO CEM, a total of 49 trips met the criteria of having more than 5% of the total catch or more than 2 500kg of Greenland halibut on board. Port inspection reports (PSC3s) were received for 48 of the 49 trips, therefore there is a 98% port inspection coverage, as shown in Table 3.3.1.1.

Table 3.3.1.1 *Fishing trips in Divisions 3LMNO with Greenland halibut (GHL) catch (based on Daily Catch Reports for the trip) and percent coverage of port inspections for the identified trips, by flag State.*

Flag State CP	Number of identified trips by vessels larger than 24 m: trip with GHL catch > 2.5t	Total amount of GHL from trips identified (t)	Port inspection CP	Number of identified trips with Port Inspection (PSC3)	Port Inspection Coverage (% based on identified trips with GHL catch)
EU	39	7154.8	EU	39	100%
JPN	4	1149.1	CAN	4	100%
RUS	6	1431.4	EU (3) NOR (2)*	5	83%
Overall	49	9735.3		48	98%

* This is a Russian landing in Båtsfjord, Norway. Norway failed to conduct the port state control as required by the CEM.

Pursuant to Article 7.6(c) of the NAFO CEM, landings or transshipments of cod from Division 3M were subject to a 25% inspection benchmark for vessels with more than 1 250kg onboard in 2023. In evaluating compliance for 2023 with the port inspection measures outlined in Article 7.6(c) of the NAFO CEM, 38 trips with more than 1 250kg of 3M Cod on board were identified. Port inspection reports (PSC3s) from 34 trips were received, resulting in an 89% coverage rate, as shown in Table 3.3.1.2. The trips without a PSC3 had a total of 889 t onboard according to the CAT reports.

Table 3.3.1.2 *Fishing trips with 3M cod catch (based on Daily Catch (CAT) Reports for the trip) and percent coverage of port inspections for the identified trips, by flag State.*

Flag State CP	Number of identified trips by vessels 3M Cod catch > 1250 kg	Total amount of 3M COD from trips identified (t)	Port inspection CP	Number of identified trips with Port Inspection (PSC3)	Port Inspection Coverage (% based on identified trips with 3M Cod catch)
DFG	8	1626.2	DFG	4	50%
EU	26	3203.6	EU	26	100%
NOR	1	845.5	NOR	1	100%
RUS	3	377.7	EU	3	100%
Overall	38	6052.9		34	89%

According to Article 43.10 of the NAFO CEM, the port State Contracting Party shall carry out inspections of at least 15% of all such landings or transshipments by vessels flagged to other Contracting Parties during each reporting year. In evaluating compliance with port State Control measures outlined in Chapter VII of the NAFO CEM, a review of the submission of port State Control Prior Request (PSC1) forms and port inspection reports (PSC3) is presented in Table 3.3.2. The minimum coverage of 15% (Article 43.10) was met by all port State Contracting Parties.

Table 3.3.2 *The number of PSC1s and corresponding PSC3s received by the NAFO Secretariat relating to the inspection of landings or transshipments by vessels flagged to other Contracting Party.*

Port State Contracting Party	PSC1 (prior request)	Number of PSC1's with intention to land/tranship catch	PSC3 (port inspection report)	% Coverage (#PSC3 received /#PSC1 intention to land)
CAN	6	4	4	100%
EU	3	3	3	100%
GBR	1	0	0	-
NOR	3	3	2	67%

4.0 Compliance

In this section, reporting obligations, including follow-up actions to infringements are examined.

4.1 Reporting obligations

The NAFO CEM requires fishing vessels and flag State Contracting Parties (through the Fisheries Monitoring Centre - FMC) to provide reports on the fishing activity within a determined time frame.

4.1.1 Vessel Activity Reporting

4.1.1.1 Vessel Transmitted Information (VTI) – Catch-on-Entry (COE), Daily Catch Reports (CAT), and Catch-on-Exit (COX)

The FMCs are responsible for transmitting the VTI reports to the NAFO Secretariat. The COE and COX messages are transmitted at least 6 hours in advance of entry and exit to and from the NRA and identify the amount of catch on board. The CATs contain a record of the daily catch (retained and rejected) reported by species and Division while on a fishing trip. The daily catch reports are used to monitor the quota uptake of the Contracting Parties.

