

Recommendation on the management of *Sebastes mentella* in the NEAFC Regulatory Area (ICES Sub-Areas 1 and 2) in 2025

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

1. Each Contracting Party shall, for the period 1 January to 30 June 2025 and 1 to 31 December 2025 prohibit the fishing of *Sebastes mentella* by its vessels.
2. Contracting Parties shall be permitted to fish for a quantity of 3964 tonnes of *Sebastes mentella* within the period 1 July 2025 to 30 November 2025.
3. The conditions concerning the fishery referred to under paragraph 2 shall be as follows:
 - a. The allowable catch shall not be specifically allocated to individual Contracting Parties.
 - b. Only vessels entitled to fly the flag of a NEAFC Contracting Party, having been authorised by its flag State to fish for *Sebastes mentella* in the NEAFC Regulatory Area (ICES Sub-Areas 1 and 2), may take part in the fishery.
 - c. A special monitoring system shall be implemented on the basis of catches reported in accordance with the provision of Article 12 of the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement. The Secretary shall be responsible for the coordination of this monitoring system, as set out in sub-paragraphs d-f.
 - d. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 12 of the NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement, vessels engaged in this fishery shall report their catch on a daily basis.
 - e. The Secretary shall notify all Contracting Parties without delay when the total catches have reached 80% of the allowable catch.
 - f. The Secretary shall notify all Contracting Parties without delay of the date on which:
 - i. the accumulated reported catch;
 - ii. the estimated catch not yet reported; and
 - iii. the likely by-catches taken during the period for which the catch limitation applies equal the allowable catch provided for under 2.
 - g. No vessels shall be permitted to engage in a direct fishery on this stock in the specified area after the date notified by the Secretary pursuant to sub-paragraph f.

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- h. The authorisation to fish for redfish in the Regulatory Area is only valid if the information transmitted in accordance with Articles 11, 12 and 13 of the Scheme of Control and Enforcement is made available to the Secretary according to Article 14.
- i. A Contracting Party may request access to the information communicated pursuant to Articles 11, 12 and 13 of the Scheme of Control and Enforcement for the areas where they intend to undertake inspection and surveillance activities. The Secretary shall inform other Contracting Parties and make the information available to the requesting Contracting Party during the relevant fishing season. The Contracting Party that requests access to this information shall present a detailed report to the next meeting of PECMAC on its use of the information provided.
- j. A Contracting Party may request access to the information communicated in 3c.

4. Contracting Parties shall ensure that scientific information is collected on board their vessels. As a minimum, information collected shall include representative sex, age and length composition data by depths. This information shall be reported to ICES.

5. The conversion factors used in this fishery shall be 2.03 for the product gutted and headed (Japanese cut), 1.50 for the product gutted and headed (round cut), and 1.08 for the product gutted head on. These conversion factors shall be used for the purposes of this Recommendation and are without prejudice for other purposes.

6. Each Contracting Parties shall prohibit the use of trawls with a mesh size of less than 100 mm in this fishery.

7. If by-catches of pelagic redfish (*Sebastes mentella*) go above 1% in any fisheries in the Regulatory Area in ICES Sub-areas 1 and 2 targeting other species, the relevant Contracting Party shall make efforts to lower the bycatches to bring them below 1%. All by-catches shall be properly documented and reported.

8. This Recommendation shall be considered as an interim measure applicable only for 2025 and shall be without prejudice for any future conservation and management measures.