



Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

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16TH MEETING OF THE CMS SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL

Bonn, Germany, 28-30 June 2010

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Agenda Item 9.0

CALL FOR INFORMATION IN FOLLOW-UP OF CMS RESOLUTION 9.18 ON BY-CATCH

Response from North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
Input prepared by Kjartan Hoydal

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North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission

Contracting Parties: Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the EU, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation

RESPONSE TO LETTER FROM CMS 19 MAY 2010 WITH RESPECT TO UNEP/CMS/RESOLUTION 9.18 ON BY-CATCH

NEAFC is the competent organisation in the North-East Atlantic with respect to adopting management measures for the NEAFC Regulatory Area which are the high seas or ANBJ in the NEAFC Convention Area.



Scientific studies and the literature in general do not indicate that by-catches of sea-birds and sharks are a major problem in the Regulatory Area. Turtles are not regularly encountered in the Area.

With respect to the FAO IPOA's NEAFC has reported the following to FAO.

**INTERNATIONAL PLANS OF ACTION ON
CAPACITY, SHARKS, SEABIRDS AND ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED (IUU)
FISHING AND
STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING INFORMATION ON STATUS AND TRENDS OF CAPTURE
FISHERIES**

10. The International Plans of Action (IPOAs) and Strategy described below have been adopted by the FAO Council. Please list your organisation's efforts to assist in the implementation of these IPOAs.	
IPOA for the Conservation and Management of Sharks	This IPOA is handled individually by the Contracting Parties of NEAFC
IPOA for Reducing the Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries	This IPOA is handled individually by the Contracting Parties of NEAFC

I would, however, like to draw your attention to the following management measures adopted by NEAFC, which will have an impact on by-catches of every type:

Already in 2002 NEAFC closed an area in the Rockall Area to protect juvenile fish and in 2004 NEAFC adopted an interim ban on bottom fishing in a larger area on the Reykjanes Ridge (the northern part of the Mid-Atlantic Ridge) and four seamounts adjacent to the Ridge.

In 2007 NEAFC closed five areas in the Rockall – Hatton Bank area to bottom fishing to protect deep-water corals.

NEAFC had previously agreed to reduce effort in all deep-water bottom fisheries by 35%.

In 2006 NEAFC prohibited fisheries with gillnets, entangling nets and trammel nets in depths below 200 m and introduced measures to remove and dispose of unmarked or illegal fixed gear and retrieve lost gear to minimise ghost fishing.

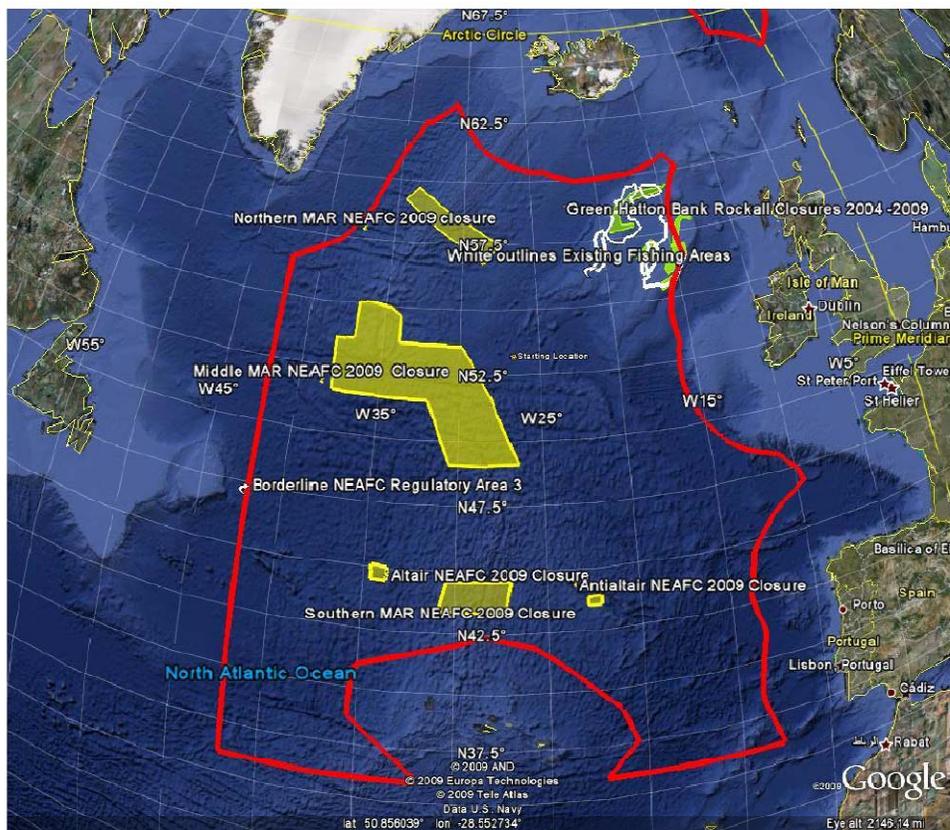
Area based management is supplemented by comprehensive measures on bottom fishing activities in the NEAFC Regulatory Area. These were supplemented at its 2008 and 2009 Annual Meetings with specific operational procedures.

In April 2009 NEAFC decided to close five areas on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge in the high seas in the North East Atlantic to bottom fisheries.. A proposal tabled in June 2008 formed the basis of discussions in NEAFC.

NEAFC has evaluated the effect of the various closures.

NEAFC has analysed the extent of the protection of VMEs in its Regulatory Area. The following rough estimates were arrived at:

AREA of NEAFC Reg. Area		Effective Fishing	Existing Area	New Fishing Area	Closures		
square 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					



The five green areas on the Mid-Atlantic ridge are the closures adopted earlier this year. The red line is the boundary of the high sea areas in the North East Atlantic. The “existing” bottom fishing areas are the relatively small areas within the white lines in the north east corner (the Hatton – Rockall Banks area, of the high seas area). All areas outside the white lines are considered as “new” bottom fishing areas.