

## **Consolidated text of all NEAFC recommendations on regulating bottom fishing**

This consolidated text was created by PECMAS at their meeting in February 2011 and covers the following NEAFC Recommendations

- Rec 15 2011: bottom fishing
- Recommendation on existing and new bottom fishing areas adopted by postal vote (July 2010 entering into force Oct 2010)
- Rec 11 2010: bottom Fishing
- Rec 13 2009: bottom fishing
- VMEs 2009: Vulnerable marine ecosystems closed to bottom fishing adopted by postal vote (April 2009 entering into force July 2009)
- Rec 16 2008: bottom Fishing

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## **Regulations of Bottom Fishing Activities in the NEAFC Regulatory Area**

### **Article 1. Use of terms**

1. The term ‘bottom fishing activities’ means bottom fishing activities where the fishing gear is likely to contact the seafloor during the normal course of fishing operations.

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2. The term "existing bottom fishing areas" initially means areas where VMS data and/or other available geo-reference data indicating bottom fishing activities have been conducted at least in two years within a reference period of 1987 to 2007. This shall be revised regularly in accordance with Article 3.4.
3. The term "new bottom fishing areas" means all other areas within the Regulatory Area which are not defined as existing bottom fishing areas.

### **Article 2. Organisation of work**

It is recognised that the Permanent Committee on Management and Science (PECMAS) in implementing this Recommendation seeks comments from and advice by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between NEAFC and ICES.

### **Article 3. Identification of existing bottom fishing areas**

1. NEAFC shall proceed to map existing bottom fishing areas within the Regulatory Area for bottom fishing activities. Mapping of bottom trawling activity shall be given priority.
2. The Secretary shall develop a preliminary map based on VMS data and other geo-reference data presently available in the Secretariat and/or provided subsequently by Contracting Parties.
3. Contracting Parties with vessels involved in bottom fishing activities in the period 1987 to 2007 shall, for the purpose of paragraph 1, submit to the extent possible comprehensive maps of existing fishing areas to the Secretary according to the guidelines set out in annex 3.
4. The comprehensive map of existing bottom fishing areas referred to in paragraphs 1 and 3 shall be revised regularly to incorporate any relevant information.

Coordinates for existing fishing areas are listed in Annex 6

### **Article 4. Bottom fishing activities in new bottom fishing areas**

1. From 1 January 2009, all bottom fishing activities in new bottom fishing areas or with bottom gear not previously used in the area concerned, shall be considered as exploratory fisheries and shall be conducted in accordance with an Exploratory Bottom Fisheries Protocol to be adopted by the Commission as soon as possible. Until such a protocol is adopted the interim protocol set out in Annex 1 shall apply.
2. The exploratory bottom fishing activities shall be subject to the assessment procedure set forth in Article 5, with the understanding that particular care

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shall be taken in the evaluation of risks of the significant adverse impact on vulnerable marine ecosystems, in line with the precautionary approach.

3. Contracting Parties shall communicate the required information under the exploratory fisheries protocol referred to in paragraph 1 to the Secretary for forwarding to PECMAS and to all Contracting Parties, together with the information or preliminary impact assessment referred to in Article 5, paragraph 3 (i), below.
4. Contracting Parties shall provide promptly a report of the results of such activities to the Secretary for circulation to all Contracting Parties.
5. Prior to commencing new bottom fishing activities based upon the results of exploratory bottom fisheries conducted in the prior two years, the Commission shall review the assessments undertaken in accordance with Article 5 below and the results of the fishing protocols implemented by the participating fleets, and shall:
  - (i) Authorise these bottom fishing to proceed and establish conservation and management measures to prevent significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems from individual bottom fishing activities and to ensure the long-term sustainability of deep sea fish stocks, or
  - (ii) not authorize these bottom fishing activities to proceed.
6. Contracting Parties shall ensure that vessels flying their flag conducting exploratory fisheries have an observer on board. Observers shall collect data in accordance with a Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem Data Collection Protocol to be adopted by the Commission as soon as possible. Until such a protocol is adopted, the interim protocol set out in Annex 2 shall apply.

