



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 5.10.2007  
COM(2007) 570 final

Proposal for a

**COUNCIL REGULATION**

**amending Regulations (EC) No 2015/2006 and (EC) No 41/2007, as regards fishing opportunities and associated conditions for certain fish stocks**

(presented by the Commission)

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

Council Regulation (EC) No 2015/2006<sup>1</sup> fixes for 2007 and 2008 the fishing opportunities for Community fishing vessels for certain deep-sea fish stocks.

The North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) at its extraordinary meeting in June 2007 decided to extend the recommendations on a prohibition to fish for orange roughy in the NEAFC Regulatory Area during the second half of 2007. These recommendations should be implemented in Community law.

Council Regulation (EC) No 41/2007 fixes the fishing opportunities and associated conditions for certain fish stocks and groups of stocks applicable in Community waters and for Community vessels, in waters where limitations in catch are required for 2007<sup>2</sup>.

Pursuant to consultations between the Community and Iceland on 28 March 2007 an arrangement was reached on quotas for Icelandic vessels to be fished from the Community quota allocated under its Agreement with the Government of Denmark and the local Government of Greenland before 30 April 2007, and for Community vessels fishing for Redfish in the Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone to be fished between July and December. This arrangement should be implemented in Community law.

The conditions applying to the fishery in certain zones for a number of TACs need to be clarified as regards by-catches and to ensure the correct application of the Agreement of 19 December 1966 between Norway, Denmark and Sweden on mutual access to fishing in the Skagerrak and the Kattegat. An amendment is therefore required.

The North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) at its extraordinary meeting in June 2007 adopted recommendations on conservation and management measures in the NEAFC Regulatory Area in 2007 for redfish in international waters of ICES zones I and II. These recommendations should be implemented in Community law.

Pursuant to written consultations between the Community and the Faroe Islands, agreement was reached on access as regards Herring in EC and international waters of ICES zones I and II. This arrangement should be implemented in Community law.

The conditions for replaced or withdrawn vessels in relation the allocation of additional days for permanent cessation of fishing activities should be clarified, as the reference to certain vessels concerned by fishing effort limitations is indicated incorrectly.

The derogation from hailing requirements in Annexes IIA, IIB and IIC to Regulation (EC) No 41/2007 for vessels equipped with vessel monitoring systems in relation to fishing effort messages should be clarified.

The title of Annex IIB to Council Regulation (EC) No 41/2007 should be corrected to ensure consistency with the scope of this Annex.

The indication of the length of passive gears should be changed from 2.5 kilometres to 5 nautical miles to ensure that safety in handling the nets is not impaired in view of the existing

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 384, 29.12.2006, p. 28

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 15, 15.1.2007, p. 1

rules for the marking and identification of passive fishing gear in Commission Regulation (EC) No 356/2005 of 1 March 2005 laying down detailed rules for the marking and identification of passive fishing gear and beam trawls<sup>3</sup> and certain specific rules on the use of gillnets.

The integration of environmental protection requirements into the Common Fisheries Policy calls for the adoption of measures to minimise the impact of fishing activities on marine ecosystems. According to recent scientific information, and in particular reports of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), highly sensitive deep-water habitats have been found and mapped off the West and South-West coast of Ireland. Those habitats host important and highly diverse biological communities and are considered to require priority protection. In particular, they are defined as habitats of Community interest in Directive 92/43/EC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Recovery from damage to these habitats produced by active and passive fishing gear is either impossible or very difficult and slow. All fishing in the areas in question should therefore be prohibited. Until permanent protection measures are in place, it is therefore appropriate to ban all fishing in the areas in question.

The present proposal intends to introduce the necessary amendments to Regulations (EC) No 2015/2006 and (EC) No 41/2007.

The Council is requested to adopt this proposal as soon as possible in order to allow fishermen to plan their activities for this fishing season.

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<sup>3</sup> OJ L 56, 2.3.2005, p. 8. Regulation as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1805/2005.

