



**29th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION
8-12 NOVEMBER 8
NEAFC headquarters - 22 Berners Street, London W1T 3DY**

1 Welcome address by the President and opening statements.

The President, Mr Johán H. Williams, opened the meeting at 10:35 am. He informed delegates that he was acting as President in the absence of Mr Sergey Belikov. He welcomed delegations from Contracting Parties, and observers from non-Contracting Parties, International Governmental Organisations (IGOs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). He read a statement from the President:

I, as the first NEAFC President from the Russian Federation, would like to welcome delegates to the 29th Annual Meeting of the Commission. I know that the meeting will address very important issues related to fisheries and conservation of the main species in the North East Atlantic. We have contacts with practically all the international organisations associated with fisheries, protection and investigations of fish and aquatic flora and fauna in the North East Atlantic. With these contacts we display our interest and willingness to cooperate with them.

I am confident that at the meeting many questions included in the agenda will be resolved. I am concerned about the situation with the pelagic fisheries. The blue whiting stock declined below the critical level and mackerel is being significantly overfished. I would like these questions to be discussed at the Heads of Delegations' meetings.

However, because of my illness I cannot attend this forum. Therefore, I would like to request Johán Williams, the First Vice-President to present at the 29th Annual Meeting of NEAFC.

The President made an opening statement (Annex B). He asked the Secretariat to present practical and security matters.

The representatives of the Contracting Parties Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the EU, Norway, Iceland and the Russian Federation made opening statements (Annex C).

The President thanked Contracting Parties for the contributions.

The observers of non-Contracting Parties Belize and Canada made opening statements. (Annex D). The IGO observer OSPAR made an opening statement (Annex E). The observers from Seas at Risk, the PEW Environmental Group and WWF made opening statements (Annex F).

2 Adoption of the agenda and appointment of rapporteur

The draft provisional agenda (AM 2010/01) was circulated in early September. No comments had been received. The Norwegian representative proposed changes to the annotations to agenda item 9.h and 12.i

The agenda was adopted, as amended, and the Secretary was appointed rapporteur.

3 Establishment and arrangements for the Finance and Administration Committee, and other groups

The President wanted the following Groups to start work.

The Finance and Administration Committee, FAC - Chair Andrew Thomson, EU
Meetings of members of the WGSTATS and PECMAS will be called by the Chairs, Helga Sigurrós Valgeirsdóttir, Iceland and Snorri Palmason, Norway.

The Heads of Delegations used the rest of the first day to interview applicants for the post of Secretary, with a view to making a decision on Monday. The Commission will be informed immediately about the outcome.

Heads of Delegations met at 12 pm. No coastal state meetings are announced at this stage.

4 Report by the Advisory Committee of ICES

The President invited the representatives of ICES to introduce the ICES advice for 2010. Henrik Sparholt, ICES, presented the change in ICES advice from precautionary to the MSY approach. The presentation can be found on the NEAFC website. The President thanked the presenter. There were no questions or comments.

Henrik Sparholt informed that the Vice Chair of ACOM, Carl O'Brien, had not been available to present the advice so it would be introduced by Morten Vinther, a long time member of ACOM. Mr Vinther introduced the detailed advice on the NEAFC relevant stocks, describing in particular the distribution of the fisheries and stock assessments.

The representative of the Russian Federation drew attention to their paper on the stock structure of the Irminger Sea redfish, AM 2010/30. These data, as well as other documents on the structure of that stock, will be presented to ICES later. He noted that Russian scientists had to be involved in the scrutiny of all redfish data in a transparent process in ICES.

For Norwegian spring spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring the estimate of the spawning stock for 2010 is half of that in 2009. This steep decrease is not explained, but is simply the best estimate available derived from a large international survey.

Blue whiting has declined because of high fishing mortality and below average recruitment. The estimate of spawning stock biomass this year is much lower than last year based on an international survey on the spawning grounds. The estimate has uncertainties, but is the best available. The 2009 estimate may have been too high.

The President asked if there were questions or comments to the herring and blue whiting assessments. There were none.

The big international, triennial, mackerel egg survey was undertaken this year and used to estimate the spawning stock biomass. The estimate is the highest since 1992. Catches for 2010 are estimated at over 900,000 tonnes. ICES is not in the position to explain the reasons for the changes in the estimate. There were no questions or comments.

In the fisheries for Rockall Haddock there has been an overall decrease in fishing effort for most fleets. Fishing mortality has gone down, but recruitment has been low, so the advised TAC decreases. There were no questions or comments.

There were two special requests, new information on VMEs and extension of the MAR closures. There was some new information in the Hatton Rockall area. The proposed extension of the MAR closures will only affect fisheries in the northern area, other parts of the closed areas are too deep for fishing.

The observer from the PEW Foundation noted that ICES indicated that there may be data for extending closures in the Rockall area. Was there clear advice? The ICES observer responded that there were data, but they had to be analysed in more detail before advice can be given.

The deep water fishery advice is the same as earlier years. No new data are available. The EU representative thanked the ICES observer for his presentation and asked for the specific advice for orange roughy which the ICES observer gave. There is a severe reduction in catch per unit effort. He also detailed the advice for two stocks of blue ling at the request of the EU. Time series are short for these stocks. The EU representative asked if there was an increase in catches of blue ling despite the ICES advice. The Icelandic representative explained that all blue ling spawning grounds in the northern stock were closed. Blue ling is taken as a bycatch in trawl fisheries and as biomass has increased, this shows up as increased catches. The Norwegian representative asked about the situation of blue ling in the Regulatory Area. The ICES observer said he would look into the matter.

The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) thanked ICES for the presentation. She asked about trends in landings of orange roughy by area. The ICES observer introduced AM2010/45 in response to a question from the representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland). The document gives catch figures and a graph. The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) informed that she had asked because she wanted the information in a more detailed form than that presented. She thanked ICES for the response.

The PEW Foundation observer drew attention to the NGO recommendation on deep sea fisheries.

5 Report of the Working Group on Fisheries Statistics, WGSTATS, 28-29 April

The Chair, Helga Sigurrós Valgeirsdóttir, Iceland, presented the report of the Working Group.

She thanked the Secretariat for its contribution to the WGSTATS meetings and work on documents between meetings and the representatives from Contracting Parties for their contribution. It has proved a difficult task to establish reliable catch figures and a robust catch reporting scheme.

WGSTATS met in April this year and had an informal meeting at the Annual Meeting. All Contracting Parties sent representatives to the April meeting, except Russia. The other parties regretted that the Russian Federation has not been able to participate in any of the formal meetings of the group. All parties have a contact person for statistics here at the Annual Meeting. They all participated in the informal meetings, except the EU.

Preliminary annual figures for 2009 were discussed at the April meeting. Problems remain the same as earlier. There is a problem with the corrections of EU figures; according to the EU representative the responsiveness of member states differs and therefore discussions and amendments take time. The necessity of providing the Secretariat with good quality data within the time frame was stressed in discussions within the group.

It had been agreed that Contracting Parties should send their annual figures to the Secretariat no later than 15th July this year. The Secretariat would distribute the compiled data to members of the working group. The aim was to discuss discrepancies, bilaterally, before mid-September. This should be the future work procedure in finalising annual catch statistics. The Secretariat was not able to distribute the finalised tables until mid October. As a result the EU has not been able to clarify issues that have been raised by representatives from Norway and Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland). 2010 provisional figures are up to and including September from all parties, except Russia where October is included. Some representatives within the group feel that it is unsatisfactory that annual figures cannot be finalised before the Annual Meeting, as had been decided within the group. The catch tables cannot be finalised until the previously mentioned unresolved figures from EU have been clarified and it is regretful that the 2009 figures are preliminary.

The Working Group agreed to make a recommendation that all Contracting Parties should send catch statistics in the same format. This will make the work of compiling the data at the Secretariat easier. From February, when a new reporting scheme comes into force, the Secretariat will send out

monthly letters to all Contracting Parties with preliminary catch figures for all regulated stocks and fishing areas. This will increase transparency in the catch data collection procedures and give Contracting Parties an overview of compliance with the catch data collection framework. The group would like to see the Secretariat act more proactively, if there is a lack of compliance and data are not sent in within the time frame or format agreed upon. If the issue of quality data in the timeframe set is not be resolved by the new reporting system, lack of compliance and possibilities to act on lack of compliance, has to be dealt with by PECCOE. The Secretariat has to have access measures to act on the matter.

In order to simplify the data collection procedures WGSTATS has made a recommendation on the reporting of catch figures by stock and fishing areas using FAO and ICES codes. All catches of regulated resources taken in international waters or waters under the jurisdiction of the Contracting Party shall be reported. The harmonised data collection format is set out in the recommendation as well as deadlines for sending in both monthly and annual catch data. (AM2010/37).

The Icelandic representative thanked the Chair for the presentation and the Working Group for its work. He still had concerns about reporting of quota uptake. There had been problems at every Annual Meeting, but hopefully the new reporting framework would rectify this.

The EU representative echoed the thanks to the Chair and the Group. He recognised that there had been shortfalls in EU reporting, but informed that work in progress for improvement should bring everything in order by this time next year.

The Icelandic representative pointed out that it should be possible to compare the catches reported to NEAFC with other catch reports. He had compared the NEAFC tables to catch data reported to ICES to be used in stock assessments. He had noted a discrepancy in the reported landings of redfish from the Irminger Sea of 1000 tonnes. The EU figures to NEAFC were considerably lower than the ICES figures for the EU. There were smaller discrepancies for the Faroe Islands. He was, however, more concerned with a 150,000 tonnes discrepancy in reported mackerel landings. This seemed to stem from a difference in UK landings reported to NEAFC and to the experts in the ICES Working Group. He asked which was the correct figure. This large discrepancy has to be explained.

The ICES observer noted that the preliminary data reported to ICES, due 1 February every year for the use of the ICES Expert Group, included data reported by the UK, which were not included in the NEAFC reports. The Icelandic representative asked if this meant that the EU had underreported 150,000 tonnes of mackerel to NEAFC.

The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) pointed out that the Statistics Group was set up precisely to sort out problems in the reporting to NEAFC. Reliable catch data Contracting Parties are comfortable with should be available at the beginning of Annual Meetings.

The Icelandic representative proposed that the Statistics Working Group should compare the monthly catches reported to NEAFC with, for example, the data reported to the Expert Groups of ICES.

6 Statistics on quota uptake and vessel activity

Recommendation by the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission at its Annual Meeting on 12 November 2010 adopted, in accordance with Articles 9, 1 and 2, of the Convention, providing for the collection of statistical information relating to fisheries beyond and under the fisheries jurisdiction of Contracting Parties, AM2010/37, was introduced by the President.

The recommendation was adopted by consensus.

7 Report from PECMAS

The Chair of PECMAS, Mr. Snorri Pálmason, Norway, presented the PECMAS report AM2010-07.

PECMAS met at NEAFC HQ between 30 September and 1 October. All NEAFC Contracting Parties were represented. He would like to focus on the decisions made and recommendations that were adopted. The Secretary was appointed as a rapporteur for the meeting. He thanked the Secretary for taking on this task.

NEAFC has introduced several measures to manage the fisheries in the Regulatory Area. The big pelagic fisheries are managed on a stock by stock basis, but the approach to the bottom or deepwater species (with the exception of Rockall haddock) has been to regulate the fishery as a whole. There is a ceiling on the effort that each member can use, and there are area closures to protect corals or fish stocks. NEAFC has also closed vast areas on the Mid Atlantic Ridge to bottom fisheries. In addition NEAFC has introduced an arrangement where the Regulatory Area is more or less split in two, so called existing areas and new areas. In the existing areas a fishing vessel can undertake fishing activity in the normal manner, having to follow rules if VMEs are encountered. If fishing vessels plan to fish in the new areas, they must go through a rather cumbersome process to get authorization to perform an experimental fishery in the area. It is the Chair's understanding that the industry views the new areas as practically closed areas. Until now, there has not been a single application for trials in the so called new area. We are talking about large areas, to his knowledge, the closures on the Mid Atlantic Ridge and the VMEs on Hatton Bank and Rockall Bank are 355 thousand square kilometres, or the size of the UK and Ireland combined. This is more than 7% of the Regulatory Area south of Iceland and more than 50% of fishable areas. The new areas are 92% of the Regulatory Area south of Iceland. As of today less than 1% of the Regulatory Area is open to normal and direct fishing.

In spite of these efforts, NEAFC is criticised for not doing enough to protect deepwater fisheries. It has been reported that people participating in meetings and conferences worldwide find themselves in an uncomfortable situation when they are describing the system in NEAFC. They are asked for documentation, preferably in peer reviewed magazines, and these are either not available or not easily accessible.

PECMAS, therefore, agreed to recommend to the Commission to initiate efforts to report and evaluate the effects and effectiveness of the NEAFC regulations for bottom and deepwater fisheries. The recommendation is in document AM 2010/20. It is proposed that this work should be

presented annually and published on the NEAFC website. This documentation would hopefully provoke some investigation and critical review from persons outside the NEAFC world.

PECMAS also recommends the Commission adopts the Recommendation found in Document AM 2010/19. This is a proposal to amend Recommendation number XIV: 2008, dealing with the bottom fisheries regulations. Regulations on this matter have been developed simultaneously and interactively in NAFO and NEAFC, and are practically the same. An issue that has not been clear, particularly in NAFO, is the interpretation of the demand to perform an initial assessment before fisheries commence. This has been discussed thoroughly in NAFO, and a solution was found. This solution was presented, after being adapted to the NEAFC structure of regulations, in PECMAS and discussed at the meeting. The Committee concluded by recommending the changes seen in the document.

A proposal by the EU put forward to the last Annual Meeting on extending the closures already in place on the Mid Atlantic Ridge was discussed. The Committee could not agree on the proposal.

The Committee also discussed how the closures or restricted areas are presented to fishermen and the general public. There was an agreement that the current presentation on the NEAFC website was not easily accessible and that there was a need for clear maps and coordinates. The Secretary was asked to make the necessary effort to improve the presentation of the areas managed by NEAFC on the web.

The Committee also decided to ask the Chair and the Secretary to merge the texts in the NEAFC regulatory package that concern the VME protection. This is only an editorial exercise. These measures are now found in at least three documents from three years. It is therefore possible that people studying the NEAFC regulations might not get the whole regulation package. The merged text has not been discussed in PECMAS, so it will not be distributed here, but presented to the Heads of Delegations. We realise that there are many concerns to take into account, for example Recommendation XVI: 2008 should be reviewed in 2012.

It was also agreed that NEAFC should produce a guide on corals and sponges that might be caught under fishing operations in the area. The Secretary has taken on the task of producing a note where possible ways of producing such a guide would be explored.

Under the discussion with ICES the issue of MSY oriented advice was briefly mentioned. An issue that possibly needs to be looked at is whether the MOU between ICES and NEAFC should be amended. It was also noted that in its advice on VMEs ICES has written the following: *As noted above, ICES has information that could be used to define or amend boundaries to closed areas. If NEAFC wish to receive advice on suitable areas to close to protect vulnerable deep-water habitats, then NEAFC should explicitly request ICES to advise on new areas that need to be considered for closure or whether the boundaries of currently closed areas under its regulation need to be revised in accordance with new information on vulnerable deep-water habitats.* The Chair believes that most of the people attending the meeting were surprised to see this text, as this seems to be covered in the recurrent request. Anyway, it was not possible to look at the issue at the meeting. It was decided to ask ICES to bring the necessary information to the Annual Meeting to present it and give the Commission the possibility to consider changes in the areas.

The Committee was made aware of a recommendation from the last Annual Meeting regarding blue whiting. As it seems that the Annual Meeting did not decide on the leadership of the work, nothing has been done.

At the meeting there was a session with representatives from the OSPAR Secretariat. They informed on relevant cases in OSPAR work, highlighting the outcomes of the OSPAR Commission and the Ministerial meeting held between 20-24 September in Bergen. From the NEAFC side, information on the processes within the organisation was given. There was a fruitful discussion on the various subjects.

The President thanked the Chair for the presentation. The Icelandic representative also thanked the Chair and the Group for its proposals. The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) echoed the comments from the Icelandic representative, and saw a clear development and increased maturity in the work of the Group. She also appreciated the contribution of OSPAR. The EU representative agreed and noted the reference to the NEAFC working group collating information on the distribution of all life stages of blue whiting in the North East Atlantic and the distribution of catches from the stock. This group had been agreed last year. He explained that the reason for not having started the process was heavy workload, but the EU was ready to host the first meeting. He felt that it would not be possible to finish the work by 1 March so the reporting date has to be changed.

The PEW Foundation observer endorsed the proposal to consolidate the bottom fishing regulation. He acknowledged the work done by NEAFC, but felt that there were still things to be done. He asked if PECMAS had discussed the report of the ICES/NAFO Joint Working Group on Deep-water Ecology. The Chair informed that advice from ICES was not available at the time of the meeting. OSPAR thanked PECMAS and looked forward to future cooperation.

The recommendation for amendments to the bottom fishing regulation, AM2010/19¹, was introduced by the Chair of PECMAS. He referred to his earlier description of what was behind the recommendation. He stressed the close cooperation between NEAFC and NAFO in this matter.

The recommendation was adopted by consensus.

The President informed that Heads of Delegations have decided to merge the process dealing with three documents.

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| AM 2010/50 | EU proposal for the establishment of a joint NEAFC (PECMAS)-OSPAR Working Group on boundaries of protected areas for marine species |
| AM 2010/52 | Proposal for a regional workshop for the north Atlantic hosted by NEAFC. |

¹ Proposal for amending Article 5 3 (i) in RECOMMENDATION XVI:2008,

“RECOMMENDATION BY THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 5 OF THE CONVENTION ON FUTURE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES AT ITS EXTRAORDINARY MEETING ON 1-2 JULY 2008 TO ADOPT THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION ON BOTTOM FISHING ACTIVITIES IN THE NEAFC REGULATORY AREA”

AM2010/20

A Recommendation from PECMAS to initiate a process to report on and evaluate the effects and effectiveness of the NEAFC regulations on bottom and deepwater fisheries, and measures to conserve deepwater species and vulnerable marine ecosystems (e.g. bottom fisheries closures).

The President, the Chair of Working Group on the Future of NEAFC, WGFN, and the Secretary will follow up on this.

8 Request for scientific advice

The President invited the Chair of PECMAS to present the draft request for advice from ICES, AM2010/60. This document was first discussed at the PECMAS meeting in October and again during the Annual Meeting. The recurrent advice is unchanged, but there was no agreement on the non-recurrent advice. Heads of Delegations had made some suggestions, but there was still a difference of opinion on the request for advice on Irminger Sea Redfish. One alternative in the draft request refers to a document presented in NEAFC, the other does not. The question is whether NEAFC should refer particular documents to ICES. This was done last year. Some parties think that it should be up to ICES to choose the relevant documents.

The President did not have any other choice than to put this question of principle to a vote.

1. Alternative (no reference to a specific paper): Three votes in favour, one abstention
2. Alternative: one vote in favour, two abstentions.

Alternative 1 will be sent to ICES. The Russian Federation is of course free to send their paper directly to ICES.

The representative from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) informed that the reason for her abstention was that she did not find the way of dealing with this document acceptable. The President agreed, but this was a decision for Contracting Parties.

9 Reports from Working Groups and Coastal State discussions on management measures for 2011

a) Pelagic *Sebastes mentella* in the Irminger Sea

The Icelandic representative reported that the Coastal States - Greenland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands - had met twice. These meetings had been productive and the parties hoped that a proper management plan for this fishery could be presented to NEAFC next year. The Coastal States have agreed on a proposal for management for 2011, which will be tabled.

b) Pelagic *Sebastes mentella* in ICES Sub-areas I and II in the Regulatory Area

The Norwegian representative reported that Norway, the coastal state for this stock, had hosted a meeting in October at NEAFC HQ with fisheries parties. The scientific advice was reviewed. Norway has tabled a proposal for management in 2011, AM2010-14.

c) Blue whiting

The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) referred to the agreed record from the coastal state meetings 18-19 October at NEAFC HQ, AM2010-11. The Coastal States had agreed on a management measure according to the long time management arrangement, resulting in a dramatic reduction of the overall TAC. The recommendation was tabled.

d) Norwegian spring spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring

The Norwegian representative referred to the agreed record from the Coastal State meetings on 20-21 October at NEAFC HQ, AM2010-12. The TAC will be reduced from over 1.4 million to 900,000 tonnes, according to the agreed management plan agreed and the most recent ICES advice. The proposal for a recommendation has been tabled, AM2010-15.

e) Mackerel

The EU representative reported on the two mackerel meetings in London in October. The scientific advice was presented, but no agreement was found on allocations.

f) Rockall haddock

The EU and the Russian Federation had met between 14-16 September in Edinburgh. New survey data were reviewed. These showed that the haddock box was effective in protecting juvenile haddock. The shape of the box will be reviewed after a further survey. However, in the Protocol of the Rockall haddock meeting held in Edinburgh on 14-16 September (section New survey data from Scottish surveys, paragraph 4), it is stated that 'There may be a case for changes to the current box, but care needs to be exercised in making any such changes on the basis of the monkfish survey', which means that the current shape of the haddock box will not necessarily be changed after a new survey. This was an opinion shared by both parties to the EU-Russia consultations and expressed in the Protocol. The EU and the Russian Federation proposed rolling over the present closure to 2011.

g) Deep-sea fisheries

The Norwegian representative drew attention to the management of sharks. It was unclear, which RFMO deals with which species. ICCAT has measures for oceanic sharks, mentioned in UNCLOS Annex I². The Secretariat informed that it had been in contact with ICCAT on this issue and received a list of ICCAT management measures for sharks.

