

**42<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF NAFO - SEPTEMBER 2020****Recommendations from the WG-RBMS**

The NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Risk-Based Management Strategies (WG-RBMS) met via WebEx on 20-21 August and agreed on the following recommendations:

**The WG-RBMS recommends that:**

1. That in relation to the Precautionary Approach Framework revision, the Commission endorses the proposed workplan outlined in Annex 3, and the proposed funding proposal outlined in Annex 4.
2. That in relation to 3LN redfish Conservation Plan and Harvest Control Rule (Annex I.H of the NAFO CEM),
  - a. the Commission requests the Scientific Council to provide guidance on the process of conducting of a full review/evaluation of the management strategy at the end of the 7-year implementation period.
  - b. the Commission adopts a TAC of 18 100 t for 3LN Redfish, applicable for 2021 and 2022.
  - c. the Risk-based Management Strategy for 3LN Redfish outlined in Annex I.H of NAFO CEM be updated in accordance with Annex 5.



### **Annex 3. Precautionary Approach Framework Revision – Proposed Workplan**

- Review of and proposal for ToRs related to mapping objectives: ToRs 1a, 1c and 1g. Deadline for results to SC: June 2021
- Present results to WG-RBMS after the June SC
- Review of and proposal for ToRs related to structural aspects and quantification of uncertainty and risk. Deadline for results to SC: ToRs 1b, 1d, 1e and 1f. Deadline for results November 2021
- The work in the previous bullet points would need to cover the data continuum, so that the framework could be applied to all NAFO stocks (data rich and data poor).
- Consider broad associated implications for stocks managed using a Management Procedure (HCR) based on a MSE.
- Workshop - (including the group of scientists and managers), around March 2022, to address the entire ToR and make a proposal of revision of the NAFO PA framework (to be later reviewed by the WG-RBMS).
- WG-RBMS 2022, based on the SC review work, would propose a new framework for the NAFO PA, to be presented to the NAFO Commission in September 2022.
- Time for CP's internal discussions and further work if required
- Final version of framework to be considered by the NAFO Commission in September 2023

SC and WG-RBMS will be kept informed of all progress in the work.

All timings are subject to change in response to the evolving COVID situation.

A second SC workshop (including the group of scientists and managers) would be held to develop the guidelines to support the implementation of the new NAFO PA framework, (between September 2022 and April 2023). The workshop would include case studies for reference points for, at least, several data-rich and data-poor stocks.

A small group would be responsible for carrying out technical work during a 2- to 3-year period going from November 2020 to October 2022/23. They would have to dedicate substantial work time over this period of time and would report to SC and WG-RBMS. This group would include some current SC members, possibly other scientists from Contracting Parties, and likely external experts, given SC workload concerns.

#### **Annex 4. Precautionary Approach Framework Revision – Plan for the Work of External Experts**

The **financial resources** used to support the contracting of **three external experts**;

These three independent experts should each: a. Assist in steering, b. Follow the process and c. (according to ToRs) Contribute to the work of the SC;

Their work should be detailed by proper Terms of Reference;

In terms of time allocation: Two different levels of time dedication. One expert with more time and closely accompanying the works, and the other two experts joining in key periodic moments (each six months for example). These levels do not intend to identify different levels of responsibility amongst the three experts.

**In the light of the above, next steps should be:**

- Preparation of the Grant application. Should happen between now and the NAFO Annual Meeting. This is a Task to be developed in close collaboration with the NAFO Secretariat (Who: European Union together with NAFO Secretariat)
- Identification of Independent experts; (Who: Contracting Parties by the NAFO Annual Meeting propose independent experts that potentially can do de job)
- Preparation of the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the work of the Independent Experts (Who: SC, before November 2020)

**Annex 5. Proposed Update of Risk-Based management Strategy for 3LN Redfish as outlined in Annex I.H of the NAFO CEM**

**Risk-Based Management Strategy for 3LN Redfish**

Adopted by NAFO in September 2014 for implementation effective January 1, 2015

**Management Strategy/Harvest Control Rule:**

A stepwise biannual catch increase reaching 18 100 tonnes by 2019-2020. (18 100t is the equilibrium yield in the 2014 assessment under the assumption of an MSY of 21 000 tonnes).

2015 TAC:	10 400 t
2016:	10 400 t
2017:	14 200 t
2018:	14 200 t
2019:	18 100 t
2020:	18 100 t
<b>2021 TAC:</b>	<b>18 100 t</b>
<b>2022:</b>	<b>18 100 t</b>

**Review/Monitoring:**

1. Scientific Council will monitor the performance of the HCR by examining the trends in the survey indices and by conducting a full assessment every 2-3 years and for the first time in 2016.
2. Conduct a full review/ evaluation of the management strategy at the end of the 7-year implementation period.