Proposal for a

## COUNCIL REGULATION

### **amending Regulations (EC) No 2015/2006 and (EC) No 41/2007, as regards fishing opportunities and associated conditions for certain fish stocks**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2371/2002 of 20 December 2002 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources under the Common Fisheries Policy<sup>4</sup>, and in particular Article 20 thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 423/2004 of 26 February 2004 establishing measures for the recovery of cod stocks<sup>5</sup>, and in particular Article 8 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission<sup>6</sup>,

Whereas:

- (1) Council Regulation (EC) No 2015/2006<sup>7</sup> fixes for 2007 and 2008 the fishing opportunities for Community fishing vessels for certain deep-sea fish stocks.
- (2) The North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) at its extraordinary meeting in June 2007 decided to extend the recommendations on a prohibition to fish for orange roughy in the NEAFC Regulatory Area during the second half of 2007. These recommendations should be implemented in Community law.
- (3) Council Regulation (EC) No 41/2007<sup>8</sup> fixes for 2007 the fishing opportunities and associated conditions for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Community waters and, for Community vessels, in waters where catch limitations are required.
- (4) Pursuant to consultations between the Community and Iceland on 28 March 2007 an arrangement was reached on quotas for Icelandic vessels to be fished from the Community quota allocated under its Agreement with the Government of Denmark and the local Government of Greenland before 30 April 2007, and for Community vessels fishing for Redfish in the Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone to be fished

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<sup>4</sup> OJ L 358, 31.12.2002, p. 59

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 70, 9.3.2004, p. 8.

<sup>6</sup> OJ C, p.

<sup>7</sup> OJ L 384, 29.12.2006, p. 28. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 754/2007 (OJ L 172, 30.6.2007, p. 26).

<sup>8</sup> OJ L 15, 20.1.2007, p.1. Regulation as last amended by Regulation (EC) No 754/2007.

between July and December. This arrangement should be implemented in Community law.

- (5) The conditions applying to the fishery in certain zones for a number of TACs need to be clarified as regards by-catches and to ensure the correct application of the Agreement of 19 December 1966 between Norway, Denmark and Sweden on mutual access to fishing in the Skagerrak and the Kattegat. An amendment is therefore required.
- (6) Pursuant to written consultations between the Community and the Faroe Islands, agreement was reached on access as regards Herring in EC and international waters of ICES zones I and II. This arrangement should be implemented in Community law.
- (7) The North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) at its extraordinary meeting in June 2007 adopted recommendations on conservation and management measures in the NEAFC Regulatory Area in 2007 for redfish in international waters of ICES zones I and II. These recommendations should be implemented in Community law.
- (8) The conditions for replaced or withdrawn vessels in relation the allocation of additional days for permanent cessation of fishing activities should be clarified, as the reference to certain vessels concerned by fishing effort limitations is indicated incorrectly.
- (9) The derogation from hailing requirements in Annexes IIA, IIB and IIC to Regulation (EC) No 41/2007 for vessels equipped with vessel monitoring systems in relation to fishing effort messages should be clarified.
- (10) The title of Annex IIB to Council Regulation (EC) No 41/2007 should be corrected to ensure consistency with the scope of this Annex.
- (11) The indication of the length of passive gears should be changed from 2.5 kilometres to 5 nautical miles to ensure that safety in handling the nets is not impaired in view of the existing rules for the marking and identification of passive fishing gear in Commission Regulation (EC) No 356/2005 of 1 March 2005 laying down detailed rules for the marking and identification of passive fishing gear and beam trawls<sup>9</sup> and certain specific rules on the use of gillnets.
- (12) The integration of environmental protection requirements into the Common Fisheries Policy calls for the adoption of measures to minimise the impact of fishing activities on marine ecosystems. According to recent scientific information, and in particular the reports of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), highly sensitive deep-water habitats have been found and mapped off the West and South-West coast of Ireland. Those habitats host important and highly diverse biological communities and are considered to require priority protection. In particular, they are defined as habitats of Community interest in Directive 92/43/EC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora<sup>10</sup>. Recovery from damage to these habitats produced by active and passive fishing gear is either impossible or very difficult and slow. All fishing in the areas in question should

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<sup>9</sup> OJ L 56, 2.3.2005, p. 8. Regulation as amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1805/2005.

