Information points from NEAFC for the Collective Arrangement Agenda

Presented by the NEAFC Secretariat

**Issue:** This document aims to provide the meeting with a brief summary of points to be raised by the NEAFC Secretariat on progress on issues of interest to the collective arrangement Agenda.

**Action requested:**

In their preparation for the meeting, delegations are invited to note the points below will be raised.

**Background**

1. This paper lists brief points that will be described by the NEAFC Secretariat on progress of interest to Contracting Parties attending the Collective Arrangement meeting. It is hoped this will help in triggering any further points from the parties.

2. The 2018 NEAFC Annual Meeting considered the latest advice relevant to the Regulatory Area from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea related to the distribution of vulnerable habitats in the NEAFC Convention Area and fisheries activities in and in the vicinity of these. The advice was that no additions to or extensions of the existing closed areas were required. No changes were made to the VME Recommendation therefore. Recommendation 19:2014 is also due this year for a review of its effectiveness in protecting VMES.

3. It should be noted that one of the current NEAFC bottom fisheries closures relates to protection of juvenile fish in the Haddock Box on the Rockall Bank. The 2018 Annual Meeting underlined that ICES advice should provide information on VMEs in all the relevant areas so that other area based management decisions (related to fish stocks) do not affect the closures.


5. The 2018 Annual Meeting agreed to send a joint request from NEAFC and OSPAR for advice on deep sea sharks, rays and chimaeras, as will be covered in the agenda under item 4. The Annual Meeting also extended the current NEAFC ban on targeted fisheries for spurdog under conservation and management measures for spurdog for 2019 and 2020.

6. NEAFC is further developing its capabilities on monitoring and compliance, including agreement on an Electronic Reporting System and further transparency on compliance by Contracting Parties.

7. The NEAFC Secretariat and Contracting Parties continue to highlight the cooperation between NEAFC and OSPAR at relevant international fora. The Secretary will detail some of these meetings in his presentations.
8. NEAFC has been an active partner in the FAO/UNEP/GEF Common Oceans Programme, which held its ABNJ Deep Sea workshop in Rome this year together with the SponGES project. FAO will present an update on the projects.

9. NEAFC Secretariat and Contracting Parties attended the UN Fish Stocks Agreement Informal Consultation with States Parties (ICSP) focusing on Performance Reviews. A future ICSP will focus on the ecosystem approach to fisheries.