

**AGREED RECORD OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN
NORWAY AND THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR 2017**

BERGEN, 2 DECEMBER 2016

- 1 A Norwegian Delegation, headed by Ms Ann Kristin WESTBERG, and a European Union Delegation, headed by Mr Jacques VERBORGH, met in Bergen, Norway from 28 November to 2 December 2016 to consult on mutual fisheries relations for 2017. The meeting was a continuation of a previous meeting held in Copenhagen.
- 2 The Heads of Delegation agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the fishery arrangements for 2017 as outlined in this Agreed Record, including Annexes I to XII and Tables 1 to 4.
- 3 The Delegations stated that the implementation of this Agreed Record of Conclusions is contingent on a parallel and simultaneous implementation of the provisions of the Agreed Record of Conclusions of Fisheries Consultations between the European Union and Norway on the Management of Mackerel in the North-East Atlantic signed in Brussels on 26 January 2010, as last amended by the Agreed Record of Conclusions of Fisheries Consultations between the European Union and Norway on the Management of Mackerel in the North-East Atlantic signed in Clonakilty on 19 October 2016.
- 4 The Delegations reiterated their determination to cooperate, in their mutual interest, in securing continued responsible fisheries and ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable exploitation of the marine living resources for which they are responsible.
- 5 **JOINTLY MANAGED STOCKS**
 - 5.1 The Delegations agreed to continue to work to improve the exploitation pattern and reduce discards through the use of technical measures to improve the selectivity of fishing gear, closed seasons and areas as well as any other appropriate measures. They acknowledged the usefulness of harmonised technical measures, noting that the aim of such measures should be to have compatibility of fishing gear, leading to the best possible selectivity achieved by the best possible means.
 - 5.2 The Delegations noted that the system of inter-annual quota flexibility, as set out in Annex VIII, for the quotas of herring, haddock, saithe and plaice shall continue to apply. The Delegations agreed that the system would also be applied to cod and whiting in view of the inclusion of these species in the EU landing obligation from 2017 onwards.
 - 5.3 The Delegations pointed out that Norway has had a landing obligation in place for more than two decades. The Delegations also noted that the progressive introduction of the EU landing obligation for all catches taken from stocks subject to catch limits is one of the main elements of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), and that the first measures for demersal fisheries in the North Sea entered into force 1 January 2016, and

leading to full implementation by 2019. The Delegations welcomed this convergence of approaches between the EU and Norway.

5.4 The Delegations recognised that discarding of fish represents a major waste of resources as well as a loss of potential income and is detrimental towards the rebuilding of fish stocks. Furthermore, they recognised that discarding implies that some catches are not recorded with the result that the scientific basis for the management decisions is weakened.

5.5 The Delegations recalled that they have discussed several measures that can contribute to reduce discards and unwanted catches. Examples of measures include a ban on high grading, technical measures to improve gear selectivity, improved control measures and the introduction of RTC systems. The Delegations agreed that technical measures can play a crucial role when it comes to reducing discards and unwanted catches, supporting the introduction of the landing obligation in the EU and the discard ban in Norway. The Delegations stated the importance of continuing to work in order to reduce discards of all commercial species, including juveniles and undersized fish.

5.6 The EU Delegation informed the Norwegian Delegation that the landing obligation in 2017 would apply to the following jointly managed stocks:

- plaice, whiting and cod by trawls with mesh size greater than or equal to 100mm
- whiting by trawls with mesh size less than 70mm
- plaice, cod and whiting taken by beam trawls with mesh size greater than or equal to 120mm
- whiting and cod taken by gillnets, trammel nets and entangling nets
- whiting and cod taken by hooks and lines
- whiting taken by traps
- haddock and Northern prawn (*Pandalus*) taken by any gear.

5.7 The EU Delegation explained that the introduction of the landing obligation would lower the discard rates of the stocks concerned, and that it is therefore appropriate to adjust the landing quotas accordingly. The level of adjustment is calculated by estimating the contribution of the fleet segments concerned to the current level of discards for each of the stocks, and by assuming that the discard rates of those fleets in 2017 would be zero.

5.8 The EU Delegation pointed out that the TAC adjustments for cod and plaice, which have separate TACs for the North Sea and Skagerrak, are based on the discard rates in each of those areas rather than the overall discard rates for the stocks. The EU Delegation explained that this was to ensure that the TAC adjustments are focused on the segments of the fleet that are most affected by the landing obligation.

5.9 The Norwegian Delegation took note of the explanation from the EU Delegation and agreed that this approach was acceptable for 2017. However, the Norwegian Delegation also expressed concern regarding the lack of supporting technical measures and incentives. A Norwegian ban on discarding was introduced decades ago and this experience clearly showed that additional technical measures and control measures in support of a landing obligation are needed. Setting a TAC based on the assumptions of perfect compliance with the landing obligation for fisheries

previously associated with high levels of discards, might lead to fishing pressures well above F_{MSY} and no improvement in exploitation pattern. The concern includes loss of future yield as well as underreported catches leading to serious bias in the future stock assessments to be used for management decisions.

5.10 The Norwegian Delegation encouraged the EU to design and implement monitoring programmes suitable to reveal the level of compliance in this very important transitional phase in fisheries management to avoid the reform having a negative impact on the resources and corresponding loss of future yield.

5.11 The Delegations noted that these calculations on TAC adjustments result in increases in the landings quotas advised by ICES by the following amounts: saithe in the North Sea and Skagerrak 4.1%; plaice in the North Sea 1.2%; plaice in the Skagerrak 2.7%; cod in the North Sea 11.0%; cod in Skagerrak 13.8%; whiting in the North Sea 17%. Haddock is fully under the EU landing obligation from 2017 so the TAC is based on the ICES total catch advice.

