



Report from the SPRFMO Observer (Faroe Islands) to the 41st Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)

Bordeaux, France, 23-27 September 2019

The 41st Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) took place from 23-27 September in Bordeaux, France. Delegates from the 12 NAFO Contracting Parties were welcomed to France by the French Minister for Agriculture and Food, Didier Guillaume, the French Director General for Fisheries and Aquaculture, Frédéric Gueudar Delahaye, and the NAFO President, Stéphane Artano. Contracting Parties were also welcomed by Stephan Delaux, Deputy Mayor of Bordeaux, Eric Banel, Interregional Director for the Sea, representing the Regional Prefect of New Aquitaine, and Raphaëlle Seguin, Counsellor at the Ministry for French Overseas Territories, later in the week.

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. The comprehensive management strategy for Divisions 2+3KLMNO Greenland halibut, adopted in 2017, will continue to inform sustainable management decisions for this NAFO stock. NAFO agreed to reopen the Flemish Cap shrimp fishery (Division 3M) after an increase of the stock to levels above Blim. The fishery for this shrimp stock has been closed since 2011.

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 reporting procedure.
- NAFO continued its commitment to transparency and agreed to post its 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.
- 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.