



**ACCESS**  
Arctic Climate Change  
Economy and Society



**Project no. 265863**

**ACCESS**  
**Arctic Climate Change, Economy and Society**

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**LCP delivered the D5.12 to the WP5 leaders and the Project Management Board on January 2015. The report was assessed and was considered as a preliminary version of what was expected. The NERC partner, assisted by UPMC revised and standardised the deliverable making a number of substantial changes to the original report from LCP. The contribution of NERC to the original report leads to appoint this partner as joint author of the report.**

## Executive Summary

While it is certain that climate change in Arctic Ocean will have an impact on fisheries it is not possible to predict accurately what all these changes will be. An example of one such change is the shift in distribution of some stocks. This raises the question of how to manage such stocks.

This report gives an overview of the context in which fisheries currently take place in the Arctic. It identifies fishing areas and existing Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs) of relevance to Arctic fisheries as well as fish stocks and fishery statistics. The impacts of climate change on Arctic marine ecosystems, fish stocks and fisheries are also discussed. The role of the EU in relation to fisheries in the Arctic is described. Similarly, the role of RFMOs is described, in particular, the structure and objectives of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC). The final section explores the potential positive and negative aspects for expanding the spatial scope of the NEAFC convention area, the development of a new Implementing Agreement under UNCLOS and the establishment of an Arctic RFMO. The report concludes that in the rapidly changing economic and environmental conditions in the Arctic expansion of the spatial scope of the existing convention, the NEAFC seems to be the most appropriate way forward.

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## Introduction

In WP5, we deal either with existing governance tools or with “gaps”. As we will see later on, “D5.12” certainly deals with an existing governance tool, namely the “North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission”, but the purpose of the present study also consists in examining whether the “NEAFC enlargement project” would be a better option than the establishment of a new Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO). In saying so, we realize that the two nevertheless useful WP5 categories, “existing tools” and “gaps”, are not to be considered as mutually exclusive.

Assessing Arctic fisheries governance and the EU, we will keep in mind two particular statements extracted from the 2008 Commission’s Communication<sup>i</sup> :

- “The main problems relating to Arctic governance include the fragmentation of the legal framework, the lack of effective instruments, the absence of an overall policy-setting process and gaps in participation, implementation and geographic scope.”

- “In principle, extending the mandate of existing management organizations such as NEAFC is preferable to creating new ones”.

## I. Definition of Arctic marine areas

Always bearing in mind that ACCESS project is aimed at studying economical, environmental and social impact of the Arctic climate change, we see the “NEAFC enlargement project” as a direct consequence of Arctic climate change on fishing activities in the arctic seas and sub-arctic marines areas.

Arctic marine ecosystems including fisheries are highly vulnerable to the general impacts of climate change. A major reason is the change in ice coverage, which is a unique characteristic of this region.

*The impacts of climate change have been demonstrated to influence fisheries resources. One way to estimate how climate change has affected fish stocks is via persistent shifts in spatio-temporal distribution. Although examples of climate-forced distribution shifts abound, it is unclear how these shifts are practically accounted for in the management of fish stocks. In particular, how can we take into account shifting stock distribution in the context of stock assessments and their management outputs?<sup>1</sup>*

### I.1 Biological definition

As the sea ice act as a limiting factor for most of the marine Arctic biodiversity, being of critical importance for most of their biological functions to be adequately accomplished, sea ice presence and seasonal variations must be taken in account to build an accurate Arctic Seas biological definition. In this Deliverable, we will define the Arctic Seas to all Arctic and Subarctic waters where sea ice is present during at least the spring months, from February to May-June.

According to this biological definition, the Arctic Seas as we will refer in this document correspond to the FAO Area 18 (Arctic Sea) plus the northern part of Areas 21 (North-West Atlantic except subareas 3 to 6), 27 (North-East Atlantic except South Barents and Norwegian Seas), 61 (North-West Pacific) for the Western Bering and Okhotsk Seas, and 67 (North-East Pacific) for the Eastern Bering Sea (FAO Areas maps available on FAO website: <http://www.fao.org/fishery/area/search/en>).

**Table 1: Arctic Seas definition**

<b>Atlantic Arctic Basin</b>	<b>Pacific Arctic Basin</b>	<b>Central Arctic Ocean</b>
Hudson Bay, Foxe Basin, Ungava Bay (FAO Area 18)	Laptev Sea, East Siberian Sea (FAO Area 18)	(FAO Area 18), Northern Barents Sea (FAO Area 27)
Davis Strait (FAO Area 21)	Chukchi Sea (FAO Area 18)	
Baffin Bay (FAO Area 21)	Bering Sea (FAO Area 61 + 67)	
Greenland and southern Barents Seas (FAO Area 27)	Okhotsk Sea (FAO Area 61)	
White Sea (FAO Area 27)	Beaufort Sea (FAO Area 18)	
Kara Sea (FAO Area 18)	Bays and straits of western Canadian Arctic Archipelago (FAO Area 18)	

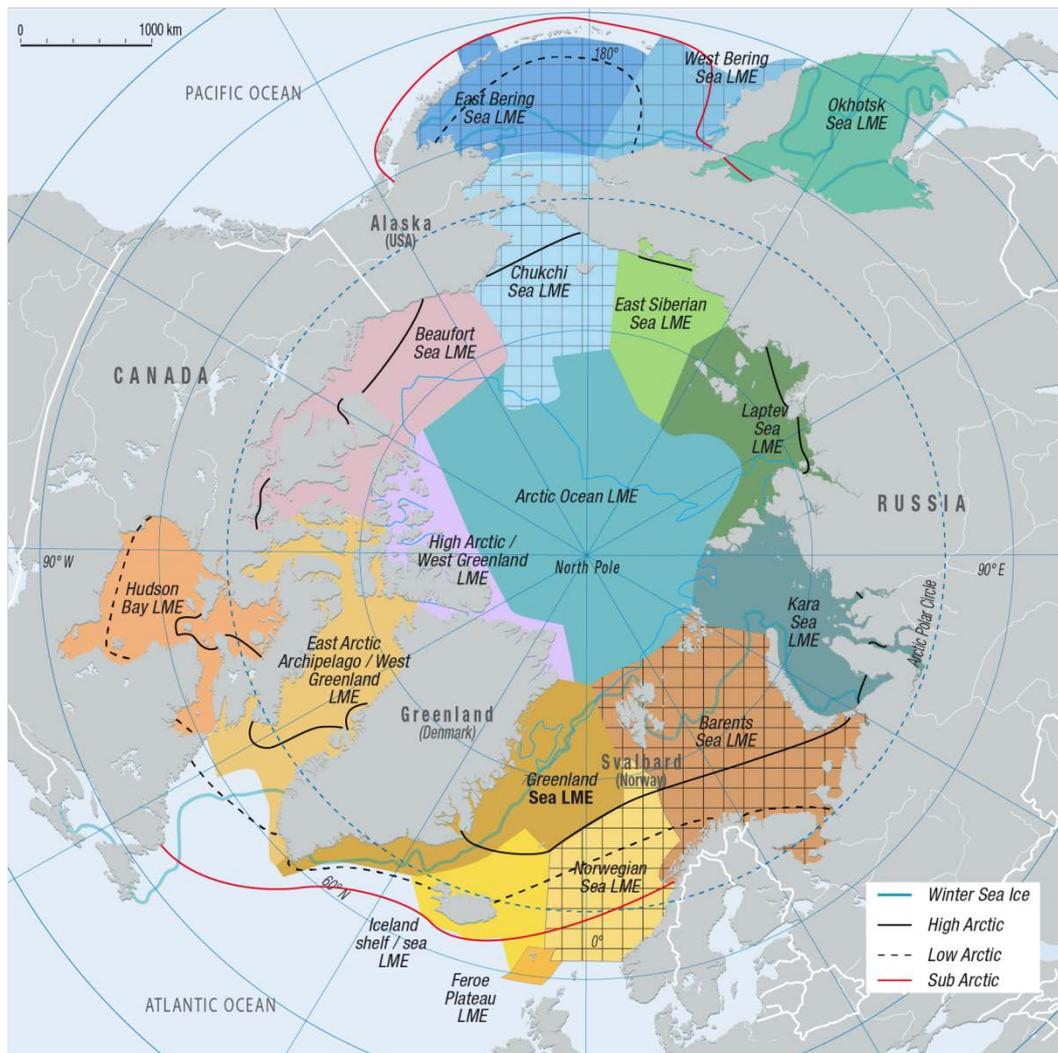
<sup>1</sup> Link, J. S., Nye, J. A. and Hare, J. A. (2011), Guidelines for incorporating fish distribution shifts into a fisheries management context. *Fish and Fisheries*, 12: 461–469. doi: 10.1111/j.1467-2979.2010.00398.x <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1467-2979.2010.00398.x/abstract>

This biological definition of Arctic Seas is concordant with the subdivisions of Arctic Ocean and Adjacent Seas (AOAS) used by the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) to enumerate Arctic marine mammal species in the Arctic Biodiversity Assessment presented to the Arctic Council in 2013.

Considering marine living resources management, the ecosystem-based management approach, initiated by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002, conducted in 2009 to a first subdivision of World Seas in Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs), coordinated by UNEP Regional Seas Programme<sup>ii</sup>. These LMEs physical limits are defined on ecological criteria: 1 bathymetry, 2 hydrography, 3 productivity, and 4 trophic relationships.

Arctic Ocean and Adjacent Seas were initially subdivided in 17 LMEs, in 2006, a subdivision endorsed by the Arctic Council Ministers in October 2006. The boundaries of these Arctic LMEs have been revised on new ecological data and provided in 2013 a more accurate Map<sup>iii</sup>, which will be used in the following Arctic fisheries evaluation.

Detailed boundaries and statistics of the 18 Arctic and subarctic LMEs can be found on the Sea Around Us Project website (<http://www.searoundus.org/lme/>).



**Figure 1. Arctic LMEs**

Considering the specific oceanographic characteristics of the AOAS, Norwegian and Barents Seas constitute the main warm Atlantic waters gateway into the AOAS, and Bering and Chukchi Seas the warm Pacific waters gateway. These oceanologic gateways (dashed areas, Figure 1) are also the main boreal marine fauna entrance in the AOAS waters.

On an oceanographic view (temperature and salinity, ice cover...), Iceland Shelf, Feroe Plateau and Okhotsk Sea, which share many characteristics with Labrador and Newfoundland Seas, have to be considered as cold temperate ecosystems, and we will not include them in the Arctic fishery analyse. In the present deliverable, Arctic LMEs will be reduced to the Arctic Ocean, the 9 Arctic Basin Seas and the Atlantic and Pacific gateways LMEs (15 LMEs).

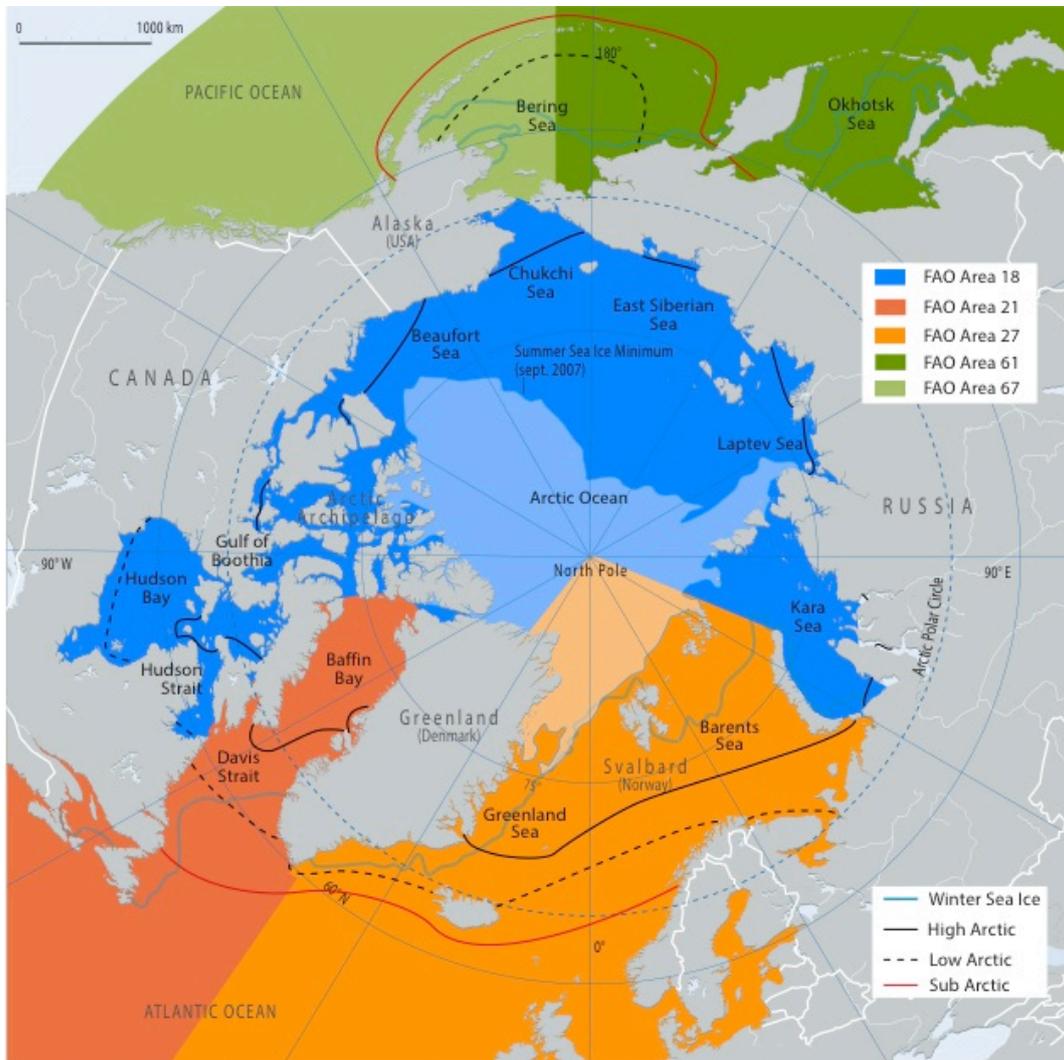
## I.2 Arctic Seas FAO Areas and existing RFMOs

Arctic Seas are covered by 5 FAO fishing areas<sup>iv</sup>: area 18, Arctic Sea, covering most of the geographical Arctic Ocean and Canadian Arctic Archipelago waters, including Hudson Bay; area 21, Northwest Atlantic, covering cold temperate waters outside the Arctic Seas; area 27, Northeast





Atlantic, covering cold temperate waters outside the Arctic Seas; area 61, Northwest Pacific, covering cold temperate waters outside the Arctic Seas; area 67, covering cold temperate waters outside the Arctic Seas.



