

Report on the outcome of the fourth meeting of Regional Fishery Bodies

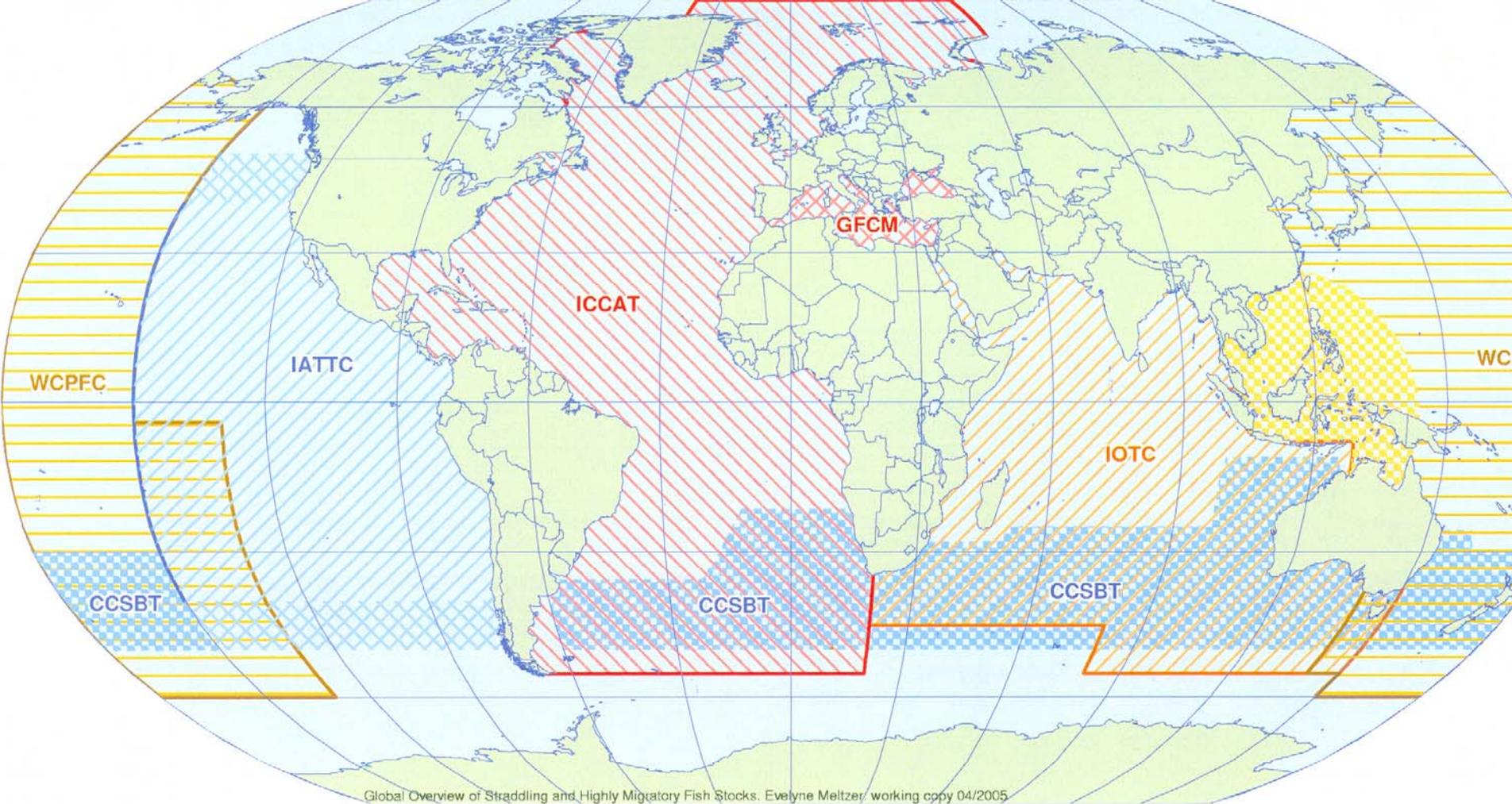


Sixth meeting of the UN Open-ended
Informal Consultative Process on Oceans
and the Law of the Sea

