Recommendation 13 : 2020

Recommendation on amendments to the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement relating to abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG)

As proposed by PECMAC, the Commission hereby adopts the following recommendation pursuant to Article 8 of the Convention:

Article 7a – Removal and Disposal of Unmarked or Illegal Fixed Gear
Contracting Parties shall have the right to remove and dispose of fixed gear that is not marked, if marking of gear is required in accordance with Article 7 or in any other way contravenes other Recommendations adopted by NEAFC as well as fish that is found in the gear.

Article 7b – Retrieval of Lost Fixed Gear

1. Each Contracting Party shall require that its fishing vessels do not deliberately abandon or discard fishing gear, in accordance with MARPOL Annex V on Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution by Garbage from Ships.

2. Fishing vessels fishing with fixed gear shall have equipment on board to retrieve its gear, if that gear is lost.

3. A vessel that has lost fixed gear shall attempt to retrieve it as soon as possible.

4. If the lost gear cannot be retrieved the master of the vessel shall notify the competent authorities of its flag State within 24 hours of the following:
   a. the name and call sign of the vessel;
   b. the type and quantity of lost gear;
   c. the time when the gear was lost;
   d. the position where the gear was lost;
   e. if the vessel has tried to retrieve the gear.

5. The Contracting Party flag State shall without delay notify the Secretary of NEAFC of the information referred to in a-e. The Secretary shall without delay put this information on the secure part of the NEAFC website.

6. Contracting Parties shall on a regular basis undertake to retrieve lost fixed gears. If gear is retrieved that has not been reported as lost, the Contracting Party that retrieved the gear may recover the cost from the master of the vessel that has lost the gear.