Recommendation IX– 2007

RECOMMENDATION BY THE NORTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING IN NOVEMBER 2006 TO ADOPT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES BY CLOSING CERTAIN AREAS IN THE REGULATORY AREA IN ORDER TO PROTECT DEEP-WATER CORALS.

In 2004, NEAFC requested ICES to provide information on the distribution of cold-water corals in the NEAFC Regulatory Area, inter alia on the Hatton Bank and on the western slopes of the Rockall Bank, and to indicate appropriate boundaries of any closure of areas where coldwater corals are affected by fishing activities;

ICES identified one such area on the Hatton bank, and a number of areas on the Rockall Bank, some of which were heavily fished and others less heavily fished or not fished.

In the light of this information, the Contracting Parties, in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, have agreed that bottom trawling and fishing with static gear[1] shall be prohibited in the following areas:

On the Hatton Bank within the area delimited by the following co-ordinates:
59 26 N, 14 30 W
59 12 N, 15 08 W
59 01 N, 17 00 W
58 50 N, 17 38 W
58 30 N, 17 52 W
58 30 N, 18 45 W
58 47 N, 18 37 W
59 05 N, 17 32 W
59 16 N, 17 20 W
59 22 N, 16 50 W
59 21 N, 15 40 W

On the Rockall Bank in the parts of the following areas that fall within the NEAFC Regulatory Area:

North west Rockall
57° 00’ N, 14° 53’ W
57° 37’ N, 14° 42’ W
57° 55’ N, 14° 24’ W
58° 15’ N, 13° 50’ W
57° 57’ N, 13° 09’ W
57° 50’ N, 13° 14’ W
57° 57’ N, 13° 45’ W
57° 49’ N, 14° 06’ W
57° 29’ N, 14° 19’ W
57° 22’ N, 14° 19’ W
57° 00’ N, 14° 34’ W

[1] Includes fishing with bottom gillnets and long lines

Logachev Mounds
55° 17’ N, 16° 10’ W
55° 34’ N, 15° 07’ W
55° 50’ N, 15° 15’ W
55° 33’ N, 16° 16’ W

West Rockall Mounds
57° 20’ N, 16° 30’ W
57° 05’ N, 15° 58’ W
56° 21’ N, 17° 17’ W
56° 40’ N, 17° 50’ W

The boundaries of these areas may be adjusted in the light of more precise scientific evidence on the distribution of deep water corals.

Contracting Parties shall take appropriate measures to detect any diversion of fishing effort to other, previously unknown areas of deepwater corals.

This measure shall be in force for the period 1 January 2007 – 31 December 2009