

AGREED RECORD

OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN NORWAY, THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE FAROE ISLANDS AND ICELAND ON THE MANAGEMENT OF BLUE WHITING IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC IN 2018

COPENHAGEN 7 DECEMBER 2017

1. A delegation from Norway, headed by Ms Sigrun M. HOLST, a delegation from the European Union, headed by Mr Joost PAARDEKOOPEL, a delegation from the Faroe Islands, headed by Mr Herluf SIGVALDSSON and a delegation from Iceland, headed by Mr Sigurgeir THORGEIRSSON, met in London on 16 to 17 October, in Copenhagen on 3 November and on 6 - 7 December 2017 to consult on the management of the blue whiting stock in the North-East Atlantic in 2018.
2. A delegation from Greenland, headed by Ms Katrin VILHELM POULSEN, and a delegation from the Russian Federation, headed by Ms Anna SHULAEVA and Mr Vladimir BELYAEV attended as observers.
3. The delegations noted that the agreed long-term management strategy for blue whiting dated 27 October 2016 is regarded by ICES as consistent with the precautionary approach (Annex I).
4. The delegations agreed that the level of total catches of blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic for 2018 should be no more than 1,387,872 tonnes, based on the long-term management strategy for blue whiting and corresponding to F_{MSY} as advised by ICES. The delegations agreed that establishing unilateral quotas for 2018 does not in any way imply acceptance of the level of these quotas by any Party.
5. The delegations recommended that the NEAFC allowable catches for 2018 would be 110,459 tonnes.
6. The delegations encouraged the Parties to develop and coordinate their scientific research activities in order to improve the information available for the assessment and the management of this stock.

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7. The delegations exchanged quota and catch information for 2015, 2016 (final) as well as preliminary information for 2017 (Annex II). The delegations also exchanged information with regard to their fishing activities including exchanges and access provisions (Annex III).
8. The delegations agreed to continue to provide information on quotas and catches in the same format as set out in Annex II, and regarding transfers and access arrangements as set out in Annex III to this agreed record. Each Party shall, by 1 May 2018, provide updated information to the Faroe Islands as host of the consultations on management measures for 2019 regarding their total catches in 2016 and 2017 and on their provisional catches in 2018 and on any allocation of quotas to other Parties in 2018; The Faroe Islands shall forward this information as soon as possible to all Parties to this Agreed Record.
9. The delegations agreed that the Parties may fish blue whiting within their quotas in their respective zones of fisheries jurisdiction and in international waters.
10. The delegations agreed that further arrangements by the Parties, including arrangements for access, quota transfers and other conditions for fishing in the respective zones of fisheries jurisdiction, are regulated by bilateral arrangements.

Copenhagen, 7 December 2017


Sigrun M. HOLST
For the Delegation of Norway


Joost PAARDEKOOPER
For the Delegation of the European Union


Herluf SIGVALDSSON
For the Delegation of the Faroe Islands


Sigurgeir THORGEIRSSON
For the Delegation of Iceland

**ARRANGEMENT FOR THE
LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT
OF THE BLUE WHITING STOCK**

1. The Parties agree to implement a long-term management strategy for the fisheries on the Blue Whiting stock, which is consistent with the precautionary approach and the MSY approach, aiming at ensuring harvest rates within safe biological limits.
2. For the purpose of this long-term management strategy, in the following text, "TAC" means the sum of the agreed Coastal State quotas and the NEAFC allowable catches.
3. As a priority, the long-term strategy shall ensure with high probability that the size of the stock is maintained above B_{lim} .
4. In the case that the spawning biomass is forecast to be above or equal to $B_{trigger}$ ($=B_{pa}$) on 1 January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC shall be fixed to a fishing mortality of F_{MSY} .
5. Where the rules in paragraph 4 would lead to a TAC, which deviates by more than 20% below or 25% above the TAC of the preceding year, the Parties shall fix a TAC that is respectively no more than 20% less or 25% more than the TAC of the preceding year.
6. The TAC constraint described in paragraph 5 shall not apply if:
 - a. The spawning biomass at 1 January in the year preceding the year for which the TAC is to be set is less than $B_{trigger}$; or
 - b. The rules in paragraph 4 would lead to a TAC that deviates by more than 40% from the TAC of the preceding year.
7. In the case that the spawning biomass (SSB) is forecast to be less than the precautionary biomass ($B_{trigger}$) on 1 January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC shall be fixed at a level that is consistent with a fishing mortality given by:

$$\text{Target } F = 0.05 + [(SSB - B_{lim}) * (F_{MSY} - 0.05) / (B_{trigger} - B_{lim})]$$
8. In the case that the spawning biomass is forecast to be less than B_{lim} on 1 January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC will be fixed corresponding to a fishing mortality $F=0.05$.
9. Each Party may transfer to the following year unutilised quantities of up to 10% of the quota allocated to it. The quantity transferred shall be in addition to the quota allocated to the Party concerned in the following year.
10. Each Party may authorise fishing by its vessels of up to 10% beyond the quota allocated. All quantities fished beyond the allocated quota for one year shall be deducted from the Party's quota allocated for the following year.

11. The inter-annual quota flexibility scheme in paragraphs 9 and 10 should be suspended in the year following the TAC year, if the stock is forecast to be under B_{trigger} at the end of the TAC year.

12. The Parties, on the basis of ICES advice, shall review this long-term management strategy at intervals not exceeding five years. The first such review shall take place no later than by December 2021.

