



# Press Release

## NAFO HOLDS 46<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING IN HALIFAX AND MAKES ANNUAL TAC DECISIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HALIFAX, CANADA, 27 September 2024**-The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) held its 46<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Halifax, Canada. NAFO's Contracting Parties continued to collaborate to advance the Organization's stewardship of the fisheries of the Northwest Atlantic, including implementing a groundbreaking revised precautionary approach framework. The NAFO delegates were welcomed to Halifax at the start of the meeting, 23 September, by the Chair of the Commission, Deirdre Warner-Kramer, and Deputy Mayor for the Halifax Regional Municipality, Cathy Deagle Gammon.

"NAFO remains a leader in ensuring the sustainable management of both the fisheries and the broader ecosystem in the Regulatory Area. NAFO Contracting Parties continue to work in a spirit of collaboration and consensus to manage these vital resources," remarked NAFO President, Deirdre Warner-Kramer.

During the meeting, NAFO furthered its progress on its precautionary approach to fisheries management, adopting a comprehensive revision to its Precautionary Approach Framework (PAF). This PAF underwent comprehensive simulation testing by the NAFO Scientific Council. It will be applied to NAFO's fisheries management decision-making, setting a clear structure to ensure the long-term sustainability of NAFO resources grounded in strong science.

NAFO agreed to a revised management strategy for Greenland halibut in Subarea 2+Divisions 3KLMNO. This management strategy shall be in force from 2025 to 2034 inclusive, or until such a time that the Commission adopts a revision.

Following Canada's reopening of the fishery for Northern cod in Divisions 2J3KL for the first time in over 30 years, NAFO also reopened the fishery in the Regulatory Area and adopted strong measures to support the sustainable management and growth of the stock. These included a seasonal closure for directed fishing, gear requirements, and an increased minimum fish size.

NAFO adopted additional control measures for shallow and deep pelagic beaked redfish.

NAFO agreed to initiate a new process for the next performance review of the Organization, beginning in 2025. The last performance review of NAFO took place in 2018, with all recommendations having since been addressed.

NAFO furthermore agreed to assess all necessary changes and technical preparations needed to consider the introduction of the international standard UN/CEFACT "Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange" (FLUX).

Additionally, NAFO agreed to continue work on addressing the impacts of climate change on NAFO managed stocks, non-target species, and associated ecosystems in the Convention Area.

The 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will take place 15-19 September 2025, in Halifax, Canada.

The total allowable catches and quotas for 2025 can be found [here](#). Meeting reports for the NAFO Commission and the Scientific Council will be made available on the NAFO website at a later date.

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