

Observer's Report on NAFO

In accordance with the announcements of the 23rd Annual Meeting the meeting of the General Council was opened in Varadero, Cuba as scheduled on 17 September 2001.

The Representatives of only nine contracting Parties were present. Therefore there was no quorum to hold a General Meeting of NAFO at this time.

It was noted that the terrorist violence had affected NAFO in that there was no quorum to conduct the meeting.

It was noted that the Scientific Council members had arrived before the terrorist attack in USA and was in position to continue with their business, but the rest of NAFO could not have meetings at that time.

In general, Contracting Parties expressed deep regret for the tragedy in USA and extended condolences to USA. Views were expressed by some Contracting Parties that it was regrettable that the USA incident affected NAFO business.

The Chairman received two specific proposals on how to proceed with the NAFO decisions.

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) identified the need to work as soon as possible to address the requirements for 2002 on Conservation and Enforcement Measures including allocations as well as matters of NAFO Administration. Contracting Party Cuba expressed in general support for this proposal.

Japan could not support to hold a full-scale meeting again for NAFO requirements for 2002. Japan proposed a mail vote to be held immediately to extend the current 2001 NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures and administration commitments for the year 2002. Contracting Parties Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Ukraine expressed support for this proposal.

The Chairman noted that the proposals from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) and Japan and the views of the rest of the Contracting Parties would be circulated to all member countries of NAFO and comments and proposals requested.

Once all this information is received the Secretariat will circulate the proposals and a mail vote requested in order to take final decisions.

In conclusions, the Chairman expressed his sincere thanks to all contracting parties, and once again expressed in the name of all Contracting Parties our condolences to the United States.

Andras Kristiansen