Table 4.1.1.1 outlines the number of COE, COX, and CAT reports received by the NAFO Secretariat, as well as of fishing trips and fishing effort-days in the NRA. All identified 2023 fishing trips had corresponding COE and COX messages. No major technical issues were encountered in transmission and receipt of the VTI reports.

Table 4.1.1.1 *Fishing effort and VTI statistics in the NRA 2023.*

Number of fishing trips identified	79
Fishing Days ¹	3 530
Number of Daily Catch Reports (CATs) ²	3 688
Number of Trips with Catch on Entry Reports (COEs)	79
Number of Trips with Catch on Exit Reports (COXs)	79

¹ Estimate based on EXI-ENT date of 2023 fishing year

² CATs of 2023 fishing year

4.1.1.2. Catch reporting on sharks

Article 28.6.g requires that all shark catches be reported at the species level, to the extent possible. When species specific reporting is not possible shark species shall be recorded as either large sharks (SHX) or dogfishes (DGX). Greenland shark constitutes most of the total shark catches by weight (see table 2.3.2), and the vast majority of shark catches were reported to be discarded according to the daily catch reports (CATs).

4.1.1.3 Fishing logbook (haul by haul) reports

The submission of logbook data to the NAFO Secretariat became mandatory in NAFO in 2015 (Article 28.8.c of the NAFO CEM). The fishing logbook information submitted to the NAFO Secretariat must contain, at a minimum, the information outlines in Annex II.N of the NAFO CEM. Out of the 79 fishing trips identified, logbook reports from 79 trips were received, resulting in 100% coverage for 2023.

4.1.1.4 Position reporting – VMS

According to Article 29, every fishing vessel operating in the NRA shall be equipped with a satellite monitoring device capable of continuous automatic transmission of position to its land-based FMC of the flag States, which in turn is transmitted to the Secretariat in real time. The transmission of position reports (POS) shall be no less frequently than once an hour.

The Secretariat can confirm that the requirement is fully complied with. Occasionally, technical problems were encountered by the fishing vessels or FMCs. During these events, the position reports were transmitted manually or queued and transmitted once the technical issues were resolved. Technical issues were usually resolved within a few days through the coordination between the Secretariat and the FMC.

4.1.1.5 Closed areas and exploratory fisheries

In 2023, there were 27 areas restricted bottom fishing activities in the NRA, including 15 areas to protect sponge, sea pen, and corals, and 12 seamount areas. The measures concerning the protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) from bottom fishing are stipulated in Chapter II of the NAFO CEM. No reports of vessels fishing within the VME closure boundaries were received.

4.1.1.6 Notifications on the use of Others Quota

There were 22 notifications on the use of Others Quota in 2023 relating to vessels from four (4) Contracting Parties. One infringement was issued relating to the timing of the notification of the intention to fish under the Others Quota in 2023, see table 4.2 for details. In 2023, the Others Quotas for 3NO white hake and 3LNO yellowtail flounder were fully utilized. The NAFO Secretariat circulated notifications on 12 July 2023 and 25 October 2023 respectively notifying Contracting Parties of the 100% quota uptake projections.

4.1.2 Observer Reports

Contracting Parties are required to ensure that their vessels have 100% observer coverage while conducting fishing activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area in accordance with Article 30.5 of the NAFO CEM. By way of derogation, Article 30.6 of the NAFO CEM allows for Contracting Parties to allow their vessels to carry an observer for less than 100%, but not less than 25% of the fishing trips conducted by its fleet in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

In evaluating the compliance to observer trip report submission (Article 30.14.a of the NAFO CEM), fishing trips were grouped according to the implementation of Article 30.5 or 30.6. Table 4.1.2 shows the observer coverage percentage, by Contracting Parties, based on the percentage of the submission of the observer trip reports.

Table 4.1.2 *Observer coverage based on the submission of observer trip reports, 2023. One Contracting Party issued a notification on the intention to invoke Article 30.6 of the NAFO CEM, which requires coverage no less than 25% during 2023.*

Contracting Party	Number of Identified Trips	Number of Trips with Observer Trip Reports	% Coverage under Art 30.5 (100% required)
CAN	11	11	100%
DFG ¹	8	1 ²	13%
EU	48	48	100%
JPN	4	4	100%
NOR	1	1	100%
RUS	7	7	100%

¹ Invoked Article 30.6 of the NAFO CEM. Required coverage is no less than 25%.

