Recommendation XVI: 2009

RECOMMENDATION BY THE NORTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 5 OF THE CONVENTION ON FUTURE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES BY POSTAL VOTE FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR PELAGIC REDFISH IN THE IRMINGER SEA AND ADJACENT WATERS IN THE NEAFC CONVENTION AREA IN 2009

Taking note of the most recent scientific advice from ICES;

Recognising the need to continue towards improved future management measures for pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters, the Contracting Parties should co-operate to that end;

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

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;

In accordance with Articles 5 and 6 of the Convention, the Contracting Parties have agreed the following ad hoc measures for the pelagic redfish fishery in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters for 2009:

1. Each Contracting Party shall establish management measures that shall include a total allowable catch that is not higher than that set for 2008, as reported to NEAFC, and notify these measures to the Secretary before 20 March 2009. The Secretary shall notify these measures to the other Contracting Parties.[1]

2. A maximum of 70% of the total allowable catch set in accordance with paragraph 1 can be taken within an area bounded by the lines joining the following coordinates:

Point No.	Lat	lon	lat	Lon
1	64.75000	-28.50	64°45	-28°30
2	62.83333	-25.75	62°50	-25°45
3	61.91667	-26.75	61°55	-26°45
4	61.00000	-26.50	61°00	-26°30
5	59.00000	-30.00	59°00	-30°00
6	59.00000	-34.00	59°00	-34°00
7	61.50000	-34.00	61°30	-34°00
8	62.83333	-36.00	62°50	-36°00

[1] As in 2008, 2,875 tonnes are set aside in accordance with an understanding with NAFO; and 123 tonnes will be available to co-operating non-Contracting Parties of NEAFC.

9 (same as 1)	64.75000	-28.50	64°45	-28°30

3. To enhance the protection of the areas of larval extrusion, no more than 15% of the total allowable catch set in accordance with paragraph 1 can be taken within the area defined in paragraph 2 during the period 1 April to 10 May.

4. Contracting Parties may conduct scientific research in addition to ICES co-ordinated surveys, with the aim of improving scientific knowledge on redfish. They may set aside a part of their respective total allowable catch for scientific purposes. Any catches taken as a part of such a scientific research exercise must be within the limitations set in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3.

5. Only vessels flying 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, are entitled to participate in this fishery.
The authorisation to fish for redfish in the Regulatory Area is only valid if the information transmitted in accordance with paragraph 1 of this Recommendation and Articles 11, 12 and 13 of the Scheme of Control and Enforcement (the Scheme) is made available to the Secretary according to Article 14.

6. Masters of fishing vessels shall record in their fishing logbooks each entry and exit from the area defined in paragraph 2 and the cumulative catches retained on board, in accordance with the format set out in Annex IV of the Scheme. The record shall identify the relevant area by a specific code: inside the area defined in paragraph 2 “code 1” and outside the area “code 2”.

7. By way of derogation from the provisions of Article 12 (b) of the Scheme when in the area defined in paragraph 2 fishing vessels shall report their catches on a daily basis. The catch report shall be transmitted after the fishing operations of that calendar day have been completed. It shall indicate the catches on board taken since the last communication of catches.

8. In addition to information required under the provisions of Article 12 of the Scheme fishing vessels shall communicate the catch on board taken since the last communication of catches prior to entering and exiting the area defined in paragraph 2.

9. The reports referred to in paragraphs 7 and 8 shall be made in accordance with the format set out in Annex VIII 2) of the Scheme. Reports of catches taken in the area defined in paragraph 2 shall indicate “code 1” as the relevant area and reports of catches taken outside the area defined in paragraph 2 shall indicate “code 2” as the relevant area.

10. By way of derogation from the provisions of Article 8 of the Scheme the catch area for fish caught in the area defined in paragraph 2 shall be identified by “code 1”.

11. All receivers of fish shall ensure that all quantities are weighed when landed or transhipped. The weight of fish landed in standardized boxes may be determined by using a sampling methodology.

12. A Contracting Party may request access to the information communicated pursuant to Articles 11, 12 and 13 of the Scheme of Control and Enforcement for the areas where they intend to undertake inspection and surveillance activities. The Secretary shall inform other Contracting Parties and make the information available to the requesting Contracting Party during the relevant fishing season. The Contracting Party that requests access to this information shall present a detailed report to the next meeting of PECCOE on its use of the information provided.

13. It is prohibited to use trawls with a mesh size of less than 100 mm.

14. The conversion factor used in this fishery for gutted and headed presentations, including Japanese cut, shall be 1.70. This conversion factor shall be used for the purposes of this Recommendation and is without prejudice for other purposes.

15. Each Contracting Party shall notify the Secretary of the systems in place for verifying catches from this fishery, including weighing procedures and inspection of landings.

16. Inspectors of any Contracting Party may accompany the inspectors of another Contracting Party during the inspection of landings or transhipment operations, subject to the consent of the port state, and flag state if different.

17. PECCOE shall continue the development of proposals for the establishment of conversion factors for different fish products and methods of processing.

18. These management measures are without prejudice to any future management measures for the pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters.

19. The coastal States will invite the other NEAFC Contracting Parties to a meeting during 2009, to discuss future management of redfish in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters.