

NAFO Special Meetings
Helsingør, Denmark
January 29 – February 01, 2002

Press Release

1. The special meetings of the General Council and Fisheries Commission were convened to discuss outstanding substantive issues of NAFO referred from the 23rd Annual Meeting of NAFO, which was cancelled due to the tragic events in the United States of America, September 11, 2001.
2. The meetings were attended by 160 participants from fifteen 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, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia, Ukraine and United States of America.
3. The General Council, under the chairmanship of Mr. Enrique Oltuski (Cuba), discussed the outstanding issues of:
 - Selection of a new Executive Secretary
 - Budgetary financial matters
 - FAO International Plans of Action
 - NAFO Dispute Settlement Procedures (DSP)

The General Council resolved on procedures of the selection of a new Executive Secretary, who will start his/her term from 01 January, 2003. This position will be open for applications from the nationals of NAFO Contracting Parties only and will be posted on the NAFO website www.nafo.ca. The FAO International Plans of Action will be again considered at the upcoming NAFO Annual Meeting in Spain, September 2002. The NAFO Contracting Parties will furnish their available information on this matter to the NAFO Secretariat for further circulation to all Contracting Parties, and all relevant FAO work on this subject will be taken for consideration at the Annual Meeting. The Report of the Working Group on Dispute Settlement Procedures (DSP) Working Group will be discussed at the Annual Meeting, 2002.

4. The Fisheries Commission under the chairmanship of Mr. Peter Gullestad (Norway) reviewed several outstanding issues regarding allocations and conservation and enforcement measures. There were several advanced ideas with regards to Protection of juveniles and reduced by-catch, Operation of the automated hail/VMS system, observers and satellite tracking and others.

The following new regulations were adopted for the NAFO Regulatory Area:

- TAC for Greenland halibut set at 44,000 mt for 2002;
- increased mesh size for skate fishery (280mm);
- closed period for shrimp fishery in Div. 3M of defined Area, June 01-December 31, 2002
- control and monitoring of shrimp catches in Division 3L by daily catch reports from Contracting Parties to the NAFO Secretariat

A number of new proposals for improvement of the Conservation and Enforcement Measures were transferred from this meeting for a discussion at a Special STACTIC inter-sessional meeting, which will be convened in Denmark in May 2002.

5. The following elections of NAFO officers took place:

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| President of the Organization and
Chairman of the General Council
Vice-Chairman of the General Council | - E. Oltuski (re-elected)
- P. S. Chamut (re-elected) |
| Chairman of the Fisheries Commission
Vice-Chairman of the Fisheries Commission | - D. Swanson (USA)
- B. F. Prischepa (Russia) |
| Chairman of the Standing Committee on
Finance and Administration (STACFAD)
Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee on
Finance and Administration (STACFAD) | - G. F. Kingston (EU)
- D. Warner-Kramer (USA) |
| Chairman of the Standing Committee on
International Control (STACTIC) | - D. Bevan (Canada) |

NAFO General Council
February 01, 2002

NAFO Secretariat
Dartmouth, N.S., Canada