### **Article 5. Assessment of bottom fishing activities**

1. On the basis of the best available scientific information, PECMAS shall identify vulnerable marine ecosystems in the Regulatory Area and map sites where these vulnerable marine ecosystem are known to occur or likely to occur and shall provide such data and information to the Secretary for circulation to all Contracting Parties.
2. Assessments shall follow the procedures set out below:
  - (i) Each Contracting Party proposing to participate in bottom fishing shall submit to the Secretary information on and, where possible, an initial assessment of the known and anticipated impacts of its bottom fishing activities on vulnerable marine ecosystems, in advance of the next meeting of PECMAS. These submissions shall also include the mitigation measures proposed by the Contracting Party to prevent such impacts. The Secretary shall promptly forward these submissions to PECMAS and to the Commission.
  - (ii) The submission of such information shall be carried out in accordance

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with guidance developed by PECMAS on the basis of advice from ICES or, in the absence of such guidance, to the best of the Contracting Party's ability.

(iii) On the basis of an assessment made by ICES, according to its own internally developed procedures and standards, PECMAS shall provide advice to the Commission as to whether the proposed bottom fishing activity would have significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems and, if so, whether mitigation measures would prevent such impacts. In this assessment, any other necessary information required, including information from other fisheries in the region or similar fisheries elsewhere may be used.

3. Taking account of the advice and recommendations provided by ICES and considered by PECMAS, concerning bottom-fishing activities, including data and information arising from reports pursuant to Article 6, the Commission shall adopt conservation and management measures to prevent significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems. Such measures may include:

- (i) If proposed bottom fishing is outside of the existing bottom fishing areas identified by the Commission in accordance with Article 3, or if there are significant changes to the conduct, or technology of existing bottom fisheries, or new scientific information indicating a VME in a given area, the Contracting Party proposing to participate in bottom fishing shall submit to the Secretary an initial assessment of the known and anticipated impacts of its bottom fishing activities on vulnerable marine ecosystems, in advance of the next meeting of PECMAS. Assessments should address the elements as set forth in Annex 3. The Secretary shall promptly forward these submissions to PECMAS and to the Commission.
- (ii) Requiring specific mitigation measures for bottom fishing activities;
- (iii) Allowing, prohibiting or restricting bottom fishing with certain gear types, or changes in gear design and/or deployment; and/or
- (iv) Any other relevant requirements or restrictions to prevent significant adverse impacts to vulnerable marine ecosystems.

The Commission shall periodically ask ICES to provide advice to NEAFC for consideration by PECMAS on the timing and requirements for the assessment of a previously assessed bottom fishery.

Areas closed to bottom fisheries are set out in Annex 7

### **Article 6. Encounters with vulnerable marine ecosystems**

Contracting Parties shall require that vessels flying their flag without delay cease bottom fishing activities in any site in the Regulatory Area where, in the course of fishing operations, evidence of vulnerable marine ecosystems is encountered, and report the encounter, including the location, and the type of ecosystem in question, to

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the Secretary so that appropriate measures can be adopted in respect of the relevant site. Such sites will then be treated in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 5.

Encounters are defined in Annex 4

### **Article 7. Review**

The Commission shall review this Recommendation at the latest at its Annual Meeting in 2012. The Commission shall biannually thereafter examine the effectiveness of these provisions in protecting vulnerable marine ecosystems from significant adverse impacts.

## **Annex 1**

### **Interim Exploratory Bottom Fishing Protocol for New Bottom Fishing Areas**

Until the Commission adopts a new protocol in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 1 of this Recommendation, exploratory bottom fisheries may commence only when the following information has been provided to the Secretary by the relevant Contracting Party:

- (a) A harvesting plan which outlines target species, dates and areas. Area and effort restrictions shall be considered to ensure fisheries occur on a gradual basis in a limited geographical area.
- (b) A mitigation plan including measures to prevent significant adverse impact to vulnerable marine ecosystems that may be encountered during the fishery.
- (c) A catch monitoring plan that includes recording/reporting of all species caught. The recording/reporting of catch shall be sufficiently detailed to conduct an assessment of activity, if required.
- (d) A data collection plan to facilitate the identification of vulnerable marine ecosystems/species in the area fished.

The Secretary shall promptly forward this information to all Contracting Parties and PECMAS.

