



**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF ICELAND**  
to the United Nations

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The Permanent Mission of Iceland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations and has the honor to refer to a Note Verbal dated 6 January 2020 inviting the Icelandic government to submit information on the actions taken pursuant to paragraphs 113, 117 and 119 to 124 of resolution 64/72, paragraphs 121, 126, 129, 130 and 132 to 134 of resolution 66/68, and paragraphs 156, 171, 175, 177 to 188 and 219 of resolution 71/123, on bottom fishing and the long-term sustainability of deep sea fish stocks.

The Government of Iceland is pleased to submit the following information:

Icelandic vessels with permits to fish in international waters are subject to the national legal regime aimed at fulfilling general obligations to protect living marine resources. The rules concerned are Act No 151/1996 on Fishing outside Iceland's Exclusive Fishing Zone and regulations on fishing by Icelandic vessels outside of Iceland's jurisdiction. Further, the vessels are obliged to comply with the rules and decisions on fisheries management which have been adopted by the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations of which Iceland is a member and to which Icelandic authorities have not raised objections.

Icelandic vessels engage in deep-sea fisheries in the high seas in the convention areas of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) and the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO). Both these Regional Fisheries Management Organisations have undertaken comprehensive work in implementing the International Guidelines for the Management of Deep-sea Fisheries in the High Seas of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations („The FAO Guidelines“).

Icelandic representatives have taken active part in the implementation of the FAO Guidelines through the NEAFC Permanent Committee on Management and Science and the NAFO Joint Fisheries Commission-Scientific Council Working Group on Ecosystem Approach Framework to Fisheries. Further, Icelandic experts take active part in annual meetings in both organisations and through that work support the adoption of management measures regarding protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems and sustainable management of fish stocks. Reference is made to detailed submissions of NEAFC and NAFO on their respective implementation for further information on measures adopted.

The Permanent Mission of Iceland to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations the assurance of its highest consideration.

Secretariat of the United Nations  
Office of Legal Affairs

Permanent Mission of Iceland to the UN  
New York, 22 April 2020