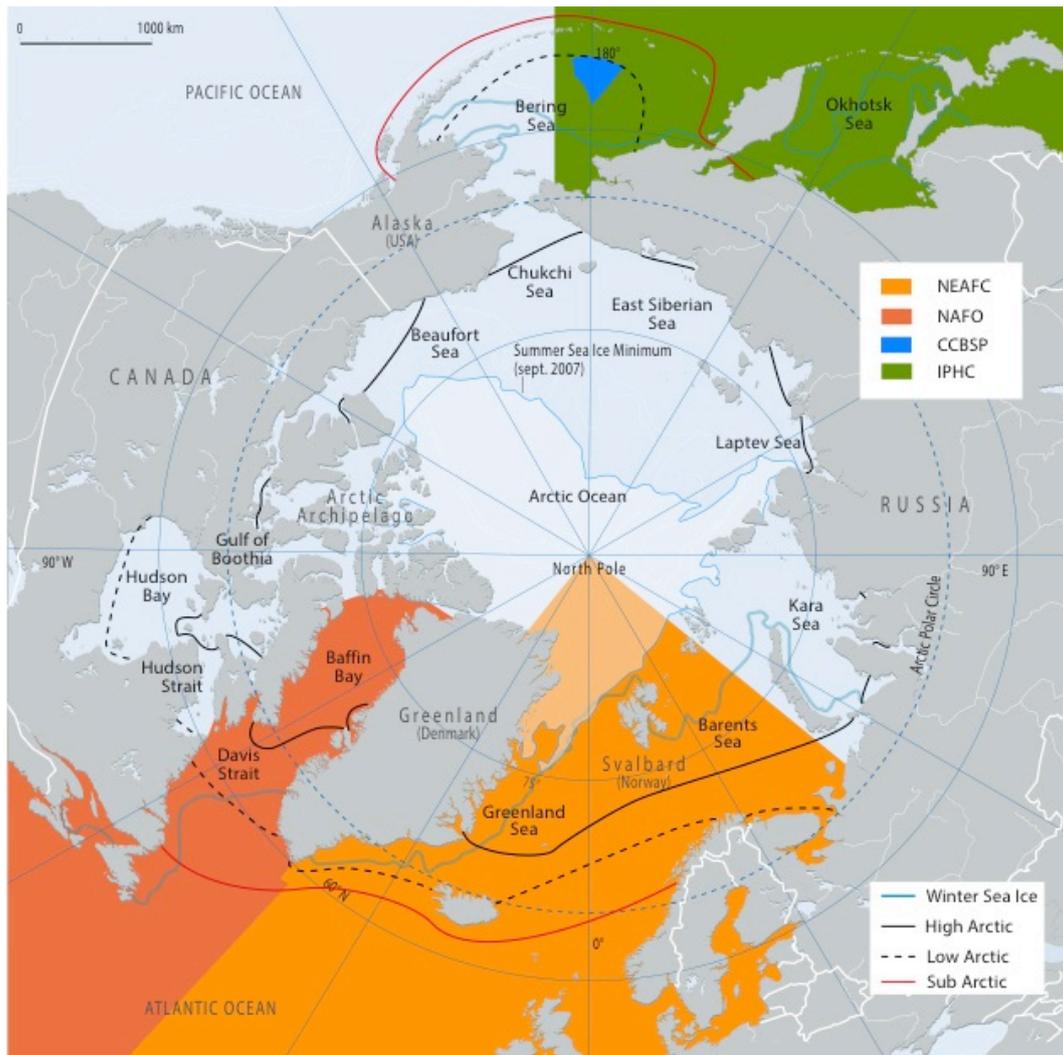
**Figure 2. FAO northern fishing areas**

The most part of central Arctic Ocean, corresponding to the complete FAO area 18, is free of any RFMO.

The north Atlantic Ocean is completely covered by two RFMOs, the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) for the northwest, covering the whole FAO area 21, and NEAFC, corresponding to the FAO area 27 except for the eastern most part of Barents Sea, from a line joining the North Pole to the northern tip of Nova Zemlaya to the eastern most NEAFC limit (50° E). Three more international commissions also cover it, the NAMMCO (North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission) corresponding to the complete FAO area 27, and the scientific advisement body ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea) covering the same area, and the NASCO (North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization) covering the entire area 27 plus the area 21.

The North Pacific region is covered by three limited RFMOs, the CCBSP (Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in Central Bering Sea) restricted to the central Bering Sea used by Pollock for reproduction, the IPHC (International Pacific Halibut Commission) covering the entire FAO area 67, and the more generalized NPAFC (North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission) covering the international waters (outside the EEZs) of North Pacific FAO areas 61 and 67. An additional scientific organisation, the PICES (North Pacific Marine Sciences Organization) cover the entire FAO areas 61 and 67, having the same advise function than the ICES in North Atlantic region.

For more details on RFMOs and other resource management international cooperation bodies jurisdictions and States members, read section "IV.2 Regional Fisheries Management Organizations".



**Figure 3. Arctic Seas RFMOs jurisdictions**

## II. The context of Arctic climate change

### II.1 Arctic Marine fish diversity

*Despite most Arctic Basin ice-covered Seas are nearly unexplored and marine fauna unknown, 815 species of fishes have been already observed in the 15 Arctic LMEs. On their oceanographic (temperature, salinity, sea ice affinity...) and geographic distribution, they can be classified in four categories: Arctic, Arctico-boreal, Boreal and Worldwide, the latest including widely or both hemispheric distributed species (See Annex 1 “Arctic Fish Listing” for complete listing).*

*As expected, boreal species, which spawn solely at positive temperatures but may enter subzero waters for feeding excursions, dominates the known Arctic Seas fish community with 552 species (67 %). These species occupy the Arctic Gateways LMEs (Barents and Bering Seas), but are absent of the most remoted and the ice covered seas of the Arctic Basin (Arctic Ocean, Arctic Archipelago, Kara Sea, Laptev Sea and East Siberian Seas) and being restricted to the southern most part of Baffin Bay/Davis Strait, West Greenland Shelf and East Greenland Sea LMEs.*

*Worldwide species represent 159 species (19.5 %) and are restricted to the southern most part of Arctic Gateways Seas. As Arctic Seas are located to the northern limit of their geographical range, their Arctic populations are poorly represented, being for most of them only known by few individuals. Many deep-sea and highly migratory species belong to this group.*

*Arctic-boreal species are distributed in Arctic and sub-Arctic/boreal seas, and they may spawn either at subzero or positive temperatures. Represented by only 38 species (capelin, Greenland halibut, pink salmon, Greenland shark...), these fishes are found in most of the 15 Arctic LMEs except the southern most parts of Pacific and Atlantic Gateways and the northern most part of Arctic Basin (summer ice-covered regions).*

*The 67 Arctic species are confined to ice-laden seas and spawn solely at subzero temperatures. They are only infrequently found in sub-Arctic seas. Arctic cod, polar cod and navaga are sea ice dependant, living in close contact with it as far to be freezed in it during winter (anti-freeze proteins replacing hemoglobin to protect them).<sup>2</sup>*

Given these zoogeographic categories, targeted fishes in the AOAS include fifty boreal (~85%), six Arctic-boreal (~10%), and only three Arctic (~5%) species. Arctic specie are harvested to a limited extent by Russia in the Barents, White and Kara Seas – i.e. the gadoids polar cod (*Boreogadus saida*) and navaga (*Eleginus nawaga*) and the Arctic flounder (*Liopsetta glacialis*)<sup>v</sup>.

### II.2 Marine fishery in the Arctic Seas

Arctic fisheries broadly comprise the coastal and estuarine subsistence fishing (mainly aboriginal) and recreational catches of local importance and the high-tech commercial fishing fleet that support fishing industries worldwide. Catch statistics are largely biased due to large amount of unreported catches, most of aboriginal take in coastal waters of Arctic Seas as well as bycatches of untargeted species by commercial fleets in subarctic waters (ie. Barents and Norwegian Seas or Bering Sea, the main regions operated by commercial fleets).

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<sup>2</sup><http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4255237/>  
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.12395/pdf>

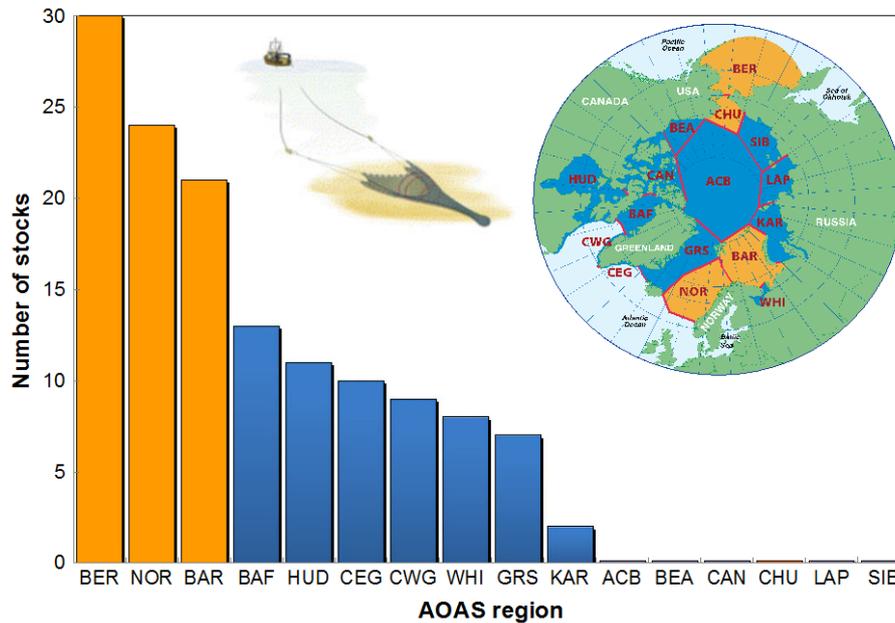


Figure 4.

*Number of marine fish species ('stocks') currently harvested by industrial fisheries in the Arctic Ocean and adjacent seas (AOAS). The examined AOAS regions are shown in the inserted map. Geographic delineation follows the International Hydrographic Organization (<http://www.iho.int>). The Arctic gateways are shown in orange and the Arctic seas in deep blue. Regional codes are ACB, Arctic Central Basin; BAF, Baffin Bay; BAR, Barents Sea; BEA, Beaufort Sea; BER, Bering Sea; CAN, Canadian Arctic Archipelago; CEG, Coastal East Greenland; CWG, Coastal West Greenland; CHU, Chukchi Sea; GRS, Greenland Sea; HUD, Hudson Bay Complex; KAR, Kara Sea; LAP, Laptev Sea; NOR, Norwegian Sea; SIB, East Siberian Sea; WHI, White Sea. Note that the same species may be harvested in more than one region.*<sup>vi</sup>

*Currently, 59 marine fish species ('stocks') in toto are targeted by industrial fisheries in the AOAS<sup>vii</sup>. These are all bony fishes (Actinopterygii) although sharks and allies (Chondrichthyes) constitute a worrying but largely unreported bycatch. The largest fisheries, by far, are confined to sub-Arctic/boreal waters, i.e. the Bering Sea (n = 30 stocks) and the Atlantic Arctic gateway (n = 21–24 stocks). Significant fisheries also take place in Baffin Bay, along the west coast of Greenland and in the Greenland Sea (n = 9–13 stocks).*

*The freezing Arctic seas, on the other hand, are characterized by small-scale subsistence fisheries among indigenous peoples. During the period 1950–2006, subsistence catches for a range of species, mostly freshwater and diadromous fishes, accumulated to about 950 000 tonnes<sup>viii</sup>. This is*

minuscule compared with, for example, annual landings of >1 million tonnes (mean for years 2000–2011) from a single stock of Atlantic herring (*Clupea harengus*) in the northeast Atlantic fisheries<sup>ix.3</sup>.

In 2002, total catch of wild fish in the Arctic amounted to 7.26 million tonnes<sup>x</sup>. This constitutes around 10 % of the world catch of fish. Total catch in 2002 was somewhat lower than the average over the period 1970–2000, but variations among species are large, especially related to the fisheries of cod, capelin and herring.

In addition to the marine wild fish catch, there is an Arctic fishery of shrimps and snow crab. In 2002, 290 000 tonnes of shrimps and 65 000 tonnes of snow crabs were landed. The Arctic catch of these two species was 5.3 % of the global catch of crustaceans.

In 2002, total Arctic fish farming of salmon and trout was around 100 000 tonnes or 7.7 % of the world aquaculture production of these species. Since then, aquaculture has greatly developed and total production has greatly increased.

Species	North-east Atlantic (Barents and Norwegians Seas)	Eastern Bering Sea	Western Bering Sea	Central North Atlantic (Iceland, Greenland and Feroe Islands)	North Atlantic (Newfoundland and Labrador Sea)	Total
Capelin	0.64			1.12	0.02	1.78
Herring	0.83		0.05	0.27	0.01	1.16
Cod fish						3.78
Northeast Atlantic cod	0.49 <sup>1</sup>			0.25		
Saithe North of 62°N	0.15			0.42 <sup>2</sup>		
Haddock, saithe					0.01	
Pollack		1.50	0.40			
North-east Arctic haddock	0.08					
Blue whiting				0.28		
Greenland halibut	0.01			0.04	0.04	0.09
Flatfish		0.06	0.01			0.07
Other groundfish		0.20				0.20
Pacific salmon		0.04	0.02			0.06
Others	0.01	0.04	0.04	0.23		0.32
<b>Total wild fish</b>	<b>2.21</b>	<b>1.84</b>	<b>0.52</b>	<b>2.61</b>	<b>0.08</b>	<b>7.26</b>
Shrimps	0.06			0.13	0.10	0.29
Snow crab		0.01 <sup>3</sup>		0.01	0.05	0.07
<b>Total crustaceans</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>0.01</b>		<b>0.14</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>0.36</b>
<b>Aquaculture (salmon, trout...)</b>	<b>0.09</b>			<b>0.01</b>		<b>0.10</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes coastal cod.    <sup>2</sup> May contain other species.    <sup>3</sup> Includes king crab and Tanner crab.

**Table 2. Marine fishery in the Arctic. 2002. Million tonnes<sup>4</sup>**

Analysis of 2006 catches (the more recent data available) for the 18 Arctic LMEs provided by the Sea Around Us Project website<sup>xi</sup> confirm that more than 90 % of so called “Arctic fisheries” take place in Pacific (52,5 %) and Atlantic (40,3 %) gateways of the Arctic Ocean and Arctic Basin Seas (See Annex 2 “Arctic Fishery Statistics 2006” for detailed data analysis).

