

Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science



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Scientific publications by ICNAF and NAFO have been in existence since ICNAF began in 1949 with the ICNAF Special Publication series dealing with proceedings of scientific symposia. The *ICNAF Research Bulletin* was started in 1964 to provide a means of publishing results of scientific research relevant to ICNAF. The ICNAF Research Bulletin was terminated in September 1979 after the issue of Number 14. The first volume of the NAFO *Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science* was published in December 1980, after NAFO came into force replacing ICNAF in 1979.

The Northwest Atlantic fisheries have a rich history, and a great deal of research has been sponsored and encouraged by NAFO and its predecessor ICNAF. NAFO has been a leader in international organizations in the application of science to fishery management and in the regulation of fisheries. In accordance with its mandate to disseminate information on fisheries research to the scientific community, the Scientific Council of NAFO publishes the *Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science*, which contains peer-reviewed primary papers, and *NAFO Scientific Council Studies*, which contains unrefereed papers of topical interest and importance to the Scientific Council. Lists of these and other NAFO publications are given on the back of this issue.

Editorial Policy

The Journal provides an international forum for the primary publication of original research papers, with emphasis on environmental, biological, economic and social science aspects of fisheries and their interactions with marine habitats and ecosystems. While the Journal is intended to be regional in scope, papers of general applicability, and methodological and review papers, irrespective of region, are considered. Space is available for notes and letters to the editor to facilitate scientific discussion of published papers. Both practical and theoretical papers are eligible. All papers are peer-reviewed to determine their suitability for primary publication. Associate Editors arrange for the peer-reviews and ensure that the papers accepted for publication meet the high standards required for the Journal. Manuscripts approved for publication are accepted with the understanding that they are not copyrighted, published or submitted elsewhere except in abstract form. There are no page charges.

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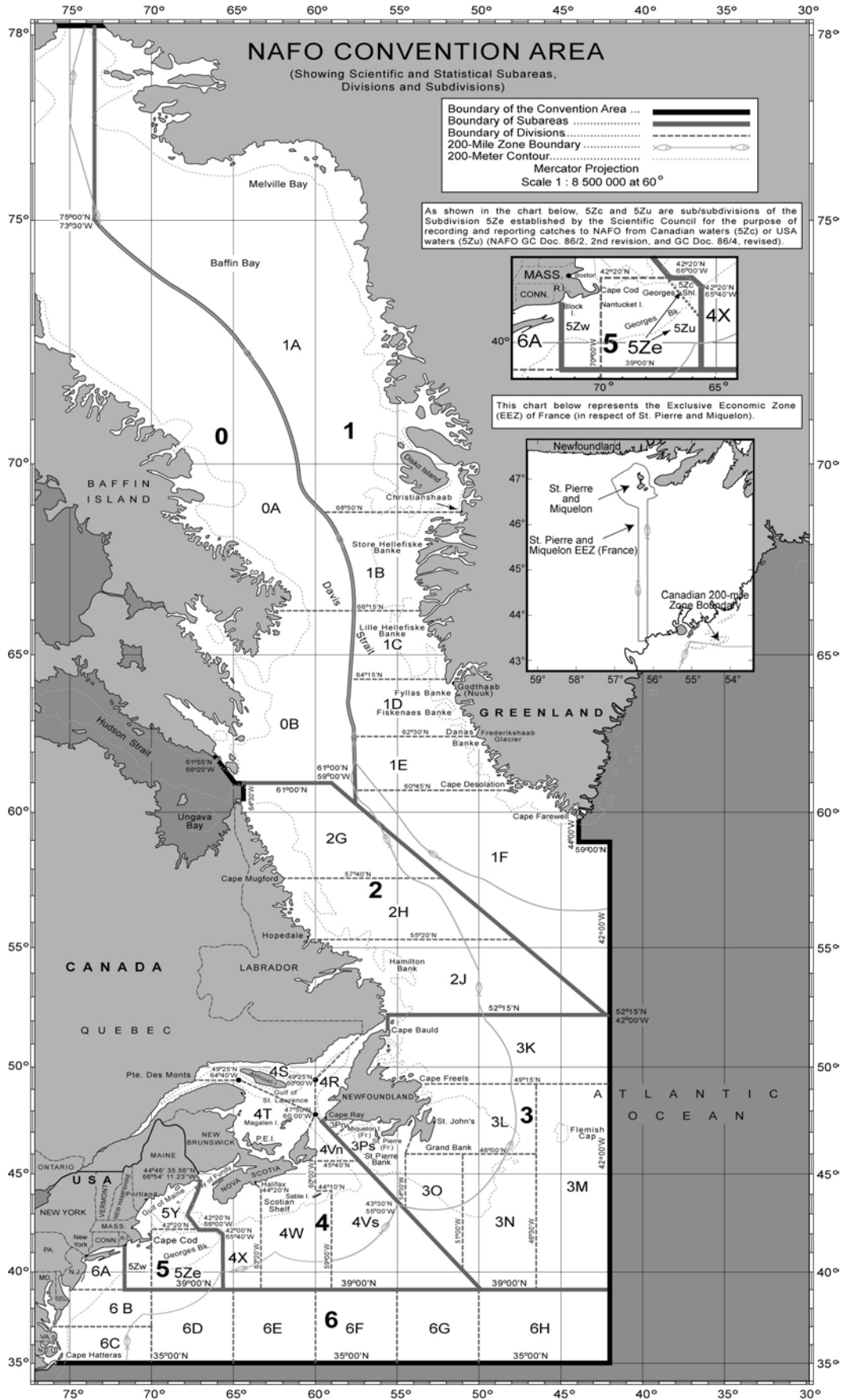
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Foreword

