



Unión Europea

Fondo Europeo Marítimo y  
de Pesca (FEMP)

## Coordination Meeting of the Project

### Flemish Cap International Survey

from

Programme for Data Collection Framework 2009-2013-2016

26-27 March 2014

Vigo-Spain

Summary report

Day 1- Wednesday 26 March

#### 1.- Introduction and welcome

José Miguel Casas (Project Coordinator) opened the meeting and welcomed the 14 scientists from the three institutions involved in the project.

The last meeting took place in March 2013. The overarching aim of this year's meeting was to know the general results of the last research survey carried out in summer 2013 and to agree on the objectives and logistical issues (scientific equipment, staff etc.) for the next research survey carried out in summer 2014.

Also in this meeting were tackled other matters related to the project: to improve the coordination, identify problems and look for solutions to get better the contribution in the NAFO Scientific Council meetings carried out each year in June and September.

#### 2.- Research Survey Flemish Cap 2013

##### Development and Results

Low catches and fall in the different indexes (biomass and abundances) of the most important species were the general results in the research survey carried out in summer 2013 on Flemish Cap. Only *Sebastes fasciatus* and *Macrourus berglax* increased the biomass slightly compared to 2012.

The general view is that the cod predation is closely related to the decrease in biomass of many species analyzed. In the particular case of genus *Sebastes* the strong year classes of cod should affect first to *S. marinus* distributed in shallower depths. After, as the cod stock increased and moved into deeper depths the others species *S. mentella* and *S. fasciatus* suffered the effect of predation reducing their biomass and abundance.



As regards the decline in cod biomass in 2013, this situation is different than predicted by assessments in recent years and probably the cannibalism on younger ages is the cause for which the recent strong year classes of cod had not been recruited as expected.

Finally, it was discussed the consequences of the presence in the area prospected during the survey of a seismic vessel forcing the change of the initial schedule. Also the effect of the seismic vessel activities over the behaviour of different stocks analyzed it has not been established.

*Coffee break*

### **3.- New Research Survey Flemish Cap 2014**

The R/V Vizconde de Eza will carry out the research survey on Flemish Cap in summer 2014 following the same procedures as in previous years (*Vazquez et al.* 2013).

#### Schedule

The Spanish research vessel *Vizconde de Eza* will sail on June 24 from St. John's to Flemish Cap coming back on July 28.

#### Survey Equipment

There are no changes in relation to past years.

#### Scientific staff

Sampling the catch (2 teams of 5 persons each)	10
Taxonomy	1
Identification of redfish species	1
CTD and data processing	1
Survey leader	1
TOTAL	14 scientists

#### Biennial Feeding Studies

Every two years, two persons will carry out feeding studies with exclusive dedication. In those years, the identification of redfish species and taxonomy tasks will be carried out by the teams in charge of catch sampling.

In 2014 will be carry out the feeding studies.



### New Collection and Sampling

In 2013 it was agreed to make a photo guide of cod male gonads. In the present year the objective is to complete the guide including pictures of the histological sections of the gonads. Also in 2014 it will begin a similar guide for Greenland halibut's male gonads.

*13:30 15:30 Lunch Break*

### **5.- Review of Survey data required for the assessment of the following stocks:**

#### Cod Div.3M (NAFO Designated Expert: Diana González Troncoso).

After the differences found in the last year in cod otoliths reading between readers, it is important to reach an agreement between them to validate the criteria used. In this sense an image interchange of cod otoliths between readers will be carry out.

#### Redfish Div.3M (NAFO Designated Expert: António Ávila de Melo)

This year no assessment will be made in NAFO Scientific Council meeting.

#### American plaice Div.3M (NAFO Designated Expert: Ricardo Alpoim)

In 2014 a benchmark assessment will be carried out.

The new procedures in reading otoliths adopted for American plaice will not affect the assesement, because the new protocol only affect the older ages included in the plus group.

