

**Recommendation on Conservation and Management Measures for Haddock in the
NEAFC Regulatory Area for 2016**

The Commission hereby adopts the following Recommendation pursuant to Article 5 of the Convention:

All fishing, except with long-lines, shall be prohibited in waters beyond the areas under national fisheries jurisdiction of the Contracting Parties in the box bounded by the following co-ordinates:

- 57° 00' N, 15° 00' W
- 57° 00' N, 14° 00' W
- 56° 30' N, 14° 00' W
- 56° 30' N, 15° 00' W

This measure shall be in force for the period 1 January to 31 December 2016.

Recommendation on Conservation and Management Measures for Deep Sea Species in the NEAFC Regulatory Area in 2016

The Commission hereby adopts the following recommendation pursuant to Article 5 of the Convention:

1. Each Contracting Party undertakes to limit the effort put into the directed fishing for deep sea species set out in Annex IB of the Scheme in the NEAFC Regulatory Area.
2. The effort shall not exceed 65 per cent of the highest level put into deep sea fishing in previous years for the relevant species.
3. The effort should be calculated as aggregate power, aggregate tonnage, fishing days at sea or number of vessels, which participated.
4. This measure shall be in force from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016.

Recommendation on the Conservation and Management of Roundnose Grenadier (*Coryphaenoides rupestris*), Roughhead Grenadier (*Macrourus berglax*), and Roughsnout Grenadier (*Trachyrinchus scabrus*) and other Grenadiers (Macrouridae) in the NEAFC Regulatory Area (Divisions Xb and XIIc, and Subdivisions XIIa1 and XIVb1) for 2016

The Commission hereby adopts the following recommendation pursuant to Article 5 of the Convention:

1. A total allowable catch limitation of 717 tonnes of roundnose grenadier is established.
2. No direct fisheries for roughhead grenadier and roughsnout grenadier should be authorised, and bycatches of these grenadiers as well as other grenadiers (Macrouridae) should be counted against the total allowable catch of roundnose grenadier specified in Point 1.
3. Contracting Parties shall submit all data on the relevant fishery to ICES, including catches, bycatches, discards and activity information.

Recommendation on the Conservation and Management of Roundnose Grenadier (*Coryphaenoides rupestris*), Roughhead Grenadier (*Macrourus berglax*), and Roughsnout Grenadier (*Trachyrinchus scabrus*) and other Grenadiers (Macrouridae) in the NEAFC Regulatory Area on Hatton Bank and Rockall (ICES Subdivisions VIb1 and VIIc1 and VIIk1, and Subdivisions Vb1a and Division XIIb) for 2016

The Commission hereby adopts the following recommendation pursuant to Article 5 of the Convention:

1. For Subdivisions VIb1 and VIIc1 and VIIk1 and Subdivisions Vb1a, the catches should not exceed 2,000 tonnes.
2. For Division XIIb a total allowable catch limitation of 796 tonnes of roundnose grenadier is established.
3. No direct fisheries for roughhead grenadier and roughsnout grenadier should be authorised, and bycatches of these grenadiers as well as other grenadiers (Macrouridae) should be counted against the total allowable catch of roundnose grenadier as specified in Point 1 and 2.
4. Contracting Parties shall submit all data on the relevant fishery to ICES, including species-specific catches, bycatches, discards and activity information.

Recommendation on Conservation and Management Measures for Porbeagle (*Lamna Nasus*) in the NEAFC Regulatory Area from 2016 to 2019

The Commission hereby adopts the following Recommendation pursuant to Article 5 of the Convention:

Information available is not sufficient to inform on the current status of the stock of porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) in the Northeast Atlantic. Since 2010, landings have been close to zero. The low productivity and aggregating nature of this species makes it particularly vulnerable to overexploitation. ICES therefore advise that fishing mortality should be minimised. ICES, therefore, have advised that no directed fisheries should be permitted for the period 2016 to 2019.

1. Each Contracting Party shall, for the period 2016 to 2019, prohibit all directed fishing of porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) in the Regulatory Area by vessels flying its flag.
2. Any incidental catches of this resource shall be promptly released unharmed, to the extent possible.
3. Contracting Parties shall submit to ICES all available data on porbeagle, including fisheries data, for further evaluation of the state of the resource.
4. Contracting Parties are encouraged to take conservation measures with equal effect within waters under their national fisheries jurisdiction.
5. This measure shall remain in force from 1 January 2016 until 31 December 2019. Prior to the expiry of the measure, and on the basis of new scientific advice from ICES, the Commission, with the intention of extending that period, shall review this measure.

**Recommendation on Conservation and Management Measures for Basking Shark
(*Cetorhinus Maximus*) in the NEAFC Convention Area for 2016 to 2019**

As proposed by the European Union, the Commission hereby adopts the following Recommendation pursuant to Articles 5 and 6 of the Convention:

ICES report that there is no new information available to inform on the current status of the stock of basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) in the North-East Atlantic. It is at present not targeted in any commercial fisheries. Landings in the last decade have been close to zero and data available do not allow the current stock status to be evaluated. The low productivity and aggregating nature of this species makes it particularly vulnerable to over-exploitation. ICES therefore advise that when the precautionary approach is applied, no targeted fisheries should be permitted and by-catch should be minimised. ICES have therefore advised a zero TAC for the entire ICES area for the period 2016 to 2019.

Pursuant to Article 5 and 6 of the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the North-East Atlantic Fisheries, no directed fishery for basking shark shall be undertaken in the Convention Area for the period 2016 to 2019.

Contracting Parties are urged to make all available data on basking shark available to ICES for further evaluation of the state of the resource. This should include fisheries data, with incidental catches being recorded in numbers, and by size and weight (where possible).

This measure shall remain in force from 1 January 2016 until 31 December 2019. Prior to its expiry, and on the basis of new scientific advice from ICES, the Commission, with the intention of extending that period, shall review this measure.

Recommendation 9:2016

**Recommendation to amend Annex I.b and Annex V of the NEAFC
Scheme of Control and Enforcement**

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

Annex I b) and Annex V shall be amended to read as follows:

(amended species names and codes are in bold type)

Recommendation 9:2016

Regulated Resources Deep-Sea Species			
Stock (common name)	FAO code	Scientific Name	ICES subareas
Rabbit fish (Rattail)	CMO	<i>Chimaera monstrosa</i>	I to XIV
Friiled shark	HXC	<i>Chlamydoselachus anguineus</i>	I to XIV
Conger eel	COE	<i>Conger conger</i>	I to XIV
Roundnose grenadier	RNG	<i>Coryphaenoides rupestris</i>	I to XIV
Kitefin shark	SCK	<i>Dalatias licha</i>	I to XIV
Birdbeak dogfish	DCA	<i>Deania calcea</i>	I to XIV
Black (Deep-water) cardinal fish	EPI	<i>Epigonus telescopus</i>	I to XIV
Lantern sharks	SHL	<i>Etmopterus spp.</i>	I to XIV
Greater lantern shark	ETR	<i>Etmopterus princeps</i>	I to XIV
Velvet belly	ETX	<i>Etmopterus spinax</i>	I to XIV
Blackmouth dogfish	SHO	<i>Galeus melastomus</i>	I to XIV
Mouse catshark	GAM	<i>Galeus murinus</i>	I to XIV
Bluemouth (Blue mouth redfish)	BRF	<i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i>	I to XIV
Bluntnose six-gilled shark	SBL	<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>	I to XIV
Orange roughy	ORY	<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>	I to XIV
Silver roughy (Pink)	HPR	<i>Hoplostethus mediterraneus</i>	I to XIV
Large- eyed rabbit fish (Ratfish)	CYH	<i>Hydrolagus mirabilis</i>	I to XIV

