

### **Recommendation on Deep-Sea Fisheries within the NEAFC Regulatory Area**

The Commission hereby adopts the following recommendation pursuant to Article 5 of the Convention:

1. Only vessels entitled to fly the flag of a NEAFC Contracting Party, having been authorised by its flag State to conduct deep-sea fisheries in the NEAFC Regulatory Area may take part in such fisheries.
2. Based on the precautionary approach, Contracting Parties shall effectively manage the deep-sea fisheries of vessels flying their flag, including by ensuring that fisheries for species/stocks not subject to other conservation and management measures established by NEAFC only expand gradually and that the new/expanding fisheries provide relevant data facilitating assessment of sustainability, based on best available scientific information.
3. The Secretary shall present to PECMAS every year an overview of catches of deep-sea species in the Regulatory Area. This shall include the best available information for the year up to the time the PECMAS meeting is held as well as official NEAFC catch statistics for the previous years.
4. Taking account of the overview referred to in paragraph 3, PECMAS should formulate proposals for stock specific conservation and management measures for deep-sea species/stocks where development and/or trends in the fisheries make such measures appropriate. Pending ICES advice facilitating stock specific measures, PECMAS should formulate proposals for precautionary stock specific conservation and management measures.