

NAFO CHECKLIST FOR SUCCESS



deepsea
conservationcoalition

At the **48th Annual Meeting of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)** in Vilnius, Lithuania, September 21-25, 2026

Following the 20-year review of the U.N. bottom fisheries resolutions this year and on the heels of the latest performance review, it is both important to reflect upon progress that has been made and where NAFO can continue to ensure that it fully upholds its modernized Convention, meets obligations to protect biodiversity in areas under its jurisdiction and advances best practices in fisheries management. NAFO must continue to be a leader in VME protection and the ecosystem approach.

The importance of effective governance and conservation measures in international fisheries organizations is further underpinned by the coming into force of the High Seas Treaty to Protect Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ), which will have its first CoP in 2027. To this end, the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition and its 100+ member organizations recommend the following for NAFO this year:

VULNERABLE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

- NAFO extends the existing bottom fishing closure provisions from 31 December 2026 to 2027.
- NAFO supports completion of the reassessment in 2027, including multiple management/boundary options where possible to allow managers to consider fishing/conservation trade-offs.

DEEP-SEA FISHERIES

- NAFO agrees to continue discussions on Greenland shark bycatch reduction in 2027, with the Secretariat to analyze observer data for spatial, temporal and fishery-specific patterns.
- NAFO agrees to a reduction in the Thorny Skate TAC from 7000t to 3500t given the science advice for increased precaution and low resilience to fishing pressure of this species.

SCIENCE-BASED QUOTA DECISIONS

- NAFO adopts quota decisions for all managed stocks in line with science advice for all NAFO managed species.

ECOSYSTEM APPROACH TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

- NAFO advances the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Roadmap.
- NAFO supports the use of an application for 2TCI.

PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH FRAMEWORK

- NAFO supports implementation of the PAF and encourage PA development in additional stocks.

NAFO CHECKLIST FOR SUCCESS

GOVERNANCE

- NAFO agrees to an MOU on data sharing with ICCAT.
- NAFO agrees to add a standing agenda item on BBNJ cooperation.

CLIMATE CHANGE

- NAFO supports a proposal to hold a climate change integration meeting by 2028.

SCIENTIFIC CAPACITY

- NAFO Contracting Parties contribute the additional scientific expertise needed to conduct stock assessments, ensure the ecosystem approach is considered in scientific advice, inform on climate impact, and ensure that Scientific Council is supported to successfully deliver on the requests approved by the Commission.



Credit: NOAA Ocean Exploration