Recommendation 9:2016

Regulated Resources Deep-Sea Species			
Stock (common name)	FAO code	Scientific Name	ICES subareas
Knifetooth dogfish	SYR	<i>Scymnodon ringens</i>	I to XIV
Small redfish (Norway haddock)	SFV	<i>Sebastes viviparus</i>	I to XIV
Greenland shark	GSK	<i>Somniosus microcephalus</i>	I to XIV
Spiny (Deep-sea) Scorpionfish	TJX	<i>Trachyscorpia cristulata</i>	I to XIV

Species list		
FAO 3-Alpha code	English common name	Scientific Name
CAT	Wolffish	<i>Anarhichas</i> spp.
CFB	Black dogfish	<i>Centroscyllium fabricii</i>
CMO	Rabbit fish (Rattail)	<i>Chimaera monstrosa</i>
COD	Atlantic Cod	<i>Gadus morhua</i>
COE	European conger	<i>Conger conger</i>
CYO	Portuguese dogfish	<i>Centroscymnus coelolepis</i>
CYH	Large- eyed rabbit fish (Ratfish)	<i>Hydrolagus mirabilis</i>
CYP	Longnose velvet dogfish	<i>Centroscymnus crepidater</i>
DCA	Birdbeak dogfish	<i>Deania calceus</i>
DGS	Spurdog	<i>Squalus acanthias</i>
ELP	Eelpout	<i>Zoarces viviparus</i>
EPI	Black (Deep-water) cardinal fish	<i>Epigonus telescopus</i>
ETR	Greater lantern shark	<i>Etmopterus princeps</i>
ETX	Velvet belly	<i>Etmopterus spinax</i>
FOR	Forkbeard (Forkhead)	<i>Phycis phycis</i>
FOX	Forkbeards	<i>Phycis</i> spp.

Species list		
FAO 3-Alpha code	English common name	Scientific Name
LUM	Lumpfish	<i>Cyclopterus lumpus</i>
LXK	Greater eelpout	<i>Lycods esmarkii</i>
MAC	Atlantic mackerel	<i>Scomber scombrus</i>
MOR	Moras	Moridae
ORY	Orange roughy	<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>
OXN	Sailfin roughshark (Sharpback shark)	<i>Oxynotus paradoxus</i>
PHO	Risso's smoothhead	<i>Alepocephalus rostratus</i>
PLA	American plaice	<i>Hippoglossoides platessoides</i>
PLE	European plaice	<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>
POC	Polar cod	<i>Boreogadus saida</i>
POK	Saithe (Pollock)	<i>Pollachius virens</i>
POR	Porbeagle	<i>Lamna nasus</i>
PRA	Northern prawn	<i>Pandalus borealis</i>
REB	Beaked redfish	<i>Sebastes mentella</i>
RED	Redfish (unspecified)	<i>Sebastes</i> spp.
REG	Golden redfish	<i>Sebastes marinus</i>

Species list		
FAO 3-Alpha code	English common name	Scientific Name
TJX	Spiny (Deep-sea) scorpionfish	<i>Trachyscorpia cristulata</i>
USK	Tusk	<i>Brosme brosme</i>
WHB	Blue whiting	<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>
WRF	Wreckfish	<i>Polyprion americanus</i>

**Recommendation to amend Article 11 and Annex VII
of the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement**

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

Article 11 shall be amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER III - Monitoring of Fisheries

Article 11 - Vessel Monitoring System

1. Each Contracting Party shall implement a vessel monitoring system (VMS) for its fishing vessels exceeding 20 metres between perpendiculars or 24 metres overall length which fish, or plan to fish, in the Regulatory Area and:

- a. require its fishing vessels, fishing in the Regulatory Area, to be equipped with an autonomous system able to automatically transmit messages to a land-based fisheries monitoring centre (FMC) allowing a continuous tracking of the position of a fishing vessel by the Contracting Party of that fishing vessel in conformity with the specifications and schedule set out in Annex VII a)

5. Contracting Parties shall, for the purposes of this Scheme, cooperate with the Secretary in order to maintain a database delimiting the Regulatory Area by latitude and longitude co-ordinates. Changes to these co-ordinates shall without delay be notified to the Secretary in a computer readable form according to the procedures described in Annex VII b) in order to keep this database up to date. The co-ordinates shall be without prejudice to each Contracting Party's position concerning the delimitation of sea areas under their sovereignty and jurisdiction. The Secretary shall notify all Contracting Parties, and cooperating non-Contracting Parties, of any changes by providing them with updated co-ordinates in the format described in Annex VII b) without delay.

Annex VII shall be amended to read as follows:

Annex VII - VMS and EEZs Delimitation

Annex VII a) - VMS

Annex VII b) – EEZs Delimitation

Any changes to the coordinates used for the database defined in Article 11.5 shall be:

- Identified to the Secretary as changes pursuant to Article 11.5, with the number of points separately confirmed and a contact person identified for verification of resulting mapping;
- Submitted in decimal degrees and in the WGS84 datum, in an electronic version suitable for import directly into Geographic Information System (GIS) software, without the need for manual intervention;
- Latitude positive North Longitude positive East and plus sign (+) can be skipped for positive numbers. According to the example below:

Latitude Longitude
+DD.ddddd<space>(+/-)DDD.ddddd

Example:

Latitude	Longitude
55.28332	-016.16666
55.56665	-015.01944

The Secretary shall examine the resultant map and ask the Contracting Party contact person to help resolve any problems noted.

Once the coordinates are finalised, changes to the database shall be made without delay.

**Recommendation to amend Article 12.2 of the
NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement**

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

Article 12.2 shall be amended to read as follows:

The reports on catches referred to in this Article shall be given in kilograms (rounded to the nearest 100kg) total round weight by species using the FAO code. The total quantity of species for which the total round weight by species is less than 50 kg may be reported under the 3-alpha code MZZ (marine fish not specified).

**Recommendation to amend Annex V of the
NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement**

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

Annex V shall be amended to include the following species:

FAO 3-Alpha code	English common name	Scientific Name
MON	Angler (Monk)	<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>
CRQ	Queen crab	<i>Chionoecetes opilio</i>
CAA	Atlantic wolffish	<i>Anarhichas lupus</i>
CAB	Northern wolffish	<i>Anarhichas denticulatus</i>

Recommendation on Amending Recommendation 2:2011, on Providing for the Collection of Statistical Information Relating to Fisheries Beyond and Under the Fisheries Jurisdiction of the Contracting Parties

The Commission hereby adopts the following recommendation pursuant to Article 9.1 and 9.2 of the Convention:

Annex I of Recommendation 2:2011 shall be amended to read as follows:
(amended species are in bold type)

ANNEX I
Stock units

Stock Units	Stock code	NEAFC stock – common name	Species		
			Common name	FAO code	Scientific name
Norwegian spring spawning herring	XHE	Norwegian spring spawning herring (Atlanto Scandian)	Herring	HER	<i>Clupea harengus</i>
Blue whiting combined stock Sub Area I-IX, XII, XIV	XWH	Blue whiting	Blue whiting	WHB	<i>Micromesistius poulassou</i>
North East Atlantic Mackerel	XMA	Mackerel	Mackerel	MAC	<i>Scomber scombrus</i>
Rockall haddock	XHA	Haddock	Haddock	HAD	<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>
Pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea	XIS	Redfish	Redfish	REB	<i>Sebastes mentella</i>
Pelagic redfish Sub Areas I, II	XNS	Redfish	Redfish	REB	<i>Sebastes mentella</i>

