



NAFO CHECKLIST FOR SUCCESS

At the 44th Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
Porto, Portugal September 19-23 2022

As NAFO Contracting Parties meet for the first in person Annual Meeting since 2019, it is both important to reflect upon progress that has been made and where NAFO can continue to ensure that it fully upholds its modernized Convention, meets obligations to protect biodiversity in areas under its jurisdiction and advances best practices in fisheries management.

The expected Global Biodiversity Framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity to be adopted in December 2022 and the finalization of the text of a new high seas treaty to protect biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) in early 2023 further underpin the importance of effective governance and conservation measures in international fisheries organizations. To this end the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, and its 100+ member organizations recommends the following for NAFO this year:

VULNERABLE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

- NAFO has protected all of the seamounts in its regulatory area. All Contracting Parties are urged to carry the same ambition to other RFMOS, particularly those where fishing continues to occur on seamount and related ecosystems.
- NAFO continues its practice of prohibiting bottom trawling surveys in VME closed areas to minimize destruction of these fragile species and ecosystems and adopt non-destructive sampling in these areas.

Deep Sea Fisheries

- NAFO adopts a prohibition on the retention and landing of Greenland sharks.
- NAFO improves catch reporting for all sharks, including species, size, sex, and discard disposition.
- NAFO agrees to a reduction in the Thorny Skate TAC from 7000t to 3710t given the science advice and low resilience to fishing pressure of this species.

Science Based Quota Decisions

- NAFO adopts quota decisions for all managed stocks in line with science advice for all NAFO managed species.

Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management

- NAFO adopts all WG EAFM recommendations on advancing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Roadmap, including requesting notification from the SC when the catch has exceeded 2 times the total catch index.
- NAFO Contracting Parties endeavour to provide capacity to address of non-fishing related activities, with a specific view towards advancing biodiversity protection in areas beyond national jurisdiction and upholding the intent of the ongoing negotiations for a new high seas treaty.

Scientific Capacity

- NAFO Contracting Parties contribute the additional scientific expertise needed to on ecosystem approach, impacts of activities other than fishing, and ensure that Scientific Council is supported to successfully deliver on the requests approved by the Commission.