Observer report on NAFO by Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland

The 41st Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organizations (NAFO) took place from 23-27 September in Bordeaux, France.

Delegates from the 12 NAFO Contracting Parties were welcomed to France by the NAFO President Stéphane Artano (France in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon). This was the first time that the Annual Meeting was held in France.

At the meeting, NAFO agreed to advance its review of the Precautionary Approach Framework to support the long-term conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources in the NAFO Regulatory Area.

NAFO also agreed that the comprehensive management strategy for Divisions 2+3 KLMNO Greenland halibut, adopted in 2017, will continue to inform sustainable management decisions for this NAFO stock. It was further agreed to reopen the Flemish Cap shrimp fishery (Div. 3M) after recovery of the stock to levels above $B_{lim}$. The fishery for this shrimp stock has been closed since 2011 in order to ensure a recovery of the stock.

In addition, to the traditional total allowable catch (TAC) and quota decisions, significant decisions were made regarding the following.

- NAFO agreed to a process to address the recommendations of the 2018 Performance Review, along with an annual progress report procedure.
- NAFO continued its commitment to transparency as it was agreed to post vessel registry on the NAFO website.
- NAFO increased its Monitoring, Control and Surveillance data availability to at sea and in port inspectors.
- NAFO continued to make progress on the NAFO Observer Application for the instantaneous reporting of scientific and catch data to the NAFO Secretariat.

Lastly, NAFO reelected, Stéphane Artano (France in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon), as NAFO president, and Temur Tairov (Russian Federation) as Vice-Chair of the NAFO Commission, for an additional two-year term, respectively.

The next Annual Meeting of NAFO will be held in Halifax, Canada in 2020.