

Proposal by the European Community, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation for a

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 ON

THE PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS FROM SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACTS IN THE NEAFC REGULATORY AREA

The Contracting Parties recommend the following measure:

1. The use of fishing gear which is likely to contact the seafloor during the normal course of fishing operations shall be prohibited in the following areas:
 - a. Northern MAR Area
 - b. Middle MAR Area (Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone and sub-Polar Frontal Region)
 - c. Southern MAR Area
 - d. Altair Seamount
 - e. Antialtair Seamount

The coordinates delimiting each area are set out in the attached Appendix.

2. This measure shall be in force until 31 December 2015. Before that time, the measure shall be reviewed by the Commission with the intention of extending the period that the recommendation is in force, unless the conclusion of the review is that the continued application of the measure or parts of the measure is not required.
3. If scientific research demonstrates that there are sub-areas where no vulnerable marine ecosystems are found within the areas referred to in paragraph 1 of this measure, the measure shall be amended by the Commission to exclude those sub-areas from the prohibition under paragraph 1.
4. Within the area defined in paragraph 1 Contracting Parties intending to conduct fisheries related scientific research shall notify NEAFC of their intended research programmes.
5. Any additional closures of areas in the NEAFC Regulatory Area shall be based on the best available scientific advice and on the procedures set out in recommendations regulating fishing activities in the NEAFC Regulatory Area.
6. Closures shall be without prejudice to any sovereign rights of Coastal States over the continental shelf in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, including sovereign rights of Coastal States to exploit sedentary species on the continental shelf.

**App
endix 1.**

Coordinates of the five protected areas:

Area a): Northern MAR Area

Corner	Latitude (N)	Longitude (W)
1 (NW)	59 ⁰ 45'	33 ⁰ 30'
2	57 ⁰ 30'	27 ⁰ 30'
3	56 ⁰ 45'	28 ⁰ 30'
4	59 ⁰ 15'	34 ⁰ 30'
Return to position 1		

Area b): Middle MAR Area (Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone & Subpolar Frontal Region)

Corner	Latitude (N)	Longitude (W)
1 (NW)	53 ⁰ 30'	38 ⁰ 00'
2	53 ⁰ 30'	36 ⁰ 49'
3	55°04.5327'	36 ⁰ 49'
4	54°58.9914'	34°41.3634'
5	54°41.1841'	34 ⁰ 00'
6	53 ⁰ 30'	34 ⁰ 00'
7	53 ⁰ 30'	30 ⁰ 00'
8	51 ⁰ 30'	28 ⁰ 00'
9	49 ⁰ 00'	26 ⁰ 30'
10	49 ⁰ 00'	30 ⁰ 30'
11	51 ⁰ 30'	32 ⁰ 00'
12	51 ⁰ 30'	38 ⁰ 00'
Return to position 1		

Area c): Southern MAR Area

Corner	Latitude(N)	Longitude (W)
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1 (NW)	44 ⁰ 30'	30 ⁰ 30'
2	44 ⁰ 30'	27 ⁰ 00'
3	43 ⁰ 15'	27 ⁰ 15'
4	43 ⁰ 15'	31 ⁰ 00'
Return to position 1		

Area d): Altair

Corner	Latitude (N)	Longitude(W)
1 (NW)	45 ⁰ 00'	34 ⁰ 35'
2	45 ⁰ 00'	33 ⁰ 45'
3	44 ⁰ 25'	33 ⁰ 45'
4	44 ⁰ 25'	34 ⁰ 35'
Return to position 1		

Area e): Antialtair

Corner	Latitude (N)	Longitude(W)
1 (NW)	43 ⁰ 45'	22 ⁰ 50'
2	43 ⁰ 45'	22 ⁰ 05'
3	43 ⁰ 25'	22 ⁰ 05'
4	43 ⁰ 25'	22 ⁰ 50'
Return to position 1		