Recommendation 13:2016

Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Baird's smoothhead	ALC	<i>Alepocephalus bairdi</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Risso's smoothhead	PHO	<i>Alepocephalus rostratus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Blue antimora (Blue hake)	ANT	<i>Antimora rostrata</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Black scabbardfish	BSF	<i>Aphanopus carbo</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Iceland catshark	API	<i>Apristurus spp.</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Argentines	ARG	Argentina spp.
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Greater argentine	ARU	Argentina silus
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Alfonosinos	ALF	<i>Berys spp.</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Tusk	USK	<i>Brosme bosme</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Gulper shark	GUP	<i>Centrophorus granulosus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Leafscale gulper shark	GUQ	<i>Centrophorus squamosus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Black dogfish	CFB	<i>Centoscyllium fabricii</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Portuguese dogfish	CYO	<i>Centroscymnus coelolepis</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Longnose velvet dogfish	CYP	<i>Centroscymnus crepidater</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Deep-water red crab	KEF	<i>Chacon (geyron) affinis</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Rabbit fish (Rattail)	CMO	<i>Chimaera monstrosa</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Frilled shark	HXC	<i>Chalamydoselachus anguineus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Conger eel	COE	<i>Conger conger</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Roundnose grenadier	RNG	<i>Coryphaenoides rupestris</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Kitefin shark	SCK	<i>Dalatias licha</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Birdbeak dogfish	DCA	<i>Deania calceus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Black (Deep-water) cardinal fish	EPI	<i>Epigonus telescopus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Lantern sharks	SHL	Etmopterus spp.
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Greater lantern shark	ETR	Etmopterus princeps
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Velvet belly	ETX	Etmopterus spinax
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Blackmouth dogfish	SHO	<i>Galeus melastomus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Mouse catshark	GAM	<i>Galeus murinus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Bluemouth (Blue mouth redfish)	BRF	<i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Blondnose six-gilled shark	SBL	<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Orange roughy	ORY	<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Silver roughy (Pink)	HPR	<i>Hoplostethus mediterraneus</i>

Recommendation 13:2016

Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Large-eyed rabbit fish (Ratfish)	CYH	<i>Hydrolagus mirabilis</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Silver scabbard fish (Cutless fish)	SFS	<i>Lepidopus caudatus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Eelpout	ELP	<i>Zoarces viviparus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Greater eelpout	LXK	<i>Lycodes esmarkii</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Roughhead grenadier (Rough rattail)	RHG	<i>Marcourus berglax</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Blue ling	BLI	<i>Molva dyptergia</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Ling	LIN	<i>Molva molva</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Common mora	RIB	<i>Mora moro</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Sailfin roughshark (Sharpback shark)	OXN	<i>Oxymotus paradoxus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Red (blackspot) seabream	SBR	<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Forkbeards	FOX	<i>Phycis spp.</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Greater forkbeards	GFB	<i>Phycis blennoides</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Wreckfish	WRF	<i>Polyprion americanus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Round skate	RJY	<i>Raja fyllae</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Arctic skate	RJG	<i>Raja hyperborean</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Norwegian skate	JAD	<i>Raja nidarosiensis</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Greenland halibut	GHL	<i>Rheinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Straightnose rabbitfish	RCT	<i>Rhinochimaera atlantica</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Knifetooth dogfish	SYR	<i>Scymnodon ringens</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Small redfish (Norway haddock)	SFV	<i>Sebastes viviparus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Greenland shark	GSK	<i>Somniosus microcephalus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Spiny (Deep-sea) Scorpionfish	TJX	<i>Trachyscorpia cristulata</i>

Recommendation on Conservation and Management Measures for Spurdog (*Squalus acanthias*) in the NEAFC Regulatory Area for 2015 and 2016

The Commission hereby adopts the following recommendation pursuant to Article 5 of the Convention:

Taking into account the depleted status of this stock and the ICES advice that there should be no target fishery and that by-catch should be minimised;

Conscious of the need to prohibit targeted fisheries on this stock;

1. Each Contracting Party shall, for 2015 and 2016, prohibit all directed fishing of spurdog (*Squalus acanthias*) in the Regulatory Area by vessels flying its flag;
2. Any incidental catches of this resource shall be promptly released unharmed, to the extent possible.
3. Contracting Parties shall submit to ICES all available data on spurdog, including data on discarding, for further evaluation of the state of the resource.
4. Contracting Parties are encouraged to take conservation measures with equal effect within waters under their national fisheries jurisdiction.

Recommendation on amending Recommendation 19:2014

The Commission hereby adopts the following recommendation pursuant to Article 5 of the Convention:

1. Recommendation 19:2014 shall be amended as is presented in the following (text to be deleted shown with strikethrough and text to be added shown underlined):

Recommendation on the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems in the NEAFC Regulatory Area

As proposed by the Permanent Committee on Management and Science, the Commission hereby adopts the following recommendation pursuant to Articles 5, 6 and 7 of the Convention:

Article 1 Objective of the Recommendation

1. The objective of this Recommendation is to ensure the implementation by NEAFC of effective measures to prevent significant adverse impacts of bottom fishing activities on vulnerable marine ecosystems known to occur or likely to occur in the NEAFC Regulatory Area based on the best available scientific information provided or endorsed by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES).
2. This Recommendation takes into account NEAFC's responsibility as a regional fisheries management organisation to adopt measures in the Regulatory Area in regard to bottom fishing activities, in order to contribute to the key objectives of the UN General Assembly Resolutions on the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems and to ensure the long-term sustainability of deep sea fish stocks and non-target species; the rebuilding of depleted stocks and, where scientific information is uncertain, unreliable, or inadequate, conservation and management measures established consistent with the precautionary approach.
3. This Recommendation shall be without prejudice to any sovereign rights of coastal States over the continental shelf in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea for the purpose of exploring and exploiting its natural resources, including living organisms belonging to sedentary species, such as vulnerable marine ecosystems.
4. For the purpose of this Recommendation, NEAFC will take into account the guidance provided by the FAO in the framework of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and any other internationally agreed standards, as appropriate.

Article 2
Use of terms

For the purpose of this Recommendation:

- (a) “bottom fishing activities” means the use of fishing gear that is likely to contact the seafloor during the normal course of fishing operations;
- (b) “encounter” means catch of vulnerable marine ecosystem indicator species above threshold levels set out in Article 9;
- (c) “existing bottom fishing areas” means the portion of the Regulatory Area where bottom fishing has historically occurred as set out in Article 4;
- (d) “exploratory bottom fisheries” means all commercial bottom fishing activities outside area closures and existing bottom fishing areas, or if there are significant changes to the conduct and technology of bottom fishing activities within existing bottom fishing areas;
- ~~(e)~~ “new bottom fishing areas” means all areas within the Regulatory Area which are not defined as existing bottom fishing areas;
- ~~(e)~~ “significant adverse impacts” has the same meaning and characteristics as those described in paragraphs 17-20 of the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas;
- ~~(g)~~ “VME indicators” are those included in Annex 5; and
- ~~(h)~~ “vulnerable marine ecosystems”, hereafter VMEs, has the same meaning and characteristics as those contained in paragraphs 42 and 43 of the FAO International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-Sea Fisheries in the High Seas.

Article 3
Regulation of bottom fishing activities

The Commission shall, taking account of the advice provided by ICES, and that provided pursuant to Article 7.3, as well as data and information arising from reports pursuant to Article 8 adopt conservation and management measures to prevent significant adverse impacts on VMEs. Such measures may include:

- (a) allowing, prohibiting or restricting bottom fishing activities;
- (b) requiring specific mitigation measures for bottom fishing activities;
- (c) allowing, prohibiting or restricting bottom fishing activities with certain gear types, or changes in gear design and/or deployment; and/or
- (d) any other relevant requirements or restrictions to prevent significant adverse impacts on

VMEs.