² During one observed trip, the observer was removed from the vessel due to illness mid-trip, and observer trip report was not received by the Secretariat.

4.1.3 Research activities

In 2023, three Contracting Parties, Canada, the European Union, and Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) submitted notifications for research activities in the NAFO Regulatory Area. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) notified that the scientific procedures for the 3M Cod survey would be conducted in connection with the commercial fishery.

Table 4.1.3. *A summary of the 2023 research plans received by the NAFO Secretariat in accordance with Article 4.3(b) of the NAFO CEM.*

Research plan number	Timelines for submission met (Article 4.3(c))?	Catches onboard retained with the purpose of marketing (Article 4.3(d))	Applicable with Article 4.3(d), complied with reporting requirements in Chapter IV (Article 4.3(d)(i))?	Applicable with Article 4.3(d), observer with sufficient expertise onboard (Article 4.3(d)(ii))?	Applicable with Article 4.3(d), catches counted against quota (Article 4.3(d)(iii))?
1	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
2	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
3	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	N/A
4	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

4.1.4 Chartering arrangements

Article 26 of the NAFO CEM outlines the provisions for chartering arrangements between two Contracting Parties: the chartering Contracting Party and the flag State Contracting Party of the fishing vessel. Catches by the chartered fishing vessel are counted against the quota of the chartering Contracting Party.

In 2023, there was one (1) chartering arrangement in place pertaining to yellowtail founder in Divisions 3LNO. Monitoring of the implementation of the chartering arrangements are made possible through the notifications of commencement, suspension, resumption, and termination, and the daily catch reports of the chartered fishing vessel. The submission of the required documentation (Article 26.7 and 26.8) and reporting of implementation dates (Article 26.9) were complied with by both parties of the chartering arrangement.

4.2 Infringements detected at-sea and at-port

In 2023, a total of eight (8) vessels were cited with an infringement by inspectors at sea and port authorities. Details on the nature of the infringements and their disposition are provided in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2 *Summary of infringements detected by inspectors at-sea and by port authorities in 2023 and their disposition. Infringements presented in bold were considered serious by the inspectors as per the NAFO CEM Article 38 definition.*

CP	Infringements detected at-sea. Serious Infringements in bold	Infringements detected in port (PSC3: Section E.1.B.c). Serious Infringements in bold	Follow-up to Infringements, as reported by the Contracting Party
EU		Fishing logbook; Production logbook; Exceeding bycatch limits; Stowage plan; Capacity plan; Product labelling; Gaining access to sealed areas	Case led by Portugal
EU	Failed to maintain accurate fishing logbook (Article 28.2(a)); Failed to maintain accurate production logbook (Article 28.3(a)); Failed to maintain accurate stowage plan (Article 28.5(a)); Failed to meet labelling requirements (Article 27.1, Article 27.2).	Fishing logbook; Production logbook; Stowage plan; Product labelling	Case pending. Case led by Portugal.
NOR	Product labelling requirements (Article 27.1)		Case closed. The Directorate of Fisheries have followed up the case, including a physical inspection of the vessel, and have taken administrative action in the form of giving the owner of the vessel written guidance in accordance with domestic legislation and practice. The vessel committed no serious or repeated infringements.
EU	Failed to maintain accurate fishing logbook (Article 28.2(a)); Failed to maintain accurate production logbook (Article 28.3(a)); Failed to		Case closed. CA inspectors notified the master in July of an infringement committed in the previous fishing trip (21 May). No infringements were detected during