UN New York 6 June 2005

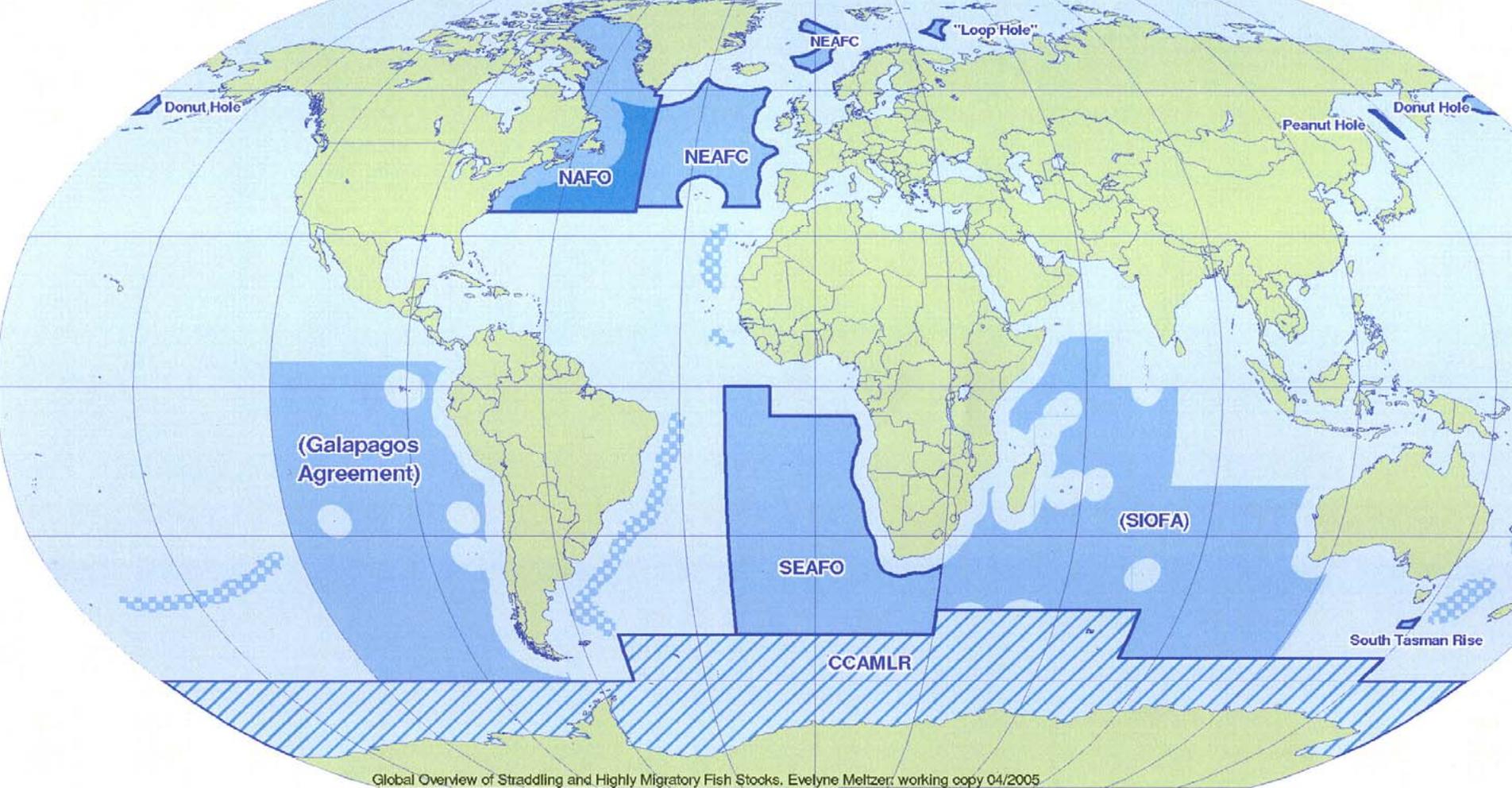
Kjartan Hoydal, Executive Secretary NEAFC