	<b>15 Arctic LMEs</b>	<b>10 Arctic Bassin LMEs</b>	<b>Atlantic Gateway (AG)</b>	<b>Pacific Gateway (PG)</b>
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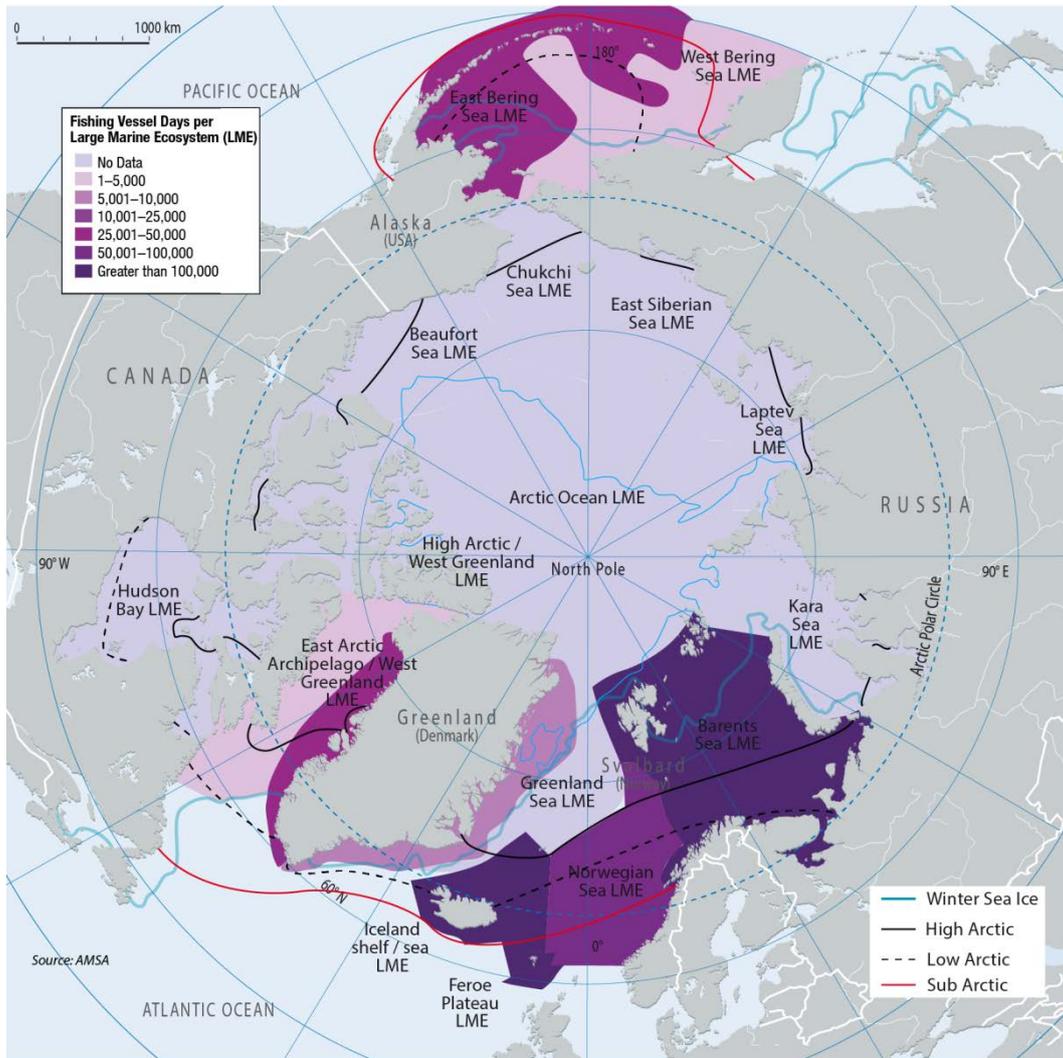
<sup>3</sup> <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/gcb.12395/pdf>

	Catches (tons)	Catches (%)	Catches (tons)	Part of group catches (%)	Part of Arctic LMEs (%)	Catches (tons)	Part of group catches (%)	Part of AG (%)	Catches (tons)	Part of group catches (%)	Part of PG (%)
Cods and hakes	2 339 519	45.4	55 230	2.4	14.9	998 491	42.7	48.1	1 285 798	55.0	47.5
Herrings	959 327	18.6	8 602	0.9	2.3	875 836	91.3	42.2	74 889	7.8	2.8
Salmonids	333 323	6.5	6 821	2.0	1.8	0	0	0	326 502	98.0	12.1
Flatfishes	117 556	2.3	42 618	36.3	11.5	14 522	12.4	0.7	60 416	51.4	2.2
Redfishes	52 389	1.0	40 649	77.6	10.9	11 740	22.4	0.6	0	0	0
Capelin and smelts	11 079	0.2	11 079	100	3.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mixed groups	732 421	14.2	0	0	0	106 806	14.6	5.2	588 015	80.3	21.7
Crustaceans	199 473	3.9	143 391	71.9	38.6	24 987	12.5	1.2	21 562	10.8	0.8
Molluscs	141 929	2.8	15 859	11.2	4.3	0	0	0	126 070	88.8	4.7
<b>Total catches</b>	<b>5 150 409</b>		<b>371 355</b>	<b>7,2</b>		<b>2 073 767</b>	<b>40.3</b>		<b>2 070 287</b>	<b>52.5</b>	

**Table 3. Marine fishery in the Arctic. 2006**

Consequently, nearly two thirds of total catches are realized on cod and cod-like species (45.4 %) and on herrings (18.6 %), which are boreal species living in cold temperate waters. Those two main targeted species groups are particularly though to be impacted by the climate change, and expected to move northward in the near future, accompanying the sea ice retreat.

Diadromous fishes (i.g. Salmonids) are the third most targeted fish species group by fisheries, but 98 % of catches are realized in Bering Sea, in coastal waters and estuarines or rivers. Salmonids are also targeted by Aboriginal Peoples for subsistence (Inuit in Alaska and Canada) and most of catches are unreported. Moreover, Canada considering Inuit subsistence fishery as non-commercial does not include that catch in it report to FAO and RFMO's.



**Figure 5. Arctic fishing activity<sup>xii</sup>**

The reported fishing vessel activity takes place in a few key areas, including the Bering (East Bering: 30.5 % of total catch; West Bering: 22 %), Barents (14.6 %) and Norwegian (26.2 %) seas. Highest fishing vessels concentrations (fishing vessel day) are in the Atlantic gateway (Barents-Norwegian Seas) and Northeast Atlantic (Iceland Sea and Faroe Plateau), two regions operated by Norwegian, Russian, Iceland and EU fishing fleets, using large “high-tech” fishing boats.<sup>4</sup>

Bering Sea, which presents the higher catch level (52.5 %), is characterised by an important coastal and estuarine fishing activity targeting salmonids and a very productive offshore “high-tech” fishing fleets, mainly US fleets (50 % of Bering Sea catches) targeting cod and cod-like species.

The west coast of Greenland presents also an important fishing activity, where small coastal fishing boats dominates, giving a high fishing vessel activity but for a relatively poor rentability as catches represents less than 5 % of total Arctic catches.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.arctis-search.com/Fishing+Vessels+in+the+Arctic>

Very limited fishing activity occurs in the Arctic Ocean and the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, mostly small-scale food fisheries realized by Indigenous coastal communities for subsistence. Most of this subsistence activity is unreported, as well as catches they realize.

Since fishing in the Arctic takes place up to the ice edge, not in close ice pack conditions, operations are in completely or seasonally ice-free or low ice concentration areas and opportunistic in nature.

	Arctic Ocean and Arctic Basin Seas										Atlantic Gateway		Pacific Gateway			Catch by country	
	AO	WGS	BB/HS	HB	AA	BfS	ESibS	LapS	KaraS	GrS	Brts S	NorwS	ChukS	EBerS	WBerS	in tons	%
<i>Canada</i>			23 532	1 075	275	26								4 853	17 969	47 730	0,9%
<i>Greenland</i>		149 685	26 432							9 615						185 732	3,6%
<i>Iceland</i>		863								25 711	22 011	89 306				137 891	2,7%
<i>Norway</i>	145		2					321	17 037	320 859	783 711					1 122 075	21,8%
<i>Russia</i>		3 155	29			3 239	3 304	615	30 603	311 425	284 378	95	25 122	281 656	943 621	18,3%	
<i>USA</i>		41 985	2 028			246							1 195	1 498 953	79 476	1 623 883	31,6%
<i>Denmark (Cont)</i>									464		14 766					15 230	0,3%
<i>Denmark (Faroes)</i>		305						12	5 682	28 909	103 849					138 757	2,7%
<i>Sweden</i>	443															443	0,0%
<i>Estonia</i>											284					284	0,0%
<i>France</i>											3 034	4 904				7 938	0,2%
<i>Germany</i>		747	1					1	4 721	6 254	15 390					27 114	0,5%
<i>Latvia</i>									507	35	248					790	0,0%
<i>Lithuania</i>	1							4		1 221	650					1 876	0,0%
<i>Portugal</i>		623														623	0,0%
<i>Spain</i>		1 237	4			359	194	132	271	411						2 608	0,1%
<i>UK</i>								1	1 204	9 917	14 071					25 193	0,5%
<i>China</i>													25 723	418 411	444 134	8,6%	
<i>Hong-Kong</i>														15 542	15 542	0,3%	
<i>Japan</i>	30							7					11 701	241 334	253 072	4,9%	
<i>Korea (South)</i>													2 959	51 214	54 173	1,1%	
<i>Philippines</i>														242	242	0,0%	
<i>Taiwan</i>														28 839	28 839	0,6%	
<i>Others</i>	10	3 358	635					1	6 014	19 734	38 397			3	68 182	1,3%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>201 958</b>	<b>52 663</b>	<b>1 075</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>3 598</b>	<b>3 498</b>	<b>1 094</b>	<b>101 829</b>	<b>723 810</b>	<b>1 349 954</b>	<b>1 290</b>	<b>1 569 311</b>	<b>1 134 686</b>	<b>5 145 942</b>	

**Table 4. Arctic fishing activity by country**

Arctic countries are in italic; EU countries in dark blue. AO: Arctic Ocean LME; WGS: West Greenland shelf; BB/HS: Baffin Bay/Davis Strait LME; HB: Hudson Bay LME; AA: Arctic Archipelago LME; BfS: Beaufort Sea LME; ESibS: East Siberian Sea LME; LapS: Laptev Sea LME; KaraS: Kara Sea LME; GrS: Greenland Sea LME; BrtsS: Barents Sea LME; NorwS: Norway Sea LME; ChukS: Chukchi Sea LME; EBerS: East Bering Sea LME; WBerS: West Bering Sea LME. (source: seaaroundus.org)

If Arctic countries are the main fishing operators in their EEZ waters, they also operate in their neighbours' EEZ. One third of catches of Russian Federation (67 %) and Canada (62.4 %) are realized outside their own EEZ while USA (92.4 %) and Norway (98.4 %) perform more than 90 % of their catches inside their EEZ. Greenland restrains its fishing activity inside its EEZ waters, which extend largely inside the Baffin Bay/Davis Strait LME.

USA is the most important fishing country in the Arctic, with a total catch of 1.6 million tons (31.6 % of total catches), followed by Norway (1.1 Mt; 21.8 %) and Russian Federation (0.9 Mt; 18.3



%). But the true US “Arctic fishing” is very low (7.6 %) and mostly performed on the West Greenland shelf as Beaufort Sea is only exploited by Alaska Inuit communities for subsistence use.

When considering the Arctic Basin seas, Greenland is the most important “true Arctic fishing” operator, totalising 50 % of total Arctic Basin catches (185,732 t), followed by USA (12 %) and Russian Federation (11 %), the former exploiting mostly West Greenland shelf and the last the East Greenland shelf and Sea. EU countries are responsible of just 4.6 % of catches, the half being done by the Danish fleet of Feroe Islands.

Very few fishing vessels really operate in the Arctic Ocean itself, the most part being ice-covered. Sweden seems to be the most important operator since 2004, totalizing 70 % of total catches in 2006, followed by Norway with 23 %. Arctic Ocean fishing depends largely of sea ice extent and can be made only on an opportunistic mode during the few summer months.

Despite the increasing open water season and ice free surface since 2007 in the Arctic Ocean, fishing activity stays at very low level with 480 tons in 2008 and 589 tons in 2010 according the FAO statistics.

### **II.3 Impact of Climate Change on Arctic marine ecosystems**

*Climate change is by far the most serious threat to Arctic biodiversity and exacerbates all other threats.*

*If the onset of such a seasonal Antarctic-like sea ice variability in the Arctic, with a sea ice covered Ocean in winter and ice-free Ocean in summer, can't be predicted with certainty (5 to 70 years depending of the models and scenarios), we can be sure that Arctic seals as well as the all Arctic marine biodiversity will be faced to that seasonal sea ice shift before the end of the century. The shifting between the normal Arctic system (a huge winter arctic sea ice extent covering all the Arctic seas and northern most parts of subarctic seas and a permanent summer melting resistant sea ice covering half of winter extent) to an Antarctic-like system has already begun, impacting coastal and continental shelves waters of Arctic seas, the most productive parts of the Arctic ocean where arctic seals live<sup>5</sup>.*

The impacts of climate change include a long list of changes in the physical environment, which will have profound effects on Arctic biodiversity. The conditions will vary spatially, but aside from temperature increases, the most pronounced changes are likely to include<sup>xiii</sup>:

- accelerating loss of sea ice cover, especially multi-year ice, and
- earlier and more variable sea ice and snow melt
- increased sea surface waters temperature
- reduced exchanges between deep and surface waters / increased stratification
- later onset of autumn sea ice formation and snow precipitations
- disappearance of coastal ice shelves

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.rcinet.ca/en/2013/10/17/assessing-pan-arctic-biodiversity-for-policy-planners/>

<http://www.arcticbiodiversity.is/index.php/the-report/report-for-policy-makers/key-findings>

<http://arcticclimateemergency.com/ecologyspecies/4576612718>

- more frequent and severe extreme events (icing, erosion, storms, flooding, fire)
- ocean acidification.
- increased precipitation with more winter snow
- increased freshwater discharge into the Arctic Ocean
- increased periods of summer drought but with more severe rains
- flooding of low coasts
- coastal erosion
- increased frequency of winter thaw-freeze events including rain-on-snow resulting in ice crust formation
- earlier drying of ponds
- disappearance of perennial snowbeds
- thawing permafrost and thermokarst development with drainage of peatlands and ponds or establishment of new ponds

The extent to which these effects are expected to develop varies between projections, but the overall direction is clear, and several of them are already evident now.