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### **Annex 2**

#### **Interim Vulnerable Marine Ecosystem (VME) Data Collection Protocol**

Observers on fishing vessels in the NEAFC Regulatory Area who are deployed pursuant to Article 4, paragraph 6 of this Recommendation shall:

1. Monitor any set for evidence of VMEs and the presence of vulnerable marine species.
2. Record the following information for identification of VMEs: vessel name, gear type, date, position (latitude/longitude), depth, species code, trip-number, set-number, and name of the observer on datasheets, if possible.
3. Collect representative samples from the entire catch

(Biological samples shall be collected and frozen when requested by the scientific authority in a Contracting Party.)

4. Provide samples to the scientific authority of a Contracting Party at the end of the fishing trip.

### **Annex 3**

#### **Guidelines for producing maps according to article 3**

For fishing activity using fishing gear that is likely to come into contact with the seafloor during the normal course of fishing operations, each party shall prepare a list of sub-squares where fishing activity has taken place during the reference period 1987-2007. The data shall be delivered by year.

Each ICES statistical rectangle (30 min latitude and 1° longitude) shall be divided into 36 sub-squares (5 min latitude and 10 min longitude). The position given for each square shall be the NW corner of the square.

Information on gear type shall be given, using following broad categories: Bottom trawl (B), longline (L), gillnets (G), bento-pelagic (BP) (i.e. grenadier and 6lfonsinos fishery) and others (O) (meaning other gears that have bottom contact during normal operation).

Therefore, the data shall be delivered as a table including following information for sub-squares where fishing operations have occurred:

Party	Lat	Lon	Year	Gear type
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### **Annex 4**

#### **Definition of encounter**

Pursuant to Article 6 of the NEAFC Recommendation on bottom fishing activities in the NEAFC Regulatory Area, the Commission has adopted the following measure:

An encounter is defined to be, above threshold levels as set out in paragraph 4, with indicator species of coral identified as *Antipatharians*, *Gorgonians*, *Cerianthid anemone fields*, *Lophelia*, and sea pen fields or other VME elements. Any encounter with a VME indicator species or merely detecting the presence of an element itself is not sufficient to identify a VME. That identification should be made on a case-by-case basis through assessment by relevant bodies.

#### **2 Existing bottom fishing areas**

2.1 Vessels shall quantify catch of VME indicator species, i.e. coral and sponge.

2.2 If the quantity of VME elements or indicator species caught in a fishing operation (such as trawl tow or set of a gillnet or longline) is beyond the threshold defined in paragraph 4 below, the following shall apply:

- a. The vessel master shall report the incident to the flag state, which without delay shall forward the information to the Secretary. Contracting Parties may if they so wish require their vessels to also report the incident directly to the Secretary. The Secretary shall archive the information and report it to all Contracting Parties. The Contracting Parties shall immediately alert all fishing vessels flying their flag.
- b. The vessel master shall cease fishing and move away at least 2 nautical miles from the position that the evidence suggests is closest to the exact encounter location. The master shall use his or her best judgment based on all available sources of information.
- c. The Secretary shall make an annual report on single and multiple encounters in discrete areas within existing fishing areas to PECMAS. On the basis of an assessment by ICES, PECMAS shall evaluate on a case-by-case basis the information and provide advice to the Commission on whether a VME exists. The advice shall be based on annually updated assessments from ICES of the accumulated information on encounters and PECMAS's advice on the need for action, using FAO guidelines for management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas as a basis.

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### **3 New fishing areas**

3.1 Vessels shall quantify catch of VME indicator species, i.e. coral and sponge. Observers deployed shall identify corals, sponges and other organisms to the lowest possible taxonomical level. The sampling protocol found in Annex 1 of the Recommendation on bottom fishing activities in the NEAFC Regulatory Area shall be used.

3.2 If the quantity of VME element or indicator species caught in a fishing operation (such as trawl tow or set of a gillnet or longline) is beyond the threshold defined in paragraph 4 below, the following shall apply:

