

In all correspondence,  
please refer to:

GFS/14-163

06 June 2014

Miguel de Serpa Soares  
Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs  
and United Nations Legal Counsel  
Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea  
Office of Legal Affairs  
Room DC2-0450, United Nations  
New York, NY 10017, USA  
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Dear Miguel de Serpa Soares:

Thank you for your correspondence of 03 April 2014 inviting contributions to the second part of the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, pursuant to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/70.

Please find enclosed the contribution of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO). Please note, the contribution only covers sections of NGA Resolution 68/70 that are relevant to NAFO. The contribution follows the sections in the order in which they appear in that Resolution.

Sincerely yours,

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The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) is an intergovernmental fisheries science and management body. NAFO was founded in 1979 as a successor to ICNAF (International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries). NAFO has twelve Contracting Parties including the coastal States Canada, United States of America, France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon) and Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), as well as Cuba, the European Union, Iceland, Japan, Republic of Korea, Norway, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The international fisheries managed by NAFO take place outside the 200 mile EEZs of the four coastal States.

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include tunas, marlins, salmon, marine mammals or sedentary species. NAFO also has a General Council, which manages the external relations and the finance and administrative side of the Organization, and a Secretariat.

In 2007 NAFO amended its Convention to adopt an ecosystem approach to fisheries management. The amended Convention commits to protecting the associated marine ecosystems from adverse fisheries effects. The Convention, while adopted by the Organization, has not yet been ratified by the required  $\frac{3}{4}$  of Contracting Parties in their respective Parliaments. The amended Convention also incorporates dispute settlement procedures when a Contracting Party cannot agree with a specific NAFO measure.

NAFO has implemented a framework for applying the precautionary approach to fisheries management and is developing risk-based management approaches for a number of stocks.

NAFO also has a comprehensive set of regulations to monitor, survey and control the fishery, including a Joint International Scheme of Inspection, a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and port State control measures. In addition NAFO has developed a range of tools to protect VMEs, including the restrictions to bottom fishing in 19 areas in order to protect areas identified as being home to indicator species of vulnerable marine ecosystems such as corals and sponges, and a number of seamounts.

NAFO cooperates with other international organizations, such as the North East Atlantic Fisheries



STACFEN climate summaries are presented annually to scientific meetings where stock assessment is being undertaken. Scientific advice and management decisions use both the adopted precautionary approach and the ecosystem approach to fisheries management.

In 2014, the NAFO Fisheries Commission and Scientific Council established a working group on risk-based management strategies. *inter alia*, further enhance the development and



processes (e.g. CWP, ASFA, FIRMS, COFI), Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Networks, other RFMO meetings in an observer capacity, conducts joint scientific Symposia and has recently established a joint working group with its sister organisation, NEAFC.

NAFO has committed itself to supporting the five-year ABNJ Project lead by FAO, with a significant in-kind contribution over the course of the initiative.