5.12 Long-term management strategies

5.12.1 The Delegations agreed that long-term management strategies should continue to constitute the basis for the yearly management of joint stocks. They regretted that long-term management strategies for a number of stocks had not been reviewed in 2015 and 2016 as originally envisaged, and reaffirmed their commitment to follow up the process which started in Svolvær in May 2015 and continued in Tromsø in June 2016 on reviewing long-term management strategies. To this end the Delegations agreed to meet in June 2017 to consult and review the long-term management strategies for the joint stocks, and to have a technical preparatory meeting prior to these consultations.

5.12.2 The Norwegian Delegation informed the EU Delegation that a Norwegian working group is currently developing a document describing and clarifying issues related to linking management objectives to strategic choice of management measures to achieve these objectives. The strategic elements will address TAC generating rules, measures influencing exploitation pattern as well as avoiding potential damaging effects of fishing on a local scale. The working group will report by the end of May 2017.

5.12.3 The EU Delegation informed the Norwegian Delegation that its North Sea mixed fisheries management plan should be adopted in 2017. This plan sets out objectives and safeguards for all North Sea demersal stocks. For the main demersal stocks the plan uses ranges of fishing mortalities whereby fishing at the upper or lower limits of the ranges would lose no more than 5% of long term yield. The EU explained that the target fishing mortality in any year would normally be fixed in the lower half of the range, and fixed in the upper part of the range only if necessary to achieve the objectives of the plan in a mixed fisheries context, or to provide for inter-annual TAC stability. The plan would also introduce provisions for conservation measures, including certain technical measures to improve selectivity, to be introduced at a regional level. The EU Delegation pointed out that the use of ranges increased the flexibility available to managers and therefore does not pre-judge the outcome of the annual consultations with Norway. The EU also pointed out that the regional decision making provisions offered the opportunity for co-operation with Norway in the harmonisation of technical measures.

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5.13 Cod

- 5.13.1 The Delegations noted that according to the latest ICES assessment the stock is slowly recovering. ICES consider the biomass to be above B_{pa} . The fishing mortality has seen a major decline since 2001, but is still likely to be above F_{MSY} .
- 5.13.2 The Norwegian Delegation noted that the discard level is considerable and the 2015 discards represent 50% of the total catch in numbers. This represents a large amount of foregone catch. Therefore, effective discard reducing measures are urgently needed.
- 5.13.3 The Delegations noted that ICES considers the long-term management strategy that entered into force 1 January 2013 (Annex I), to be no longer appropriate. Thus, the advice from ICES is based on the MSY approach, resulting in an advice for a 2% reduction in "wanted catch". However, the Delegations noted that a 5% increase in the TAC would reduce the forecast increase in SSB by only 2%, and would still reduce fishing mortality towards F_{MSY} . They agreed that such an increase could facilitate the success of the landing obligation for cod, especially during the first year of implementation.
- 5.13.4 The Delegations agreed that the TAC should be 5,047 tonnes in Skagerrak and 35,334 tonnes in the North Sea. Applying the TAC adjustment of 13.8% in Div. 3.a and 11.0% in Subarea 4 (see section 5.11) results in TACs in the two areas of 5,744 tonnes and 39,220 tonnes respectively.

5.14 Haddock

- 5.14.1 The Delegations recalled that the Parties in the 2015 Agreed Record decided that the overall TAC for 2015 onwards should be split between the areas according to the following percentages: 9.5% for haddock in Div. 6.a, 90.5% for haddock Subarea 4 and Div. 3.a West.
- 5.14.2 The Delegations noted that the long-term management strategy (Annex II) is no longer considered appropriate following ICES decision to combine the advice for ICES Div. 3.a and Subareas 4 and 6.
- 5.14.3 The Delegations noted that ICES now considers F_{MSY} to be 0.19, rather than the previous value of $F=0.37$. This, in addition to an error made by ICES in last year's assessment contributes to a drastic decrease of 45% in the advised TAC for 2017.
- 5.14.4 The Delegations agreed to base the TAC for 2017 on the ICES advice at F_{msy} , which represents a 45% reduction in the TAC compared to 2016. The Delegations noted that since haddock will be fully under the EU landing obligation from 2017, the TAC should be fixed on the basis of the ICES total catch advice.
- 5.14.5 The EU Delegation informed the Norwegian Delegation of its intention to base its TAC in 2017 on the agreed split for haddock in VIa of 3,749 tonnes.
- 5.14.6 The Delegations agreed that the TACs for ICES Div. 3.a and Subarea 4 would be 2,069 tonnes and 33,643 tonnes respectively.

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5.15 Saithe

- 5.15.1 The Delegations noted that recent recruitment has been very good and allows for a considerable increase in TAC. Fishing mortality (F) has fluctuated just above F_{MSY} since 1997, but with a decline in 2014 and 2015. Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) declined and reached a minimum in 2012 followed by a steady increase. The minimum in 2012 appears to have been well above B_{lim} .
- 5.15.2 The Delegations also noted that the EU–Norway management strategy (Annex III) operates with a lower F than the current F_{MSY} estimate and is no longer considered to be optimal. ICES advice is instead based on the MSY approach, which indicates an increase in the TAC of 96 % compared to 2016. However, as the assessment and associated short-term forecast is uncertain for this stock, as well as the recruitment values being uncertain, ICES advises managers to consider a TAC constraint.
- 5.15.3 In view of the caution urged by ICES, the Delegations agreed that the TAC increase for saithe for 2017 should be limited to 55%, corresponding to a TAC of 106,332 tonnes.
- 5.15.4 The EU Delegation informed Norway of its intention of ensuring consistency between the TACs that are set for saithe in ICES Div. 6.a and saithe in ICES Subarea 4 and Div. 3.a. The EU Delegation informed Norway of its intention to fix a quota for saithe for Div. 6.a based on the quantity of 9,994 tonnes, which after an adjustment by 4.1% to take into account the EU landing obligation (see section 5.11) results in a quota of 10,404 tonnes.
- 5.15.5 The Delegations noted that the resulting TACs for ICES Div. 3.a and Subarea 4 would be based on an amount of 96,337 tonnes, and that applying the TAC adjustment of 4.1% would result in a TAC of 100,287 tonnes.

