

Submission by the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission regarding the theme Ocean Science and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/124

The following is the contribution by the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) to the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide information on the theme 'Ocean Science and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development' for the 20th meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/124, as requested in a letter from Miguel de Serpa Soares, Under Secretary-General in charge of the Office of Legal Affairs, dated 19 December 2018.

science and include examination by ICES of the overall effect of NEAFC policies on other living marine resources and marine ecosystems, and indeed the interaction of the changing environment with the resources NEAFC manages. Following NEAFC's performance review in 2015, NEAFC recognised the importance of the broader ocean processes and specifically mandated ICES to provide multispecies advice and advice on possible climate effects and other ecosystem considerations.

NEAFC recognises the role of ICES to promote and encourage research and investigation for the study of the sea, in particular in relation to its living resources through research and publications, scientific information and advice to its Member Countries and related conventions. In practice ICES' work relies on its Member Countries, which provide data and expertise that enable ICES to respond to requests for advice.

The mechanism by which NEAFC and ICES work together is

- b) Information from catches of non-target species and discards: NEAFC has adopted measures regarding catches and discards. All catches of regulated resources, including those taken for scientific purposes, must be counted against quotas (regardless of what is the target species). The NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement obliges all Contracting Parties' vessels to keep an accurate record of catches and discards in their logbooks. NEAFC does not however collect statistics on the catches of unregulated resources and therefore relies on ICES for advice on the effects of fisheries on other parts of the marine ecosystem.

iii) **Cross cutting approaches.**

While NEAFC has become involved in considering the effects of fisheries on the other parts of the marine ecosystem and on biodiversity, NEAFC's legal competence remains limited to managing fisheries. Applying an ecosystem based management approach to oceans implies that all organisations involved in regulation/management of human activities in the marine environment are cooperating and coordinating actions under their differing legal mandates and informed by their respective oceans science sources.

While NEAFC is making efforts under its mandate to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems from fisheries, it also needs to work with other organisations with complementary legal competences to manage potential impacts from human activities other than fishing. This has led NEAFC to work with organisations such as the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic which has its own scientific processes. The cooperation includes under