Because of the rapidity of change, the dominant response of many Arctic species to climate change is more likely to be by phenotypic adaptation rather than genotypic adaptation<sup>xiv</sup>. *This may involve northward displacement of whole habitats resulting in a reduction in the area occupied by Arctic ecosystems – particularly those characteristic of the high Arctic – because of the reduction in the available surface area when moving north towards the pole.*

*In the marine environment, the northward expansion of sub-Arctic species takes place via dispersion and transport of planktonic larvae or adult animals. This northward expansion will modify the whole arctic food web composition and possibly may have dramatic effects on arctic seals targeted fish species.*

*Considering Sea surface temperature (SST) change, sub-arctic Seas (ie. Norwegian Sea, Iceland shelf, Newfoundland and Labrador Seas for North Atlantic, and Okhotsk Sea and West Bering Sea for North Pacific) have been classified in 2009 as moderate to fast warming exosystems, and Pacific and Atlantic Gateways as slow warming ones<sup>xv</sup>. Arctic Ocean and Arctic Basin Seas have not been assessed because of their insufficient yields, but regarding the sea ice melt observed rate during the same period and the last decade most of Arctic Seas LME have to be considered as moderately (Arctic Ocean and northern parts of adjacent Seas) to Fast or Super-Fast warming ecosystems, specially for Canadian Arctic Archipelago, Chukchi and Beaufort Seas and southern parts of East Siberian, Laptev and Kara Seas (Regions corresponding to the Northwest and Northeast sea routes regularly open to summer navigation since 2007)<sup>6</sup>.*

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<sup>6</sup> [http://www.caff.is/publications/doc\\_download/206-arctic-biodiversity-assessment-2013-chapter-1-synthesis](http://www.caff.is/publications/doc_download/206-arctic-biodiversity-assessment-2013-chapter-1-synthesis)

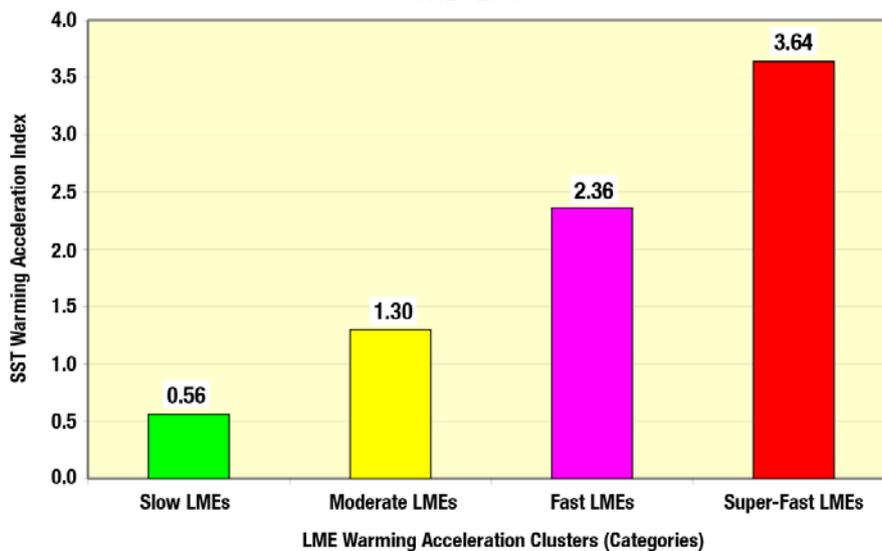
**LMEs, rates of warming, 5-yr. mean fisheries biomass yields, adjacent to developing or developed countries, status of stocks exploitation**

<b>FAST WARMING LMEs</b>	<b>Adjacent countries developed</b>	<b>increasing fisheries biomass yield trend</b>	<b>5-yr. mean fisheries biomass in metric tons</b>	<b>Fisheries biomass yield status from SAUP: Fully exploited, overexploited</b>
Norwegian Sea LME	developed	increasing	1,643,808	2% fully exploited, 23% overexploited
Iceland Shelf LME	developed	increasing	1,359,767	0% fully exploited, 80% overexploited
Faroe Plateau LME	developed	increasing	460,686	83% fully exploited, 10% overexploited
West Greenland Shelf LME	developed	increasing	138,369	90% fully exploited, 0% overexploited
Newfoundland/Labrador Shelf	developed	decreasing	683,480	55% fully exploited, 10% overexploited
<b>MODERATELY WARMING LMEs</b>	<b>Adjacent countries developing</b>	<b>increasing fisheries biomass yield trend</b>	<b>5-yr. mean fisheries biomass in metric tons</b>	<b>Fisheries biomass yield status from SAUP: Fully exploited, overexploited</b>
Sea of Okhotsk LME	developing	increasing	1,472,394	10% fully exploited, 78% overexploited
West Bering Sea LME	developing	decreasing	508,804	1% fully exploited, 79% overexploited
East Greenland Shelf LME	developed	increasing	73,932	6% fully exploited, 23% overexploited
<b>SLOWER WARMING LMEs</b>	<b>Adjacent to developing countries</b>	<b>decreasing fisheries biomass yield trend</b>	<b>5-yr. mean fisheries biomass in metric tons</b>	<b>Fisheries biomass yield status from SAUP: Fully exploited, overexploited</b>
Barents Sea LME	developing	decreasing	980,781	0% fully exploited, 60% over exploited
East Bering Sea	developed	decreasing	1,454,881	62% fully exploited, 28% overexploited

Arctic LMEs yields are too low for trend analysis

Chukchi	0
East Siberian	0
Beaufort Sea	8
Hudson Bay	50
Kara Sea	295
Laptev Sea	0
Arctic Ocean	242,913

**SST Warming Acceleration in Large Marine Ecosystems, 1982 - 2006**



High latitudes LMEs are more intensively impacted by climate change than lower latitude ones.

## II.4 Impact of Climate Change on Arctic fish

*It is thought that production of oceanic phytoplankton (Primary production) in the Arctic is expected to increase in response to declines in summer sea ice but this increase in production may be offset by declines in the spatial extent of ice algal blooms, and changes in oceanic species composition to a smaller size. Secondary production (herbivorous zooplankton) is likely to increase with a greater fraction of the annual production being grazed by zooplankton. Warmer ocean conditions and shifts in advection may change the species composition of zooplankton in the Arctic. The size and lipid content of dominant copepods may also change and may increase the production of smaller zooplankton. Temporal mismatches between the onset of spring blooms and peak hatch dates may occur<sup>7</sup>. Whether these changes to trophic energy pathways (primary and secondary productions fluxes) will be sufficient to support sub-Arctic fish and shelfish species is uncertain.*

As fish spawning closely depends on water temperature conditions, Arctic Ocean warming will impact directly fish reproduction and therefore their populations density and distribution. Such geographic distribution shifts to temperature differ among fish species. Some species are deemed to have a strong potential for northward displacements such as the boreal beaked redfish (*Sebastes mentella*) and the Arctic-boreal Bering flounder (*Hippoglossoides robustus*)<sup>xvi</sup>.

The boreal Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*) has already become abundant north in the Barents Sea (latitude ~80° N), and industrial fisheries are beginning to harvest the Arctic shelves around Svalbard archipelago<sup>xvii</sup>.

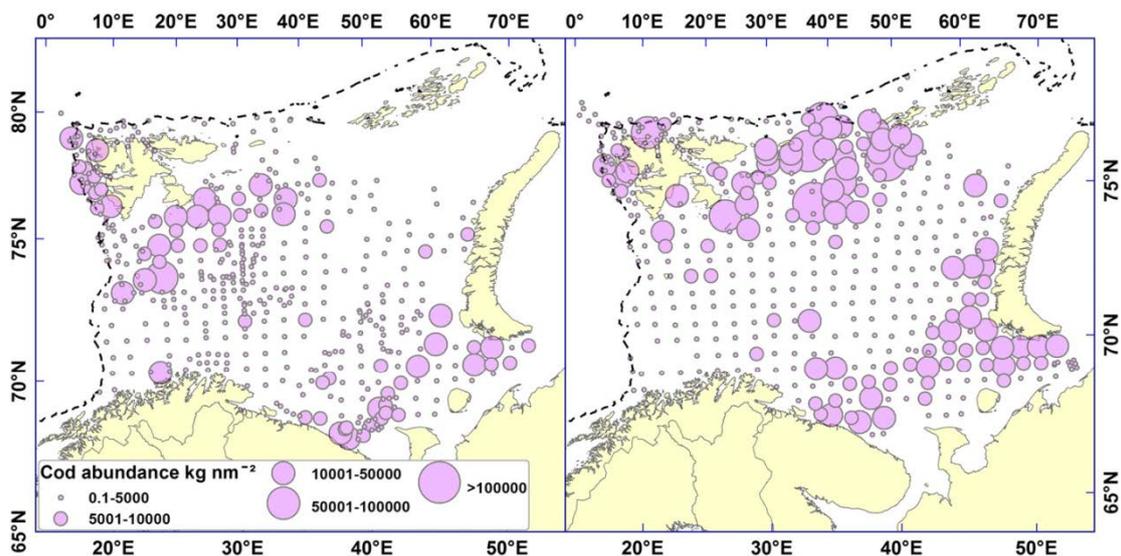
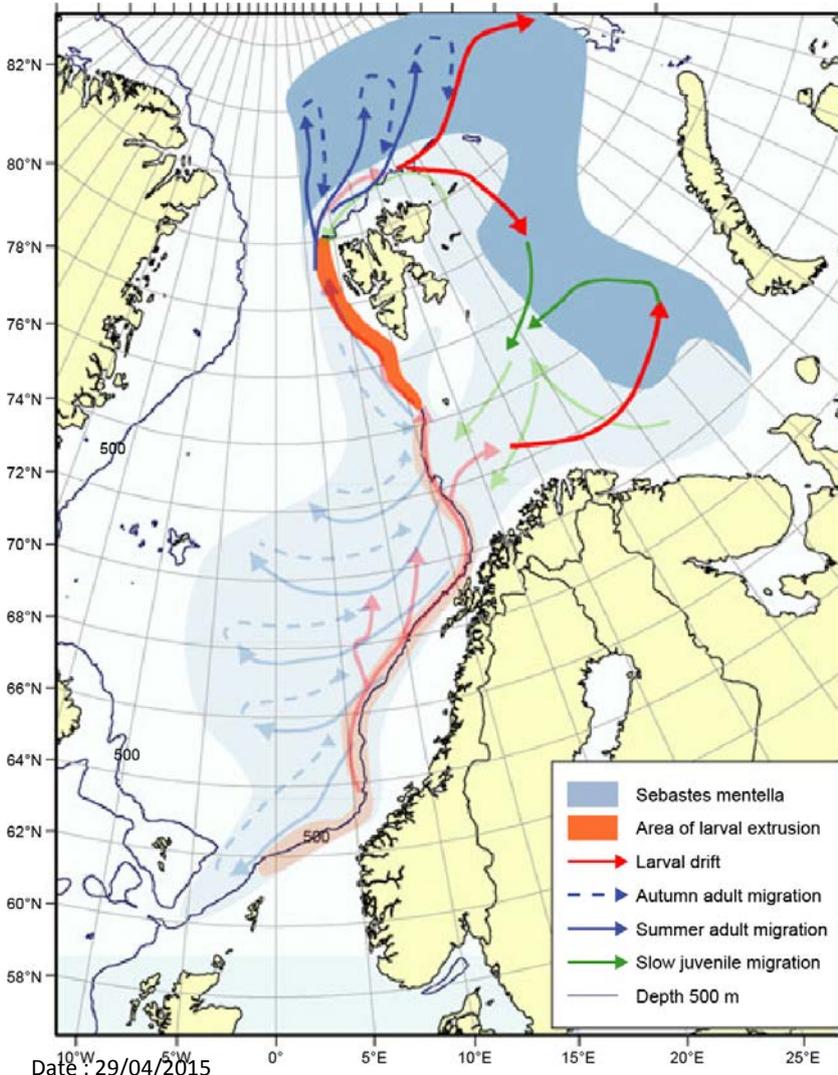
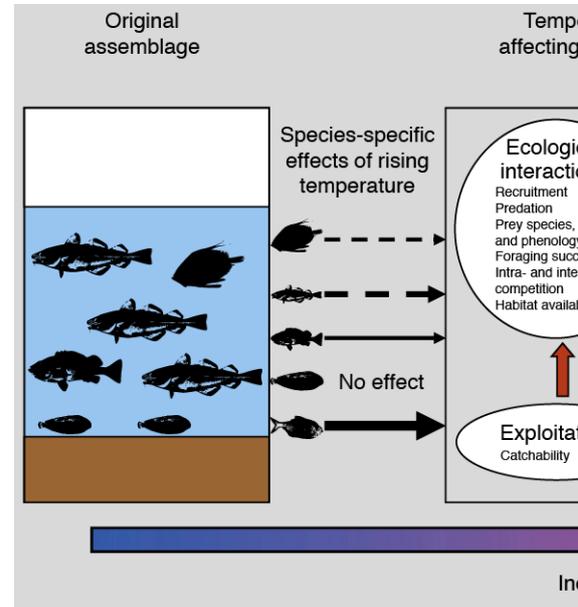


Figure ? Autumnal Atlantic cod distribution and abundance in 2007 (left) and 2012 (right) in Barents Sea<sup>xviii</sup>

<sup>7</sup> [https://www.imr.no/filarkiv/2013/04/potential\\_movement\\_of\\_fish\\_and\\_shellfish.pdf/nb-no](https://www.imr.no/filarkiv/2013/04/potential_movement_of_fish_and_shellfish.pdf/nb-no)

Truely Arctic species, like polar and arctic cods, are more vulnerable to warming arctic waters because their habitat, ice covered waters, is retracting itself.

Species differential response to changing temperatures may produce dramatic changes in local fish assemblage community, relative abundance of each species largely influence the global biodiversity of the ecosystem<sup>xix</sup>.



**Temperature-dependant factors and fish assemblage shifting<sup>xx</sup>**

Species-specific differences in the overall response to temperature are represented by arrow style (dashed: abundances decreasing; solid: abundances increasing; arrow width indicates differences in the strength of response).

Fisheries exploitation patterns are also changing as harvested species move poleward into hitherto unfished parts of the Arctic seas<sup>xxi</sup>.

Hypothesized expansion of the distribution area of beaked redfish under future ocean climate in the Barents Sea and surrounding areas. Shaded areas and arrows indicate current distribution areas and migration routes. Plain color areas and arrows indicate the potential expansion of distribution and migration routes.