5.16 Whiting

- 5.16.1 The agreed management strategy for whiting (Annex V) is based on previous estimate of natural mortality that is no longer considered by ICES to be appropriate, which instead bases its advice on the MSY approach. This indicates a 29% reduction in the TAC compared to 2016. However, the Delegations considered that such a large reduction is likely to exacerbate the choke effects of whiting in the fishery and encourage discarding. The Delegations therefore agreed to maintain the TAC at the same level as that in 2016, noting that this would still reduce fishing mortality towards F_{MSY} and would reduce the projected increase in SSB by only 2.3%. This results in an unadjusted TAC for 2017 of 13,678 tonnes. Applying the TAC adjustment of 17.0% (see section 5.11) results in a TAC of 16,003 tonnes.

5.17 Plaice

- 5.17.1 The Delegations noted that the ICES advice now encompasses both the North Sea and Skagerrak.
- 5.17.2 The Delegations took note of the report from the Working Group on the management of plaice in the North Sea and Skagerrak. The Group had been asked to examine the most appropriate way of splitting the overall TAC between the North Sea and the Skagerrak. The Working Group recommended dividing the overall TAC into separate TACs for the North Sea and Skagerrak using a reference period from 2000 to

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2012 (both years included) to establish an appropriate percentage to be allocated to the Skagerrak. The Delegations noted that using the reference period would establish the Skagerrak TAC at 11.8% of the TAC for the stock. The Delegations agreed to apply 11.8% as the share for Skagerrak of the overall TAC.

5.17.3 The Delegations noted that the stock of plaice in the North Sea and Skagerrak was now at its highest recorded level. It was further noted that ICES has recently revised its estimate of F_{MSY} from 0.25 to 0.19, and that if a TAC was set corresponding to this new estimate it would result in a TAC decrease of 15% compared to 2016.

5.17.4 The Delegations agreed that in view of the rapid increase in the stock it would be appropriate to establish TACs in 2017 that would result in a rollover of the North Sea TAC for 2016 (excluding TAC adjustments) after applying the allocation described in paragraph 5.17.2. This results in unadjusted TACs of 128,376 tonnes in the North Sea and 17,175 tonnes in Skagerrak. These TACs are adjusted by 1.2% in the North Sea and by 2.7% in the Skagerrak in order to take into account the inclusion of plaice in the EU landing obligation (see section 5.11), resulting in TACs for 2017 of 17,639 tonnes in the Skagerrak and 129,917 tonnes in the North Sea.

5.18 Herring

5.18.1 Because of the changes in the time-series of natural mortality, ICES has re-estimated the fishing mortality reference points for North Sea herring which has resulted in a higher F_{MSY} (0.33) compared to the management strategy. This implies a TAC of 481,608 tonnes.

5.18.2 For these reasons the Delegations agreed that it would be appropriate to follow the ICES MSY advice rather than the management strategy. The TAC of 481,608 tonnes represents a 7% decrease compared to 2016. The Delegations concluded that the by-catches of herring in other fisheries would be limited to 11,375 tonnes in 2017 by applying a 15% TAC constraint as in the management strategy; this quota will be allocated to the EU.

5.18.3 The Norwegian Delegation stated that as a principle all landings should be counted against ordinary TACs, instead of having additional by-catch quotas (as for the North Sea herring). With the EU landing obligation fully implemented, by-catches in general will be landed and counted against national quotas. There should thus be no need for an exemption for North Sea herring.

6 OTHER JOINT STOCKS (NOT JOINTLY MANAGED)

6.1 The Delegations noted that Norway pout, anglerfish, hake and horse mackerel are considered shared stocks, but so far not jointly managed.

6.2 They agreed that latest knowledge on sandeel indicates that this stock consists of several sub-populations. The Delegations noted that ICES had a benchmark meeting on sandeel in October 2016, and decided to change the sandeel areas used for giving advice. The change was based on larval drift, comparisons of demography and stock trends, as well as management considerations. All these areas are now either within the EU or the Norwegian EEZ. This means that for practical purposes sandeel is not a shared stock, and can therefore be managed separately by the Parties. However, the Delegations recognised avoiding local depletion is a clear management objective.

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6.3 The Delegations noted that hake has started to occur in significant quantities in the North Sea, and therefore the Parties should consider developing joint management measures for this stock.

6.4 Anglerfish

6.4.1 The Delegations took note of the ICES advice for 2017 stating that the stock has been increasing over the last three years and that catches of anglerfish could be increased by 20% in relation to the 2016 advice. They agreed that management should ensure the improvement of the exploitation pattern, through, *inter alia*, increased minimum mesh sizes, reduced discards, protection of juveniles and appropriate measures to counter ghost fishing. The Delegations recognised the need for improved scientific knowledge of the stock and enhanced scientific co-operation.

6.5 Horse Mackerel

6.5.1 The Norwegian Delegation stated that the Parties should try to develop joint long-term management strategies for all joint stocks, including horse mackerel. In the absence of a joint long-term management strategy Norway will also for 2017 establish regulatory measures for this stock in the Norwegian Economic Zone.

6.5.2 The EU Delegation stated that it would continue to manage the horse mackerel stock consistent with F_{MSY} advice.

6.6 Norway pout

6.6.1 According to the latest ICES advice, catches in 2017 should not exceed 358,471 tonnes.

6.6.2 The EU Delegation noted that following the ICES benchmark, the management strategy based on an escapement biomass of 150,000 tonnes, which provides for a TAC within the range of 20,000 to 200,000 tonnes, with the additional constraint of a ceiling on fishing mortality of 0.6, was no longer known to be precautionary.

6.6.3 The Delegations informed that they would set a quota for 2017 based on the latest ICES advice.

6.6.4 The Delegations agreed that the Parties should work towards a joint long term management strategy for Norway pout. To this end they agreed to convene a technical Working Group that would meet before 1 May 2017 in order to draft options for a management strategy for evaluation by ICES. The report of this Working Group should be made available for consideration at the consultations on management strategies (See section 5.12.1). The Terms of Reference of this Working Group are set out in Annex VI.