The EU representative found the point raised by the Norwegian representative very interesting as to which RFMO is responsible for various shark species. He was consulting with Brussels on that which has measures in some highly migratory sharks. He reminded delegates that last year the EU had proposed an extension of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, MAR, closures. ICES has come back with a rather unusual answer, giving some hope that they may have information. NEAFC needs more precise coordinates. ICES also points out that some of the extensions are in areas too deep for

² Annex I. 16. Oceanic sharks: *Hexanchus griseus*; *Cetorhinus maximus*; Family *Alopiidae*; *Rhincodon typus*; Family *Carcharhinidae*; Family *Sphyrnidae*; Family *Isurida*.

fisheries. He assumed that other Contracting Parties had not changed their minds, so he did not expect support for the EU proposal.

h) Area management

See report from PECMAS.

10 Recommendations on management measures for 2011 for

a) Pelagic *Sebastes mentella* in the Irminger Sea

The Icelandic representative introduced the recommendation in AM2010/57 rev.3. The Coastal States invite other parties to a meeting in London, at NEAFC HQ in early 2011. The representative from the Russian Federation asked about the dates for the meeting. The representative from Iceland informed that it was planned to have the meeting on 18-20 January.

The EU representative stated that the EU had been very dissatisfied with the management of this stock for some years. The Coastal States have responsibility and he noted that a proposal had been put forward which increases the share of the Coastal States. He looked forward to the meeting in January. He welcomed the initiative taken by Coastal States, but felt a need for closure on this matter according to scientific advice.

Adopted by consensus

b) Pelagic *Sebastes mentella* in ICES Sub-areas I and II in the Regulatory Area

The Norwegian representative informed that Norway had to withdraw the proposal in AM2010/14, which built on the scientific advice, because two Contracting Parties did not support it, and thus it would not be adopted. He considered it important that some measure should be in place, and he was concerned that if none of the proposals were adopted there would be an open and unlimited fishery..

The representative of the Russian Federation introduced AM 2010/32 rev 1. The recommendation reduces the quota from 8600 to 7900 tonnes, but is in other respects the same as last year.

The President called for a vote.

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), Norway and the Russian Federation voted in favour, the EU against and Iceland abstained.

The EU representative expressed his disappointment. He considered this measure was inconsistent with the principles of this organisation in the light of the scientific advice. He felt that, compared with other management measures established, this is a black mark against NEAFC. He could understand that Norway wants some regulation in place, but voting for a measure that runs against the scientific advice was not acceptable.

Norway could agree with those comments, but considered it necessary not to have an open unregulated fishery. The representative of the Russian Federation expressed disappointment with

the ICES advice. He did not see consistency with the advice for redfish in the Irminger Sea and the Norwegian Sea. He felt that the proposal by the Russian Federation was a “super” precautionary approach.

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) did not think the measure was ideal, but agreed with the Russian Federation that it was precautionary, given the low level of fishery and a SSB estimated by ICES at between 500,000 and 1 million tonnes.

c) Blue whiting

The President pointed out that AM2010/40 was not a proposal by the Commission, as the Russian Federation had its own proposal. This was corrected. The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) accepted that it was a proposal from the Coastal States.

The representative of the Russian Federation presented its proposal in AM2010/44. He referred to his earlier remarks about the social and economic problems caused by a huge reduction in the TAC for blue whiting. He pointed out that there were other options in the ICES advice and a TAC option of 223,000 tonnes combined with a ban on fishing at the spawning grounds during the main period of spawning would have the same protective effect as the proposal from the Coastal States.

The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) presented the proposal from the Coastal States, which is in line with the agreed management plan. She referred to her earlier presentation of the proposal. She noted that the arrangement made with the Russian Federation, which now is in its final year, still stands and is honoured.

The EU representative drew attention to the status of the stock. Everybody has to consider social and economic factors. The important thing is to stick to the management plan. The proposal of the Russian Federation may lead to the extinction of the stock. He agreed with the representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) that the arrangement with Russia was honoured. The EU will be very vigilant and see to that all regulations and agreements were respected.

The representative of the Russian Federation pointed out that the social argument was valid. The Russian proposal respected sustainability and was one of the management options. The result for sustainability would be approximately the same. The EU representative did not find it acceptable to invoke social and economic arguments to underpin high levels of fishing. He felt that the fishing nations should respect the findings of the coastal states. He referred to the agreement on Norwegian spring spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring. The Norwegian representative agreed with the representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) and the EU. He pointed out that Russia had attended the Coastal State meeting in London, and did not at that point comment on the Coastal States consensus. He called for a vote.

The Russian Federation, however, pointed out that its representative did comment on the consensus decision made by the Coastal States regarding the TAC level for 2011 at the meeting in London in October 2010. Russia then stated that the reduction of TAC for 2011 was too drastic, the TAC was more than 10 times less than the 2010 level and that would be a difficult message to deliver to the Russian fishing industry, which had always had a stable fishery with a stable level of catches, while

some other fishing nations multiply increased their effort and catches. This had led to the depletion of the stock and undermined the stability of the Russian fishery.

The President called a vote.

The proposal of the Russian Federation in AM2010/40

Russia voted yes. The 4 other Contracting Parties voted no. The recommendation was not adopted.

Coastal state proposal in AM2010/40

Russia voted no. The 4 other Contracting Parties voted yes. The recommendation was adopted.

d) Norwegian spring spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring

The Norwegian representative introduced the proposal in AM2010/15. Agreement between all those parties which all are Coastal States was reached in October in London. It follows the management plan and is similar to last year's agreement. There were no comments and the recommendation was voted on.

Four Parties voted yes, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) abstained and referred to the letter sent by Greenland (AM2010/22).

e) Mackerel

The representative of the Russian Federation introduced the proposal. He underlined that it was necessary to have something in place not to allow an open fishery. The EU could appreciate that, but there is process to bring into place measures in time. He therefore thought that this proposal was premature. NEAFC could revert to this later, if necessary.

The Russian Federation voted in favour, Norway and EU voted against, DFG and Iceland abstained
The proposal was not carried

f) Rockall haddock

The EU representative introduced the proposal in AM2010/54. He had already reported on the meetings with the Russian Federation. Following these consultations it had been agreed to roll over the box for 2011 and 2012. ICES had been requested to evaluate the efficiency of the box. This was for the protection of juvenile haddock. All Parties voted for the recommendation.

g) Deep-sea fisheries

There were three recommendations for sharks banning directed fishery for 3 shark species in line with ICES advice. The recommendation in AM2010/47 on spurdog was introduced by the EU.

The President called for a vote. 5 votes in favour. The recommendation was carried.

Norway introduced AM2010/55 and 56 on basking shark and porbeagle. Both recommendations had been developed involving all Parties and both recommendations were adopted.

The EU representative introduced AM2010/46 on orange roughy, which bans directed fishery for this species. He reminded the meeting that last year NEAFC had adopted a measure allowing all Parties to fish 150 tonnes for two years. This was unexplainable. He suggested that NEAFC followed SEAFO, which has set 50 tonnes for the entire area for exploratory fishing, but prevents increase in the fishery, until virgin stock and status has been assessed. Faroese sampling of catches is not enough. The 2009 measure is not to NEAFC's credit.

The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) referred to discussions last year and that NEAFC then adopted a two year measure. There is no new advice; the ICES Expert Group only meets every second year. The Faroese data referred to will therefore be taken into account in the forthcoming work of the ICES Working Group. The measure in place closes directed fisheries in ICES Areas V, VI and VII, which have been subject to intensive catches in previous years. There has not been the same intensity of fisheries in ICES Sub-areas X and XII which are the areas open to fishery. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) would not be against looking at the model used by SEAFO next year. Although each Contracting Party can fish 150 tonnes, the reality is that there is only one vessel out there. This fishery requires very good technical knowledge.

The EU commented that, notwithstanding these comments, we have to react to the scientific advice. The MSY for ICES Sub-area VI is only 90 tonnes. Compared with other areas a fishery of 150 tonnes could wipe out the stock in the fished area. If only one vessel is involved it must be possible to find alternatives. The Norwegian representative in essence was in line with the EU, but had a problem with the EU proposal, because it includes a requirement to discard. Norway would, therefore, abstain.

The EU representative voted in favour of the proposal, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) and the Russian Federation voted against. Iceland and Norway abstained. The recommendation from last year is therefore still in force.

h) Area management

After the Annual Meeting it was noted that the recommendation on closing certain areas on the Hatton and Rockall Bank (Recommendation VIII: 2010) had not been renewed due to an oversight.

There was no discussion at the Annual Meeting that suggested that measures should be allowed to expire. Other NEAFC closures run for more than one year. Recommendation VIII: 2010 was, therefore, amended with a new expiry date of 31 December 2011, and sent it out together with the other recommendations from the 29th Annual Meeting.

11 Reports of the Meetings of PECCOE (26 and 27 April, 4 and 5 October 2010) and the Advisory Group on Data Communications (6 October 2010), London

The Chair of PECCOE, Mr Gylfi Geirsson, Iceland, presented the two PECCOE reports and the AGDC Report.

He noted that, at the April Meeting, he had been elected Chair after Martin Newman, the EU, had moved to a new post. He expressed great appreciation of the valuable work by Mr Newman and his important contribution to the tasks of the Committee.

At the request of Contracting Parties, more detailed information has been compiled on the performance of reporting from vessels via FMCs to the NEAFC database. This suggests that quality control is needed in the system.

PECCOE reviewed problems encountered with sending messages from FMCs to the NEAFC central database.

PECCOE reviewed Contracting Party reports on inspections, infringements and how infringements were dealt with. It also reviewed information on the problems experienced by FMCs.

PECCOE evaluated the redfish fisheries special control measures.

PECCOE evaluated the Port State Control system and the progress in digitalisation of the forms.

Only one non-Contracting Party vessel had been observed in 2010.

It was certified that one vessel had been scrapped and could be removed from the B-list.

PECCOE informed the Commission about the point of view of the Norwegian party which considers that the decision of the 28th Annual Meeting of NEAFC regarding removal of the vessel Nikolay Chudotvoret from the B-list was incorrect.

At the October meeting, PECCOE discussed at length the progress in digitalisation of the forms used in the NEAFC Port State Control System. It was concluded that using electronic forms instead of faxes does not change the basics of the system. Setting up the database, however, needs some detailed technical considerations and policy decisions. If the policy decisions are made in time, the system can be technically operational in April 2011. The test version has been tested and is still open; Contracting Parties are urged to make use of the testing facility, especially from vessels.

PECCOE agreed on a corrigendum to Article 22.4 of the Scheme.

PECCOE discussed the problems involved in inspections of very large landings of pelagic species. The issue was raised by the representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland). There was no consensus for changing anything at this point, but the representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) would come back to this problem. The objective was not to use up resources unnecessarily for inspection.

PECCOE discussed at length the possibility of aligning the NEAFC PSC forms and the EU IUU Catch Document. Non-EU Contracting Parties expressed a strong preference for a consolidated system. The EU was invited to look into the matter.

PECCOE evaluated in detail the special control measures in place for the fisheries for beaked redfish in the Irminger and the Norwegian Seas.

PECCOE reviewed applications from 5 non-Contracting Parties, Belize, Canada, Cook Islands, Japan and New Zealand, for renewal of cooperative status with NEAFC. PECCOE agreed that cooperative non-Contracting Parties have to meet all requirements for information in the Scheme. The Secretary was instructed to ascertain that all the required information was available. If the required information is submitted, PECCOE will propose to the Commission that cooperative status is renewed.

PECCOE evaluated the activities of non-Contracting Parties. It was for the time being concluded that reefers had to meet all reporting requirements, according to the Scheme, but Contracting Parties were urged to look at the problem intersessionally.

PECCOE reviewed the NEAFC IUU A- and B-list. It was certified by the EU that the “Sunny Jane” had been scrapped and can be removed from the NEAFC B-list.

PECCOE reviewed the implications for the NEAFC Port State Control System from the FAO Legally Binding Instrument on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing agreed in 2009. Two analyses of this issue have been prepared by Norway (April 2010 PECCOE meeting) and the EU (this meeting). PECCOE decided to propose that a small group of dedicated people, led by the Chair of PECCOE, works intersessionally to sort out the questions involved, especially that of scope.

PECCOE discussed at length implications for the Scheme of the use of electronic logbooks making reporting easier for fishermen. Electronic logbooks are becoming operational in several Contracting Parties. They have great potential for making reporting easier and less error prone for fisherman and adding a wealth of data to the data reported to the central NEAFC VMS database in the messages under the present NEAFC Scheme.

There was general consensus that electronic logbooks are the future and can create whatever reports Parties want to demand within the Scheme with scope to create a single electronic reporting system that can be used in all waters. Norway and the EU expressed willingness to report to PECCOE their experience with electronic logbooks for the benefit of other Parties.

PECCOE concluded an outstanding request for looking into the control aspects of a proposed closure on the NW Rockall Bank. The adoption by the Commission last year of a recommendation on this matter meant that the Commission was willing to go ahead without waiting for the PECCOE evaluation of the control aspects.

PECCOE reviewed issues referred from NAFO STACTIC. Three were transferred to AGDC. The fourth is about several items, for example proposed changes for catch on entry, information on charterers, and a new message when passing a borderline between areas, detailed catch reporting when leaving the Regulatory Area and an update on production codes. NEAFC will report back to NAFO on the discussion of this item.

It was agreed to propose that NEAFC and STACTIC meet back to back followed by AGDC. The meeting dates for the first meeting should be 2-6 May 2011 in London at NEAFC HQ, starting with STACTIC for two days, then PECCOE for two days and then AGDC. Subsequently, the meeting dates have been changed to 9-13 May.

The President asked for comments. The Norwegian representative thanked the new Chair and extended his thanks to Martin Newman. He reiterated his remarks from yesterday on the work with the FAO agreement and the NEAFC system. He noted that the FAO agreement represents minimum standards, and national and regional systems may thus be more demanding. Norway, as a technical exercise to the PECCOE meeting in April, had merged the FAO and NEAFC texts. He noted in particular the difference in scope, but explained that there are also additional points such as definitions, port entry requirements, use of ports etc. He welcomed that PECCOE now speeded up the process to harmonise the obligations. The Icelandic representative thanked the new Chair and the good and productive work of the Committee. He regretted that it had not been possible for the EU to accept that landing could be inspected by other parties. This was seen as important in the pelagic fisheries. He stressed the need for improving catch reporting in redfish fisheries. The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) echoed the thanks to the new and the old Chair. She noted that in the October report there was reference to which parties have signed the FAO agreement. Faroe Islands and Greenland will sign independently of Denmark (Kingdom of Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland). This will take place soon. The Faroe Islands is an associate member of FAO and had taken part in the negotiations on the FAO agreement.

The Chair of PECCOE then introduced the AGDC Report.

AGDC elected Ellen Fasmer, Norway, as Chair to succeed Gylfi Geirsson, Iceland.

AGDC discussed quality control problems particularly with messages received and sent by FMCs, but not received by the NEAFC database. No conclusion was made, but this may require further analysis. It was agreed that if the Secretariat cannot get to the root of this problem, it will produce a paper which can be considered later.

AGDC noted progress with respect to the introduction of electronic Port State Control forms and the testing that had taken place. A new round of testing will be started later this year. It could be technically possible to start electronic reporting in April 2011.

AGDC discussed technical questions referred to it from PECCOE, including a Russian proposal for cancelling messages/reports, unique vessel identifiers and the implications for the Scheme of the use of electronic logbooks.

With respect to the Russian proposal for cancelling messages/reports (*agenda item 6.1*) it was agreed to discuss an amended list of return error numbers, including the Russian proposal, by correspondence before the next meeting of AGDC.

With respect to the implications for the Scheme of the use of electronic logbooks (*agenda item 6.3*), it was agreed to call a one day meeting of the Group on 16 February 2011, in London, with the implications of the use of electronic logbooks as the only agenda item.

AGDC discussed the management of the North Atlantic Format. The NAF website is, under an agreement between the NAFO and NEAFC Secretariats, managed by NAFO. It has, however, not been updated for some time. NAFO had referred 3 technical issues to the AGDC: daily communications of catches and new data elements not included in the NAF codes, cancellation messages and introduction of FAO 3-alpha FAO product codes. The discussions will be communicated to NAFO.

AGDC noted the proposal that NEAFC PECCOE and NAFO STACTIC may meet back to back in early May 2011 followed by a meeting of the AGDC.

The President thanked the Chair for his detailed presentation and the Committee for its important work.

12 The NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement

a) Implementation of the Scheme.

Reported under agenda item 11.

b) Possible adoption of proposals from PECCOE

- The Chair of PECCOE introduced 4 recommendations proposed by the Committee:
- Changes to APPENDIX 1 TO ANNEX IV – Products and packing
Product form codes. Change to FAO 3-Alpha code AM2010/36
- Change to Annex VIII, 5, the “POSITION” report/message AM2010/35
- Change to Article 22 – Prior notice of entry into port AM2010/34
37 rev.1
- Change to Article 10
Reporting of catches and fishing effort AM2010/23

All PECCOE recommendations were adopted by consensus.

The PECCOE Chair introduced a proposal for an Ad Hoc Working Group on Port State Control (AHWGPSC). The group agreed to continue the work by using the table already produced by the EU (PE 2010-02-09) as a basis and the Norwegian delegation offered to draft additions to the table taking note of the Norwegian document from the April 2010 meeting of PECCOE (PE 2010-01-13). Moreover the group will also examine issues related to the EU catch certification scheme.

The group proposes holding a meeting in Bergen between 12-14 January 2011 and a second meeting preferably in London 8-10 March 2011.

The Russian Federation accepted this and had tabled a recommendation AM2010/41. Rev.1 for consolidating the NEAFC Port State Control system and the EU catch certification scheme. The President noted that the AHWGPSC would look into this matter. The Russian Federation accepted this.

The proposal for the AHWGPSC and its terms of reference was adopted.

The President asked about the Icelandic proposal, AM 2010-18, for a recommendation on communication of catches and wondered whether this should be dealt with under this agenda item. The Icelandic proposal was referred to PECCOE.

c) Possible adoption of proposals from the Advisory Group on Data Communications
There were none.

d) A- and B- lists of IUU vessels
The Chair informed that there was clear evidence that one of the vessels on the B-list - Maine - had been listed with the wrong call sign and IMO-number. It was agreed that this should be corrected in the revised IUU list, AM2010/ 42.

AM2010/ 42 rev 1. The revised B-list was tabled and adopted.

The EU informed that they knew that one vessel on the list, the "RED", had been scrapped. However, PECCOE has not yet received the necessary certification.

e) Cooperating non-Contracting Party Status.
The Norwegian representative pointed out that the Commission needs a proposal for a recommendation granting co-operative non-Contracting Party status, including clarifying that new fishing opportunities are not available. The Secretariat was instructed to provide this. The EU representative made the general point that co-operative non-Contracting Parties have to deliver all the data required. He noted Belize had reported in detail, but all non-Contracting Parties applying for co-operative status must meet the requirements in a timely fashion.

The Icelandic representative agreed and felt there was a need to tighten procedures.

The recommendation in AM2010/53 rev 1 was tabled. The EU expected that this was pointed strongly out to the applicants. The recommendation was adopted by consensus and co-operative non-Contracting Status was granted to Belize, Canada, the Cook Islands, Japan and New Zealand.

13 Relationships with other Regional Fisheries Management Organisations

- a) Observer reports
- b) Regional Fishery Bodies Secretariats network, RSN-2, 9-10 March HQ FAO

- c) Report of the Sixth Meeting of North Atlantic Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, NARFMOs
- d) Other contacts

The observers on behalf of NEAFC in other regions reported as follows:

NAFO - Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) (Doc AM 2010/13)

ICES - Iceland (Doc AM 2010/10)

NAMMCO – Norway (Doc AM 2010/04)

Pollock in the Bering Sea – Russian Federation (Doc AM 2010/16)

SEAFO - EU.

The President proposed that NEAFC appointed observers to ICCAT and NASCO. The Norwegian representative volunteered to report from ICCAT and the EU from NASCO.