- a. The vessel master shall report the incident without delay to its flag State, which shall forward the information to the Secretary. Contracting Parties may if they so wish also require their vessels to report the incident directly to the Secretary. The Secretary shall archive the information and without delay transmit it to all Contracting Parties. The Contracting Parties shall issue an immediate alert to all vessels flying their flag.
- b. The Secretary shall at the same time request Contracting Parties to implement a temporary closure of two miles radius around the reporting position. The reporting position is that provided by the vessel position that the evidence suggests is closest to the exact encounter location.
- c. PECMAS at its next meeting shall examine the temporary closure. If, on the basis of assessment by ICES, PECMAS advises that the area consists of a VME, the Secretary shall request Contracting Parties to maintain the temporary closure until such time that the Commission has acted upon the advice from PECMAS. If the PECMAS evaluation does not conclude that the proposed area is a VME, the Secretary shall inform Contracting Parties which may re-open the area to their vessels.
- d. The vessel shall cease fishing and move away at least 2 nautical miles from the position that the evidence suggests is closest to the exact encounter location.. The master shall use his or her best judgment based on all available sources of information.
- e. The Secretary shall make an annual report on archived reports from encounters in new fishing areas to PECMAS. This report shall also include reports from the exploratory fishing activities that were conducted in the last year. ICES shall assess the reports and PECMAS shall evaluate the information and provide advice to the Commission on the appropriateness of temporary closures and other measures. The advice should be based on annually updated assessments of the accumulated information on encounters as well as other scientific information. The PECMAS advice

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should reflect provisions outlined in the FAO guidelines for management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas.

### **4 Threshold levels**

For both existing and new fishing areas, an encounter with primary VME indicator species is defined as a catch per set (e.g. trawl tow, longline set, or gillnet set) of more than 60 kg of live coral [and/or 800 kg of live sponge]. These thresholds are set on a provisional basis and may be adjusted as experience is gained in the application of this measure

## **Annex 5**

### **Assessment of Bottom Fishing Activities**

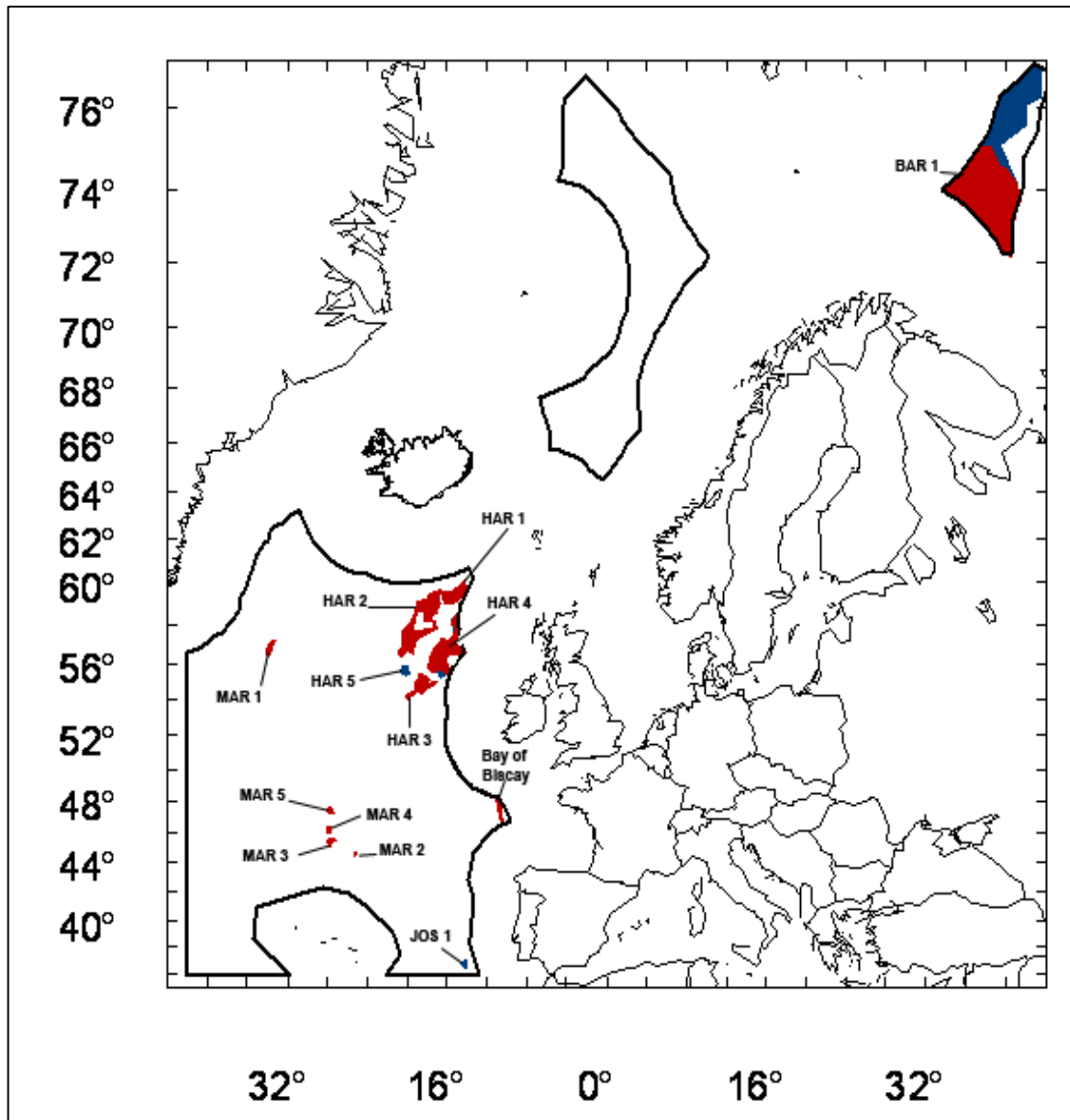
Assessments should address, *inter alia*:

