Proposal by Norway

Amendments regarding inclusion of shark species in a new Annex 1 C) of the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement

Background:
Norway would like to bring the attention of the NEAFC Contracting Parties to the following text in the report from the Annual Meeting in 2011:

“The President noted that several NEAFC instruments, including Annex 1 of the Scheme, contain lists of species that must reflect correctly the species that are relevant to NEAFC. In light of the fact that a number of species were now being added to the species that are directly subject to NEAFC management measures, it would be sensible to review the lists in the various NEAFC instruments. Rather than make a document for this Annual Meeting, he suggested that the Secretary be mandated to update relevant lists in the various NEAFC instruments, including Annex 1 of the Scheme, and add any species to them as necessary to ensure that they correctly reflect the situation. The Contracting Parties agreed to this by consensus.”

However, the NEAFC Secretariat has noted that the NEAFC Scheme and its annexes have the status of a Recommendation, and that any amendment requires an initial discussion by PECMAC and the approval of the Commission.

Furthermore, the Secretariat has brought the following NEAFC Recommendations to the attention of PECMAC:

- Recommendation 13: 2017 on Conservation and Management Measures for Spurdog (Squalus Acanthias) in the NEAFC Regulatory Area for 2017 and 2018,
- Recommendation 7:2016 on Conservation and Management Measures for Porbeagle (Lamna Nasus) in the NEAFC Regulatory Area from 2016 to 2019, and

These recommendations include prohibition against targeted fisheries for the aforementioned species, as well as reporting requirements for Contracting Parties to ICES. However, the Secretariat has noted that these species are not included in the lists of regulated species in Annex I of the NEAFC Scheme and that hence, vessels are not required to report these species to NEAFC. Furthermore, the Contacting Parties have not reported any catches of these species in 2017.

At the same time, Norway notes the ongoing process in The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) on amending its Convention, which entails expanding the scope of the Convention to also include «elasmobranchs that are oceanic, pelagic, and highly migratory». This definition comprises basking shark and porbeagle. Hence, the competence to manage basking shark and porbeagle in the North East Atlantic may in the future be transferred to ICCAT. However, such transfer of competence is dependent upon the adoption of the amended ICCAT Convention and a following entry into force, or agreement on provisional application of the
relevant provisions of the amended ICCAT Convention. Pending the finalization of this process, Norway believes that NEAFC should continue to manage the said species and that these should be included in the proposed new Annex 1c).

Based on this, Norway proposes to add porbeagle, spiny dogfish/spurdog and basking shark in a new Annex 1c) of the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement. With regard to basking shark and porbeagle, Norway proposes a clause to be added, stating that the NEAFC measures shall cease to apply pending the adoption and entering into force, or agreement on provisional application, of the amended ICCAT Convention, provided that the result of this process establishes ICCAT as the international organisation competent to manage basking shark and porbeagle.

Proposal:

**Annex 1 c) – Regulated Resources Other Species**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stock (common name)</th>
<th>FAO code</th>
<th>Scientific name</th>
<th>ICES subareas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Porbeagle*</td>
<td>POR</td>
<td><em>Lamna nasus</em></td>
<td>I to XIV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiny dogfish/Spurdog</td>
<td>DGS</td>
<td><em>Squalus acanthias</em></td>
<td>I to XIV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basking shark*</td>
<td>BSK</td>
<td><em>Cetorhinus maximus</em></td>
<td>I to XIV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* This applies as long as Recommendations on these stocks are in effect.