New information regarding vulnerable habitats in the NEAFC Regulatory Area

Mark Dickey-Collas
(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.
ICES Advice

No new evidence to support changes to existing areas closed to protect habitats in NEAFC regulatory area
Rockall Bank haddock box

Further records of VME indicators in and near Rockall haddock box, but ICES does not consider that any changes are needed to the boundaries of the box, assuming that current fishing controls remain in the area.
Fishing in or near closed areas

A limited amount of bottom-trawl fishing is occurring within Rockall Bank haddock box.
Fishing in or near closed areas

Fishing otherwise is within fishing areas and outside closed areas
Fishing in or near closed areas

As in previous years, Fishing activity near Rekjanes ridge continues to be confusing. Miscoding of mid-water trawling still likely to be occurring
ICES advice to EU

ICES provided advice to the EU on the deep-water footprint of fishing and VMEs in June 2018

VMEs within EU Fishing zone only
ICES advice to EU

ICES used information on probability of VME based on occurrence of, and confidence in, VME indicators

Advice not yet complete as requires policy decisions