19 May 2014

TO:  
President  
First Vice President  
Second Vice President  
Heads of Delegation  
All Contracting Parties

Reference: HOD 14/33

POSTAL VOTE ON A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO RECOMMENDATION 1: 2014 ON THE MANAGEMENT OF SEBASTES MENTELLA IN THE REGULATORY AREA (ICES SUB-AREAS I AND II) IN 2014

In accordance with the attached request from the EU for a postal vote, I have pleasure in circulating a proposed amendment to Recommendation 1: 2014.

For your information, Rule 28, in Chapter 6 of the Rules of Procedure reads as follows.

"Where a proposal requiring a decision of the Commission is made between meetings of the Commission, the decision shall be made through written communication. The Secretary shall without undue delay communicate to all Contracting Parties the proposal and the closing date of a 30-day period that Contracting Parties have to reply. The Secretary shall ensure that the communication has been received by all Contracting Parties. The response from each Contracting Party shall be communicated to the Secretary and shall include a notification as to whether it votes in favour of the proposal, votes against the proposal or abstains. The Secretary shall immediately communicate the outcome of this decision-making process to all Contracting Parties, initiating, if relevant, the objection period as set out in Article 12 of the Convention. If a Contracting Party fails to respond within the 30-day period, it will be recorded as having abstained and be considered part of the relevant quorum for decision-making.

Please regard the date of this letter, 19 May 2014, as the opening of the 30 day voting period.

Contracting Parties should therefore inform the Secretariat of their vote at their earliest convenience, and no later than 18 June 2014.

Yours sincerely

Stefán Ásmundsson
Secretary
Subject: Letter from Iceland regarding Recommendation 1:2014

Dear Mr Ásmundsson,

I refer to your letter reference HOD 14/24 of 9 May 2014 concerning paragraphs 1 and 2 of Recommendation 1:2014. As we share the same recollection as our Icelandic counterparts, that the intention was to simply roll-over the provisions of the corresponding recommendation of the previous year, it seems obvious that this is a drafting error that needs to be rectified. Therefore, in order to ensure a common understanding for the purposes of control and enforcement of this recommendation, this recommendation should be corrected for adoption by postal vote as soon as possible.

Accordingly, the European Union now submits a proposal for a recommendation amending Recommendation 1:2014 on the management of *Sebastes mentella* in the Regulatory Area (ICES Sub-Areas I and II) in 2014. This proposal should be submitted immediately to the Contracting Parties for postal vote in accordance with paragraph 28 of Chapter 6 of the Rules of Procedure of NEAFC.

Yours sincerely,

John Spencer
Head of Delegation to NEAFC

Enclosure: Proposed amendment of Recommendation 1:2014
RECOMMENDATION AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 1:2014 ON THE MANAGEMENT OF SEBASTES MENTELLA IN THE REGULATORY AREA (ICES SUB-AREAS I AND II) IN 2014

AS PROPOSED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

The Commission hereby adopts the following recommendation pursuant to Article 5 of the Convention

1. Each Contracting Party shall, for the period 1 January to 30 June 2014, prohibit the fishing by its vessels.

2. Contracting Parties shall be permitted to fish for a quantity of 19,500 tonnes within the period 1 July to 31 December 2014.

3. The conditions concerning the fishery referred to under paragraph 2 shall be as follows:
   a. The allowable catch (TAC) 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 continued 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 weekly 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. When the total catches have reached 80%, vessels engaged in this fishery shall report their catch on a daily basis. 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.
   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. It is prohibited to use trawls with a mesh size of less than 100 mm.

8. This measure shall be considered as an interim measure applicable only for 2014 and
shall be without prejudice to any future allocation between the Contracting Parties.

9. NEAFC shall continue to seek to establish agreement between the Contracting Parties on
the respective quota shares of the established TAC.