



Executive Summary of the NAFO report to UNGA 66/68, April 2012

In line with existing international instruments, NAFO and its Contracting Parties continue their efforts to maintain international cooperation in the northwest Atlantic. In 2007 NAFO adopted amendments to its Convention which expand beyond a sustainable use of the commercial resources by committing to protect the associated marine ecosystems from adverse fisheries effects. To date 3 Contracting Parties have ratified the amended Convention and the process is ongoing.

NAFO conducted a Performance Review in 2011 and the Panel commended NAFO for its performance, particularly in recent years.

In the context of developing an ecosystem approach towards fisheries management, NAFO has prohibited bottom trawling on sensitive habitats (18 areas have been closed), banned shark finning and improved sea turtle protection. NAFO has adopted a number of measures to assess and minimize the impact of fisheries on bycatch species, particularly benthic fauna such as