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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.

Editorial Board

Foreword

The Scientific Council of NAFO publishes the *Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science*, which contains peer-reviewed primary papers on original research. In 2005, Scientific Council took steps necessary to modernize the Journal's publication medium and introduced a more appropriate copyright notice. Articles are now published electronically and all are freely available at http://journal.nafo.int. The bound print volumes are treated as a compilation of the web-based articles. Additionally, the journal supports the use of the digital object identifiers (doi) for electronic media and encourages others to support the doi initiative.

Many changes are apparent in methodologies used to assess and manage fisheries. Single-species assessments still form the main stay of the work of assessment bodies and can be likened to knowing how much money is in the bank. “Never enough!” I hear you all say, and as we know this sentiment also applies to our fish stocks. Managers are demanding more accurate assessments of spawning stock biomass (SSB), which becomes a real challenge for stocks under moritorium: How can we best use fisheries models when we have closed the fishery? New methods need to be developed that have a lower reliance on catch statistics. New information, and more excitement, arrives at the table with the realisation that repoductive potential is not the same as SSB. Older fish contribute more to future generations than their younger inexperienced counterparts. More consideration needs to be given to protecting the older (larger) fish and perhaps this is where closed areas can play a role. This, and much more, was presented at the 2007 NAFO/PICES/ICES symposium on *Reproductive and Recruitment Processes of Exploited Marine Fish Stocks* held in Lisbon with the proceedings to be published in volume 41 of this journal.

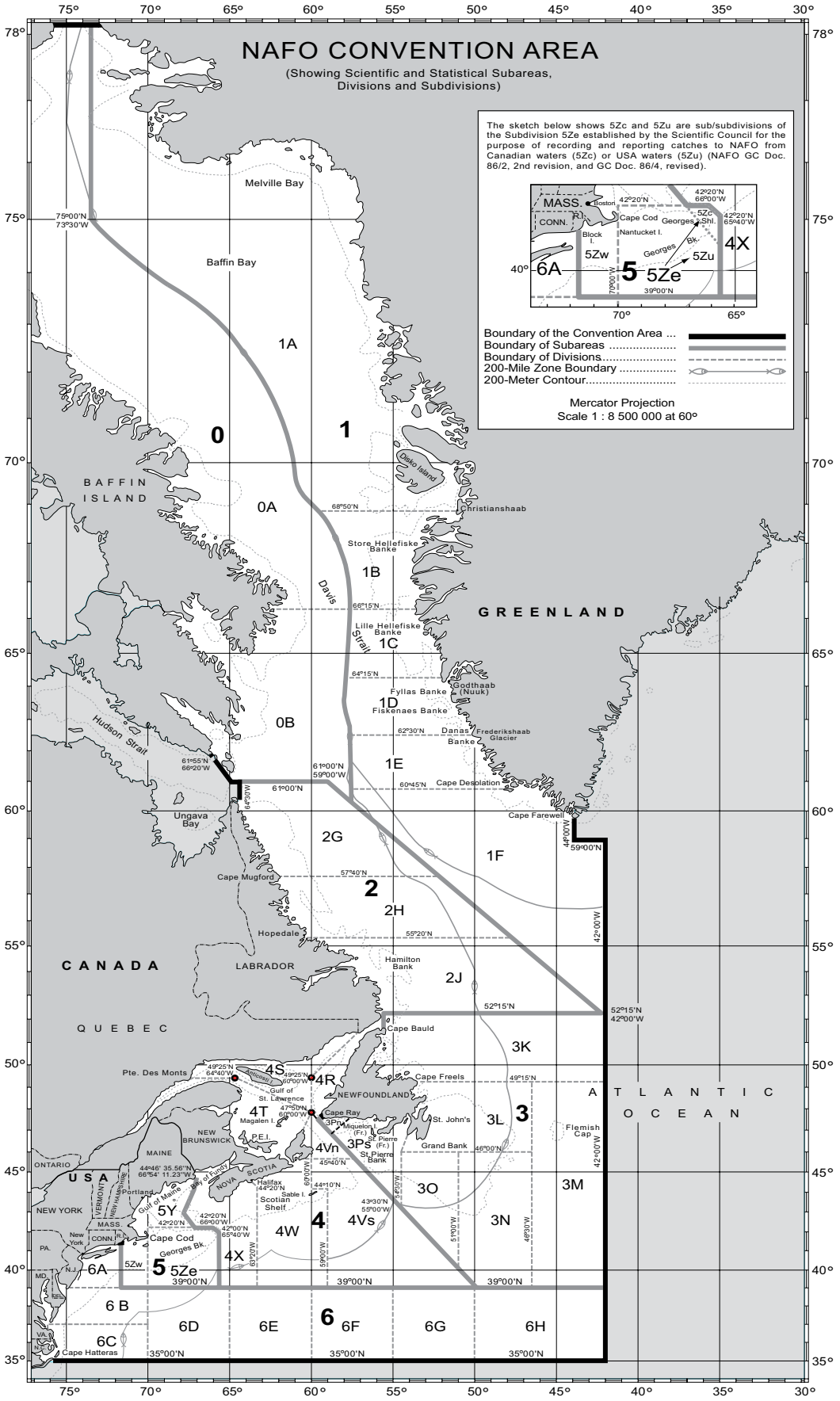
Oceanographic research is more necessary nowadays than ever before. It underpins much of our current knowledge regarding climate change. However, like *reproductive potential*, this knowledge is not filtering into stock assessments in the way it should. It is important information in its own right, but it could be so much more.