Global Overview - Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (Tuna and Tuna-Like)





Global Overview - Straddling Fish Stocks

- RFMO Boundary
- Proposed Regulatory Area (not yet adopted or not yet in force)
- Other Unregulated High Seas Areas where Straddling Fish Stocks Occur
- CCAMLR
- NAFO Regulatory Area

Task at hand

- RFBs, RFMOs and RAs, face the same task – and problems - as states, trying to establish sustainable fisheries
- Sustainability is the key word, it takes precedence and encompasses every other objective
- The RFMOs attempt to establish fisheries management systems compatible with systems in waters under national jurisdiction
- The general principle of subsidiarity should mean that regional and local management has a better chance of succeeding than global initiatives

The management framework

- Fisheries managers have to plan, develop and manage fisheries in ways that address the multiple needs and desires of society and maximise the flow of benefits over time from marine resources.
- At the same time, the management framework shall reduce the risk that impacts lead to irreversible or avoidable changes to ecosystems.
- Fishing is the only human activity in the oceans that is dependent on healthy ecosystems and clean oceans.

The management framework

- Fisheries cannot avoid having an impact on the marine ecosystems in the process of producing healthy seafood from healthy fisheries.
- Fishing communities and societies must be allowed to pursue their legitimate business of establishing economic development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs

RFBs and their role

- The role of, RFBs, RFMOs and RAs, have increasingly been stressed in international law and instruments and UNGA resolutions
- The increased responsibilities laid on the doorstep of the RFBs have not been much discussed within these bodies.

RFBs and their role

- This is because RFBs are set up in a way, so they cannot be more than what their Contracting Parties want them to be.
- The Contracting Parties, very rarely the RFBs or their secretariats, express policy views. It is the sovereign right of the parties to act on their own and/or cooperate through relevant regional organisations and, eventually, seek consensus on policy matters in the RFBs.

The differences in scope in RFBs

1. Poverty alleviation
2. Food security
3. Economic basis for settlement in coastal areas
4. Profitability in fishing industries
5. Fair and equitable sharing of resources
6. Integration of environmental concerns

The diversity of RFBs in the network

- Fisheries management organisation > < cooperative arrangements
- Convention based > < FAO bodies
- Highly migratory pelagic stocks > < demersal and pelagic straddling stocks, anadromous stocks
- Inland > < marine
- Single or few fish species > < multispecies
- Addressing artisanal, small scale fisheries > < high technological, capital intensive, large scale fisheries

Fourth RFB Meeting Rome March 2005

- At the fourth Meeting of Regional Fisheries Bodies in Rome 14-15 March this year a number of issues were discussed by appr. 30 secretariats of Regional Arrangements, RAs, and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, RFMOs.
- FAO initiated these meeting in 1999. Since the meetings have been biannual. They are now organised by the RFBs themselves and are expected to develop into the “RFB Secretariats Network” .

The agenda of the Fourth Meeting

- Review of the Decisions of the Twenty-sixth Session of COFI of Relevance to Regional Fishery Bodies
- The Role of Regional Fishery Bodies
- External Factors Affecting Fisheries Management

Global fisheries governance

- IUU fishing
- Overcapacity
- Incorporating ecosystem considerations into management by RFBs
- ▼ Relations Between RFBs And The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and with CITES
- ▼ The Status of the Fisheries Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS)

Review Decisions of 26 Session

COFI

- FAO was strongly requested to assist the RFMOs in their roles relating to issues concerned with biodiversity of the high seas.
- Cooperation between RFMOs was encouraged and note taken of the planned meeting between TUNA RFMOs . (North-atlantic and Salmon RFMOs already cooperate)
- COFI reaffirmed the critical role RFMOs played in improving the governance of deepwater resources in the high seas and IUU fishing. COFI encouraged the RFB IV Meeting to consider the issue of deep sea fisheries governance.

