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Diane Hacker
North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
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9 October 2025

Dear Diane,

**Convention on Future Multilateral Co-operation in North-East Atlantic Fisheries:
annual update**

Thank you for your email of 29 September requesting an update to the status of the Convention and its amendments, for which the United Kingdom is depositary.

I confirm the position since last year's update is unchanged.

The latest status list for the Convention is available on our website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/convention-on-future-multilateral-co-operation-in-north-east-atlantic-fisheries-london-18111980>

Yours sincerely,

Kulwant

Kulwant Dulai
Treaty Information Manager

Enclosures

1. Annex: status of amendments

Annex

Status of amendments to the Convention on Future Multilateral Co-operation in North-East Atlantic Fisheries

2004 amendment

On 24 July 2003 the Commission of the European Communities proposed an amendment to the Convention to insert the following after Article 18:

“Article 18 bis

The Commission shall make recommendations establishing procedures for the settlement of disputes arising under this Convention.”

This amendment was adopted unanimously at the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention, held in London between 8 and 12 November 2004. The Depositary notified all Contracting Parties of this proposal in a notification dated 14 February 2005.

The Depositary notified all Contracting Parties on 1 July 2013 that the conditions for this amendment, set out in Article 19, Paragraph 3, of the Convention, requiring written notification of approval from three fourths of the Contracting Parties, had been met.

In a note dated 31 July 2013, received within 90 days of the Depositary's notification of 1 July 2013 to all Contracting Parties, the Government of the Russian Federation informed the Depositary that it had raised an objection to this amendment. As set out in the Depositary's notification to all Contracting Parties dated 6 September 2013, in accordance with Article 19, paragraph 3, of the Convention, this amendment will therefore not take effect for any Contracting Party. If the objection were to be withdrawn, the amendment would take effect for the Contracting Parties 120 days following the date of the Depositary's receipt of the notification of withdrawal.

To date, the Depositary has not received any notification of withdrawal from the Government of the Russian Federation.

2006 amendment

In November 2005 the Government of Iceland proposed the following amendment to the Convention:

“New 2nd paragraph of the Preamble:

Recognising the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982; the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, 1995; the Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, 1993 and taking into account the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries adopted by the 28th Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations in October 1995.

New 3rd paragraph of the Preamble:

Desiring to promote the long-term conservation and optimum utilisation of the fishery resources of the North-East Atlantic area, and in doing so to safeguard the marine ecosystems in which the resources occur, and accordingly to encourage international cooperation and consultation with respect to these resources.

New Article 1:

For the purpose of this Convention the following definitions apply:

(a) "The Convention Area" means the areas

within those parts of the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans and their dependent seas which lie north of 36° north latitude and between 42° west longitude and 51° east longitude, but excluding:

the Baltic Sea and the Belts lying to the south and east of lines drawn from Hasenore Head to Griben Point, from Korshage to Spodsbierg and from Gilbjerg Head to the Kullen, and

the Mediterranean Sea and its dependent seas as far as the point of intersection of the parallel of 36° latitude and the meridian of 5°36' west longitude within that part of the Atlantic Ocean north of 59° north latitude and between 44° west longitude and 42° west longitude.

(b) "Fishery resources" means resources of fish, molluscs, crustaceans and including sedentary species, excluding, in so far as they are dealt with by other international agreements, highly migratory species listed in Annex I of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982, and anadromous stocks;

(c) "Living marine resources" means all living components of marine ecosystems;

(d) "Marine biological diversity" means the variability among marine living organisms and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

New Article 2:

The objective of this Convention 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.

New Article 4:

The Commission shall perform its functions in order to fulfil the objective set out in Article 2.

When making recommendations in accordance with Article 5 or 6 of this Convention the Commission shall in particular:

ensure that such recommendations are based on the best scientific evidence available;

apply the precautionary approach;

take due account of the impact of fisheries on other species and marine ecosystems, and in doing so adopt, where necessary, conservation and management measures that address the need to minimise harmful impacts on living marine resources and marine ecosystems; and

take due account of the need to conserve marine biological diversity.

The Commission shall provide a forum for consultation and exchange of information on the state of the fishery resources in the Convention Area and on the management policies,

including examination of the overall effects of such policies on the fishery resources and, as appropriate, other living marine resources and marine ecosystems.

Articles 5 and 6

In Articles 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 18 and 20 "fisheries jurisdiction" is replaced by "jurisdiction".

This amendment was adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Convention unanimously by means of a postal vote in August 2006. The Depositary notified all Contracting Parties on 1 July 2013 that the conditions for this proposal, set out in Article 19, Paragraph 3, of the Convention, requiring written notification of approval from three fourths of the Contracting Parties, had been met.

No objections to this amendment were received within 90 days of the Depositary's notification, the 90th day being 29 September 2013. In accordance with Article 19, paragraph 3, of the Convention, this amendment entered into force for all Contracting Parties on 29 October 2013, 120 days after the Depositary's notification of 1 July 2013.