

25 May 2005

TO:

**President**

**First Vice President**

**Second Vice President**

**Heads of Delegation**

**All Contracting Parties**

**Member of the AGDC**

**Reference: HOD 05/57**

**RECCOMENDATON FROM THE NEAFC WORKING GROUP ON DEEP-SEA SPECIES TO THE ADVISORY GROUP FOR DATA COMMUNICATIONS**

The report from the meeting of the **NEAFC WORKING GROUP ON DEEP-SEA SPECIES** held on 27-28 April 2005 has been adopted and circulated; it is also available on our website.

The Group recommended “that the Advisory Group for Data Communications be asked to develop data protocols for the data to be submitted”.

The data in question refer to the provision of scientific information concerning deep-sea fishing, as set out in ANNEX B in the Report of the Deep Sea Group. The Annex is appended.

I would like to remind you that the Advisory Group will meet in London on 13 October and Contracting Parties should submit this data in advance of the meeting.

Kjartan Hoydal  
**Secretary**

**ANNEX B**

**Provision of scientific information concerning deep-sea fishing**

Among the general principles of the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement the states party to this agreement undertake to; adopt measures to ensure long-term sustainability of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks and to promote the objective of their optimum utilization; to ensure that such measures are based on the best scientific evidence available and to collect and share, in a timely manner, complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities. In the spirit of this agreement the following elements are agreed to augment existing data collecting regimes among the Contracting Parties.

1. Contracting Parties shall communicate to ICES, for each half calendar year, information (listed below) recorded in either or both logbooks and reports presented by observers. This information shall be communicated within six months of the expiry of the reporting period.
2. Fishing effort shall be measured in the following units according to the type of fishing gear deployed

<b>Type of fishing</b>	<b>Effort measurement</b>
Trawlers	a. Kilowatt*Fishing days b. Vessel*fishing days
Longliners	a. Gross tonnage*Fishing days b. Average number of hooks deployed*Number of deployments
Netters	a. Gross tonnage*Fishing days b. Average length of nets deployed*total soak time

3. Information shall be provided from logbook for:
  - Each quarter of the year
  - Each ICES statistical rectangle
  - Each type of fishing activity described in par. 2
  - Each economic zone
  - Depth of fishing
  - Landings and discards (discards where not collected by sampling scheme)
4. Contracting Parties shall develop sampling plans for deep-sea species (including discards where necessary), and shall communicate them via NEAFC to ICES. ICES shall be asked to review the sampling plans and provide feedback to Contracting Parties via NEAFC.
5. Contracting Parties shall take account of evaluations of sampling efficacy and data quality made by ICES and shall modify their sampling programmes in order to attain a high standard of supply of scientific data for purposes of managing the fish stocks and the marine ecosystems and habitats.