*Predicting the consequences of changes in the physical environment and potential food availability for fish and associated fisheries, when many detailed aspects of species' ecological and physiological constraints are still not known, is very challenging<sup>8</sup>.*

Assessment of the expected movements of 17 fish and shellfish stocks or stock groups currently found in the Barents, Norwegian and Bering Seas to climate change was qualitatively evaluated by examining the potential impact of climate change as mitigated by the adaptive capacity of each species<sup>15</sup>, and identified three categories:

*“Five stocks or stock groups were thought to have a low potential to expand in, or move into, the Arctic: walleye pollock, northern rock sole, Pacific cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*), Atlantic cod (*Gadus morhua*), Pacific ocean perch (*Sebastes alutus*). Six stocks were potentially able to expand or move into the Arctic. Six stocks, polar cod, snow crab, Bering flounder (*Hippoglossoides elassodon*), Greenland shark (*Somniosus microcephalus*), Arctic skate (*Amblyraja hyperborea*), and beaked redfish (*Sebastes mentella*), had a high potential to expand in, or move into, the Arctic”<sup>9</sup>.*

*“Future expansion or movement of sub-Arctic commercial fish stocks from the Norwegian or Barents Seas into the Arctic” was judge as “more likely because the inflow of warm Atlantic water is stronger and the open water connection with the Arctic Ocean provides greater access to the region” than for Bering Sea because “shallow depth of Bering Strait, coupled with the expected persistence of a demersal cold pool in the northern Bering Sea and Chukchi Seas, may deter movement of Pacific Ocean perch (*Sebastes alutus*), Pacific cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*) and walleye pollock into the Arctic. Northern rock sole, was less likely to move or expand into the Arctic because of its restricted diet”.*

In all cases, availability of prey resources and sufficient temperature are limitant factors to the expansion of arctic-boreal and boreal species in Arctic Basin waters, these fishes having higher metabolic rate than arctic species.

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<sup>8</sup> P. 7, [http://www.mccip.org.uk/media/22483/2013arc\\_sciencereview\\_13\\_fish\\_final.pdf](http://www.mccip.org.uk/media/22483/2013arc_sciencereview_13_fish_final.pdf)

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[https://www.imr.no/filarkiv/2013/04/potential\\_movement\\_of\\_fish\\_and\\_shellfish.pdf/nb-no](https://www.imr.no/filarkiv/2013/04/potential_movement_of_fish_and_shellfish.pdf/nb-no)

The use of AquaMaps<sup>xxii</sup> ecological niche model-based maps of currently known natural occurrence of marine Arctic and Boreal fish species compared with their modelled 2100 distribution 2100 map based on IPCC A2 emissions scenario, show an important movement northward of most of the 815 identified fish species of the Arctic seas. But just 20 % (159 species) of them are supposed to enter or extend their current distribution in the Arctic Ocean itself.

Distribution in the Arctic Ocean in 2100	Arctic Species	Arctic-Boreal species	Boreal species	Worldwide species	Total
Expansion	32 / 48 %	25 / 66 %	95 / 17 %	7 / 4 %	159 / 20 %
Contraction	9 / 13 %	6 / 16 %	1 / 0.2 %	0	16 / 2 %

**Predicted changing of Arctic Seas fish species in 2100**

(Source: AquaMaps.org)

The predicted range evolution is quite different for fisheries targeted species, with 40 % (25 species) entering or expanding their current range in the Arctic Ocean as just 2 species (Arctic and Polar cod) contracting, dramatically, their range in 2100.

Distribution in the Arctic Ocean in 2100	Arctic Species	Arctic-Boreal species	Boreal species	Worldwide species	Total
Expansion	4 / 66 %	5 / 83 %	16 / 32 %	0	25 / 40 %
Contraction	2 / 33 %	1 / 17 %	0	0	3 / 5 %

**Predicted changing of Arctic Seas targueted fish species in 2100**

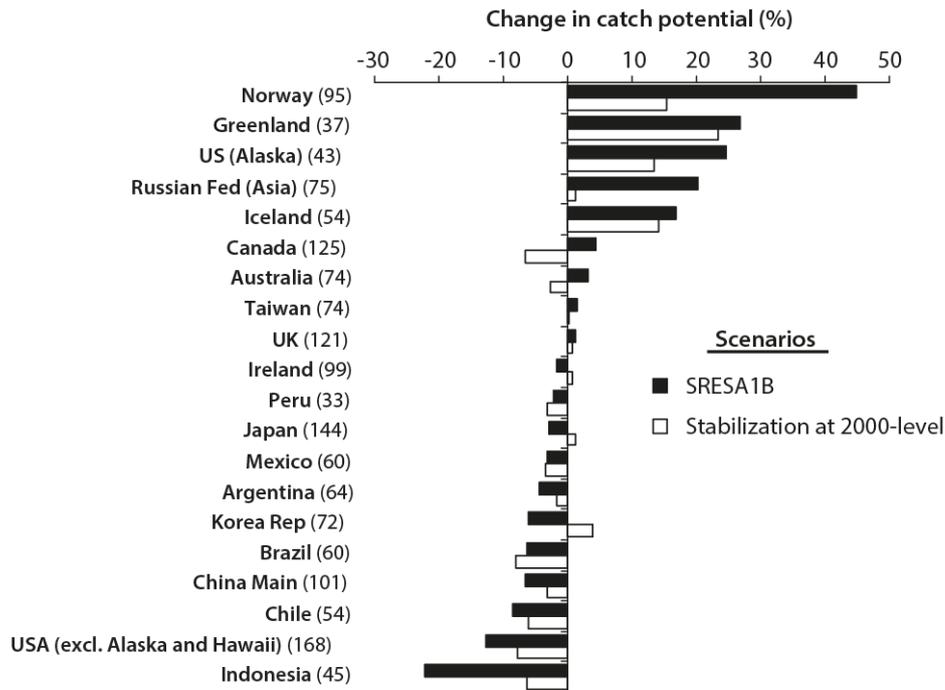
(Source: AquaMaps.org)

For Arctic and Arctic-Boreal, as most of targueted species are anadromous fishes exclusively fished in rivers and estuarines, during their migration back to freshwaters reproduction grounds, such an Arctic Ocean expansion range will have nearly no noticeable effect on commercial fisheries. But for Boreal species, which are mostly caught in marine waters, such a shift may generate an important change in fishing effort special distribution with repercussions on costs and rentability.

## II.5 Impact of Climate Change on Arctic fisheries

Models have been used to prospect possible evolution of some fish stocks of key interest and results tend to confirm a global shift northward of targeted species.

The comparison of global catches changes predicts a highly possible large-scale redistribution of catches, with an average of 30 to 70 % increase in high latitude regions (ie. Arctic LMEs, see figure above), and a drop of up to 40 % in the tropics. Moreover, maximum catch potential declines considerably in the southward margins of semienclosed seas while it increases in poleward tips of continental shelf margins. Such changes are most apparent in the Pacific Ocean<sup>xxiii</sup>.



**Projected changes in 10-year averaged maximum catch potential from 2005 to 2055 by the 20 Exclusive Economic Zone regions with the highest catch in the 2000s.**

The numbers in parentheses represent the numbers of exploited species included in the analysis.

In green, google search shows strong similarities with : [http://www.fisheries.ubc.ca/webfm\\_send/134](http://www.fisheries.ubc.ca/webfm_send/134)

*Using bioclimate envelop (sea water temperature, bathymetry, habitats and distance from sea ice) on some species of commercial interest, polar cod and Atlantic cod to predict their relative abundance through changes in population growth, portality, larval dispersal and adult movement<sup>10</sup>.*

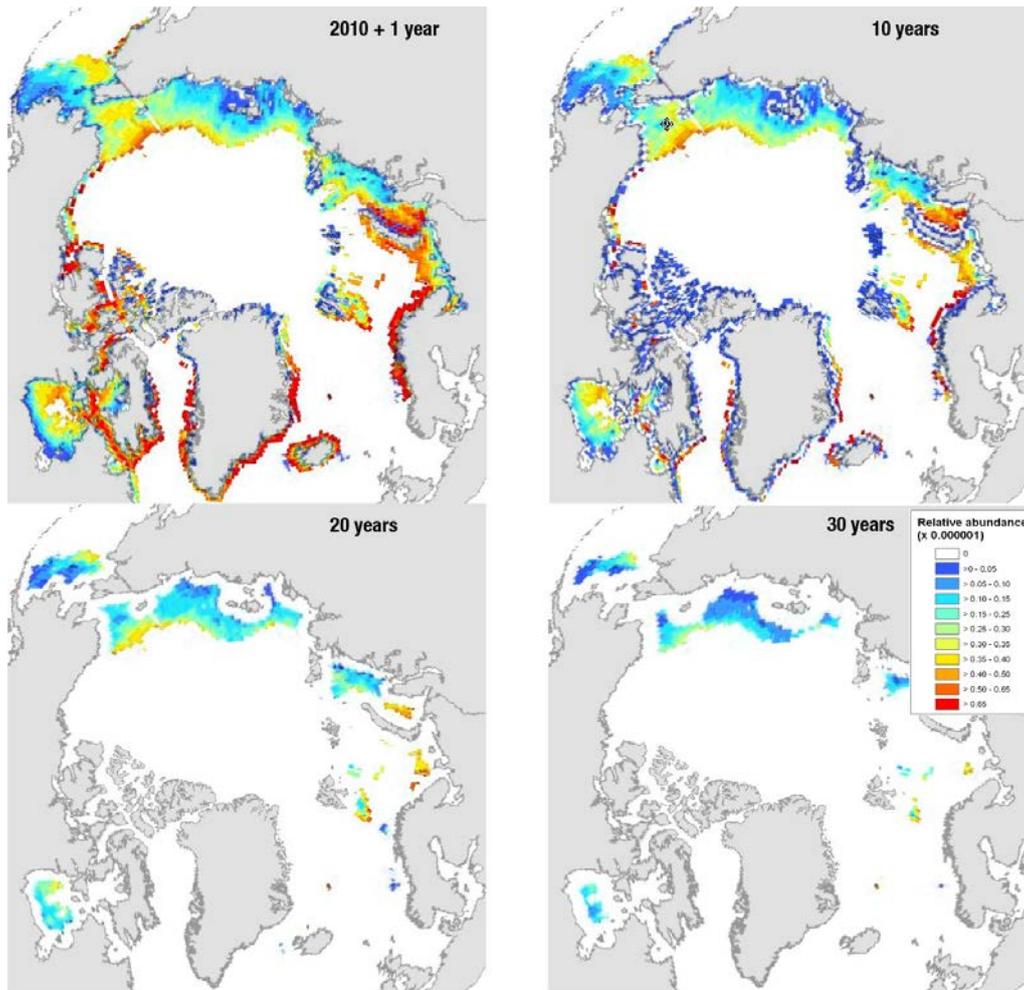
Paragraph below is found p31 (or 27) in : [http://www.fisheries.ubc.ca/webfm\\_send/134](http://www.fisheries.ubc.ca/webfm_send/134)

*Polar cod was found to be sensitive to the warming scenarios and the model predicted that it would be extirpated in most of its range even under the milder warming scenario (see figure below). This is due to its occurrence in the Arctic Ocean, which largely precludes it from moving northwards. Polar cod was predicted to be extirpated around Greenland and its abundance was largely reduced in other parts of the Arctic Ocean after 30 years of hypothetical warming<sup>11</sup>.*

<sup>10</sup> [http://www.fisheries.ubc.ca/webfm\\_send/134](http://www.fisheries.ubc.ca/webfm_send/134)

<sup>11</sup> p31 (or 27) in : [http://www.fisheries.ubc.ca/webfm\\_send/134](http://www.fisheries.ubc.ca/webfm_send/134)

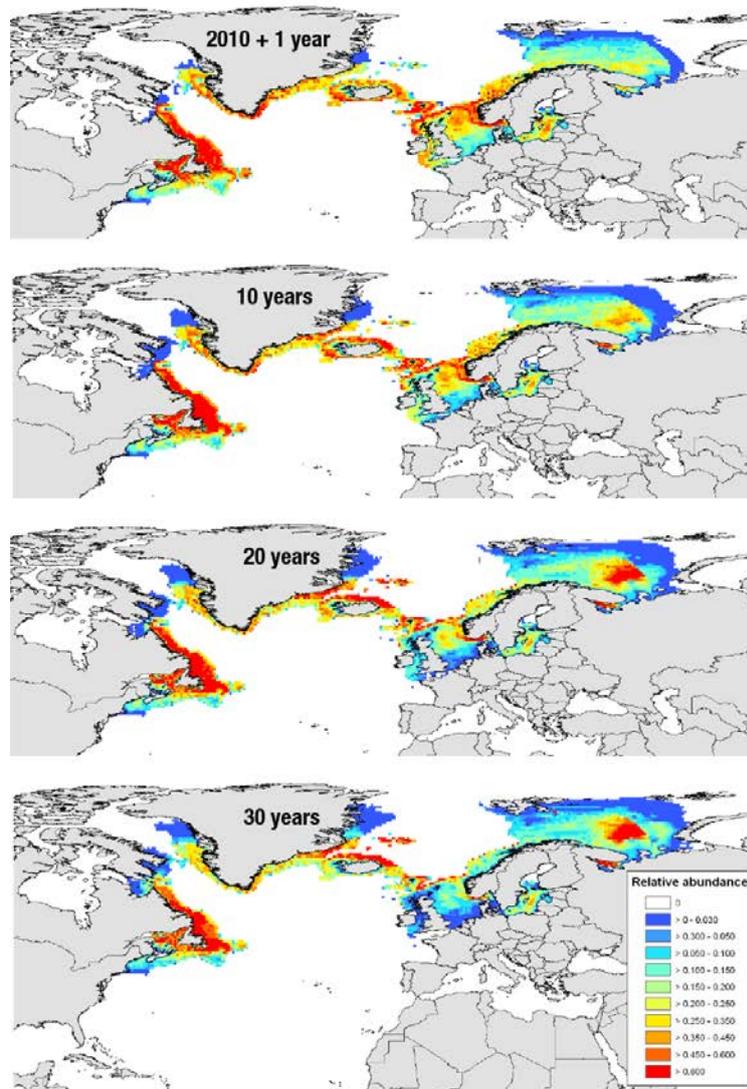




Simulated changes in distribution of polar cod after 1 year (upper left), 10 years (upper right), 20 years (lower left) and 30 years (lower right) under hypothetical scenarios of ocean warming and retreating sea ice edge at a rate of 5 km per year. Polar cod is extirpated from most of its range in 30 years.

