

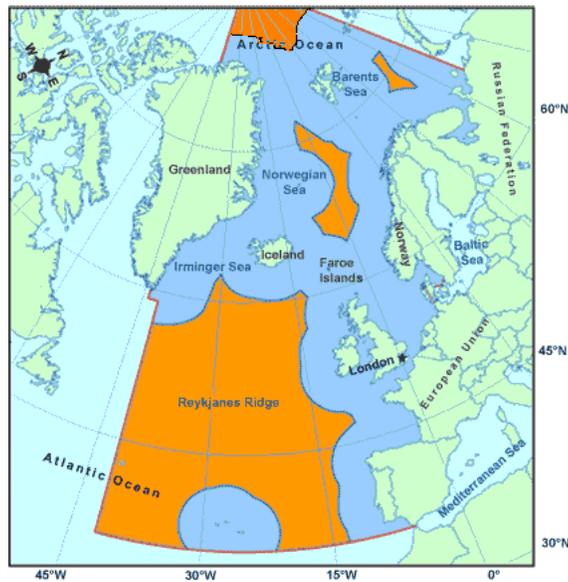


North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
Contracting Parties: Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the EU, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation
Cooperative non-Contracting Parties: Belize, Canada, Cook Islands, Japan and New Zealand.

PRESS RELEASE

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The high seas of the NEAFC Regulatory Area inside the NEAFC Convention Area in the North-East Atlantic are shown shaded on the map below.



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At its 29th Annual Meeting held in London on 8-12 November 2010, under the chairmanship of Acting President, **Mr Jóhan H. Williams, Norway**, NEAFC adopted management measures for 5 out of 7 fisheries. Parties will continue consultations on

pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea early next year and mackerel later this year with a view to agreeing measures at a later date.

Based on Coastal State Agreements, management measures for the **two major pelagic fisheries** - Norwegian Spring Spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring and blue whiting - were agreed as were management measures for **Rockall haddock and deep-sea fisheries**. For **pelagic redfish** in the Norwegian Sea arrangements similar to those for 2009 were agreed. For **pelagic redfish** in the Irminger Sea, the Coastal States (the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Iceland) invited the other Parties to a meeting in January to bring into place management measures for 2011. It was agreed to ban any fishery until April 2011. Parties discussed **mackerel** and agreed to continue negotiations in the coastal state group (the EU, the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Norway) until measures can be adopted by NEAFC.

A ban on using gillnets in waters greater than 200 metres depth was maintained as were measures to remove and dispose of unmarked or illegal fixed gear and retrieve lost gear to minimise ghost fishing.

Considering the poor status of some shark stocks, spurdog (*Squalus acanthias*), basking shark, (*Cetorhinus maximus*) and porbeagle (*Lamna nasus*) in the Northeast Atlantic, NEAFC agreed to ban all directed fisheries for these shark species. The competence for regulating sharks is shared between the two RFMOs, NEAFC and ICCAT, in the North East Atlantic. NEAFC is seeking clarification on which species are under the direct purview of NEAFC, and agreed on a request for advice from ICES.

NEAFC maintained a ban on discards in NEAFC high seas fisheries.

A proposal to extend the area closures on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge has been reviewed by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.

NEAFC noted the continued results of the NEAFC IUU (Illegal, Unregulated, Unreported) A- and B-lists. The transshipment activities that underpinned these fisheries have been brought under control by flag states, reefer registries and owners of reefer vessels. The NEAFC Port State Control System, which was introduced on 1 May 2007, has continued to work without problems and is deemed to have led to a significant reduction in unreported catches in the NEAFC area.

Based on information on vessels on the IUU B-list that had sunk or been scrapped, NEAFC removed 2 vessels from the B-list.

The cooperative non-Contracting Party status of Belize, Canada, the Cook Islands, Japan, and New Zealand was renewed for 2011.

In September 2008 NEAFC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with its environmental counterpart in the North East Atlantic, the OSPAR Commission (for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic), and the Annual Meeting considered how to make the MoU operational.

NEAFC agreed to consider the feasibility of organising a regional workshop in the first half of 2011, inviting other Intergovernmental Organisations to participate in a review of progress on ecosystem-based area management in international waters in the North Atlantic,

with a particular emphasis on defining management objectives. This will also respond to calls from for example the CBD COP 10 Meeting in Nagoya in October and other international processes reviewing the protection and conservation of vulnerable marine ecosystems.

Commenting on these developments the Acting NEAFC President said: *We were not able to reach agreement in all matters but Contracting Parties have a tradition of close cooperation and will reach solutions that can be adopted by NEAFC in order to have firm regulations for all fisheries. We have a solid framework to support sustainable fisheries, where legal operators are well protected. With our extensive measures on bottom fishing activities in the high seas, NEAFC is fully prepared to meet all requirements in international law and instruments, technical guidelines adopted in FAO and the objective of its own Convention ‘to ensure the long-term conservation and optimum utilisation of the fishery resources in the Convention Area, providing sustainable economic, environmental and social benefits’.*

The alignment with our sister organisation in the North East Atlantic, OSPAR (protecting and conserving the North-East Atlantic and its resources) and the general progress in cooperation with other intergovernmental organisations with a mandate to regulate other human activities in the oceans is also important. It seems to be possible to get over the fallacy that conservation and utilisation compete. For a number of good reasons they should cooperate and in most aspects have a common cause. There is no sector more than fisheries that has an interest in clean seas and healthy ecosystems.”

