

PECMAS October 2007
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Area management

1 Introduction

(- to be completed - Our goal is to develop a procedure that will be used by NEAFC when considering measures to be taken regarding area management. The procedure shall be in line with international conventionsprecautionary approach ecosystem approach..... UNGA RES 61/105 with the respect to vulnerable marine ecosystems..... Reykjavik declaration.....Johannesburg..... FAO Code of Conduct,..... “conservation and management decisions for fisheries should be based on the best scientific evidence available, also taking into account traditional knowledge of the resources and their habitat, as well as relevant environmental, economic and social factors. States should assign priority to undertake research and data collection in order to improve scientific and technical knowledge of fisheries including their interaction with the ecosystem. In recognizing the transboundary nature of many aquatic ecosystems, States should encourage bilateral and multilateral cooperation in research, as appropriate”.

States should apply the precautionary approach widely to conservation, management and exploitation of living aquatic resources in order to protect them and preserve the aquatic environment. The absence of adequate scientific information should not be used as a reason for postponing or failing to take conservation and management measures.)

2 Procedures

This draft procedure is based on the procedure described by the NEAFC future group that has actually been incorporated in the Terms of Reference for PECMAS.

The procedure could be developed on the following basis:

FIRST STEP

A Contracting Party submits a proposal for consideration.

SECOND STEP

To be reviewed by PECMAS a proposal must include:

- description of the issue/need for action
- objectives/rational
- scientific knowledge
- definition of the area
- suggested measures and their possible impact on fisheries in the area

THIRD STEP

PECMAS reviews a proposal

- assess the relevance of the proposal for NEAFC

- define further the objective that should be reached
- if needed, gather further knowledge, i.e. from:
 - existing ICES reports
 - ask ICES for further information and it's opinion
 - other information/opinions
- if knowledge is insufficient to make a decision, it is possible to recommend temporary measures to be in place until knowledge is available (e.g. ICES answer to a request)

FOURTH STEP

PECMAS a) rejects the proposal, or b) makes a recommendation for measures to the Commission.

The recommendation should include suggestions on:

- gear restrictions/regulations (examples presented in Annex I)
- area
- time frame (long term, seasonal or short term)

Annex 1

Possible measures:

Protect -

Juveniles (gear restrictions or closed areas where juveniles are known to occur)

spawning area

other fish related

corals

seamounts or other kind of vulnerable habitats

other "bottom" or habitat related

Regulate -

all fishing

all bottom fishing

all bottom trawl fishing

all pelagic fishing

all trawl fishing

all static gears

all long line fishing

all gill nets fishing