*A strong global warming scenario (scenario 2) resulted in a general northward shift of distribution of Atlantic cod (see figure below). In the northwest Atlantic, our model predicted that the abundance of the southern cod stocks (Georges Bank, Gulf of Maine, and Scotian Shelf) would decline. In the northeast Atlantic, relative abundance of cod declines in the North Sea, Irish Sea, Celtic Sea and Norwegian Sea. On the other hand, the relative abundance of the Icelandic, Faroe Island and Barents Sea cod stock increased. Also, the distribution of cod extends further into the Arctic as the ice sheet retreats<sup>12</sup>.*

<sup>12</sup> p33 (or 29) in : [http://www.fisheries.ubc.ca/webfm\\_send/134](http://www.fisheries.ubc.ca/webfm_send/134)



**Simulated changes in distribution of Atlanticcod after 1 year, 10 years , 20 years and 30 yearsr under hypothetical scenarios of ocean warming and retreating sea ice edge at a rate of 5 km per year (scenario 2).**

To summarize, Climate change impact on Arctic fishery will highly probably accelerate the Northward shift of targeted boreal fish and selfish species currently observed in some species, and modify the species assemblage in most of Arctic LMEs, specially the Pacific and Atlantic Gateways (Bering Sea, Norwegian and Barents Sea), three of the most productive seas of the world. This geographical distribution shift associated with sea ice retreat will open new fishing grounds, which will be located much farer from main fishing ports, in waters uncovered by existing RFMOs. These changes will aslo modify targeted species population dynamics and fishable stocks.

### III. The EU and Arctic Fisheries

#### III.1 The EU and the Arctic Fisheries

In the introductory paragraph of its 2008 Communication, The European Commission has delivered an abstract on “The EU and the Arctic region”:

“The European Union is inextricably linked to the Arctic region by a unique combination of history, geography, economy and scientific achievements. Three Member States — Denmark (Greenland), Finland and Sweden — have territories in the Arctic. Two other Arctic states — Iceland and Norway — are members of the European Economic Area. Canada, Russia and the United States are strategic partners of the EU. European Arctic areas are a priority in the Northern Dimension policy. Beyond areas of national jurisdiction, the Arctic Ocean contains parts pertaining to the high seas and the seabed managed by the International Seabed Authority” (Ibid).

Fisheries activities are *mentioned as one of the relevant sectors both in the Commission’s Communication of 2008 and the subsequent Council’s Conclusion of 2009 on the Arctic region and on Arctic issues*<sup>13</sup>. Both documents express the EU’s aim to exploit Arctic fisheries resource at sustainable levels whilst respecting the rights of local coastal communities.

In paragraph 3.2 of the Commission’s Communication on the Arctic Region<sup>14</sup>, we can read:

*“Policy objective*

*The EU’s main objective is to ensure exploitation of Arctic fisheries resources at sustainable levels whilst respecting the rights of local coastal communities.*

*Proposals for action:*

*–Put in place a regulatory framework for the part of the Arctic high seas not yet covered by an international conservation and management regime before new fishing opportunities arise. This will prevent fisheries developing in a regulatory vacuum, and will ensure fair and transparent management of fisheries in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing. In principle, extending the mandate of existing management organizations such as NEAFC is preferable to creating new ones. Until a conservation and management regime is in place for the areas not yet covered by such a regime, no new fisheries should commence.”*

As far as new Arctic fisheries are concerned, we can summarize the Commission’s Communication with the three following principles:

1. Put in place a regulatory framework of the part of the Arctic High seas not yet covered by an international conservation and management regime. In accordance with the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing.

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[://www.swp-berlin.org/fileadmin/contents/products/arbeitspapiere/Rff\\_WP\\_2010\\_02\\_ks.pdf](http://www.swp-berlin.org/fileadmin/contents/products/arbeitspapiere/Rff_WP_2010_02_ks.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:52008DC0763>

2. In principle, extending the mandate of existing management organisations such as NEAFC is preferable to creating new ones.
3. No new fisheries should commence until a new conservation and management regime is in place.

In paragraph 10 of the 2009 Council Conclusions on Arctic Issues, we also read:

*The Council notes that in the implementation of the Integrated Maritime Policy (IMP) special attention will be paid to the Arctic and underlines that harvesting of Arctic marine living resources should be managed on the basis of scientific advice as part of an ecosystem perspective. It stresses the need to promote a precautionary approach to new fishing activity in Arctic high seas, as well as measures for protecting marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The Council expresses its readiness to consider a proposal to put in place a regulatory framework for the part of the seas not yet covered by an international conservation system by extending the mandate of relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organisations or any other proposal to that effect agreed by the relevant parties. Until such a framework is in place, the Council favours a temporary ban on new fisheries in those waters.*

As far as new Arctic fisheries are concerned, we can summarize the 2009 Council's conclusions with four main guiding principles:

- I. Special attention will be paid to the Arctic in the implementation of the IMP
- II.a Promoting precautionary approach to new fishing activity in Arctic High seas
- II.b Promoting measures for protecting marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- III.Put in place a regulatory framework for the part of the seas not yet covered by an international conservation system
- III.a Extending the mandate of relevant Regional Fisheries management Organisations or any other proposal to that effect agreed by the relevant parties.
- IV. Temporary ban on new fisheries in those waters.

Principle 1 is conceptually equivalent to principle III on the condition that “the part of seas not yet covered by an international conservation system” has the same meaning as “Arctic High seas”. Principle 2 is equivalent to principle III.a. In the former statement, “In principle” suggest that other options might have to be considered, as it is clearly mentioned in the latter statement. Principle 3 is equivalent to principles I and IV, the ban representing the legal way of preventing new fisheries in unregulated arctic waters.

### **III.2 The European Common Fisheries Policy.**

EU fisheries policy is an exclusive competence of the EU. The Lisbon Treaty explicitly mentions a common fisheries policy (CFP) in Article 38(1), Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). This means that all decisions are taken at the EU level. Member States cannot intervene in fisheries management unless they are explicitly delegated back the powers to do so. The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) provides the framework for European and national fisheries management activities. Article 1(1) of the Basic CFP Regulation describes the scope of the CFP as encompassing: « *conservation, management and exploitation of living aquatic resources, aquaculture, and the processing and marketing of fishery and aquaculture products* ».

### **III.3 The EU as fishing actor in the Arctic**

Reminding that the EU has not direct access to Arctic seas (defined as north of latitude 66° North) as Greenland does not belong to the EU anymore since 1985, we need to identify the role of the EU as fishing actor and as a trade partner for fish trade. It will be of great importance to evaluate the relevance of Arctic Fishing for the EU compared to other fishing countries and the EU's position as economic fish market for Arctic countries. According to a recent study (Rudloff, 2010), the economic relevance of Arctic Fisheries for the EU (catches and trade) could be summarized in the following way:

- The EU only holds an unimportant share of all Arctic catches;
- The fisheries sector in the EU is of minor overall economic relevance;
- The EU can be characterized as strong or even dominant trade actor for arctic fish trade

### **III.4 The EU and fishery regimes in the Arctic**

Fisheries governance has international, national and local dimensions. It will be of great importance to examine the involvement of the EU in relevant regimes for Arctic fisheries and trade:

- The EU is member of all relevant regimes at UN level (UNCLOS, Fish Stock Agreement, IPO-IUU..) despite one specific for the Bering sea.
- At regional levels, the EU is member of all spatially defined RFMOs (NEAFC, NASCO) and all fish-specific ones but one (NPFAC).
- Additionally, the EU adopted some bilateral agreements (Iceland/EU, Norway/EU, Greenland/EU...)

According to the definition of Arctic Seas, The EU does not have direct coastal access. This subsequently limits the EU fishing rights in the current situation: The EU receives rights either by grant from Arctic countries to fish within their EEZ or by being allocated rights within an RFMO area as far as the High Sea is concerned. For straddling stocks even these rights in the High Seas depends of the first decision of coastal States on their fishing volume what determines the residuum accessible other countries.

## **IV. The NEAFC enlargement project**

### **IV.1. Elements of history of international fisheries governance**

According to a recent OECD report on IUU fishing<sup>xxiv</sup>, we can trace back the present time with four major phases in the international fisheries governance:

- Free access till 1979
- Gradual enclosure of High Seas waters till 1900
- Sustainable management in the 90s
- Measures against illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries (IUU)

### **IV.2 Regional Fisheries Management Organizations**

RFMOs have a long history and some of them were founded in the 50s. Their importance and number increased with the parallel increase in High Seas's fisheries causing large awareness that international cooperation was necessary. More than thirty regional bodies or arrangements (RFBs) have been established during the last century, including fourteen since the adoption of the United

Convention of the Law of the Sea in 1982. They have been constituted as either an advisory or a regulatory body. Two major types RFMOs can be distinguished:

- Tuna and migrating species related RFMOs which members are more distant-water States.
- Non-tuna organizations which are spatially defined and by that focus primarily on coastal states as members.

The EU is member of 5 tuna and 8 non-tuna Organizations.

#### **IV.2.1 The role of RFMOs**

Typical measures of RFMOs are:

- Fisheries limits like defined quantitative fishing quota of single species for vessels or in certain locations.
- Technical measures like standards on gear technology, respective marking and labeling of fish and technical control of vessels and equipment.
- Control and monitoring for different dimensions (basic data, vessel monitoring systems, measures against IUU fisheries...)
- Decision making and disputes. Some RFMOs have established their own dispute settlement procedures to solve conflicts between members.
- Relation with non-contracting Parties.

#### **IV.2.2 RFMOs in the Arctic**

A large part of the marine area in the Arctic is not covered by a RFMO or arrangement with competence over target species other than tuna and tuna-like species and anadromous species. Only two regionally specified RFMOs have a mandate in the Arctic area:

- The North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)
- The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)

#### **IV.2.3 UN mandate given to RFMOs**

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 UN Fish Stocks Agreement) was adopted on 4 August 1995. The Agreement entered into force on 11 December 2001.

The purpose of the 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement is to facilitate the implementation of certain provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982 Convention) concerning the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks. The Agreement complements the 1993 FAO Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (1993 FAO Compliance Agreement) and the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.

*“The 1995 UN Fish Stocks Agreement places RFMOs in a pivotal and central position in terms of its implementation; they provide the primary mechanism through which States should cooperate to achieve enhanced resources conservation and management. Despite some RFMOs whose mandates extend to the conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks, RFMOs are grappling with practical aspects of the Agreement's implementation such as how to apply the precautionary approach in fisheries management, how to implement ecosystem management, and how to address transparency”<sup>15</sup>.*

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<sup>15</sup> <http://www.fao.org/fishery/topic/13701/en>

## IV.3. Structure of the NEAFC

### IV.3.1 Origins of the Convention

The origins of the Convention on Future Multilateral Co-operation in the North-East Atlantic Fisheries lie in an organisation known as the Permanent Commission, which was founded in 1953. The Permanent Commission was formed under the 1946 Convention for the Regulation of Meshes of Fishing Nets and the Size Limits of Fish. By the early 1960s it was considered that the Commission needed a wider range of powers to regulate the effects of technological advances in fishing methods. In 1963 NEAFC was formed to succeed the Permanent Commission. In addition to the powers of the Permanent Commission, NEAFC was empowered to establish closed fishing areas and seasons, and regulate catch and fishing effort.

### Declaration

on the Interpretation and Implementation of the Convention on the Future Multilateral Cooperation in North-East Atlantic Fisheries

*“Following the withdrawal from NEAFC of the individual Member States of the European Economic Community (EEC) and the general extension of fisheries limits to 200 nautical miles, negotiations between present and former members of NEAFC resulted in the 1980 Agreement on the Convention on Future Multilateral Co-operation in the North-East Atlantic Fisheries. This new Convention, which entered into force in 1982, differed from the previous Convention in that it provided, inter alia, for the EEC to be a signatory as one entity and to become a Contracting Party. A new Commission, known as NEAFC, was established in November 1982”<sup>16</sup>.*

### IV.3.2 Objective of Agreement

The NEAFC’s principal objective is to “promote the conservation and optimum utilisation of the fishery resources of the North-East Atlantic area within a framework appropriate to the regime of extended coastal state jurisdiction over fisheries, and accordingly to encourage international cooperation and consultation with respect to these resources”. It is also to promote the exchange of scientific information and data on the state of the fishery resources in the area and on management policies.

The purpose of the Convention is described in Article 4 which provides for the following:

1. The Commission shall perform its functions in the interests of the conservation and optimum utilisation of the fishery resources of the Convention Area and shall take into account the best scientific evidence available to it.
2. The Commission shall provide a forum for consultation and exchange of information on the state of fishery resources in the Convention Area and on management policies, including the examination of the overall effect of such policies on fishery resources.

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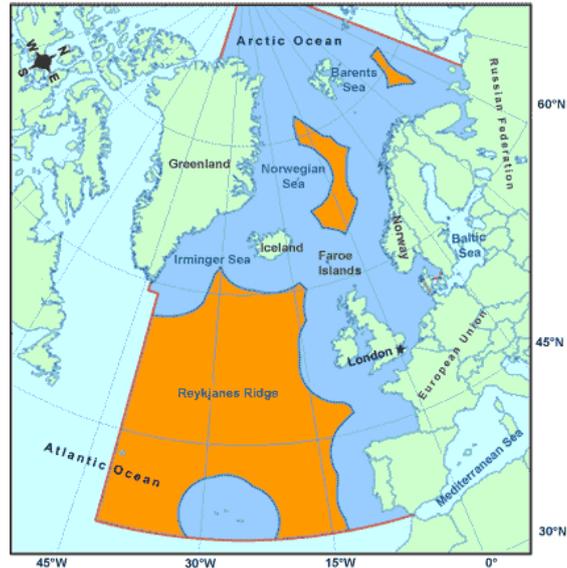
<sup>16</sup> <http://archive.neafc.org/about/docs/london-declaration.pdf>



### IV.3.3 Duration of Agreement

Indefinite

### IV.3.4 The Convention area



The Convention Area covers the Atlantic and Arctic Ocean east of a line south of Cape Farewell – the southern tip of Greenland (42° W), north of a line to the west of Cape Hatteras - the southern tip of Spain (36° N), and west of a line touching the western tip of Novya Semlya (51° E). The Baltic and Mediterranean Seas are excluded.

Most of this area is under the fisheries jurisdiction of NEAFC's Contracting Parties, but three large areas (Orange colour) within this area are international waters and constitute the NEAFC Regulatory Area.

The shaded area to the north east of northern Norway and the Russian Federation is in the Barents Sea, the central area north of the Faroe Islands is the Norwegian Sea, and the third area to the south west of Greenland and Iceland, and west of Faroese and European Union waters comprises the Irminger Sea, Hatton Bank Ridge, Rockall Ridge, the Mid Atlantic Ridge, and the waters north of the Azores.

