Vulnerable deep water habitats

NEAFC Annual Meeting 2015

Mark Tasker, Vice-chair, Advisory Committee
NEAFC requests ICES to continue to provide all available new information on distribution of vulnerable habitats in the NEAFC Convention Area and fisheries activities in and in the vicinity of such habitats, and provide advice relevant to the Regulatory Area and the above mentioned objectives.
Rockall

Three new surveys confirmed previous advice

510 new VME indicator records, most outside NEAFSC regulatory area

Most new records are of sponges

New records are mapped in bright colour
Rockall fishing

Limited trawling is occurring in some of NEAFC’s closures

Trawling is happening outside some existing fishing areas
Mid-Atlantic Ridge

Trawling is occurring outside existing fishing areas (but is there miscoding?)
Bottom long-lining on Josephine seamount with 2000 cut-off
Josephine Seamount

Or is it? This is the map with bottom long-line code showing “fishing” up to depths of 4000m

ICES recommends that the gear coding of NEAFC VMS records needs to be improved
Next steps

ICES now has c9000 VME records in its database, but of varying quality.

A data call for further records has been made and a workshop to integrate these will occur next month.

The development of a formal and systematic system for Quality assessment has continued.