CP	Infringements detected at-sea. Serious Infringements in bold	Infringements detected in port (PSC3: Section E.1.B.c). Serious Infringements in bold	Follow-up to Infringements, as reported by the Contracting Party
	Communicate catch reporting requirements (Article 28.6(c)).		Port inspection (5-22 June/Aveiro) related to that fishing trip.
DFG	Fishing an “Others Quota” without prior notification to the Executive Secretary (Article 38.1(a)).		Case closed FMC failure to send to SEC, notification from vessel to MCS website about fishing of “Others Quota”
RUS	Failure to comply with Master obligations to facilitate a boarding ladder in accordance with Annex IV.G.6		Case pending Case led by Russian Federation.
EU	Capacity plan certification (Article 25).		Case closed. Case led by Portugal. The master was not liable for an error in the capacity plan issued by PT administration.
RUS	Failed to accurately record catch (Article 26.2(2)); Failed to include disposition of catch per tow (Article 28.2(b)); Failed to report quantity discarded by species (Article 28.6(c)); Failure to report all catches of sharks in accordance with Article 28 (Article 12.1(a)); Misrecording of catches contrate to Article 28 (Article 38.1(i)).		Case pending Case led by Russian Federation.
CAN		Master conducted a directed tow for 3N PLA (under moratorium), contrary to Article 6.6(a) of the NCEMs	Case Closed. A complete Investigation was undertaken by CAN authorities in port , including a fully monitored offload of the vessel. The investigation undertaken confirmed the infringements issued. Consultation with the prosecution service determined that this infringement did not meet the threshold to proceed to prosecution. As result of this finding, the case has now been closed by CAN authorities.

4.3 Follow-up to infringements

Article 39 of the NAFO CEM outlines the obligations of a flag State Contracting Party that has been notified of an infringement. It includes taking immediate judicial or administrative action in conformity with the national legislation of the flag State Contracting Party and ensuring that sanctions applicable in respect of infringements are proportional to severity.

Article 40 requires Contracting Parties to report on the disposition of the infringements. The legal resolution of infringements may take more than a year. Contracting Parties shall continue to list such infringements on each subsequent report until it reports the final disposition of the infringement. Table 4.3 summarizes the status of infringement cases in the last five years (2019-2023) and their resolution.

Table 4.3 *Resolution of citations (by at-sea inspectors and port authorities) against vessels fishing in the NRA by year in which the citations were issued (as of April 2023). A citation is an inspection report that lists one or more infringement. Inspections carried out for confirming a previous citation are not included.*

Year	Number of Inspection Reports with an infringement citation	Number of Resolved Cases	Number of Pending Cases*	% Resolved
2019	7	7	0	100%
2020	5	4	1	80%
2021	12	7	5	58%
2022	16	8	8	50%
2023	10	5	5	50%

*still under investigation, litigation or appeal

5.0 Trends and Analysis

Five-year trends (2019-2023) on effort and catch, reporting obligations of Contracting Parties and observers, compliance by fishing vessels, and at-sea inspections, and infringements are presented in this section.

5.1 Effort and Catch

Table 5.1 *Fishing days, as defined by Article 1.6, by fishing gear.*

	Longline	Mid-water Trawl	Bottom trawl	Shrimp trawl	TOTAL
2019	321	56	4297	0	4674
2020	250	127	4224	21	4622
2021	169	0	4247	479	4895
2022	180	7	3709	0	3896
2023	165	0	3365	0	3530

