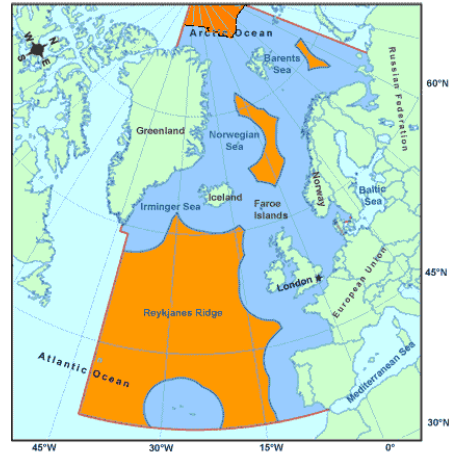




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The high seas of the NEAFC Regulatory Area inside the NEAFC Convention Area in the North-East Atlantic are shown shaded on the map

### **North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission, NEAFC**

**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, Japan and New Zealand

## **Information on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations in the North East Atlantic and globally**

**A report prepared by the NEAFC Secretariat  
for  
CBD COP 10 agenda item 4.9  
Nagoya October 2010**

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

A Memorandum of Understanding with our environmental sister organisation in the North East Atlantic, OSPAR, was signed in late September 2008. This opens up for a free flow of information between NEAFC and OSPAR, highlighting other human activities that may affect the marine environment, spatial planning and cooperation to enhance knowledge and understanding the abundance and distribution of fish and other marine species populations, in order to better protect them. The NEAFC Secretariat participated in the OSPAR Ministerial Meeting in Bergen, Norway in September 2010.

An Agreement of Co-operation between the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) has now been adopted by the IMO Assembly. It was signed in November 2009 and has entered into force.

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

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

The NEAFC Secretariat, in its own right and in cooperation with other RFMO Secretariats, has participated in a range of United Nations initiatives designed to support fisheries management *per se* and the RFMO framework in particular. These engagements include participation in policy-making bodies, such as the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea and, as an observer since 2001, the FAO Committee on Fisheries meetings.

The NEAFC Secretariat also supports a range of more operational activities initiated by FAO to support RFMO activities as follows:

- In 2006 NEAFC became a partner of the Coordinating Working Party (CWP), FAO’s fisheries statistics body. ICES, the provider of scientific advice to NEAFC, is responsible for reporting under the FAO STATLANT system.
- NEAFC is a partner in the Fisheries Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS), which pools information gathered from various regional fisheries bodies, FAO and other agencies into a comprehensive authoritative, one-stop source of information on world fisheries and fishery resources.
- NEAFC responds to regular questionnaires from FAO about progress with respect to the Code of Conduct and International Plans of Action (IPOAs) and, more generally, has answered questionnaires from UNDOALOS in preparation for reports by the UN Secretary-General to the UN General Assembly on sustainable fisheries and oceans and law of the sea matters.

## **Cooperation with other RFBs, RFMOs and RAs<sup>1</sup>**

Since 2001 NEAFC has organised and chaired Meeting of the Secretariats of RFMOs in the North Atlantic IBSFC, ICCAT, NAFO, NAMMCO, NASCO and NEAFC. SEAFO has in recent years been invited as an observer. NEAFC has assisted in setting up the operation of SEAFO and hosts the VMS database of the organisation. NEAFC has arrangements with NAFO and SEAFO to create pan-Atlantic IUU vessel lists between

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<sup>1</sup> Regional Fishery Bodies, Regional Fishery Management Organisations and Regional Arrangements

the three organisations. NEAFC has demonstrated that it is capable of acting quickly to address specific issues. The closure of ports to vessels on the IUU B list and the development of comprehensive Port State Control measures are examples of how NEAFC can respond to unfolding events.

NEAFC has participated in the meetings of Regional Fisheries Bodies since 1999. FAO initiated these meetings in 1999 and they have since been biennial. They are now organised by the RFBs themselves and developed into the Regional Fishery Body Secretariats Network, RSN, in 2007. The Secretary of NEAFC chairs the RSN at present. It has participation from close to 50 RFBs worldwide. The ambition is to make this network an efficient vehicle for exchanging information and experiences between Regional Fishery Bodies globally.

In October 2010 the NEAFC Secretariat sent three reports to the CBD COP 10 on three items: information on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations in the North East Atlantic and globally.

October 2010