14 Reports from international developments in fisheries management and integration of fisheries and environmental policies

- a) Development of cooperation with OSPAR under the MoU
 - I OSPAR – informal meeting on Management of Charles Gibbs MPA – Madeira, Portugal – 23-25 March 2010
 - II OSPAR Ministerial Meeting, Bergen, Norway – 23-24 September 2010
- b) FAO
 - I FAO Pilot Project for a Global Record of Fishing Vessels
 - II FAO FIRMS partners and CWP meetings, 22-26 February, Hobart, Tasmania
- c) UN meetings and initiatives
 - I Ad Hoc Open-Ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction
 - II The ninth round of informal consultations of States parties to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement (ICSP-9_, March, UN HQ
 - III The Resumed Review Conference on the UN Fish Stocks Agreement
 - IV ICP 11, 21-25 June, UN HQ
- d) Nordic Council of Ministers Meetings
 - I The form and format of ICES decision processes and advice – the case of the Faroe Islands, 15 June, Tórshavn, Faroe Islands
 - II The Pelagic Complex, 5-7 September 2010, Tórshavn, Faroe Islands
 - III Nordic Oceans Conference, 5-7 October 2010, Torshavn, Faroe Islands, postponed
 - IV Nordic Network Meeting International Fisheries, 24 November, Tórshavn, Faroe Islands
- e) ICES meetings
 - I The form and format of ICES advice, 1-5 December 2009, Lisbon
 - II 14th ICES Dialogue Meeting, **postponed**
 - III ICES MICC meeting, 13 October 2010, NEAFC HQ London

- f) Arctic Council PAME Workshop in Support of the Arctic Ocean Review, AOR, Project Washington D.C., USA, 13-14 September, 2010
- g) CBD COP 10 Meeting and Johannesburg commitments
- h) IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee 27 September – 1 October
IMO HQ London

The Secretary made a presentation on the international meetings the Secretariat has participated in since the last Annual Meeting. He referred to reports on these meetings, prepared by the Secretariat, on the NEAFC website.³ He listed two examples of evaluations of fisheries management, where non-transparent and doubtful analysis formed the basis for very negative conclusions. He noted the problem of having to act on limited data and the lack of proportion with respect to which fisheries problems attracted international attention.

He stated that fisheries have a poor image and drew attention to recent discussions of how the scientific community and the fisheries sector can establish a real community of practice that can play an effective role in a scientific and advocacy environment that is becoming more complex by the day. The presentation is on the NEAFC website.

The Icelandic representative thanked the Secretary for the overview and the way NEAFC communicated what it is doing.

The EU representative found that this was very useful work that he hoped would be continued under the new Secretary.

The Norwegian representative commended the work. He has attended a side-event in New York where one of the evaluations referred to in the Secretary's report had been presented and he had drawn attention to a misunderstanding in the paper. He felt that it raised a more general problem of how to communicate more effectively and referred to the proposal from PECMAS in this respect.

The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) echoed the comments above and stressed that this should be seen in a wider perspective. The overview was very helpful for her delegation. She referred to the reports on the activities of the Nordic Council of Ministers. The Faroe Islands have, under the Danish chairmanship of the Council, chaired the fisheries sector cooperation and has put much effort in organising meetings on relevant fisheries issues. One conference had had to be postponed, Seas the Future - Nordic Oceans Conference, which will be held in spring 2011, dates soon to be announced.

The PEW Foundation observer felt that the discussions in the General Assembly were important for setting global standards. He asked more specifically about possible fisheries in the new fishing areas on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. The Secretariat informed that only one Contracting Party had notified the Secretariat that they planned fishing in the Loophole.

³ <http://www.neafc.org/internationalreports2010>

The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) noted that recent data on existing fishing areas has led to smaller revisions and information should clearly reflect all existing fishing areas, including those on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

15 Appointment of new Secretary

The President informed the meeting that the contract of the present Secretary expires on 30 June 2011.

The post was announced earlier this year widely and attracted seven applications. Four candidates were interviewed by Heads of Delegations on Monday 8 November 2010. The Heads of Delegations agreed to offer Mr Stefán Ásmundsson, Iceland, the position for a term of three years, with the possibility of extension and recommend that the Commission formally adopts this. The President and the Chair of FAC will negotiate the conditions of the contract with Mr Ásmundsson.

The EU representative congratulated Mr Ásmundsson on his appointment. He stressed that, although the EU had not been able to go along with the majority in the selection process, the EU is willing to cooperate fully and work very hard with the new Secretary, as it had done with his predecessors.

16 Finance and Administration Committee

- a) Report on the Secretariat's activities during the year
- b) Audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2009 and preliminary statements for 2010
- c) Draft budget for 2011 and draft budget estimate for 2010
- d) Review of annual contributions from Contacting Parties with reference to Article 17.4 of the Convention
- e) Any other business

The Chair introduced the report AM2010/61. There seem to be discrepancies in the catch figures this year. The calculation of contributions was, therefore, postponed until this problem could be sorted out immediately after the Annual Meeting. The FAC made the following recommendations.

Concerning the budget of NEAFC, the Committee agreed to recommend that the Commission should:

- Take note of the audited accounts for 2009;
- Take note of the latest forecast of outturn for the accounts for 2010;
- Adopt the budget set out in Annex 1 of this report for 2011;
- Take note of the estimated budget for 2012 as set out in Annex 1 of this report; and

- Agree that the Finance and Administration Committee should reconvene if necessary if there is an Extraordinary Meeting of NEAFC during 2011.

In order to ensure that the organisation can continue to operate in a sound manner and, in particular, in order to avoid difficulties for the organisation as an independent organisation, Contracting Party contributions for 2011 should be paid in full no later than 1 April 2011.

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) thanked the Chair and the Group. She asked if had been decided to apply Article 17.4c. The President confirmed this, but said that all extra contributions are welcome.

17 Arrangements for future meetings

- a) Dates for the 30th Annual Meetings 7-11 November 2011 and 31st Annual Meeting 12-16 November 2012 were accepted.
- b) Meetings in subsidiary bodies of NEAFC
The calendar for the next year had been prepared and sets out the meetings of subsidiary bodies.

18 Press statements and other reports of the Commission's activities

This will as usual be handled by the President and the Secretary.

19 Any other business

On Tuesday at 5 pm the following side-event took place at AM2010.

Deepwater habitats and biodiversity explored by the Census of Marine Life, 2000-2010

The 10-year global research programme Census of Marine Life (CoML) is coming to an end in 2010, and the programme recently convened a major event in London (see www.coml.org). Of relevance to NEAFC is that North Atlantic Ocean biodiversity was studied by all the deepwater projects conducted under the umbrella of CoML. Dissemination efforts to the general public were extensive and raised the awareness of wide audiences. However, too few such initiatives targeted the intergovernmental management organizations that have legal authority to regulate human activities which have or may have significant impacts on the natural communities, habitats, and ecosystems.

Therefore, in this side-event to the NEAFC Annual Meeting, the CoML deepwater projects presented a series of talks and a short movie focusing on new results from the different habitats studied. The CoML projects represented will be MAR-ECO, CenSEAM, CoMARGE, ChESS, and CeDaMar (please see www.coml.org for information on each). The initiative is also backed by EuroCoML, the European Census of Marine life implementation committee.

Programme

Presentations:

Phil Weaver /Angela Benn (NOCS, UK): *Continental Margins (COMARGE)*

Henry Ruhl/Brian Bett: *Abyssal plains (CeDaMar)*

... Taylor (Univ. Oxford, UK): *Seamounts (CENSEAM)*

Paul Tyler (NOCS, UK): *Hydrothermal vents a.o. chemosynthetic systems (ChESS)*

Odd Aksel Bergstad (IMR, Norway): *Mid-Ocean Ridges (MAR-ECO)*

6 min feature film:

ROV ISIS exploring biodiversity of the Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone, 2010 (Contribution from the UK MAR-ECO project ECOMAR)

Moderator: O. A. Bergstad

The President thanked the presenters for their interesting information and the AM applauded.

20 Closure of the 29th Annual Meeting

The EU representative thanked Mr Williams for stepping in as President at short notice and for leading the meeting so efficiently.

The President closed the meeting at 3:45, thanked for all contributions and wished everybody a safe journey home.



**REPORT OF THE 29th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION**

8-12 NOVEMBER 2010

VOLUME II – ANNEXES

EU

Spencer, John (Head of Delegation)

Thomson, Andrew (Deputy Head of Delegation)

Angot, Véronique

Balseiro, Margarida

De Buysser, Liesbeth

Quillinan, Michael

Verborgh, Jacques

Roegiers, Barbara – Presidency

De la Corte, Gloria – General Secretariat of the Council of the EU

Armstrong, Bertie

Alvarez, Alejandro

Arrhenius, Fredrik

Atkins, Nigel

Cabral, António

Cowan, Caroline

Da Mota, Taveira

Dahlstrom, Mia

Derkacs, Ricards

Duthie, Derek

Dybiec, Leszek

Gatt, Ian

Lopez Velasco, Ana

Gonzalez Garcia, Hugo

Hewlett, Damon

Janssen, Inge

Johansson, Reine

Labanauskas, Aivaras

Lanng, Henry Damsgaard

Lindberg, Fredrik

Large, Philip

Maraval, Philippe

Martin, Kaire

Mota, Jose

Olesen, Christian

O'Suilleabhain, Colm

O'Neill, Sheila

Paiao, Anibal

Reidiger, Eckart

Richter, Uwe

Rodriguez, Francisco

Rosenkrantz, Robin

Salvador, Susana

Sampson, Harry

Sepulveda Angulo, Pedro

Simpson, Josie
Sarevet, Mati
Sauler, Tim
Stadnik, Ewa
Szemioth, Boguslaw
Tamme, Toomas
Taylor, Gary
Van Balsfoort, Gerard
Vaz Pais, Luis Carlos
Velasco, Ana Maria Lopez
Vilhjálmason, Hjálmar
Wiseman, Alex

Iceland

Matthiasson, Steinar Ingi (Head of Delegation)
Arngrímsson, Friðrik
Geirsson, Gylfi
Heidar, Tomas
Helgason, Kristjan Freyr
Pálsdóttir, Heiðrún
Sigurðsson, Þorsteinn
Sigurrós Valgeirsdóttir, Helga

Norway

Løbach, Terje (Head of Delegation)
Bergstad, Odd-Aksel
Eriksen, Guri Hjallen
Høines, Åge
James-Olsen, Otto
Johansen, Sverre
Maråk, Audun
Nakken, Johannes
Ognedal, Hilde
Pálmason, Snorri
Schultz, Bjarne
Skagestad, Odd Gunnar
Ytterstad, Marius

Russian Federation

Krayniy, Andrey Anatolievich (Head of Delegation)
Belous, Ekaterina
Kozharsky, Dmitriy
Gerber, Efim
Lepesevich, Yuriy
Sanko, Maxim
Shamray, Evgeny
Shulalaeva, Anna

Simakov, Sergey
Vasiljev, Dmitry
Volkov, Victor

Observers

Non-Contracting Parties

Belize – *Matthews, Nigel*
Canada – *Farmer, Janet*
Canada – *Gilchrist, Brett*
Japan – *Takahashi, Hitoshi*
New Zealand – *Lee, Sarah*
St Kitts & Nevis – *Smith, Nigel*
USA – *Rabb, Maggie*

International Governmental Organisations

FCO – *Ward, Debbie*
International Council for the Exploration of the Sea – *Vinther, Morten & Sparholt, Henrik*
IMO – *Choi, Seong-yong*
OSPAR – *Corcoran, Emily, Rodriguez-Lucas, Luisa*

Non-Governmental Organisations

Seas at Risk – *White, Carole*
WWF – *Bartlett, Giles*
Pew Foundation - *Gianni, Matthew*
Pew Foundation - *Lee, Elsa*
Pew Foundation - *von Kistowski, Kristin*

Annex B – Opening statement by the President

Acting President Johan William's Opening Statement at the 29th Annual Meeting of NEAFC

Let me start by bringing greetings from the President, Sergey Belikov of the Russian Federation, who is unfortunately unable to participate because of illness:

I, as the first NEAFC President from the Russian Federation, would like to welcome delegates to the 29th Annual Meeting of the Commission. I know that the meeting will address very important issues related to fisheries and conservation of the main species in the North East Atlantic. We have contacts with practically all the international organisations associated with fisheries, protection and investigations of fish and aquatic flora and fauna in the North East Atlantic. With these contacts we display our interest and willingness to cooperate with them.

I am confident that at the meeting many questions included in the agenda will be resolved. I am concerned about the situation with the pelagic fisheries. The blue whiting stock declined below the critical level and mackerel is being significantly overfished. I would like these questions to be discussed at the Heads of Delegations' meetings.

However, because of my illness I cannot attend this forum. Therefore, I would like to request Johán Williams, the First Vice-President to present at the 29th Annual Meeting of NEAFC.

I wish the Annual Meeting successful and fruitful work.

At the Resumed UNFA Review Conference in May 2010 Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and Arrangements (RFMO/As) were recognized as the primary mechanism for international cooperation in conserving and managing straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks. UNFA reaffirmed the recommendations adopted in 2006 and urged that implementation of the recommendations continue and be strengthened.

I think that I can state that NEAFC has systematically adapted to requirements in international law and instruments and developed effective management tools. This is perhaps best seen in an invitation to a side event at the CBD COP 10 meeting in October arranged by WWF, where NEAFC is characterised as one of, if not the, most progressive RFMO. This is of course in the first place linked to the updating of the NEAFC Convention and the London declaration that commits NEAFC to find the correct balance between utilisation and conservation providing sustainable, environmental and social benefits.

According to the new Article 4 of the Convention NEAFC's objective is to conserve marine biological diversity and control the impact of fisheries on other species and marine ecosystems. The effect of this change in mandate is clearly seen in the agreed management measures for fisheries and in the management of the NEAFC area with up to 50 % of the fishable area closed to fishing on the mid-Atlantic Ridge and additional strict regulations of bottom fishery in the rest of the area and the closures of areas in the Rockall-Hatton Bank area aiming more specifically to protect known VMEs.

The alignment with OSPAR in these matters and the general progress in cooperation with other intergovernmental organisations with a mandate to regulate other human activities in the oceans is also one reason that NEAFC is receiving attention. It seems to be possible to get over the fallacy that conservation and utilisation compete. For a number of good reasons they should cooperate and in most aspects have a common cause. There is no sector more than fisheries that has an interest in clean seas and healthy ecosystems.

NEAFC is still in the forefront of the important battle against free riders, involved in Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported fishing activity. The NEAFC black-lists continue to have a strong impact as does the Port State Control system. NEAFC is at present analysing FAO's Legally-Binding Instrument on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing to see if there are any elements that are missing in the NEAFC port state measures. NEAFC - together with IMO and FAO - has participated in setting up a test database to establish a Global Record of Fishing Vessels.

Annex B – Opening statement by the President

Under the Memorandum of Understanding with our environmental sister organisation in the North East Atlantic, OSPAR, the NEAFC Secretariat participated as an observer at the OSPAR ministerial meeting between 23-24 September 2010 and the OSPAR Secretariat participated in the meeting of PECMAS 30 September – 1 October 2010.

A proposal for draft terms of an Agreement of Co-operation between the International Maritime Organization (IMO) was adopted by the IMO Assembly Meeting in November 2009.

There are contacts between the Secretariats of NEAFC and the International Seabed Authority, ISA. ISA is considering a MoU with NEAFC.

The Secretariat cooperates with FAO in the Coordinating Working Party on fisheries Statistics, FIRMS and, as mentioned, in setting up a Global Record of Fishing Vessels.

PECCOE has routinely reviewed results of the various elements of the Scheme of Control and Enforcement, including the NEAFC IUU (Illegal, Unregulated, Unreported) A- and B-lists and the NEAFC Port Control System. NEAFC has particularly looked at the performance of vessel reporting under the Scheme of positions and catches and the FMCs. It has supported the re-organisation of the compilation of statistics on quota uptakes which will enter into force on 1 February next year. PECCOE has evaluated inspections and the handling of infringements. The Committee has proposed that the cooperative non-Contracting Party Status of Belize, Canada, Cook Islands, Japan and New Zealand is renewed.

PECMAS has been particularly active in reviewing scientific advice and in area management, evaluating proposals for closing areas to fishery. It has also reviewed information from Contracting Parties on fishing activities in order to define existing and new fishing areas.

Let me mention the result of a economic study of the pelagic fisheries for blue whiting, herring and mackerel, sponsored by the Nordic Council of Ministers. The results: ‘Socio-economic return of Pelagic Fisheries in the Northeast Atlantic Ocean’ were presented at the Nordic Council of Minister Conference in the Faroe islands 7-9 September 2010. The socio-economic returns are defined as *the surplus remaining after remuneration of capital and labour in excess of remuneration obtained in other businesses* which in essence is the resource return. It turns out that pelagic fisheries are doing very well recuperating between 17 and 43 % of the resource rent. This is an indicator of the quality of the management. Globally the picture is quite different as seen in the World Bank Report “Sunken Billions”.

This does not mean that we do not have problems in NEAFC. In the last year we have seen a breakdown of the agreement on allocations of mackerel. This brings forward the wicked problem of agreeing on allocations. International law and instruments have a lot to say about the management of fish stocks, but there is no international agreement on how to share stocks. NEAFC, however, has been there before and has been able to find solutions, both for blue whiting and herring. That must be kept in mind as NEAFC tries to solve the mackerel problem. This calls for dedicated work at this Annual Meeting and I call on all delegations to be ready to work hard.

I will now ask the NEAFC Secretariat to give some practical information.

Annex C – Contracting Party Opening Statements
29th Annual Meeting of the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission
8 -12 November 2010

OPENING STATEMENT

Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland

Mr Chairman, delegates, observers, ladies & gentlemen

The Faroe Islands and Greenland are once again pleased to be attending the Annual Meeting of the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission here in London. We look forward to a productive week of discussions, consultations and, of course finding consensus on the issues for which we need to make clear decisions.

In opening remarks at recent annual meetings, most delegations, including our own, have underlined the progress made over the past few years within NEAFC to strengthen our joint regional approach to fisheries management in the Northeast Atlantic - progress which has put NEAFC at the forefront as a model for effective regional fisheries management. In addition to a range of measures adopted for the regulation of fisheries on key stocks in the Regulatory Area, other examples include the IUU vessel lists and the associated Port State measures, an effective and adaptive approach to area management in order to protect VMEs from significant adverse impacts from bottom fishing, the recent modernisation of our Convention, and the successful completion of an effective and transparent performance assessment, as called for by the UN General Assembly

We believe it is important to continue to highlight NEAFC's achievements when it comes to strengthening regional cooperation on fisheries management and our joint efforts to keep this cooperation both relevant and effective. We are still hearing all too often repeated claims that regional fisheries management in general has failed or that it can never be fully effective. Such claims seem to assume that there should be some kind of "one-size-fits-all" solution to fisheries management, without specific regard to the very different problems and challenges facing fisheries managers and the fishing sectors in different regions of the world.

In the Northeast Atlantic we have some success stories and we have some very serious outstanding issues that still need to be resolved effectively. In the NEAFC context, the key to effective regulation of shared and straddling fish stocks in international waters is in most cases a robust agreement between the relevant coastal states. The fundamental role of coastal states arrangements as a basis for measures in international waters is a unique feature of the way NEAFC works. So the effectiveness of NEAFC depends largely on effective cooperation and agreement between the coastal states.

The need for a new coastal states arrangement on mackerel is an obvious case in point and a major challenge we are facing at the moment. We are confident that we will resolve this particular issue in an equitable way between all the coastal states, hopefully sooner rather than later, as we have resolved other allocation issues before.

The need for more effective conservation and management, including an agreed allocation, for deep and shallow redfish in the Irminger Seas and adjacent waters has been an issue we have struggled with for some time now. This year, we are pleased that the Coastal States, Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Iceland are in agreement on a proposal for a NEAFC recommendation which we hope will provide the basis for consensus among all Contracting Parties at this meeting.

Finally, Mr Chairman, as we all know, the NEAFC Secretariat is about to undergo a change of leadership. Although the actual change of staff will not take place until next summer, the Faroe Islands and Greenland would like to take the opportunity already now to thank the outgoing Secretary, Kjartan Hoydal for his decade of professional leadership of the Secretariat and service to the organisation, and not least for having been an outstanding ambassador on the international arena for regional fisheries cooperation in the Northeast Atlantic.

Annex C – Contracting Party Opening Statements

29th Annual Meeting of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
London, 8 to 12 November 2010

Opening statement of the European Union

Mr. President, distinguished Representatives and Observers,

I am very pleased to be here in London at the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission's Annual Meeting for the first time representing the European Union. My name is Carla Montesi and I am the Acting Director responsible for the North Atlantic at the European Commission.

I would like to welcome you, Mr Williams, as President of the organisation for the duration of this meeting. I understand that Mr Belikov, from the Russian Federation, has been unable to attend this week due to ill health. I would like to convey my best wishes to him for a full recovery.

Based upon sound management principles enshrined in the relevant long-term management plans adopted by all the Parties, the Coastal States reached agreement just three weeks ago on management measures for 2011, including access arrangements, for both blue whiting and Norwegian spring-spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring. All these measures are intended to ensure the long-term and sustained stability for these stocks for the benefit and future of all our fishermen.

For that particular herring stock, we have accepted a more than 30% reduction in the fishing possibilities. However, as regards the blue whiting, in keeping with the long-term management plan, there has been a 93% reduction in the availability of this species for 2011. We clearly need to keep a very close eye on this stock in order to ensure that its future does not turn into a complete disaster as happened some years ago for one of our herring stocks. This week at NEAFC, I would like to see us apply the necessary compatible measures for the Regulatory Area of NEAFC.

