

high seas areas closed to bottom fisheries

ATLANTIC OCEAN



MIDDLE MAR AREA

FACTSHEET

NAME: MIDDLE MAR AREA

AREA: APPROX. 246 200 KM²

ORGANISATION: NEAFC

INSTRUMENT: UNGA 61/105

START: APRIL 2009

REVIEW: 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



READ MORE: www.neafc.org

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 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, 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/>