

22nd Annual Meeting of NAFO
18-22 September 2000

Press Release

1. The 22nd Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) was held in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, during 18-22 September 2000, under the chairmanship of Enrique Oltuski (Cuba), President of NAFO. The NAFO constituent bodies - General Council, Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council convened their sessions at the Boston Back Bay Hilton.
2. The meeting was attended by 220 participants from sixteen Contracting Parties - Canada, Cuba, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland), Estonia, European Union, France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), Iceland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, Ukraine and United States of America.
3. Prior to the 22nd Annual Meeting, the following NAFO meetings were held during 2000: (1) Joint Scientific Council and Fisheries Commission Working Group on Precautionary Approach (Brussels, Belgium, 29 February-02 March); (2) Working Group on Allocation of Fishing Rights (Washington, D.C., USA, 28-30 March); (3) Meeting on Shrimp Stocks in the Regulatory Area (Washington, D.C., USA, 27 March); (4) Working Group on Dispute Settlement Procedures (DSP) (Copenhagen, Denmark, 29-31 May); (5) Standing Committee on International Control (Dartmouth, Canada, 27-29 June); (6) STACTIC Technical Working Group on Communications (Dartmouth, Canada, 30 June); (7) Scientific Council Meeting (Dartmouth, Canada, 1-15 June); (8) Workshop on Assessment Methods (Boston, Mass., USA, 13-15 September).
4. The Scientific Council, under the chairmanship of Bill Brodie (Canada), reviewed and assessed the status of 19 fish stocks in the NAFO Regulatory and Convention Areas. The scientific advice and recommendations from the Scientific Council were presented to the Fisheries Commission with recommendation that major groundfish stocks are continuing to be at low abundance and there should not be a direct fishery for those stocks in 2001. The Scientific Council reported biomass increases for Greenland halibut in Divisions 2J+3KLMNO and Yellowtail flounder in Div. 3LNO. The Joint Scientific Council/Fisheries Commission Working Group on Precautionary Approach evaluated and discussed a precautionary approach (PA) to NAFO-managed stocks and proposed PA steps in the fields of "harvest strategies", "conservation and enforcement measures" and "research/monitoring" for two model stocks – Cod in Div. 3NO, Yellowtail flounder in Div. 3LNO.
5. The Fisheries Commission, under the chairmanship of P. Gullestad (Norway), considered the Scientific Council recommendations and agreed on joint international measures and actions for the conservation and utilization of the fishery resources in the Regulatory Area. For all stocks scientific advice on levels of harvest was adopted.

The Commission agreed to impose "no direct fishery" in 2001 on the following stocks: Cod in Divisions 3M and 3L (that portion within the Regulatory Area) and 3NO, Redfish in Div. 3LN, American plaice in Divisions 3M and 3LNO, Witch flounder in Div. 3NO and 3L (that portion within the Regulatory Area) and Capelin in 3NO. The Quota Table for 2001 was adopted (Attachment 1).

With respect to management measures for cod in 2J3KL, Contracting Parties other than Canada expressed their serious concern that management measures for this stock may not be consistent throughout its range in the Convention Area in the year 2000.

New conservation and enforcement measures were agreed:

- To avoid excessive incidental catch a new fishing strategy will apply by changing fishing areas, etc.
 - Concerning the shrimp fishery on the Flemish Cap in Division 3M, it was decided that the existing effort allocation Scheme in the shrimp fishery and all other regulatory measures should continue, and that the fishing days should be 90% of maximum number of those observed by Contracting Parties for their vessels in one of the years during 1993-1995.
 - The Program for Observers and Satellite Tracking was modified to integrate the hail system with the satellite tracking and vessel monitoring systems (VMS), which will be in force as of January 1, 2001.
 - Regulatory measures for chartering vessels between Contracting Parties were modified, including more precise guidelines for notification and charter arrangements, and a provision that the catch of the chartered vessel be added to the catch statistics of the Contracting Party to whom fishing possibilities have been allocated.
6. The General Council, under the chairmanship of E. Oltuski (Cuba), deliberated several outstanding issues regarding internal and external NAFO policy on the following terms:
- Standing Committee on non-Contracting Party Fishing Activity in the Regulatory Area (STACFAC) shall undertake the study of the impact of the FAO International Plans of Action on Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) Fishing on NAFO at its next Annual Meeting.
 - The issue of Dispute Settlement Procedures will be deliberated at the General Council in the near future.
 - Although there were no sightings of non-Contracting Party (NCP) fishing in the NAFO Regulatory Area in 2000, the consensus was to continue appropriate actions to deter NCP activity in the NAFO Area.
 - The President of NAFO signed diplomatic démarches to the Non-Contracting Party flag-States whose vessels have fished in the NAFO Regulatory Area in recent years, namely Belize, Honduras, Panama and Sierra Leone.
7. The following elections of NAFO officers took place:
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| Chairman of Standing Committee on Fishing Activities of non-Contracting Parties in the Regulatory Area (STACFAC) | - Daniel Silvestre (France in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon) |
| Vice-Chairman of Standing Committee on Fishing Activities of non-Contracting Parties in the Regulatory Area (STACFAC) | - Nadia Bouffard (Canada) |
| Chairman of the Standing Committee on Fisheries Environment (STACFEN) | - Manfred Stein (EU) |