### IV.3.5 Fisheries in the Convention Area



*The main fisheries in the Convention Area are for Norwegian Spring Spawning (Atlanto–Scandian) herring, mackerel, blue whiting and oceanic pelagic redfish. These fisheries are all regulated, at least in part, by NEAFC<sup>17</sup>.*

Demersal fisheries in the Barents Sea area of the Regulatory Area are, however, not regulated by NEAFC but by a fisheries arrangement between the two Coastal States, Norway and the Russian Federation; the Joint Norwegian–Russian Fisheries Commission.

#### **IV.3.6 Membership**

*The number of Contracting Parties who have ratified the Convention and who make up its membership has changed since 1982, as follows:*

*The 1982 Convention was signed by thirteen members; Bulgaria, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands), EEC (now EU), Finland, the German Democratic Republic, Iceland, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the Soviet Union (now the Russian Federation), and a new Commission was established in 1982.*

- *Greenland withdrew from the EEC in February 1985 and has since been represented by Denmark.*
- *From 1990, the interests of the former German Democratic Republic are covered by the EU.*
- *Bulgaria formally discontinued its membership of the Commission in January 1995*
- *Sweden and Finland acceded to the European Union in January 1995 and at the same time discontinued their membership of the Commission*
- *Estonia became a member of the Commission in July 2003*
- *Poland and Estonia acceded to the European Union in 2005 and discontinued their membership of the Commission in 2006*

*The present membership is therefore made up as follows:*

- *The European Union*
- *Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)*
- *Iceland*
- *Norway*
- *The Russian Federation*

#### **IV.3.7 Responsibilities of the Commission**

*The Convention empowers NEAFC to adopt fisheries management recommendations by qualified majority vote (subject to the objection procedure and dispute resolution procedures). Recommendations become binding on Contracting Parties once objection periods expire. Article 15 of the Convention requires the Parties to effect these recommendations.*

*The Commission has established a number of Committees and Working Groups to assist it in carrying out its responsibilities pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 8 of the Convention<sup>18</sup>.*

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<sup>17</sup>[http://qsr2010.ospar.org/media/assessments/p00465\\_supplements/p00465\\_suppl\\_3\\_North\\_East\\_Atlantic\\_Fisheries\\_Commission.pdf](http://qsr2010.ospar.org/media/assessments/p00465_supplements/p00465_suppl_3_North_East_Atlantic_Fisheries_Commission.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> <http://archive.neafc.org/news/docs/performance-review-final-edited.pdf>

### **IV.3.8 NEAFC Working Groups**

Among other NEAFC working groups, one is of particular interest for “D5.12”, the WG on the Future of NEAFC. It has worked on the following issues:

- *Evaluating the role of NEAFC in taking a broader ecosystem approach to fisheries management. In that regard, the WG on the Future of NEAFC shall examine how to strengthen the role of NEAFC in addressing overall ocean management in the Convention Area. The WG shall look into the possible restriction in this respect in the Convention and the consequent need for interpretation and/or amendment.*
- *Examining the role of other regional and global organisations involved in ocean issues in the Convention Area. In this respect, possible gaps or overlaps in work, should be given due attention. Areas of cooperation shall be identified in order to promote responsible and coordinated ocean management in the Convention area.<sup>19</sup>*

### **IV.3.9 The Secretariat**

Article 3 paragraphs 5 and 7 of the Convention establish the office of the Commission in London and stipulate that the Commission shall appoint a Secretary and necessary staff. From 1982 to 1999 Secretarial functions were covered by the UK Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF – now the Department of the Environment Fisheries and Rural Affairs) on a temporary basis.

In 1998 NEAFC’s Contracting Parties agreed to strengthen the organisation by establishing an independent Secretariat in London. A permanent Secretariat was established in 1999 creating the post of Secretary (3 year terms), and two permanent full-time posts, one as IT Manager and Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Administrator and one as Office Manager. Due to the increasing demands for web-based solutions in 2004 staffing was increased with the addition of an IT Assistant.

Staff members are international civil servants working according to rules set up by the NEAFC Commission which are based on regulations established between the UN and the International Civil Service Commission.

The budget for running the Secretariat is part of the budget drawn up by the President of NEAFC and sent to the Contracting Parties. It is reviewed by the Finance and Administration Committee which drafts final proposals to the NEAFC Commissions for decision at the Annual Meeting. The approved total budget for 2006 is just under £760,000 and has increased from approximately £580,000 in 1999 when the permanent Secretariat was first established. Staff costs and allowances amount to about 30% of the total budget.<sup>20</sup>

### **IV.3.10 International legal personality**

International organization established by the Treaty

### **IV.3.11 Amendment to the Agreement**

*The Contracting Parties to the Convention adopted an amendment to the Convention at the 23rd Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) in November 2004 allowing NEAFC to adopt recommendations establishing procedures for the settlement of disputes arising from the Convention.*

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<sup>19</sup> <http://archive.neafc.org/news/docs/performance-review-final-edited.pdf>

<sup>20</sup> <http://archive.neafc.org/news/docs/performance-review-final-edited.pdf>

*By postal vote on 11 August 2006 the Contracting Parties to the Convention adopted an amendment to the Convention whereby the scope of the Convention was extended so as to include sedentary species and the objectives of the Convention were broadened. The Convention was also amended so as to mention developments in other international forums for fisheries management that affect fisheries in the NEAFC Convention area, and certain new definitions were introduced.<sup>21</sup>*

#### **IV.4. Extending the spatial scope of the Convention**

The NEAFC enlargement option is relevant on the condition newly accessible marine areas fall under the category of “High Seas” (UNCLOS, Part VII). If not, other institutional scenarios are to be considered.

##### **IV.4.1 Rules governing the treaty amendment**

The NEAFC Convention doesn’t explicitly mention the option of amending its spatial scope but such amendment is not excluded<sup>xxv</sup>.

According to Article 19(2) of the NEAFC Convention the adoption of an amendment to the Convention requires a three-fourths majority of all Contracting Parties. In accordance with Article 19(3) of the Convention, an amendment will take effect 120 days following the date of notification by the Depository of receipt of written notification of approval by three-fourths of all Contracting Parties.

The Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (1969) stipulates general rules concerning amendment and modifications of Treaties (Part IV.).

##### **IV.4.2. Initiative-takers**

In principle, different groups of countries may initiate such an initiative: either only the current small group of five members would agree on such an extension or other actors like cooperating non-contracting Parties to NEAFC such as Canada, New Zealand, St Kitts and Nevis, or others like USA or even long-distance fishing actors like China.

##### **IV.4.3 The redefinition of the area convention**

No case is known from the past of changing area RFMOs. Therefore there is no precedent available.

The redefinition working process of a RFMO’s area should not be different from the original definition working process which lead to the present RFOM convention. Along with a legal study (UNCLOS, relevant regimes for Arctic fisheries...), it will very useful to study the negotiations process which historically lead to the RFMO convention.

##### **IV.4.4. Others scenarios**

Different options for strengthening Arctic Ocean governance exist, some being a “Soft law” approach, others partening to a “Hard law” approach.

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<sup>21</sup><http://ec.europa.eu/world/agreements/prepareCreateTreatiesWorkspace/treatiesGeneralData.do?step=0&redirect=true&treatyId=8283>

“Soft law” possibilities are, among others:

- Harmonization of environmental and technical standards by coastal states;
- Development of integrated planning for transboundary marine ecosystems;
- Restructuring the Arctic Council, including by broadening participation.

“Hard law” options are:

- Enlargement of another existing RFMO;
- Extending the special scope of the OSPAR Convention;
- Implementing Agreement under the UNCLOS.
- Establishing a new Arctic RFMO;

## Concluding Remarks

### V.1. NEAFC enlargement

If small modifications of the NEAFC special scope based on a Large Marine Ecosystem as defined by PAME could be easily accepted by member States and coastal States, (integration of the complete Barents Sea LME No. 20 and Kara Sea No. 58), a large expansion, by which the NEAFC Convention Area would comprise the entire Arctic Ocean, as suggested in the EU Commission’s Arctic Communication, appear much more problematic<sup>31</sup>.

*This is not so much caused by the interests of the new coastal states, namely Canada and the United States. In fact, Canada would not really be a new coastal state as it currently already has the status of Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (NCP) with NEAFC. In light of this status, Canada may even apply for full membership in the future. It is less clear if the United States would have significant problems with the substance of the amended NEAFC Convention.*

*Perhaps more important, however, is whether or not Canada and the United States have fundamental objections to NEAFC’s practices on the establishment and allocation of the total allowable catch (TAC) for straddling fish stocks, for the reason that these clearly give preferential treatment to coastal states. The initiative lies here with the coastal states, who first agree on a coastal state TAC while taking account of the scientific advice provided by ICES. However, as the ICES advice relates to the entire stock, the coastal states effectively determine the high seas TAC as well. The coastal states also allocate the coastal state TAC between them, without specifying which part of each coastal state’s allocation should be caught within or beyond areas under national jurisdiction. NEAFC is then charged with determining and allocating the high seas TAC.*

*While Canada and the United States would, as coastal states, of course benefit from such preferential treatment as well, it is not excluded that they would object to such practices in order to be consistent with their user or non-user interests in other RFMOs and Arrangements.*

*Much more problematic, however, are the user interests of states that are not coastal states with respect to the North-East Atlantic Ocean or the Arctic Ocean: e.g., the other states that currently have the status of NCP with NEAFC (Belize, Cook Islands, Japan and New Zealand) and other states with large distant water fishing fleets, such as China and South Korea. Even though fishing opportunities in the high seas pocket of the central Arctic Ocean are likely to be very minimal in the near future, climate change may alter the Arctic marine area, both rapidly and fundamentally, in the*

*medium term. Consequently, it cannot be ruled out that fishing opportunities in the high seas of the Arctic Ocean will be substantial in the medium and long terms<sup>22</sup>.*

### **V.3. Implementing Agreement under the UNCLOS**

Even though the LOS Convention contains various amendment procedures, two earlier instances the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) expressed the international community's preference for an Implementing Agreement instead. Thus, while there is no precedent for an Implementing Agreement with a regional scope, no rule of international law, including the UNCLOS, would in principle prevent the international community from pursuing such an option if the required majority so desires<sup>31</sup>.

*This notwithstanding, there are various reasons why an Implementing Agreement under the UNCLOS is not a realistic option.*

*Most importantly, the direct link with the UNCLOS would imply that its negotiation process would fall under the UNGA. As the UNCLOS is a global instrument and the UNGA a global body, it would be difficult to conceive of a negotiation process open to a select group of states instead of all members of the United Nations (UN).*

*However, it is almost unthinkable that the five Arctic Ocean coastal states would support and participate in a negotiation process where they could potentially be confronted by 180-odd states with opposing views and interests.*

*Such lack of support by the Arctic Ocean coastal states would be obvious if the envisaged Implementing Agreement would apply to the entire Arctic Ocean, including areas under their national jurisdiction. However, even if the instrument would exclusively apply to areas beyond national jurisdiction (high seas and the Area), it is easy to understand that the Arctic Ocean coastal states would fear that the UNGA would not take adequate account of their sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction as coastal states when determining substantive and procedural aspects of the negotiation process.*

*In light of these considerations, it is not surprising that there is no precedent for an Implementing Agreement to the UNCLOS with a regional scope<sup>23</sup>.*

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<sup>22</sup> [http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2081919](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2081919)

<sup>23</sup> [http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2081919](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2081919)

## V.4. Establishing a new Arctic RFMO

Emphasizing the many benefits that one or more binding agreements might offer, various authors and organizations have advocated for the negotiation of a hard law regime for the Arctic<sup>31</sup>. Suggested benefits include:

- Encouraging greater political and bureaucratic commitments;
- Establishing firmer institutional and financial foundations;
- Transcending the vagaries of changing governmental viewpoints and shifting personnel;
- Giving ‘legal teeth’ to environmental principles and standards;
- Raising the public profile of regional challenges and cooperation needs
- Providing for dispute resolution mechanisms.

*However, various reasons have been put forward against - or at least questioning - a treaty-based approach. Reasons given include the following considerations:*

- *Difficulty in getting consensus on the need for an agreement;*
- *Lengthy and costly preparatory and negotiation processes involved;*
- *Risk of legalizing lowest common denominator standards;*
- *Stifling political and bureaucratic flexibilities;*
- *Contributing another layer of complexity to the already fragmented array of multilateral environmental agreements.*

*The lack of implementation of existing agreements relevant to the Arctic and lack of assurance that all Arctic states will readily accept newly negotiated obligations are additional reasons<sup>24</sup>.*

## V.5. Conclusion

Considering the timeline of Climate change, a rapid and accelerating process providing access to the central Arctic Ocean during summer in a few decades, and of international negotiations, the two solutions of special scope enlargement of existing conventions, eg. NEAFC and OSPAR Convention, seems to be the most accurate.

If the amendment of the geographic range of the existing RFMO (NEAFC) can be viewed as more accurate regarding the goal of providing a regulating governance to fishing activities in the central Arctic Ocean to protect Arctic marine ecosystem of overfishing risks, it is important to note that Environment protection is quite different of the common goal of RFMOs: “conservation and management of target species”. The US position about such an extension, even if its fishing activity in the Arctic Ocean is very low and performed by Indigenous People (Inuit) for subsistence, is unknown and could reversly affect such an extension.

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<sup>24</sup> Page 416. T. Koivurova, L. Brännlund, N. Bankes (Eds.) 2009. Climate Governance in the Arctic. Series: Environment & Policy, Vol. 50 Springer. Pp452

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<sup>i</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council, The European Union and the Arctic Region, Brussels, 20 November 2008. [eeas.europa.eu/arctic\\_region/docs/com\\_08\\_763\\_en.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/arctic_region/docs/com_08_763_en.pdf)

<sup>ii</sup> Sherman K. and Hempel G. (Editors), 2009. *The UNEP Large Marine Ecosystems Report. A Perspective on Changing Conditions in LMEs of the World’s Regional Seas*. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies n° 182.

