



North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
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7 October 2015

TO:

President

Vice President

Heads of Delegation

All Contracting Parties

Reference: HOD 15/77

POSTAL VOTE ON BOTTOM FISHING ACTIVITIES (EU – PROPOSAL 3)

Reference is made to the proposal attached to HOD letter 15/52, regarding proposed exploratory bottom fisheries by the European Union – Notice of Intent, circulated on 8 July 2015.

The proposal by the European Union is also attached to this HOD letter.

Reference is also made to HOD letter 15/76, circulated earlier today, containing the PECMAS advice to the Commission regarding the proposed exploratory fisheries by the European Union.

PECMAS's advice to the Commission, pursuant to Article 7 of Recommendation 19:2014, as amended, is that the proposed exploratory bottom fishing should be approved.

Article 7.4 of the Recommendation states that “[t]he Commission shall, within 30 days of receiving this advice, either give or withhold its approval for the proposed bottom fishing activities.”

As there will not be a meeting of the NEAFC Commission before the end of the 30-day period, the decision will be made through written communication, pursuant to Rule 28 of the NEAFC Rules of Procedure. This is the same procedure as was used regarding the previous proposals for exploratory bottom fisheries earlier this year.

For your information, Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure reads as follows:



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Where a proposal requiring a decision of the Commission is made between meetings of the Commission, the decision shall be made through written communication. The Secretary shall without undue delay communicate to all Contracting Parties the proposal and the closing date of a 30-day period that Contracting Parties have to reply. The Secretary shall ensure that the communication has been received by all Contracting Parties. The response from each Contracting Party shall be communicated to the Secretary and shall include a notification as to whether it votes in favour of the proposal, votes against the proposal or abstains. The Secretary shall immediately communicate the outcome of this decision-making process to all Contracting Parties, initiating, if relevant, the objection period as set out in Article 12 of the Convention. If a Contracting Party fails to respond within the 30-day period, it will be recorded as having abstained and be considered part of the relevant quorum for decision-making.

Please regard the date of this letter 7 October 2015 as the date when the 30 day voting period is initiated. Contracting Parties should therefore let the Secretariat know their vote, at their earliest convenience, and not later than 6 November 2015.

As this is not a vote regarding an issue where a qualified majority is required, the proposal will be approved if a simple majority of Contracting Parties casting affirmative or negative votes cast votes in favour of the proposal.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stefán Ásmundsson'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Stefán Ásmundsson
Secretary