



Serial No. N7115

NAFO/COM Doc. 20-14
[Adopted]**42nd ANNUAL MEETING OF NAFO - SEPTEMBER 2020****Flanking Measures for directed fishery of COD 3M**

EU text proposal concerning Cod 3M in NCEM:

1. TAC for 2021 shall be 1500 tonnes in Annex I.A.
2. New paragraph in Article 5.5 under sub-heading "Closure of Fisheries for Stocks listed in Annex I.A and I.B": *"close its directed fishery for cod in Division 3M between 24:00 UTC 1 December 2020 and 24:00 UTC 31 March 2021"*.
3. New paragraph 9 in Article 13 under sub-heading "Use of Attachments": *"Each Contracting Party shall ensure that its trawl vessels conducting a directed fishery for cod in Division 3M, use a sorting grid for the purpose of reducing the catches of smaller individuals of cod. The minimum bar spacing of the sorting grid shall be 55 mm. The sorting grid must be placed in the top-side pannel of the trawl preceding the codend"*.
4. As recommended by STACTIC, to add the following new Article 7bis:

"Article 7 bis – 3M Cod¹":***Control Measures***

1. *Each Contracting Party shall apply the following control measures for vessels with more than 1,250kg of 3M cod catches on board²:*
 - (a) *prohibit its vessels from landing or transshipping 3M cod catches in ports other than those designated in accordance with Article 43.*
 - (b) *require that at least 48 hours before its estimated time of arrival in port, a vessel or its representative on its behalf, advises the competent port authority of its estimated time of arrival, the estimated quantity of 3M cod retained on board, and information on the division or divisions where any other cod catches retained on board were taken.*
 - (c) *inspect each landing or transshipment of 3M cod in its ports and prepare an inspection report in the format prescribed in Annex IV.C, which it submits to the Executive Secretary within 14 working days from the date on which the inspection was completed. The PSC3 report shall identify and provide details of any infringement to the CEM detected during the port inspection. It shall include all relevant information available in reference to infringements detected at sea during the current trip of the inspected fishing vessel.*



Duties of the Executive Secretary

2. *The Executive Secretary posts without delay the port inspection report submitted in accordance with paragraph 1(c) to the NAFO MCS Website and ensures that it is made available to all Contracting Parties.*

¹ *STACTIC shall review this Article and propose amendments as appropriate to the Commission at its Annual Meeting in 2021. This Article is only applicable when the TAC for Cod in Division 3M in Annex I.A is under 3000 tonnes.*

² *Each Contracting Party shall inspect vessels with less than 1250 kg of 3M cod on board on a risk-based approach.*

5. In the context of the scientific work carried out on cod 3M, the Commission acknowledges that the Management Strategy Evaluation will resume when Scientific Council determines that conditions are such that there is a reasonable probability of success. The Commission supports the continuation of the technical work to solve the challenges posed by the strong variability observed in the stock dynamics and biological parameters. In this regard, the Commission strongly recommends that all relevant Contracting Parties give high priority to dedicated research to improve scientific knowledge on the biological parameters and other aspects relevant to improving understanding of the dynamics of this stock. [reference: 2019 (COM WP 19-42)]
6. Based on the recent SC response to the EU's question about what additional monitoring data is required, the Commission requests Scientific Council, jointly with the Secretariat, to conduct ongoing analysis of the Flemish Cap cod fishery data in order to:
- (1) monitor the consequences of the management decisions (including the analysis of the redistribution of the fishing effort along the year and its potential effects on ecosystems, the variation of the cod catch composition in lengths/ages, and the bycatch levels of other fish species, benthos in general, and VME taxa in particular), and
 - (2) carry out any additional monitoring that would be required, including 3M cod caught as bycatch in other fisheries during the closed period.
7. In addition, the Commission notes that the interim spawning closure period is being adopted on a precautionary basis for 2021 (according to Art 5.5 mentioned above), and this peak period will be the subject of future review to identify potential further refinement and will be discussed at the 2021 Annual Meeting.
8. Amend NAFO CEM Article 38.1.g to read "using an unauthorized mesh or grid size contrary to Article 13".