Article 4
Existing bottom fishing areas

Based on information concerning bottom fishing activities in the period 1987-2007, there are hereby established existing bottom fishing areas as set out in Annex 1. The Secretary shall update Annex 1 following decisions by the Commission pursuant to Articles 5.3 and 6.8.

Article 5
Area closures for the protection of VMEs

1. Area closures for the protection of VMEs in the Regulatory Area shall be based on advice by ICES and on the procedures set out in recommendations regulating fishing activities in the Regulatory Area.

2. Bottom fishing activities shall be prohibited in the following areas, within the coordinates as defined in Annex 2:

(a) Northern MAR Area;

(b) Middle MAR Area (Charlie-Gibbs Fracture Zone and sub-Polar Frontal Region);

(c) Southern MAR Area;

(d) Altair Seamount;

(e) Antialtair Seamount;

(f) Hatton Bank 1;

(g) Rockall Bank;

(h) Logachev Mounds;

(i) West Rockall Mounds; and

(j) Edora's bank;

(k) Southwest Rockall Bank;

(l) Hatton-Rockall Basin; and

(m) Hatton Bank 2.

3. If ICES advises that there are sub-areas where significant adverse impacts on VMEs are not considered likely within the areas referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, the Recommendation may be amended by the Commission to exclude those sub-areas from the prohibition under paragraph 2.

4. Within the areas defined in paragraph 2 Contracting Parties intending to conduct scientific investigations, which shall exclude exploratory bottom fishing pursuant to Article 6, shall notify the Secretary of their intended research programmes, taking account of Article 206 of the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Secretary shall forward such notifications to all Contracting Parties as well as to PECMAS.

5. Contracting Parties shall ensure that any such proposed investigations shall be assessed to see whether they would have significant adverse impacts on VMEs.

Article 6 **Exploratory bottom fishingeries**

1. Prior to proposing to undertake exploratory bottom fishing, Contracting Parties shall gather relevant data to facilitate assessments of exploratory bottom fishingeries by the Permanent Committee on Management and Science (PECMAS) and ICES. Such data should preferably include data from sea-bed mapping programmes, i.e. data from echo-sounders, if practicable multi-beam sounders, and/or other data relevant to the preliminary assessment of the risk of significant adverse impacts on VMEs.

2. The relevant Contracting Party shall forward to the Secretary a Notice of Intent to undertake exploratory bottom fishing at least six months prior to the proposed start of the fishingeries. The Notice of Intent shall be accompanied by the following information:

(a) harvesting plan, which outlines target species, proposed dates and areas and the type of bottom fishing gear to be used. Area and effort restrictions shall be considered to ensure that fishingeries occurs on a gradual basis in a limited geographical area;

(b) mitigation plan, including measures to prevent significant adverse impact to VMEs that may be encountered during the fishery;

(c) catch monitoring plan, including recording/reporting of all species caught;

(d) a sufficient system for recording/reporting of catch, detailed to conduct an assessment of activity, if required;

(e) fine-scale data collection plan on the distribution of intended tows and sets, to the extent practicable on a tow-by-tow and set-by-set basis;

(e) data collection plan to facilitate the identification of VMEs in the area fished;

(f) plans for monitoring of bottom fishing activities using gear monitoring technology, including cameras if practicable; and

(g) monitoring data obtained pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article.

3. The Notice of Intent, along with the accompanying information, shall be forwarded by the Secretary to all Contracting Parties as well as to PECMAS for review. The relevant Contracting Party shall also provide an assessment of the proposed exploratory bottom fishingeries in accordance with Article 7 of this Recommendation.

4. Exploratory bottom fishingeries shall only commence after having been assessed by PECMAS and approved by the Commission.

5. Preference shall be given by the relevant Contracting Party to exploratory bottom fishingeries using fishing gear and methods with the least bottom contact, in well-mapped areas and at times when impacts are likely to have the least adverse impacts on organisms other than the target species.

6. The relevant Contracting Party shall ensure that vessels flying its flag and conducting exploratory bottom fishingeries have a scientific observer on board. Observers shall collect data in accordance with the VME Data Collection Protocol as set out in Annex 3.

7. The relevant Contracting Party shall provide a report of the results of such activities to the Secretary for circulation to ICES and to all other Contracting Parties. It shall ensure that the data, which derives from exploratory bottom fishingeries, will be made available to ICES.

8. The Commission shall review the assessments undertaken in accordance with Article 7 and the results of the fishing protocols implemented by the participating fleets. The Commission may decide to authorise new bottom fishing activities based upon the results of exploratory bottom fishingeries conducted in the previous two years. Areas where such new bottom fishing activities are authorised shall be defined as “existing bottom fishing areas” pursuant to Article 4.

Article 7

Assessment of proposed exploratory bottom fishing activities

1. Each Contracting Party proposing to undertake exploratory bottom fishingeries in the Regulatory Area shall submit to the Secretary, in addition to the Notice of Intent, a preliminary assessment of the known and anticipated impacts of the proposed bottom fishing activity as described in Annex 4.

2. The Secretary shall promptly forward the assessment to all Contracting Parties and to PECMAS. The elaboration of the assessment shall be carried out in accordance with guidance developed by ICES, or, in the absence of such guidance, to the best of the ability of the Contracting Party concerned.

3. PECMAS shall, either at its next session or through correspondence, undertake an evaluation, in accordance with the precautionary approach, of the submitted documentation, taking account of the risks of significant adverse impact on VMEs. Such evaluation shall take place no later than three months following the date of submission of the Notice of Intent. It shall be undertaken according to procedures and standards developed by PECMAS, which

shall use any other information required, including information from other fisheries in the region or similar fisheries elsewhere and, in particular, any advice provided by ICES.

4. PECMAS shall subsequently provide advice to the Commission as to whether the proposed exploratory bottom fisheries should be approved, or would have significant adverse impacts on VMEs and, if so, on the mitigation measures to prevent such impacts. The Commission shall, within 30 days of receiving this advice, either give or withhold its approval for the proposed bottom fishing activities.

Article 8 **Encounters with possible VMEs**

1. Each Contracting Party shall ensure that fishing vessels flying its flag abide by the following rules, where, in the course of bottom fishing activities, evidence of VMEs is encountered:

- (a) fishing vessels shall quantify catch of VME indicators;
- (b) if the quantity of VME indicators caught in a fishing operation (such as trawl tow or set of a gillnet or longline) is beyond the thresholds defined in Article 9, the following shall apply:
 - (i) if an encounter is discovered in connection with the hauling of a trawl gear, the fishing vessel shall cease fishing and move out of an area defined as a 2 nautical mile wide band (polygon) on both sides of the “track” of the trawl haul during which an encounter occurred. The “track” is defined as the line joining consecutive VMS positions, supplemented by more exact information, between the start and the end of the tow, extended by 2 nautical miles at both ends;
 - (ii) if an encounter is discovered in connection with other bottom fishing gears the fishing vessel shall cease fishing and move away at least 2 nautical miles from the position that the evidence suggests is closest to the exact encounter location. The master shall use his or her best judgment based on all available sources of information; and
 - (iii) the master shall report the incident, including the “track” or position determined under sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii), without delay to its flag state, which shall forward the information to the Secretary immediately. Contracting Parties may if they so wish also require their vessels to report the incident directly to the Secretary.

2. The Secretary shall immediately inform all Contracting Parties, and ICES, and archive the information received pursuant to paragraph 1, and shall at the same time implement a temporary closure in the areas identified in paragraph 1.b of this Article.

3. In order to assess accurately the position and the extent of the VME encountered in terms of paragraph 1 of this Article, sea bed mapping, preferably, should be carried out using echo-sounders, and if practicable multi-beam sounders. The result of any mapping shall be

submitted to ICES for its evaluation and advice. This advice shall be forwarded to PECMAS prior to any eventual decision taken by the Commission to reopen such areas.