7 EXCHANGE OF FISHING POSSIBILITIES

7.1 Capelin in ICES Area XIV

7.1.1 The Delegations referred to the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between the European Union and Norway, signed in Brussels on 21 May 2015, whereby Norway was granted fishing possibilities for capelin during the 2015/2016 season. The Delegations then agreed that in the event of the possible inability of

Norway to catch its full entitlement of 20,000 tonnes of capelin as a result of a reduction in the fishing possibilities agreed by Coastal States, the EU will ensure that appropriate compensation would be made available to Norway for the quotas that could not be caught.

- 7.1.2 As the final TAC for capelin was fixed lower than originally expected, the Delegations agreed that as soon as the capelin in the waters of Greenland becomes available again, the EU will ensure that an additional quantity of 6,679 tonnes of capelin above the normal balance will be made available to Norway.

7.2 Redfish in the Norwegian Economic Zone

- 7.2.1 The Delegations referred to the enlargement of the European Union in 1986 and welcomed the continued commitment made by Norway to facilitate this enlargement under the terms of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters signed at Oporto on 2 May 1992, which includes an allocation to the EU of 1,500 tonnes of redfish north of 62°N outside the balance of the bilateral fisheries agreement.

- 7.2.2 The Norwegian Delegation informed the EU Delegation that the allocation of redfish during 2017 would entirely relate to *Sebastes mentella*.

- 7.2.3 The Delegations recalled that it was not possible for the Contracting Parties of NEAFC to reach an agreement on the management of redfish in the Regulatory Area in ICES Subareas 1 and 2, during this year's annual meeting. The Delegations therefore agreed to consult bilaterally before June, with the aim of agreeing on a common approach for this stock in future years.

7.3 Sprat

- 7.3.1 The Delegations noted that the ICES advice for sprat covers the period 1 July to 30 June rather than a calendar year, and that as a consequence transfers of sprat from the EU to Norway could be fished only during the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018. They further noted that the transfer of 10,000 tonnes shown in Table 4 is conditional on an ICES catch advice in 2017 of no less than 100,000 tonnes. Should this not be the case, it was agreed that the EU would compensate Norway with the same quantity in cod equivalents in the quota exchanges for 2018.

7.4 Pandalus

- 7.4.1 The Delegations agreed that the transfer of Pandalus in Sub-area IVa from Norway to the EU (Table 2) will be adjusted in proportion to the revised advice. Any resulting effect on the balance of quota exchanges will be rectified in the balance for 2018.

8 FULL UTILISATION OF QUOTAS

- 8.1 The Delegations agreed that the Parties should consult in the event that the exhaustion of any quotas taken in a directed fishery or as a by-catch might prevent the full utilisation of established quotas.

9 CATCH INFORMATION

- 9.1 Each Party shall, when appropriate and on request, inform the other Party of

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catches, by stock, made in its fishing zone by the vessels of the other Party, the information provided by Norway being broken down by flag.

- 9.2 The Delegations agreed that the catch information, including inter-annual quota flexibility, should be attached to future Agreed Records.

10 TECHNICAL MEASURES

10.1.1 The Delegations agreed on the importance of technical regulations that are both practical and effective. This will strengthen the legitimacy as well as the control and enforcement aspect of the regulations.

10.1.2 The Delegations recalled that they have received reports and recommendations from several Working Groups during the last decade on harmonising technical measures in the North Sea and Skagerrak. These reports have served as important input for the development of regulations on technical measures.

10.1.3 The EU Delegation informed the Norwegian Delegation that the European Commission's proposal for a new technical measures regulation should be adopted during 2017. The EU Delegation explained that the structure of the new regulation, would consist of a framework setting out the objectives, scope and targets as well as technical rules common to all regions, including prohibited gears and methods, general minimum conservation reference sizes and measures to reduce discarding. In addition it will allow for regionalisation where the common rules on, *inter-alia*, selectivity, closed or restricted areas, minimum conservation reference sizes and real time closures can be modified to meet specific requirements in each sea basin, provided that they are at least as effective in meeting the objectives. The EU Delegation considered that the regionalisation process offered some scope for co-operation with Norway for the harmonisation of technical measures, and expressed its hope that Norway would be invited to participate as observers in relevant meetings of the Scheveningen Group. The EU also expressed the hope that this would be reciprocated by invitations to the EU to participate in Norway's internal meetings on the same issues.

10.1.4 Both Delegations recognised the significance of these changes and agreed to meet during 2017 in order to ensure full transparency, on the content of this proposal.

10.1.5 The Norwegian Delegation welcomed this development and hoped that these measures would result in significant reduction of discard as well as further harmonisation of technical regulations. The Norwegian Delegation also noted that important issues will be discussed on regional level, and stressed the importance of including Norway in these processes at an early stage, as this will be necessary to achieve improved harmonisation.

10.2 Real Time Closures

10.2.1 The Delegations consider that it is of great importance to continue the Real Time Closure (RTC) systems to protect small fish and juveniles, and furthermore that they will continue to share information on the operation of the RTC systems.

11 CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT

11.1 Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Working Group for 2017

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11.1.1 The Delegations took note of the report from the Working Group on the activity in 2016. The Working Group met two times, in addition to a planning meeting. One fact-finding mission was carried out in the Netherlands. The Delegations endorsed the work of the Group, and the importance of cooperation between all relevant Parties related to monitoring, control and surveillance of the pelagic fisheries. The Terms of Reference of the MCS Working Group as agreed during the Coastal State Consultations on Mackerel for 2017 are set out in Annex XI.

11.2 Control measures for pelagic fisheries

11.2.1 The Delegations took note of the conclusions of the Coastal States consultations on the management of mackerel in the North-East Atlantic for 2017. In particular, they referred to the task of the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Working Group, which should review Annex IV of the Agreed Record of March 2014 regarding measures agreed on slipping, discards and high-grading in pelagic species (Annex IX in this Agreed Record); and propose measures on both technical and legal issues as appropriate. This task will be carried out in the course of 2017.