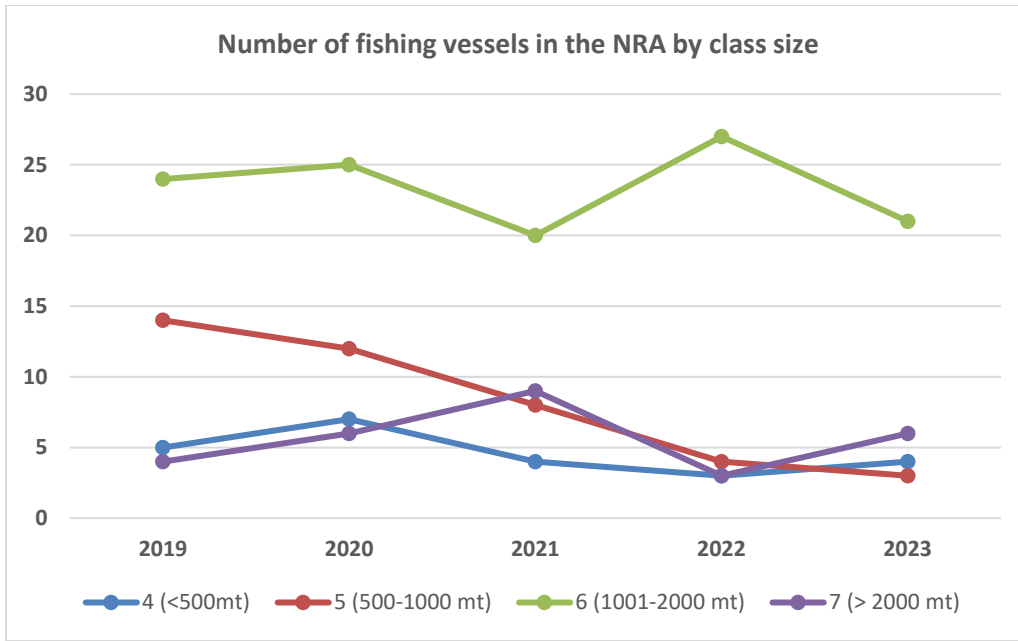


Figure 5.1.1 Number of fishing vessels that completed trips in the NRA in Divisions 3LMNO by class size, 2019-2023. The class sizes are based on the STATLANT classification.



Figure 5.1.2 Catches (in tonnes) by Division of selected species managed by TAC, 2019-2023 (Source: CATs).

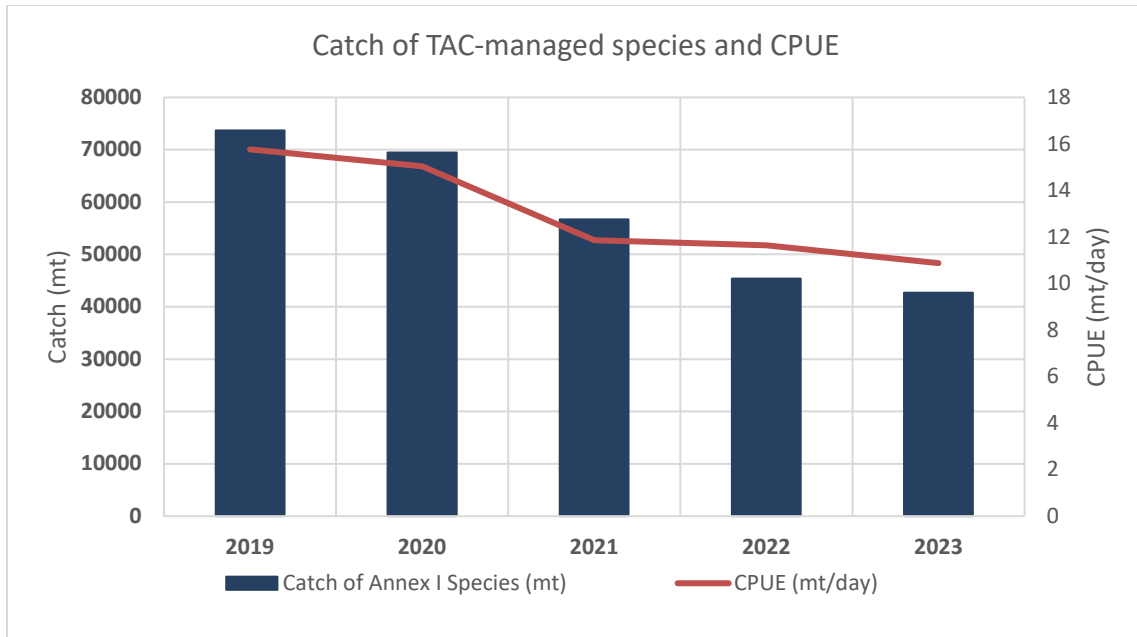


Figure 5.1.3 *Catch of TAC-managed species and CPUE in 2019 -2023, expressed in total catch of TAC-managed species per fishing day. Data Source: CAT reports.*

5.2 Reporting Obligations by Contracting Parties

Compliance relating to reporting obligations is quantified as a percentage coverage – the ratio of the fishing trips accounted for by the reports and of the total number of relevant fishing trips. A 100% coverage would mean that all expected reports were transmitted to the Secretariat. Figure 5.2 shows the submission rates in the period of 2019-2023. In 2023, the submission rates of electronic logbook reports (Article 28.8(c) of the NAFO CEM) and observer trip reports (Article 30.5 of the NAFO CEM) are 100% and 99% respectively.