One stock, about which I continue to have very serious concerns, is the mackerel in the North-East Atlantic. So far this year, we have already had several meetings to try to agree on a common approach on a comprehensive management in the future. At this stage in the autumn, the four Coastal States have already met twice in London to try to find a way forward for 2011, but so far to no avail. Even if we cannot agree before the end of the year at Coastal State level, we must ensure that there is a NEAFC regulatory measure in place in order to ensure that no unregulated fisheries can be carried out in the Regulatory Area in 2011.

On redfish in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters, I recall that the European Union objected to the measure agreed for 2010 on the grounds that it did not address the real need to regulate the stock in a manner, which ensured real stability and a real future for the stock. The grounds for that objection remain unchanged. The European Union

Annex C – Contracting Party Opening Statements

continues to be concerned at the way in which the NEAFC Parties have attempted to regulate this stock in recent years. Restrictions, which have been fixed, have not related themselves to the real stock situation. I think we are past the stage of arguing over whether there are one or more stocks – the European Union supports the two-stock approach but recognises the difficulty associated with the management. We are not a major player for this redfish but we are prepared to examine the latest proposal for the Coastal States and work together to agree a genuine long-term management based upon a real TAC and agreed quota sharing. This management must also be sustainable and scientifically based.

As for the redfish occurring in the Norwegian Sea, at NEAFC, we have continued to establish more restrictive fisheries in recent years along with some targeted research. This still does not represent the best way to manage a fishery. Continuing scientific advice is for a closure of all directed fisheries. As with the redfish in the Irminger Sea, I hope we can work together and try to reach some common ground this week.

The European Union and the Russian Federation continue to have a common interest in the haddock stock at Rockall. We met in September in Edinburgh in order to make further progress on putting into place our common ideas for protective measures for the stock. My Delegation welcomes the continuation of these fruitful discussions and I anticipate that we shall be meeting together again during 2011.

We still have some work to do on deep-sea species, including a continuation of protective measures for the spurdog. Another species that has been of great concern is orange roughy, where for 2010, NEAFC agreed a measure allowing for each party to fish up to 150 tonnes. The European Union has not changed its opinion on this stock and will seek to have an outright ban on its fishing during 2011.

Last year, we carried out extensive work on the implementation of the provisions of UN General Assembly resolution 61/105, with particular reference to vulnerable marine ecosystems. As in our sister organisation NAFO, I am keen to see that the existing measures evolve taking into account the developments in other RFMOs. I am also keen to see us consolidate the work we have already completed.

Finally, Mr President, there are a number of developments, which have to be examined in respect of control and which were already considered at technical level by PECCOE. These issues vary from the future of electronic reporting to the need to take full account of the FAO Port State Measures instrument in our own control scheme. The approach to take should be endorsed by NEAFC this week.

We have many priorities here this week, foremost of which is to ensure the continued long-term sustainability of all the major stocks, where we have a direct interest, in other words all the stocks regulated by NEAFC. This means securing responsible fisheries and ensuring the fulfilment of all our obligations, without exception, which guarantee the long-term conservation and sustainable exploitation of these living marine resources. I do not need to remind you that fish, and the science surrounding them, are not constrained by artificial boundaries. Hence we are obliged to cooperate.

Annex C – Contracting Party Opening Statements

As regards cooperation, we have an important job to do this week and that is to decide upon the successor to our current Secretary, Kjartan Hoydal. There are a number of very good candidates, who will be interviewed later on today. I am hopeful that we can choose someone who will do as good a job as Kjartan has done over the last few years. Unfortunately, the end of this process also means that we will be saying goodbye to Kjartan, who has done such a good job of directing and growing the organisation. I cannot do more than say thank you to him for all that he has done. I look forward to working with his successor, whoever he should be.

Mr. President, distinguished Representatives and Observers, colleagues, I know that we have a full agenda ahead of us this week, including attempts to resolve a number of issues relevant to the Coastal States. On behalf of the European Union Delegation, I would like reassure you that we will be pleased to be working with you this week. I trust that we will be able to make real progress and can work towards a genuine long-term future for the marine living resources in the North-East Atlantic.

Thank you.

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Iceland Opening statement

Mr. President, distinguished delegates and observers

Iceland is pleased to be here in London attending the 29th Annual Meeting of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission. We have in recent years witnessed and taken part in positive discussions with successful results within the Commission where NEAFC has taken the leading role and set examples as a responsible regional fisheries management organization. This fact, however, stresses the importance that we, together, share the responsibility we are entrusted with and it is essential that we make every effort to stay on the right track, to improve and to make further progress.

This year we took drastic decisions in cutting down the total allowable catch in both the Atlanto Scandian herring and blue whiting. By doing so the states kept their commitments in following the management plans approved by ICES. These examples demonstrate the value and importance of an agreed management of our sheared stocks. However, outstanding issues remain, such as the redfish in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters and the management of the mackerel fisheries.

We are all aware of the poor situation of the redfish stocks and, in fact, of the lack of effective management which has prevailed in recent years.

Despite some limited success in recent years it is evident that the situation which has prevailed thus far, whereby there has been no agreement on basic management principles, must not be allowed to continue. Iceland is therefore prepared to make its contribution so that together we can reach a positive conclusion during this NEAFC meeting. We hope to see the same commitment from the other parties.

The lack of progress during our last round in the mackerel negotiations two weeks ago proved to be disappointing. This is an urgent matter that needs to be concluded. We hope the relevant parties will show real political will to solve this important issue. Iceland remains committed to find a solution and will do its utmost in that regard during this week.

It is not only the status of the stocks which is at risk, but our own reputation also, as through NEAFC we are responsible for securing sustainable and responsible utilisation of our shared fish stocks. Our reputation and actual ability to manage commercial stocks responsibly and sustainably is of a major interest to us all.

Within the Commission parties have established and developed a robust monitoring and control system that is the backbone of the Commission's operation. An examination of how we fulfil the obligations we have agreed upon is important to ensure that NEAFC can be regarded as a responsible RFMO. This is especially important when it comes to the catch reporting requirements. In Iceland's view an increased transparency regarding methods for verifying and weighing catches is of no less importance. It is Iceland's view that the current situation is not acceptable and together we have to identify how this can be improved and what are the obstacles in doing so.

29th Annual Meeting of NEAFC - Opening Statement by Norway

Mr. President, distinguished delegates, observers, ladies and gentlemen,

It is an honour and a pleasure for me to head the Norwegian delegation at this year's annual meeting. First of all I wish to thank the Secretary and his staff for their excellent work in coordinating and arranging this meeting. This is Mr. Høydal's last annual meeting, and we will appoint his successor sometime during this week. Although there are many good candidates, I am sure that whoever gets the job will face challenges in meeting the high standards set by the current Secretary.

Norway is pleased to see that coastal States have agreed on management measures for blue whiting and Norwegian Spring-Spawning herring, and for the latter Norway has already distributed a proposal for a compatible NEAFC recommendation. Unfortunately the coastal States have so far not reached agreement for the mackerel fisheries for 2011. But discussions are ongoing, and hopefully a solution can be found soon. Thus compatible NEAFC measures have to be taken by a postal vote sometime after this annual meeting.

For redfish in the Norwegian Sea, Norway has deep concerns. Like in previous years, the ICES advice is crystal clear; there should be no directed fishery on this *Sebastes mentella* in ICES Sub-Areas I and II, and by-catches in other fisheries should be as low as possible until a significant increase in the spawning-stock biomass has been verified. Norway last week distributed a proposal, and I am confident that parties this year finally will adhere to the scientific advice also for this stock.

Recommendations for management measures shall, pursuant to the NEAFC Convention, be based on the scientific advice given by ICES. In 2009 ICES adopted a Maximum sustainable Yield Framework. However, it is important to underline that it is the coastal states, individually or through NEAFC, that decide upon the management targets. ICES must therefore give advice according to the targets set out by the coastal states or NEAFC.

Protection of ocean habitats and deep sea biodiversity has become an important item on the international agenda. Norway is pleased with the actions taken by NEAFC in response to the calls from the United Nations General Assembly to address bottom fishing and vulnerable marine ecosystems. In this regard I will take the opportunity to commend the work undertaken by PECMAS. NEAFC has in place a comprehensive framework, including several restrictions if fishing vessels intend to commence fishing in new areas. In addition NEAFC has closed large areas on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, which are up for review at the annual meeting in 2014. Thus after having spent considerable time on measures to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems in recent years, the issue will not be one of our focussed areas at this meeting. However, following initiatives taken by CBD in Nagoya, we should revert to the discussions we had last year of a possible meeting between NAFO, ICES, OSPAR and NEAFC to coordinate efforts related to protection of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas.

Annex C – Contracting Party Opening Statements

NEAFC has been in the forefront in the fight against IUU fishing. The importance of coordinated port State measures has been recognised by the international community, and members of FAO agreed a year ago on the global, binding agreement. The agreement has been signed by 4 of the 5 NEAFC Contracting Parties. It should be noted that some of the provisions of the FAO Agreement are inspired by actions taken by NEAFC. The FAO Agreement is a milestone in the fight of IUU fishing, and PECCOE has been asked to consider the impact this agreement may have on the NEAFC system of port State measures. One rather obvious discrepancy is that the NEAFC scheme applies only to frozen catches, while the scope of the FAO Agreement includes all fish and fish products. Other issues are concerning fishing related activities as well as entry into and the use of ports. Norway produced a discussion paper to the PECCOE meeting in April, but progress on this issue has been slow. I note that a sub-group of PECCOE will meet here in London this week, and I will urge the group to speed up the process in harmonising NEAFC measures to the FAO Agreement.

NEAFC is a well functioning regional body where we through close cooperation and collaboration work together to achieving our common goals of conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources, as well as control that agreed measures are adhered to. It is, however, important that NEAFC continues to address important issues pursuant to the new NEAFC Convention and respond to international calls on improved management of marine living resources. In this context, is crucial that NEAFC communicates to the outside world on the measures adopted for the North East Atlantic. In promoting the work of NEAFC, consideration should be given on how the management measures are presented. In addition it is important to continue in promoting transparency in the organisation.

Norway looks forward to an interesting week here in London, and we are of course prepared to work constructively to find adequate solutions on all issues in front of us.

OPENING STATEMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

29th Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission

8-12 November 2010, London

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Russian delegation I am glad to greet you at the 29th Annual Meeting of the Commission.

The agenda of the meeting is very tight and addresses very important and complicated fisheries issues to be discussed during this week with a view to making joint decisions.

The Northeast Atlantic is a key region in terms of fish resources and will remain one of the main fishing areas in near future.

Cooperation in the frames of regional fisheries management organizations, including NEAFC, is one of the priorities in the Russian fisheries sector.

The Russian Federation has always stood up for responsible and sustainable fisheries. At the same time Russia is of the opinion that all decisions to ensure such fisheries ought to be made exclusively through a consensus of scientists within ICES. This means that no ICES recommendation can be regarded as final until an agreement between specialists from different countries is achieved.

The Russian Federation, as before, is willing to cooperate with other Contracting Parties to NEAFC in order to achieve fair and equitable agreements on joint management of biological resources and protection of their habitats in the NEAFC Convention Area. However, since living marine resources are essential for ensuring food safety, Russia doesn't deem it necessary to support recommendations that do not take into account fishers' interests and possible consequences for the country's economy.

The Russian Federation supports and complies with the principles underlying the precautionary approach to stock harvesting. We are especially concerned about the status of the blue whiting stock. However, a drastic reduction in catches of this species will have an adverse affect on economy and social welfare. This is particularly true for low income groups of the population who consume blue whiting.

It should be noted that all Russian catches of blue whiting are delivered to the domestic market, i.e. it is the species used for human consumption. This means that blue whiting fisheries in Russia is important from the social rather than from the economic point of view. On the whole, maintaining of blue whiting fisheries is a matter of principle for the Russian Federation.

Annex C – Contracting Party Opening Statements

The international fisheries community highly appreciates the effort undertaken by NEAFC in the establishing of an effective system for control and monitoring, listing of vessels conducting IUU fishery, and the adoption of efficient port state control measures. This system almost eliminated the supplies of illegal fish products to markets of NEAFC member states.

It should be emphasized that NEAFC member states actively participated in the development of the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU fishing adopted by FAO on 22 November 2009. The Russian Federation signed the Agreement in April 2010.

However, it should be highlighted that fisheries can be successful only if efficient and transparent procedures of catch legalization are in place. Presently, fishers of NEAFC member states who legalize their catches in the frames of NEAFC Port State Control procedures, have to repeatedly certify the same catches under the EU Regulation 1005/2008, which involves additional bureaucratic obstacles. It seems necessary to discuss the unification of catch legalization formalities in order to avoid the doubling of bureaucratic procedures.

Fisheries management is presently closely related to environmental issues. In this respect, it should be noted that NEAFC was one of the first RFMOs that adopted recommendations to implement the provisions of the UNGA resolution 61/105 and FAO decisions on the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems.

The Russian Delegation is looking forward to a productive meeting in a close cooperation with all Parties during this week. We need to take many important decisions, and I wish all of you to work successfully.

Thank you for your attention.



International Merchant Marine Registry of Belize
Marina Towers, 204, Newtown Barracks, Belize City, Belize C.A
"IMMARBE HEAD OFFICE"

**OPENING STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATE OF BELIZE AT THE NEAFC'S
ANNUAL MEETING IN LONDON ON 8TH – 12TH November 2010**

Distinguished Delegates, Secretariat, one and all.

The Government of Belize wish to thank the Commission for inviting us to participate in this important meeting. As we have reported in the past, Belize is a Contracting and/or Cooperating non-Contracting Party of several RFMOs.

Within the NEAFC Belize enjoys the status of Cooperating non-Contracting Party and our involvement is currently limited to transshipment by our refrigerated carrier vessels. We had expressed our interest to extend this involvement to fishing vessels as well. We have already submitted our application for the renewal of our Cooperating non-Member Status as well as our list of vessels authorized to operate in the area. We look forward to our continued cooperating with the Commission and its Member States for the furtherance of their objectives. Our position remains, that it is necessary for flag States to remain responsible for monitoring transshipment at sea and those effective in the EEZs in cooperation with that particular Member State. As a result Belize has worked closely with several Member State within the Commission to properly monitor our vessels activities within their EEZs.

Belize is small costal developing State and we wish to maintain a meaningful participation in the import industry. In so doing rest assured that we are diligent in ensuring the effectiveness of NEAFCs conservation and management measures and maintaining excellent cooperating with all its Members.

Thank you once again for allowing us to be a part of this Commission.

**29th Annual Meeting of the
North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
8-12 November 2010**

Opening Statement by Canada

Mr. President, distinguished delegates, and observers

Canada would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the NEAFC Contracting Parties for allowing us to present this statement. We appreciate the kind invitation by the NEAFC Secretariat for Canada to participate as observers at the 29th Annual Meeting of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission.

Canada has attended NEAFC meetings in an observer capacity and has enjoyed the privileges associated with Cooperating Non-Contracting Party status for a number of years.

Canada would like to maintain the opportunity to pursue cooperation with NEAFC in a number of areas including fishing, transshipment and scientific research activities in the NEAFC Regulatory Area, as well as general cooperation and support on monitoring, control and surveillance measures.

NEAFC has shown significant results in the battle against IUU fishing in the last few years through the adoption of effective tools including port State controls. This has been positive not only for the Northeast Atlantic but also the Northwest Atlantic.

We have seen a healthy cross fertilization of ideas between NEAFC and her sister organization - NAFO. This has been demonstrated by NEAFC and NAFO Parties in developing measures to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems pursuant to the UNGA Sustainable Fisheries Resolution.

It is our view that closer cooperation among States in the North Atlantic should reinforce the momentum towards a more globally coordinated approach to combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and to progress in the effective protection of VMEs.

Annex D - NCP Opening Statements

Mr. President, we look forward to working constructively and cooperatively with all interested parties to this Commission.



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29th Annual meeting of NEAFC

Agenda Item 1: Opening Statement by the OSPAR Commission

The OSPAR Commission welcomes this opportunity to participate as an Observer to the 29th Annual Meeting of NEAFC.

At the Third Ministerial Meeting of OSPAR (OSPAR 2010) in Bergen, Norway 20-24 September 2010, OSPAR Ministers endorsed the Quality Status Report 2010, an holistic decadal overview of the environmental status of the North-East Atlantic. We are grateful to NEAFC for input to the drafting of this Report and commend the final product to NEAFC Parties. The QSR 2010 acknowledges NEAFC success in combating IUU fishing, protection of biodiversity and mitigating impact of fishing, as well as enhanced international cooperation. Participation of the Executive Secretary of NEAFC at OSPAR 2010 and as an invited guest to the 12th Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, that took place in Bergen in parallel, provided further evidence of our effective cooperation. The QSR 2010 recognises that whilst fisheries management measures are taking effect, fisheries remains a major pressure on the North-East Atlantic ecosystem and we look forward to continued cooperation under our Memorandum of Understanding to address this.

Other significant achievements of OSPAR 2010 included a ministerial agreement on a new North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2010-2020, designation of six extensive High Seas marine protected areas, measures to protect specific species and habitats and a high level Bergen Statement (as at Annex 1). The High Seas MPAs broadly correspond to NEAFC closures (see Figure 1).

In March 2010 OSPAR convened a Stakeholder Workshop in Madeira to share information on enforcement and surveillance in remote marine areas and to consider further how competent authorities can work together to protect selected High Seas sites. In addition to OSPAR and NEAFC, representatives from the International Seabed Authority, International Whaling Commission and the International Union for Nature Conservation also participated. The main outcome, a draft collaborative arrangement, is perceived as a useful starting point for integrated governance. At OSPAR 2010, the OSPAR Commission also formally agreed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Seabed Authority.

Further to agreement at the NEAFC Annual Meeting in November 2009, the OSPAR Secretariat very much appreciated the joint session convened by PECMAS on 1st October 2010 and consider this to have been a useful opportunity for technical cooperation. OSPAR is pleased to invite NEAFC representation to the OSPAR Biodiversity Committee scheduled to meet from 11-15 April 2011.

The newly constituted OSPAR Coordination Group, a policy advisory group open to Observers, met for the first time on 19-20 October 2010. The Coordination Group has responsibility to ensure delivery

of the ecosystem approach, including key elements of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive and oversight of the new Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme 2010-2014. In the context of the latter the Coordination Group considered ICES advice on assessment and monitoring of ocean acidification. ICES recommended a joint OSPAR/ICES Workshop on this topic in 2011, which might also be of interest to NEAFC.

OSPAR has been keen to present recent biodiversity measures at the Convention of Biodiversity COP 10 in Nagoya. OSPAR Contracting Parties, the expert group on MPAs (ICG-MPA) and OSPAR Observer organisations have been active at COP 10. Given the importance of NEAFC efforts to balance conservation and utilisation, and the complementarity between OSPAR MPAs and NEAFC closures in the wider Atlantic, OSPAR considers the information presented by NEAFC at COP 10 to be highly relevant during this International Year of Biodiversity.

Finally, on a personal note, the OSPAR Secretariat would like to pay tribute to Mr Kjartan Hoydal, Executive Secretary of NEAFC, whose in-depth knowledge, wise counsel and Faroese integrity has significantly strengthened our cooperation in recent years. We look forward to a similar relationship with his successor.

Bergen Statement

WE, THE MINISTERS AND THE MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, meeting within the framework of the OSPAR Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic, adopt this statement to set out the ensuing work from the Third Ministerial Meeting of the Commission:

1. We *recall* our successful meetings in Sintra in 1998 and also jointly with the Helsinki Commission in Bremen in 2003, which identified some critical challenges for the protection of the marine environment of the OSPAR maritime area and set ambitious goals for our work.

2. In Bergen in 2010, we were able to look back on a number of solid achievements. We *renew* and *strengthen* our commitments, *recognising* that some of our goals are still to be fully met. We *respond* to new challenges and priorities, such as facilitating the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive¹ by those Contracting Parties that are bound by it and addressing the challenges of climate change and ocean acidification.

We share the vision of a clean, healthy and biologically diverse North-East Atlantic ocean, used sustainably

3. In sharing this vision, we also *acknowledge* the intrinsic value of the North-East Atlantic and its role as a natural asset that contributes to our well-being far beyond material benefits. We *stress* the economic and social value of marine ecosystem goods and services provided by the North-East Atlantic. We *recognise* that the cost of taking no action is high, and may be substantially higher than the cost of remedial action, where the integrity of the marine ecosystem is at risk from damage. Further, we *are committed* to developing a common understanding of associated values and costs.

4. We *emphasise* that shared scientific knowledge and understanding of the state of the marine environment is crucial for policy making at all levels. Hence, we strongly *welcome* the Quality Status Report (QSR) 2010 and its underpinning thematic assessments and reports which provide a holistic and science based evaluation of the environmental status of the North-East Atlantic and the pressures that adversely affect it.

