In 2012, an extensive review of NEAFC’s regulation of bottom fisheries was carried out.
Although it was concluded that “the NEAFC bottom fishing regulation is in general
consistent with the UNGA resolutions and the FAO Guidelines," improvements were made,
which resulted in the new Recommendation on the protection of VMEs, adopted in 2014. The
Recommendation includes all the general rules regarding the protection of VMEs, as well as
the details of what areas are considered as “existing bottom fishing areas” and what areas are
closed to bottom fishing. It also includes annexes on a “VME Data Collection Protocol”, the
“Assessment of Exploratory Bottom Fishing Activities” and on “VME Indicator Species”.
Furthermore, the Recommendation underlines a process of annual advice from NEAFC's
scientific adviser ICES (the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea), including
the possibility of advice on revision of the closed areas. In addition, t

NEAFC is also taking part in efforts to increase cooperation and coordination among those
with legal competence under international law to manage different types of human activities
in areas beyond national jurisdiction, such as the OSPAR Commission.

The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NAFO)
NAFO has made efforts to ensure that the measures it has taken to promote sustainable
fisheries and protection of ecosystems in the deep sea area consistent with the FAO
Guidelines.
NAFO has taken a number of measures to implement the Guidelines, including, inter alia,
defining a list of habitat forming vulnerable marine ecosystem (VME) indicator species found
in the NAFO Regulatory Area, closing 380 000 km2 to bottom fishing on seamounts and in
areas where these species are known or predicted to form aggregations, and adopting
measures to prohibit bottom contact gears from seamounts.
In 2016, NAFO undertook a review of its bottom fisheries, including its management
measures for VMEs. A second review took place in 2021.
NAFO participates in regular exchanges and international fora, mediated through the FAO or

West Atlantic Ocean and the Regulation of 13 March 1998 on fishing by Norwegian vessels
in Antarctica (CCAMLR Area).

Adoption of the regulation pertaining to vulnerable marine ecosystems in the Norwegian
Territorial Sea, Exclusive Economic Zone, the Fisheries Protection Zone around Svalbard
and the Fisheries Zone around Jan Mayen
On 1 July 2011 Norway adopted the Regulation on bottom fishing activities in the Norwegian
Economic Zone, the Fisheries Zone around Jan Mayen and the Fisheries Protection Zone
around Svalbard. The regulation is adjusted to fit the national fisheries and aimed at
protection of VMEs from destructive fishing practice.
The regulation addresses the requirements of resolution 61/105 on habitat protection, and is
based on the FAO`s guidelines of 2008 for the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high
seas. The Norwegian Economic Zone, the Fisheries Zone around Jan Mayen and the Fisheries

management team. The institute of Marine Research is one of several institutions collecting
and analyzing MAREANO data. These bodies therefore cooperate closely.