



NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC

FISHERIES COMMISSION

Managing Fisheries in the North-East Atlantic

control system for its fisheries. This system, combined with NEAFC Port State Control measures, has ensured there have been no Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fisheries in the North East Atlantic for the last ten years or more. To support transparency, NEAFC publishes an annual report on compliance with its regulatory measures, by both Contracting Parties and cooperating non-Contracting (<https://www.neafc.org/compliance>), as well as publicly listing its notified and authorised fishing vessels.

While NEAFC adopts management and control measures for target fish stocks, it also adopts

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further strengthen NEAFC, including strategic thinking, to ensure that it remains a modern and effective Regional Fisheries Management Organisation.

The 2020 meeting of the Working Group initiated work in other NEAFC Committees and the Annual meeting that resulted in several outcomes. One was an amendment to the NEAFC rules of procedure to improve and transparency and NGO observership in meetings. Other outcomes included initiating considerations by other NEAFC committees on marine litter, transshipment, research vessels, discards and bycatch. Also,

Regulatory Area. The measures ensure that the only areas where bottom fisheries can legally take place in the Regulatory Area, apart from the potential (as yet unused) for restricted exploratory fisheries, are in areas that are established bottom fishing areas where the best available scientific advice has suggest

respective competence of each organisation. As yet, it is not clear how the new advice can be translated into practical measures to improve the status of such sharks, rays and chimaeras, but this will be discussed once NEAFC and OSPAR can meet again under the collective arrangement.

NEAFC continues nevertheless to apply its existing protections. The 2020 NEAFC Annual Meeting extended the current NEAFC ban on targeted fisheries for spurdog until the end of 2022. As previously reported, fishing bans under binding Recommendations for conservation and management measures for porbeagle, basking shark, deep sea sharks, rays and chimaeras, remain in place to the end of 2023.

Part XIII Regional Cooperation

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 different legal mandates. 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. The fact that the vulnerable marine ecosystems that NEAFC is making efforts to protect can be affected by human activities other than fishing has led NEAFC to work with other organisations, with complementary legal competences, such as OSPAR, IMO and ISA. NEAFC and OSPAR have continued in their cooperation, under the 'collective arrangement between competent international organisations on cooperation and coordination regarding selected areas in areas beyond national jurisdiction in the North-East Atlantic'. The collective arrangement meeting continues to include observers from the Secretariats of other regional environment and fisheries bodies. The 2020 collective arrangement meeting is now delayed until

Following the adoption of an MOU with the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the NEAFC Secretariat are more closely cooperating with the GFCM, in particular on sharing knowledge on monitoring, control and surveillance issues. NEAFC is also cooperating with the UN FAO as it develops its Global Information Exchange System for the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA). As of April 2021, the PSMA forms a minimum standard for NEAFC, noting the electronic Port State Control system NEAFC implements is in many ways a