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Reporting of Quotas and Catches of Blue Whiting in the North-East Atlantic from 2015 to 2017

2015	QUOTAS (tonnes)					CATCHES (tonnes)									
	Coastal State share/share	Balance from 2014	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Farose Fishing Zone	Greenland fishing zone	Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone	Norwegian Economic Zone	Fishery Zone around Jan Mayen	Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard	Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH	Balance
European Union	347 087	33 135	-115 605	264 617	2 113	188 942	2 749	0	0	1	0	0	0	193 806	70 811
Faroe Islands	425 000	-8 224	-67 000	349 776	6 284	48 741	231 502	0	0	0	0	0	0	286 527	63 249
Iceland	204 458	7 922	0	212 380	1 425	0	175 821	0	33 350	0	0	0	0	210 596	1 784
Norway	417 499	-37 207	80 674	460 966	244 138	101 405	78 457	0	65 439	0	0	0	0	489 439	-28 473
Total Coastal States	1 394 044	-4 374	-101 931	1 287 739	253 960	339 088	488 529	0	33 350	65 440	0	0	0	1 180 368	107 371
Russian Federation	93 459	10 350	102 731	206 540	88 009	0	79 502	0	0	18 130	49	73	0	185 763	20 777
Greenland	5 500	0	0	5 500	0	0	5 651	0	0	0	0	0	0	5 651	-151
Total all Parties	1 493 003	5 976	800	1 499 779	341 969	339 088	573 682	0	33 350	83 570	49	73	0	1 371 782	127 997

2016	QUOTAS (tonnes)					CATCHES (tonnes)									
	Quota established	Balance from 2015	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Farose Fishing Zone	Greenland fishing zone	Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone	Norwegian Economic Zone	Fishery Zone around Jan Mayen	Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard	Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH	Balance
European Union	321 570	34 709	-81 500	274 779	3 805	176 918	9 627	0	0	63	3	0	0	190 416	84 363
Faroe Islands	275 832	71 475*	-82 500	264 807	14 730	29 790	236 663	0	0	0	0	0	0	281 183	-16 376
Iceland	163 570	1 784	-1 500	163 854	1 594	0	167 708	0	13 882	0	0	0	0	183 184	-19 330
Norway	243 495	-28 473	57 455	272 477	64 026	214 531	739	0	31 116	0	0	0	0	310 412	-37 935
Total CS	1 004 467	79 495	-108 045	975 917	84 155	421 239	414 737	0	13 882	31 179	3	0	0	965 195	10 722
Russian Federation	70 714	9 346	100 045	180 105	78 111	0	79 412	0	0	15 883	249	0	0	173 655	6 450
Greenland	4 565	-151	8 000	12 414	3 212	0	9 505	145	0	0	0	0	0	12 862	-448
Total all Parties	1 079 746	88 690	0	1 168 436	165 478	421 239	503 654	145	13 882	47 062	252	0	0	1 151 712	16 724

* Includes unutilized quota exchanged with a fishing Party of 6 226 tonnes.

2017 Provisional figures	QUOTAS (tonnes)					CATCHES (tonnes)									
	Quota established	Balance from 2016	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Faroe Fishing Zone	Greenland fishing zone	Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone	Norwegian Economic Zone	Fishery Zone around Jan Mayen	Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard	Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH	Balance
European Union	555 973	32 157	-116 500	471 630	6 247	288 828	1 280	0	0	8	0	0	0	296 363	175 267
Faroe Islands	476 901	-16 376	-87 500	373 025	43 959	29 363	233 890	0	350	0	0	0	0	307 562	65 463
Iceland	264 000	-19 330	-1 500	243 170	6 806	0	152 035	0	20 414	0	0	0	0	179 255	63 915
Norway	324 256	-37 935	86 636	372 957	77 390	288 479	891	0	0	29 241	0	0	0	396 001	-23 044
Total CS	1 621 130	-41 484	-118 864	1 460 782	134 402	606 670	388 096	0	20 764	29 249	0	0	0	1 179 181	281 601
Russian Federation	99 566	1 949	105 864	207 379	80 806	0	100 714	0	0	65	0	0	0	181 585	25 794
Greenland	7 268	-448	13 000	19 820	1	0	15 270	27	0	0	0	0	0	15 298	4 522
Total all Parties	1 727 964	-39 983	0	1 687 981	215 209	606 670	504 080	27	20 764	29 314	0	0	0	1 376 064	311 917

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Transfers and Access Arrangements for Blue Whiting in the North-East Atlantic in 2017

Transfers in 2017¹

Party	Quotas	Balance from 2016	Total available	Transfer to					
				European Union	Faroe Islands	Iceland	Norway	Russian Federation	Greenland
European Union	555 973	32 157	588 130	---	9 000	---	110 000	---	---
Faroe Islands	476 901	-16 376	460 525	2 500	---	---	---	81 000	13 000
Iceland	264 000	-19 330	244 670	---	---	---	---	1 500	---
Norway	324 256	-37 935	286 321	---	---	---	---	23 364	---
Russian Federation	99 566	1 949	101 515	---	---	---	---	---	---
Greenland	7 268	-448	6 820	---	---	---	---	---	---

¹ Transfers imply full access, excepting the transfer of 1 500 tonnes from Iceland to Russia

Access Arrangements for 2017

Party	Access to					
	European Union	Faroe Islands	Iceland	Norway	Russian Federation	Greenland
European Union	---	21 500	---	220 494	---	---
Faroe Islands	21 500	---	100 %	---	---	---
Iceland	---	100 %	---	---	---	---
Norway	220 494	34 800	---	---	---	---
Russian Federation	---	---	---	---	---	---
Greenland	---	7 268	---	---	---	---

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