1. Type(s) of fishing conducted or contemplated, including vessels and gear types, fishing areas, target and potential by catch species, fishing effort levels and duration of fishing (harvesting plan);
2. Best available scientific and technical information on the current state of fishery resources and baseline information on the ecosystems, habitats and communities in the fishing area, against which future changes are to be compared;
3. Identification, description and mapping of VMEs known or likely to occur in the fishing area;
4. Identification, description and evaluation of the occurrence, scale and duration of likely impacts, including cumulative impacts of activities covered by the assessment on VMEs;
5. Data and methods used to identify, describe and assess the impacts of the activity, the identification of gaps in knowledge, and an evaluation of uncertainties in the information presented in the assessment;
6. Risk assessment of likely impacts by the fishing operations to determine which impacts on VMEs are likely to be significant adverse impacts; and
7. The proposed mitigation and management measures to be used to prevent significant adverse impacts on VMEs, and the measures to be used to monitor effects of the fishing operations.

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**Annex 6**

**Existing fishing areas**



Areas in Red or Blue are Existing fishing areas

Areas shown in red are the areas defined in Recommendation 11 2010: Bottom Fishing.

Areas in blue are extensions / additions as defined in the Recommendation on New and Existing Fishing Areas (accepted by postal vote in August 2010 and entering into force Oct 30th 2010).

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### **Coordinates for all Existing Fishing Areas**

#### **Hatton Rockall Existing Fishing Areas**

<b>HAR1</b>				
	lat	lon	LAT	LON
1	60.05567	-14.2048	600334	-141229
2	59.67083	-14.0275	594025	-140165
3	59.52617	-14.2562	593157	-141537
4	59.31967	-14.6393	591918	-143836
5	59.2495	-14.8738	591497	-145243
6	59.11783	-14.9539	590707	-145723
7	59.062	-15.743	590372	-154458
8	58.9765	-15.9202	585859	-155521
9	59.062	-16.3034	590372	-161820
10	59.29917	-16.5207	591795	-163124
11	59.616	-16.5207	593696	-163124
12	59.616	-15.4456	593696	-152674
13	59.8005	-14.828	594803	-144968
14	60.067	-14.342	600402	-142052
15	60.05567	-14.2048	600334	-141229

<b>HAR2</b>				
	lat	lon	LAT	LON
1	59.69975	-16.7094	594199	-164256
2	59.24958	-16.8066	591497	-164839
3	59.15296	-17.4699	590918	-172819
4	58.99131	-17.3384	585948	-172030
5	59.08839	-16.9552	590530	-165731
6	58.96184	-16.7094	585771	-164256
7	58.45995	-17.4584	582760	-172751
8	58.18971	-17.5156	581138	-173094
9	58.09011	-17.2297	580541	-171378
10	57.97203	-17.2412	575832	-171447
11	57.91437	-17.1039	575486	-170623
12	57.82922	-17.0925	574975	-170555
13	57.55109	-17.7844	573307	-174706
14	57.49275	-18.2075	572956	-181245
15	57.29554	-18.4935	571773	-182961
16	57.21512	-18.8194	571291	-184916
17	57.0662	-19.3512	570397	-192107

