



FIRMS Steering Committee Meeting
Fifth Session
Halifax, Canada, 7 – 9 July 2008
NEAFC - ANNEX 2 TO FIRMS PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENT
Author: NEAFC

**Annex 2 to the
Partnership Arrangement between
The North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
and the
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
(Representing the FIGIS-FIRMS Partnership)**

**Information to be contributed to FIGIS-FIRMS
by the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission**

1. Data and statistical information:

NEAFC in the interest of the long-term conservation and optimum utilisation of the fishery resources of the North-East Atlantic area, provides a forum for consultation and exchange of information on the state of fishery resources in the Convention Area.

NEAFC aims to safeguard the marine ecosystems in the Convention area, providing sustainable economic, environmental and social benefits. NEAFC is obliged to apply the precautionary approach and take due account of the impact of fisheries on other species and marine ecosystems. It adopts, where necessary, conservation and management measures that address the need to minimise harmful impacts on living marine resources and marine ecosystems taking due account of the need to conserve marine biological diversity.

All information relevant to these tasks as set out in the NEAFC Convention will be in the public domain.

Types of information to be contributed:

Reports: NEAFC's Commission reports recording discussions and decisions on management measures on fisheries for NEAFC's regulated resources¹ will be submitted in a suitable format. Supporting scientific documents, such as stock assessment documents, will be provided by NEAFC's provider of ecological advice ICES.

Data: Catch and landings data reported to NEAFC, fishing activity maps by métiers based on VMS data and other fisheries data as they become available from projects integrating VMS, electronic logbook and scientific observer data relevant to fisheries regulated by NEAFC. These data will if possible be made available according to FIRMS fisheries protocols.

Biology, ecology, fisheries, and other information: If NEAFC decides to develop an annual fisheries status report, which encompasses not just biological factors for the fisheries concerned but also social, environmental and economic performance. Information on the fisheries and fleets summary information will be made available.

Scope of information to be contributed:

NEAFC will report the above mentioned type of information for stocks and fisheries in NEAFC's convention area for which it has adopted management measures, as listed in Table 1 as of signature of the Partnership arrangement.

¹ NEAFC maintains a list of species which are seen as regulated resources. The species in Table 1 are part of that, but the deep water fisheries have an extensive list, which is not in table 1. Regulated resources are closed fisheries.

Documentation and Standards to be used in this Partnership Agreement: Sources of information will be documented, and links to electronic versions of source material will be provided when available. A link to the NEAFC website will be provided for detailed information. The information to be contributed will respect NEAFC confidentiality rules and information release and to the Information Management Policy established by the FIRMS Steering Committee.

2. *Metadata and information management:*

Methods of Collection and Processing:

NEAFC data and their compilation are described in relevant NEAFC documents. In brief: The provisions of monthly provisional catches, weekly catch reports from individual vessels and VMS data are described in the Scheme of Control and Enforcement published on the NEAFC website.

The data are discussed in detail by the Permanent Committee on Control and Enforcement and the Advisory Group on Data Communication. Their reports are in the public domain on the NEAFC website.

NEAFC has initiated the provision of logbook data to the NEAFC scientific advice provider, ICES reported according to an agreed reporting format. The system is described in the report to CWP 22 from NEAFC.

New port state control measures will enter into force 1 May 2007. The handling of the information on landings obtained from these measures has not yet been decided by NEAFC. In the event these data are published they will be reported to FIRMS. The measures are described in the report to CWP 22 from NEAFC.

The reports of the NEAFC Commission contain information on the management measures adopted. They are published at the NEAFC website and summaries will be reported to FIRMS. In the event NEAFC decides to publish an annual fisheries status report, as proposed by the NEAFC performance review panel it will be published and summaries reported to FIRMS

Bibliographical Sources:

Bibliographic sources for NEAFC reports will be documented. Detailed reports will be included by website link on the FIRMS website. They may also be directly located on the NEAFC website

Ownership and Responsibilities:

The information contributed to FIRMS resides under the full ownership and responsibility of NEAFC. Therefore, the ownership presented as header of each fishery or fisheries fact sheet will clearly include "North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission" or its acronym "NEAFC" as the organization and the data owners institutional entity. The acronym for the Commission used throughout will be "NEAFC". Further, NEAFC will be owner of all descriptions of itself, and all text outlining its responsibilities and accomplishments, wherever presented by pages linked to or referenced by FIRMS, including pages developed by other organizations or entities within such as UN/FAO/FIRMS. This shall be accomplished by establishment of appropriate editorial and ownership security privileges within FIRMS. In cases where an item has joint ownership, all entities shall show a clear indication of ownership on fact sheets.

Transmission Protocols and Dissemination Channels:

NEAFC reports which serve as background documentation for information will be published on the NEAFC web site. Links to these reports and relevant texts under NEAFC ownership will be made available to the FIRMS website, using a combination of the tools offered by the system. Transmission is planned to be within three months following publication by NEAFC of its reports on the NEAFC web-site.

1 *Data and information security:*

All contributions from the NEAFC will be in the public domain. Transparency of the information and results on management of fisheries and resources presented by NEAFC are documented in the public domain under the NEAFC transparency rules.

2 *Collaborative institutions:*

NEAFC is the FIRMS signatory Partner and as such doesn't include any collaborative institutions.

5. *Additional entitlements:*

When required, this Annex may be revised by mutual consent.

Table 1: Stocks and fisheries in FAO Area 27 for which NEAFC has adopted management measures

Managed Fisheries (from Resources perspective)

- Blue Whiting
- Deep-sea species
- Mackerel
- Norwegian Spring Spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring
- Pelagic redfish (*Sebastes mentella*) in the Irminger and adjacent areas and Norwegian Sea
- Redfish in ICES Sub-areas I and II
- Rockall haddock

Fisheries (from Metier perspective)

- Pelagic trawlers and purse-seiners fishing for blue whiting, herring and mackerel
- Demersal trawlers, long liners and gillnetters fishing for deep-sea species
- Pelagic trawlers fishing for pelagic redfish in the Irminger and Norwegian Sea
- Demersal trawlers fishing for Rockall haddock

Closures

- NEAFC in 2004 closed 4 seamounts and 1 larger area on the Reykjanes Ridge to fishing for the period 2005-2007.

- In 2006 it closed 4 areas in the Hatton Bank – Rockall Bank area for the period 2007-2009.