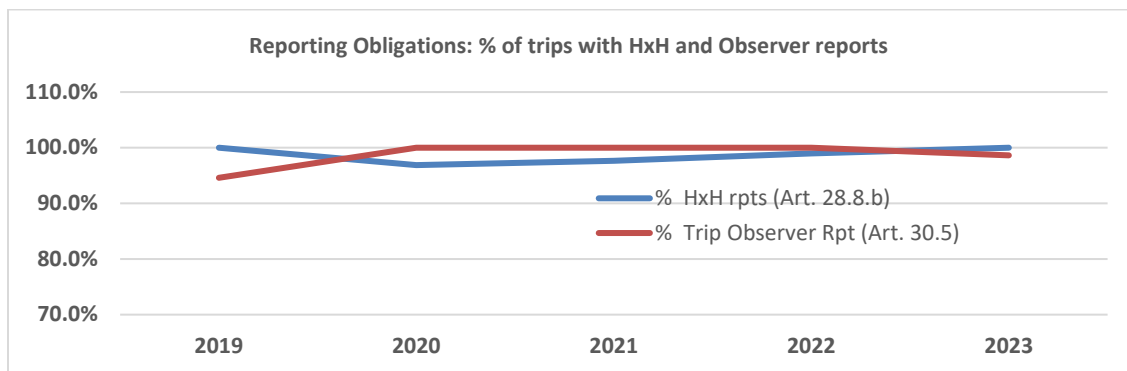


Figure 5.2 *Percent coverage of observer trip reports for fishing vessels (operating under Article 30.5), and logbook (haul by haul) reports (Article 28.8(c)), 2019-2023.*

5.3 Compliance by Fishing vessels

In the 5-year review period of 2019-2023, VMS and VTI requirements (Article 28 and 29) have been fully complied with. Hourly position reports (POS), as well as the daily catch reports by Division (CATs), were transmitted to the Secretariat while the vessels were in the NRA. The Catch-on-Entry (COE) and Catch-on-Exit (COX) reports for each fishing trip were also transmitted.

5.4 Inspections and Infringements

At-sea inspection rates, computed as a ratio of the number of at-sea inspections and the total fishing effort (fishing days), in the period 2019-2023 are presented in Figure 5.4.1. The inspection rate continues to increase from its lowest level in 2020, from 0.9% to 2.02% in 2023.

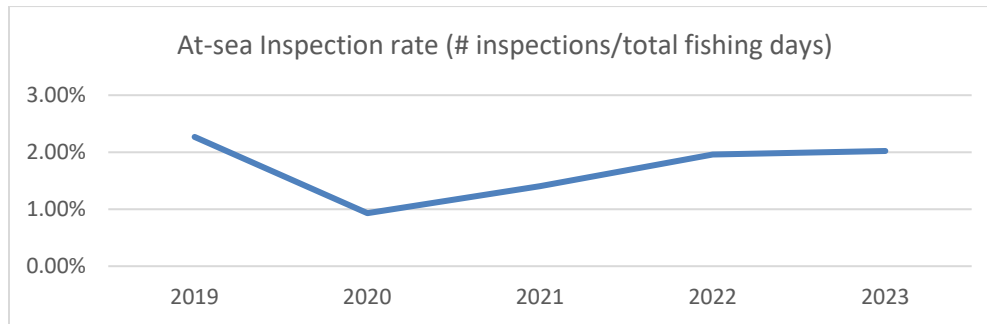


Figure 5.4.1 Inspection rates (number of at-sea inspections/fishing days) in the NAFO Regulatory Area, 2019-2023.

Figure 5.4.2 outlines the frequency a type of infringements detected by at-sea inspectors and port authorities from 2019-2023.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
By-catch requirements		•	••	••••••••	•
Catch communication violations			•	•	•
Directed fishing of moratorium stock				••	•
Evidence tampering		•	••	•	•
Gear requirements - mesh size, illegal attachments		•	•		
Greenland halibut control measures (Art. 10.4.d)		•			
Inspection protocol (interference)		••		••	•
Observer protocol		•	••		
Others quota notification					•
Production logbook requirements			••	•••	•••
Mis-recording of catches - inaccurate recording	••	•••	••••	••••••••	••••
Mis-recording of catches -stowage	•••••		••	••	••
Product labelling	••	••••	•••••	••••	•••
Vessel requirements - capacity plans	•		•	•	••

Figure 5.4.2 Frequency of infringement cases detected by at-sea inspectors and port authorities in 2019-2023. Black and blue dots represent infringement issued at-sea and at port, respectively.