<sup>10</sup> OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.

therefore be prohibited. Until permanent protection measures are in place, it is therefore appropriate to ban all fishing in the areas in question.

- (13) Regulations (EC) No 2015/2006 and (EC) No 41/2007 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

*Article 1*  
***Amendments to Regulation (EC) No 2015/2006***

Part 2 of the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 2015/2006 is amended in accordance with Annex I to this Regulation.

*Article 2*  
***Amendments to Regulation (EC) No 41/2007***

Regulation (EC) No 41/2007 is amended as follows:

- (1) Article 10 is replaced by the following:

*"Article 10*

*Access limits*

1. No fishing by Community vessels shall take place in the Skagerrak within 12 nautical miles from the baselines of Norway. However, vessels flying the flag of Denmark or Sweden shall be allowed to fish up to four nautical miles from the baselines of Norway.

2. Fishing by Community vessels in waters under the jurisdiction of Iceland shall be limited to the area defined by straight lines sequentially connecting the following coordinates:

South Western Area

1. 63°12'N and 23°05'W through 62°00'N and 26°00'W,
2. 62°58'N and 22°25'W,
3. 63°06'N and 21°30'W,
4. 63°03'N and 21°00'W from there 180°00'S;

South Eastern Area

1. 63°14'N and 10°40'W,
2. 63°14'N and 11°23'W,

3. 63°35'N and 12°21'W,
4. 64°00'N and 12°30'W,
5. 63°53'N and 13°30'W,
6. 63°36'N and 14°30'W,
7. 63°10'N and 17°00'W from there 180°00'S."

(2) Annexes IA, IB, IIA, IIB, IIC and III to Regulation (EC) No 41/2007 are amended in accordance with Annex II to this Regulation.

*Article 3*  
***Entry into force***

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

*For the Council*  
*The President*

## ANNEX I

In the Annex to Regulation (EC) No 2015/2006, Part 2 is amended as follows:

- (1) The entry concerning the species Orange roughy in ICES zone VI (Community waters and waters not under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of third countries) is replaced by the following:

"Species:	Orange roughy	Zone:	VI (Community waters)
	<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>		

Year	2007	2008
Spain	5	3
France	30	15
Ireland	5	3
United Kingdom	5	3
EC	45	22"

- (2) The entry concerning the species Orange roughy in ICES zone VII (Community waters and waters not under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of third countries) is replaced by the following

"Species:	Orange roughy	Zone:	VII (Community waters)
	<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>		

Year	2007	2008	
Spain	1	1	(1) Exclusively for by-catches. No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota.
France	131	64	
Ireland	39	19	
United Kingdom	1	1	
Others (1)	1	1	
EC	174	86"	

- (3) The entry concerning the species Orange roughy in Community waters and waters not under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of third countries of ICES zones I, II, III, IV, V, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII and XIV is replaced by the following:

"Species:	Orange roughy	Zone:	Community waters of I, II, III, IV, V, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII and XIV
	<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>		

Year	2007	2008
Spain	4	2
France	21	10
Ireland	5	3
Portugal	6	3
United Kingdom	4	2
EC	40	20"



## ANNEX II

The Annexes to Regulation (EC) No 41/2007 are amended as follows:

(1) In Annex IA:

(a) The entry concerning the species Ling in ICES zone IIIa and in EC waters of ICES zones IIIb, IIIc and IIId is replaced by the following:

"Species:	Ling <i>Molva molva</i>	Zone:	IIIa; EC waters of IIIb, IIIc and IIId  LIN/03.
Belgium	8 <sup>(1)</sup>		Precautionary TAC
Denmark	62		Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 applies.
Germany	8 <sup>(1)</sup>		Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply.
Sweden	24		Article 5(2) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 applies.
United Kingdom	8		
EC	109		

(1) Quota may be fished in EC waters of ICES zones IIIa, IIIb, IIIc and IIId only."