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CLASS	ORDER	Family	Comon name	TAXA	TARGETED	ECOZONE	AO	AA	HB	Bb	WG	EG	Brts	Ka	La	ES	Bf	Ch	WB	EB			
Actinopterygii	Gadiformes	Gadidae (cods)	Arctic cod / East Siberian cod	<i>Arctogadus glacialis</i>		A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1					
			Polar cod	<i>Boreogadus saida</i>	1	A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1		
			Navaga	<i>Eleginus nawaga</i>	1	A		1															
			Greenland cod	<i>Gadus ogac</i>		A		1	1	1	1	1	1						1				
	Perciformes	Zoarcidae (eelpouts)			<i>Gymnelus andersoni</i>		A	1						1	1	1							
					<i>Gymnelus esipovi</i>		A	1															
					Aurora unernak	<i>Gymnelus retrodorsalis</i>		A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
					Fish doctor	<i>Gymnelus viridis</i>		A		1	1	1	1	1						1	1	1	
					Checkered wolf eel	<i>Lycenchelys kolthoffi</i>		A		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1			
					Moray wolf eel	<i>Lycenchelys muraena</i>		A		1	1	1	1	1	1	1							
						<i>Lycenchelys platyrhina</i>		A	1														
					Adolf's eelpout	<i>Lycodes adolfi</i>		A				1	1	1								1	
					Doubleline eelpout	<i>Lycodes eudipleurostictus</i>		A		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	
					Glacial eelpout	<i>Lycodes frigidus</i>		A	1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
					Shulupaoluk	<i>Lycodes jugoricus</i>		A		1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1
					Lütken's eelpout	<i>Lycodes luetkenii</i>		A		1		1	1	1	1								
					White sea eelpout	<i>Lycodes marisalbi</i>		A															
					McAllister's eelpout	<i>Lycodes mcallisteri</i>		A		1		1											
					Saddled eelpout	<i>Lycodes mucosus</i>		A	1	1	1	1	1				1	1	1	1	1	1	1
					Paamiut eelpout	<i>Lycodes paamiuti</i>		A			1	1	1	1	1								
					Canadian eelpout	<i>Lycodes polaris</i>		A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1
					Arctic eelpout	<i>Lycodes reticulatus</i>		A			1	1	1	1									
					Threespot eelpout	<i>Lycodes rossi</i>		A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
					Archer eelpout	<i>Lycodes sagittarius</i>		A		1	1	1										1	
			Longear eelpout	<i>Lycodes seminudus</i>		A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1				
			Scalebelly eelpout	<i>Lycodes squamiventer</i>		A		1	1	1	1	1	1	1				1					
			Polar eelpout	<i>Lycodes turneri</i>		A		1	1	1	1				1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
				<i>Lycodonus flagellicauda</i>		A						1	1										
		Pleuronectiformes	Pleuronectidae (righteye flounders)	Arctic flounder	<i>Liopsetta glacialis</i>	1	A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
	Salmoniformes	Salmonidae (Salmons)	Dolly varden	<i>Salvelinus malma malma</i>		A		1	1					1				1	1	1			
			Arctic cisco	<i>Coregonus autumnalis</i>	1	A		1						1	1	1	1	1	1	1			
			Lake whitefish	<i>Coregonus clupeaformis</i>		A		1	1	1	1	1				1		1	1	1			
			Bering cisco	<i>Coregonus laurettae</i>		A														1	1		
			Muksun	<i>Coregonus muksun</i>		A	1																
			Broad whitefish	<i>Coregonus nasus</i>	1	A		1							1	1		1	1	1			
			Sardine cisco	<i>Coregonus sardinella</i>	1	A		1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
			Scorpaeniformes	Cottidae (sculpins)	Hamecon	<i>Arctediellus scaber</i>		A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
			Arctic hookear sculpin	<i>Arctediellus uncinatus</i>		A		1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1					

Northern temperate seas

Arctic fishes 8,2%  
 Arctico-boreal fishes 4,7%  
 Boreal fishes 67,6%  
 Both Hemispheres fishche 19,5%

Iceland

White Sea





Arctic species list

		Greenland argentine	<i>Nansenia groenlandica</i>		B			1	1	1									
		Stout blacksmelt	<i>Pseudobathylagus milleri</i>		B												1	1	
		<b>Alepocephalidae (slickheads)</b>																	
		Agassiz' slickhead	<i>Alepocephalus agassizii</i>		B			1	1	1									
		Baird's slickhead	<i>Alepocephalus bairdii</i>		B			1	1	1									
Atheriniformes		<b>Atherinopsidae (silversides)</b>																	
		Atlantic silverside	<i>Menidia menidia</i>		B			1											
Aulopiformes		<b>Notosudidae (waryfishes)</b>																	
		Scaly paperbone	<i>Scopelosaurus harrisi</i>		B												1	1	
		Blackfin waryfish	<i>Scopelosaurus lepidus</i>		B			1	1	1	1								
		<b>Scopelarchidae (pearleyes)</b>																	
		Northern pearleye	<i>Benthalbella dentata</i>		B												1	1	
		Longfin pearleye	<i>Benthalbella linguidens</i>		B														1
		<b>Paralepididae (barracudinas)</b>																	
		North Pacific daggertooth	<i>Anotopterus nikparini</i>		B			1	1	1							1	1	
		Daggertooth	<i>Anotopterus pharao</i>		B			1	1	1									
		Slender barracudina	<i>Lestidiops ringens</i>		B														1
Beloniformes		<b>Belonidae (needlefishes)</b>																	
		Garfish	<i>Belone belone</i>		B														
		<b>ScomberesocidaeE (sauries)</b>																	
		Pacific saury	<i>Cololabis saira</i>	1	B														1
Clupeiformes		<b>Clupeidae (herrings)</b>																	
		Atlantic herring	<i>Clupea harengus</i>	1	B			1	1	1	1								
		European pilchard	<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>		B														
		European sprat	<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>		B														
Gadiformes		<b>Macrouridae (grenadiers)</b>																	
		Giant grenadier	<i>Albatrossia pectoralis</i>		B												1	1	
		Hollowsnout grenadier	<i>Coelorinchus caelorhincus</i>		B					1	1								
		Spearsnouted grenadier	<i>Coelorinchus labiatus</i>		B														
		Pacific grenadier	<i>Coryphaenoides acrolepis</i>	1	B														1
			<i>Coryphaenoides brevibarbis</i>		B			1	1	1									
		Popeye grenadier	<i>Coryphaenoides cinereus</i>		B														1
		Filamented rattail	<i>Coryphaenoides filifer</i>		B														1
		Ghostly grenadier	<i>Coryphaenoides leptolepis</i>		B														1
		Longfin grenadier	<i>Coryphaenoides longifilis</i>		B														1
		Roundnose grenadier	<i>Coryphaenoides rupestris</i>	1	B			1	1	1	1								
		Roughhead grenadier	<i>Macrourus berglax</i>	1	B			1	1	1	1	1							
		Common Atlantic grenadier	<i>Nezumia aequalis</i>		B							1	1						
		Marlin-spike grenadier	<i>Nezumia bairdii</i>		B			1											
		Roughnose grenadier	<i>Trachyrhynchus murrayi</i>		B			1	1	1									
		<b>Moridae (depsea cod)</b>																	
		Finescale mora	<i>Antimora microlepis</i>		B														1
		Longfin codling	<i>Laemonema longipes</i>		B														1
		North Atlantic codling	<i>Lepidion eques</i>		B			1	1	1									
		<b>Merlucciidae (merluccid hakes)</b>																	
		European hake	<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>		B														1
		<b>Phycidae (phycid hakes)</b>																	
		Fivebeard rockling	<i>Ciliata mustela</i>		B														1
		Northern rockling	<i>Ciliata septentrionalis</i>		B														1
		Fourbeard rockling	<i>Enchelyopus cimbrius</i>		B			1	1	1	1								
		Shore rockling	<i>Gaidropsarus mediterraneus</i>		B														
		Greater forkbeard	<i>Phycis blennoides</i>		B														1
		Longfin hake	<i>Phycis chesteri</i>		B			1	1	1									
		Tusk / Cusk	<i>Brosme brosme</i>	1	B			1	1	1	1								

Iceland - Norwegian Sea

Iceland

Norwegian Sea

Iceland

North Sea





































Arctic Targueted Species

Comon Name	TAXA	ECOZONE	Arctic Ocean	Canadian Arctic Archipelago	Hudson bay	Baffin Bay / Davis Strait	West Greenland	East Greenland	Barents Sea	Kara Sea	Laptev Sea	East Siberian Sea	Beaufort Sea	Chukchy Sea	Est Bering Sea	West Bering Sea	Okhoskt Sea
Arctic flounder	<i>Liopsetta glacialis</i>	A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Polar cod	<i>Boreogadus saida</i>	A	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1		
Navaga	<i>Eleginus nawaga</i>	A		1													
Sardine cisco	<i>Coregonus sardinella</i>	A		1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Arctic cisco	<i>Coregonus autumnalis</i>	A		1					1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Broad whitefish	<i>Coregonus nasus</i>	A		1					1	1		1	1	1			
Greenland halibut	<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	AB		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Capelin	<i>Mallotus villosus</i>	AB			1	1	1	1	1	1				1	1		
Northern wolffish	<i>Anarhichas denticulatus</i>	AB			1	1	1	1	1	1							
Rainbow smelt	<i>Osmerus mordax</i>	AB	1	1													
Saffron cod	<i>Eleginus gracilis</i>	AB											1	1	1		
Pacific herring	<i>Clupea pallasii</i>	AB											1	1	1		
Pacific cod	<i>Gadus macrocephalus</i>	AB													1		
Atlantic Cod	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	B		1	1	1	1	1	1								
Roughhead grenadier	<i>Macrourus berglax</i>	B			1	1	1	1	1								
Spotted wolffish	<i>Anarhichas minor</i>	B			1	1	1	1	1								
Atlantic herring	<i>Clupea harengus</i>	B				1	1	1	1								
Greater argentine	<i>Argentina silus</i>	B				1	1	1	1								
Roundnose grenadier	<i>Coryphaenoides rupestris</i>	B				1	1	1	1								
Tusk / Cusk	<i>Brosme brosme</i>	B				1	1	1	1								
Haddock	<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	B				1	1	1	1								
Blue whiting	<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	B				1	1	1	1								
Saithe	<i>Pollachius virens</i>	B				1	1	1	1								
Beaked redfish	<i>Sebastes mentella</i>	B				1	1	1	1								
Golden redfish	<i>Sebastes norvegicus</i>	B				1	1	1	1								
Lumpfish	<i>Cyclopterus lumpus</i>	B				1	1	1	1								
Atlantic wolffish	<i>Anarhichas lupus</i>	B				1	1	1	1								
Atlantic mackerel	<i>Scomber scombrus</i>	B				1	1	1	1								
American plaice	<i>Hippoglossoides platessoides</i>	B				1	1	1	1								
Atlantic halibut	<i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>	B				1	1	1	1								
European plaice	<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	B					1	1	1								
Ling	<i>Molva molva</i>	B						1	1								
Norway pout	<i>Trisopterus esmarkii</i>	B						1	1								
Angler	<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>	B						1	1								
Whiting	<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	B							1								
Pollack	<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>	B							1								
European whitefish	<i>Coregonus lavaretus</i>	B							1								
Pacific halibut	<i>Hippoglossus stenolepis</i>	B												1	1		
Alaska pollock	<i>Gadus chalcogrammus</i>	B													1	1	
Flathead sole	<i>Hippoglossoides elassodon</i>	B													1	1	1
Pacific grenadier	<i>Coryphaenoides acrolepis</i>	B													1		
Pacific saury	<i>Cololabis saira</i>	B													1		
Rougheye rockfish	<i>Sebastes aleutianus</i>	B													1		
Pacific ocean perch	<i>Sebastes alutus</i>	B													1		
Silvergray rockfish	<i>Sebastes brevispinis</i>	B													1		
Darkblotched rockfish	<i>Sebastes crameri</i>	B													1		
Redstripe rockfish	<i>Sebastes proriger</i>	B													1		
Yelloweye rockfish	<i>Sebastes ruberrimus</i>	B													1		
Broadbanded thornyhead	<i>Sebastolobus macrochir</i>	B													1		
Sablefish	<i>Anoplopoma fimbria</i>	B													1		
Masked greenling	<i>Hexagrammos octogrammus</i>	B													1		
Atka mackerel	<i>Pleurogrammus monopterygius</i>	B													1		
Scale-eye plaice	<i>Acanthopsetta nadeshnyi</i>	B													1		

Total  
A  
AB  
B

Targueted species    Part of total species

62    7.6%  
9,7%    9,0%  
9,7%    15,8%  
80,6%    9,1%











Butter clam	<i>Saxidomus gigantea</i>																		
Hen clam	<i>Mactra sachalinensis</i>																		
Pacific letteneck clam	<i>Protohaca staminea</i>																		
Pacific razor clam	<i>Siliqua patula</i>																		
Stimpsons surf clam	<i>Macromeris polynyma</i>																		
Iceland scallop	<i>Chlamys islandica</i>																		
Weathervane scallop	<i>Patinopecten caurinus</i>																		
Pullet carpet shell	<i>Tapes pallustris</i>																		
Sand gaper	<i>Mya arenaria</i>																		
Nothern quahog	<i>Mercenaria mercenaria</i>																		
Ocean quahog	<i>Arctica islandica</i>		15 846																
Pacific cupped oyster	<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>																		
Pacific geoduck	<i>Panopea abrupta</i>																		
Japanese flyingsquid	<i>Todarodes pacificus</i>																		2 920
Neon flying squid	<i>Ommastrephes bartramii</i>																		
European flying squid	<i>Todarodes sagittatus</i>																		
Longfin squid	<i>Loligo pealeii</i>																		
Northern shortfin squid	<i>Illex illecebrosus</i>																		
Scallops										13									
Squids																			48 570
Molluscs																			74 580
<b>Total molluscs</b>		<b>141 929</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15 846</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>126 070</b>
												<b>15 859</b>			<b>0</b>				<b>126 070</b>
												<b>11,2%</b>			<b>0,0%</b>				<b>88,8%</b>

<b>Total catches in 2006</b>	<b>#####</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>202 860</b>	<b>55 668</b>	<b>1 075</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>3 598</b>	<b>3 498</b>	<b>1 094</b>	<b>102 830</b>	<b>723 811</b>	<b>1 349 956</b>	<b>1 290</b>	<b>1 569 310</b>	<b>1 134 687</b>
												<b>371 355</b>	<b>#####</b>			<b>#####</b>
												<b>7,2%</b>	<b>40,3%</b>			<b>52,5%</b>

AO : Arctic Ocean LME    WGS : West Greenland Shelf LME    BB/HS : Baffin Bay / Hudson Bay LME    AA : Arctic Archipelago LME    ESibS : East Siberian Sea LME    BrtsS : Brents Sea LME    ChukS : Chukchi Sea LME  
 GrS : Greenland Shelf/Sea LME    HB : Hudson Bay LME    BfS : Beaufort Sea LME    LapS : Laptev Sea LME    NorwS : Norwegian Sea LME    EBerS : East Bering Sea LME  
 KaraS : Kara Sea LME    WBerS : West Bering Sea LME