11.2.2 The Delegations noted that the Parties in 2014 had agreed on revised measures concerning weighing and inspection of pelagic landings. The measures are set out in Annex X.

11.3 Cooperation, exchange of information and inspectors

11.3.1 The Delegations agreed that dynamic cooperation on monitoring, control and surveillance related issues between the inspections services of both Parties is important to achieve level playing field and increased compliance, in particular concerning joint demersal stocks.

11.3.2 The Delegations stated that exchanging relevant data and information would improve risk management by both Parties, taking into account an increased demand for cost effectiveness in monitoring, control and surveillance.

11.3.3 The Delegations expressed satisfaction with the operational collaboration between their respective control authorities and encouraged them to continue such cooperation.

11.3.4 The Delegations agreed that the Parties could exchange officials as observers in relation to control and enforcement and that these may accompany inspectors from the other Party.

11.3.5 Furthermore, the Delegations agreed that the Parties, on an operational level, should exchange information and views regarding issues related to monitoring, control and surveillance of bilateral interest and facilitate meetings when appropriate.

11.3.6 The Norwegian Delegation recalled that Norway has repeatedly asked for possibilities to attend in selected meetings in European Fisheries Control Agency (EFCA) regarding planned control activities within EU waters, on joint stocks where Norway is a shareholder.

11.3.7 The Norwegian Delegation is still of the view that such cooperation would be of mutual interest in the light of transparency, securing level playing field and to increase understanding of the Parties' control systems.

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- 11.3.8 The EU Delegation informed Norway that EFCA is set up to coordinate inspection activities of EU Member States, and that there are legal issues concerning the involvement of a third party in such arrangements. However, involvement of Norway in NAFO/NEAFC control activities coordinated by EFCA is possible.
- 11.3.9 The Norwegian Delegation took note of the EU Delegation explanations and encouraged the EU Delegation to further look to accommodate this request from Norway.
- 11.3.10 The Delegations agreed to plan and to carry out a Joint Operational Seminar during week 24 in 2017. The Joint Operational Seminar will take place in Sweden and be hosted by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management. The seminar will focus on the Landing obligation/Discard ban, in particular for the joint stocks. The Parties agreed to invite all the relevant Coastal States to the Seminar.

11.4 Electronic reporting systems (ERS) and Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) for fishing vessels

- 11.4.1 The Delegations noted that the quality of the data was improving and that ERS has given an improved basis for management, monitoring, control and surveillance, and for statistical and scientific purposes. However, the Delegations recognised that there is still room for improving and developing ERS.
- 11.4.2 The EU Delegation recalled the new reporting obligations in EU waters related to the landing obligation. Separate recording in the logbook of undersized fish is mandatory in EU waters. It informed the Norwegian Delegation that the new EU ERS legislation now foresees a push mechanism similar to Norwegian and NEAFC procedures. The EU foresees to report electronically using the format of the UN/CEFACT standard in 2017.
- 11.4.3 Furthermore, the Delegations recalled that an agreed record was signed in 2014 introducing a separate transportation layer for the electronic exchange of data. They took note of the work of the Working Group of electronic reporting and recording experts in 2016 where initial tests have been performed in order to facilitate the operation of VMS, which should become first business content using the transportation layer. Consequently, the Agreed Record of Conclusions between Norway and the European Union on Issues Related to Satellite Tracking of Fishing Vessels signed by Norway 15 February 2013 and by the European Union 31 January 2013, is being revised.
- 11.4.4 Therefore, the Delegations agreed to continue the Working Group of electronic reporting and recording experts in 2017. The Delegations agreed that the main focus of the Working Group should be on installing and testing the transportation layer for electronic exchange of VMS data, and on the ERS format allowing the fulfilment of the business requirements in EU and Norway. The Working Group should meet before 31 May 2017 under the Terms of Reference set out in Annex XII.
- 11.4.5 The EU Delegation informed the Norwegian Delegation that bilateral discussions on exchange of electronic catch and activity data have been continued with the Faroe Islands and Greenland. These discussions aim at setting up a common electronic reporting system allowing a harmonised electronic exchange of catch and activity data. Furthermore, tests of data exchanges on the transportation layer have

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started with NEAFC and NAFO.

11.4.6 The Norwegian Delegation informed the EU Delegation that bilateral arrangement on exchange of electronic catch and activity data have been agreed with Faroe Islands, Iceland and Russia. These agreements are in line with the electronic reporting system that Norway and EU has committed to in the Agreed Record between Norway and EU on electronic exchange of catch and activity data. Furthermore, Norway have started discussions on exchange of electronic catch and activity data with Greenland.

11.4.7 The Delegations recalled that the Parties in 2015 agreed that the Agreed record of Conclusions of Fisheries Consultations between Norway and the European Union on Electronic Exchange of Catch and Activity data, signed in Bergen on 23 February 2010, and updated in Brussels on 14 November 2011, shall apply for all vessels above 12 meters from 1 October 2015.

12 NOTIFICATION OF NEW LEGISLATION

12.1 In view of the importance of each Party communicating in a timely manner the introduction of new fisheries legislation and, in particular, of the need to provide such information in an expeditious manner to fishermen from both Parties, the Delegations agreed to devote renewed attention to the respect of this principle.

12.2 The EU Delegation reminded the Norwegian Delegation of the need to provide new legislation in a format which is easily understandable, i.e. English, as soon as such legislation is available.

13 UNITED KINGDOM – FAROE ISLANDS SPECIAL AREA

13.1 With regard to Norwegian vessels fishing in the Special Area between the EU fishing zone (United Kingdom waters) and the Faroe Islands fishing zone, the following rules shall apply:

- (1) Vessels fishing in the Special Area shall comply with all relevant fishery rules established by the Party issuing a fishing licence for that vessel.
- (2) If a vessel has obtained a fishing licence from both Parties, the vessel shall report its total catches in the Special Area to both Parties. The catches shall be deducted from the quotas allocated by each Party, divided equally between them. If the quota allocated by one Party is exhausted, the catches shall be deducted from the quota allocated by the other Party.
- (3) Catches taken in the Special Area shall be registered in the logbook.
- (4) Vessels fishing in the Special Area shall be equipped with VMS and be subject to control by the Party or Parties issuing the fishing licence.

