
INDUSTRY GROUP AGREEMENT TO COD FISHERY IN THE NORTHERN PART OF NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC

NEWSLETTER JULY 2017



The intentions with this newsletter is to update you on our progress with defining the existing fishing footprint, development of a system to monitor fishing activities in the region and finally some information on a political initiative in Norway which eventual will impact our agreement.

As a start, a short summary of our initiative.

INDUSTRY AGREEMENT

The fisheries in the northern Barents Sea and Norwegian Sea including the marine areas around Svalbard are amongst the best regulated fisheries in the world.

Most of these fisheries are independently certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) as compliant with their standard for sustainable and well-managed fisheries.

Additionally there are many protected areas already established around Svalbard to safeguard ecological biodiversity.

Our Industry Group Agreement was published end May 2016. In summary, we have agreed that from the *2016 season* the cod catching sector will not expand their fishing activity in to those areas where regular fishing has not taken place before.

The Cod catching industry will accelerate their work to meet the MSC condition regarding Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VME's) identified in the MSC re-certification process.

Together with the scientists from the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research and other relevant institutions, we will use all available data:

- To define areas that may be vulnerable to trawling.
- To develop effective and proportional measures that prevent environmental degradation in such areas.

In addition, we expect the governments to assist these efforts and ensure all measures are based on best available science, to properly assess and map the area for example but not exclusively the Mareano program.

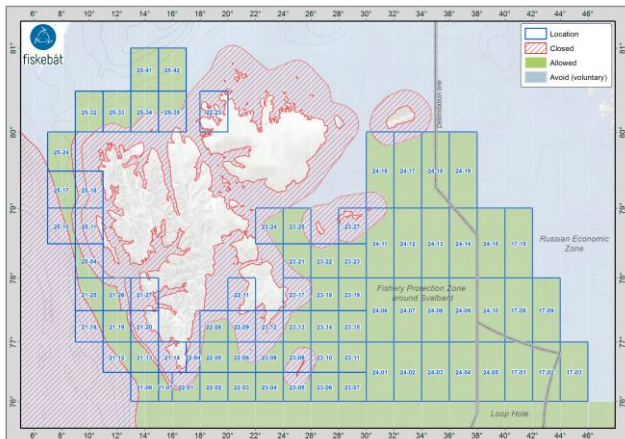
We have established a High-Level Roundtable. The objectives of the High-Level Roundtable are to establish a transparent process that will continue to enable Cod to be sourced from the area but also to meet the MSC Management, Scientific Research on environmental impacts.

The Roundtable will include the Norwegian Governmental Fisheries Management agencies and institutions and welcomes other interested public stakeholders to participate.

We had our first High-Level Roundtable meeting September 20th 2016 in London. At the meeting, the Norwegian and Russian catching sector presented initiatives already taken or initiatives in the pipeline.

DEFINING EXISTING COD FISHING AREAS

After our first High-Level Roundtable meeting a small working group was established aiming to reach agreement on how to define existing fishing areas, and criteria to begin fishing in the areas, where no regular fishing occurred.



Based on data from the Norwegian - & Russian catching, we have made a map showing existing fishing areas including already protected areas within the region.

The delineation of this area allows the fleets to be sure they are operating in accordance with the agreement, and us as buyers to establish whether fishing is in accordance with the agreement

Next step will be looking for ways to ensure the compliance with the Industry Group Agreement.

DEVELOPMENT OF SYSTEM TO MONITOR FISHING ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA.

The vessels operating legally in this area transmit AIS (Automatic Identification System) signals (in addition to VMS transmitted to national fishery monitoring centres).

AIS data is publicly available, therefore allowing NGOs and other actors to monitor vessels activities (as was done by Greenpeace as part of their campaign).

The AIS data also provides an opportunity for us to verify that boats are complying with the agreement, and have a basis for our assurance to Greenpeace and other environmental NGOs.

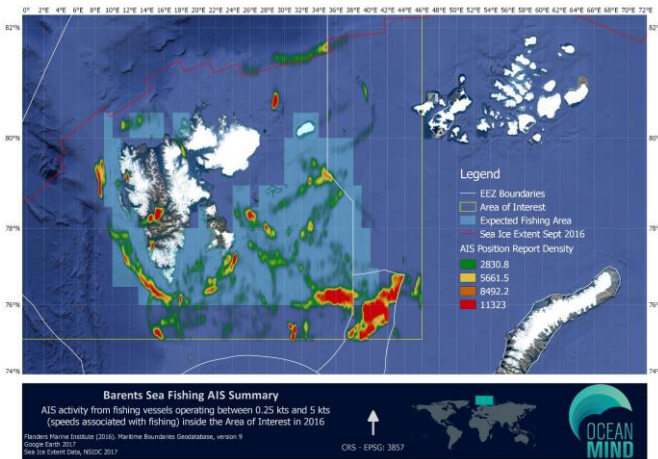
This requires the AIS data that show movements of the vessels to be overlapped with the boundaries of the existing fishing area as shown on the map, and vessel speeds to be analysed to establish if vessels activities outside the existing fishing area correspond to fishing (or transiting).

In order to provide a robust assurance that we comply with the agreement, we would need a person or organisation to analyse the AIS data and confirm that no fishing activities have taken place outside of the existing fishing area.

We have had discussions with Catapult about them fulfilling this role for the 2017 season. The cost for that will be 36 k GBP, which is a reasonable offer.

PEW has confirmed that they are prepared to contribute 12k GBP to the cost of the Barents Sea monitoring.

This will enable us to leverage support of the remaining 24k GBP from the other companies that signed up to the agreement.



NORWEGIAN INITIATIVE

Fiskebat has done a great job working with the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries in order for the Directorate of Fisheries to change the fishing areas from the Bear Island and further north in order to divide the area in existing fishing areas and new areas. This includes establishment of 7 smaller areas where fishing is not permitted.

This could eventually result in a new legislation for fishing areas in the Barents Sea, and replace our voluntary agreement.

This is great news, and we will follow the development of this initiative closely. We expect that a proposal for a new legislation will be sent in consultation during the autumn.

This is great news, and we will follow the development of this initiative closely. We expect that a proposal for a new legislation will be sent in consultation during the autumn.

Our hope is that a new law regulation will be in place already next winter / spring.

HARVESTING COMPANIES SUPPORTING THE INDUSTRY GROUP AGREEMENT

We have a list of Norwegian and Russian harvesting companies supporting the Industry Group Agreement to Cod fishery. [Click here to see list of harvesting companies that signed up to the agreement.](#)

We are still trying to get more companies to join the agreement especially 3rd country catching companies.

MILESTONES

A small group of companies met with Greenpeace during NASF March 2016.

Seminar on Sustainable Arctic Fisheries April 5th 2016 in London

Industry Agreement published May 2016

A High-Level Roundtable was established and first meeting held September 20th 2016 in London.

This initiative received the Responsible Business Oceans Award January 2017.

Next High-Level Roundtable meeting September/ October 2017?