ATLANTIC OCEAN

high seas areas closed to bottom fisheries



FACTSHEET

NAME:	MIDDLE MAR AREA	
AREA:	Approx. 246 200 km ²	
ORGANISATION:	NEAFC	
INSTRUMENT:	UNGA 61/105	
Start: Review:	April 2009 December 2015	

PROPOSED BY:

EU, DENMARK, ICELAND, NORWAY & RUSSIAN FEDERATION (NEAFC CONTRACTING PARTIES)

NEAFC HAS RECEIVED ADVICE FROM ICES, WHICH HAS ASSESSED THE PROPOSAL AGAINST THE STANDARDS AND CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFYING VULNERABLE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS (VME)

BOTTOM FAUNA:

DURING THE MAR-ECO PROJECT MANY CORALS TAXA WERE FOUND (25 TAXA)

CHARACTERISTICS:

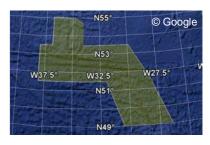
CHARLIE-GIBBS FRACTURE ZONE; SUB-POLAR **FRONTAL REGION; CORALS**



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MIDDLE MAR AREA

In April 2009 the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) decided to close 5 areas on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge (MAR): The Northern, Middle and Southern MAR areas and the Altair and Antialtair Seamounts.



This implies that fishing activities by vessels flying the flags of NEAFC Contracting Parties or Co-Operating Non-Contracting Parties, with fishing gear which is likely to contact the seafloor during the normal course of fishing operations, are prohibited within these areas.

OBJECTIVES

Protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems from significant adverse impacts in the NEAFC regulatory area.

COORDINATES

Corner	Latitude	Longitude
1.	53° 30′ N	38° 00' W
2.	53° 30′ N	36° 49' W
3.	55° 04.5327' N	36° 49' W
4.	54° 58.9914' N	34° 41.3634' W
5.	54° 41.1841′ N	34° 00' W
6.	53° 30′ N	34° 00' W
7.	53° 30′ N	30° 00' W
8.	51° 30′ N	28° 00' W
9.	49° 00' N	26° 30' W
10.	49° 00' N	30° 30' W
11.	51° 30′ N	32° 00' W
12.	51° 30′ N	38° 00' W

REFERENCES

UNGA (2006) Resolution adopted by the General Assembly 61/105. Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments FAO (2008) International Guidelines for the management of deep-sea fisheries in the high seas. Annex F of the Report

of the Technical Consultation on International Guidelines for the Management of Deep sea Fisheries in the High Seas, Rome, 4-8 February and 25-29 August North East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NEAFC) website: http://www.neafc.org

MAR-ECO website: http://www.mar-eco.no/