5. We *reaffirm* that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS) sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out and is the legal basis for national, regional and global action and cooperation. We *support* the ongoing process launched by the UN General Assembly in 2009 of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-Economic Aspects (Regular Process). We *welcome* the outcome of the third preparatory Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) meeting, aiming among other issues at establishing a mechanism for assessment of biodiversity and *emphasise* the importance of agreeing at the UN General Assembly by the end of 2010 a resolution for establishing an IPBES. We *emphasise* that the QSR 2010 will constitute a valuable contribution to these processes.

6. The QSR 2010 addresses existing and new challenges ahead and highlights the need for further research. It also brings to light some welcome accomplishments, which include reductions in inputs and discharges of nutrients and hazardous substances from land-based sources, radioactive substances from the nuclear sector and oil and chemicals from the offshore oil and gas industry.

¹ Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of marine environmental policy.

7. With the assessments of the QSR 2010 as our new point of departure, we *adopt* the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy which contains objectives and targets with a view to complete unfinished tasks and meet the new challenges that we need to address in order to achieve our common goals.

We apply the ecosystem approach

8. We *reaffirm* that the ecosystem approach² is the overarching concept and basis for OSPAR's work, for which we are continuously gaining experience and still developing tools and methods. We *welcome* the development of integrated ecological quality objectives for the North Sea, some of which may serve as a model for other regions, and *emphasise* that we will continue to further develop tools that support the ecosystem approach, such as integrated assessments, socio-economic analysis and area-based management tools, including marine spatial planning.

9. We *are committed* to strengthen the integration of different strands of OSPAR activities dealing with different aspects of and pressures on the marine environment. *Recognising* that monitoring and assessment tools and cooperation play a crucial role in supporting the ecosystem approach, we *adopt* the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme (JAMP) for 2010-2014. We *will continue* to extend and improve the JAMP, in particular with regard to cause/effect relationships and cumulative impacts on the marine environment. We *recognise* also that large data and information gaps exist in the OSPAR area, in particular concerning spatial data and sea-bed mapping. In order to carry out holistic assessments of the status of the marine environment, we *emphasise* that more work on such gaps is needed and should be linked with other ongoing data and information acquisition efforts in the OSPAR area.

10. We *emphasise* the need to work more closely with stakeholders and international organisations managing human activities such as fisheries and shipping³ and to enhance the cooperation within the frameworks dealing with joint prevention, preparedness and response to combat accidental marine pollution from the maritime sector.⁴ We *stress* that OSPAR's observers from a wide range of intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations provide valuable contributions to our work. We *are also committed* to further strengthen and extend our cooperation with relevant intergovernmental organisations (IGOs), on the basis of memoranda of understanding and agreements of cooperation⁵.

We facilitate the coordinated implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive

11. We *welcome* the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, *emphasising* that the Directive's objective to achieve or maintain good environmental status in the marine environment by 2020 concurs with and supports our aims.

12. We *affirm* that the OSPAR Commission will facilitate the coordinated and coherent implementation of this Directive.⁶ To this end, we *welcome* the Road Map as an OSPAR Regional Implementation Framework for the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, as a living document to

² In the Bremen Statement on the Ecosystem Approach to the Management of Human Activities, the ecosystem approach is defined as "the comprehensive integrated management of human activities based on the best available scientific knowledge about the ecosystem and its dynamics, in order to identify and take action on influences which are critical to the health of marine ecosystems, thereby achieving sustainable use of ecosystem goods and services and maintenance of ecosystem integrity."

³ Such as the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

⁴ Such as the Bonn Agreement and the Lisbon Agreement.

⁵ OSPAR has to date concluded memoranda of understanding or agreements of cooperation with the International Maritime Organization, the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, the UN Economic Commission for Europe, the International Seabed Authority, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the European Environment Agency.

⁶ Iceland, Norway and Switzerland are not members of the European Union. As members of the European Economic Area (EEA), Iceland and Norway are bound by certain EU legislation, while Switzerland has not committed itself to apply any EU legislation in the scope of the OSPAR Convention. These three countries contribute on the basis of relevant OSPAR programmes and measures, equivalent national legislation and EU legislation by which they are bound.

be updated as appropriate. In particular, we *consider* the QSR 2010 and its underpinning assessments and reports to provide solid building blocks for the development of the national initial assessments due in 2012. We *will continue* to cooperate on further steps that need to be taken by the relevant Contracting Parties to establish their marine strategies under the Directive, using our shared expertise and the mechanisms and structure of the OSPAR Commission as a strong regional platform. For this purpose, we have revised our working structure and have identified in our North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy those issues for which coordination is needed.

13. With a view to achieving our common goals, we also *commit ourselves* to strengthen our cooperation with other Regional Sea Conventions involved in facilitating the implementation of the Directive, in particular the Helsinki and the Barcelona Conventions, to which some OSPAR Contracting Parties are also parties. Furthermore, considering that concentrations of nutrients and hazardous substances are related to atmospheric depositions and loads from rivers in the catchment area, we *will reinforce* our cooperation with landlocked States, using established cooperation structures, such as International River Basin Commissions.

We protect our ocean from pollution and other adverse impacts of human activities

14. *Recognising* that the objective of no eutrophication will only be partly achieved by 2010, we *renew* our commitment to combat eutrophication, with the ultimate aim of achieving and maintaining a healthy marine environment where anthropogenic eutrophication does not occur.

15. *Concerned* about the rising contribution of NO_x emissions from the shipping sector, we will carry out an assessment of the contribution of shipping on the eutrophication status of the North Sea and, if decided by the OSPAR Commission, elaborate a proposal, in line with Appendix III to Annex VI to the MARPOL 73/78 Convention for a joint submission to the International Maritime Organisation justifying the case for designating the North Sea as a NO_x Emission Control Area. We take note of similar concerns in the framework of the Helsinki Commission and support the efforts in other regional seas to reduce NO_x emissions and eutrophication.

16. We further *recognise* that most chemicals for priority action are still being released to the marine environment and that additional work is needed to move towards the target of the cessation of these releases by 2020. Hence, we *will continue* to identify and reduce inputs of hazardous substances of concern at source, with the ultimate aim of achieving concentrations in the marine environment near background values for naturally occurring substances and close to zero for man-made synthetic substances. To this end, we *will promote* the banning of the production, use and trade of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) through the Stockholm Convention and *will strive* to achieve major reductions in discharges, emissions and losses of mercury and other substances of concern within the UN framework. We *will also strive* to enhance the knowledge base on endocrine disruptors and cumulative effects of hazardous substances with the aim of limiting the negative impacts on the marine environment.

17. We *reaffirm* our commitment to ensure that discharges, emissions and losses of radioactive substances are reduced by 2020 to levels where the additional concentrations in the marine environment above historic levels are close to zero. We *will* continue to improve the evidence base and assessment tools for indicator radionuclides from the nuclear and non-nuclear sectors.

18. Deeply concerned by the accident on the Deepwater Horizon in the Gulf of Mexico earlier this year, we *reaffirm* our commitment to take all possible steps to prevent and eliminate pollution from offshore oil and gas activities. Contracting Parties are therefore as a precaution reviewing existing frameworks, including the permitting of drilling activities in extreme conditions, taking extra care to implement all relevant learning from the Deepwater Horizon accident, and continuing to evaluate activities on a case by case basis. We *are looking forward* to the reports from the ongoing investigations in the USA, and *welcome* the initiatives established within the North Sea Offshore Authorities Forum (NSOAF) and International Regulators Forum (IRF) to assess lessons learned. We

also welcome the European Commission's initiatives such as the establishment of a dialogue with national regulators and the offshore oil and gas industry. Contracting Parties will also cooperate with the Bonn Agreement as to preparedness and response.

19. Therefore we *adopt* Recommendation 2010/18 on the prevention of significant acute oil pollution from offshore drilling activities and *decide* that by 2011 we will assess the relevance to OSPAR of the results of all these initiatives with a view to taking additional action by the OSPAR Commission if needed.

20. We further *adopt* measures that harmonise OSPAR's control system for offshore chemicals with relevant EU legislation.⁷ We *note* with pleasure the considerable reduction in discharges to the sea of oil in produced water that has been achieved. We *remain committed* to the achievement by 2020 of reductions of oil in produced water discharged to the sea to a level which will adequately ensure that each of those discharges will present no harm to the marine environment. In line with our reaffirmed commitment, we *will focus* our efforts and *are committed* to develop by 2011 a "risk-based approach to management of produced water" to ensure that priority is given to actions related to the prevention and elimination of possible impacts of the most harmful substances discharged by the offshore oil and gas industry.

21. We *will strengthen* our efforts to combat adverse impacts on the marine environment that originate from various human activities, such as those resulting from the introduction of marine litter, non-indigenous species and of energy, including underwater noise. We *note* that quantities of litter in many areas of the North-East Atlantic are unacceptable, and therefore we *will continue* to develop reduction measures and targets, taking into consideration an ambitious target resulting in a reduction in 2020. As a first step, to address both land-based and sea-based sources, we adopt the "Recommendation on the reduction of marine litter through the implementation of fishing for litter initiatives". We *will continue* and *strengthen* our cooperation with other international organisations such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and other relevant stakeholders in order to address these issues. Further, we *will promote* "the clean ship approach"⁸ and *support* concerted action to revise and strengthen Annex V on Prevention of Pollution by Garbage from Ships to the MARPOL 73/78 Convention⁹.

We protect marine areas, species and habitats

22. The goal of significantly reducing the loss of biodiversity by 2010, agreed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, has not been achieved. Acknowledging the international year of biodiversity, we *commit* to halt such loss.

23. We *recognise* the efforts made by competent authorities to improve sustainable fisheries based on the ecosystem approach. However, we *note* with concern that overfishing and, in some areas, destructive fishing practices continue to have significant adverse impacts on marine biodiversity and that by-catch and discard related problems still need to be resolved. We *call* on competent authorities to continue to progress towards long-term sustainable fisheries management in the deep sea in accordance with UNGA resolution 64/72 and the FAO international guidelines for the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas.

⁷ Cf. in particular Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC (REACH).

⁸ A concept whereby vessels are designed, constructed and operated in a way that aims to eliminate harmful discharges and emissions in their working life.

⁹ International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto (MARPOL)

24. We *are committed* to halt the decline of species and habitats. We *are also committed* to restore threatened and/or declining species and habitats by establishing before 2013 measures to protect such declining species and habitats from the pressures of human activities. We *welcome* the progress made with regard to the identification and conservation of species and habitats on the OSPAR List and *adopt* a set of new measures to advance the protection and restoration of threatened and/or declining species and habitats.¹⁰ We *will continue* and *strengthen* our cooperation with other international organisations, in particular regional fisheries management organisations such as the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, as well as other relevant stakeholders in order to effectively address these issues. We *highlight* the Recommendation we have *adopted* on assessments of environmental impact in relation to threatened and/or declining species and habitats.

25. We *reaffirm* the need for Contracting Parties to continue and to intensify their efforts to develop and facilitate the use of diverse approaches and tools for conserving and managing vulnerable marine ecosystems, and protecting the biodiversity. This includes the establishment of marine protected areas (MPAs) and representative MPA-networks by 2012, in accordance with the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and based on the precautionary principle and the best scientific information available.

26. We *emphasise* that MPAs provide an essential contribution to the protection of species, habitats and ecological processes of the marine environment. We *recall* that in 2003 we agreed to work with the Helsinki Commission and the European Community to complete by 2010 a joint, well-managed and ecologically coherent network of MPAs.

27. *Noting* our commitment to establish an ecologically coherent network of MPAs by 2012, we *recall* that in 2008 a comprehensive scientific case was accepted and in 2009 conservation objectives were endorsed for the protection of the originally proposed Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone MPA, of which the seabed in the northern part has, since 2009, been subject to a submission to the Commission of the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS). We *reaffirm* the value of the ecological features of the northern part of the area and, therefore, we *are committed* to continue working together within the framework of the OSPAR Commission to resolve by 2012 any outstanding issues with regard to the waters of the high seas of the northern part of the originally proposed Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone MPA. It is with great satisfaction that we *adopt*, at this meeting, significant and innovative measures to establish and manage the southern part of the originally proposed Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone MPA – “Charlie-Gibbs South MPA”-, for which the seabed and superjacent waters are situated in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

28. We further *take* the significant step of adopting measures to establish and manage the Milne Seamount Complex as an OSPAR MPA in areas beyond national jurisdiction. We also *adopt* measures to establish and manage as OSPAR MPA in areas beyond national jurisdiction the high seas superjacent to the seabed of the Altair, of the Antialtair and of the Josephine Seamounts, as well as of an area of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge North of the Azores. Since the seabed of these areas is subject to a submission by Portugal to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), these measures complement the management measures for MPAs reported by Portugal to the OSPAR Commission as components of the OSPAR network of MPAs.

29. We especially *welcome* this significant progress made during our meeting which has extended the OSPAR network of marine protected areas to about 433.000 km², which represents 3.1% of the

¹⁰ The common skate species complex, the white skate, the angel shark and the basking shark; *Lophelia pertusa* reefs; coral gardens; deep-sea sponge aggregations; sea-pen and burrowing megafauna communities; Orange Roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*).

OSPAR maritime area. Furthermore, we *endeavour to promote* the designation of marine protected areas beyond national jurisdiction in other fora and regional seas conventions.

30. We *welcome* the progress achieved, in collaboration with other international organisations and stakeholders, to identify and protect ecologically significant and/or vulnerable deep-sea and high seas ecosystems in the Wider Atlantic, making progress in the development of a standard model of regional cooperation, with other relevant international organisations and competent authorities. We *welcome* the decision by the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission to close until 31 December 2015 an area almost identical to Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone, as well as areas coinciding with the Mid-Atlantic Ridge North of the Azores, Altair Seamount and Antialtair Seamount and other areas beyond national jurisdiction of the North-East Atlantic, to bottom fisheries in order to protect the vulnerable marine ecosystems in these areas from significant adverse impacts.

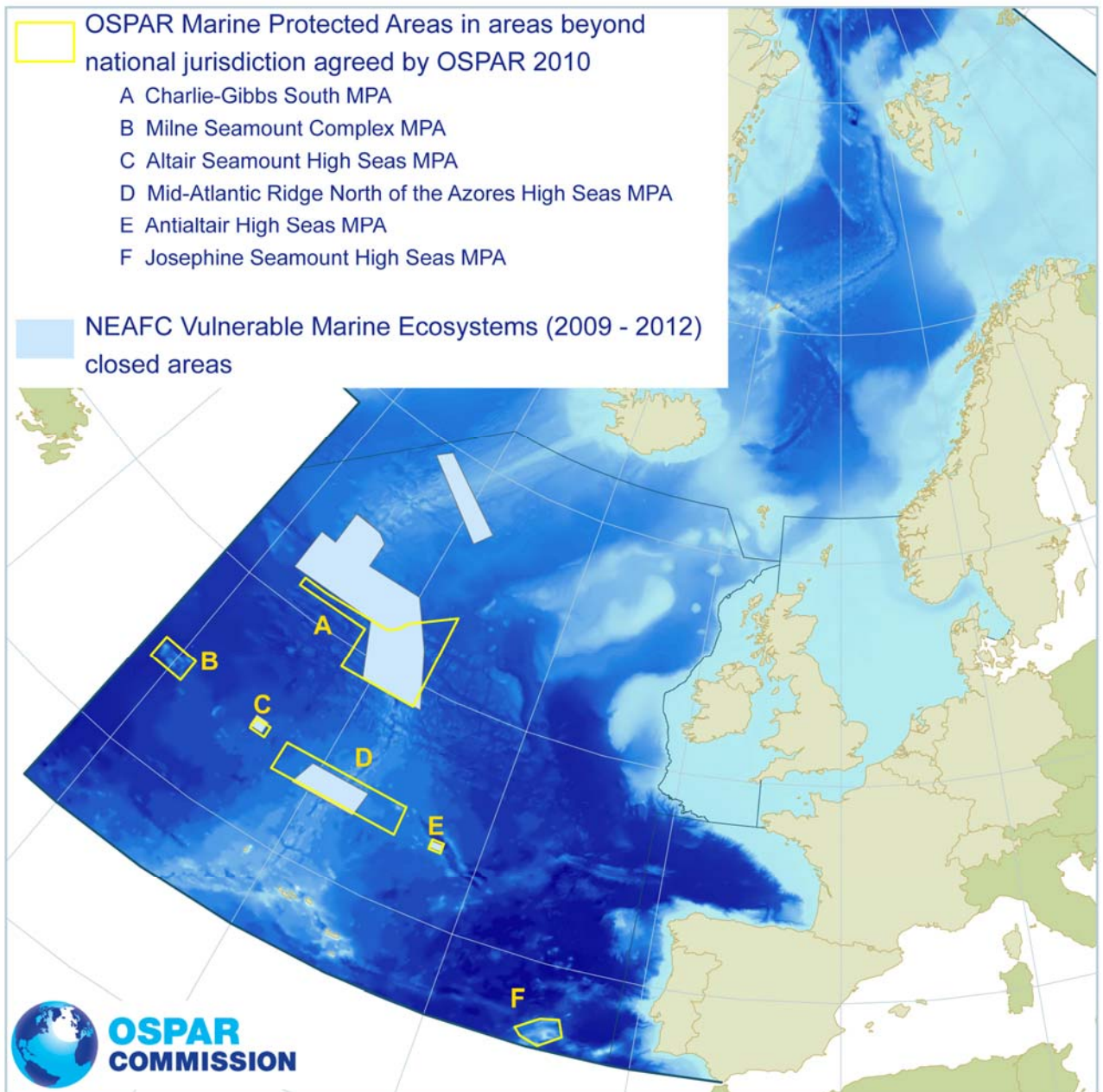
We respond to the challenges of a changing climate

31. We *note* with deep concern the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification, which are predicted to profoundly affect the productivity, biodiversity and socio-economic value of marine ecosystems. We *emphasise* that research into and considerations of these effects, as well as the need for adaptation and mitigation, will have to be integrated in all aspects of our work. We *affirm* that there is a role for the OSPAR Commission, in collaboration with other international organisations, in investigating, monitoring and assessing the rate and extent of these effects and considering appropriate responses.

32. We *express* our readiness to regulate new activities at sea as appropriate and *welcome* the measures and guidance already agreed in relation to the storage of carbon dioxide in sub-seabed geological formations and offshore wind farms. *Recalling* that amendments to Annex II and Annex III to our Convention to allow for, and at the same time provide sound regulation of, the geological storage of carbon dioxide were adopted by consensus in 2007, we *encourage* Contracting Parties to ratify, accept or approve these amendments in order to facilitate their entry into force.

We will achieve our aims

33. Committed to protecting and conserving the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic and its resources and services, we *regard* the OSPAR Commission as a visible and viable force that actively contributes to setting the agenda on marine environmental issues, both in Europe and beyond. We *emphasise* that we will continue to deliver our dedicated efforts to achieve our aims, with a view to meeting again, if possible, jointly with the Helsinki Commission, to evaluate progress and, if needed, to revise our agenda in the light of developments and progress achieved.





Recommendations for the 29th Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries
Commission
8 Nov 2010 - 12 Nov 2010

Pew Environment Group

Mr. President, distinguished delegates and observers,

The Pew Environment group would like to thank the Chair and the Contracting Parties for providing us with the opportunity to give an Opening Statement. We would like to offer several recommendations regarding port state measures and the management of deep-sea fisheries for this year's Annual Meeting.

Port State Measures

We share the view with the members of NEAFC that the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU fishing (PSMA), adopted by the FAO in November 2009, provides a set of highly effective tools to be used by port States to combat IUU fishing. We encourage NEAFC Contracting Parties to consider early implementation of compatible measures and ratification of this Agreement as an opportunity to increase their cooperation and improve fisheries monitoring, control and compliance. The Pew Environment Group strongly supports the earliest possible entry into force of the Agreement and would like to congratulate the four NEAFC Contracting Parties that have signed it – showing their commitment to ratification. We encourage all NEAFC Members to ratify the Agreement as soon as possible, and are looking forward to working constructively with States in this regard.

We would like to draw your attention to three research initiatives of the Pew Environment Group: (1) research on Port State Performance globally in the last 6 years, (2) a gap analysis which identified which aspects need to be further developed by NEAFC in order to align their port State measures with the PSMA, and (3) a Capacity Needs Assessment Methodology as part of an Implementation Toolkit providing practical tools to support States to implement the PSMA. Our materials on the first two of Pew's research initiatives regarding PSMs are available next to the registration desk. We thank the Secretariat for allowing us to distribute the material at this meeting.

Pew's Port State Performance research highlighted NEAFC as a leading RFMO regarding effective port state measures and our gap analysis showed that NEAFC has a number of positive features in its Enforcement Scheme, e.g. the obligation of Contracting Parties (CPs) to inspect and deny all services to vessels included on its provisional IUU vessel list and NEAFC's recognition of other RFMOs' IUU vessel lists. However, amongst the shortcomings of the NEAFC measures, we would note that only Non-Contracting Party (NCP) vessels can be IUU-listed and that the NEAFC scheme only prohibits landing or transshipment by Contracting Party vessels engaged in IUU fishing, with no mention of denial of port entry or other port services. In line with the standard set by the PSMA, NEAFC should establish the same set of port state measures that are applicable to both vessels flagged to CPs and NCPs.

