



**Report from the 28th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries
Rome 2-6 March 2009 FAO Headquarters, Rome.**

Note by the NEAFC Secretariat

1. Introduction

The Secretariat attended as an observer at the 28th Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries at FAO Headquarters in Rome 2 -6 March. The report from the meetings can be found at

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/012/i1017e/i1017e00.pdf>

Management of deep sea fisheries in the high seas and combating IUU fishing, including through a legally binding instrument on port State measures and the establishment of a global record of fishing vessels, were high on the agenda.

The NEAFC Secretariat reported on NEAFC's experience dealing with combating IUU fishing since 2004. The note by the Secretariat is below.

2. Information on experience gained on combating IUU fishing in the NEAFC Area

The NEAFC tools to combat IUU fishing are part of the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement, first agreed in 1999 and continuously adapted to meet new challenges in the fight against free riders in the fisheries regulated by NEAFC.

The two main tools have been the blacklisting of vessels under flags of non-Contracting Parties to NEAFC and the Port State Control System which controls all landings of frozen fish in foreign harbours in the NEAFC Convention Area.

Below you will find some recent information and statistics on the running of these two aspects of the NEAFC Scheme.

a) Blacklists

NEAFC introduced blacklists of vessels from non-Contracting Parties, which undermine the effectiveness of its regulations, in 2005.

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The Scheme of Control and Enforcement was changed and introduced two IUU lists: the observation A-list and the permanent B-list.

The Contracting Party which sights the non-Contracting Party vessel shall attempt to inform such a vessel without delay that it has been sighted or by other means identified as engaging in fishing activities in the Convention Area and, unless its flag state has been accorded the status of co-operating non-Contracting Party, is consequently presumed to be undermining the Recommendations established under the Convention.

The Secretary shall transmit all information ...to all Contracting Parties and other relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organisations within one business day of receiving this information, and as soon as possible to the flag state of the vessel identified as being engaged in fishing activities in the Convention Area. The Secretary shall, in consultation with the President of the Commission, request that it take measures in accordance with its applicable legislation to ensure that the vessel or vessels in question desist from any activities that undermine the effectiveness of NEAFC Recommendations, including if necessary, the withdrawal of the registration of these vessels or their authorisation to engage in fishing activities.

Since then 26 vessels have been put on the B-list. The statistics below show that with the knowledge to hand only one vessel is left, which has positively been identified to have undertaken IUU fishing the last year. 3 have left the NEAFC Area and for 5 the fate is unknown. 8 have been scrapped, 3 have been sitting in harbours for several years and 3 have been removed from the B-list after application.

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

It should be noted that blacklisting has hit transport vessels as well as vessels fishing. Indeed the targeting of the transport vessels was the major breakthrough, which in all practical terms eradicated the IUU fishery for redfish in the Irminger Sea.

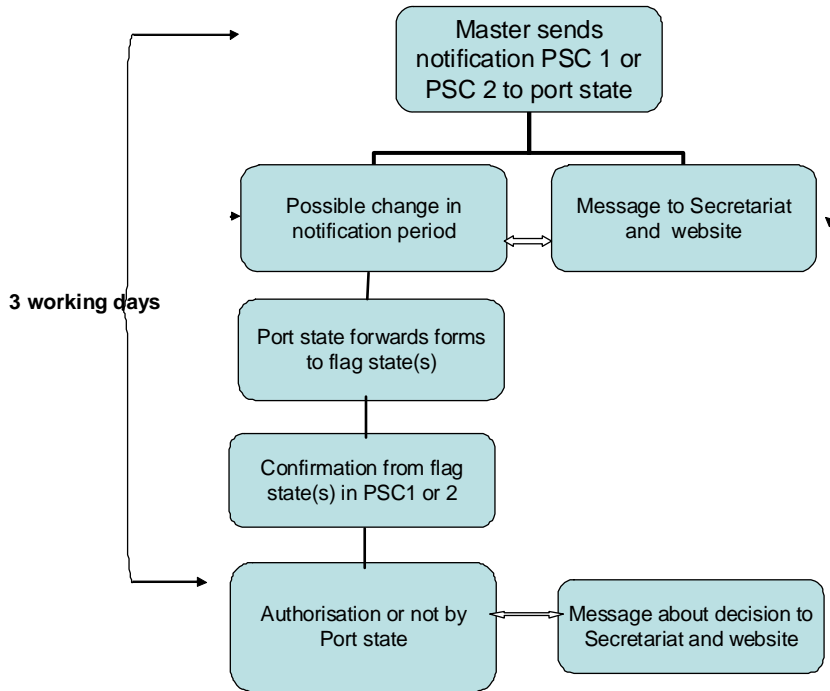
b) Port State Control System

On 1st May 2007 NEAFC introduced its legally binding Port State Control System. The flow of information in the system is shown below.

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Port state control of foreign vessels

Article 22-23 of the consolidated Scheme entering into force 1 May 2007



Port

The system was introduced without major problems and the authorities involved have carefully followed the timelines set out, thus not impeding the flow of legal fish to European processors. The measure has been deemed to have had dramatic effect on the amounts of illegal frozen fish in Europe, reducing levels of IUU fish significantly.

Below is a copy of a small part of the file, at the NEAFC Inspector's website, on transactions according to the System, having reached over 2600 in late February 2009. (Vessel names have been taken out). The file, daily updated at the NEAFC Secretariat, makes it possible for all parties in NEAFC - on a real time basis - to follow landings of frozen fish allowing them to review all the transactions. The basic PSC forms for each transaction are also available to inspectors.

No	form	Port	Country	Date_Post ed	Landing Vessel	Vessel Call sign	Info Flag	Donor Vessel	Vessel Call sign	Info Flag	Status	F e
2602	PSC2	Velsen	Netherlands	26/02/2009			RUS			RUS	Accepted	V
2601	PSC2	Velsen	Netherlands	26/02/2009			RUS			RUS	Accepted	V
2600	PSC2	Velsen	Netherlands	26/02/2009			RUS			RUS	Accepted	V
2599	PSC2	Velsen	Netherlands	26/02/2009			RUS			RUS	Accepted	V
2598	PSC1	Melbu	Norway	26/02/2009			RUS			-	Accepted	V
2597	PSC1	Hammerfest	Norway	26/02/2009			RUS			-	Accepted	V
2596	PSC1	Tromsø	Norway	26/02/2009			RUS			-	Accepted	V
2595	PSC1	Vadsø	Norway	26/02/2009			RUS			-	Accepted	V
2593	PSC3	Hafnarfjörður	Iceland	25/02/2009			FRO			-	Inspected	V
2592	PSC3	Sortland	Norway	25/02/2009			RUS			-	Inspected	V