Review Decisions of 26 Session COFI

- IUU fishing covers issues of “flags and ports of convenience”, new entrants monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS), including vessel monitoring systems (VMS). The Statement from the Ministerial Conference in relation to IUU fishing, recognised the strong role of RFMOs.
- Potential memorandum of understanding between CITES and FAO (COFI Report paragraph 57-63). COFI recognizes the primary competence of RFMOs to manage commercially exploited aquatic species.

A Change in the Role of Regional Fishery Bodies

- The wide variety of mandates and competences shared between different RFBs should be noted and probably should be seen as an asset.
- In a time, where implementation of already existing international instruments will be of essence, the role of RFBs will be enhanced.
- In line with this the RFB cooperation in biannual meetings is planned to develop into a inter-sessional network. Effective networks, making use of the diversity, should have a strong element of capacity building

External Factors Affecting Fisheries Management

- **Global Fisheries Governance**
- RFBs have to raise their profiles in terms of education or information dissemination. RFBs have to improve communications with their stakeholders and with the general public
- RFBs should actively promote linkages among themselves, possibly via the RFB website
- At an individual RFB level, it was agreed that communications policies, which would allow Secretariats to respond to the media in a timely and informed manner are important.

External Factors Affecting Fisheries Management

- **IUU Fishing**
- Recent progress was noted in developing and circulating both “positive” and “negative” vessel lists as a way to combat IUU fishing in oceanic areas
- Monitoring capabilities based on a Vessel Detection System (VDS) are developing. The potential utility of using remote sensing to complement VMS was noted

External Factors Affecting Fisheries Management

- **Overcapacity**
- There are few if any examples that States make use of RFBs to manage fishing capacity

External Factors Affecting Fisheries Management

Incorporation of ecosystem considerations

- A range of views on EAF, and the underlying rationale, definition and principles for its implementation exists currently.
- In terms of implementation, which seen from the fisheries perspective should be incremental, the importance of identifying priority issues and operational objectives should not be underestimated.

Relations Between RFBs and UNEP

- The most effective relations would be those established at regional level, RFBs and their Regional Seas counterparts.
- RFBs, especially RFMOs, are aware of the primacy of their competencies, but recognize the potential utility of information exchanges on matters of common concern.
- Cost efficiency of any information exchanges is a major consideration.

CITES and FIRMS

CITES

- o RFBs support the primary competence of RFMOs to manage commercially exploited aquatic species

