NEAFC, Ecosystem Approach and Bycatch

Dr. Darius Campbell
Secretary of NEAFC
NEAFC Objectives

“to ensure the long-term conservation and optimum utilisation of the fishery resources in its Convention Area, providing sustainable economic, environmental and social benefits”
NEAFC Convention Area
NEAFC’s Main Stocks

Main species:
• Herring
• Blue whiting
• Mackerel
• Redfish
• Haddock
• Deep-sea species
Economic and Social importance

Contracting Parties:

- Denmark in respect of Faroes and Greenland
- European Union
- Iceland
- Norway
- Russian Federation
- United Kingdom
Environmental and sustainable objectives

- Objectives include environmental objectives.
- Sustainability applies to all 3: social, economic, and environmental...
RFMO Processes

Legal framework - Recommendations

- Conservation and management measures
  - Total Allowable Catches and quotas
    - annual / multiannual
- Technical Measures
- Statistical processes
- Data exchange processes
- Scheme of Control and Enforcement

Scheme of Control and Enforcement

- Control Measures
- Monitoring of Fisheries, Inspections at Sea
- Port State Control
- Infringements
- Compliance by Non-Contracting Parties

Conservation of living marine resources

- Low impact pelagic fisheries
- Scientific advice on deep sea species
- Binding bans on fisheries targeted at species at risk, e.g., sharks
- Gill net ban in <200m depth
- Reporting and retrieval of lost fixed fishing gear
- Protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs)
  - e.g., Sponges and Corals
Decision cycle for management

- Independent Scientific advice from ICES
- Total Allowable Catches
- Allocation
- Technical measures
- Control and enforcement
ICES: independent wholistic scientific advice

Precautionary Approach
Populations need to be maintained within safe biological limits - Certain that reproductive success is not impaired

Pragmatic Ecosystem Based Management
Balancing human activities & environmental stewardship in a multiple use context.

ICES Fisheries overviews

ICES Ecosystem overviews

NEAFC
North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
Conservation of living marine resources

- Ban on gill nets in waters deeper than 200m
- Binding measures to ban targeted fisheries at species at risk, e.g. sharks
- Avoiding bycatch

- Recovery of abandoned and lost fishing gear
- Special approaches for deep sea species
- Protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems e.g. Sponges and Corals

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There are known knowns; there are things we know that we know.

There are known unknowns; that is to say, there are things that we now know we don’t know.

But there are also unknown unknowns – there are things we do not know we don’t know.

-Donald Rumsfeld
NEAFC future working group, looking at new Issues
Raising awareness and understanding
Many organisations operating on marine issues

Periodic Table of the European Marine/Maritime Elements

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North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
Collective arrangement

• Agreed between international organisations competent for managing human activities
• Concerns areas with specific management actions in ABNJ
• Guided by internationally agreed principles and norms
• A framework to cooperate and coordinate – important not to undermine each other’s work