6.0 Conclusions

During 2023, the primary NAFO fisheries consisted of demersal trawls and longlines for groundfish. The total catches decreased approximately 4,000 tonnes from approximately 50,000 tonnes in 2023 compared to approximately 54,000 tonnes in 2022. The at-sea inspection rate increased in 2023, following a decline in inspections resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. However inspection levels are still below pre-pandemic levels. In 2023, Canada, the European Union, and the United States of America participated in the At-Sea Inspection and Surveillance Scheme, deploying inspection vessels in the NRA, along with exchanges of inspectors to other Contracting Party's vessels.

Contracting Parties are committed to supporting and ensuring compliance with the NAFO Observer Program. One Contracting Party invoked Article 30.4 NAFO CEM derogation allowing a coverage of no less than 25% but the coverage did not reach 25% as an observer had to be removed from one of the trips due to illness.

A Contracting Party set a unilateral quota for pelagic redfish REB (1F_2_3K). There were fishing activities on this stock in 2022, but there was no directed fishing activity in 2023 in the NAFO Regulatory Area. Some Contracting Parties considered it necessary to determine whether the Objection Procedure to the TAC had been met.

Timely receipt of the daily catch reports (CATs) has allowed effective monitoring of quota uptakes. The timely submissions have also assisted inspection services in carrying out risk assessments and conducting monitoring, control and surveillance activities, providing an accurate reporting of catches taken in the NRA along with compliance of other obligations under the NAFO CEM.

The 2023 data on enforcement indicates a different practice in place by Contracting Parties with regard to the application of NAFO CEM bycatch rules.

7.0 Recommendations

- STACTIC recommends that the Observer Working group continue to explore and develop standards for remote electronic monitoring and equivalent sensor technologies, with a view to incorporate these tools into the NAFO CEM, as well as advancing work on processes and procedures to further the implementation in NAFO, including re-alignment of the Rules of Confidentiality with NAFO's evolving needs.
- STACTIC recommends that, provided that the Contracting Parties agree on carrying out the flag State performance evaluation, and that the Parties submit their reports on or before the agreed deadline.
- STACTIC highlights that all Contracting Parties need to comply with the NAFO Observer Program requirements, and that the level of observer coverage specified in the NAFO CEM is maintained on an annual basis and for Contracting Parties to provide information for the use of derogations pursuant to Article 30.4.
- STACTIC recommends Contracting Parties participate and engage in the Inspectors' Workshop, for the purpose of sharing best practices and procedures and to promote international cooperation on control amongst Contracting Parties.
- STACTIC recommends Contracting Parties continue to support the NAFO Secretariat on the development and implementation of the NAFO Observer Application and ePSC system.

- STACTIC encourages Contracting Parties to continue to maintain and support inspection presence in the NAFO Regulatory Area and promote inspector exchanges on at-sea deployments and in port, as well as the use of technologies for control such as Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems.
- STACTIC recommends that Contracting Parties focus monitoring and control efforts on derogations related to directed fisheries and bycatch rules in 2025.
- STACTIC recommends Contracting Parties continue to find consensus and apply consistent methodologies for the verification of compliance with NAFO CEM provisions on catch recording and reporting in particular.
- STACTIC recommends Contracting Parties commit to follow up on all infringements in a timely and consistent manner and, depending on the gravity of the offence and in accordance with domestic law, take sufficiently deterrent judicial or administrative actions.
- STACTIC recommends that the understanding and application of the NAFO CEM on bycatch rules is harmonized, and that, to the extent necessary, the NAFO CEM provisions are revised to provide consistent outcomes that provide appropriate deterrents.
- STACTIC recommends that Contracting Parties allocate sufficient resources to ensure compliance with the NAFO CEM port inspection benchmarks.