

OCEANS NORTH AND DEEP SEA CONSERVATION COALITION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 41ST ANNUAL MEETING OF NAFO

– September 23-27, 2019, Bordeaux, France –

In order to ensure that NAFO continues to uphold its international commitments as well as demonstrate leadership in high-seas fisheries management, we recommend that NAFO agree to the following:



Close the gap in seamount protection by **closing all seamounts** in the NAFO regulatory area to bottom fishing for the 2020 fishing year, in time for the UNGA bottom fishing review.



Avoid scientific bottom trawls in existing closed areas as per Scientific Council advice.



Provide adequate resources to scientists to ensure that the VME review closures and impact assessments are complete for 2020 and 2021.



Adopt FAO observer codes for all VME indicator species and update the guidance to observers for data collection and submission to the Secretariat, as per the encounter protocol.



Follow precautionary science advice from the Scientific Council when setting catch levels for all NAFO regulated stocks.



Close the unregulated fishery for Splendid Alfonsino in Division 6G.



Take concrete steps toward implementing the **ecosystem roadmap** in fisheries management decisions.



Continue to implement the **Action Plan in Management and Minimization Bycatch and Discards** and adopt in full the recommendations of the WG-BDS as per NAFO Com 19/05.



Urge Contracting Parties to submit timely and complete **haul-by-haul data** in line with NAFO Resolution 18/27.



Improve reporting on **Greenland shark discards** and increase efforts to minimize incidental catches and mortality of Greenland sharks, in line with NAFO 18/17.



Contracting Parties engage where possible in the Regional Assessment of **exploratory oil and gas drilling** on the Grand Banks / Flemish Cap area to ensure that the intent of a transboundary impact assessment is fulfilled.



Take into account climate change impacts, including on primary productivity and associated food web impacts, when making fisheries management decisions for NAFO-regulated species.



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conservationcoalition