

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization



**Report of the NAFO Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group
Process (E-WG) Meeting**

18 March 2021
via WebEx

NAFO
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
2021

Report of E-WG,
18 March 2021

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Report of the NAFO Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process (E-WG) Meeting

18 March 2021
via WebEx

1. Opening by the Chair, Fred Kingston (NAFO Secretariat)

The Chair, Fred Kingston (NAFO Secretariat) opened the meeting on Thursday, 18 March 2021 at 10:00 hours. The Chairs and co-Chairs of the NAFO Working Groups were welcome to the virtual meeting (Annex 1).

2. Appointment of Rapporteur

The NAFO Secretariat was appointed rapporteur.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as circulated (Annex 2).

4. Finalize schedule for upcoming meetings scheduled for 2021 (COM-SC WP 21-01)

For information purposes, the calendar of regional fisheries meetings for 2021, which was prepared by the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) of the University of Wollongong, was presented (COM-SC WP 21-03).

The 2021 NAFO Meeting Schedule to-date was presented in COM-SC WP 21-01. The group focused its discussions on the NAFO Meetings still to be scheduled for 2021.

It was noted that traditionally meetings are scheduled back-to-back to reduce travel requirements for delegates. Due to the ongoing global pandemic, meetings are anticipated to continue to be held virtually throughout the summer 2021.

The 2021 NAFO Meeting Schedule was revised in COM-SC WP 21-01 (Revised) to incorporate the discussions of the group below (Annex 3).

a. WG-BDS Meeting

It was agreed that the WG-BDS meeting should take place following the Scientific Council meeting in June as input is required from Scientific Council regarding the *Action Plan in the Management and Minimization of Bycatch and Discards* (NAFO/COM Doc 17-26).

Two days would be required to cover all the agenda items intended for this meeting.

The E-WG proposes to hold the WG-BDS as follows:

- A virtual meeting from 12–13 July 2021.

b. WG-EAFFM Meeting

It was agreed that there are enough issues to be discussed by this Working Group this year that it should meet over five virtual days. However, rather than scheduling the meeting over five straight days, it was agreed that

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the meeting could be scheduled for three days (14-16 July), then two days the following week (20-21 July), with the Monday (19 July) free to enable coordination both within and among delegations.

However, it was noted that vacation schedules may not allow for this proposed extended format. As well, only one of the WG-EAFFM co-Chairs was able to attend this E-WG meeting. This proposed format will need to be confirmed with the other co-Chair before circulation to all Contracting Parties for consideration and approval.

The E-WG tentatively proposes to hold the WG-EAFFM as follows:

- **A virtual meeting from 14–16 July 2021 and 20-21 July 2021 with 19 July 2021 to enable coordination both within and among delegations.**

c. WG-EAFFM Workshop

A one-day planning meeting is proposed to be scheduled for the *NAFO WG-EAFFM Workshop of fisheries managers and scientists to draft ecosystem objectives* prior to 2021 Annual Meeting of NAFO. It is envisaged that the meeting will be held virtually in late August or early September.

The NAFO Secretariat will circulate a letter from the co-Chairs of WG-EAFFM informing Contracting Parties of this proposal, requesting their agreement and proposing a 'Doodle poll' to select a date.

d. WG-RBMS Meeting

The selection of a proposed date for the WG-RBMS depends on progress from the PA-WG. Currently the work of the PA-WG is behind schedule and it is not clear whether there would be enough progress for the WG-RBMS to meet in July, as originally envisaged. Consequently, this meeting may have to be held in late August or September before the Annual Meeting.

For that reason, the scheduling of the WG-RBMS will await the revision of the PA-WG timeline, of which a further update will be provided following the PA-WG meeting expected to be held on 08 April 2021.

e. Fishing Regime for Shrimp in Division 3M Meeting

At least one Contracting Party, has the position that an intersessional meeting concerning the fishing regime for shrimp in Division 3M should only take place in person as soon as the epidemiological situation due to the Covid pandemic permits and travel restrictions are lifted. Currently it is not clear when this will occur.

Considering all this, the NAFO President sought feedback from Contracting Parties regarding the scheduling and format of the Fishing Regime for Shrimp in Division 3M Meeting (NAFO/21-074 of 04 March 2021). A further update to be provided following review of the responses received from Contracting Parties.

5. Set the three two-week periods during the NAFO year for possible intersessional meetings 2022

The proposed three two-week periods during 2022 to be recommended to the Commission and Scientific Council for possible NAFO intersessional meetings 2022 were presented in COM-SC WP 21-02 as follows:

- **For the 2022 NAFO year, the following two-week periods, be considered for NAFO intersessional meetings:**
 - **21 February – 04 March 2022;**
 - **25 April – 06 May 2022; and**
 - **08 – 19 August 2022**

The participants were requested to consider these dates and contact the Secretariat if there are any concerns. The Chair will send a note to this Working Group in April to finalize by written procedure this proposed recommendation to the Commission and Scientific Council.

