

Recommendation on Conservation and Management Measures for Deep and Shallow Pelagic Redfish in the Irminger Sea and Adjacent Waters in the NEAFC Convention Area for 2018

As proposed by Denmark, in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland, and the European Union, the Commission hereby adopts the following Recommendation pursuant to Articles 5 and 6 of the Convention:

Taking note of the most recent scientific advice from ICES on management measures for the deep and shallow redfish stocks, as well as advice on stock identity;

Considering that, as the ICES advice is for a zero catch in 2017-2018, it remains essential to significantly reduce the outtake of deep pelagic redfish and prohibit fishing on shallow pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters with a view to bringing the level of fishery in to line with the ICES advice;

Considering the recent changes in fishing patterns for both deep pelagic and shallow pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters;

Recognising the need to improve current management measures for deep pelagic redfish and shallow pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters with the aim of achieving recovery and long-term stability;

Recognising however that an interim management measure for deep pelagic redfish in 2018 in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters is required;

Recognising that the north-eastern area of the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters are important areas of larval extrusion, and that there is a particular need to protect the redfish and promote its recovery;

Agreeing that, in order to ensure this protection and subsequent recovery, it is also necessary to adopt effective control measures for this fishery;

In accordance with Articles 5 and 6 of the Convention, the Contracting Parties have agreed the following interim management measure for the pelagic redfish fisheries in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters to apply for 2018:

1. TAC and quota allocation between Contracting Parties for the deep pelagic fishery

- a. The total allowable catches in the deep pelagic fishery in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters by Contracting Parties in 2018 shall not exceed 6,500 tonnes.
- b. The Contracting Parties are allocated the following quota shares of the established TACs for 2018. These percentage shares are agreed on an *ad hoc* basis for 2018 and do not prejudice quota allocation schemes for subsequent periods.
 - i. Denmark, in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland 1,884 tonnes
(Faroe Islands 438 tonnes)
(Greenland 1,446 tonnes)
 - ii. European Union 1,004 tonnes
 - iii. Iceland 2,016 tonnes
 - iv. Norway 250 tonnes
 - v. Russian Federation 1,346 tonnes
- c. For 2018, each Party may transfer to 2019 unutilised quantities of up to 5% of the quota allocated to that Party for 2018. The quantity transferred shall be in addition to the quota allocated to the Party concerned in 2019. This quantity cannot be transferred further to the quotas for subsequent years.
- d. Each Party may authorise fishing by its vessels of up to 5% beyond the quota allocated to that Party in 2018. All quantities fished beyond the allocated quota for 2018 shall be deducted from that Party's quota allocated for 2019.
- e. Prior to the start of the fishing season, and in any event by 1 May, the Parties shall notify each other and the NEAFC Secretariat of the agreed transfers of quotas between the Parties.
- f. The Parties will provide information regarding quotas and catches in the format set out in the Appendix to this interim measure. Each Party shall, by 1 May 2018, provide updated information to NEAFC regarding their total catches in 2017. The NEAFC Secretariat shall forward this information as soon as possible to all Contracting Parties.

2. Authorised fishing period

To enhance the protection of areas of larval extrusion, fisheries shall not commence prior to 10 May.

3. TAC for the shallow pelagic fishery

Catches in the shallow pelagic fishery in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters should take place outside the area referred in paragraph 4 of this measure. In accordance with the latest advice from ICES and in the absence of any agreed recovery plan, there shall be no fishery during 2018 in the NEAFC Convention Area. NAFO shall be informed of this prohibition. Fisheries for future years will depend upon the establishment of a recovery plan for the shallow redfish in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters, as well as on any new scientific advice.

4. Authorised fishing areas for the deep pelagic fishery

Catches in the deep pelagic fishery in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters referred to in paragraph 1 shall be conducted for 2018 within an area bounded by the lines joining the following coordinates:

Point no.	Latitude	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude
1	64.75000	- 28.50	64° 45' N	28° 30' W
2	62.83333	- 25.75	62° 50' N	25° 45' W
3	61.91667	- 26.75	61° 55' N	26° 45' W
4	61.00000	- 26.50	61° 00' N	26° 30' W
5	59.00000	- 30.00	59° 00' N	30° 00' W
6	59.00000	- 34.00	59° 00' N	34° 00' W
7	61.50000	- 34.00	61° 30' N	34° 00' W
8	62.83333	- 36.00	62° 50' N	36° 00' W
9	64.75000	- 28.50	64° 45' N	28° 30' W

5. Scientific research

- a. In order to achieve sufficient information as input for an adequate assessment of the stock, a mandatory on-board sampling scheme shall be conducted. An annual sampling shall include an adequate number of tows per flag state, with at least 20 random samples taken from those tows measuring length and sex, and collecting otoliths, along with information on location and depth.
- b. In addition to ICES co-ordinated surveys, Contracting Parties may conduct scientific research with the aim of improving scientific knowledge of the redfish. They may set aside a part of their respective quota for scientific purposes. Catches taken as a part of such scientific research exercise shall be counted against the Contracting Party's quotas as set out in paragraphs 1 and 3 of this measure.