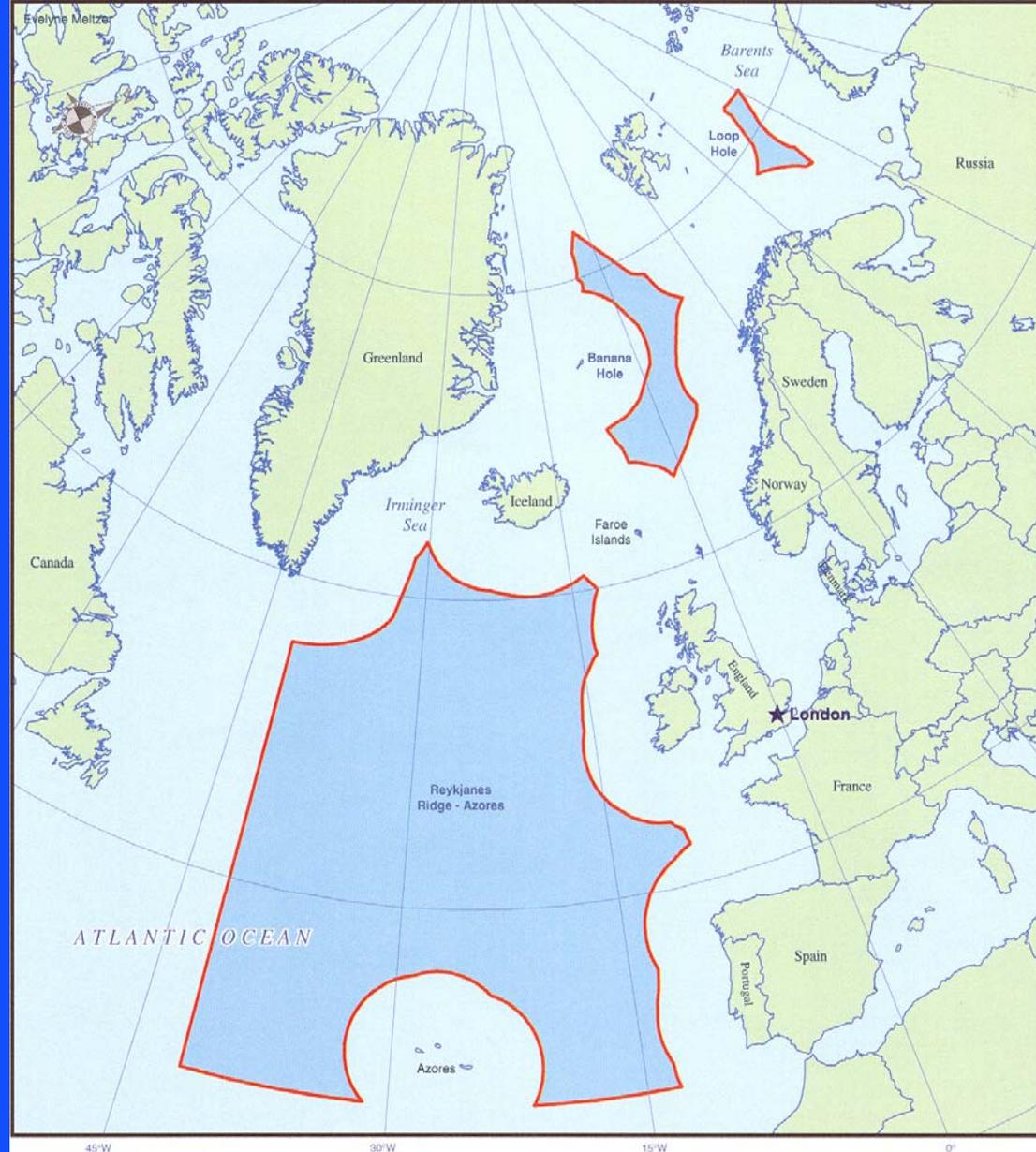
The Status of the Fisheries Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS)

- o There was strong, general support for the development of this system. It was seen as important that there was **one** international database, based on the best data available, that could be used as the authoritative source of fisheries data and the state of fisheries resources

Problems in Fisheries Management experienced by RFMOs

- Basically the same as experienced by states
- Getting the science right: Status of resources and impact of fisheries
- Integrating socio-economy concerns, creating the basis for addressing main objectives on a sustainable basis
- Addressing misconceptions based on misunderstood or badly researched science
- Review of performance?

North-East Atlantic Region



For illustration purposes only.
Map Projection : Lambert Conformal Conic
Standard Parallels : 49°N, 77°N
Central Meridian : 25°W

Global Overview of Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. Evelyne Meltzer: working copy 04/2005

— RFMO Boundary

**North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
(NEAFC)**

★ Headquarters: London, England

North-east Atlantic Ocean NEAFC

North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)