6. Recommendations to forward to the Commission and Scientific Council

The recommendations of this Working Group to forward to the Commission and Scientific Council at the 2021 Annual Meeting of NAFO, will be agreed on via correspondence (see agenda item 5 above).

7. Other matters

No other matters were raised under this agenda item.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 hours.

Annex 1. List of Participants

vice-Chair of Commission	Temur Tairov (Russian Federation)
Chair of Scientific Council	Carmen Fernández (European Union)
Chair of STACFAD	Robert Fagan (Canada)
co-Chairs of CESAG	Katherine Sosebee (USA) Temur Tairov (Russian Federation)
Chair of WG-BDS	Temur Tairov (Russian Federation)
co-Chair of WG-EAFFM	Elizabethann Mencher (USA)
co-Chair of WG-ESA	Pierre Pepin (Canada)
co-Chairs of WG-RBMS	Fernando González -Costas (European Union) Ray Walsh (Canada)
NAFO Secretariat	Fred Kingston (Executive Secretary) Jana Aker (Senior Fisheries Information Administrator) Tom Blasdale (Scientific Council Coordinator) Ricardo Federizon (Senior Fisheries Management Coordinator) Sarah Guile (Office Administrator) Lisa LeFort (Senior Executive Assistant)

Annex 2. Agenda

1. Opening by the Chair, Fred Kingston (NAFO Secretariat)
2. Appointment of Rapporteur
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Finalize schedule for upcoming meetings scheduled for 2021 (COM-SC WP 21-01)
5. Set the three two-week periods during the NAFO year for possible intersessional meetings 2022 (COM-SC WP 21-02)
6. Recommendations to forward to the Commission and Scientific Council
7. Other matters
8. Adjournment

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Annex 3. 2021 NAFO Meeting Schedule – COM-SC Working Paper 21-01 (Revised)

The following NAFO Meetings are scheduled for 2021:

Date	Title	Venue
	<i>*Second period for the scheduling of Working Group meetings 19 – 30 Apr. 2021</i>	
18 Mar.	NAFO Working Group on Improving Efficiency of NAFO Working Group Process (E-WG)	WebEx
13 Apr.	NAFO Joint Commission-Scientific Council Catch Estimation Strategy Advisory Group (CESAG) Meeting	WebEx
08 Apr.	NAFO Scientific Council Precautionary Approach Framework Working Group (PA-WG)	WebEx
10–13 May	NAFO Standing Committee on International Control (STACTIC) Intersessional Meeting	WebEx
26 May	Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM)	Virtual
27 May–11 Jun.	NAFO Scientific Council and its Standing Committees Meeting	WebEx
	<i>*Third period for the scheduling of Working Group meetings 12 – 23 Jul. 2021</i>	
08–14 Sept.	NAFO/ICES <i>Pandalus</i> Assessment Meeting	Copenhagen (TBD)
20–24 Sept.	NAFO 43 rd Annual Meeting	TBD
Oct./Nov. TBD	NAFO/ICES <i>Pandalus</i> Assessment Meeting	Copenhagen (TBD)
16–25 Nov.	NAFO Working Group on Ecosystem Science and Assessment (WG-ESA) Meeting	Halifax, Nova Scotia

* As always, these two-week periods would not require meetings of NAFO subsidiary bodies to meet during those dates nor would they preclude the scheduling of meetings of NAFO subsidiary bodies outside those dates.

The following NAFO Meetings are still **to be** scheduled for 2021:

Date	Title	Venue
Aug./Sept. (TBC)	NAFO Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS) Meeting To be further discussed following the PA-WG meeting on 08 April	WebEx (TBC)
14–21 July (TBC)	NAFO Joint Commission–Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries Management (WG-EAFFM) Meeting To be proposed: 14-16 and 20-21 July 2021 to be held virtually with 19 July to enable coordination both within and among delegations.	WebEx (TBC)
12–13 July (TBC)	NAFO Commission Ad Hoc Working Group on Bycatches, Discards and Selectivity (WG-BDS) in NAFO Regulatory Area Meeting To be proposed: 12-13 July 2021 to be held virtually	WebEx (TBC)
TBD	NAFO <i>Ad hoc</i> virtual NAFO Working Group: Data Classification Meeting	WebEx
TBD	NAFO STACTIC Editorial Drafting Group of the NAFO CEM (EDG) Meeting	TBD
End of Aug./ Early Sept. TBD	One-day Planning Meeting for the NAFO WG-EAFFM Workshop of fisheries managers and scientists to draft ecosystem objectives	WebEx (TBD)
Postponed until it can be held in-person	NAFO <i>Ad hoc</i> Working Group on STACTIC Participation (WG-SP) Meeting	TBD
TBD	NAFO Fishing Regime for Shrimp in Division 3M Meeting Feedback sought from Contracting Parties re: format of the meeting	TBD