

Statement by the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission

The North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission is the Regional Fisheries Management Organisation for the North-East Atlantic. Through the Commission, coastal states cooperate to manage fisheries, in particular in the areas beyond national jurisdiction, of the North-East Atlantic.

The objectives of the Commission relate to sustained economic and social outcomes as well as conservation outcomes. This is to maintain the good status of our key stocks and in view of our large fisheries being a relatively low carbon, low impact sources of food protein, exported all over the world.

The Commission also has agreed explicitly and solely conservation focused measures, for instance bans on targeting sharks and effective area-based measures on protection of Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (sponges and corals).

All our measures, both fisheries and conservation are informed by independent ecosystem-based scientific advice from the International Council for Exploration of the Seas. The measures are enforced through effective and strict monitoring, surveillance and control.

The Commission recognises that an ecosystem approach needs to include all sectors working in the oceans through partnership and coordination. We therefore work with others, including through the collective arrangement with the OSPAR Commission. This was a commitment we made at the 2017 UN Oceans Conference. We continue our cooperation with others, in particular with a focus on Marine Protected Areas and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures.

We also recognise our role to cooperate with other regions of the world. We work with our sister organisations in sharing experience, reflecting our common role in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals in fisheries in their social, economic and environmental aspects. This includes through the working with Food and Agriculture Organisation, with the FAO Regional Secretariats Network and also through engagement with other international organisations through the Sustainable Oceans Initiative, Global Dialogues.

We thank you for your attention.