Pew would furthermore welcome the extension of the scope of the NEAFC Enforcement Scheme to include vessels carrying fresh fish and /or fish that have been transshipped at port, or vessels calling at port for purposes other than landing or transshipment.

We hope that NEAFC members can act upon the recommendations we provided in a timely fashion.

Deep Sea Fisheries

As all Contracting Parties are aware, the issue of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas has been the subject of extensive debate and negotiation at the UN General Assembly, the UN FAO and in other fora. Most recently, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted resolution 64/72 which, in its paragraphs 112 – 130, both reinforced and strengthened the measures called for in previous UNGA resolutions. The UN General Assembly will review, in 2011, the actions taken by States and RFMOs, including NEAFC, to implement resolution 64/72. The Annual Meeting this year represents an important opportunity to bring deep-sea fisheries into compliance with the measures called for by the UNGA. In this regard, we offer the following recommendations:

1. NEAFC should adopt the additional closure along the northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge proposed by the EU and endorsed by ICES in its advice of August 2010. We would emphasize that this should be in addition to, not as a replacement for, the current closure along the Mid Atlantic Ridge and would be consistent with paragraph 119(c) of UNGA resolution 64/72.
2. NEAFC should adopt mandatory Impact Assessment procedures consistent with the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas for all bottom fisheries, including existing fisheries as well as exploratory fisheries or fisheries in new areas, consistent with paragraph 119(a) of UNGA resolution 64/72; and
3. NEAFC should overhaul the regulations for deep-sea fishing consistent with UNGA resolution 64/72, paragraph 119(d).

In regard to the second recommendation, UNGA resolution 64/72, adopted in in 2009, commits States and RFMOs to “ensure that vessels do not engage in bottom fishing” unless impact assessments consistent with the Guidelines have been carried out. Paragraph 119(a) of UN General Assembly resolution 64/72 states as follows:

"119. Considers that, on the basis of the review carried out in accordance with paragraph 91 of its resolution 61/105, further actions in accordance with the precautionary approach, ecosystem approaches and international law, are needed to strengthen the implementation of paragraphs 80 and 83 to 87 of its resolution 61/105 and, in this regard, calls on regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements with the competence to regulate bottom fisheries, States participating in negotiations to establish such organizations or arrangements, and flag States to take the following urgent actions in areas beyond national jurisdiction:

(a) Conduct the assessments called for in paragraph 83 (a) of its resolution 61/105, consistent with the Guidelines, and to ensure that vessels do not engage in bottom fishing until such assessments have been carried out;"

This issue was the subject of considerable negotiation at the Annual Meeting of NAFO in September 2010. While NAFO did adopt mandatory criteria for impact assessments, these apply only in respect of fisheries in new areas - outside of the bottom fisheries "footprint" – or where significant changes to the fisheries have occurred. The measure adopted by NAFO effectively exempts existing fisheries. We would urge NEAFC to adopt mandatory impact assessment procedures, consistent with the FAO Guidelines, applicable to ALL high seas bottom fisheries as called for by the UNGA and require contracting Parties to submit impact assessments for review and recommendations by ICES in advance of the 2011 fishing season.

In regard to the third recommendation, we would note that paragraph 119(d) of UN GA resolution 64/72 commits States and RFMOs to ensuring the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks and non-target species:

"(d) Adopt conservation and management measures, including monitoring, control and surveillance measures, on the basis of stock assessments and the best available scientific information, to ensure the long-term sustainability of deep sea fish stocks and non-target species, and the rebuilding of depleted stocks, consistent with the Guidelines; and, where scientific information is uncertain, unreliable, or inadequate, ensure that conservation and management measures be established consistent with the precautionary approach, including measures to ensure that fishing effort, fishing capacity and catch limits, as appropriate, are at levels commensurate with the long-term sustainability of such stocks;"

We would note that, thus far, the regulations for the management of deep-sea fisheries adopted by NEAFC are not in compliance with the UNGA resolution. While the sustainable exploitation of some deep-sea species may be possible, ICES has advised that there is insufficient scientific information to manage deep-sea fisheries to ensure the long-term sustainability of deep-sea fish stocks in the Northeast Atlantic. In addition, ICES considers the catch of deep-sea species in the region, at least by EU fleets, to be 100% "outside safe biological limits".¹ Moreover, ICES has advised that bycatch and discard levels in deep-sea fisheries are high, that mis-reporting and non-reporting of catch is a serious problem, and that the data from these fisheries is insufficient scientific information on the stock structure, stock size, age structure of the stocks, recruitment, the status of the stocks, population size and the range or distribution of the stocks of deep-sea species in the Northeast Atlantic.²

As indicated in the Catch Statistics compiled by NEAFC, the European Union is responsible for approximately 95% of the reported catch of deep-sea species since 2004.³ As such, the efforts of the Pew Environment Group and other NGOs have been focused on the process by which the EU decides on TACs and Quotas for deep-sea species in the Northeast Atlantic. EU Member States will decide on TACs and Quotas for 2011 and 2012 for most deep-sea species, including those fished in the NEAFC Regulatory Area, at the upcoming meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Ministers on 29-30 November 2010. In this regard we would like to draw your attention to the joint NGO position paper to EU Member States on setting TACs and Quotas for deep-sea species in the Northeast Atlantic. Copies are available for interested delegations and on the website of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition.

¹ Indicator: status of fish stocks managed by the Community in the North-East Atlantic. ICES Advice 2008, Book 1; 1.5.1.1.

² *Assessments and advice for deep-water fisheries*. ICES Advice 2010, Book 9: 9.3.1.2 ECOREGION: Widely distributed and migratory stocks. June 2010

³ <http://www.neafc.org/catch>

Nonetheless, NEAFC should also overhaul its regulation in regard to the catch and effort for deep-sea species. The current regulations have been woefully ineffective in ensuring the long-term sustainability of deep-sea stocks and species. Our recommendation is that TACs should be set at zero for deep-sea species where scientific information and the management regime are insufficient to ensure long-term sustainability as called for in UNGA resolution 64/72.

Again, as with impact assessments, NEAFC Contracting Parties have committed, as per paragraph 120 of UNGA resolution 64/72, to not authorize bottom fisheries on the high seas until the measures in UNGA resolutions 61/105 and 64/72 have been adopted and implemented:

120. Calls upon flag States, members of regional fisheries management organizations or arrangements with the competence to regulate bottom fisheries and States participating in negotiations to establish such organizations or arrangements to adopt and implement measures in accordance with paragraphs 83, 85 and 86 of its resolution 61/105, paragraph 119 of the present resolution, and international law, and consistent with the Guidelines, and not to authorize bottom fishing activities until such measures have been adopted and implemented;”

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to the conclusions of the report of the ICES/NAFO Joint Working Group on Deep-water Ecology, which met in March 2010, in regard to the “move-on” rules adopted by NEAFC and NAFO.⁴

“After much discussion, the WGDEC decided that because the current encounter and move-on rules would still permit pervasive and cumulative destruction of VMEs in the NAFO and NEAFC management areas, a new management strategy needs to be developed. This new approach is based on the following principles:

1) Bottom habitats at fishable depths within the North Atlantic are not inhabited by one fauna that ranges over the whole region, thus there can be no uniform “rule”;

2) exploratory fishing with bottom contact gear in the deep sea is unacceptable because of the long-term damage such gear does to bottom habitats;

3) exploratory fishing with bottom contact gear is unnecessary because modern data management tools and computer modelling techniques can provide a mechanism for making predictions about where vulnerable marine ecosystems are likely to be present; and

4) the burden of proof regarding whether any particular area of the seabed can be fished with bottom contact gear without causing damage to VMEs must reside with the entity proposing to do the fishing.

⁴ Report of the ICES/NAFO Joint Working Group on Deep-water Ecology (WGDEC), 22–26 March 2010, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES WGDEC REPORT 2010, ICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE, ICES CM 2010/ACOM:26, International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES).
http://www.ices.dk/reports/ACOM/2010/WGDEC/wgdec_final_2010.pdf

These principles put fishing on a more equal footing with other industries who extract resources from the ocean and whose activities might have adverse or harmful effects on resident organisms.” (page 52).

On a personal note, we would like to thank the Secretary Mr. Hoydal for the cooperation and are looking forward to further constructive work with the NEAFC Secretary.

Thank you Mr. President.



29th Annual Meeting of NEAFC, 8-12 November 2010

Opening Statement

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates and Observers,

Seas At Risk welcomes the opportunity to observe and address this meeting.

NEAFC plays a crucial role in the conservation of deep sea species and habitats in the North-east Atlantic. Insufficient information is available to determine the impact of fishing on the majority of deep-sea species and stocks caught or taken as by-catch in the NEAFC Regulatory Area, and even less so to determine what level of catch could be considered sustainable. **We therefore fully support the recommendation by PECMAS to annually report on the NEAFC website, the effect and effectiveness of the regulation on deep-sea fisheries and measures to conserve vulnerable marine ecosystems.** This would be a first step towards increasing the availability of information.

It is clear that deep-sea fisheries management requires substantial improvement. In spite of the measures agreed by NEAFC since 2004 to cap and then reduce fishing effort, the reported deep-sea catch rose by approximately 60% between 2004 and 2008. Furthermore, the capacity of EU deep-sea fleets, responsible for 95% of the catch, has not been effectively reduced¹.

Given the vulnerability of deep-sea species to fishing and the lack of information on their status, full compliance with the precautionary approach is required. The 2009 UNGA resolution (64/72) clearly states that this means **a temporary fishery closure unless or until sufficient information is available which enables the long-term sustainable management of these stocks.** We note the upcoming UNGA review, in 2011, of measures taken by NEAFC to implement this resolution, and call upon this meeting to show more ambition in the regulation of deep-sea fisheries and to live up to international commitments. **A significant first step would be to close all fisheries for orange roughy and deep-sea sharks.** This would allow more coherent management for these stocks, both in and outside the EU EEZ.

¹While overall reductions in tonnage, fishing power and number of vessels were observed in the deep-sea fleet between 1999-2006, the fleet has also adopted more technically efficient vessels with greater fishing capacity. Reductions were for vessels of between 500–2000 Gross Registered Tonnage while the larger vessels (>2000 GRT) increased both in terms of the overall tonnage (+34% to 228,669 GRT) and fishing power (+45% to 305,052 Kw). Efficiency indicators (Grt and Kw per Vessel) for these vessels also increased by 26% and 47% respectively meaning fishing capacity has not effectively decreased. (Data from Villasante, S. 2010. "The deep-sea sector has increased its fishing capacity by 34–44%. Global assessment of the European Union fishing fleet: An update. Marine Policy 34: 663–670.)

Annex F - Opening Statements by NGOS

NEAFC Contracting Parties are committed by the same UNGA resolution to submit Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for *all* of high seas bottom fisheries. Seas At Risk would like to stress that, under the current NEAFC framework, no EIAs are required for bottom fisheries within the existing footprint. The UNGA resolution does not make this distinction between fisheries in- and outside the existing footprint. In fact, the ICES advice to NEAFC underlines the likelihood that VMEs occur within the existing footprint, in areas open to bottom fishing. **Therefore, we re-iterate our request from last year to extend the requirement for EIAs to all proposed bottom fishing activities in the NEAFC Regulatory Area.**

As a final comment on deep-sea fisheries, we call on this meeting to maintain current area closures, as recommended by ICES, and in addition, to **adopt the closures on the Mid Atlantic Ridge proposed by the EU in 2009.**

We would like to end our statement with a note of concern over the “mackerel war”, as it has been dubbed in the press. Although the stock is not currently considered overexploited, its sustainability could be compromised if a coordinated approach is not taken by all Parties with an interest in this fishery. **We urge NEAFC to help facilitate negotiations with the aim of establishing a long-term management plan supported by all Parties concerned, ensuring scientific advice is followed for the long-term sustainability of the stock, and unilateral quota setting is discouraged.**

Seas At Risk wishes you a successful meeting.



North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)

Annual Meeting

London, 12 – 18 November 2010

OPENING STATEMENT

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates and Observers,

WWF welcomes the opportunity to make an opening statement to the NEAFC Annual Meeting. To begin with, we would firstly like to address overarching ocean governance issues and area-based management, and secondly make a couple of general points with regard to the protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) in the Regulatory Area as well as the management of deep-water and/or straddling fish stocks.

WWF believes that considerable progress has been made with regard to regional ocean governance in the North-East Atlantic during recent years. In particular, the sign-off of a Memorandum of Understanding between OSPAR and NEAFC may serve as a model for the cooperation between Marine Environment and Fisheries Management Organisations in other ocean regions globally. Reference is made to the 2010 OSPAR Quality Status Report which reviews a number of collaborative or synergistic achievements both with regard to fisheries management and the application of the ecosystem approach in the North-East Atlantic, including targets for fish stocks, measures to combat IUU and area closures for destructive demersal fishing gear.

WWF highlights the as yet unprecedented designation of a set of six Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) by the OSPAR Ministerial Meeting in September 2010, including two sections of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and comprising more than 5% of the NEAFC Regulatory Area, which provides another opportunity for fruitful cooperation between NEAFC and OSPAR in the near future. In this context, we would like to stress some urgent needs for further action and raise certain flags of concern with regard to area-based management:

- While acknowledging that large sections of the sites concerned have earlier been closed to bottom fishing by NEAFC on a temporary basis, subject to review, we suggest to make these closures permanent to meet the agreed conservation objectives in the long term.
- Given the fact that the agreed conservation objectives for the new MPAs in ABNJ relate to a whole range of biodiversity features beyond benthic communities, including

Annex F - Opening Statements by NGOs

deep-water and pelagic stocks, and species particularly prone to by-catch including sharks, due attention should be given to potential measures to safeguard and protect these. Notably, for two of the MPAs (Charlie-Gibbs and Milne) the international Stakeholder workshop held in Funchal, Madeira in March 2010, had developed tentative agreements with regard to shared vision, responsibilities and management measures between OSPAR and other competent regulatory authorities including NEAFC, ISA, IWC, ICCAT, IMO. WWF would like to urge Parties to support this process by taking a consistent position under their respective remit in the bodies concerned, and with a particular view to feeding the results into the formal NEAFC decision making process via PECMAS and Annual Meeting.

- In the same vein, WWF calls on this Annual Meeting to follow latest ICES' advice and adopt additional bottom fishing closures on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge as already suggested by the EU in 2009.
- Beyond these areas specifically addressed, WWF shares the views of Seas At Risk (SAR) that in line with the UN General Assembly Resolution 64/72 of 2009, mandatory impact assessments consistent with the UN FAO Guidelines must be applied to *all* including existing high seas bottom fisheries to prevent further harm to VMEs and secure seafloor integrity.

With regard to deep-water stocks and deep-sea fisheries management, WWF calls on Parties to principally review current NEAFC procedures and regulations in light of the provisions of UNGA Resolution 64/72 which requires to base decision making on the best available scientific information. Where scientific information is uncertain, unreliable, or inadequate, the precautionary approach must be applied. It is of key importance to establish a coherent management regime for deep-water fisheries throughout EEZs and ABNJ. In this respect, we refer to the principles set out in the joint NGO response to the information and consultation document in regard to fishing opportunities for deep sea species as circulated by EC DG MARE in July 2010.

Last but not least, WWF has concerns that other straddling fish stocks like mackerel, as yet considered healthy and not overexploited, might get into dire straits if agreed long-term management plans (LTMP) are abandoned and replaced by unilateral quota setting. We call on NEAFC to help facilitate round table multiparty negotiations in this case, with the aim to review the LTMP and ensure, in line with a precautionary approach, a dynamic TACs and quota setting process, which responds to the state of the stock, and is inclusive for all countries with an interest in the fishery.

WWF wishes you all a successful meeting.

PROGRESS REPORT FROM AHWGPS ON PORT STATE CONTROL

With reference to HOD 10/84 of 11 October 2010, the PECCOE “Ad Hoc Working Group on Port State Control (AHWGPSC)” met on Tuesday the 9th of November in the NEAFC HQ in London to discuss further the implications that the FAO Port State Measures may have on the port state measures in the NEAFC Scheme. Representatives from all Contracting Parties were present.

The group agreed to continue the work by using the table already produced by the EU (PE 2010-02-09) as a basis and the Norwegian delegation offered to draft additions into the table taking note of the Norwegian document from the April 2010 meeting of PECCOE (PE 2010-01-13). The group proposes to have a meeting in Bergen 12. to 14. January 2011 and a second meeting preferably in London 8. to 10. March 2011.

Norway will try to circulate a new version of the table before Christmas and the final draft document showing the implication shall be circulated no later than Monday 11. April 2011.

Moreover the group will also endeavour to examine issues related to the EU catch certification scheme.

On behalf of the group I ask for the Commission’s consent for AHWGPSC continuing this work as proposed above.

Gylfi Geirsson
Chair PECCOE

London, 9 November

Annex G – Decisions

PROPOSAL FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JOINT NEAFC (PECMAS)–OSPAR WORKING GROUP ON BOUNDARIES OF PROTECTED AREAS FOR MARINE SPECIES

PECMAS, during its 2010 Annual Meeting, highlighted the difficulties for fisheries people to cope with differences of boundaries of protected areas for marine species. Furthermore, the recently adopted OSPAR list of threatened species includes economically important fisheries species such as cod, or deep sea species. The criteria for inclusion or withdrawal of marine species in the list would deserve to be clarified and PECMAS proposed to work on it.

To give an appropriate follow up of these two aspects, the European Union proposes to set up a working group NEAFC (PECMAS) – OSPAR which will be in charge of:

- assessing the current zoning of the protected areas
- propose a harmonised NEAFC-OSPAR definition of the area
- assess the criteria for listing threatened and endangered species, and for withdrawal of such species

Within NEAFC, the group will report initially to the PECMAS meeting in 2011.



Proposal for a regional workshop for the North Atlantic hosted by NEAFC involving NEAFC, OSPAR, NAFO and ICES

A note by the NEAFC Secretariat

At the recent meeting of the CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD), Tenth meeting (COP 10), Nagoya, Japan, 18-29 October 2010, a decision on MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY was adopted.

Paragraph 36 reads as follows.

36. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to work with Parties and other Governments as well as competent organizations and regional initiatives, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), regional seas conventions and action plans, and, where appropriate, regional fisheries management organizations, with regards to fisheries management, to organize, including the setting of terms of references, subject to the availability of financial resources, a series of regional workshops, before a future meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) prior to the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, with a primary objective to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas through application of scientific criteria in Annex I of decision IX/20 as well as other relevant compatible and complementary nationally and intergovernmentally agreed scientific criteria, as well as the scientific guidance on the identification of marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, which meet the scientific criteria in annex I to decision IX/20;

This decision refers to a series of regional workshops to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas through application of scientific criteria. This is process that is similar and runs in parallel with the FAO guidelines for the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas.

Norway has suggested that NEAFC acts proactively here and offers to arrange a regional meeting for the North East Atlantic and/or the North Atlantic. This ties nicely in with other initiatives and NEAFC Commitments.

1. PROPOSAL BY DENMARK (IN RESPECT FO THE FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND) AND ICELAND



Last year the Commission adopted a proposal from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) as follows:

Recalling that NEAFC has in recent years adopted a number of measures to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems in the Regulatory Area, such as seamounts and coral aggregations, from significant adverse impacts of bottom fishing;

Noting that these measures have been adopted in accordance with the objective of the new Convention as outlined in Article 2; as well as in line with Article 4.2 c) and d).

Noting that, notwithstanding the comprehensive operational procedures that already apply to fishing in existing and new fishing areas in the NEAFC Regulatory Area in order to protect VMEs from significant adverse impacts of bottom fishing, the Contracting Parties agreed in April 2009 to close extensive areas on the Mid Atlantic Ridge, as well as the Altair and Antialtair seamounts, to bottom fishing until December 2015;

Noting that in its 2008 advice on the proposal for area closures on the MAR subsequently adopted by the Commission, ICES noted that “specific objectives or targets related to the intended spatial extent of habitats, and the biomass, abundance, or rate of recovery of vulnerable species will give precision to the selection of sites and their boundaries”;

Also noting that in the same advice, ICES recommended a coordinated approach between NEAFC and OSPAR for designating areas in waters beyond national jurisdiction;

Welcoming the increased cooperation and coordination between NEAFC and NAFO in recent years, not least with respect to fisheries management measures and procedures with the purpose of protecting VMEs and conserving biodiversity;

Also welcoming active cooperation with OSPAR, and its further enhancement based on the Memorandum of Understanding signed in September 2008.

THE CONTRACTING PARTIES HEREBY AGREE

to request the Working Group on the Future of NEAFC to investigate the feasibility of organising a workshop, in collaboration with NAFO and OSPAR, in the first half of 2010 to review respective progress on ecosystem-based area management in international waters in the North Atlantic, with a particular emphasis on defining management objectives.

The WGFUT found out that due to heavy workloads, especially in OSPAR, it was not feasible to have a meeting in 2010, but did not rule out a meeting at a later date. It seems natural that the task foreseen above is dealt with by a regional workshop.

