



## Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization

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In all correspondence,  
please refer to:

NAFO/24-157

21 June 2024

TO: All Contracting Parties;  
Representatives of STACTIC; and  
Representatives of WG-OPR

Dear Colleagues,

**Subject:** *NAFO STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR) Meeting, 23–24 July 2024 in Montréal, Québec, Canada*

Further to NAFO/24-154 of 18 June 2024, please find enclosed the provisional agenda for the *NAFO STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR) Meeting* taking place 23–24 July 2024 in Montréal, Québec, Canada.

The meeting will be held in-person at the Courtyard by Marriott Montreal Downtown (380 Rene-Levesque Boulevard West) in Montréal, Québec, Canada. For those Contracting Parties that are unable to attend the meeting in-person, hybrid capabilities will be provided.

All meeting documentation, before and during the meeting, will be available for registered participants on the NAFO Meetings SharePoint at <https://meetings.nafo.int/wg-opr>. A personalized username and password are required to access the SharePoint. We ask any Contracting Party requiring log-in details to please contact the NAFO Secretariat by e-mail: [info@nafo.int](mailto:info@nafo.int).

For logistical purposes, we would appreciate if Contracting Parties can provide a list of attendees **as soon as possible**, and to indicate those that will be participating in-person or virtually.

We kindly ask your assistance in providing this information to the members of your meeting delegation. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Brynhildur Benediktsdóttir  
Executive Secretary

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Enclosed: Provisional Agenda; Tentative Timetable and General Information (03 pgs.)

*NAFO STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR) Meeting*

23–24 July 2024  
Montréal, Québec, Canada

**Provisional Agenda**

**1. Opening by the Chair, Brent Napier (Canada)**

*The meeting will be opened by the Chair, Brent Napier (Canada).*

**2. Appointment of Rapporteur**

*A rapporteur will be nominated and appointed.*

**3. Adoption of Agenda**

**4. NAFO CEM Article 30 - 2024 Implementation**

*At the 2023 Annual Meeting, STACTIC adopted the revisions to the NAFO Observer Scheme in COM Doc. 23-23. The WG-OPR will discuss the implementation of the 2024 measures to date, and report to STACTIC to facilitate their review on the implementation of the newly endorsed observer program. Specific items that STACTIC has requested the WG-OPR to review include:*

**a. Observer coverage levels**

*In accordance with task 1 of the WG-OPR terms of reference (COM Doc. 23-25), discussions on the minimum level of observer coverage required under derogation.*

**b. Observer application**

*The NAFO Secretariat will provide an update on the status of the observer reporting application. The working group, in accordance with task 2 of the WG-OPR terms of reference (COM Doc. 23-25) will also discuss the use of the observer electronic application and its implementation.*

**c. Electric observation program**

*In accordance with task 3 of the WG-OPR terms of reference (COM Doc. 23-25), and as agreed at the 2023 Annual Meeting, the working group will discuss and draft minimum standards and criteria needed to implement the use of an electronic observer program, and how those systems will be used as an alternative to Observers.*

**d. Data collection – Garbage disposal**

*In accordance with task 4 of the WG-OPR terms of reference (COM Doc. 23-25), and as agreed at the 2023 Annual Meeting and 2024 STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, the WG-OPR will discuss observer data collection on garbage disposal and the possible inclusion collection of vessel's garbage disposal practices in the observer reporting requirements.*

**e. Data collection – Sharks**

*In accordance with task 5 of the WG-OPR terms of reference (COM Doc. 23-25), the WG-OPR will discuss potential improvements on the data collection of sharks. Part of this work includes reviewing the findings presented in STACTIC WP 21-49 Rev3 “Review of Greenland shark Data Collection and Methodologies” and pursuing the development of standardized handling as well as the development for a species identification guide / observer handbook for sharks.*

**f. Review of infringements**

*In accordance with task 6 of the WG-OPR terms of reference (COM Doc. 23-25), the WG-OPR will consider revisions of infringements relating to the Observer Program.*

**g. Data collection – Quality control**

*In accordance with task 7 of the WG-OPR terms of reference (COM Doc. 23-25), the WG-OPR will discuss mechanisms to promote quality control for Observer and electronic observation data.*

**5. Data collection – Data confidentiality**

*At the 2024 STACTIC Intersessional meeting, it was agreed that the WG-OPR should consider a review of the provisions on the data confidentiality measures in the NAFO CEM.*

**6. Reporting template**

*At the 2023 Annual Meeting, STACTIC adopted a reporting template outlined in STACTIC WP 23-20, and it was agreed t the 2024 STACTIC Intersessional meeting that the WG-OPR would review this template.*

**7. Other Business**

**8. Adoption of the Report**

**9. Adjournment**

**Tentative Timetable\***

<b>Tuesday, 23 July</b>	
09:00 – 12:00 hrs	Meeting
12:00 – 13:30 hrs	Lunch Break
13:30 – xx hrs	Meeting
<b>Wednesday, 24 July</b>	
09:00 – 12:00 hrs	Meeting
12:00 – 13:30 hrs	Lunch Break
13:30 – xx hrs	Meeting (closing)

*\*times are subject to change at the decision of the meeting*

*NAFO STACTIC Observer Program Review Working Group (WG-OPR) Meeting*

23–24 July 2024  
Montréal, Québec, Canada

**General Information**

**Meeting Venue**

The meeting will be held at:

**Courtyard by Marriott Montreal Downtown**

380 Rene-Levesque Boulevard West  
Montréal, Québec  
CANADA  
H2Z 0A6

**Meeting Room:** Jacques Demers

**Hotel Accommodations**

There are a number of hotels in close proximity to the meeting venue. Reservations are to be made by participants directly with your preferred hotel.