



**NAFO** Northwest  
Atlantic  
Fisheries  
Organization

Committed to  
**Conservation and Management of  
Fisheries and Ecosystems** in the Northwest Atlantic

# Structure and conduct of performance reviews: experiences, best practices, challenges and opportunities

Presentation to the 14th round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the UNFSA

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# Outline

- About NAFO
- NAFO's Performance Reviews
- NAFO's 2018 Performance Review
  - Terms of Reference
  - Panel's deliberations
  - Key findings
- Conclusions

# About NAFO

- NAFO is an international regional fisheries management organization (RFMO)
- International cooperation in fishery science and fishery management
- Manages the fishery in the international waters of the Northwest Atlantic
- Established in 1979 by international treaty

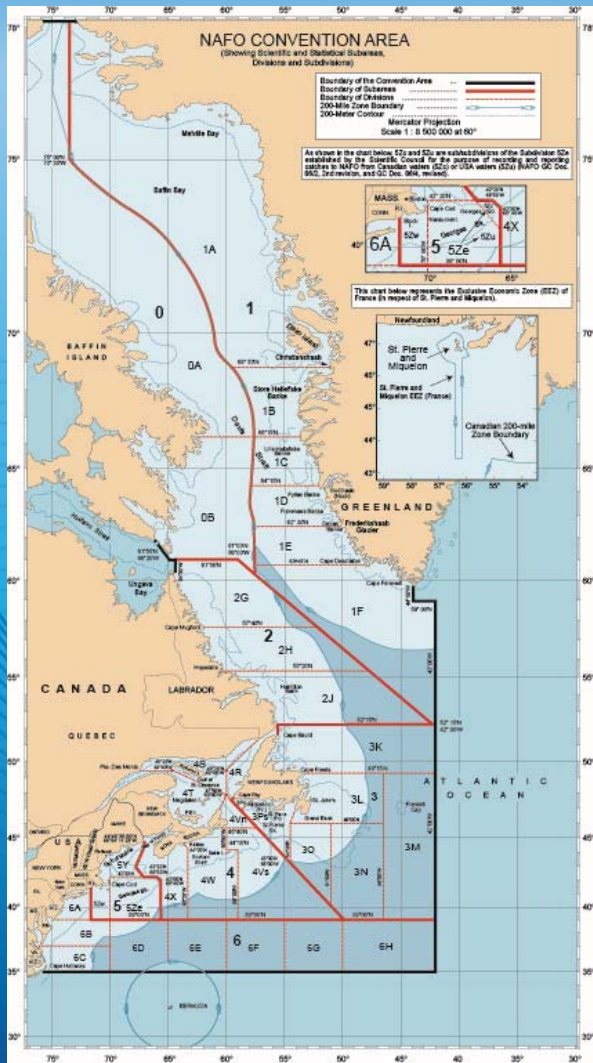


# Objective

NAFO Convention, Article II

- “ *... to ensure the long term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the Convention Area and, in so doing, to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which these resources are found. ”*

# NAFO Jurisdiction



- NAFO Convention Area is the entire Northwest Atlantic (delineated in Art. IV of NAFO Convention)
- NAFO Regulatory Area is the international waters outside of the EEZs of Canada, Denmark (Greenland), France (St. Pierre et Miquelon), USA and Bermuda (Art. I(p) of NAFO Convention)
- This one of the few places where the continental shelf extends beyond 200-miles
- NAFO fisheries are mainly bottom trawling

# 12 Contracting Parties (CPs)



Canada



Cuba



Denmark (in respect of  
Faroe Islands & Greenland)



European Union (EU)



France (in respect of  
Saint Pierre et Miquelon)



