

NEAFC: Deep Sea Working Group 10 November 2004

1. All delegations agreed that the full list of species included in Appendix A of Document 5 (AGM 2004/05) should become regulated resources in the NEAFC regulatory area. Iceland maintained a reservation on NEAFC regulating these resources outside the regulatory area; EU noted that it would still be difficult for EU to manage effort reductions inside and outside the regulatory area separately.
2. EU, Iceland, Norway and Poland agreed that fishing effort on these resources in the regulatory area should be reduced by a further 30%, from the level represented by the previously agreed effort freeze. Denmark in respect of Faeroe Islands and Greenland and the Russian Federation both placed reservations on the level of effort reductions required in by-catch fisheries.
3. All delegations agreed that a technical meeting should be held in the first quarter of 2005, to consider further the draft protocol on data exchanges. Norway and EU agreed the draft protocol; Denmark in respect of Faeroe Islands and Greenland and the Russian Federation questioned the requirement to report data biannually. The Chairman agreed to contact Mr. Ciaran Kelly (EU) in order to ask him to chair a further technical meeting.
4. All delegations agreed that there were at least three outstanding issues to be described – the selected reference period for determining an effort baseline, the implementation method for managing fishing effort and the definition of an authorisation to fish for deep sea species. All delegations agreed that the terms of reference provided orally by the President offered Contracting Parties sufficient guidance for the satisfactory completion of this work: Contracting Parties would be required to define the reference period, describe the national system of authorisation to fish for deep sea species and describe the mechanism used to measure a reduction in effort. Iceland questioned the appropriateness of additionally including a description of measures concerning non-authorised fisheries. Norway proposed that the selection of reference periods should be accompanied by a justification.
5. Estonia noted that the reference period preferred by Estonia had been incorrectly noted in the meeting documentation. It was agreed that each contracting party could elaborate its position on each of these three outstanding items in their own terms, without reference to previous documentation. It was agreed that the reports would be sent by each Contracting party to the NEAFC Secretariat before the end of the first quarter 2005; by March 31 2005.
6. All delegations agreed to reconvene in a working group in the second quarter of 2005, to consider the submitted national reports and the report of the technical expert group, with a view to establishing a NEAFC regulatory measure.