(b) The entry concerning the species Norway lobster in ICES zone IIIa and in EC waters of ICES zones IIIb, IIIc and IIId is replaced by the following:

"Species:	Norway lobster <i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Zone:	IIIa; EC waters of IIIb, IIIc and IIId NEP/3A/BCD
Denmark	3 800		Analytical TAC
Germany	11 <sup>(1)</sup>		Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply.
Sweden	1 359		Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply.
EC	5 170		Article 5(2) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 applies.
TAC	5 170		

(1) Quota may be fished in EC waters of ICES zones IIIa, IIIb, IIIc and IIId only."

(c) The entry concerning the species Common sole in ICES zone IIIa and in EC waters of ICES zones IIIb, IIIc and IIId is replaced by the following:

"Species:	Common sole <i>Solea solea</i>	Zone:	IIIa, EC waters of IIIb, IIIc and IIId SOL/3A/BCD
Denmark	755		Analytical TAC
Germany	44 <sup>(1)</sup>		Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 applies.
The Netherlands	73 <sup>(1)</sup>		Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 applies.

Sweden	28	Article 5(2) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 applies.
EC	900	
TAC	900	

(1) Quota may be fished in EC waters of ICES zones IIIa, IIIb, IIIc and IIIId only."

(d) The entry concerning the species Spurdog/dogfish in ICES zone IIIa; EC and international waters of ICES zones I, V, VI, VII, VIII, XII and XIV is replaced by the following:

"Species:	Spurdog/dogfish <i>Squalus acanthias</i>	Zone:	IIIa; EC and international waters of I, V, VI, VII, VIII, XII and XIV DGS/135X14
EC	2 828 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	Precautionary TAC	
TAC	2 828 <sup>(1)</sup>	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 applies. Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply. Article 5(2) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 applies.	

- (1) By-catch quota. These species shall not comprise more than 5% by live weight of the catch retained on board.  
(2) Only Denmark and Sweden may fish in Norwegian waters of ICES zone IIIa"

(e) The entry concerning the species Norway pout in ICES zone IIIa and in EC waters of ICES zones IIa and IV is replaced by the following:

"Species:	Norway pout <i>Trisopterus esmarki</i>	Zone:	IIIa; EC waters of IIa and IV NOP/2A3A4.
Denmark	0	Analytical TAC	
Germany	0 <sup>(1)</sup>	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply.	
The Netherlands	0 <sup>(1)</sup>	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply.	
EC	0	Article 5(2) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 applies.	
Norway	1 000 <sup>(2)(3)</sup>		
TAC	Not relevant		

(1) Quota may be fished in EC waters of ICES zones IIa, IIIa, and IV only.  
(2) This quota may be fished in ICES zone VIa North of 56°30'N.  
(3) Only as by-catches."

(2) In Annex IB:

(a) The entry concerning the species Herring in EC and international waters of ICES zones I and II is replaced by the following:

"Species:	Herring <i>Clupea harengus</i>	Zone:	EC and International waters of I and II HER/1/2.
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Belgium	30	Analytical TAC
Denmark	28 550	Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply.
Germany	5 000	Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply.
Spain	94	Article 5(2) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 applies.
France	1 232	
Ireland	7 391	
The Netherlands	10 217	
Poland	1 445	
Portugal	94	
Finland	442	
Sweden	10 580	
United Kingdom	18 253	
EC	83 328	
Norway	74 995 <sup>(1)</sup>	
Faroe Islands	10 834 <sup>(1)</sup>	
TAC	1 280 000	

<sup>(1)</sup> Catches taken against this quota are to be deducted from Norway's and the Faroe Islands' share of the TAC (access quota). This quota may be fished in EC waters north of 62°N

Special conditions:

Within the limits of the abovementioned quotas, no more than the quantities given below may be taken in the zones specified:

	Norwegian waters north of 62° N and the fishery zone around Jan Mayen (HER/*2AJMN)
Belgium	30 <sup>(2)</sup>
Denmark	28 550 <sup>(2)</sup>
Germany	5 000 <sup>(2)</sup>
Spain	94 <sup>(2)</sup>
France	1 232 <sup>(2)</sup>
Ireland	7 391 <sup>(2)</sup>
The Netherlands	10 217 <sup>(2)</sup>
Poland	1 445 <sup>(2)</sup>
Portugal	94 <sup>(2)</sup>
Finland	442 <sup>(2)</sup>
Sweden	10 580 <sup>(2)</sup>
United Kingdom	18 253 <sup>(2)</sup>

(2) When the sum of the catches of all Member States have reached 74 995 tonnes no further catches shall be permitted.

	Faroese waters of II and Vb, north of 62° (HER/*25B-F)
Belgium	3
Denmark	3 712
Germany	650
Spain	12
France	159
Ireland	960
The Netherlands	1 329

Poland	187
Portugal	12
Finland	56
Sweden	1 374
United Kingdom	2 374"

- (b) The entry concerning the species Capelin in Greenland waters of ICES zones V and XIV is replaced by the following:

"Species:	Capelin <i>Mallotus villosus</i>	Zone:	Greenland waters of V and XIV CAP/514GRN
All Member States	0		
EC	28 490 <sup>(1) (2)</sup>		
TAC	Not relevant		

(1) Of which 28 490 tonnes are allocated to Iceland.

(2) To be fished before 30 April 2007."

- (c) The following entry concerning the species Redfish in International waters of ICES zones I and II is inserted after the entry concerning Redfish in Norwegian waters of I and II:

"Species:	Redfish <i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Zone:	International waters of ICES zones I and II RED/1/2INT
EC	Not relevant <sup>(1)</sup>		Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply.
TAC	15 500 <sup>(2)</sup>		Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 does not apply. Article 5(2) of Regulation (EC) No 847/96 applies.

(1) Fishing activities shall be restricted to those vessels which have previously been engaged in the redfish fishery in the NEAFC Regulatory Area.

(2) May be fished in the period 1 September to 15 November 2007. TAC includes all by-catches."

- (d) The entry concerning the species Redfish in Icelandic waters of ICES zone Va is replaced by the following:

"Species:	Redfish <i>Sebastes spp.</i>	Zone:	Icelandic waters of Va RED/05A-IS
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Belgium	100	(1)(2)
Germany	1 690	(1)(2)
France	50	(1)(2)
United Kingdom	1 160	(1)(2)
EC	3 000	(1)(2)
TAC	Not relevant	

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(1) Including unavoidable by-catches (cod not allowed).

(2) To be fished between July and December."

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(3) In Annex IIA:

(a) Point 10.1 is replaced by the following:

"10.1. An additional number of days on which a vessel may be present within the area when carrying on board any of the gears referred to in point 4.1. may be allocated to Member States by the Commission on the basis of permanent cessations of fishing activities that have taken place since 1 January 2002. The effort expended in 2001 measured in kilowatt days of the withdrawn vessels using the gear in question in the relevant area shall be divided by the effort expended by all vessels using that gear during 2001. The additional number of days shall then be calculated by multiplying the ratio so obtained by the number of days originally allocated. Any part of a day resulting from this calculation shall be rounded to the nearest whole day. This point shall not apply where a vessel has been replaced in accordance with point 5.1 or when the withdrawal has already been used in previous years to obtain additional days at sea."

(b) Point 22 is replaced by the following:

**"22. Fishing effort messages**

By way of derogation to Article 9 of Council Regulation (EC) No 423/2004 of 26 February 2004 establishing measures for the recovery of cod stocks<sup>11</sup>, vessels equipped with vessel monitoring systems in accordance with Article 5 and 6 of Regulation (EC) No 2244/2003 shall be excluded from the hailing requirements set out in Article 19c of Council Regulation (EC) No 2847/93."