#### Shrimp Div.3M (NAFO Designated Expert: José Miguel Casas Sánchez)

As in previous years, shrimp fishery is in moratorium. The assessment will be carried out with the information obtained in the 2014 research survey.

#### Roughhead Grenadiers SA 2+3 (NAFO Designated Expert: Fernando González Costas)

This year no assessment will be made in NAFO Scientific Council meeting.

#### Greenland halibut SA 2 + Div.3KLMNO

Since 2011 no analytical assessment is made and the assessment is build from trends of the three research surveys (Canadians and Spanish), implemented with the Harvest control Rules.



## Day 2- Thursday 27 March

### **6.- Data Collection Framework**

The present DCF finished in 2013 but was extended until 2016.

For the elaboration of the new DCF, several forms will be distributed between experts to know the requirements for each stock to carry out the corresponding assessments in the NAFO regulatory area. This forms duly completed will be sent to European Commission before 16 April.

Regarding the outstanding payments, it is noted that some of the payments carried out by EU have not yet reached the research Spanish Institutes (Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas and Instituto Español de Oceanografía).

### **7.- New Projects or Contracts (2 and 3) under Framework Contract MARE/2012/21- Scientific advice for fisheries beyond EU waters**

These contracts have the objective of providing the Commission with a pluriannual management plan for Cod 3M Division (Contract 2) and overview of the existing international obligations on the management of discards from RFMOs (in our case NAFO).

The results of these projects “deliverables” will be presented as Scientific Council Research (SCR) documents in the NAFO Scientific Council meetings. The authors of the SCRs will be able to be any members of the project Flemish Cap although they are not belong to the consortium always they take part in the data processing of the information collected in the Flemish Cap survey.

### **8.- SCRs to present in the next NAFO Scientific Council meeting .**

American plaices Div. 3M assessment (Ricardo Alpoim, IPMA).

Working Paper on Redfish assessment (Antonio Ávila de Melo, IPMA).

Cod Div. 3M assessment and Reference Points (Diana Gonzalez and Fernando González IEO).

Results of Flemish cap Survey in 2013 (Mónica Mandado, IIM)

Northern shrimp in Flemish Cap survey 2014 and shrimp Div. 3M assessment (José Miguel Casas, IEO) during NIPAG meeting in September.

Update of roughhead grenadier maturation ogives (Dolores Garabana, IEO)

Working Paper about cod cannibalism in NAFO area. (Concepción González, IEO).

Working Paper about assemblages in the structure and distribution of different species in NAFO area. (Adriana Nogueira, IEO).



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### **9.- NAFO Scientific Council June Meeting**

During the meeting was expressed the concerning about the delay in approving the EMFF budget and how it will affect the funding of travel costs and subsistence allowances of upcoming meetings.

### **10.- Head of the Survey 2015**

The next year 2015 the research survey in Flemish Cap will be head by Ricardo Alpoim from IPMA.

### **11.- Time and place of next coordination meeting**

The meeting participants agree to meet next time in March 2015 at the Institute of Marine Researches (IIM-CSIC) (Vigo-Spain).

At 15:30 finished the annual coordination meeting.

### **References**

Vazquez, A., J.M. Casas and R. Alpoim. 2013. Protocols of the EU bottom trawl survey of Flemish Cap. NAFO SCR Doc. 13/21 Serial No. N6174.

### **Meeting Participants in alphabetical order:**

- |                                      |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - Antonio Ávila de Melo (IPMA)       | - José Lorenzo González (IEO)     |
| - Concepción González Iglesias (IEO) | - José Miguel Casas Sánchez (IEO) |
| - Diana González Troncoso (IEO)      | - Mónica Mandado Alonso (IIM)     |
| - Dolores Garabana Barro (IEO)       | - Ricardo Alpoim (IPMA)           |
| - Esther Román Marcote (IEO)         | - Rosario Domínguez Petit (IIM)   |
| - Fernando González Costas (IEO)     | - Xabier Paz Canalejo (IEO)       |

IPMA: Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera

IEO: Instituto Español de Oceanografía

IIM: Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas (CSIC)

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