

RFMO Structure	NAFO	Area of Competence	Objectives	Organizational Structure	Scientific Regime
	<p>Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation</p> <p>Headquarters: Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada</p> <p>Convention: Convention on the Future of Multilateral Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (NAFO Convention).</p> <p>Signed: October 24, 1978, Ottawa, Canada.</p> <p>In force: January 1, 1979.</p> <p>www.nafo.int</p>	<p>The Northwest Atlantic Ocean. North of 35°N latitude and west of a line extending north from 35°N latitude and 42°W longitude to 59°N latitude, then west to 44° W longitude, and then north to the coast of Greenland, and the waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Davis Strait and Baffin Bay south of 78°10'N latitude.</p>	<p>To contribute, through consultation and co-operation among Contracting Parties (CPs), optimum utilization, rational management and conservation of fishery resources of NAFO Convention Area (NCA). The NAFO Regulatory Area (NRA) is high seas component of NCA.</p>	<p>General Council (GC) (2 Standing Committees), Scientific Council (SC) (4 Standing Committees), Fisheries Commission (FC) (1 Standing Committee), Secretariat (Executive Secretary).</p>	<p>SC is comprised of scientists of CPs. The SC has 4 standing committees: fisheries science (STACFIS), publications (STACPUB), research coordination (STACREC) and fisheries environment (STACFEN).</p> <p>SC acts upon annual requests from FC and coastal States for advice on stock assessments. Work of SC forms foundation upon which FC determines management measures for NRA. FC also reviews information and scientific advice from the SC, establishes TACs for different species as well as national quota allocations, and establishes conservation measures.</p>
The Fishery EA and PA	Key Species and Gear	Stock Status	Bycatch	Ecosystem Approach (EA)	Precautionary Approach (PA)
	<p>Straddling Stocks: Cod, Greenland halibut, redfish, skates, American plaice, yellowtail flounder, white hake, witch flounder, capelin, squid, shrimp.</p> <p>Discrete Stocks: 3M cod, 3M American plaice and 3M redfish, 3M shrimp.</p> <p>Gear: Bottom trawling (including otter and shrimp trawls), mid-water trawls, longlines and gillnets.</p>	<p>Collapsed: (10 stocks under moratoria) - Since 1993 - 3NO capelin, 3L cod. Since 1995 - 3NO cod, 3M cod, 3LNO American plaice, 3M American plaice, 3NO witch flounder, 3L witch flounder, 3NO shrimp. Since 1998 - 3LN redfish.</p> <p>Status uncertain: 3LNO thorny skates, 3O redfish, 3NO white hake (newly regulated); Greenland halibut (currently under 15 year rebuilding plan).</p> <p>Recovered: (moratorium lifted in 1998) 3LNO yellowtail flounder.</p>	<p>All non-target species. Bycatch mitigation measures include gear mesh size; minimum fish size; time area closures; use of sorting grates in shrimp fisheries; and percentage bycatch limits for contents of vessel holds and on a per set (haul) basis (lower bycatch limits for moratoria species).</p>	<p>EA is considered operationally difficult. NAFO discussion on development of ecosystem-based approach is included in 2005 Work plan. NAFO generally managed stocks on annual stock-by-stock and single species basis. As of 2005, newly regulated species have multi-year (3 year) TACs and Greenland halibut is under (15 year) multi-year rebuilding plan.</p>	<p>NAFO established PA Working Group in 1997. In 2004, FC adopted PA Framework <i>in toto</i> and adopted separate proposal to apply PA Framework initially to 3LNO yellowtail flounder and 3M shrimp. FC requested that additional stocks be considered under PA Framework for 2005.</p>
Participation	Members / Contracting Parties	Cooperating Non-Members	Membership	Participation Criteria	Transparency
	<p>Bulgaria, Canada, Cuba, Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland), EU, France (St. Pierre-et-Miquelon), Iceland, <i>Japan</i>, <i>Republic of Korea</i>, Norway, Russian Federation, Ukraine, USA (13 Members).</p> <p>Bold: UNFA <i>Italics:</i> FAO Compliance Agreement</p>	<p>There is no Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (NCP) status. Article XIX provides for contacting NCPs (nationals or vessels of that State) fishing in NRA to bring to their attention activities which may adversely effect NAFO conservation and management objectives.</p>	<p>Membership in NAFO GC is open. Membership in FC is only open to States who are either participating in NRA fisheries, or who have provided satisfactory evidence that they expect to participate in such fisheries. Membership is reviewed annually by General Council. 60% of annual individual CP contribution to budget based on nominal catches in NCA.</p>	<p>1999 Resolution clarifies that stocks are fully allocated and fishing opportunities are likely to be limited to new fisheries and stocks currently not allocated.</p> <p>NCPs fishing in NRA must fully comply with NAFO conservation and management measures.</p> <p>NAFO annually sets aside an allocation of regulated species called "Other" in part for States not included in list of allocations for CPs or for exceptional arrangements.</p>	<p>Publicly accessible website. NAFO proceedings, scientific documents and reports are available online. Meetings are open to all IGOs upon notification. NGOs and industry have participated as members of CP delegations. SC may invite NGOs and others. To date, one NGO has participated in SC meeting. Procedures were agreed in 2002 facilitating NGO participation as observers at FC plenary meetings with 100 days prior notice. NGOs may make oral statements upon invitation of Chair and distribute materials through Secretariat. Media policy prepared in 2004 to allow coverage of opening session.</p>