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<b>HAR2</b>				
	lat	lon	LAT	LON
18	56.49922	-19.5399	562995	-193239
19	56.61268	-20.0202	563676	-200121
20	56.3791	-20.4377	562275	-202626
21	56.3791	-20.6435	562275	-203861
22	56.49922	-20.8494	562995	-205096
23	56.61897	-20.8494	563714	-205096
24	56.83543	-20.4262	565013	-202557
25	57.23679	-20.5635	571421	-203381
26	57.58176	-20.5635	573491	-203381
27	57.85661	-20.1803	575140	-201082
28	57.92348	-19.883	575541	-195298
29	58.48089	-19.2425	582885	-191455
30	58.68061	-19.2826	584084	-191695
31	58.97658	-18.9967	585859	-185980
32	59.21447	-18.2876	591287	-181726
33	59.27003	-17.9216	591620	-175530
34	59.50009	-17.6643	593001	-173986
35	59.69975	-16.7094	594199	-164256

<b>HAR 3</b>				
	lat	lon	LAT	LON
1	54.94064	-17.2011	545644	-171207
2	54.58101	-18.0303	543486	-180182
3	54.40831	-18.3962	542450	-182377
4	54.47814	-19.0538	542869	-190323
5	54.41497	-19.3112	542490	-191867
6	53.97674	-19.9516	535860	-195710
7	54.18473	-20.1289	541108	-200773
8	54.33503	-20.1003	542010	-200602
9	54.63731	-19.3912	543824	-192347
10	54.98003	-19.254	545880	-191524
11	55.06854	-18.7393	550411	-184436
12	55.43033	-18.6822	552582	-184093
13	55.40761	-18.4134	552446	-182480
14	55.14377	-17.773	550863	-174638
15	54.95049	-18.0303	545703	-180182
16	54.98003	-17.1325	545880	-170795
17	54.94064	-17.2011	545644	-171207

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<b>HAR 4</b>				
	Lat	lon	LAT	LON
1	58.48687	-14.7537	582921	-144522
2	58.06592	-14.7766	580396	-144659
3	57.49275	-14.6851	572956	-144111
4	56.93852	-14.5479	565631	-143287
5	56.58119	-14.30197 5	63487	-141812
6	55.5696	-15.45705 5	53418	-152742
7	55.5146	-15.78871 5	53088	-154732
8	55.39138	-15.9488	552348	-155693
9	55.21156	-16.7523	551269	-164514
10	55.28839	-16.8972	551730	-165383
11	55.43293	-16.8667	552598	-165200
12	55.52228	-16.6862	553134	-164117
13	55.50812	-17.5843	553049	-173505
14	55.68582	-17.8416	554115	-175049
15	56.29351	-17.7901	561761	-174741
16	56.49922	-17.4756	562995	-172854
17	56.75088	-17.3955	564505	-172373
18	56.89482	-17.1325	565369	-170795
19	56.91667	-16.778	565500	-164668
20	57.19035	-16.7094	571142	-164256
21	57.15315	-15.7887	570919	-154732
22	57.27082	-15.3942	571625	-152365
23	57.61882	-15.3054	573713	-151832
24	57.84148	-15.3104	575049	-151863
25	57.95365	-15.4859	575722	-152915
26	58.06681	-15.4376	580401	-152626
27	58.21312	-15.4859	581279	-152915
28	58.38816	-15.2392	582329	-151435
29	58.36282	-15.135	582177	-150810
30	58.5018	-14.9024	583011	-145414
31	58.48687	-14.7537	582921	-144522

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<b>HAR 5</b>				
	lat	lon	LAT	LON
1	55.85309	-19.96304 5	55119	-195778
2	55.43682	-19.74575 5	52621	-194474
3	55.33612	-20.23752 5	52017	-201425
4	55.48545	-20.72357 5	52913	-204341
5	55.78562	-20.45481 5	54714	-202729
6	55.85309	-19.96304 5	55119	-195778

**Mid-Atlantic Existing Fishing Areas**

<b>MAR 1</b>				
	lat	lon	LAT	LON
1	57.17172	-33.34189	571030	-332051
2	57.09757	-33.12413	570585	-330745
3	56.72929	-33.48849	564376	-332931
4	56.49432	-33.56962	562966	-333418
5	56.37313	-34.01653	562239	-340099
6	56.52887	-34.24425	563173	-341466
7	56.7449	-34.14462	564469	-340868
5	-7.15165	-33.50699 5	-70910	-333042