Iceland



Japan



Korea, Republic of



Norway



Russian Federation



Ukraine



United States of  
America

# 11 species currently under management



Short-finned  
squid



Capelin



Shrimp



White hake



Atlantic cod



Redfish



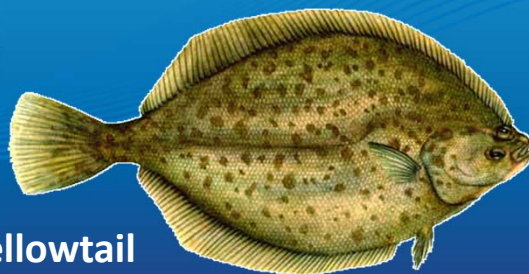
American  
plaice



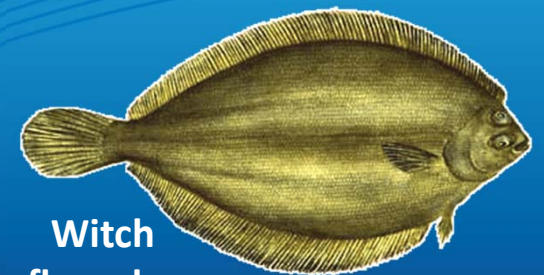
Thorny  
skate



Greenland  
halibut



Yellowtail  
flounder



Witch  
flounder

# The NW Atlantic Fishery in 2018

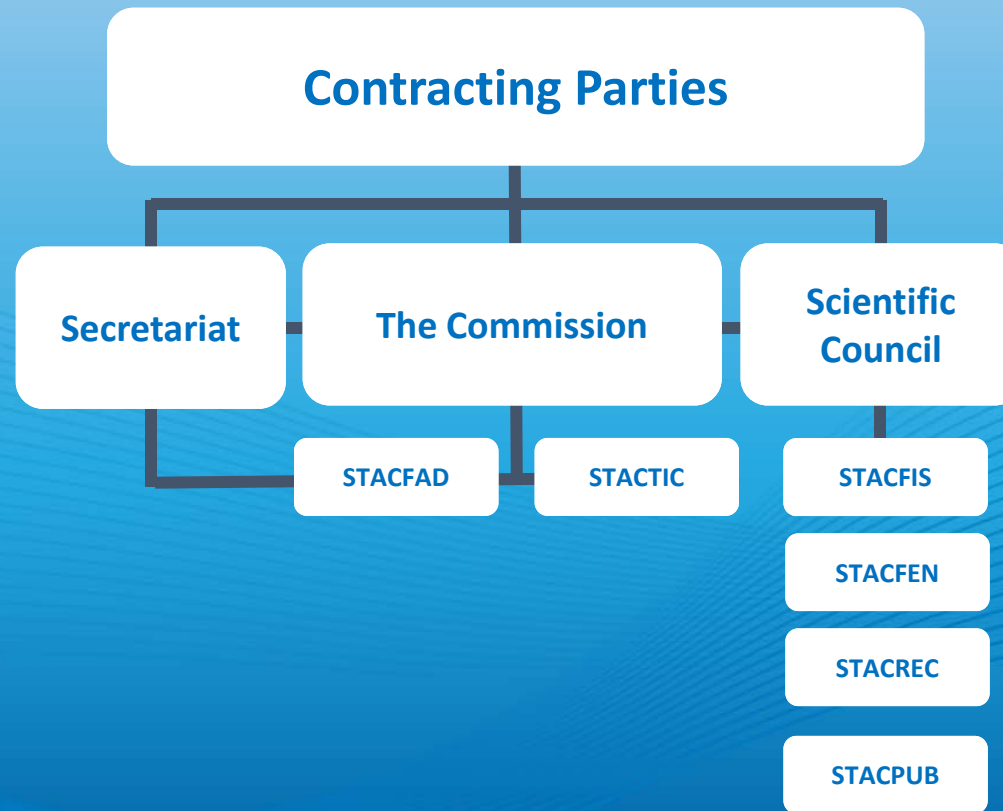
- 43 vessels
- About 54 000 tonnes of catches\* of NAFO regulated species
- Approximate value is CDN\$156 million (or about 100 million euro)
- Approximately 1,000 industry jobs directly linked to NAFO fisheries

\*Preliminary estimate based on Daily CATs in the NAFO Regulatory Area only



# NAFO Structure

## NAFO Convention Article V



# NAFO Performance Reviews

- 2006 UNGA Resolution on Sustainable Fisheries (61/105)
- 2011 – Report of NAFO’s first Performance Review – all 225 recommendations were implemented or addressed
- 2018 – Report of NAFO’s second Performance Review Panel with 36 recommendations
- 2019 – development of an Action Plan to address 2018 Performance Review recommendations

# NAFO Performance Review 2018

## Terms of Reference (ToR) -- Objectives:

- To evaluate how NAFO has responded to the outcome of the 2011 Performance Review.
- To identify areas where improvements are needed to strengthen the Organization in order to advance the objectives of the NAFO Convention.
- To assess the functioning and efficiency of the NAFO bodies, sub bodies and working groups.
- Specified set of criteria to guide the work of the Panel.