13.2 The EU Delegation, furthermore, informed Norway that a specific hail-in and hail-out system for the Special Area will be introduced as soon as possible.

13.3 The Delegations agreed to continue to examine practical solutions in regard to technical regulations in the Special Area, which are applicable to any vessel, which has obtained a fishing licence from either Party.

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14 EXPLORATORY FISHERIES

- 14.1 The EU Delegation expressed the interest of some EU operators in exploring the potential of under-utilised resources evolving in Norwegian waters, such as crab and prawns. The EU Delegation invited the Norwegian authorities to examine duly motivated requests transmitted by EU operators and to issue where justified fishing authorizations for exploratory campaigns subject to the applicable conditions. The provision of existing scientific and other basic information to interested operators would be much appreciated.
- 14.2 The Norwegian Delegation stated that this subject is outside the scope of this Agreed Record and referred to the website of the Directorate of Fisheries for further information in this respect.

For the Norwegian Delegation


Ann Kristin WESTBERG

For the European Union Delegation


Jacques VERBORGH

RECOVERY AND LONG TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR COD

The Strategy covers an initial recovery phase as well as a long-term management phase and shall consist of the following elements.

Objective

1. The Parties agree to restrict their fishing on the basis of TACs consistent with a fishing mortality rate that maximises long-term yield and maintains spawning stock biomass above B_{pa} .

Transitional arrangement

2. The fishing mortality will be reduced by setting a TAC at a level not exceeding that corresponding to a fishing mortality which is a fraction of the estimate of fishing mortality on appropriate age groups in 2008 as follows: 75% for the TACs in 2009, 65% for the TACs in 2011, and applying successive decrements of 10% for the following years.

The transitional phase ends (and will not apply) as from the first year in which the long-term management arrangement (paragraphs 3, 4 and 6) leads to a higher TAC than the transitional arrangement.

Long-term management

3. If the size of the stock on 1 January of the year prior to the year of application of the TACs is:
 - a. Above the precautionary spawning biomass level, the TACs shall correspond to a fishing mortality rate of 0.4 on appropriate age groups;
 - b. Between the minimum spawning biomass level and the precautionary spawning biomass level, the TACs shall not exceed a level corresponding to a fishing mortality rate on appropriate age groups equal to the following formula:

$$0.4 - (0.2 * (\text{Precautionary spawning biomass level} - \text{spawning biomass}) / (\text{Precautionary spawning biomass level} - \text{minimum spawning biomass level}))$$
 - c. At or below the limit spawning biomass level, the TAC shall not exceed a level corresponding to a fishing mortality rate of 0.2 on appropriate age groups.
4. Notwithstanding paragraphs 2 and 3, the TAC for 2011 and subsequent years shall not be set at a level that is more than 20% below or above the TACs established in the previous year.
5. When scientific advice indicates that the application of the rules set out in paragraphs 2 to 4 is not appropriate to meet the objectives of the strategy, the Parties may, notwithstanding

the above mentioned provisions, decide on an alternative TAC level.

6. Where the stock has been exploited at a fishing mortality rate close to 0.4 during three successive years, the parameters of this strategy shall be reviewed on the basis of advice from ICES in order to ensure exploitation at maximum sustainable yield.
7. The TAC shall be calculated by deducting the following quantities from the total removals of cod that are advised by ICES as corresponding to the fishing mortality rates consistent with the management strategy:
 - a. A quantity of fish equivalent to the expected discards of cod from the stock concerned;
 - b. A quantity corresponding to other relevant sources of cod mortality.
8. The Parties agree to adopt values for the minimum spawning biomass level (70,000 tonnes), the precautionary biomass level (150,000 tonnes) and to review these quantities as appropriate in the light of ICES advice.

Procedure for setting TACs in data-poor circumstances

9. If, due to a lack of sufficiently precise and representative information, it is not possible to implement the provisions in paragraphs 3 to 7, the TAC will be set according to the following procedure.
 - a. If the scientific advice recommends that the catches of cod should be reduced to the lowest possible level the TAC shall be reduced by 25% with respect to the TAC for the preceding year.
 - b. In all other cases the TAC shall be reduced by 15% with respect to the TAC for the previous year, unless the scientific advice recommends otherwise.

This arrangement entered into force on 1 January 2013 and shall be reviewed no later than 31 December 2015.

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LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR HADDOCK

The Parties agreed to implement a long-term management strategy for the haddock stock in the North Sea and Skagerrak. The objective of the strategy is to provide for sustainable fisheries with high and stable yields in conformity with the precautionary approach.

The strategy shall consist of the following elements:

1. Every effort shall be made to maintain a minimum level of Spawning Stock Biomass greater than 100,000 tonnes (B_{lim}).
2. For 2009 and subsequent years the Parties agreed to restrict their fishing on the basis of a TAC consistent with a fishing mortality rate of no more than 0.3 for appropriate age-groups, when the SSB in the end of the year in which the TAC is applied is estimated above 140,000 tonnes (B_{pa}).
3. Where the rule in paragraph 2 would lead to a TAC, which deviates by more than 15 % from the TAC of the preceding year, the Parties shall establish a TAC that is no more than 15% greater or 15% less than the TAC of the preceding year.
4. Where the SSB referred to in paragraph 2 is estimated to be below B_{pa} but above B_{lim} the TAC shall not exceed a level which will result in a fishing mortality rate equal to $0.3 - 0.2 * (B_{pa} - SSB) / (B_{pa} - B_{lim})$. This consideration overrides paragraph 3.
5. Where the SSB referred to in paragraph 2 is estimated to be below B_{lim} the TAC shall be set at a level corresponding to a total fishing mortality rate of no more than 0.1. This consideration overrides paragraph 3.
6. In the event that ICES advises that changes are required to the precautionary reference points B_{pa} (140,000t) or B_{lim} , (100,000t) the Parties shall meet to review paragraphs 1-5.
7. In order to reduce discarding and to increase the spawning stock biomass and the yield of haddock, the Parties agreed that the exploitation pattern shall, while recalling that other demersal species are harvested in these fisheries, be improved in the light of new scientific advice from *inter alia* ICES.
8. No later than 31 December 2014, the Parties shall review the arrangements in paragraphs 1 to 7 in order to ensure that they are consistent with the objective of the strategy. This review shall be conducted after obtaining *inter alia* advice from ICES concerning the performance of the strategy in relation to its objective.

