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**Proposal for Amendment of Article 4bis of Chapter Ibis  
“Assessment of Bottom Fishing”**

**Proposal**

Article 4bis, paragraph 3.i. would read as follows:

3i. If proposed bottom fishing is outside of the footprint identified by the Fisheries Commission, or if there are significant changes to the conduct or technology of existing bottom fisheries, or new scientific information indicating a VME in a given area, the Contracting Party proposing to participate in bottom fishing shall submit to the Executive Secretary information and a preliminary assessment of the known and anticipated impacts of its bottom fishing activities on vulnerable marine ecosystems no less than two weeks in advance of the opening of the annual meeting in June of the Scientific Council. Assessments should address the elements as set forth in Annex XXVbis. The Executive Secretary shall promptly forward these submissions to the Scientific Council and the Fisheries Commission.

**Annex XXVbis Assessment of Bottom Fishing Activities**

Assessments should address, *inter alia*:

1. Type(s) of fishing conducted or contemplated, including vessels and gear types, fishing areas, target and potential bycatch species, fishing effort levels and duration of fishing (harvesting plan);
2. Best available scientific and technical information on the current state of fishery resources and baseline information on the ecosystems, habitats and communities in the fishing area, against which future changes are to be compared;
3. Identification, description and mapping of VMEs known or likely to occur in the fishing area;
4. Identification, description and evaluation of the occurrence, scale and duration of likely impacts, including cumulative impacts of activities covered by the assessment on VMEs;
5. Data and methods used to identify, describe and assess the impacts of the activity, the identification of gaps in knowledge, and an evaluation of uncertainties in the information presented in the assessment;
6. Risk assessment of likely impacts by the fishing operations to determine which impacts on VMEs are likely to be significant adverse impacts; and
7. The proposed mitigation and management measures to be used to prevent significant adverse impacts on VMEs, and the measures to be used to monitor effects of the fishing operations.