

## NEA(10)3

### *Development of a risk framework for providing catch advice for the Faroese fishery*

1. At the Commission's Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting the Chairman noted that ICES had been unable to make progress in developing quantitative catch advice because the Commission had not agreed explicit management objectives for provision of catch advice for the Faroese fishery and there is no pre-agreed sharing agreement among NASCO Parties. He suggested that there is a need to address this issue before there is a harvestable surplus. The Commission agreed and decided that there should be further discussions on this issue among Heads of Delegations following the Annual Meeting with a view to making arrangements to commence work on developing management objectives in advance of the Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting. In the 2009 advice, CNL(09)10, ICES had indicated that it could develop a risk framework for the Faroese fishery similar to that used at West Greenland. This would require the development of management objectives for northern and southern, maturing and non-maturing stock, complexes, pre-agreed levels of risk for each management objective; and pre-agreed sharing arrangements among NASCO Parties.
2. Following consultation with the Chairman of the Commission, NEAC Heads of Delegations were contacted regarding the need for an inter-sessional meeting of the Commission. There was no support for such a meeting at that time. However, the Chairman proposed that to move this matter forward, the Secretary be asked to write to ICES indicating that the Commission recognizes that, for the reasons stated in the 2009 ACOM report, it anticipates that ICES will again have difficulties in providing quantitative catch options in the 2010 advice and requesting ICES to provide an assessment of the issues that would need to be resolved before such advice could be provided in future. The Commission agreed to this proposal and accordingly I wrote to ICES seeking this assessment.
3. The advice from ICES for 2010 is contained in document CNL(10)8. In response to the request from the Commission, ICES has discussed a number of scientific and management issues that will need to be addressed if a risk framework is to be established for the Faroese fishery based on the principles currently used for the West Greenland fishery. ICES has indicated that these are as follows: agreement on the management units to be employed and the management objectives for each unit; development of a basis for converting the catch option into numbers of fish from each of the contributing management units; development of stock forecasts for each of the management units; and determination of a sharing allocation.
4. The advice from ICES will be presented at the Commission's Annual Meeting and the Commission will then need to consider if it wishes to take further actions in support of the development by ICES of a risk framework for providing catch advice for the Faroese salmon fishery.

Secretary  
Edinburgh  
12 May 2010