

Proposal by the European Community for a recommendation to close certain areas in the Regulatory Area in order to protect deep-water corals.

In 2004, NEAFC requested ICES to provide information on the distribution of cold-water corals in the NEAFC Regulatory Area, inter alia on the Hatton Bank and on the western slopes of the Rockall Bank, and to indicate appropriate boundaries of any closure of areas where coldwater corals are affected by fishing activities;

ICES identified one such area on the Hatton bank, and a number of areas on the Rockall Bank, some of which were heavily fished and others less heavily fished or not fished. In the light of this information, it is recommended that bottom trawling and fishing with static gear¹ shall be prohibited in the following areas:

On the Hatton Bank within the area delimited by the following co-ordinates:

59 26 N, 14 30 W
59 12 N, 15 08 W
59 01 N, 17 00 W
58 50 N, 17 38 W
58 30 N, 17 52 W
58 30 N, 18 45 W
58 47 N, 18 37 W
59 05 N, 17 32 W
59 16 N, 17 20 W
59 22 N, 16 50 W
59 21 N, 15 40 W

On the Rockall Bank in the parts of the following areas that fall within the NEAFC Regulatory Area:

North west Rockall

57 00 N, 14 53 W
57 37 N, 14 42 W
57 55 N, 14 24 W
58 15 N, 13 50 W
57 57 N, 13 09 W
57 50 N, 13 14 W
57 57 N, 13 45 W
57 49 N, 14 06 W
57 29 N, 14 19 W
57 22 N, 14 19 W
57 00 N, 14 34 W

Logachev Mounds

55 17 N, 16 10 W
55 34 N, 15 07 W
55 50 N, 15 15 W
55 33 N, 16 16 W

South West Rockall

57 00 N, 15 10 W
57 00 N, 14 00 W

¹ Includes fishing with bottom gillnets and longlines

56 30 N, 14 00 W
56 00 N, 14 40 W
56 00 N, 16 00 W
56 10 N, 16 00 W
57 00 N, 15 10 W

West Rockall Mounds

57 20 N, 16 30 W
57 05 N, 15 58 W
56 21 N, 17 17 W
56 40 N, 17 50 W

The boundaries of these areas may be adjusted in the light of more precise scientific evidence on the distribution of deep water corals.

Contracting Parties shall take appropriate measures to detect any diversion of fishing effort to other, previously unknown areas of deepwater corals.

This measure shall be in force for the period 1 January 2007 – 31 December 2009