

1 ICELAND AND EAST GREENLAND

1.3.3.1 NEAFC Request concerning Redfish Stocks in the Irminger Sea and adjacent areas

NEAFC requests ICES to provide the following:

1. Regarding redfish stocks in the Irminger Sea and adjacent areas:

- a) Provide information of stock identity of *Sebastes mentella* fished in pelagic and demersal fisheries. ICES is asked to describe concepts on which management of *Sebastes mentella* can be based;
- b) Provide quantitative information to allow spatial and temporal limitations in catches and other measures to avoid disproportionate exploitation rate of any one component, especially to prevent local depletion;

ICES Response

a) Some new information is available but it has to be reviewed in a comprehensive evaluation that integrates these results with those from other disciplines. ICES will assess the stock based on the current advisory units until a synthetic review of stock identification information becomes available. These units are: a demersal unit on the continental shelf in ICES Divisions Va, Vb, and Sub-area XIV and a pelagic unit in the Irminger Sea and adjacent areas (Sub-areas V, VI, XII, and XIV).

b) ICES does not have the required information to provide advice on spatial allocations to avoid disproportionate exploitation and local depletion. It is expected, however, that if a substantial reduction in TAC is implemented a greater share of the catches will be taken in depths below 500 m in the north-eastern area. This could be prevented by seasonal and/or area regulations.