



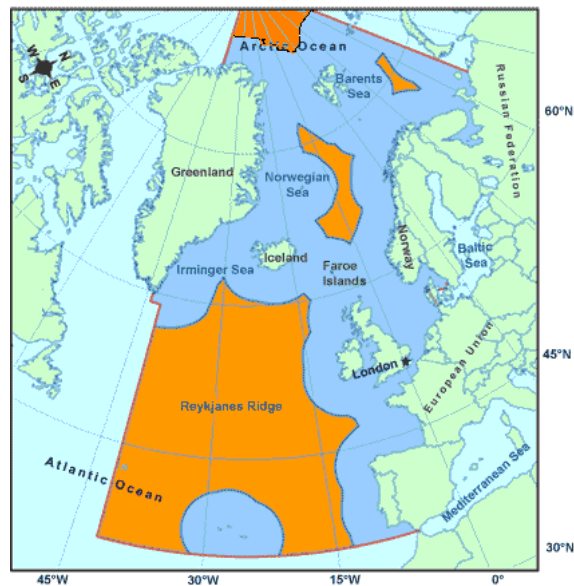
North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission

Contracting Parties: Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the EU, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation

PRESS RELEASE

Embargoed 11 December 2009, 09:00 am GMT

The high seas of the NEAFC Regulatory Area inside the NEAFC Convention Area in the North-East Atlantic are shown shaded on the map below.



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The INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO) and THE NORTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION (NEAFC) sign an agreement of co-operation.

A proposal for draft terms of an Agreement of Co-operation between the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) has now been adopted by the IMO Assembly. It has since been signed and has entered into force.

Under the Agreement of Co-operation, IMO and NEAFC will consult each other on matters of common interest with a view to ensure maximum coordination of the work and activities in respect of such matters.

The Secretary-General of IMO and the Secretary of NEAFC will exchange information and keep each other informed on projected activities and programmes of work in fields of common interest. Accordingly, when either entity proposes initiating a programme or activity on a subject in which the other has, or may have, a substantial interest, consultation will be initiated between the two with a view to harmonising their efforts as far as possible, taking into account their respective responsibilities and any decisions or wishes of the appropriate governing bodies of the respective entities.

There will be reciprocal arrangements to send representatives to observe meetings or conferences convened by one of the Parties on matters in which both Parties have an interest.

The Secretary-General of IMO and the Secretary of NEAFC may consult on the use of personnel, material, services, equipment and facilities for joint undertakings which may be agreed between them in fields of common interest to IMO and NEAFC.

For some time sought NEAFC has sought cooperation with other International Governmental Organisations with competence to regulate human activities in the ocean other than fisheries.

A Memorandum of Understanding with our environmental sister organisation in the North East Atlantic, OSPAR, was signed in late September 2008. This opens up for a free flow of information between NEAFC and OSPAR, highlighting other human activities that may affect the marine environment, spatial planning and cooperation to enhance knowledge and understanding the abundance and distribution of fish and other marine species populations, in order to better protect them.

NEAFC is seeking similar arrangements with the International Seabed Authority, ISA, which regulates deep sea mining in the “Area”.

Fishing is totally dependent on healthy ecosystems and clean oceans. NEAFC, as the competent organisation for regulating fisheries in the high seas of the North East Atlantic, hopes that cooperation with other organisations in the regulation of other human activities in the oceans will ensure that no irreversible changes in environmental quality take place.

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