2. FAO processes with respect to vulnerable marine ecosystems

FAO held a workshop in Pusan, Republic of Korea, 10-12 May 2010 on the implementation of the FAO international guidelines for the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas



-challenges and ways forward. The report is still in a draft form, but is expected to be released soon. This issue will probably also be discussed at COFI-29 in January-February next year.

A regional workshop could take note of the developments in FAO. The CBD processes should be seen as complementary and parallel.

3. UNGA processes with respect to UNGA resolutions 61/105 and 64/72

It is expected that the Secretary-General of the UN will, be asked (in cooperation with FAO) to report to the General Assembly at its 66th session (2011) on actions taken in response to UNGA 61/105 paras. 83-87 and 87 and paras 117 and 119-127 in UNGA 64/72 and other matters.

A work shop early 2011 would make it possible for NEAFC to contribute more to such a report.

4. Improving the flow of information on NEAFC's work and achievements to parties, stakeholders and the public in general

PECMAS has recommended that efforts are initiated to report on and evaluate the effects and effectiveness of the NEAFC regulations for of bottom and deepwater fisheries, and measures to conserve deepwater species and vulnerable marine ecosystems (e.g. bottom fisheries closures). Recent variation and trends in the intensity and spatial distribution of fishing activity should be considered in an historical context. The documentation and critical review resulting from these considerations should be presented annually in a transparent manner on the NEAFC website.

NEAFC has also considered how to get this information out to the public in the most effective way..

If adopted by the Commission, a regional workshop would contribute to this process

5. Participation in the workshop

It is suggested that NEAFC invites NAFO, ICES, OSPAR and perhaps independent experts to a workshop with term of reference that address all the issues raised above.



Annex G- Decisions

One possibility would be to arrange this workshop back-to-back with the International Workshop, Bergen, Norway, 29 – 31 March 2011 Exploring the Role of MPAs in Reconciling Fisheries Management with Conservation.

Recommendation 1: 2011

THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON 12 NOVEMBER 2010 ADOPTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 5 AND 6 OF THE CONVENTION, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR BLUE WHITING (*Micromesistius poutassou*) IN THE NEAFC CONVENTION AREA IN 2011, AS FOLLOWS:

1. NEAFC takes note of the “Agreed Record of Conclusion of Fisheries Consultations between the Faroe Islands, the European Union, Iceland and Norway on the management of Blue Whiting in the North-East Atlantic in 2011” signed in London, 19 October 2010.

2. NEAFC further notes that by way of the said Agreed Record, the aforementioned Parties agreed to restrict their fishery on the Blue Whiting Stock in 2011 according to a total catch limitation of 36,908 tonnes.

3. The Contracting Parties recommend the following measures:

a. In order to ensure consistency and compatibility with the said Agreed Record, the Contracting Parties hereby establish an allowable catch limitation of 5 831 tonnes of Blue Whiting for 2011 in waters beyond the areas under national fisheries jurisdiction of the Contracting Parties.

b. This allowable catch limitation shall be allocated as follows:

Denmark in respect of:

Faroe Islands	683 tonnes (*)
Greenland	217 tonnes
European Union	812 tonnes (*)
Iceland	461 tonnes (*)
Norway	683 tonnes (*)
Russian Federation	2,975 tonnes

(*) Catches taken under these allocations shall be deducted from quotas allocated to Parties to the Agreed Record referred to in paragraph 2.

4. At the annual meeting in 2008 the Contracting Parties agreed that the relative shares established under paragraphs 2 and 3 are fixed for the future management of blue whiting in the NEAFC context. In addition to these fixed shares, the Russian Federation was granted a quantity of 16 237 tonnes for 2009, 8 000 tonnes for 2010 and 4 000 tonnes for 2011. There will be no additional quantity available in 2012.

5. The national quotas referred to in Annex I of the Agreed Record referred to in paragraph 2 may be fished in the areas defined in paragraph 3 a.

6. Quotas that are transferred to a Contracting Party to be fished within national waters of another Contracting Party may be fished in the areas defined in paragraph 3 a, subject to agreement between the Contracting Parties concerned.

Annex H -Recommendations

7. Each Party may transfer unutilised quantities of up to 10% of the quota allocated to it for 2010 to 2011. Such transfer shall be in addition to the quota allocated to the Party concerned for 2011. In the event of over-fishing of the allocated quotas by any Party in 2010, the quantity shall be deducted from the quota allocated in 2011 for the Party or Parties concerned.

8. Each Party may transfer unutilised quantities of up to 10% of the quota allocated to it for 2011 to 2012. Such transfer shall be in addition to the quota allocated to the Party concerned for 2012. In the event of over-fishing of the allocated quotas by any Party in 2011, the quantity shall be deducted from the quota allocated in 2012 for the Party or Parties concerned.

9. In accordance with the recommendation resulting from the fisheries consultations between the Coastal States on the management of blue whiting for 2011, a daily reporting requirement shall apply from 1 January 2011. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 12 of the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement, vessels engaged in this fishery shall report their catch on a daily basis. The catch report shall be transmitted after the fishing operations of that calendar day have been completed.

Recommendation 2: 2011

RECOMMENDATION BY THE NORTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON 12 NOVEMBER 2010 ADOPTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 9, 1 AND 2, OF THE CONVENTION, PROVIDING FOR THE COLLECTION OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION RELATING TO FISHERIES BEYOND AND UNDER THE FISHERIES JURISDICTION OF CONTRACTING PARTIES, AS FOLLOWS:

Recognising the need to establish a more efficient reporting system for uptakes of quotas from resources regulated by NEAFC the Contracting Parties have agreed the following measures:

1. Each Contracting Party shall, within 30 days following the calendar month in which the catches were landed, or transhipped, report to the Secretary, provisional monthly statistics of catches from stocks listed in Annex I whether the catch is taken in international waters or in waters under the jurisdiction of the Contracting Parties.
2. These reports shall be made in accordance with the specifications and format set out in Annexes II and III, whether or not that Party has quota allocations for the stocks from which catches were obtained.
3. The Secretary shall, within 10 days following the monthly deadlines for receipt of the provisional catch statistics, collate the information received and circulate it to the Contracting Parties. Annual catch data should be submitted not later than 1 July of the following year.
4. The provisions in this recommendation should be implemented not later than 1 February 2011.

ANNEX I

Stock units

Stock units	Stock code	NEAFC stock common name	Species			NEAFC area list as defined in the Scheme
			Common name	FAO code	Scientific name	ICES Sub-areas & Divisions
Norwegian spring spawning herring	XHE	Norwegian spring spawning herring (Atlanto Scandian)	Herring	HER	<i>Clupea harengus</i>	I, II
Blue whiting combined stock Sub Area I-IX, XII, XIV	XWH	Blue whiting	Blue whiting	WHB	<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	IIa, IVa, Vb, VI, VII, XII, XIV
North East Atlantic Mackerel	XMA	Mackerel	Mackerel	MAC	<i>Scomber scombrus</i>	IIa, IV, V, VI, VII, XII
Rockall haddock	XHA	Haddock	Haddock	HAD	<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	VIb
Pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea	XIS	Redfish	Redfish	REB	<i>Sebastes mentella</i>	V, XII, XIV
Pelagic redfish Sub Areas I, II	XNS	Redfish	Redfish	REB	<i>Sebastes mentella</i>	I, II
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Baird's smoothhead	ALC	<i>Alepocehalus bairdi</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Risso's smoothhead	PHO	<i>Alepocephalus rostratus</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Blue antimora (Blue hake)	ANT	<i>Antimora rostrata</i>	I - XIV

Annex H -Recommendations

Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Black scabbardfish	BSF	<i>Aphanopus carbo</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Iceland catshark	API	<i>Apristuris spp.</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Greater silver smelt	ARG	<i>Argentina silus</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Alfonsinos	ALF	<i>Berys spp.</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Tusk	USK	<i>Brosme bosme</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Gulper shark	GUP	<i>Centrophorus granulosos</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Leafscale gulper shark	GUQ	<i>Centrophorus squamosus</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Black dogfish	CFB	<i>Centoscyllium fabricii</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Portuguese dogfish	CYO	<i>Centroscymnus coeloepis</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Longnose velvet dogfish	CYP	<i>Centroscymnus crepidater</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Deep-water red crab	KEF	<i>Chacon (geyron) affinis</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Rabbit fish (Rattail)	CMO	<i>Chimaera monstrosa</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Frilled shark	HXC	<i>Chalamydoselachus anguineus</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Conger eel	COE	<i>Conger conger</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Roundnose grenadier	RNG	<i>Coryphaenoides rupestris</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Kitefin shark	SCK	<i>Dalatias licha</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Birdbeak dogfish	DCA	<i>Deania calceus</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Black (Deep-water) cardinal fish	EPI	<i>Epigonus telescopus</i>	I - XIV

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Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Greater lanternshark	SHL	<i>Etmopterus princeps</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Velvet belly	SHL	<i>Etmopterus spinax</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Blackmouth dogfish	SHO	<i>Galeus melastomus</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Mouse catshark	GAM	<i>Galeus murinus</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Bluemouth (Blue mouth redfish)	BRF	<i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Blondnose six-gilled shark	SBL	<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Orange roughy	ORY	<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Silver roughy (Pink)	HPR	<i>Hoplostethus mediterraneus</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Large- eyed rabbit fish (Ratfish)	CYH	<i>Hydrolagus mirabilis</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Silver scabbard fish (Cutless fish)	SFS	<i>Lepidopus caudatus</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Eelpout	ELP	<i>Lycodes esmarkii</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Roughhead grenadier (Rough rattail)	RHG	<i>Marcrourus berglax</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Blue ling	BLI	<i>Molva dypterigia</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Ling	LIN	<i>Molva molva</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Common mora	RIB	<i>Mora moro</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Sailfin roughshark (Sharpback shark)	OXN	<i>Oxynotus paradoxus</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Red (blackspot) seabream	SBR	<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Forkbeards	GFB	<i>Phycis spp.</i>	I - XIV

Annex H -Recommendations

Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Wreckfish	WRF	<i>Polyprion americanus</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Round skate	RJY	<i>Raja fyllae</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Arctic skate	RJG	<i>Raja hyperborean</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Norwegian skate	JAD	<i>Raja nidarosiensus</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Greenland halibut	GHL	<i>Rheinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Straightnose rabbitfish	RCT	<i>Rhinochimaera atlantica</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Knifetooth dogfish	SYR	<i>Scymnodon ringens</i>	I - XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Small redfish (Norway haddock)	SFV	<i>Sebastes viviparus</i>	I – XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Greenland shark	GSK	<i>Somniosus microcephalus</i>	I – XIV
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Spiny (Deep-sea) Scorpionfish	TJX	<i>Trachyscorpia cristulata</i>	I – XIV

ANNEX III

Reporting elements

CP Contracting Party

XEU European Union
 FRO Faroe Islands (DFG)
 GRL Greenland (DFG)
 ISL Iceland
 NOR Norway
 RUS Russian Federation

YM Year / Month

200901 for January 2009

SS Stock

XIS Pelagic *S. mentella* in the Irminger Sea
 XNS Pelagic *S. mentella* in ICES sub-areas I and II
 XMA North east Atlantic Mackerel
 XHE Norwegian spring spawning Herring (Atlanto Scandian)
 XWH Blue whiting combined stock
 XHA Rockall Haddock
 XDS Deep sea fisheries

ZO Fishing grounds either international waters or EEZs

XNE NEAFC's Regulatory Area
 XNW NAFO's Regulatory Area
 XNW-GRL Greenland's EEZ within NAFO Convention Area
 XEU European Union EEZs
 XSV Svalbard
 XJM Jan Mayen
 FRO Faroe Islands EEZ
 GRL Greenland EEZ
 ISL Iceland EEZ
 NOR Norway EEZ
 RUS Russian Federation EEZ

CA Monthly catch

Quantity in metric tonnes of catch landed or transhipped in the relevant month.
 No decimals, rounded up.

CC Cumulative catch

Quantity in metric tonnes of cumulative catch up to and including the relevant month.
 No decimals, rounded up.

Recommendation 3: 2011

THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON 12 NOVEMBER 2010 ADOPTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 5 OF THE NEAFC CONVENTION, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR PELAGIC REDFISH (*Sebastes mentella*) IN THE NEAFC REGULATORY AREA (ICES I & II) IN 2011, AS FOLLOWS:

1. Each Contracting Party shall, for the period 1 January to 14 August 2011 and 1 to 31 December 2011, prohibit the fishing by its vessels.
2. Contracting Parties shall be permitted to fish for a quantity of 7,900 tonnes within the period 15 August to 30 November 2011.
3. The conditions concerning the fishery referred to under paragraph 2 shall be as follows:
 - a. The allowable catch shall not be specifically allocated to individual Contracting Parties.
 - b. Fishing participation shall be restricted to those vessels, which have previously been engaged in the redfish fishery in the Regulatory Area, or have replaced such vessels.
 - c. A special monitoring system shall be established on the basis of catches reported in accordance with the provisions of Article 12 of the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 12, vessels engaged in this fishery shall report their catch on a daily basis. The Secretary shall be responsible for the coordination of this monitoring system. The Secretary shall notify all Contracting Parties without delay and by the most rapid means possible when the total catches have reached 80% of the allowable catch. Furthermore, the Secretary shall notify all Contracting Parties of the date on which:
 - i. The accumulated reported catch;
 - ii. The estimated catch not yet reported;
 - iii. The estimated remaining quantity of the allowable catch; and
 - iv. The likely by-catches taken during the period for which the catch limitation applies equal the allowable catch provided for under a.
 - d. No vessels shall be permitted to engage in a directed fishery on this stock in the specified area after the date notified by the Secretary.
 - e. The authorisation to fish for redfish in the Regulatory Area is only valid if the information transmitted in accordance with Articles 11, 12 and 13 of the Scheme of Control and Enforcement is made available to the Secretary according to Article 14.

Recommendation 4: 2011

THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON 12 NOVEMBER 2010 ADOPTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 5 OF THE CONVENTION, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR HADDOCK IN THE NEAFC REGULATORY AREA (ICES VIb) IN 2011 AND 2012, AS FOLLOWS:

All fishing, except with long-lines, shall be prohibited in waters beyond the areas under national fisheries jurisdiction of the Contracting Parties in the box bounded by the following co-ordinates:

- 57° 00' N, 15° 00' W
- 57° 00' N, 14° 00' W
- 56° 30' N, 14° 00' W
- 56° 30' N, 15° 00' W

This measure shall be applicable for the period 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2012.

Annex H -Recommendations

- f. A Contracting Party may request access to the information communicated pursuant to Articles 11, 12 and 13 of the Scheme of Control and Enforcement for the areas where they intend to undertake inspection and surveillance activities. The Secretary shall inform other Contracting Parties and make the information available to the requesting Contracting Party during the relevant fishing season. The Contracting Party that requests access to this information shall present a detailed report to the next meeting of PECCOE on its use of the information provided.
4. Contracting Parties shall ensure that scientific information is collected by scientific observers on board their vessels or by other means considered appropriate by the individual Contracting Parties. As a minimum, information collected shall include representative sex, age and length composition data by depths. This information shall be reported to ICES.
5. The conversion factor used in this fishery for gutted and headed presentations, including Japanese cut, shall be 1.70. This conversion factor shall be used for the purposes of this Recommendation and is without prejudice for other purposes.
6. A limitation of 1% on by-catches of pelagic redfish (*Sebastes mentella*) on board in other non-target fisheries in ICES Sub-areas I and II shall be applied. All by-catches shall be properly documented and reported. Compatible measures should be applied within relevant areas under national jurisdiction.
7. This measure shall be considered as an interim measure applicable only for 2011 and shall be without prejudice to any future allocation between the Contracting Parties.

Recommendation 5: 2011

THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON 12 NOVEMBER 2010 ADOPTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLES 5 AND 6 OF THE CONVENTION, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR NORWEGIAN SPRING-SPAWNING (ATLANTO-SCANDIAN) HERRING (*Clupea harengus*) IN THE NEAFC CONVENTION AREA IN 2011, AS FOLLOWS:

The Contracting Parties agreed that:

1. NEAFC takes note of the Agreed Record of Conclusion of Fisheries Consultations on the management of Norwegian Spring Spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring between, the European Community, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation signed in London on 21 October 2010.
2. NEAFC further notes that by way of the said Agreed Record, the aforementioned Parties agreed on a allowable catch (TAC) for the Norwegian Spring-Spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring of 988,000 tonnes in 2011.
3. In accordance with Article 5 of the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the North-East Atlantic Fisheries, the Contracting Parties have agreed to the following measures for the Norwegian Spring-Spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring in 2011:
 - a. All fisheries conducted in waters of the Convention Area as defined in Article 1 (1) of the Convention, which lie beyond waters under the fisheries jurisdiction of Contracting Parties (the Regulatory Area) shall be within the TAC referred to in paragraph 2,
 - b. The national quotas referred to Annex I of the said Agreed Record may be fished in the Regulatory area,
 - c. Catches taken by a Contracting Party in the Regulatory Area in accordance with the said Agreed Record shall be deducted from the respective quotas allocated to the Contracting Parties representing a Party to the Agreed Record,
 - d. Only vessels entitled to fly the flag of a NEAFC Contracting Party, having been authorised by its flag state to fish for Norwegian Spring-Spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) Herring in the NEAFC Convention Area in accordance with the said Agreed record, may take part in the fishery.

Recommendation 6: 2011

THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON 12 NOVEMBER 2010 ADOPTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLES 5 AND 6 OF THE CONVENTION, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR BASKING SHARK (*Cetorhinus maximus*) IN THE NEAFC CONVENTION AREA IN 2011, AS FOLLOWS:

The status of the stock of basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) in the Northeast Atlantic is not well known, and it is at present not targeted in any commercial fisheries.

ICES reports that information is poor. Trends in landings and anecdotal information suggest that abundance remains significantly reduced. ICES advises a zero TAC for the entire ICES area in 2011. However, there is no information from fishery independent sources on abundance levels, and no catch per unit effort data available to form a basis for evaluation.

As an interim measure, Contracting Parties have, pursuant to Article 5 and 6 of the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the North-East Atlantic Fisheries, agreed that no directed fishery for basking shark shall be undertaken in the Convention Area in 2011.

Contracting Parties are urged to make all available data on basking shark, including fisheries data, available to ICES for further evaluation of the state of the resource.

Recommendation 7: 2011

THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON 12 NOVEMBER 2010 ADOPTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 5 OF THE CONVENTION, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR SPURDOG (*Squalus acanthias*) IN THE NEAFC REGULATORY AREA IN 2011, AS FOLLOWS:

Taking into account the depleted status of this stock and the ICES advice for a zero TAC;

Conscious of the need to prohibit targeted fisheries on this stock;

1. Each Contracting Party shall, for 2011, prohibit all directed fishing of spurdog (*Squalus acanthias*) in the Regulatory Area by vessels flying its flag.
2. Any incidental catches of this stock shall be promptly released unharmed to the extent possible.
3. Contracting Parties shall submit to ICES all available data on spurdog, including data on discarding, for further evaluation of the state of the stock.
4. Contracting Parties are encouraged to take conservation measures with equal effect within waters under their national jurisdiction.

Recommendation 8: 2011

THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON 12 NOVEMBER 2010 ADOPTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 5 OF THE CONVENTION, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR PORBEAGLE (*Lamna nasus*) IN THE NEAFC REGULATORY AREA IN 2011, AS FOLLOWS:

The status of porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) in the Northeast Atlantic is not well known, and at present a very limited commercial fishery is taking place.

ICES reports that information is poor. Trends in landings and anecdotal information suggest that abundance remains significantly reduced. ICES advises a zero TAC for the entire ICES area in 2011. However, there is no information from fishery independent sources on abundance levels, and no catch per unit effort data available to form a basis for evaluation.

As an interim measure, Contracting Parties have, pursuant to Article 5 and 6 of the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the North-East Atlantic Fisheries, agreed that no directed fishery for porbeagle shall be undertaken in the Regulatory Area in 2011.

Contracting Parties are urged to make all available data on porbeagle, including fisheries data, available to ICES for further evaluation of the state of the resource.