	NEAFC	Area of Competence	Ob
RFMO Structure	<p>North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission</p> <p>Headquarters: London, England</p> <p>Convention: The Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in North-East Atlantic Fisheries (NEAFC Convention).</p> <p>Signed: November 18, 1980 London, England.</p> <p>In force: March 17, 1982.</p>	<p>The Northeast Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. East of a line south of Cape Farewell - the southern tip of Greenland, at 42° W, north of a line to the west of Cape Hattaras - the southern tip of Spain at 36° N and west of a line touching the western tip of Novya Saniya at 51° E. Three high seas areas constitute NEAFC Regulatory Area: the Reykjanes - Azores area; Irminger Sea or "Banana Hole"; and Barents Sea "Loophole". NEAFC does not manage the "Loophole".</p>	To p fish app juris occ max
The Fishery EA and PA	<p>Key Species and Gear</p> <p>Straddling Stocks: Redfish (pelagic and oceanic), blue whiting, mackerel, Atlanto-Scandian (Norwegian spring-spawning) herring, Rockall haddock. As of November 2004, several deep sea species are also regulated by NEAFC, including blue ling, black scabbardfish and orange roughy.</p> <p>Gear: Midwater trawl and purse seines (redfish, blue whiting, herring and mackerel). Demersal trawl, bottom long line and bottom gill nets (deep sea fisheries).</p>	<p>Stock Status</p> <p>Status uncertain: Redfish, Rockall haddock.</p> <p>Full reproductive capacity, may be harvested unsustainably: Blue whiting.</p> <p>At risk of reduced reproductive capacity: Mackerel.</p> <p>Full reproductive capacity: Atlanto-Scandian (Norwegian spring-spawning) herring.</p> <p>Generally unknown: Deep-sea species, but according to ICES, many are beyond safe biological limits.</p>	By acc sho incl Ban NEA

NEAFC developments

- Since 1995 managing increasing number of straddling stocks in major pelagic fisheries
- Agreed on cutting back effort in deep-sea demersal fisheries by 30% this year
- Closed 5 vulnerable habitats on a precautionary basis to fisheries 2005-2007
- Agreed on a fast track dispute settlement procedure

Regional Seas Convention North-East Atlantic counterpart, OSPAR

- OSPAR has drawn the attention of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission to the need for action to protect biological diversity of cold-water coral reefs on the western slopes of the Rockall Bank
- This has forced NEAFC to look into a possible need to widen the scope of the NEAFC convention in line with developments since 1980.

Misconceptions on the deep sea bottom fishery in the North Atlantic

- In 2004 one lecture on high seas bottom fisheries was presented to a ICP panel by a representative of a coalition of environmental NGOs, the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, which *inter alia* presented data on high seas bottom trawling worldwide and in the North Atlantic

Misconceptions on the deep sea bottom fishery in the North Atlantic

- The following information on the current status of high Seas bottom trawl fishery was given:
- *In 2001 11 countries were responsible for over 95% of the reported catch from high seas bottom trawling: Spain, Portugal, Russia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Iceland, Norway; the Faroe Islands, New Zealand and Japan, employing 100-200 vessels full-time, year round.*

