

| | NEAFC | Area of Competence | Objectives | Organizational Structure | Scientific Regime |
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| RFMO Structure | <p>North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission</p> <p>Headquarters: London, England</p> <p>Convention: The Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in North-East Atlantic Fisheries (NEAFC Convention).</p> <p>Signed: November 18, 1980 London, England.</p> <p>In force: March 17, 1982.</p> | <p>The Northeast Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. East of a line south of Cape Farewell - the southern tip of Greenland, at 42° W, north of a line to the west of Cape Hatteras - the southern tip of Spain at 36° N and west of a line touching the western tip of Novya Semlya at 51° E. Three high seas areas constitute NEAFC Regulatory Area: the Reykjanes - Azores area; Irminger Sea or "Banana Hole"; and Barents Sea "Loophole". NEAFC does not manage the "Loophole".</p> | <p>To promote conservation and optimum utilization of fishery resources of Convention area within a framework appropriate to regime of extended coastal State jurisdiction over fisheries, and to encourage international cooperation and consultation with respect to these resources.</p> | <p>Commission; 2 permanent committees: Permanent Committee on Control and Enforcement, and Finance and Administration Committee; 4 working groups: Working Group on the Future of NEAFC, Working Group on Deep-Sea Species, Working Group on Blue Whiting, Advisory Group on Data Communications; Secretariat (Executive Secretary).</p> | <p>NEAFC receives scientific advice from ICES (Article 14 of Convention). In 1999, NEAFC formalized cooperative arrangement under MOU for all stocks under NEAFC. New MOU (2004-2006) is in place. ICES is compensated for these services.</p> |
| The Fishery EA and PA | <p>Straddling Stocks: Redfish (pelagic and oceanic), blue whiting, mackerel, Atlanto-Scandian (Norwegian spring-spawning) herring, Rockall haddock. As of November 2004, several deep sea species are also regulated by NEAFC, including blue ling, black scabbardfish and orange roughy.</p> <p>Gear: Midwater trawl and purse seines (redfish, blue whiting, herring and mackerel). Demersal trawl, bottom long line and bottom gill nets (deep sea fisheries).</p> | <p>Status uncertain: Redfish, Rockall haddock.</p> <p>Full reproductive capacity, may be harvested unsustainably: Blue whiting.</p> <p>At risk of reduced reproductive capacity: Mackerel.</p> <p>Full reproductive capacity: Atlanto-Scandian (Norwegian spring-spawning) herring.</p> <p>Generally unknown: Deep-sea species, but according to ICES, many are beyond safe biological limits.</p> | <p>Bycatch of deep sea fisheries includes black scabbardfish, Portuguese dogfish and leafscale gulper shark, as well as corals and sponges. To mitigate incidental catch of juvenile haddock, areas of Rockall Bank have been closed to demersal fishing gear. Most NEAFC pelagic trawl fisheries have negligible bycatch.</p> | <p>Working Group on the Future of NEAFC is examining how to strengthen NEAFC's role in addressing overall ocean management. EA now permanent agenda item at Annual Meetings. Closed area adjacent to Rockall Bank to trawl fishing in 2001; implemented temporary freeze in deep sea fisheries in Regulatory Area in 2003; closed 5 vulnerable habitats to demersal fishing gear for 2005-2007; agreed to 30% reduction in deep sea fisheries effort for 2005 onwards following ICES advice.</p> | <p>In 1996, requested that ICES include PA in advice provided to Commission. Annual ICES advice includes management recommendations on PA reference points. Long-term PA management plans exist for mackerel and Atlanto-Scandian (Norwegian spring-spawning) herring and blue whiting.</p> |
| Participation | <p>Members / Contracting Parties</p> <p>Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland), Estonia, EC, Iceland, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation (7 members). Latvia and Lithuania are part of the EC as of May 1, 2004. As of January 2006, Estonia and Poland will be included in the EC.</p> <p>Bold: UNFA <i>Italics:</i> FAO Compliance Agreement</p> | <p>Cooperating Non-Members</p> <p><i>Canada, Japan and New Zealand.</i></p> | <p>Membership</p> <p>NEAFC is not considered an open organization (new entrant applications have been denied). States may accede to the Convention (except an EC member State) if application is approved by 3/4 of CPs. In May 2003, Working Group on the Future of NEAFC agreed to develop guidelines for new Members and allocations.</p> | <p>Participation Criteria</p> <p>In November 2003, NEAFC agreed that stocks regulated by NEAFC are fully allocated and fishing opportunities for new Members are likely to be limited to new fisheries. New Contracting Parties (CPs) will participate on same basis as existing CPs in future allocation of stocks unregulated at time of application. In addition, new CPs that were previously Cooperating Non-Contracting Parties (NCPs) may request part of relevant cooperative quota. Allocations will be considered on case-by-case basis.</p> | <p>Transparency</p> <p>Publicly accessible website. In 2001, NEAFC adopted rules to allow NGOs to participate in meetings. Secretary reviews NGO applications and notifies CPs. If one or more CPs object in writing within 30 days, participation by NGO will be put to vote. NGOs who attend Commission meetings may make oral statement upon invitation of Chairman, distribute documents, and engage in other activities approved by Chairman. IGOs and NCPs are also invited to Annual Meeting.</p> |
