

**47<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF NAFO - SEPTEMBER 2025**

**Numbering of Article 6.8 of the NAFO CEM**

**Background**

At the Editorial Drafting Group (EDG) meeting on 5 November 2024, it was decided that STACTIC should discuss the numbering of Article 6.8 of the NAFO CEM at the STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, 05-07 May 2025.

At the STACTIC Intersessional Meeting, Contracting Parties reflected that the clarity and readability of the five paragraphs of Article 6.8 may be improved through renumbering. The Parties noted that the EDG will ordinarily not be convening before the STACTIC Annual Meeting, and so any renumbering of the NCEMs could be actioned concurrently with the review of any measures at Article 6.8.

The United Kingdom brought a proposal forward for renumbering the measures for redfish bycatch in the 3M cod fishery, currently numbered 8(i) and 8(ii) in the NCEMs, as established from COM Doc. 24-10.

The United Kingdom is revising this proposal, sequentially numbering paragraphs in 6.8 to aid readability; specifically, the revised proposal renumbers the yellowtail measure at 8 bis and 8 ter, and the cod measure at 8(i) and 8(ii), and makes the necessary changes to the remainder of Article 6.

**Proposal**

**Article 6 – Bycatch Retention on Board of Stocks Identified in Annex I.A as Bycatch When No Directed Fishery is Permitted**

[...]

***Exceeding Bycatch Limits in Any One Haul***

[...]

~~8 (i). Where a vessel is carrying an observer and is conducting a directed fishery for cod in Division 3M with a legal mesh size appropriate for that fishery, the first two times on a fishing trip that catches of redfish comprise the largest percentage by weight of the total catch in a tow/set, they shall be considered as incidental catch, but the vessel shall immediately move as specified in paragraph 6.~~

~~8 (ii). By way of derogation from Article 6.6.b(ii), if the 3M redfish bycatch limits are exceeded again, instead of leaving the Division for at least 60 hours, the vessel may again move a minimum of 10 nautical miles from any position of the previous tows/sets in up to two consecutive hauls in which the redfish bycatch limit is exceeded. If the bycatch limits are exceeded again, the vessel shall leave the Division and not return for at least 60 hours, in accordance with Article~~

~~6.6.b(ii).~~

**98 bis.** Until December 31, 2025, where a vessel is carrying an observer and is conducting a directed fishery for yellowtail with a legal mesh size appropriate for that fishery;

~~(i)~~ ~~The first two times on a fishing trip that catches of American plaice comprise the largest percentage by weight of the total catch in a haul, they shall be considered as incidental catch, but the vessel shall immediately move as specified in paragraph 6.~~

~~(i)(ii)~~ ~~By way of derogation from Article 6.6.b(ii), if the American plaice bycatch limits are exceeded again, instead of leaving the Division for at least 60 hours, the vessel may move a minimum of 10 nautical miles from any position of the previous tows in up to three consecutive hauls in which the American plaice bycatch limit is exceeded. If the bycatch limits are exceeded again, the vessel shall leave the Division and not return for at least 60 hours, in accordance with Article 6.6.b(ii).~~

~~108 ter. Until December 31, 2025, by way of derogation from Article 6.6.b(ii), if the American plaice bycatch limits are exceeded again, instead of leaving the Division for at least 60 hours, the vessel may move a minimum of 10 nautical miles from any position of the previous tows in up to three consecutive hauls in which the American plaice bycatch limit is exceeded. If the bycatch limits are exceeded again, the vessel shall leave the Division and not return for at least 60 hours, in accordance with Article 6.6.b(ii).~~

~~810 (i). Where a vessel is carrying an observer and is conducting a directed fishery for cod in Division 3M with a legal mesh size appropriate for that fishery,:~~

~~(i)~~ ~~The first two times on a fishing trip that catches of redfish comprise the largest percentage by weight of the total catch in a tow/set, they shall be considered as incidental catch, but the vessel shall immediately move as specified in paragraph 6.~~

~~(ii)~~ ~~By way of derogation from Article 6.6.b(ii), if the 3M redfish bycatch limits are exceeded again, instead of leaving the Division for at least 60 hours, the vessel may again move a minimum of 10 nautical miles from any position of the previous tows/sets in up to two consecutive hauls in which the redfish bycatch limit is exceeded. If the bycatch limits are exceeded again, the vessel shall leave the Division and not return for at least 60 hours, in accordance with Article 6.6.b(ii).~~

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~~6.6.b(ii).~~

~~119.~~ The percentage of bycatch in any one haul is calculated as the percentage, by weight, for each stock listed in Annex I.A of the total catch from that haul.

~~1210.~~ Upon its first entrance into a Division on a fishing trip, a vessel may undertake one trial tow for up to a maximum duration of 3 hours. If the stocks subjected to bycatch limits form the largest percentage, by weight, of the total resultant catch in the haul, this shall not be considered as a directed fishery for those stocks, and the vessel must immediately change position in accordance with provisions of paragraph 6(b). Vessels must identify any trial tow conducted in accordance with this paragraph and record in the fishing logbook the coordinates pertaining to the start and end locations of any trial tow conducted.

### **Implementation**

~~131.~~ The measures referred to in paragraphs ~~108 (i) and 8 (ii)~~ shall apply during 2025 and be reviewed by STACTIC in 2025.

~~142.~~ In 2025, STACTIC shall:

- (a) assess if the provisions in paragraphs 6.3(g) and ~~9(i)8-bis~~ led to an increase on American plaice bycatches or directed fishery on American plaice; and
- (b) review paragraphs 6.3(g) and ~~8-bis~~9(i).

## ANNEX II – REPORTING

### Annex II.A Recording of Catch (Logbook Entries)

#### FISHING LOGBOOK ENTRIES

##### Item of Information

[...]

- 15. Was a trial tow conducted in accordance with Article 6.6 (iii) or Article 6.~~12~~10? (Y/N)

[...]