4. PECMAS shall examine the temporary closure, and any relevant ICES advice, at its next meeting or by correspondence. If, on the basis of assessment by ICES, PECMAS advises that the area has or is likely to have a VME, the Secretary shall request Contracting Parties to maintain the temporary closure until such time that the Commission has acted upon the advice from PECMAS. If the PECMAS evaluation does not conclude that the temporary closed area has or is likely to have a VME, the Secretary shall inform Contracting Parties which may re-open the area to their fishing vessels.

Article 9 **Threshold levels**

An encounter with a possible VME is defined as:

- (a) for a trawl tow, and other fishing gear than longlines: the presence of more than 30 kg of live coral and/or 400 kg of live sponge of VME indicators; and
- (b) for a longline set: the presence of VME indicators on 10 hooks per caught per 1000 hook segment or per 1200 m section of long line, whichever is the shorter.

Article 10 **Review**

1. The Commission shall every 5 years from the date of this Recommendation entering into force examine the effectiveness of this Recommendation in protecting VMEs from significant adverse impacts. In addition, this review process shall be supplemented by modifications required as a result of new scientific advice.

2. Article 5.2 (a) – (i) and (k) – (m) shall be in force until 31 December 2017. Before that time, the measure shall be reviewed by the Commission with the intention of extending the period that the article is in force, unless the conclusion of the review is that the continued application of the measure or parts of the measure is not required.

Article 11 **Repeals**

Recommendations 16:2008 (bottom fishing), PV:2009 (VMEs closed to bottom fishing), 13:2009 (bottom fishing), 11:2010 (bottom fishing), PV:2010 (existing and new bottom fishing areas), 15:2011 (bottom fishing), ~~and NA:2011 (consolidated text)~~, 8:2013 (Hatton Rockall VME closures) and 9:2013 (Edora's Bank VME closure) are repealed.

2. The following is added to Annex 2 of Recommendation 19:2014:

Area (k) Southwest Rockall Bank

Area 1

	lat	lon	LAT	LON
1	55.9694	-16.2196	55°58.16	-16°13.18
2	55.9706	-16.0427	55°58.24	-16°02.56
3	55.9144	-16.0925	55°54.86	-16°05.55
4	55.9694	-16.2196	55°58.16	-16°13.18

Area 2

	lat	lon	LAT	LON
1	55.9310	-15.6806	55°55.86	-15°40.84
2	55.8500	-15.6167	55°51.00	-15°37.00
3	55.7977	-15.8968	55°47.86	-15°53.81
4	55.8215	-15.9399	55°49.29	-15°56.39
5	55.9310	-15.6806	55°55.86	-15°40.84

Area (l) Hatton–Rockall Basin

Area 1

	lat	lon	LAT	LON
1	58.0025	-15.4538	58°00.15	-15°27.23
2	58.0025	-15.6377	58°00.15	-15°38.26
3	57.90317	-15.6377	57°54.19	-15°38.26
4	57.90317	-15.4538	57°54.19	-15°27.23
5	58.0025	-15.4538	58°00.15	-15°27.23

Area 2

	lat	lon	LAT	LON
1	58.1840	-16.5190	58°11.04	-16°31.14
2	58.2166	-16.4205	58°13.00	-16°25.23
3	58.1832	-16.3624	58°10.99	-16°21.74
4	58.1348	-16.4511	58°08.09	-16°27.07
5	58.1840	-16.5190	58°11.04	-16°31.14

Area (m) Hatton Bank 2

Area 1

	lat	lon	LAT	LON
1	57.8626	-18.0978	57°51.76	-18°05.87
2	57.9167	-17.5000	57°55.00	-17°30.00
3	58.0500	-17.5000	58°03.00	-17°30.00
4	57.8850	-16.9388	57°53.10	-16°56.33
5	57.5851	-18.0335	57°35.11	-18°02.01
6	57.8626	-18.0978	57°51.76	-18°05.87

Recommendation 9:2015

Area 2

	lat	lon	LAT	LON
1	57.9993	-19.0842	57°59.96	-19°05.05
2	57.7500	-19.2500	57°45.00	-19°15.00
3	57.8345	-18.3970	57°50.07	-18°23.82
4	57.5188	-18.3547	57°31.13	-18°21.28
5	57.2348	-19.4738	57°14.09	-19°28.43
6	57.0368	-19.4588	57°02.21	-19°27.53
7	56.8853	-19.4828	56°53.12	-19°28.97
8	56.8370	-19.5604	56°50.22	-19°33.62
9	56.7780	-19.8954	56°46.68	-19°53.72
10	57.0007	-20.0704	57°00.04	-20°04.22
11	57.1718	-19.9207	57°10.31	-19°55.24
12	57.5445	-19.8773	57°32.67	-19°52.64
13	57.7780	-19.6310	57°46.68	-19°37.86
14	57.9993	-19.0842	57°59.96	-19°05.05

**Recommendation on Conservation of Sharks Caught in Association with Fisheries
Managed by the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission**

The Commission hereby adopts the following Recommendation pursuant to Article 5 of the Convention:

1. Contracting Parties shall report data for catches of sharks on an annual basis, in accordance with NEAFC data reporting procedures, estimates of discards (dead and alive) and size frequencies.
2. Contracting Parties shall take the necessary measures to require that the entire catches of sharks are landed. This means retention of all parts of the shark excepting head, guts and skins, to the point of first landing.
3. Contracting Parties shall prohibit the removal of shark fins at sea and the retention on board, transshipment and landing of shark fins.
4. Without prejudice to paragraph 3 of this Recommendation, in order to facilitate on-board storage, shark fins may be partially sliced through and folded against the carcass, but shall not be removed from the carcass before the first landing.
5. In fisheries that are not directed at sharks, Contracting Parties shall encourage the release of live sharks to the extent possible, that are caught incidentally and are not used for food and/or subsistence.
6. Contracting Parties shall, where possible, undertake research to identify ways to make fishing gears more selective with the aim to reducing by-catches of sharks.
7. Contracting Parties shall, where possible, conduct research to on key biological/ecological parameters, life history and behavioural traits, migration patterns, as well as on the identification of potential mating, pupping and nursery grounds of key sharks species.

Recommendation on Shrimp Fisheries in the NEAFC Regulatory Area – Sorting Grids

The Commission hereby adopts the following recommendation pursuant to Articles 5 and 7 of the Convention:

Each Contracting Party shall ensure that its vessels use sorting grids when fishing for shrimp with trawl in ICES sub-areas I and II of the Regulatory Area. The spacing between the bars of the sorting grid shall not exceed 22 mm.

Recommendation to Provide VMS and Catch Data to ICES for Scientific Purposes

The Commission hereby adopts the following recommendation pursuant to Article 5 of the Convention

Considering that although vessel monitoring system (VMS) data and regular catch reports are primarily collected for monitoring control and surveillance purposes, they are also a vital source of information for scientific purposes;

Seeking to make access and efficient use of NEAFC VMS and catch data in order for it to meet the needs of scientific purposes in addition to compliance monitoring;

Conscious of the need to maintain industry confidentiality of VMS data (i.e. respecting commercial sensitivity of detailed fishing locations);

The Secretary of NEAFC is instructed, with immediate effect, to make available VMS and catch data from the NEAFC Regulatory Area to ICES. The data transferred shall not contain information identifying vessels and flag State. The data shall be made available twice yearly:

No later than 1 August: data from the period 1 January –30 June

No later than 1 February: data from the period 1 July-31 December

This recommendation shall be in force until 31 December 2016.