Recommendation 9: 2011

THE NORTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON 12 NOVEMBER 2010 ADOPTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 8 OF THE CONVENTION, AMENDMENTS TO ANNEXE VIII.5 OF THE “SCHEME OF CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT IN RESPECT OF FISHING VESSELS FISHING IN AREAS BEYOND THE LIMITS OF NATIONAL FISHERIES JURISDICTION IN THE CONVENTION AREA” AS FOLLOWS:

5) “POSITION” report/message

Data Element:	Field Code:	Mandatory /Optional	Remarks:
Start record	SR	M	System detail; indicates start of record
Address	AD	M	Message detail; destination; “XNE” for NEAFC
Sequence Number	SQ	M ¹	Message detail; message serial number in current year
Type of Message	TM ²	M	Message detail; message type, “POS” as Position report/message to be communicated by VMS or other means by vessels with a defective satellite tracking device
Radio call sign	RC	M	Vessel registration detail; international radio call sign of the vessel
Trip Number	TN	O	Activity detail; fishing trip serial number in current year
Vessel Name	NA	O	Vessel registration detail; name of the vessel
Contracting Party Internal Reference Number	IR	O	Vessel registration detail. Unique Contracting Party vessel number as flag state 3-alpha country code followed by number
External Registration Number	XR	O	Vessel registration detail; the side number of the vessel or IMO number in the absence of a side number
Latitude	LA	M ³	Activity detail; position at time of transmission
Longitude	LO	M ³	Activity detail; position at time of transmission
Latitude (decimal)	LT	M ⁴	Activity detail; position at time of transmission

Annex H -Recommendations

Longitude (decimal)	LG	M ⁴	Activity detail; position at time of transmission
Speed	SP	M	Activity detail; speed of the vessel
Course	CO	M	Activity detail; heading of the vessel
<u>Flag State</u>	<u>FS</u>	<u>M⁵</u>	<u>Activity detail; flag-state of the vessel</u>
Date	DA	M	Message detail; date of transmission
Time	TI	M	Message detail; time of transmission
End of record	ER	M	System detail; indicates end of the record

¹ Optional in case of a VMS message

² Type of message shall be “ENT” for the first VMS message from the Regulatory Area as detected by the FMC of the Contracting Party.

Type of message shall be “EXI” for the first VMS message from outside the Regulatory Area as detected by the FMC of the Contracting Party, and the values for latitude and Longitude are, in this type of message, optional.

Type of message shall be “MAN” for reports communicated by vessels with a defective satellite tracking device in accordance with Article 11(4).

³ Mandatory for manual messages

⁴ Mandatory for VMS messages

⁵ Mandatory; to be used only in transmissions between the Secretariat and the FMCs

Recommendation 10: 2011

THE NORTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON 12 NOVEMBER 2010 ADOPTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 8 OF THE CONVENTION, AMENDMENTS TO APPENDIX 1 TO ANNEX IV OF THE “SCHEME OF CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT IN RESPECT OF FISHING VESSELS FISHING IN AREAS BEYOND THE LIMITS OF NATIONAL FISHERIES JURISDICTION IN THE CONVENTION AREA” AS FOLLOWS:

APPENDIX 1 TO ANNEX IV – Products and packing**A. Product form codes**

3-Alpha	Presentation	Description
CBF	Cod butterfly (escalado)	HEA with skin on, spine on, tail on
CLA	Claws	Claws only
DWT	ICCAT code	Gilled, gutted, part of head off, fins off
FIL	Filleted	HEA + GUT + TLD + bones off Each fish originates two fillets
FIS	Filleted and skinned fillets	FIL+SKI Each fish originates two fillets not joined by any par
FSB	Filleted with skin and bones	Filleted with skin and bones on
FSP	Filleted skinned with pinbone	Filleted with skin removed and pinbone on
GHT	Gutted headed and tailed	GUH+TLD
GUG	Gutted and gilled	Guts and gills removed
GUH	Gutted and headed	Guts and head removed
GUL	Gutted liver in	GUT without removing liver parts
GUS	Gutted headed and skinned	GUH+SKI
GUT	Gutted	All guts removed
HEA	Headed	Heads off
HET	Headed and tailed	Heads and tails off
JAP	Japanese cut	Transversal cut removing all parts from head to belly
JAT	Tailed Japanese cut	Japanese cut with tail removed
LAP	Lappen	Double fillet, HEA, skin + tails + fins ON
LVR	Liver	Liver only, In case of collective presentation* use code LVR-C
OTH	Other	Any other presentation
ROE	Roe (s)	Roe(s) only In case of collective presentation* use code ROE-C
SAD	Salted dry	Headed with skin on, spine on, tail on and salted dry
SAL	Salted wet light	CBF + salted
SGH	Salted, gutted and headed	GUH + salted
SGT	Salted gutted	GUT+salted
SKI	Skinned	Skin off
SUR	Surimi	Surimi
TAL	Tail	Tails only
TAD	Tailed	Tail off
TNG	Tongue	Tongue only. In case of collective presentation* use code TNG-
TUB	Ube only	Tube only (Squid)
WHL	Whole	No processing
WNG	Wings	Wings only

Recommendation 11: 2011

THE NORTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON 12 NOVEMBER 2010 ADOPTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 8 OF THE CONVENTION, AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE 10 AND ANNEX VI OF THE “SCHEME OF CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT IN RESPECT OF FISHING VESSELS FISHING IN AREAS BEYOND THE LIMITS OF NATIONAL FISHERIES JURISDICTION IN THE CONVENTION AREA” AS FOLLOWS:

Article 10

Report of catches and fishing effort

Each Contracting Party shall report to the Secretary provisional monthly statistics of catches of Regulated Resources. These reports shall be made and transmitted in accordance with specific recommendation approved by the Commission.

Annex VI

This annex has been repealed

Recommendation 12: 2011

THE NORTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON 12 NOVEMBER 2010 ADOPTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 8 OF THE CONVENTION, AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE 22 OF THE “SCHEME OF CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT IN RESPECT OF FISHING VESSELS FISHING IN AREAS BEYOND THE LIMITS OF NATIONAL FISHERIES JURISDICTION IN THE CONVENTION AREA” AS FOLLOWS:

Article 22 – Prior notice of entry into port

1. Masters of vessels or their representative intending to call into a port shall notify the competent authorities of the port they wish to use at least 3 working days before the estimated time of arrival. However, a Contracting Party may make provision for another notification period, taking into account, *inter alia*, distance between the fishing grounds and its ports. In such a case the Contracting Party concerned shall without delay inform the Secretary, who shall put this information on the NEAFC website.
2. The notification referred to in paragraph 1 shall be accompanied by the form provided for in Annex XV with Part A duly completed as follows:
 - a) Form PSC 1, as referred to in Annex XV (A) shall be used where the vessel is landing its own catch;
 - b) Form PSC 2, as referred to in Annex XV (B) shall be used where the vessel has engaged in transshipment operations. In such cases a separate form shall be used for each donor vessel.
3. Masters of vessels or their representatives may cancel a prior notification by notifying the competent authorities of the port they wished to use no later than 24 hours before the notified estimated time of arrival in the port. However, a Contracting Party may make provisions for another notification period for cancellation. The Contracting Party concerned shall without delay inform the Secretary, who shall put this information on the NEAFC website. The notification shall be accompanied by a copy of the original notification PSC 1 or 2 with the word “CANCELLED” written across part B.
4. The port State shall forward a copy of the form as referred to in paragraph 2 and 3 without delay to the flag State of the vessel, and to the flag State or States of donor vessels where the vessel has engaged in transshipment operations. **The port State shall also forward a copy of the notification referred to in paragraph 3** to the NEAFC Secretary who shall put it on the NEAFC website.

Recommendation 13: 2011

THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON 12 NOVEMBER 2010 ADOPTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 5 AND 6 OF THE NEAFC CONVENTION, CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR PELAGIC REDFISH (*Sebastes mentella*) IN THE NEAFC CONVENTION AREA (ICES Va, XII, XIV) IN 2011, AS FOLLOWS:

In light of the fact that the Contracting Parties did not reach a conclusion on management of redfish in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters during the 29th NEAFC Annual Meeting, the Coastal States have agreed to invite the other NEAFC Parties to consultations on the management the redfish stocks at NEAFC headquarters.

In the absence of an existing agreement on management for pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters there will be no directed fisheries for *Sebastes mentella* in the Convention Area in the period from 1 January until 1 April 2011.

Recommendation 14: 2011

RECOMMENDATION BY THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 5 OF THE CONVENTION ON FUTURE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING IN NOVEMBER 2010 TO ADOPT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES BY CLOSING CERTAIN AREAS ON THE HATTON BANK, ROCKALL BANK, LOGACHEV MOUNDS AND WEST ROCKALL MOUNDS IN THE REGULATORY AREA IN ORDER TO PROTECT VULNERABLE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS FROM SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACTS IN 2011

The Contracting Parties recommend the following measures:

1. Bottom trawling and fishing with static gear, including bottom set gillnets and long-lines should be prohibited within the NEAFC Regulatory Area enclosed by sequentially joining with rhumb lines the following positions:

On the Hatton Bank, within the area delimited by the following co-ordinates:

Corner	Latitude (N)	Longitude (W)
1	59°26'	14°30'
2	59°12'	15°08'
3	59°01'	17°00'
4	58°50'	17°38'
5	58°30'	17°52'
6	58°30'	18°22'
7	58°03'	18°22'
8	58°03'	17°30'
9	57°55'	17°30'
10	57°45'	19°15'
11	58°11.15'	18°57.51'
12	58°11.57'	19°11.97'
13	58°27.75'	19°11.65'
14	58°39.09'	19°14.28'
15	58°38.11'	19°01.29'
16	58°53.14'	18°43.54'
17	59°00.29'	18°01.31'
18	59°08.01'	17°49.31'
19	59°08.75'	18°01.47'
20	59°15.16'	18°01.56'
21	59°24.17'	17°31.22'
22	59°21.77'	17°15.36'
Return to position 1		

On the Rockall Bank, in the parts of the areas falling within the NEAFC Regulatory Area delimited by the following co-ordinates:

North-West Rockall:

Corner	Latitude (N)	Longitude (W)
1	57°00'	14°53'
2	57°37'	14°42'
3	57°55'	14°24'
4	58°15'	13°50'
5	57°57'	13°09'
6	57°50'	13°14'
7	57°57'	13°45'
8	57°49'	14°06'
9	57°29'	14°19'
10	57°22'	14°19'
11	57°00'	14°34'
12	56°56'	14°36'
13	56°56'	14°51'
Return to position 1		

South-West Rockall (Empress of Britain Bank):

Corner	Latitude (N)	Longitude (W)
1	56°24'	15°37'
2	56°21'	14°58'
3	56°04'	15°10'
4	55°51'	15°37'
5	56°10'	15°52'
Return to position 1		

On the Logachev Mounds, within the area delimited by the following coordinates:

Corner	Latitude (N)	Longitude (W)
1	55°17'	16°10'
2	55°34'	15°07'
3	55°50'	15°15'
4	55°33'	16°16'
Return to position 1		

On the West Rockall Mounds, within the area delimited by the following coordinates:

Corner	Latitude (N)	Longitude (W)
1	57°20'	16°30'
2	57°05'	15°58'
3	56°21'	17°17'
4	56°40'	17°50'
Return to position 1		

2. Contracting Parties shall take appropriate measures to detect any diversion of fishing effort to other previously unknown areas of deep-water corals.
3. The boundaries of the closed areas may be adjusted in the light of more precise scientific evidence on the distribution of deep-water coral. If scientific research demonstrates that there are sub-areas where no vulnerable marine ecosystems are found within the areas referred to in this measure, the measure can be amended by the Commission to exclude those sub-areas from the prohibition. However, in so deciding, the Commission shall continue to be mindful that the delineation of the closure areas must continue to permit the necessary control to ensure compliance with the measures.
4. Within the areas defined in paragraph 1, Contracting Parties intending to conduct fisheries related to scientific research shall notify NEAFC of their intended research programmes. In advance of the proposed research programmes, the NEAFC Secretariat shall make the proposed plans available to the NEAFC Contracting Parties. Subsequent information from these research programmes shall also be made available to the Parties.
5. These closures are 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.
6. This measure shall be in force from 1 January to 31 December 2011.



North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission

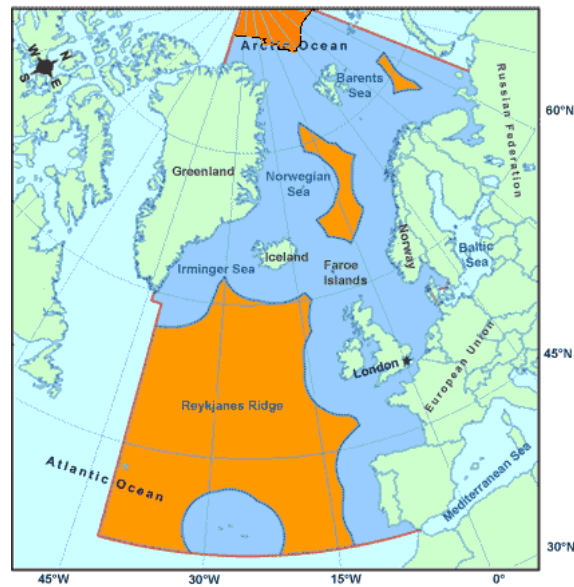
Contracting Parties: Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the EU, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation

Cooperative non-Contracting Parties: Belize, Canada, Cook Islands, Japan and New Zealand.

PRESS RELEASE

Embargoed 19 November 2010, 9:00 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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At its 29th Annual Meeting held in London on 8-12 November 2010, under the chairmanship of Acting President, **Mr Jóhan H. Williams, Norway**, NEAFC adopted management measures for 5 out of 7 fisheries. Parties will continue consultations on

pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea early next year and mackerel later this year with a view to agreeing measures at a later date.

Based on Coastal State Agreements, management measures for the **two major pelagic fisheries** - Norwegian Spring Spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring and blue whiting - were agreed as were management measures for **Rockall haddock and deep-sea fisheries**. For **pelagic redfish** in the Norwegian Sea arrangements similar to those for 2009 were agreed. For **pelagic redfish** in the Irminger Sea, the Coastal States (the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Iceland) invited the other Parties to a meeting in January to bring into place management measures for 2011. It was agreed to ban any fishery until April 2011. Parties discussed **mackerel** and agreed to continue negotiations in the coastal state group (the EU, the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Norway) until measures can be adopted by NEAFC.

A ban on using gillnets in waters greater than 200 metres depth was maintained as were measures to remove and dispose of unmarked or illegal fixed gear and retrieve lost gear to minimise ghost fishing.

Considering the poor status of some shark stocks, spurdog (*Squalus acanthias*), basking shark, (*Cetorhinus maximus*) and porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) in the Northeast Atlantic, NEAFC agreed to ban all directed fisheries for these shark species. The competence for regulating sharks is shared between the two RFMOs, NEAFC and ICCAT, in the North East Atlantic. NEAFC is seeking clarification on which species are under the direct purview of NEAFC, and agreed on a request for advice from ICES.

NEAFC maintained a ban on discards in NEAFC high seas fisheries.

A proposal to extend the area closures on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge has been reviewed by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.

NEAFC noted the continued results of the NEAFC IUU (Illegal, Unregulated, Unreported) A- and B-lists. The transshipment activities that underpinned these fisheries have been brought under control by flag states, reefer registries and owners of reefer vessels. The NEAFC Port State Control System, which was introduced on 1 May 2007, has continued to work without problems and is deemed to have led to a significant reduction in unreported catches in the NEAFC area.

Based on information on vessels on the IUU B-list that had sunk or been scrapped, NEAFC removed 2 vessels from the B-list.

The cooperative non-Contracting Party status of Belize, Canada, the Cook Islands, Japan, and New Zealand was renewed for 2011.

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), and the Annual Meeting considered how to make the MoU operational.

NEAFC agreed to consider the feasibility of organising a regional workshop in the first half of 2011, inviting other Intergovernmental Organisations to participate in a review of progress on ecosystem-based area management in international waters in the North Atlantic,

with a particular emphasis on defining management objectives. This will also respond to calls from for example the CBD COP 10 Meeting in Nagoya in October and other international processes reviewing the protection and conservation of vulnerable marine ecosystems.

Commenting on these developments the Acting NEAFC President said: *We were not able to reach agreement in all matters but Contracting Parties have a tradition of close cooperation and will reach solutions that can be adopted by NEAFC in order to have firm regulations for all fisheries. We have a solid framework to support sustainable fisheries, where legal operators are well protected. With our extensive measures on bottom fishing activities in the high seas, NEAFC is fully prepared to meet all requirements in international law and instruments, technical guidelines adopted in FAO and the objective of its own Convention ‘to ensure the long-term conservation and optimum utilisation of the fishery resources in the Convention Area, providing sustainable economic, environmental and social benefits’.*

The alignment with our sister organisation in the North East Atlantic, OSPAR (protecting and conserving the North-East Atlantic and its resources) and the general progress in cooperation with other intergovernmental organisations with a mandate to regulate other human activities in the oceans is also important. It seems to be possible to get over the fallacy that conservation and utilisation compete. For a number of good reasons they should cooperate and in most aspects have a common cause. There is no sector more than fisheries that has an interest in clean seas and healthy ecosystems.”

For more information, please contact Kjartan Hoydal, Secretary of NEAFC
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or the NEAFC website www.neafc.org

More Details

Main Fisheries/ stocks	Management measure 2009-11
Norwegian spring spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring	Overall TAC reduced from 1,483 thousands tonnes to 988,000 thousands tonnes in accordance with the agreed management plan
Blue whiting	Overall TAC reduced from 497 thousands tonnes to about 37 thousand tonnes in accordance with the agreed management plan
Mackerel	Consultations continue
Rockall haddock	Box closed to trawl fisheries to protect juvenile haddock.
Pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea	Consultations continue. Directed fishery banned until 1 April 2011
Pelagic redfish Norwegian Sea	Overall TAC of reduced from 8,600 to 7,900 tonnes to be fished from 15 August to 30 November
Deep Sea Fisheries	Effort less than 65 % of effort in earlier years
Orange roughy	TAC of 150 tonnes for each Contracting Party

Additional measures related to fishing	Period
Ban on finning of sharks	2007 ---→
Haddock box	2003--→
Closures of large areas for bottom fisheries	2004--→
Bottom fishing regulations	2008--→
Ban of gill net fishing in depths over 200 m in the Regulatory Area	2006 --→
Ban on directed fisheries for spurdog, (<i>Squalus achanthias</i>), basking shark, (<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>) and porbeagle (<i>Lamna nasus</i>)	2009 ---→ 2010 ---→
Discard ban	2009-----

Overview of the 29th Annual Meeting

1. The 29th Annual Meeting of the **North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission** (NEAFC) took place in London on 8-12 November 2010 under the Presidency of Mr Johan H. Williams, Norway.
2. All Contracting Parties were represented: Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Community, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation. Representatives from Belize, Canada, Japan and New Zealand, the intergovernmental organisation, OSPAR and three non-governmental organisations, Seas at Risk, WWF and the Pew Foundation, attended as observers.
3. The Commission reviewed scientific information from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) concerning the status of fish stocks in the North-East Atlantic. Specific attention was given to reports on stocks under NEAFC's regulatory competence (blue whiting, Norwegian spring spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring, mackerel, pelagic redfish in the Irminger and the Norwegian Seas, Rockall haddock and deep-sea species). The Commission also reviewed scientific information on marine ecosystems.
4. In 2003 NEAFC agreed on temporary measures to freeze effort in fisheries for fish species inhabiting deep waters in the Regulatory Area from 1 January 2004. This year NEAFC agreed to maintain a reduction in fishing effort in these fisheries by 35 % in 2010.

NEAFC agreed on management measures to control the exploitation of major straddling fish stocks in the North East Atlantic. These measures include total allowable catches for Norwegian spring spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring, blue whiting, pelagic redfish in ICES Sub-areas I and II, Rockall haddock and deep-sea species. A ban on directed fishery for spurdog, porbeagle and basking sharks was also agreed

Consultations on mackerel and pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea will continue after the Annual Meeting, Directed fishery for pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea was banned until 1 April 2011.

5. NEAFC reviewed recent trends in the international management of marine resources, including the ecosystem approach and cooperation with other regional and global organisations. NEAFC evaluated the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, VMEs.
6. The contract of the present Secretary Mr Kjartan Hoydal, the Faroe Islands, expires on 30 June 2011. The NEAFC Heads of Delegation agreed to offer Mr Stefán Ásmundsson, Iceland, the position for a term of three years with effect from 1 July 2011, with the possibility of extension.

Meeting schedules for subsidiary bodies (the Permanent Committees on Control and Enforcement, PECCOE, and the Permanent Committee on Science and Management, PECMAS) and working groups were adopted.

The 30th Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place in London on 7-11 November 2011.

Continuing cooperation with other organisations with a mandate to regulate human activities in the oceans.

NEAFC has made an evaluation of measures in place to protect Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs).

AREA of NEAFC Reg. Area		Effective Fishing		Existing Area		New Fishing Area		Closures	
		sq km	%	sq km	%	sq km	%	sq km	%
South of Iceland	4.900.000	42.500	0,9	4.502.200	91,9	355.300	7,3		
Norwegian Sea	326.000			326.000					
Barents Sea	71.000	71.000							
Arctic Ocean	275.000			275.000					
Fishable Area and Closures									
	Sq km	%							
Fishable Area South of Iceland	655,000								
All closures	355,300	54							

In the Area south of Iceland the closures are 54.2 % of the fishable area, which are areas shallower than 2000 m.

Building on these and other NEAFC measures, NEAFC agreed to consider the feasibility of organising a regional workshop in the first half of 2011, inviting other Intergovernmental Organisations participate in a review of progress on ecosystem-based area management in

international waters in the North Atlantic, with a particular emphasis on defining management objectives.

This links to several international processes such as:

- The FAO guidelines for the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas;
- The call from the CBD COP 10 in Nagoya October 2010 to organise a series of regional workshops with a primary objective to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas;
- contributing to the report of the Secretary-General of the UN on actions taken in response to UNGA resolutions.