



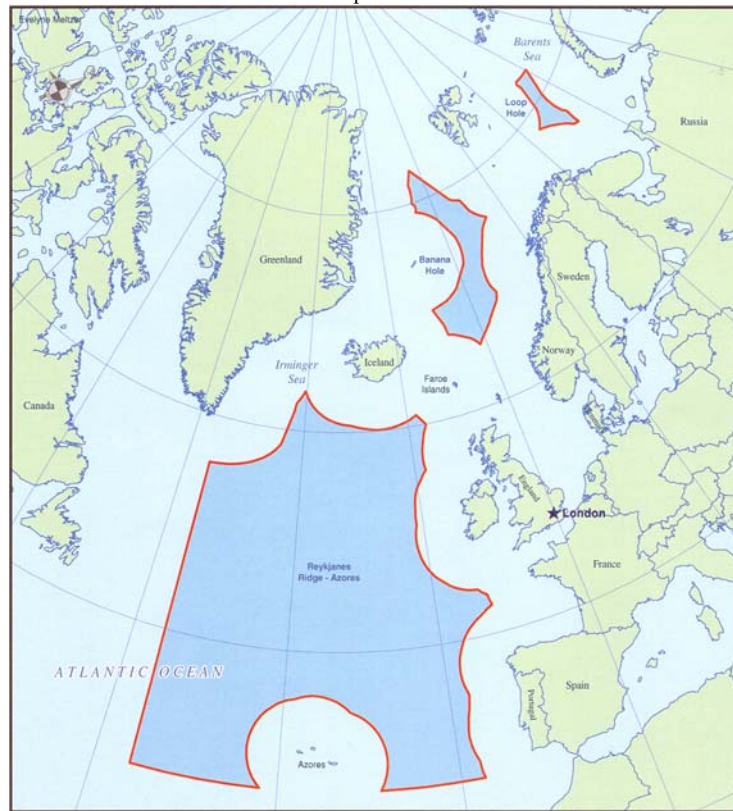
## North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission

Contracting Parties: Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the EU, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation

### PRESS RELEASE

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The high seas of the NEAFC Regulatory Area inside the NEAFC Convention Area in the North-East Atlantic are shown shaded on the map below.



For illustration purposes only.  
Map Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic  
Standard Parallel: 42°N, 77°N  
Central Meridian: 25°W  
Global Overview of Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. Evelyne Meltzer, working copy 04/2005

#### North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)

★ Headquarters: London, England

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NEAFC strengthened its role as a 21<sup>st</sup> century Regional Fisheries Management Organisation at its 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting by reaching consensual agreement between its Contracting Parties on management measures for 6 out of 7 fisheries; the one outstanding is planned to be settled in December 2006.

To ensure that these agreements are properly enforced and monitored NEAFC agreed on a new Port State Control system, entering into force early next year,

which will effectively close European ports to landings of frozen fish, which have not been verified to be legal by the Flag State of the vessel. This will be controlled by direct inspection in designated ports all over Europe. This is a new and major plank in NEAFC's efforts to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in which NEAFC already has a decent track record. The two Regional Fisheries Organisations in the North Atlantic, NEAFC and its sister in the West-Atlantic NAFO, have agreed to join forces creating a pan-Atlantic blacklist of IUU vessels.

NEAFC is the first Regional Fisheries Management Organisation in the world to have undergone an independent performance review. The report of the performance panel was presented 13 November to the NEAFC Commission and it was decided to follow up on the recommendations in an Extraordinary Commission meeting in the first half of 2007.

NEAFC further agreed

- To close an additional area to fisheries to protect cold water corals;
- To ban fisheries for orange roughy in the first half of 2007;
- To further reduce effort in fisheries for vulnerable fish species in deep water;
- It confirmed the outcome of international conferences that strengthening of cooperation, through Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, is the way forward to improve ocean governance in the high seas and
- Heads of Delegation of the NEAFC Commission meet their environmental counterparts (OSPAR) at NEAFC Headquarters and exchange information.

#### Additional information

Coastal States of Norwegian spring spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring continue their negotiations in December 2006 to find a solution that can form the basis for NEAFC measures in 2007.

The NEAFC Commission maintained that no fisheries for basking shark will take place in 2007 and calls for compilation of data to better assist assessments of stock status and advice on this and other pelagic shark species. A ban on using gillnets in waters greater than 200 metres depth was maintained.

The Commission noted that the blacklisting of vessels from non-Contracting Parties which undermine the effectiveness of NEAFC regulations had a distinct effect in 2006. IUU vessels have been tracked and effectively blocked from landing in NEAFC Contracting Party ports and ports in neighbouring areas.

Belize applied for cooperative non-Contracting Party status, which means that it will have the same obligations as Contracting Parties. The application was successful and Belize has been accorded cooperative status for 2007.

At his 6<sup>th</sup> meeting as President of the Commission, Mr Einar Lemche noted: *It suffices to note that from all major fisheries in the NEAFC Regulatory Area have been brought under regulation and NEAFC has systematically adapted requirements in international law and instruments, i.a. science based management, effective surveillance and inspection, transparency, fast track dispute settlement, and effective tools against IUU fishing.....*

The Commission elected new officers for the years 2007-009.

President - Mr Stefán Ásmundsson, Iceland;  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Mr Vladimir Shibanov, Russian Federation;  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President - Mr Johan Williams, Norway

The current Secretary, Mr Kjartan Hoydal, was reappointed for a further three-year term.