This arrangement entered into force on 1 January 2009.

LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR SAITHE

The Parties agreed to implement a long-term management strategy for the saithe stock in the Skagerrak, the North Sea and west of Scotland, which is consistent with a precautionary approach and designed to provide for sustainable fisheries and high yields.

The strategy shall consist of the following elements:

1. Every effort shall be made to maintain a minimum level of Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) greater than 106,000 tonnes (B_{lim}).
2. Where the SSB is estimated to be above 200,000 tonnes the Parties agreed to restrict their fishing on the basis of a TAC consistent with a fishing mortality rate of no more than 0.30 for appropriate age groups.
3. Where the SSB is estimated to be below 200,000 tonnes but above 106,000 tonnes, the TAC shall not exceed a level which, on the basis of a scientific evaluation by ICES, will result in a fishing mortality rate equal to $0.30 - 0.20 * (200,000 - SSB) / 94,000$.
4. Where the SSB is estimated by the ICES to be below the minimum level of SSB of 106,000 tonnes the TAC shall be set at a level corresponding to a fishing mortality rate of no more than 0.1.
5. Where the rules in paragraphs 2 and 3 would lead to a TAC, which deviates by more than 15% from the TAC of the preceding year the Parties, shall fix a TAC that is no more than 15% greater or 15% less than the TAC of the preceding year.
6. Notwithstanding paragraph 5 the Parties may where considered appropriate reduce the TAC by more than 15% compared to the TAC of the preceding year.
7. A review of this arrangement shall take place no later than 31 December 2015.

This arrangement entered into force on 1 January 2009.

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**LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR HERRING
OF NORTH SEA ORIGIN AND ALLOCATION OF CATCHES**

The Parties agreed to continue to implement the management system for North Sea herring, which entered into force on 1 January 1998 and which is consistent with a precautionary approach and designed to ensure a rational exploitation pattern and provide for stable and high yields. This system consists of the following:

1. Every effort shall be made to maintain a minimum level of Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) greater than 800,000 tonnes (B_{lim}).
2. Where the SSB is estimated to be above 1.5 million tonnes the Parties agree to set quotas for the directed fishery and for by-catches in other fisheries, reflecting a fishing mortality rate of no more than 0.26 for 2 ringers and older and no more than 0.05 for 0 - 1 ringers.
3. Where the SSB is estimated to be below 1.5 million tonnes but above 800,000 tonnes, the Parties agree to set quotas for the direct fishery and for by-catches in other fisheries, reflecting a fishing mortality rate on 2 ringers and older equal to:

$0.26 - (0.16 * (1,500,000 - SSB) / 700,000)$ for 2 ringers and older, and
no more than 0.05 for 0 - 1 ringers
4. Where the SSB is estimated to be below 800,000 tonnes the Parties agree to set quotas for the directed fishery and for by-catches in other fisheries, reflecting a fishing mortality rate of less than 0.1 for 2 ringers and older and of less than 0.04 for 0-1 ringers.
5. Where the rules in paragraphs 2 and 3 would lead to a TAC which deviates by more than 15% from the TAC of the preceding year the parties shall fix a TAC that is no more than 15% greater or 15% less than the TAC of the preceding year. However, if the resulting fishing mortality rate would be more than 10% higher or more than 10% lower than that indicated by the rules in paragraphs 2 and 3, the TAC shall be fixed at a level corresponding to a fishing mortality that is respectively 10% higher or 10% lower than that indicated by the rules of paragraphs 2 and 3.
6. Notwithstanding paragraph 5 the Parties may, where considered appropriate, reduce the TAC to a level that corresponds to a fishing mortality more than 10% lower than that indicated by the rules of paragraphs 2 and 3.
7. By-catches of herring may only be landed in ports where adequate sampling schemes to effectively monitor the landings have been set up. All catches landed shall be deducted from the respective quotas set, and the fisheries shall be stopped immediately in the event that the quotas are exhausted.
8. The allocation of the TAC for the directed fishery for herring shall be 29% to Norway and 71% to the EU. The by-catch quota for herring shall be allocated to the EU.
9. A review of this arrangement shall take place no later than 31 December 2017

This arrangement shall enter into force on 1 January 2015.

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LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR WHITING IN THE NORTH SEA

The Parties agreed to implement a long-term management strategy for the whiting stock in the North Sea, which is consistent with a precautionary approach and designed to provide for sustainable fisheries and high yields.

The strategy shall consist of the following elements:

1. The Parties shall establish a TAC that is consistent with a fishing mortality rate of no more than 0.15 for appropriate age groups.
2. Where the rule in paragraph 1 would lead to a TAC, which deviates by more than 15% from the TAC of the preceding year, the Parties shall establish a TAC that is no more than 15% greater or 15% less than the TAC of the preceding year.
3. A review of this arrangement shall take place no later than 31 December 2017.

This arrangement entered into force on 1 January 2014.

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Terms of Reference for a technical Working Group regarding a long-term management strategy for Norway pout in the North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat.

