

Proposal by Norway for Terms of reference for PECCOE on the development of technical measures for gill net fisheries in the Regulatory Area

Lost and abandoned fishing gear, and the subsequent "ghost fishing", constitutes a major problem, which has to be addressed in order to promote sustainable fishing practices in the NEAFC Convention Area. In order to reduce the problem of lost and abandoned gear, the Contracting Parties recognize the importance of technical regulations of gill net fisheries.

In accordance with Article 5 of the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in North-East Atlantic Fisheries, NEAFC, the Commission requests PECCOE to recommend technical measures for gill net fisheries in the Regulatory area, i.a.:

1. The maximum permitted soak time for gill nets.
2. Technical vessel and gear requirements.
3. Obligations with respect to retrieval of lost gear.
4. Reporting procedures for lost gear.
5. Regulations regarding marking of gear.

NEAFC further reiterates the mandate to PECCOE to collate data on lost and abandoned gear in the Convention Area. PECCOE shall recommend to the Annual Meeting in 2006 on management measures to be taken.