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<sup>11</sup> OJ L 70, 9.3.2004, p. 8

(3) In Annex IIB:

(a) The title is replaced by the following:

**"FISHING EFFORT FOR VESSELS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE  
RECOVERY OF CERTAIN SOUTHERN HAKE AND NORWAY LOBSTER  
STOCKS IN ICES ZONES VIIIc AND IXa EXCLUDING THE GULF OF  
CADIZ"**

(b) Point 9.1 is replaced by the following:

"9.1. An additional number of days on which a vessel may be present within the area when carrying on board any of the groupings of fishing gear referred to in point 3 may be allocated to Member States by the Commission on the basis of permanent cessation of fishing activities that have taken place since 1 January 2004 either in accordance with Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 2792/1999 or resulting from other circumstances duly motivated by Member States. Any vessels that can be shown to have been definitively withdrawn from the area may also be considered. The effort expended in 2003 measured in kilowatt days of the withdrawn vessels using the gear in question in the relevant area shall be divided by the effort expended by all vessels using that gear during the same year. The additional number of days shall be then calculated by multiplying the ratio so obtained by the number of days originally allocated. Any part of a day resulting from this calculation shall be rounded to the nearest whole day. This point shall not apply where a vessel has been replaced in accordance with point 4.1 or when the withdrawal has already been used in previous years to obtain additional days at sea."

(c) Point 17 is replaced by the following:

**"17. Fishing effort messages**

Articles 19b, 19c, 19d, 19e and 19k of Regulation (EEC) No2847/93 shall apply to vessels carrying on board the groupings of fishing gear defined in point 3 of this Annex and operating in the area defined in point 1 of this Annex. Vessels equipped with vessel monitoring systems in accordance with Articles 5 and 6 of Regulation (EC) No 2244/2003 shall be excluded from the hailing requirements set out in Article 19c of Council Regulation (EC) No 2847/93."

(4) In Annex IIC:

(a) Point 9.1 is replaced by the following:

"9.1. An additional number of days on which a vessel may be present within the area when carrying on board any of the groupings of fishing gear referred to in point 3 may be allocated to Member States by the Commission on the basis of permanent cessation of fishing activities that have taken place since 1 January 2004 either in accordance with Article 7 of Regulation (EC) No 2792/1999 or resulting from other circumstances duly motivated by Member States. Any vessels that can be shown to have been definitively withdrawn from the area may also be considered. The effort expended in 2003 measured in kilowatt days of the withdrawn vessels using the gear in question in the relevant area shall be divided by the effort expended by all vessels

using that gear during the same year. The additional number of days shall be then calculated by multiplying the ratio so obtained by the number of days originally allocated. Any part of a day resulting from this calculation shall be rounded to the nearest whole day. This point shall not apply where a vessel has been replaced in accordance with point 4.1 or when the withdrawal has already been used in previous years to obtain additional days at sea."

(b) Point 16 is replaced by the following:

**"16. Fishing effort messages**

Articles 19b, 19c, 19d, 19e and 19k of Regulation (EEC) No2847/93 shall apply to vessels carrying on board the groupings of fishing gear defined in point 3 of this Annex and operating in the area defined in point 1 of this Annex. Vessels equipped with vessel monitoring systems in accordance with Articles 5 and 6 of Regulation (EC) No 2244/2003 shall be excluded from the hailing requirements set out in Article 19c of Council Regulation (EC) No 2847/93."

