

Recommendation on Conservation and Management Measures for Spurdog (*Squalus Acanthias*) in the NEAFC Regulatory Area for 2019 and 2020

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

Taking into account the depleted status of this stock and the ICES advice that there should be no target fishery and that by-catch should be minimised;

Conscious of the need to prohibit targeted fisheries on this stock:

1. Each Contracting Party shall, for 2019 and 2020, prohibit all directed fishing of spurdog (*Squalus acanthias*) in the Regulatory Area by vessels flying its flag;
2. Any incidental catches of this resource shall be promptly released unharmed, to the extent possible.
3. Contracting Parties shall submit to ICES all available data on spurdog, including data on discarding, for further evaluation of the state of the resource.
4. Contracting Parties are encouraged to take conservation measures with equal effect within waters under their national fisheries jurisdiction.