

PROPOSAL BY

**DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF THE FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND), THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY, ICELAND, NORWAY AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
FOR A NEAFC RECOMMENDATION ON THE MANAGEMENT OF PELAGIC REDFISH IN THE
IRMINGER SEA AND ADJACENT WATERS IN 2007**

Taking note of the most recent scientific advice from ICES,

Considering that catch levels should be reduced in the light of current scientific advice, the total allowable catches for 2007 should be reduced in comparison to the total allowable catches for 2006;

Noting that if suitable harvest control rules are devised and subsequently effectively implemented, it will be possible to continue sustainable fishing, whilst still allowing for the recovery of pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters;

Recognising that, the north-eastern area of the Irminger Sea and adjacent areas is important areas of larval extrusion, and it needs particular protection to promote the recovery of pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters;

In accordance with Articles 5 and 6 of the Convention, NEAFC recommends the following measures for the pelagic redfish fishery in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters:

1. The catches in the pelagic redfish fishery in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters in 2007 shall not exceed 46,000¹ tonnes.
2. In order to ensure particular protection of redfish in the north-eastern part of the Irminger Sea a maximum of 29,900 tonnes, 65% of the catch limit set out in paragraph 1, can be taken before 15 July.
3. Each Contracting Party shall set national management measures based on the above catch limits and, before 30 April 2007, report these measures to NEAFC. Any subsequent amendment of the national management measures shall promptly be reported to NEAFC.
4. Only vessels entitled to fly the flag of a NEAFC Contracting Party or of a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, having been authorised by its flag State to fish for redfish in the NEAFC Convention Area, may take part in the fishery.
5. It is prohibited to use trawls with a mesh size of less than 100 mm.

¹ Of which 2,875 tonnes will be allocated to NAFO; and 123 tonnes will be available to co-operating non-Contracting Parties

6. NEAFC will seek specific advice from ICES along the lines of that given recently regarding deep-sea species on the appropriateness of the introduction of potential management units for redfish in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters.
7. In order to allow the Contracting Parties to formulate and implement a recovery and subsequent management plan for pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters, NEAFC will request ICES to recommend appropriate harvest control rules which take into account the need to avoid disproportionate exploitation of local populations.
8. The objective of any future management plan shall be to establish such levels of catches and fishing effort which will result in the sustainable exploitation of pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters. This management plan should take due account of the management measures agreed for 2007 as set out in this recommendation.