

## Seas the future

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The Nordic House, Tórshavn, Faroe Islands



Cooperation on oceans management  
across  
regions and sectors

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Website: [www.neafc.org](http://www.neafc.org)

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1

## Outline of the presentation

1. The North East Atlantic regional set up, the NEAFC mandate, tools and measures and regional cooperation
2. The Global cooperation between RFBs in the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network

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2

NEAFC  
Regulatory  
Area  
(orange)



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3

## The NEAFC model for regional cooperation

- NEAFC is a regional fishery management organisation, an RFMO.
- NEAFC has the experiences and a strong track record of NEAFC reaching regional consensus on management measures..
- I will therefore give rather detailed description of how NEAFC works

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4

## NEAFC Parties

### Contracting Parties

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands & Greenland)  
EU  
Iceland  
Norway  
Russian Federation

### Cooperating non-Contracting Parties

Belize, Cook Islands,  
Canada, Japan, New Zealand

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5

## Facts about NEAFC

- NEAFC goes back a long time. First Convention 1959. The present Convention is signed in 1980 and entered in to force in 1982.
- It reflects the discussions and negotiations at the time UNCLOS was drafted.
- NEAFC was "a sleeping beauty" until 1995. The signing of the UNFA sparked new life in the organisation. In 1999 a permanent Secretariat was created.

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6

## Updating the NEAFC Convention

- The Contracting Parties of NEAFC updated the 1982 Convention in 2004 (dispute settlement procedures) and 2006 (bringing the Convention in line with developments in international law and instruments since the 1980 convention was negotiated). The CPs have agreed to use these as basis for measures on a voluntary basis, until all parties have ratified.
- The preamble of the "New" Convention stresses that NEAFC in addition to managing fisheries has an important role in conservation and integrating environmental concerns into its management.

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7

## Updating the NEAFC Convention

- The new preamble recognises the relevant provisions of
- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982
- UNFA 1995
- The Compliance Agreement
- The Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries adopted by the 28th Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in October 1995.

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8

## Updating the NEAFC Convention

New Article 2: The objective of this Convention is to ensure the long-term conservation and optimum utilisation of the fishery resources in the Convention Area, providing sustainable economic, environmental and social benefits.

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9

## The situation in NEAFC

Table 3. Landings from the NEAFC Regulatory Area in 2006  
(Unit: 1000 tonnes)

Source: NEAFC Statistics and Convention Area compared.

Stocks	Landings	
	RA	Total
Norwegian spring spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring	153	993
Blue whiting	418	1908
Mackerel	41	404
Oceanic S. mentella	47	75
Rockall haddock	3	3
Deep Sea fisheries	???	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>3,409</b>

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10

## Regional cooperation in the North-East Atlantic Coastal states

- Coastal states cooperate on stocks that straddle into international waters.
- This is the case for three major stocks:
  - Blue whiting: EU, Faroe Islands, Iceland and Norway
  - Mackerel: EU, Faroe Islands and Norway
  - Norwegian spring spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring EU, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation
- And the pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea Greenland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands

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11

## Enforcement - Combating IUU fishing - Protecting against free riders

- The objective is to protect the rights of legal fishermen, operating under national and regional, efficient fisheries management, against free riders
- Major IUU problems in the NEAFC Convention area have been IUU fishing by flags of convenience vessels for **redfish in the Irminger sea** and unreported catches of **cod from the Barents sea**
- The idea was to blacklist vessels to deny vessels on the lists access to ports and services in the NEAFC area.

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12

## The B-list Results

### NEAFC B-list 2005 -2009

	Vessel category		
	Transport	Fishing	Total
Removed from the lists	2	1	3
Scrapped		7	7
Retained in harbours	1	4	5
Probably sunk	1	1	2
Fate unknown		2	2
Operating outside NEAFC Area	1	4	5
Observed recently		2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>26</b>

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13

## 1 May 2007 Port state control expanded

- The new port state control regulations was set up to monitor landings of frozen fish in foreign ports. The Port State Control system applied to the Convention Area
- Each Contracting Party has to designate certain ports for landings of frozen fish for foreign vessels.
- Since 1 May 2007 over 3440 landings have been certified and can be reviewed by all Contracting Parties on the NEAFC website.
- The system have got much praise from the industry in Europe and has not impeded the free flow of legally caught fish into the European market.

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14

## Ecosystem Approach

- Already in 1997 an Intermediate Ministerial Meeting on the Integration of Fisheries and Environmental Issues in the North Sea
- "An ecosystem approach.....as far as the best available scientific understanding and information permit is based on ....:
- The identification of processes in, and influences on, the ecosystems which are critical for maintaining their characteristic structure and functioning, productivity and biological diversity;
- taking into account the interaction among the different components in the food-webs of the ecosystems (multi-species approach) and other important ecosystem interactions; and
- providing for a chemical, physical and biological environment in these ecosystems consistent with a high level of protection of those critical ecosystem processes."