Recommendation 8:2014

**Recommendation on Guidelines and Terms and Conditions for the
NEAFC Information Security Management System**

**The Commission hereby adopts the following Recommendation pursuant to
Recommendation 11:2013:**

1. Pursuant to Recommendation 11:2013, the following Guidelines and Terms and Conditions are adopted:

- Guidelines on Organisation of information security pursuant to Article 2 (Scope) & Article 6.1 (Organisation of Information Security; Internal Organisation), as presented in Annex 1 to this Recommendation;
- Guidelines on Access Control pursuant to Article 2 (Scope) & Article 6.2 (Organisation of Information Security; External Parties), as presented in Annex 2 to this Recommendation;
- Guidelines on Information Classification pursuant to Article 2 (Scope) & Article 7.2 (Asset management: Information Classification), as presented in Annex 3 to this Recommendation;
- Guidelines on Human Resources Security pursuant to Article 2 (Scope) & Article 8 (Human Resources Security), as presented in Annex 4 to this Recommendation;
- Guidelines on Physical and Environmental Security pursuant to Article 2 (Scope) & Article 9 (Physical and Environmental Security), as presented in Annex 5 to this Recommendation;
- Guidelines on Communications and Operations Security pursuant to Article 2 (Scope) & Article 10 (Communications and Operations Security), as presented in Annex 6 to this Recommendation;
- Guidelines on Access Control pursuant to Article 2 (Scope) & Article 11 (Access Control), as presented in Annex 7 to this Recommendation;
- Guidelines on Information Systems acquisition, development and maintenance pursuant to Article 2 (Scope) & Article 12 (Information Systems acquisition, development and maintenance), as presented in Annex 8 to this Recommendation;
- Guidelines on Business Continuity Management pursuant to Article 2 (Scope) & Article 14 (Business Continuity Management), as presented in Annex 9 to this Recommendation;
- Terms and Conditions for Use of NEAFC Websites pursuant to Article 2 (Scope) & Article 6.2 (Organisation of Information Security; External Parties), as presented in Annex 10 to this Recommendation;

2. Recommendation 13:2005 is repealed.

Recommendation 5 : 2013

THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING IN NOVEMBER 2012 ADOPTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 5 OF THE CONVENTION ON FUTURE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES, A RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT REGULATORY MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF BLUE LING IN THE NEAFC REGULATORY AREA (ICES DIVISION XIV) FROM 2013 TO 2016

1. All fishing with bottom contacting gear (bottom trawl, longline and gillnet) is prohibited in the period 15 February to 15 April in the area bounded by following co-ordinates:

1. 60°58'76 N - 27°27'32 W
2. 60°56'02 N - 27°31'16 W
3. 60°59'76 N - 27°43'48 W
4. 61°03'00 N - 27°39'41 W

2. This measure shall be in force for the period 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2016.

Recommendation 7 : 2013

THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING IN NOVEMBER 2012 ADOPTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 5 OF THE CONVENTION ON FUTURE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES, A RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR DEEP-SEA SHARKS IN THE NEAFC REGULATORY AREA FROM 2013

1. Each Contracting Party shall prohibit vessels flying its flag in the Regulatory Area from directed fishing for deep sea sharks.
2. Contracting Parties shall submit all data on deep sea sharks available to ICES for further evaluation of the state of the stocks.
3. Contracting Parties are encouraged to take conservation measures with equal effect within waters under their national jurisdiction.
4. For the purposes of this Recommendation, 'deep sea sharks' means the following list of species:

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Centrophorus granulosus</i>	Gulper shark
<i>Centrophorus squamosus</i>	Leafscale gulper shark
<i>Centroscyllium fabricii</i>	Black dogfish
<i>Centroscymnus coelolepis</i>	Portuguese dogfish
<i>Centroscymnus crepidater</i>	Longnose velvet dogfish
<i>Dalatias licha</i>	Kitefin shark
<i>Etmopterus princeps</i>	Greater lanternshark
<i>Apristuris spp</i>	Iceland catshark
<i>Chlamydoselachus anguineus</i>	Frilled shark
<i>Deania calcea</i>	Birdbeak dogfish
<i>Galeus melastomus</i>	Blackmouth dogfish
<i>Galeus murinus</i>	Mouse catshark
<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>	Bluntnose six-gilled shark
<i>Etmopterus spinax</i>	Velvet belly
<i>Oxynotus paradoxus</i>	Sailfin roughshark (Sharpback shark)
<i>Scymnodon ringens</i>	Knifetooth dogfish
<i>Somniosus microcephalus</i>	Greenland shark

This measure shall be in force from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2016.

Recommendation 10 : 2013

THE NORTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING IN NOVEMBER 2012 ADOPTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 5 OF THE CONVENTION ON FUTURE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES, A RECOMMENDATION TO PROVIDE VMS DATA TO ICES AND NEAFC CONSTITUENT BODIES

Considering that although vessel monitoring system (VMS) data is primarily collected for monitoring control and surveillance purposes, it is also a vital source of information for scientific purposes;

Seeking to make access and efficient use of NEAFC VMS data in order for it to meet the needs of both scientific and compliance monitoring;

Conscious of the need to maintain industry confidentiality of VMS data (i.e. respecting commercial sensitivity of detailed fishing locations);

The Secretary of NEAFC is instructed, with immediate effect, to make available VMS data from the NEAFC Regulatory Area to ICES and other NEAFC constituent bodies. The data transferred shall not contain information identifying vessels and flag State. The data shall be made available twice yearly:

No later than 1 August: data from the period 1 January – 30 June

No later than 1 February: data from the period 1 July- 31 December

THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING IN NOVEMBER 2012 ADOPTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 5 OF THE CONVENTION ON MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES, A RECOMMENDATION TO ADOPT AN INFORMATION SECURITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (ISMS) FOR NEAFC

1. Objective

The objective of this recommendation is to establish, implement, operate, monitor, review, maintain and improve information security management within NEAFC.

2. Scope

This recommendation shall cover gathering, transmission, storage and dissemination of all information and data within NEAFC. This excludes the internal processes of the Contracting Parties.

The Information Security Management System (ISMS) of NEAFC consists of the following documents:

- This Recommendation¹
- The Guidelines referred to in Articles 5, 6, 7.2, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 14
- The Terms and Conditions referred to in Article 6.2

The security and confidentiality policy is based on the relevant parts of the ISO/IEC 27001 standard².

3. Risk management

NEAFC Committees and other subsidiary bodies shall prioritise the analysis and evaluation of risks. The Secretariat shall assist in this work. The risk analysis shall be reviewed annually and the result presented to the Commission.

4. Security policy

The information security policy of NEAFC is to use the ISMS to achieve an appropriate security and confidentiality focus in the organisation. ISMS documents shall be formulated by AGDC, unless otherwise specified, and proposed to the Commission. When the Commission adopts or amends an ISMS document, the Secretary shall publish and communicate this document to all Contracting Parties and other relevant parties.

This policy shall be reviewed on a regular basis, taking account of the analysis and evaluation of risks undertaken in accordance with the previous paragraph and, when changes are made to the ISO standard. AGDC shall in this context make proposals to the Commission, as appropriate.

¹ Recommendations are legal instruments adopted by the NEAFC Commission.

² ISO/IEC 27001(First edition 2005 10/15) "Information technology – Security techniques – Information security management systems – Requirements"

Recommendation 11 : 2013 as amended by Recommendation 07: 2014

5. Security guidelines

Information Security Guidelines shall be formulated by AGDC.

After formal approval by the Commission, the Secretary shall publish and communicate these Guidelines to all Contracting Parties and other relevant parties.

These guidelines shall be reviewed on a regular basis, taking account of the analysis and evaluation of risks undertaken in accordance with the previous paragraph.