More options are now opening up, that are a little like spending or investing the money in the bank. Fisheries has always been a balance between exploitation and conservation; but research is progressively showing that conservation benefits exploitation. There is a growing need for more research on marine habitats and habitat-fisheries interactions. Oceanographic research has a clear role here, along with more fundamental habitat mapping. We can catch less to catch more.

There is also a growing realisation that good advice on the state of the fish stocks is insufficient to ensure the sustainability of our fisheries. We know a lot about the dynamics of fish populations, but still many stocks are at historically low levels around the World. Economic and social considerations need to be taken in to account, and for these reasons the journal has widened its scope with the objective of integrating inter-displinary reseach to help in the conservation of our fisheries and fish stocks.

January 2008

Anthony Thompson
General Editor,
Journal of Northwest Atlantic Fishery Science


NAFO CONVENTION AREA
(Showing Scientific and Statistical Subareas, Divisions and Subdivisions)
The sketch below shows 5Zc and 5Zu are sub/subdivisions of the Subdivision 5Ze established by the Scientific Council for the purpose of recording and reporting catches to NAFO from Canadian waters (5Zc) or USA waters (5Zu) (NAFO GC Doc. 86/2, 2nd revision, and GC Doc. 86/4, revised).
Boundary of the Convention Area ...
Boundary of Subareas .....
Boundary of Divisions.....
200-Mile Zone Boundary .....
200-Meter Contour.....
Mercator Projection
Scale 1 : 8 500 000 at 60°
Melville Bay
Baffin Bay
BAFFIN ISLAND
Davis Strait
Hudson Strait
Ungava Bay
GREENLAND
Store Hellefiske Banke
Lille Hellefiske Banke
Fyllas Banke
Fiskenaes Banke
Danas Banke
Frederikshaab Glacier
Godthaab (Nuuk)
Christianshaab
Cape Desolation
Cape Farewell
Cape Mugford
Hopedale
CANADA
LABRADOR
QUEBEC
Hamilton Bank
Cape Bauld
Pte. Des Monts
Gulf of St. Lawrence
NEWFOUNDLAND
Cape Freels
Cape Ray
St. John's
Grand Bank
Flemish Cap
ATLANTIC OCEAN
NEW BRUNSWICK
P.E.I.
MAINE
ONTARIO
USA
NOVA SCOTIA
Halifax
Sable I.
Scotian Shelf
Portland
NEW YORK
VERMONT
NEW HAMPSHIRE
MASS.
CONN.
R.I.
New York
PA.
N.J.
MD.
DEL.
VA.
Cape Cod
Georges Bk.
Cape Hatteras
Boston
Block I.
Nantucket I.
Georges Shl.
Georges Bk.
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