Additional questions to ICES

Dear Ms Brusendorff

At the meeting of NEAFC’s Permanent Committee on Management and Science (PECMAS), which finished today, it was agreed to ask me to send two additional questions to ICES.

Redfish (deep pelagic stock)

NEAFC refers to the advice from ICES (2.3.11) of June 2014 for beaked redfish (Sebastes mentella) in Subareas V, XI and XIV as well as in NAFO Subareas 1 and 2 (Deep pelagic stock >500m).

NEAFC has noted that there is a discrepancy, where the advice table indicates a specific figure for a TAC level of 10,000 tonnes, whilst in the explanatory text, there is no specific figure given for a TAC level.

NEAFC requests ICES to explain this discrepancy, indicating the origin of the figure of 10,000 tonnes. ICES is requested to explain the basis of the 10,000-tonne figure prior to the start of the Coastal State consultations for 2015 for this redfish stock, which are due to take place in London on 7 and 8 October next.

Roughead grenadier

At the PECMAS meeting, it was noted that the 2014 ICES WG DEEP report indicates that there may be a new and/or rapidly growing fishery for roughead grenadier in the NEAFC Regulatory Area since 2010.
In particular, it was noted by PECMAS that the level of reported roughead grenadier fisheries compared to roundnose grenadier is surprising, as roughead catches have traditionally been small in comparison.

ICES is asked to provide clarifications, to the extent possible, regarding these fisheries. This would include whether there are possible errors in the catch reporting or whether there is a new and/or rapidly growing fishery.

According to the WG DEEP report catch data is available from 1988. ICES is asked to clarify what trends can be seen in the fishery over time, including to get an overview of catches before 1988 if available.

If there is indeed a new and/or rapidly growing fishery for roughead grenadier in the NEAFC Regulatory Area, ICES is asked to consider what advice it can provide on how to react to it, possibly on a provisional basis building on existing guidelines regarding new fisheries.

To make it possible for NEAFC to take account of the response from ICES in making management decisions for 2015, ICES is asked to provide a response prior to the start of the NEAFC Annual Meeting, which will take place in London on 10-14 November 2014.

Yours sincerely

Stéfan Ásmundsson
Secretary