The Scientific Council of NAFO publishes the Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science, containing peer reviewed primary literature detailing original research of relevance to fisheries science and management in the Northwest Atlantic. Articles are published electronically under a Creative Commons 2.5 license and are freely available at <http://journal.nafo.int>. In 2011, Scientific Council resolved to resume the publication of bound print volumes on an annual basis, and these are treated as a compilation of the web based articles. Additionally, the journal supports the use of digital object identifiers (doi) for electronic media and encourages others to support this initiative.

This issue presents a range of papers covering the broad spectrum of science being carried out in the Northwest Atlantic, many of which reflect the growing importance of understanding the impact a variable climate has upon marine resources. Some familiar problems are revisited, such as the reproductive biology of Greenland halibut and the population structuring of a number of commercially significant species.

In 2011, Anthony Thompson stepped down as General Editor of JNAFS and I would take this opportunity to thank him for his service to this journal, and to thank the scientific community involved with it for their forbearance during the transitional process from one editor to the next.

I hope you find this volume of JNAFS enjoyable and informative.

December 2011

Neil Campbell
General Editor,
Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science

Contents

Information, Policy and Board	iii
NAFO Convention Area Map	iv
Foreword	v
Contents	vii
STEIN, M. 2010. Impacts of “Storis” on the Thermohaline Stratification off West Greenland.	1
ODDONE, M. C., L. PAESCH, and W. NORBIS. 2010. Size structure, abundance and preliminary information on the reproductive parameters of the shortspine spurdog (<i>Squalus mitsukurii</i>) in the Argentinean-Uruguayan Common Fishing Zone from the mid-1990s.	13
NIELSEN, J. R., D. A. METHVEN, and K. KRISTENSEN. 2010. A statistical discrimination method using sagittal otolith dimensions between sibling species of juvenile cod <i>Gadus morhua</i> and <i>Gadus ogac</i> from the Northwest Atlantic.	27
ZHANG, Y., D. BRZEZINSKI, J. H. CHANG, K. STEPANEK, and Y. CHEN. 2011. Spatial structuring of fish community in association with environmental variables in the coastal Gulf of Maine.	47
JØRGENSEN, O. A., C. HVINGEL, and M. A. TREBLE. 2011. Identification and mapping of bottom fish assemblages in northern Baffin Bay.	65
KANE, J. 2011. Inter-decadal variability of zooplankton abundance in the Middle Atlantic Bight.	81
DRINKWATER, K. F. and B. PETRIE. 2011. A Note on the Long-Term Sea Surface Temperature Records at Boothbay Harbor, Maine.	93
DECELLES, G. R. and S. X. CADRIN. An Interdisciplinary Assessment of Winter Flounder (<i>Pseudopleuronectes americanus</i>) Stock Structure.	103
OUELLET P., A. O. V. BUI, and B. BERNIER. Greenland halibut (<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i> Walbaum 1792) early stage distribution in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.	121
NEUDECKER, T. and M. STEIN 2011. Occurrence of Grey Gurnard (<i>Eutrigla gurnardus</i> , Linnaeus 1758) in West Greenland Waters.	131
FOWLER, G. M. 2011. Old and Older Perceptions of the Migrations and Distribution of Haddock, <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i> , in Northwest Atlantic Waters from Tagging Conducted in the Bay of Fundy, Georges Bank, Scotian Shelf, and the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence.	137
Scientific Publications of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization	159
Manuscript Preparations	163