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## More Details

	1000 tonnes	1000 tonnes	
<b>Main Fisheries/ stocks</b>	<b>Landings Regulatory Area 2005</b>	<b>Total landings Convention Area 2005</b>	<b>Management measure 2007</b>
Norwegian spring spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring	195	1,254	Meeting planned for December to set measures for 2007
Blue whiting	695	1,973	TAC of 1,700 thousand tonnes of which 268 in the Regulatory Area, with allocations. Staged reduction of TAC.
Mackerel	356	35	TAC of 423 thousands tonnes of which 48 in the Regulatory Area, with allocations.
Rockall haddock	5	5	Box closed to trawl fisheries
Pelagic redfish Irminger Sea	62	69	TAC 46 thousands tonnes for the Convention Area
Pelagic redfish Norwegian Sea	8	-	Fishery closed until 30 June 2007
Deep Sea Fisheries	-	27	Effort less than 65 % of effort in earlier years

<b>Additional measures related to fishing</b>	<b>Period</b>
Ban of fishing Basking shark in the Regulatory Area	2006 ---→
Ban on finning of sharks	2007 ---→
Ban on fishing orange roughy first half of 2007	First half of 2007
Closed areas to fishing gear on 4 sea mounts and one large area on the Reykjanes Ridge.	2005 – 2007
Areas on the Hatton and Rockall bank closed to fishing to protect cold water corals.	2007- 2009
Ban of gill net fishing in depths over 200 min the Regulatory Area	2006 --→

The five main fisheries in the Convention Area are Norwegian spring spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring, mackerel, blue whiting and pelagic redfish. Around 4 million tonnes, or

31 %, of the total North East Atlantic landings, are taken in these fisheries. Of the 4 million tonnes 1 million tonnes of this are taken in the Regulatory Area.

The catches of the three pelagic species in 2005 had a landed value of approximately 1 681 million USD from the Convention Area and 236 million USD from the Regulatory Area.

### The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting overview

1. The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Commission of the **North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission** (NEAFC) took place in London between 13-17 November 2006 under the chairmanship of Mr. Einar Lemche, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland).
2. All Contracting Parties were represented: Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Community, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation. Representatives from the Bahamas, Belize, Canada, the Cook Islands, Japan and New Zealand, several international governmental organisations, including the Fisheries Department of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, (FAO), and two non-governmental organisations attended as observers.
3. The Commission reviewed scientific information from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) concerning the status of fish stocks in the North-East Atlantic. Specific attention was given to reports on stocks under NEAFC's regulatory competence (pelagic redfish, blue whiting, Norwegian spring spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring, mackerel, Rockall haddock and deep-sea species). The Commission also reviewed updated scientific information on vulnerable deep-water habitats and shark species.
4. The Contracting Parties of NEAFC decided unanimously to adopt port state control measures. The measures, which will come into effect from 1 May 2007, provide for prior notification of landings of frozen fish by foreign fishing vessels that will include a declaration by the master of the vessel of the catch on board. Before the landings can be authorised by the port state, the flag state must exercise its responsibilities by verifying the information provided in the declaration. In particular, the flag state must confirm that the fishing vessel had sufficient quota that the catch had been taken into account for monitoring quota uptake. The flag state must also confirm that the vessel was authorised to fish and the area of catch has been verified by VMS. Without the confirmation, no authorisation can be given by the port state. Without authorisation no landing can occur. The control measures also include new obligations and benchmarks as regards inspections to be carried out by the port state. The port state control measures will provide the means to control landings of illegally caught fish from the NEAFC Convention Area, such as cod from the Barents Sea. The adoption of these measures can be seen as a major breakthrough which establishes concrete, practical arrangements for strengthening control by port states.
5. NEAFC has as the first Regional Fisheries Management Organisation undertaken an independent performance review headed by experts by the Fisheries Department of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, (FAO), the United Nations Division for Oceans Affairs and the Law of

the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs (DOALOS) and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. The report is now in the public domain.

6. In 2003 NEAFC agreed on temporary measures to freeze effort in fisheries for fish species inhabiting deep waters in the Regulatory Area from 1 January 2004. This year NEAFC agreed to maintain the reduction in fishing effort in these fisheries by 30 % in 2006. For 2007 it was agreed to a further reduction of 5 %.
7. NEAFC reviewed the outcome of the UN Fish Stock Agreement Review Conference in May 2006 and reaffirmed that the way forward to improve ocean governance in the high seas is states strengthening the cooperation in Regional Fisheries Management Organisations. NEAFC had already responded to the Conference recommendation to undertake independent review of performance.
8. NEAFC agreed on management measures to control the exploitation of major fish stocks in international waters (the NEAFC Regulatory Area). These measures include total allowable catches and effort for redfish in two areas, mackerel, blue whiting, Rockall haddock and deep-sea species. Consultations between Coastal States on Norwegian spring spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring continue. Final NEAFC measures for 2006 will be adopted when these negotiations are concluded. NEAFC continued fishing ban for basking shark, ban on finning of all shark species and the compilation of data on this and other pelagic shark species.
9. NEAFC reviewed recent trends in the international management of marine resources, including the ecosystem approach and cooperation with other regional and global organisations. In the light of this, it was decided to continue to examine how to strengthen the role of NEAFC in addressing overall ocean management in the Convention Area. There was consensus that strengthening of cooperation, through Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, is the way forward to improve ocean governance in the high seas,.
10. Having served as President for 6 years Mr Lemche will leave office at the end of the year. The NEAFC Commission elected the officers for the next 3 years:
11. The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place in London between 12-16 November 2007.