PROPOSAL BY DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF THE FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND), THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, ICELAND, NORWAY AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION FOR A RECOMMENDATION FOR CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR PELAGIC REDFISH IN THE IRMINGER SEA AND ADJACENT WATERS IN THE NEAFC CONVENTION AREA IN 2008

Taking note of the most recent scientific advice from ICES;

Recognising the need to continue towards improved future management measures for pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters, the Contracting Parties should co-operate to that end;

Recognising that the north-eastern area of the Irminger Sea and adjacent areas are important areas of larval extrusion, and need particular protection to promote the recovery of the pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters;

Noting that if suitable harvest control rules are devised and subsequently effectively implemented, it will be possible to continue sustainable fishing, whilst still allowing for the recovery of pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters;

Without prejudice to any future management measures for the pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters;

In accordance with Articles 5 and 6 of the Convention, the Contracting Parties have agreed the following ad hoc measures for the pelagic redfish fishery in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters for 2008:

1. The catches in the pelagic redfish fishery in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters in 2008 shall not exceed 46,000\(^1\) tonnes.

2. Each Contracting Party shall establish management measures based on the catch limit referred to in paragraph 1, and notify these measures to the Secretary before 20 March 2008. The Secretary shall notify these measures to the other Contracting Parties.

3. In order to ensure particular protection of redfish in the north-eastern part of the Irminger Sea a maximum of 65% of the catch limits referred to in paragraph 2 can be taken North of 59° N and East of 36° W and only during the period from 1 April to 15 July. To further enhance the protection of the areas of larval extrusion, no more than 30% of the catch limits set out in paragraph 2 can be taken North of 59° N and East of 36° W during the period 1 April to 10 May.

4. Only vessels flying the flag of a NEAFC Contracting Party or of a Cooperating non-Contracting Party, having been authorised by its flag State to fish for redfish in the NEAFC Convention Area, are entitled to participate in this fishery.

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\(^1\) Of which 2,875 tonnes are set aside in accordance with an understanding with NAFO; and 123 tonnes will be available to co-operating non-Contracting Parties of NEAFC.
The authorisation to fish for redfish in the Regulatory Area is only valid if the information transmitted in accordance with paragraph 2 of this Recommendation and Articles 11, 12 and 13 of the Scheme of Control and Enforcement is made available to the Secretary according to Article 14.

5. In addition to information required under the provisions of Article 12 of the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement, vessels engaged in this fishery shall communicate to the Secretary the catch on board prior to crossing the lines defined in paragraph 3. These reports shall be sent one hour prior to crossing the lines. These reports shall indicate the position of the vessels and catches on board taken in the area the vessels are exiting since the last communication of catches. This report shall be identified as CAT.

6. 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.

7. It is prohibited to use trawls with a mesh size of less than 100 mm.

8. 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.

9. Each Contracting Party shall notify the Secretary of the systems in place for verifying catches from this fishery, including weighing procedures and inspection of landings.

10. PECCOE shall develop proposals for the establishment of uniform procedures regarding the monitoring and verification of catches including the uptake of quota by vessels and control of landings, taking account of the information provided under paragraph 9. PECCOE shall aim to come forward with proposals at the annual meeting in 2008.

11. PECCOE shall develop proposals for the establishment of conversion factors for different fish products and methods of processing. PECCOE shall aim to come forward with proposals at the annual meeting in 2008.