Proposal by PECMAC for a Recommendation to amend the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement in order to make lists of notified and authorised vessels publicly available on the NEAFC website

Background:

At the 2019 Annual Meeting of NEAFC, it was brought to the attention of the Heads of Delegations that neither the list of fishing vessels notified nor the list of fishing vessels authorised to fish in the NEAFC Regulatory Area are made publicly available and that, due to limitations in the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement, such lists cannot be disclosed. There seemed to be agreement among the Heads of Delegations to make the lists of vessels available on the public part of the NEAFC website, but no formal decision was made.

NEAFC is generally considered a leading RFMO. However, the practice of not disclosing the vessels lists is outdated and runs counter to expectations for a modern and transparent RFMO. A number of other RFMOs, including SEAFO, ICCAT, WCPFC, SPRFMO and NPFC publish their lists of vessels on their websites.

Publishing NEAFC vessel lists will also be consistent with the FAO Global Record.

Hence, to follow up the discussions at the Annual Meeting, Norway proposed, and PECMAC adopted, to add a new paragraph 3 to Article 5 of the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement.

Recommendation XX : 2020

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The Commission hereby adopts the following recommendation pursuant to Article 8 of the Convention:

Proposal for amendment to NEAFC Scheme:

Article 5 – Notification of Fishing Vessels

1. Each Contracting Party shall notify, in computer readable form, to the Secretary prior to 1 January of each year if possible, or in any case before the vessel’s entry into the Regulatory Area, all fishing vessels authorised to fish and notably whether the vessel is authorised to fish one or more regulated resource. No fishing vessel shall conduct fishing activities in the Regulatory Area unless it is listed as a notified vessel. The notification shall include for each fishing vessel the information listed in the format of Annex II. Each Contracting Party shall notify any modifications to this information without delay.

2. The Secretary shall make available to all Contracting Parties the information notified under paragraph 1.
3. The Secretary shall make the lists of all fishing vessels notified and all fishing vessels authorised to fish in the NEAFC Regulatory Area publicly available on the NEAFC website by providing the following information:

- Vessel Name
- Vessel IMO Number (where available)
- Flag State
- External Registration Number (where available)
- IRCS
- Vessel Type (where available)
- Vessel Tonnage
- Vessel Length
- Vessel Power

The list of authorised vessels shall include the regulated resources, start date and end date of the authorisation.