



PRESS NOTICE FROM THE THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION (NEAFC)

The first regional fisheries management measure identified as an Other Effective Conservation Measure (OECM)

NEAFC is the intergovernmental organisation responsible for fisheries management in international waters in the North-East Atlantic. Its Contracting Parties are Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United Kingdom.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has set out ambitious targets under the Global Biodiversity Framework for 30% of the globe to have in place protection for biodiversity by 2030, the so called 30x30 target.

In the oceans this 30% coverage will include a mix of Marine Protected Areas and Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECM) put in place by sectors such as fisheries. For fisheries this means demonstrating management that can produce long term benefits to biodiversity.

NEAFC is the first Regional Fisheries Management Organisation to report an OECM in the high seas to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

NEAFC has identified OECM based on practical measures that have been in place, some since 2004, purely to protect biodiversity from fisheries impacts. In this case by protecting deep sea sponges and corals (called Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems) from the fisheries that contact the seabed.

NEAFC has demonstrated very good control of fishing vessels to prevent bottom fishing activity where the deep sea sponges and corals occurring. This has been substantiated by scientific advice provided to NEAFC from the highly respected and independent scientific organisation (the International Council for Exploration of the Seas – ICES) that states that the relevant measures achieve long-term sustained in situ biodiversity/ecosystem benefits.

More information on the NEAFC OECM is available at the following addresses

<https://www.neafc.org/oecm>

The World Database on OECM at:

<https://www.protectedplanet.net/en>

For further information on NEAFC please see www.neafc.org, or contact the Secretary of NEAFC, Darius Campbell, on +44 207 631 0016 or darius@neafc.org