Monitoring, Control and Surveillance	Data Collecting and Reporting	Observer Program	Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)	Enforcement	Catch and Trade Documentation
	<p>Data collection by NAFO via CPs includes: catch and effort data; reports from port inspection, at-sea inspection and observer program; VMS messages and aerial surveillance data.</p> <p>Data from CPs scientific surveys is used by members of SC in developing stock assessments and other scientific advice.</p>	<p>Since 1998, 100% observer coverage on all CP vessels fishing in NRA is required (for monitoring and compliance purposes). Reports made to flag State and copied to NAFO Secretariat.</p> <p>NAFO has introduced Pilot Project on Observer, Satellite Tracking and Electronic Reporting to test real time electronic reporting system by observers and vessel masters.</p>	<p>Since 2001, CPs fishing in NRA must be equipped with VMS. Vessels transmit every 2 hours automatic positional and other reports to national fisheries monitoring centres, which, in turn, forward to NAFO Secretariat. NAFO and NEAFC are leading development of North Atlantic Format (NAF) of a comprehensive table of message types that can be transmitted through VMS.</p>	<p>NAFO Scheme of Joint International Inspection and Surveillance applies to all vessels fishing in NRA. NAFO requires CPs to perform in-port inspections on vessels having fished in NRA. CPs may deny port access and transshipment for non-compliance pending vessel inspection. Vessel must demonstrate that species were caught outside NRA or consistent with NAFO rules. In 1997, adopted Scheme to Promote Compliance by NCPs; presumption that NCP vessels fishing in NRA are undermining conservation regime and are IUU. All NCP vessels in NRA can be inspected with prior consent of vessel/flag State ("courtesy boarding"). Sightings of NCP vessels are immediately communicated to NAFO Secretariat, all CPs and to flag State. There is a Canadian air surveillance program dedicated to NAFO surveillance.</p>	<p>As of 2005, all processed fish products from NRA must be labelled as caught in NRA with species and product category identified. Other than labelling, there is no formal catch or trade documentation scheme.</p>
Other Governance Efforts and Challenges	Decision Making	Dispute Settlement Mechanism	Cooperative Efforts	Efforts to Strengthen RFMO	Challenges
	<p>Decisions are reached by consensus whenever possible; otherwise by majority vote (last vote 2002). Each CP has one vote. CPs in arrears for a period of more than 2 years cannot vote.</p> <p>Objection procedure enables CPs to formally object up to 60 days following decision.</p>	<p>NAFO does not have a dispute settlement mechanism.</p>	<p>NEAFC, NAFO and CCAMLR cooperate on developing NAF (common data communications standard and other fisheries data - electronic logbooks). Has MOU with ICES for joint stock assessments and other scientific matters. Cooperates with NEAFC on oceanic redfish management. Secretariat attends RFB Network, since inception in 1999 and meets regularly with Executive Secretaries of North Atlantic RFMOs. NAFO is a partner in FIRMS to report and share information on status and trends of fishery resources (posted on FIGIS). NAFO is longstanding member of CWP.</p>	<p>Improved website for public access to information. Increased institutional transparency with 2002 provisions for NGO participation. Included development of EA as part of 2005 Work Plan. In 2004, adopted PA Framework with initial application for 3LNO yellowtail flounder and 3M shrimp; also adopted multi-year TACs for newly regulated species- first RFMO to introduce management measures for elasmobranchs. In 2003, established Greenland halibut rebuilding plan. In 2004, prepared first official compliance report. Implemented VMS and 100% observer coverage for NRA.</p>	<p>Avoiding overfishing. Achieving sustainable fisheries. Rebuilding and maintaining stocks, particularly given poor recovery of 10 moratoria stocks. Reducing and mitigating bycatch (urgent concern for incidental catch of moratoria species). Developing EA. Broadening scope to include marine biodiversity and habitat conservation concerns. Amending objection procedure provisions. Improving CP compliance. Improving timely and effective follow-up by flag States to violations of NAFO measures. Introducing effective deterrents for non-compliance. Funding the increasing management, research and enforcement costs. Establishing global standards for observers and inspectors. Increasing collaboration with other RFBs, IGOs and NGOs to strengthen marine conservation and integrated management in Atlantic Ocean.</p>