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More Details

Main Fisheries/ stocks	Management measure 2009
Norwegian spring spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring	Overall TAC reduced from 1,483 thousands tonnes to 988,000 thousands tonnes in accordance with the agreed management plan
Blue whiting	Overall TAC reduced from 497 thousands tonnes to about 37 thousand tonnes in accordance with the agreed management plan
Mackerel	Consultations continue
Rockall haddock	Box closed to trawl fisheries to protect juvenile haddock.
Pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea	Consultations continue. Directed fishery banned until 1 April 2011
Pelagic redfish Norwegian Sea	Overall TAC of reduced from 8,600 to 7,900 tonnes to be fished from 15 August to 30 November
Deep Sea Fisheries	Effort less than 65 % of effort in earlier years
Orange roughy	TAC of 150 tonnes for each Contracting Party

Additional measures related to fishing	Period
Ban on finning of sharks	2007 ---→
Haddock box	2003--→
Closures of large areas for bottom fisheries	2004--→
Bottom fishing regulations	2008--→
Ban of gill net fishing in depths over 200 m in the Regulatory Area	2006 --→
Ban on directed fisheries for spurdog, (<i>Squalus achanthias</i>), basking shark, (<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>) and porbeagle (<i>Lamna nasus</i>)	2009 ---→ 2010 ---→
Discard ban	2009-----

Overview of the 29th Annual Meeting

1. The 29th Annual Meeting of the **North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission** (NEAFC) took place in London on 8-12 November 2010 under the Presidency of Mr Johan H. Williams, Norway.
2. All Contracting Parties were represented: Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Community, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation. Representatives from Belize, Canada, Japan and New Zealand, the intergovernmental organisation, OSPAR and three non-governmental organisations, Seas at Risk, WWF and the Pew Foundation, attended as observers.
3. The Commission reviewed scientific information from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) concerning the status of fish stocks in the North-East Atlantic. Specific attention was given to reports on stocks under NEAFC's regulatory competence (blue whiting, Norwegian spring spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring, mackerel, pelagic redfish in the Irminger and the Norwegian Seas, Rockall haddock and deep-sea species). The Commission also reviewed scientific information on marine ecosystems.
4. In 2003 NEAFC agreed on temporary measures to freeze effort in fisheries for fish species inhabiting deep waters in the Regulatory Area from 1 January 2004. This year NEAFC agreed to maintain a reduction in fishing effort in these fisheries by 35 % in 2010.

NEAFC agreed on management measures to control the exploitation of major straddling fish stocks in the North East Atlantic. These measures include total allowable catches for Norwegian spring spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring, blue whiting, pelagic redfish in ICES Sub-areas I and II, Rockall haddock and deep-sea species. A ban on directed fishery for spurdog, porbeagle and basking sharks was also agreed

Consultations on mackerel and pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea will continue after the Annual Meeting, Directed fishery for pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea was banned until 1 April 2011.

5. NEAFC reviewed recent trends in the international management of marine resources, including the ecosystem approach and cooperation with other regional and global organisations. NEAFC evaluated the protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems, VMEs.
6. The contract of the present Secretary Mr Kjartan Hoydal, the Faroe Islands, expires on 30 June 2011. The NEAFC Heads of Delegation agreed to offer Mr Stefán Ásmundsson, Iceland, the position for a term of three years with effect from 1 July 2011, with the possibility of extension.

Meeting schedules for subsidiary bodies (the Permanent Committees on Control and Enforcement, PECCOE, and the Permanent Committee on Science and Management, PECMAS) and working groups were adopted.

The 30th Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place in London on 7-11 November 2011.

Continuing cooperation with other organisations with a mandate to regulate human activities in the oceans.

NEAFC has made an evaluation of measures in place to protect Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs).

AREA of NEAFC Reg. Area		Effective Fishing		Existing Area		New Fishing Area		Closures	
		sq km	%	sq km	%	sq km	%	sq km	%
South of Iceland	4.900.000	42.500	0,9	4.502.200	91,9	355.300	7,3		
Norwegian Sea	326.000			326.000					
Barents Sea	71.000	71.000							
Arctic Ocean	275.000			275.000					
Fishable Area and Closures									
	Sq km	%							
Fishable Area South of Iceland	655,000								
All closures	355,300	54							

In the Area south of Iceland the closures are 54.2 % of the fishable area, which are areas shallower than 2000 m.

Building on these and other NEAFC measures, NEAFC agreed to consider the feasibility of organising a regional workshop in the first half of 2011, inviting other Intergovernmental Organisations participate in a review of progress on ecosystem-based area management in

international waters in the North Atlantic, with a particular emphasis on defining management objectives.

This links to several international processes such as:

- The FAO guidelines for the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas;
- The call from the CBD COP 10 in Nagoya October 2010 to organise a series of regional workshops with a primary objective to facilitate the description of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas;
- contributing to the report of the Secretary-General of the UN on actions taken in response to UNGA resolutions.