

**Proposal by Iceland for
Terms of Reference for the Working Group on the Future of NEAFC**

The amendment to the Convention that the Working Group agreed on in 2005 has been accepted in principle by the Commission, which aims at adopting it formally through a mail vote before the 2006 Annual Meeting.

For NEAFC to improve its work on the protection of vulnerable areas, including area closures for certain types of fisheries, it is necessary to develop criteria and procedures within NEAFC for dealing with these issues. This includes procedures for input from ICES as appropriate.

The Working Group on the Future of NEAFC shall develop the criteria and procedures needed in this context, with the aim of having proposals ready for adoption at the 2006 Annual Meeting.