

Dear All,

I would like to raise your awareness of a recently introduced amendment to the 850/98 Technical Measures Regulation specifically concerning pelagic vessels, their on deck equipment and drawings etc which must now be carried onboard.

The text of the Reg amendment ( copy attached) introduced under Art 32a of Regulation of the EU Parliament and Council 227/2013 cites and regulates the maximum space between the bars of the water separator carried onboard pelagic vessels targeting MAC, HER or HOM , the diameter of holes in the separator if used in the place of bars and the diameter of any holes in the associated water separator chutes.

It further prohibits fish discharges from buffer or RSW tanks via through hull valves and thirdly requires that drawings of catch handling and discharge capabilities having been duly certified by the competent authority of the state are to be sent to SFPA by each vessel master and a copy is to be carried onboard at all times.

These new regulations apply to all pelagic vessels operating in the NEAFC convention area which is the whole area as mapped hereunder ( ie both blue and orange areas)



**Figure 3.5:** Map of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) Regulatory Area (orange)

In advance of the opening of the autumn fisheries it will be our aim to have completed and registered a complete check of the onboard water separators for each vessel authorised to the pelagic fisheries and at the same time have established that the masters are in a position to provide certified copies of the requisite vessel drawings.

Regards

Seamus

