

PROPOSAL BY NORWAY FOR TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE PECMAS MEETING IN JUNE 2008

Recognising that paragraph 83 of the UN General Assembly Resolution 61/105, among other things, calls on regional fisheries management organisations to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems from bottom fishing activities that would have significant adverse impact on such ecosystems, PECMAS shall at the meeting 17-18 June 2008 prepare proposals to the NEAFC extraordinary meeting 1-3 July 2008 which enable NEAFC to take appropriate measures to come into effect from 1 January 2009.

In doing so, PECMAS shall take into account any relevant scientific advice by ICES, in particular the response to the NEAFC request of November 2007 concerning the identification of vulnerable ecosystems and definitions and assessment of fishing activities that may cause significant adverse impacts on such ecosystems, as well as any progress made in other international organisations, including the outcome of the FAO Technical Consultation concerning Technical Guidelines for the Management of Deepwater High Seas Bottom Fisheries scheduled for February 2008 and the outcome of the extraordinary meeting of NAFO Fisheries Commission taking place in May 2008.