(5) In Annex III:

(a) Point 9.4(a) is replaced by the following:

"(a) Gillnets with a mesh size equal to or greater than 120 mm and less than 150 mm, provided that they are deployed in waters of less than 600 metres charted depth, are no more than 100 meshes deep, have a hanging ratio of not less than 0.5, and are rigged with floats or equivalent floatation. The nets shall each be of a maximum of 5 nautical miles in length, and the total length of all nets deployed at any one time shall not exceed 25km per vessel. The maximum soak time shall be 24 hours; or"

(b) Point 13 is replaced by the following:

**"13. Interim measures for the protection of vulnerable deep-sea habitats**

13.1. It shall be prohibited to conduct bottom trawling and fishing with static gear, including bottom set gill-nets and long-lines, within the areas enclosed by sequentially joining with rhumb lines the following positions, which shall be measured according to the WGS84 coordinate system:

The Hecate Seamounts:

- 52° 21.2866' N, 31° 09.2688' W
- 52° 20.8167' N, 30° 51.5258' W
- 52° 12.0777' N, 30° 54.3824' W
- 52° 12.4144' N, 31° 14.8168' W
- 52° 21.2866' N, 31° 09.2688' W

The Faraday Seamounts:

- 50° 01.7968' N, 29° 37.8077' W
- 49° 59.1490' N, 29° 29.4580' W
- 49° 52.6429' N, 29° 30.2820' W
- 49° 44.3831' N, 29° 02.8711' W
- 49° 44.4186' N, 28° 52.4340' W
- 49° 36.4557' N, 28° 39.4703' W
- 49° 29.9701' N, 28° 45.0183' W
- 49° 49.4197' N, 29° 42.0923' W
- 50° 01.7968' N, 29° 37.8077' W



Part of the Reykjanes Ridge:

- 55° 04.5327' N, 36° 49.0135' W
- 55° 05.4804' N, 35° 58.9784' W
- 54° 58.9914' N, 34° 41.3634' W
- 54° 41.1841' N, 34° 00.0514' W
- 54° 00.0'N, 34° 00.0' W
- 53° 54.6406' N, 34° 49.9842' W
- 53° 58.9668' N, 36° 39.1260' W
- 55° 04.5327' N, 36° 49.0135' W

The Altair Seamounts:

- 44° 50.4953' N, 34° 26.9128' W
- 44° 47.2611' N, 33° 48.5158' W
- 44° 31.2006' N, 33° 50.1636' W
- 44° 38.0481' N, 34° 11.9715' W
- 44° 38.9470' N, 34° 27.6819' W
- 44° 50.4953' N, 34° 26.9128' W

The Antialtair Seamounts:

- 43° 43.1307' N, 22° 44.1174' W
- 43° 39.5557' N, 22° 19.2335' W
- 43° 31.2802' N, 22° 08.7964' W
- 43° 27.7335' N, 22° 14.6192' W
- 43° 30.9616' N, 22° 32.0325' W
- 43° 40.6286' N, 22° 47.0288' W
- 43° 43.1307' N, 22° 44.1174' W

- 13.2. It shall be prohibited to conduct bottom trawling and fishing with static gear, including bottom set gill-nets and long-lines, within the areas enclosed by sequentially joining with rhumb lines the following positions, which shall be measured according to the WGS84 coordinate system:

Belgica Mound Province:

- 51°49'N, 11°86'W
- 51°54'N, 11°69'W
- 51°26'N, 11°55'W
- 51°23'N, 11°74'W

Hovland Mound Province:

- 52°27'N, 13°21'W
- 52°40'N, 12°97'W
- 52°28'N, 12°90'W
- 52°28'N, 12°49'W
- 52°07'N, 12°49'W
- 52°07'N, 12°88'W
- 52°15'N, 12°94'W
- 52°15'N, 13°18'W

North-West Porcupine Bank:

*Area I*

- 53°51'N, 14°54'W
- 53°59'N, 14°46'W
- 53°68'N, 14°26'W
- 51°57'N, 14°19'W
- 53°53'N, 14°24'W
- 53°40'N, 14°48'W

*Area II*

- 53°72'N, 14°18'W
- 53°86'N, 11°89'W
- 53°76'N, 13°83'W
- 53°61'N, 14°12'W

South-West Porcupine Bank:

- 51°91'N, 15°12'W
- 51°91'N, 14°92'W
- 51°70'N, 14°92'W
- 51°70'N, 15°17'W
- 51°82'N, 15°10'W"