6. Participation in the fishery

- a. Only vessels flying the flag of a NEAFC Contracting Party, authorised by their flag State to fish for redfish in the NEAFC Convention Area, shall be entitled to participate in these fisheries.
- b. The authorisation to fish for redfish in the Regulatory Area is only valid if the information transmitted in accordance with paragraph 7 of this Recommendation, as well as with Articles 11, 12 and 13 of the Scheme of Control and Enforcement (the Scheme), is made available to the Secretary in line with Article 14 of the said Scheme.

7. Reporting requirements

- a. Reports shall be made to the NEAFC Secretariat in accordance with the Scheme and, in particular, with Article 12 (Communication of catches) and Article 14 (Communication to the Secretary) of the Scheme. This information shall be made accessible for appropriate representatives of the Contracting Parties, including inspectors, on the secure site of the NEAFC website.

- b. Fishing vessels shall report their catches on a daily basis. The catch report shall be transmitted after the fishing operations of that calendar day have been completed and no later than 12:00 UTC of the following day. The catches on board taken since the last communication of catches shall be indicated in the report.
- c. The Secretariat shall, on a weekly basis, compile a table for each Contracting Party, indicating the total quota for each Party as well as the catch already taken from that quota, based on the catch reports received from the fishing vessels. When 50% of the quota established in paragraph 1(c) is taken, such tables shall be compiled daily. The tables shall be forwarded without delay to all Contracting Parties and to the inspectors via the NEAFC website. The tables shall give details for each vessel indicating their daily catches. This provision derogates from Article 14.3 of the Scheme.
- d. To further ensure prompt reporting, the Secretariat shall monitor on a daily basis the reports from each vessel and notify all Contracting Parties without delay if a vessel has not fulfilled its obligations according to paragraph 7 (b) or if the required reports are not available at the Secretariat according to article 8 of this measure for inspection purposes.
- e. In accordance with Article 9 of the Scheme, masters of fishing vessels shall record the fishing depth in their fishing logbooks.
- f. All receivers of fish shall ensure that all quantities are weighed when landed or transhipped. The weight of fish landed in standardised boxes shall be determined using documented sampling methods. Contracting Parties shall report to the Secretariat on a weekly basis the catches landed by their vessels. This information shall be made available to Contracting Parties and to the inspectors on the secure site of the NEAFC website.

8. Inspection and surveillance

- a. A Contracting Party may request access to information communicated pursuant to Articles 11, 12 and 13 of the Scheme 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 fishing season.
- b. Contracting Parties shall notify the Secretariat of the systems in place for verifying catches from this fishery, including weighing procedures and inspection of transhipments and landings. PECMAC shall evaluate the effectiveness of these measures.
- c. Inspectors from any Contracting Party may accompany the inspectors from another Contracting Party during the inspection of landings or transhipment operations, subject to the consent of the port State, and flag State if different.

In order to facilitate this process, the Contracting Party interested in observing an inspection in another Contracting Party's port shall, at the earliest opportunity,

notify the flag State¹ of the vessel concerned of its request to have officials present to observe the landing / transhipment of redfish in port.

Upon receiving such a request, the flag State, and port State if different, shall reply as soon as possible and not later than two working days after receiving the request. In the affirmative, the flag State shall, without delay, communicate details of the vessel in question, such as name of port, estimated date and time of arrival of the vessel in port. The request shall be forwarded to the port State, if the operations are due to occur in a port outside the flag State's jurisdiction.

9. Technical measures

- a. It is prohibited to use trawls with a mesh size of less than 100 mm.
- b. The conversion factor used in this fishery for gutted and headed presentations, including Japanese cut, shall be 1.70. This conversion factor shall be used for the purposes of this Recommendation and is without prejudice for other purposes.

10. Development of a recovery plan

During 2018, NEAFC will seek to establish a recovery plan for redfish in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters, including appropriate harvest control rules. The objective of any such recovery plan shall be to establish such conservation measures which will result in the recovery of pelagic redfish in the Irminger Sea and adjacent waters to biological safe levels given the present management divergences. This recovery plan should take due account of the interim management measures as set out in this recommendation. As a basis for such a recovery plan, NEAFC will utilize long-term scenarios of stock development under a range of likely harvest options provided by ICES under the MoU.

¹ In the case of vessels flagged to an EU Member State, the European Commission shall be put in copy of all correspondence.

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Annex 1

2017	QUOTAS (tonnes)				CATCHES (tonnes)	
Party	Share	Balance 2016	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	Irminger Sea	Balance to 2018
Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland						
- Faroe Islands						
- Greenland						
European Union						
Iceland						
Norway						
Russian Federation						
Total all Parties						
2018	QUOTAS (tonnes)				CATCHES (tonnes)	
Party	Share	Balance 2017	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	Irminger Sea	Balance to 2019
Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland						
- Faroe Islands						
- Greenland						
European Union						
Iceland						
Norway						
Russian Federation						
Total all Parties						
Guideline for the spreadsheet						
Coastal state share/share	Quota allocated to the Party					
Balance	Unutilised/fishing beyond the quota from last year. Includes unused quantity related to transfers between countries					
Quota exchange	Transfers between countries					
Quotas after transfers and flexibility	New quota					