6. Organisation of information security

6.1 Internal organisation

Each Contracting Party and the Secretary shall nominate a security system administrator. The security system administrators, in cooperation with other persons, groups and committees, shall manage information security within NEAFC, according to Guidelines on the Organisation of Internal Information Security. This will include promoting compliance with the security policies and acting as a liaison with the Secretariat on security matters. The Secretary shall maintain a list of these security system administrators.

The Secretariat's security system administrator will raise awareness for the security policies within the Secretariat, coordinate security with service providers and external consultants, will manage confidentiality agreements, and will cooperate in any auditing of the information security system. The security system administrators may seek the advice of the AGDC as appropriate.

6.2 External parties

Terms and Conditions to allow access to certain information to the public shall be formulated by relevant subsidiary bodies and adopted by the Commission. The Secretary shall make them publicly available. These terms and conditions shall be reviewed on a regular basis.

Service providers and expert consultants may be given access to information according to the *Access Control Security Guidelines*. The Secretary shall ensure that when entering into contracts with third parties security and confidentiality issues are addressed.

7. Asset management

7.1 Responsibility for assets

The Secretariat shall maintain an inventory of NEAFC's relevant assets, including hardware, software and information, and ensure that security system administrators have access to this inventory. AGDC will review this inventory annually.

7.2 Information Classification

Information shall be classified as either public or restricted. The detailed rules for the management of public and restricted information shall be outlined in the *Information Security Guidelines*.

8. Human resources security

Human Resources Security Guidelines shall be put in place by the Secretariat to ensure that security roles and responsibilities of employees, contractors and third party users are defined and documented, consistent with NEAFC's information and security policy. These Guidelines shall be made available to Contracting Parties on request and reviewed on a regular basis.

9. Physical and environmental security

Measures to prevent unauthorized physical access, damage and interference to NEAFC's premises and information and to prevent loss, damage, theft or compromise of assets and interruption to NEAFC's activities shall be outlined in the *Physical and Environmental Security Guidelines*.

10. Communication and operations management

NEAFC Communication and Operations Security Guidelines shall contain measures to ensure the correct and secure operation of information processing facilities; the delivery management of third party services; to minimise the risk of system failures; to protect the integrity of software and information against malicious and mobile code; to deploy back up techniques to maintain the integrity and availability of information processing facilities; To ensure the protection of information in networks and the protection of the supporting infrastructure; To prevent unauthorised disclosure, modification, removal or destruction of assets, and interruption to business activities; To maintain the security of information and software exchanged within NEAFC and with any external entity; To detect unauthorised information processing activities.

11. Access control

NEAFC Access Control Security Guidelines shall contain measures to ensure appropriate controls to access information; To ensure authorized user access and to prevent unauthorized access to information systems; To prevent unauthorized user access, and compromise or theft of information and information processing facilities; To prevent unauthorized access to networked services; To prevent unauthorized access to operating systems; To prevent unauthorized access to information held in application systems; To ensure information security when using mobile computing and teleworking facilities.

12. Information systems acquisition, development and maintenance

NEAFC *System Acquisition, Development and Maintenance Security Guidelines* shall contain measures to ensure that security is an integral part of information systems; To prevent errors, loss, unauthorized modification or misuse of information in applications; To protect the confidentiality, authenticity or integrity of information by cryptographic means; To ensure the security of system files; To maintain the security of application system software and information; To reduce risks resulting from exploitation of published technical vulnerabilities;

13. Information security incident management

The security system administrators should ensure that security events and weaknesses associated with information systems are communicated to all security system administrators in a manner allowing for timely corrective action to be taken. System changes arising from such events should be dealt with by AGDC.

14. Business continuity management

The Secretariat shall undertake measures to counteract interruptions to activities and to protect critical processes from the effects of major failures of information systems or disasters and to ensure their timely reinstatement. These measures shall be described in the *Business Continuity Management Guidelines*.

15. Compliance

The Secretariat has the responsibility to comply with the relevant legal, regulatory and contractual obligations and standards.

The security system administrators shall ensure compliance of NEAFC practices with the Information Security Management System of NEAFC.

The Information Security Management System of NEAFC and its implementation should be subject to external audit on a regular basis.

AGDC shall review on a regular basis the compliance with ISMS of NEAFC, as well as reports from the external audit.

Recommendation 14 : 2013

THE NORTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING IN NOVEMBER 2012 ADOPTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLES 9.1 AND 9.2 OF THE CONVENTION, A RECOMMENDATION AMENDING RECOMMENDATION 2:2011 PROVIDING FOR THE COLLECTION OF STATISTICAL INFORMATION RELATING TO FISHERIES BEYOND AND UNDER THE FISHERIES JURISDICTION OF CONTRACTING PARTIES

Recognising the need to establish a more efficient reporting system for uptakes of quotas from resources regulated by NEAFC the Contracting Parties have agreed the following measures:

1. Each Contracting Party shall, within 30 days following the calendar month in which the catches were landed, or transhipped, report to the Secretary, in computer readable format, provisional monthly statistics of catches from stocks listed in Annex I and species listed in Annex IV, whether the catch is taken in international waters or in waters under the jurisdiction of the Contracting Parties. For stocks listed in Annex I, the reporting shall include all catches that are determined by the relevant Contracting Party to be from the stock subject to NEAFC management measures. For species listed in Annex IV, the reporting shall include all catches that are determined by the relevant Contracting Party as not from the stock that is subject to NEAFC management measures.
2. These reports shall be made in accordance with the specifications and format set out in Annexes II and III, whether or not that Party has quota allocations for the stocks from which catches were obtained.
3. The Secretary shall, within 10 days following the monthly deadline for receipt of the provisional catch statistics, collate the information received and circulate it to the Contracting Parties. Annual catch data shall be submitted not later than 1 July of the following year.
4. Recommendation 15:2010 is repealed.
5. This recommendation shall be reviewed at the Annual Meeting in 2014.

ANNEX I

Stock units

Stock units	Stock code	NEAFC stock – common name	Species		
			Common name	FAO code	Scientific name
ICES definitions					
Norwegian spring spawning herring	XHE	Norwegian spring spawning herring (Atlanto Scandian)	Herring	HER	<i>Clupea harengus</i>
Blue whiting combined stock Sub Area I-IX, XII, XIV	XWH	Blue whiting	Blue whiting	WHB	<i>Micromesistius poulassou</i>
North East Atlantic Mackerel	XMA	Mackerel	Mackerel	MAC	<i>Scomber scombrus</i>
Rockall haddock	XHA	Haddock	Haddock	HAD	<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>
Pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea	XIS	Redfish	Redfish	REB	<i>Sebastes mentella</i>
Pelagic redfish Sub Areas I, II	XNS	Redfish	Redfish	REB	<i>Sebastes mentella</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Baird's smoothhead	ALC	<i>Alepocephalus bairdi</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Risso's smoothhead	PHO	<i>Alepocephalus rostratus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Blue antimora (Blue hake)	ANT	<i>Antimora rostrata</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Black scabbardfish	BSF	<i>Aphanopus carbo</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Iceland catshark	API	<i>Apristurus spp.</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Greater silver smelt	ARG	<i>Argentina silus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Alfonosinos	ALF	<i>Berys spp.</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Tusk	USK	<i>Brosme bosme</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Gulper shark	GUP	<i>Centrophorus granulosus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Leafscale gulper shark	GUQ	<i>Centrophorus squamosus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Black dogfish	CFB	<i>Centoscyllium fabricii</i>

Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Portuguese dogfish	CYO	<i>Centroscymnus coelolepis</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Longnose velvet dogfish	CYP	<i>Centroscymnus crepidater</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Deep-water red crab	KEF	<i>Chacon (geyron) affinis</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Rabbit fish (Rattail)	CMO	<i>Chimaera monstrosa</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Friilled shark	HXC	<i>Chalamydoselachus anguineus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Conger eel	COE	<i>Conger conger</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Roundnose grenadier	RNG	<i>Coryphaenoides rupestris</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Kitefin shark	SCK	<i>Dalatias licha</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Birdbeak dogfish	DCA	<i>Deania calceus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Black (Deep-water) cardinal fish	EPI	<i>Epigonus telescopus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Greater lanternshark	SHL	<i>Etmopterus princeps</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Velvet belly	SHL	<i>Etmopterus spinax</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Blackmouth dogfish	SHO	<i>Galeus melastomus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Mouse catshark	GAM	<i>Galeus murinus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Bluemouth (Blue mouth redfish)	BRF	<i>Helicolenus dactylopterus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Blondnose six-gilled shark	SBL	<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Orange roughy	ORY	<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Silver roughy (Pink)	HPR	<i>Hoplostethus mediterraneus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Large-eyed rabbit fish (Ratfish)	CYH	<i>Hydrolagus mirabilis</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Silver scabbard fish (Cutless fish)	SFS	<i>Lepidopus caudatus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Eelpout	ELP	<i>Lycodes esmarkii</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Roughhead grenadier (Rough rattail)	RHG	<i>Marcourus berglax</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Blue ling	BLI	<i>Molva dypterygia</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Ling	LIN	<i>Molva molva</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Common mora	RIB	<i>Mora moro</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Sailfin roughshark (Sharpback shark)	OXN	<i>Oxynotus paradoxus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Red (blackspot) seabream	SBR	<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Forkbeards	GFB	<i>Phycis spp.</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Wreckfish	WRF	<i>Polyprion americanus</i>

Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Round skate	RJY	<i>Raja fyllae</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Arctic skate	RJG	<i>Raja hyperborean</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Norwegian skate	JAD	<i>Raja nidarosiensis</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Greenland halibut	GHL	<i>Rheinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Straightnose rabbittfish	RCT	<i>Rhinochimaera atlantica</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Knifetooth dogfish	SYR	<i>Scymnodon ringens</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Small redfish (Norway haddock)	SFV	<i>Sebastes viviparus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Greenland shark	GSK	<i>Somniosus microcephalus</i>
Deep Sea Fisheries	XDS	Deep-sea species	Spiny (Deep-sea) Scorpionfish	TJX	<i>Trachyscorpia cristulata</i>

ANNEX III

Reporting elements

CP Contracting Party

XEU European Union
FRO Faroe Islands (DFG)
GRL Greenland (DFG)
ISL Iceland
NOR Norway
RUS Russian Federation

YM Year / Month

200901 for January 2009

SS Stock

XIS Pelagic *S. mentella* in the Irminger Sea
XNS Pelagic *S. mentella* in ICES sub-areas I and II
XMA North east Atlantic Mackerel
XHE Norwegian spring spawning Herring (Atlanto Scandian)
XWH Blue whiting combined stock
XHA Rockall Haddock
XDS Deep sea fisheries
XXX Unspecified stock

ZO Fishing grounds either international waters or EEZs

XNE NEAFC's Regulatory Area
XNW NAFO's Regulatory Area
XNW-GRL Greenland's EEZ within NAFO Convention Area
XEU European Union EEZs
XSV Svalbard
XJM Jan Mayen
FRO Faroe Islands EEZ
GRL Greenland EEZ
ISL Iceland EEZ
NOR Norway EEZ
RUS Russian Federation EEZ

CA Monthly catch

Quantity in metric tonnes of catch landed or transhipped in the relevant month.
No decimals, rounded up.

CC Cumulative catch

Quantity in metric tonnes of cumulative catch up to and including the relevant month.
No decimals, rounded up.

Annex IV

Species list

Stock code	NEAFC – common name	Species		
		Common name	FAO code	Scientific name
XXX	Herring	Atlantic herring	HER	<i>Clupea harengus</i>
XXX	Blue whiting	Blue whiting	WHB	<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>
XXX	Mackerel	Atlantic mackerel	MAC	<i>Scomber scombrus</i>
XXX	Redfish	Beaked redfish	REB	<i>Sebastes mentella</i>
XXX	Redfish	Redfish (unspecified)	RED	<i>Sebastes</i> spp
XXX	Redfish	Golden redfish	REG	<i>Sebastes marinus</i>
XXX	Horse mackerel	Horse mackerel	HOM	<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>

**Explanatory note to the proposal by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Statistics
to amend Recommendation 2:2011**

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Statistics decided at its meeting in September 2012 to propose changes to Recommendation 2:2011 on the collection of statistical information. Enclosed with this explanatory note is a document showing the changes compared with the current version of the Recommendation.

It is proposed to make it explicit that the statistics should be sent to the Secretary in computer readable form. This is already normal practice, but it is considered appropriate to have this as an explicit requirement.

The other changes are related to the problem of stock definition and there being a lack of an overall picture given by the NEAFC statistics. For regulated species, it is proposed that catch information be reported for all catches rather than only for the stocks that are being managed by NEAFC. In some cases, non-regulated species that are relevant to fisheries for NEAFC regulated stocks are also included. For stocks that are managed by NEAFC, it is proposed that Contracting Parties must determine what catches are from these stocks and report the catches to NEAFC regardless of in what area they were made.

The catches for stocks other than those regulated by NEAFC will be specifically labelled, and not mixed with the regulated stocks. It is considered that this will give a clearer overall picture of the relevant catches.

It is proposed that the provision on the date of entry into force of the Recommendation be deleted, as it is not relevant for the amended version.

When Recommendation 2:2011 was adopted, the previous Recommendation on the collection of statistical information was not repealed. Recommendations 2:2011 and 15:2010 are therefore formally both in force at the same time. It is proposed that this be rectified by formally repealing Recommendation 15:2010.

Recommendation XVI: 2010

RECOMMENDATION BY THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 5 OF THE CONVENTION ON FUTURE MULTILATERAL COOPERATION IN NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING IN NOVEMBER 2009 FOR A BAN ON DISCARDS IN THE NEAFC REGULATORY AREA

In accordance with Article 5 of the Convention, the Contracting Parties have agreed to the following measure to be applied in the Regulatory Area:

Each Contracting Party shall ensure that its fishing vessels operating in the Regulatory Area are prohibited from discarding or releasing catches of any of the species listed in Annex I A) of the Scheme of Control and Enforcement.

Recommendation III

RECOMMENDATION TO TEMPORARILY PROHIBIT THE USE OF GILLNETS, ENTANGLING NETS AND TRAMMEL NETS IN THE NEAFC REGULATORY AREA

The unregulated use of gillnets in deep water is potentially damaging to deep-water stocks due to excessive soak times and consequent high discard levels, and due to the long term impact of lost or abandoned gears.

For this reason, until measures are adopted by NEAFC to regulate these fisheries, vessels operating in the NEAFC Regulatory Area shall not deploy gillnets, entangling nets or trammel nets at any position where the charted depth is greater than 200 metres.

All such nets shall be removed from the NEAFC Regulatory Area by 1 February 2006.

NEAFC Recommendation

Adopted at the 5th Annual Meeting of NEAFC, 18-20 November 1986

Recommendation 2

Minimum mesh size when fishing for blue whiting

A minimum mesh size of 35mm should be used when fishing for blue whiting with pelagic trawls in the regulatory area of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Convention (i.e. those waters beyond the zones under the fisheries jurisdiction of Contracting Parties).

NEAFC Recommendation

Adopted at the 3rd Annual Meeting of NEAFC, 27-28 November 1984

Recommendation 1

Minimum mesh size when fishing for capelin

A minimum mesh size of 16mm should be used when fishing for capelin in the Regulatory Area of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Convention (i.e. those waters beyond the zones under the jurisdiction of the Contracting Parties).