

**Recommendation to introduce an Electronic Reporting System (ERS) in NEAFC
based on the FLUX UN/CEFACT International Standard**

As proposed by PECMAC and with reference to Recommendation 16:2018, the Commission hereby adopts the following Recommendation pursuant to Article 8 of the Convention:

The objective of this Recommendation is to provide a framework for the implementation of a new Electronic Reporting System (ERS) based on the FLUX UN/CEFACT Standard by NEAFC, including provisions for a transition period.

When the new ERS becomes operational the specifications set out in Annexes 1 and 2 of this Recommendation enters into force for the transmission of recordings in electronic fishing logbooks to the Secretary. For the purpose of this Recommendation this is referred to as the “New NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement”. Annexes 1 and 2 show the New NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement.

Until they are able to use the new ERS Contracting Parties shall use the specifications set out in Annex 3, with amendments reflected in “track changes”, of this Recommendation for a maximum of two-year transition period after the new ERS has become operational and entered into force.

After the transition period the current NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement shall cease to apply and only the New Scheme of Control and Enforcement outlined in Annexes 1 and 2 shall apply.

To allow a level playing field during the transition period the same data shall be made available for inspection purposes as is available in the current NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement. To this end data transmitted on the basis of the New NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement shall be filtered by the Secretariat system.

An ERS Implementation Group organised under the Permanent Committee on Monitoring and Compliance (PECMAC) is established to finalise technical documentation. The ERS Implementation Group shall:

- a) give advice on issues outstanding in Annex IX of the New NEAFC Scheme of Control and Enforcement and the NEAFC Master Data Register during the development phase and transition period of the ERS in NEAFC.
- b) establish a set of criteria before 1 February 2019, to assess whether the technical preparations are completed.
- c) inform PECMAC about the established criteria
- d) after the European Union informs the Secretary that they are ready to implement the new ERS, advise the Commission that the technical preparations are completed

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The ERS Implementation Group shall meet as necessary, preferably by videoconference, to allow an efficient development phase and transition period.

The ERS Implementation Group shall function until the end of the transition period.

Following the advice from the ERS Implementation Group and confirmation of an implementation date from the European Union, the Commission shall decide, by written procedure if appropriate, on the implementation date of the ERS. The new Scheme outlined in Annex 1 and 2 of this Recommendation enters into force on the same date, which shall not be before 1 June 2019. This date shall also be the start date of the two year transition period. The Scheme changes outlined in Annex 3 shall enter into force at the start of the two year transition period.

During the transition period the remaining Contracting Parties shall notify the Secretary of the date they are ready to implement the new ERS. The Secretary shall inform all other Contracting Parties of the notified implementation date. The New Scheme of Control and Enforcement, outlined in Annex 1 and 2, shall solely apply to these Contracting Parties from this date.

If appropriate, when amendments are made to either of the Schemes the same amendments shall be introduced into the other Scheme.

- Annex 1: Articles of the New Scheme
- Annex 2: Annexes of the New Scheme without Annex IX
- Annex 3: Articles of the Current Scheme