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15

## Ecosystem Approach

- In a large study of terrestrial ecosystems management it was found that successful cases consisted of tentative and experimental approaches undertaken by groups of people faced with immediate problems
- Ecosystem approach means an increase in the number of stakeholders
- And means increase in the number of requests for scientific expert advice to be able to define and quantify ecosystem properties so decisions can be made with a realistic timeline

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16

## Integrating environmental concerns

- Fisheries managers were leaders in establishing frameworks that controlled the level of effort going into fisheries and in that way laid a scientific basis for sustainable fisheries and environment
- An Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries, EAF, has been extensively discussed internationally, especially in FAO
- The understanding between fisheries managers has been that the integration of environmental concerns is incremental. Building on frameworks we have we can integrate further concerns as we gain more insight

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17

## Ecosystem management

- There are not many – if any – examples of full fledged ecosystem management frameworks
- There are problems with the scientific basis
- There are several examples where additional concerns have been added to traditional single species management incrementally
- FAO has offered considerable advice and calls for a HIP approach, Holistic, Integrated and Participatory. To this we should add **common sense**.

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18

## The management framework

- Fisheries cannot avoid having an impact on the marine ecosystems in the process of producing seafood from healthy fisheries.
- Fishing communities and societies must be allowed to pursue their legitimate business of establishing economic development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs
- Fishing is the only human activity in the oceans that is totally dependent on healthy ecosystems and clean oceans.
- It is all about **balancing** conservation and optimal utilisation of the living resources of the sea

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19

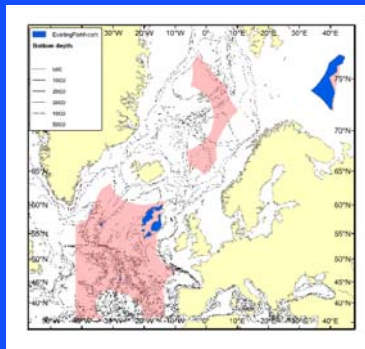
## Other measures regulating the impact of fisheries

- NEAFC has prohibited fisheries with gillnets, entangling nets and trammel nets in depths below 200 m and introduced measures to remove and dispose of unmarked or illegal fixed gear and retrieve lost gear to minimise ghost fishing.
- There is at present a lot of investment going into gear modifications to mitigate the impact of fishing gear on bottom habitats
- In July 2008 NEAFC adopted additional measures on bottom fishing activities in the NEAFC Regulatory Area. These were supplemented at its 2008 Annual Meeting with specific operational procedures.

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20

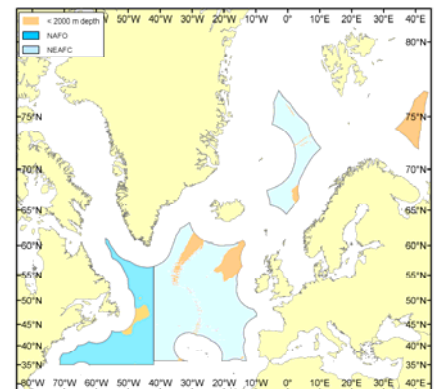
Bergstad & Hoines  
Symposium  
presentation



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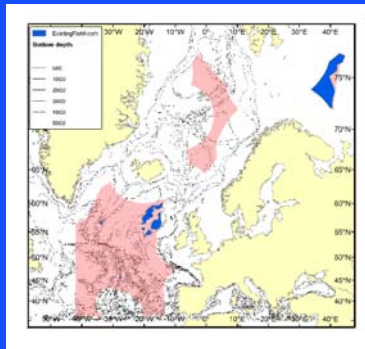
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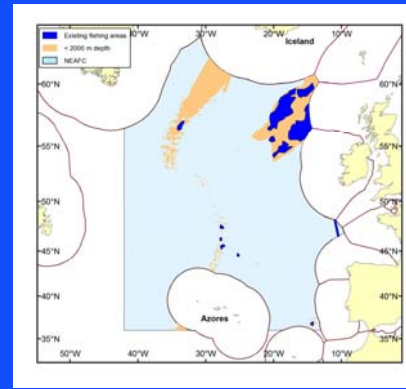
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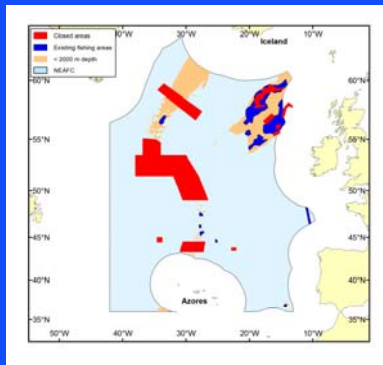
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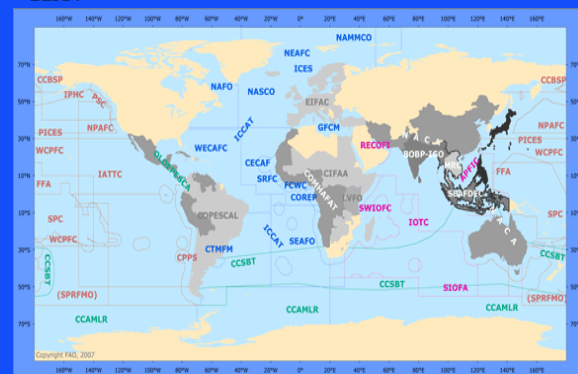
23