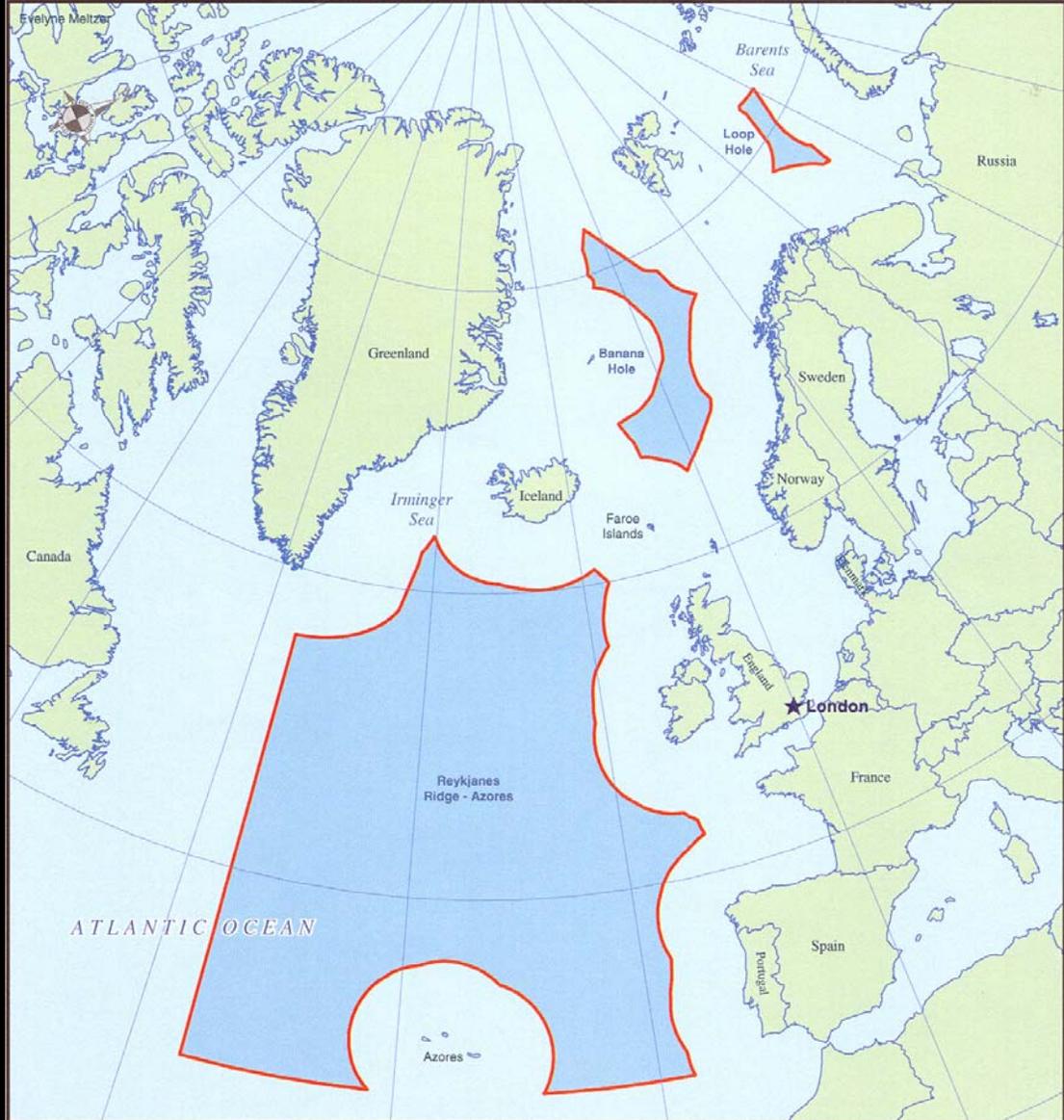
Misconceptions on the deep sea bottom fishery in the North Atlantic

- This statement, widely quoted, is based upon a report sponsored by *inter alia* IUCN
- I have put the following questions to the author:
- Which species are included in the estimates of catches by Country ?
- What information has been used to split catches between different fishing gears ?
- What information has been used to split catches between EEZs and high seas ?

Misconceptions on the deep sea bottom fishery in the North Atlantic

- Regrettably the author has not been in a position to answer these questions and explain the basis for his catch tables
- I must say the information on high sea bottom trawling is quite misleading.
- On an outgoing note I must emphasise that misleading, scientific studies are not at all helpful to the task of the RFMOs to establish frameworks for sustainable fisheries

The end



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North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)

— RFMO Boundary

★ Headquarters: London, England

RFBs and their role

- As a consequence the voice of regional fisheries management organisations is hardly heard in important international fora, when initiatives affecting their areas of competence are discussed
- There has in a number of international organisations been none or little confidence that problems in ocean management can be solved regionally
- That seems now to be changing