



Submission by the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission

regarding

Part II of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/70

The following is the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission's (NEAFC) contribution to the preparation of Part II of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/70, as requested in a letter from Miguel de Serpa Soares, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, dated 3 April 2014 (your reference LOS/SGR/2014/Add.1).

In making this submission, the point expressed in the letter of 4 April 2014 regarding the restrictions on the length of documents is taken into account, with the substantive part of the NEAFC submission not exceeding 400 words. The submission therefore focuses on a few key areas addressed in resolution 68/70, in particular those highlighted in the letter of 3 April 2014, rather than attempting to provide a comprehensive overview of all of NEAFC's relevant activities.

The submission regarding Part I of the report was sent on 29 January 2014, in response to a letter dated 10 December 2013.

NEAFC is a regional fisheries management organisation dealing with fisheries for stocks that occur in the high seas of the North East Atlantic. The NEAFC Contracting Parties are Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation. NEAFC's objective is to ensure the long-term conservation and optimum utilisation of the fishery resources in the Convention Area, providing sustainable economic, environmental and social benefits.

The substantive part of the NEAFC submission is as follows:

None of NEAFC's Contracting Parties are developing countries, and NEAFC's core activities do not include capacity building in developing countries or other types of development cooperation. However, NEAFC does take part in various projects aimed at capacity building in developing countries. This is primarily done by sharing NEAFC's knowledge and experience regarding fisheries management; fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS); and related fields.

In this context Port State Control (PSC) has been an issue of particular interest in recent times. NEAFC has developed and is implementing a well-functioning and electronic system of PSC, and has gone through an extensive exercise to ensure its consistency with the 2009

FAO Port State Measures Agreement. Several other regional fisheries management organisations, of which developing countries are parties, are currently formulating PSC and NEAFC has responded positively to more than one approach to share its knowledge in this context.

The other issues where the NEAFC Secretariat most prominently regularly contributes to work related to capacity building are area management (in particular in the context of protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems) and control and enforcement measures (such as the use of a vessel monitoring system and other measures for international cooperation).

NEAFC has in the past year formalised two different types of close cooperation with other regional organisations, thereby contributing to increased cooperation and coordination.

Firstly, NEAFC has formally adopted a collective arrangement with the OSPAR Commission on cooperation and coordination regarding selected areas in areas beyond national jurisdiction in the North-East Atlantic. The OSPAR Commission will discuss the possible adoption of the collective arrangement from the OSPAR side at its meeting in June 2014.

Secondly, NEAFC has together with the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) set up a Joint Advisory Group on Data Management (JAGDM). The group is also open to other regional fisheries management organisations and among its primary objectives is to increase harmonisation in the technical solutions applied in different areas, avoiding vessel operators having to have many different ways of doing the same tasks depending on where they are operating.

NEAFC's conservation and management measures are aimed both at the target stocks themselves and at the effects that fisheries have on other components of the marine ecosystem, thereby contributing to the ecosystem approach to fisheries. This includes measures that contribute to the protection of marine biodiversity, such as the prevention of significant adverse impacts on vulnerable marine ecosystems through area management.

2 June 2014