## Cooperating with other organisations with a mandate to regulate human activity

- Heads of delegations of OSPAR and NEAFC have met at NEAFC HQ since November 2005
- In September 2008 NEAFC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with its environmental counterpart in the North East Atlantic, the OSPAR Commission (for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic)
- NEAFC has signed terms of Agreement with the IMO and is considering a MoU with the ISA
- These are significant developments in a process aimed at increasing cooperation with intergovernmental organisations, which monitor and regulate human activities other than fisheries in the marine environment

## RSN



## The Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network

- The Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network (RSN) is an informal consortium of secretariats representing up to 50 regional fisheries bodies (RFBs) (20 present here at COFI) responsible for inland, coastal and oceanic fisheries.
- It provides a forum for promoting dialogue and consultation. In executing its function, the RSN serves to underpin the important role played by RFBs in the conservation and management of fisheries.

## The Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network

- FAO serves as the secretariat to the RFB Secretariats Network that meets biennially immediately after FAO's Committee on Fisheries meeting.
- The RSN provides a valuable international resource for disseminating information relating to the Agreement and discussing regional and sub-regional experiences associated with it. More information can be found at <http://www.fao.org/fishery/rsn>.

## The Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network

- Organisations with a management mandate and organisations that simply support cooperative arrangements for information sharing;
- Convention-based, informal agreement or FAO-affiliated bodies;
- Development and provision of scientific advice;
- Highly migratory oceanic pelagic stocks, demersal and pelagic straddling stocks, shared inland and riverine stocks and anadromous stocks;
- Single species organisations, to organisations dealing with a large number of target species and species taken incidentally and organizations that address entire ecosystems and multiple industry sectors;
- Artisanal, small scale fisheries or high technological, capital intensive, large scale fisheries.

Basic information on RFBs sorted by Region									
Global and trans-pacific					Pacific Ocean				
	COAMA	COAS				IPSP-ISO	IPSP	IPSP	
	IWC	INDPACSO				IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	
						IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	
Mediterranean, Black Sea and connecting waters					Indian Ocean				
						IPSP-ISO	IPSP	IPSP	
						IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	
Atlantic Ocean					Indian				
	ICCAT	COMNHAT	ICRM			IPSP	ICM	COMSCA	
	MOSE	ICM	ICM			IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	
	ICM	ICM	ICM			IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	
	ICM	ICM	ICM			IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	
	ICM	ICM	ICM			IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	
Basic information on RFBs sorted by type (Management, Advisory)									
Management Bodies - Bodies with a management mandate									
	COAMA	COAS	COAS	ICM	IPSP	ICM			
	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	
	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	
Advisory Bodies - Bodies with an advisory mandate (scientific and/or management)									
	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	
	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	
	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	
	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	IPSP	

Tórshavn 7-8 June 2011 Kjetan Hoydal 31

## The Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network

- RSN is a picture of diversity in tasks and background and richness in geographical coverage, which aspires to meet the many and different challenges in fisheries around the globe.
- They are different, because the work in very different environments with respect to species, ecosystems, economy, politics etc.
- In often very difficult circumstances they try to create frameworks that create a sustainable balance between utilisation and conservation.
- This important work should always be supported, not just criticised, when things do not play out as we hoped and expected.
- Details of an increasing numbers of fisheries of the around the world, submitted by RFBs is found at the FAO FIRMS Factsheet database.

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## The Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network

- It is impossible in the time we have to let each organisation a brief snapshot the particular problems and challenges they meet.
- I have asked 5 organisations to do so covering some of the variety. These are
- Tuna, Africa and straddling stocks, SEAFO, Asia, the South East Asian Fisheries Development Centre, the Pacific, the Pacific Islands Fish Forum Agency and Central America, Industrial Fisheries Producers' Organization. This leaves out large geographic areas and some types of organisations.
- In the time left RFBs present will answer questions

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## The end

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## UN General Assembly hijacked

- There is too much duplication and repetition with respect to ocean matters in the UN family and the focus is seriously wrong.
- I have, representing a small RFMO, had to participate in discussions in FAO (where the expertise on substance in fisheries and the ecosystem approach is firmly residing) in 3-4 meetings at UN, meetings at regional level with other RFMOs and RSOs and lately to some extent have had to follow developments in CBD and UNEP. This is very demanding and in effect means that many RFBs do not have a chance to cover all these processes. A rethink of how to reorganise the sharing of scientific information and information with respect to best practices and examples of good governance is long overdue.

Tórshavn 7-8 June 2011 Kjetan Hoydal 35