# NAFO Performance Review 2018

## ToR -- Review Panel Composition:

Six (6) Panelists, of which

- 3 external experts – 1 for fisheries science; 1 for fisheries management; and 1 for international legal framework – additional criteria that they not have participated in recent deliberations of NAFO.
- 3 internal experts – similar expertise as external experts and nationals of NAFO's Contracting Parties

# NAFO Performance Review 2018

## ToR -- Work Schedule:

Twelve (12) month process:

- 3 months – selection of Review Panel experts;
- 6 months – Review Panel work
- 1 July 2018 – provisional Report to be circulated for comments from Contracting Parties
- 2 August 2018 – final Report
- September 2018 – presentation of final Report and Recommendations to the NAFO Annual Meeting

# NAFO Performance Review 2018

## Guiding Principles for the work of the Panel:

- Transparency
- Consensus based decision making
- Open consultation
- Evidence based analysis
- Free and frank discussions (ability to challenge).
- Specific and targeted recommendations

# NAFO Performance Review 2018

## Process undertaken by the Panel:

- Clear work plan with timelines.
- Aim to have a short and concise report.
- Specified responsibilities for individual Panel members.
- Each chapter had lead author, co author and peer reviewer.
- Regular video conferences to check on both process and policy issues.
- Reviewed by all.
- Panel members were engaged and constructive.

# NAFO Performance Review 2018

## Panel Findings – Achievements since 2011 Review:

- Increased transparency.
- Sustained protection of VMEs.
- Development of a robust basis for ecosystem approach.
- Expansion of use of risk-based management strategies.
- Improvements in data collection.
- Improved framework for dialogue between scientists and managers.
- Generally satisfactory state of compliance.
- Increasingly positive cooperation with other fisheries bodies.



# NAFO Performance Review 2018

## Panel Findings -- Key process issues for NAFO to address:

- Ensure sufficient resources are available to handle the increasing science workload.
- Adopt a multi-annual schedule/plan for the delivery of conservation and management advice, applicable over a cycle of at least five years.
- Publish an annual comparison between decisions adopted and relevant scientific advice.

# NAFO Performance Review 2018

Panel Findings -- Key process issues for NAFO to address (cont'd):

- Establish codes for Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem indicator species.
- Develop a user-friendly data manual.
- Develop an annual operational plan for the NAFO Secretariat.
- Initiate a process to design a new visual identity for NAFO.

# NAFO Performance Review 2018

Panel Findings -- Key policy issues for NAFO to address:

- Agree on a means to respond to instances of non-compliance by a Contracting Party with its reporting requirements.
- Implement measures to ensure that fisheries research data is complete and available for peer review.
- Develop mechanisms for the application of Art V1.11 of the Convention (Consistency of measures with coastal State).

# NAFO Performance Review 2018

## Panel Findings -- Key policy issues for NAFO to address (cont'd):

- Establish conservation and management measures for Splendid Alfonsino in Subarea 6.
- Decide the level of acceptable risk regarding the outcome of conservation and management measures.
- Develop and publish an advisory decision-making framework to ensure advice is linked explicitly to policy objectives.

# NAFO Performance Review 2018

## Panel Findings -- Key future challenges for NAFO:

- Increasing expectations and scrutiny from the public and international community.
- Transparency.
- Continuing changes to ecosystems and movement of fish stocks will challenge current governance and allocation regimes.
- Cumulative impact of other human activities.
- Overlapping governance regimes in the high seas.
- Consumer demands around sustainability and integrity of seafood.

# Conclusions

- Process worked well
- Important to have clear and detailed terms of reference
- Some time is needed for external experts to understand the workings of the Organization
- Six (6) months (from Panel composition to draft Report) was adequate for this exercise
- Require competent and professional Panelists
- Budgetary implications

# THANK YOU

For more information on NAFO, please consult:

*[www.nafo.int](http://www.nafo.int)*