

Proposal by the Working Group on the Future of NEAFC with respect to criteria and procedures for closing areas to fisheries.

The Working Group proposes to insert a new paragraph 2 b in the terms of reference of the **Permanent Committee on Management and Science** as follows:

- 2.b. Review proposals for management measures
- regarding the impact of fisheries on other species and marine ecosystems;
 - conserving marine biological diversity and
 - minimising harmful impacts on living marine resources and marine ecosystems.

The review process could follow the procedures listed in the annex below;

Annex: Possible steps in NEAFC decision making procedures regarding management proposals in accordance with para. 2.b.

A contracting Party makes a proposal. The proposal is put to the Committee for initial discussion. Possible outcomes are that the proposal is rejected, or more information is required from the proponent.

This information is discussed by the Committee. This can lead to the proposal is rejected or that advice from ICES is requested.

After the additional advice from ICES is received, the proposal is discussed by the Committee, based on the original submission, ICES advice and possible written comments from Contracting Parties.

Possible outcomes after this step are that the proposal is rejected or the proposal is forwarded to the Commission for decision.