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.

Only one item of ICES advice on ecosystem in 2014
Many more records of VME Indicator species received for 2014 advice

NEAFC VMS records, some with gear code received for 2013
No account taken of claims for extension of continental shelves

No bottom gear coded VMS records, fishing activity is mostly mid-water trawl, with other vessels in transit. Two vessels with no code showed behaviour consistent with the use of bottom-set gear in the existing bottom-fishing area.
Southern mid-Atlantic Ridge

VME records found south of existing area closure. No fishing activity in this area found in VMS data

No account taken of claims for extension of continental shelves
Southern Hatton

No account taken of claims for extension of continental shelves.

VME records found near existing area closure.

Some VMS of bottom-fishing activity in area recommended for closure in 2013 to south of Hatton.
ICES now has >8000 VME records in its database, but of varying quality

Quality assessment in the past based on expert judgement, but ICES now developing a formal systematic and objective system

Developing a more formal system for determining “boundaries” around VMEs

Further development of use of NEAFC VMS records: would like more with gear codes