<b>MAR 2</b>				
	lat	lon	LAT	LON
1	44.74949	-25.21871	444497	-251312
2	44.48731	-24.96838	442924	-245810
3	44.37494	-25.28666	442250	-251720
4	44.56889	-25.42612	443413	-252557
5	44.79772	-25.33314	444786	-251999

<b>MAR 3</b>				
	lat	lon	LAT	LON
1	45.68403	-27.25707	454104	-271542
2	45.47629	-27.14263	452858	-270856
3	45.42863	-27.41799	452572	-272508
4	45.2023	-27.62182	451214	-273731
5	45.18718	-27.76129	451123	-274568
6	45.49134	-27.87573	452948	-275254
7	45.66904	-27.66831	454014	-274010
8	45.66904	-27.25707	454014	-271542

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<b>MAR 4</b>				
	lat	lon	LAT	LON
1	46.38435	-27.62182	462306	-273731
2	46.0528	-27.64686	460317	-273881
3	46.0528	-27.91864	460317	-275512
4	46.39915	-27.91864	462395	-275512
5	46.39915	-27.66831	462395	-274010

<b>MAR 5</b>				
	lat	lon	LAT	LON
1	47.5556	-27.43945	473334	-272637
2	47.29188	-27.30356	471751	-271821
3	47.29188	-27.8042	471751	-274825
4	47.46381	-27.94367	472783	-275662
5	47.72426	-27.8042	474346	-274825
6	47.5556	-27.48593	473334	-272916

**Bay of Biscay Existing Fishing Area**

<b>Bay of Biscay</b>				
	lat	lon	LAT	LON
1	48.16965	-10.818	481018	-104908
2	46.55805	-10.2957	463348	-101774
3	46.44995	-10.5927	462700	-103556
4	48.23109	-11.1356	481387	-110813
5	48.20152	-10.9307	481209	-105584

**Josephine Bank Existing Fishing Area**

<b>JOS 1</b>				
	lat	lon	LAT	LON
1	37.06213	-14.1703	370373	-141022
2	36.71497	-14.1044	364290	-140626
3	36.55206	-14.1854	363312	-141113
4	36.5622	-14.2668	363373	-141601
5	36.70287	-14.5385	364217	-143231
6	36.8795	-14.556	365277	-143336
7	37.05598	-14.2415	370336	-141449
8	37.06213	-14.1703	370373	-141022

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### **Barents Sea Existing Fishing Area**

<b>The loophole, the Barents Sea, BAR 1</b>				
	lat	lon	LAT	LON
1	74.1356	41.0604	740814	410363
2	73.7439	41.36	734464	412160
3	73.4273	41.0317	732564	410190
4	73.1143	40.7075	730686	404245
5	72.6406	40.5967	723844	403580
6	72.1881	40.5433	721129	403260
7	72.2545	39.7799	721527	394680
8	72.681	38.8237	724086	384942
9	73.0749	37.6254	730450	373752
10	73.373	36.6445	732241	363867
11	73.6367	35.364	733821	352184
12	73.9028	34.1123	735417	340674
13	73.9778	33.7019	735867	334212
14	74.2908	35.0644	741745	350387
15	74.576	36.0207	743456	360124
16	74.9065	36.9441	745439	365665
17	75.0406	37.2724	750244	371635
18	75.3456	38.0887	752074	380533
19	75.801	38.9516	754806	385710
20	76.2513	39.5952	761508	393571
21	76.8997	42.8932	765399	425359
22	76.7279	44.7579	764368	444548
23	76.2339	43.895	761404	435370
24	76.02	42.0669	760120	420401
25	75.5715	42.1034	753429	420621
26	75.0994	39.5952	750597	393571
27	74.1356	41.0604	740814	410363

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### **Annex 7**

#### **Area closures for the Protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems.**

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 appendix below

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.

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Appendix: Coordinates of the five protected areas:

**1.2.1 Area a): Northern MAR Area**

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

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

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

**1.2.3 Area c): Southern MAR Area**

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

**1.2.4 Area d): Altair**

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

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**1.2.5 Area e): Antialtair**

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