| Monitoring, Control and Surveillance | <p>Data Collecting and Reporting</p> <p>1999 Scheme of Control and Enforcement requires each CP to report to Secretary monthly catches of regulated species landed or transhipped. Data collection via CPs includes: infringement data, port inspection, at-sea inspection and boarding, and VMS data. Scientific and survey data is collected by ICES.</p> | <p>Observer Program</p> <p>NEAFC does not have an Observer Program.</p> | <p>Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)</p> <p>Since January 2000, all vessels fishing outside EEZs require VMS. Secretariat supplies CPs with an inspection presence, with up-to-date information about ongoing fishing activities. VMS is fully automated and is reported to CPs with an inspection presence. Frequency of position reports from fishing vessels has increased from 6 hours to 2 hours. CPs with an inspection presence are automatically supplied with real time information about ongoing fishing activities 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. NEAFC and NAFO are leading development of North Atlantic Format (NAF) of a comprehensive table of message types that can be transmitted through VMS.</p> | <p>Enforcement</p> <p>In 1999, NEAFC implemented Scheme of Control and Enforcement for CPs. In case of infringement, flag State is notified and vessel must be examined by its inspectors within 72 hours. If evidence warrants, flag State must require vessel to proceed immediately to port for further inspection. In serious situations, CPs must ensure legal action is taken and all penalties remove economic benefit to be derived from infringements. In 1999, NEAFC also implemented Scheme to Promote Compliance by NCP vessels. Information on NCP vessels in Regulatory Area is circulated by Secretariat to CPs and other RFMOs. In 2000, NEAFC established the Permanent Committee on Enforcement and Control to advise the Commission. In 2003, adopted resolution on actions against NCPs engaged in IUU fishing in Regulatory Area. In 2004, agreed to develop system of port State control (slated for adoption in 2005).</p> | <p>Catch and Trade Documentation</p> <p>CPs are to refuse landing of catches deemed taken in contravention of NEAFC management recommendations.</p> |
| Other Governance Efforts and Challenges | <p>Decision Making</p> <p>Decisions are made by simple majority or, where Convention requires qualified majority, by 2/3 majority of votes of all CPs present and casting affirmative or negative votes. Each CP has 1 vote. A quorum of 2/3 of CPs is required. In even split of votes on any matter subject to simple majority, the proposal is rejected. Recommendations become binding on date determined by Commission. In emergency, votes may be taken by post or other means of communication. Any CP may object to a recommendation (for management measures only) within 50 days of date of notification. Since 2004 (amended Convention) Parties are required to provide written statement identifying: reason for objection; their intentions; and, alternative conservation and management measures. Management of all stocks discussed in plenary meeting. In recent years, no agreement on allocations for Atlanto-Scandian herring and blue whiting. Management measures could not be established for oceanic redfish in 2005 due to lack of consensus on stock structure.</p> | <p>Dispute Settlement Mechanism</p> <p>At 2004 Annual Meeting, Commission unanimously adopted amendments to Convention establishing fast track dispute settlement mechanism. Ratification is expected in due course, however, Parties have agreed to immediately make use of this fast track mechanism on a voluntary basis.</p> | <p>Cooperative Efforts</p> <p>NEAFC sets TAC for oceanic redfish for both NAFO and NEAFC. NEAFC Secretariat initiated North Atlantic Regional Fisheries Management Organization (NARFMO) and has organized annual meetings since 2001; in an effort to develop NAF, invited NAFO and CCAMLR to meet to discuss common data communication and standards for VMS and electronic log books (with the objective to soon engage other RFMOs to utilize this format as a common standard globally); and attends RFB Network.</p> | <p>Efforts to Strengthen RFMO</p> <p>Reactivated NEAFC following UNFA in 1995. Tasked working groups with modernizing NEAFC. Incorporated PA references. Set TAC and allocations for oceanic redfish and Atlanto-Scandian herring in 1997 and mackerel in 2000. Implemented Scheme of Control and Enforcement and NCP Scheme in 1999. Amended objection procedure in 2004. Established dispute settlement mechanism. Adopted sophisticated VMS system. Implemented new port State measures. Agreed to close five areas with vulnerable habitats to demersal fishing gear. Set up arrangement whereby NEAFC sets TAC and allocation for oceanic redfish for NAFO. Created a publicly accessible website. Working to accommodate new entrants.</p> | <p>Challenges</p> <p>Reaching agreements on TACs and management measures. Sustainable development of deep-sea stocks. Clarifying ICES advice on stock status for mackerel and redfish. Considering new entrants. Reviewing and possibly revising Convention to incorporate broader ocean management perspectives including ecosystem-based approach.</p> |