The Working group is requested to:

- a) Suggest long term management objectives for Norway pout, regarding, inter-alia, exploitation rates and the avoidance of harmful effects of fishing activities, taking into account the importance of Norway pout as a prey species.
- b) Indicate the annual limitations on the exploitation rate needed in order to meet the objectives
- c) Identify additional management measures that might be needed in support of the objectives
- d) Outline options for harvest control rules that can facilitate the evaluation of the strategy by ICES regarding its consistency with the precautionary approach and with its performance in meeting the objectives identified in paragraph a).

The Working Group is asked to take into account work planned for 2017 by ICES on the management of short lived species, and to highlight any specific concerns that ICES could address during the course of its work.

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CONDITIONS FOR FISHERIES BY THE PARTIES IN 2017

I. JOINT STOCKS

1. The Total Allowable Catches (TACs) for the stocks mentioned in Table 1 for 2017 shall be as indicated in that table. If ICES make new scientific recommendations, the Parties will review these TACs.
2. The TACs referred to in paragraph 1 shall be divided between the Parties as indicated in Table 1.
3. Each Party shall inform the other Party of allocations granted to third countries for fishing on the stocks referred to in Table 1.
4. The Parties shall supply each other with monthly catch statistics for fishing on the stocks referred to in Table 1 by their own vessels. Communication of these statistics for the preceding month shall take place at the latest on the last day of each month.

II. OTHER STOCKS

Each Party shall authorise fishing by vessels of the other Party for the stocks mentioned in Tables 2 to 4 within the quotas set out in these tables.

III. LICENSING

1. Licensing by either Party of the other Party's vessels in 2017 shall be limited to the following fisheries.
 - A. EU fishing in the Norwegian Economic Zone:
 - all fishing north of 62° N;
 - all industrial fishing and fishing for mackerel in the North Sea;
 - all other fishing with vessels over 200 GRT in the North Sea.
 - B. Norwegian fishing in the EC zone and in Greenland waters:
 - all fishing in NAFO Sub-area 1 and ICES Sub-area XIV and Division Va;
 - all fishing in the EU's fishing zone with vessels over 200 GRT.

For 2017, the number of licences and the conditions of those licences shall be in accordance with the Agreed Record of Conclusions on Licence Arrangements for 1995 between the European Community and Norway signed at Bergen on 13 May 1995.

2. The Parties shall notify each other, according to the types of fishing indicated above, the name and characteristics of the vessels for which licences may be issued.

It is agreed that the requirement for each Party's vessels to keep on-board a licence

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whilst fishing in the other Party's zone shall no longer apply.

3. Vessels, which were authorised to fish on 31 December 2016, may continue their activities in 2017.
4. Each Party shall submit to the other Party the names and characteristics of the other Party's vessels which will not be authorised to fish in its fishing zone the next month(s) as a consequence of an infringement of its rules.

IV. FISHERY REGULATIONS

1. The Parties will consult on fishery regulations in the North Sea, with a view to achieving, as far as possible, the harmonisation of regulatory measures in the zones of the two Parties.
2. A Party intending to introduce or amend fishery regulations, applicable to vessels of the other Party, shall inform the latter of such intentions with a notice of at least two weeks. Exceptionally, the introduction or amendment of fishery regulations, due to concentrations of young fish in limited areas, may be implemented with advance notice of one week. Consultations shall be held if so requested by either Party.

V. CONSULTATIONS

The two Parties will consult on the implementation of the arrangements set out herein.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION

In the event that the implementation of the fishery arrangements is delayed, the Parties agreed that the arrangements shall be subject to re-negotiation upon the request of either Party.

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INTER-ANNUAL QUOTA FLEXIBILITY

1. The Inter-annual quota flexibility scheme as described in this Annex is applicable for the quotas of herring, haddock, saithe and plaice established in this Agreed Record.
2. 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. This quantity cannot be transferred further to the quotas for subsequent years.
3. 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.
4. Complete catch statistics and quotas for the previous year should be made available to the other Party no later than 1 April in the format as set out below. The Delegations agreed that in order to ensure transparency in the operation of inter-annual quota flexibility, more detailed information on catch utilisation shall be exchanged.
5. The inter-annual quota flexibility scheme should be terminated if the stock is estimated to be under the precautionary biomass level (B_{pa}) and the fishing mortality is estimated to be above the precautionary mortality level (F_{pa}) the following year, or if the SSB is estimated to be below B_{pa} in two consecutive years.

REPORTING OF QUOTAS AND CATCHES

	Quotas for 2017	Catches in 2017	Transfers to 2018	Quotas in 2018	Quotas after transfers in 2018
Norway					
European Union					
Total					

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**MEASURES TO BE MONITORED CONCERNING SLIPPING, DISCARDS
AND HIGH-GRADING OF PELAGIC SPECIES**

The Delegations agreed that the following control measures shall be applied in fisheries for mackerel, herring and horse mackerel:

1. High grading (*discarding of fish which can be landed legally*) of these species is banned throughout the entire migratory range of the stocks in the North-East Atlantic.
2. Slipping (*releasing the fish before the net is fully taken on board the fishing vessel, resulting in the loss of dead or dying fish*) of these species is banned throughout the entire migratory range of the stocks in the North-East Atlantic.
3. Fishing vessels shall move their fishing grounds when the haul contains more than 10% of undersized fish (*below the minimum landing sizes or the minimum catching sizes*) of these species.
4. The maximum space between bars in the water separator on board fishing vessels shall be 10mm. The bars must be welded in place. If holes are used in the water separator instead of bars, the maximum diameter of the holes must not exceed 10mm. Holes in the chutes before the water separator must not exceed 15mm in diameter.
5. The possibility to discharge fish under the water line of the vessel from buffer tanks or RSW tanks shall be prohibited.
6. Drawings related to catch handling and to discharge capabilities of the vessels, which are certified by the competent authorities of the flag State, as well as any modifications thereto shall be sent to the competent fisheries authorities of the flag State. The competent authorities of the flag State of the vessel shall carry out periodic verifications of the accuracy of the drawings submitted. Copies shall be carried on board at all times.
7. Unless fish is frozen on board the vessel, the carrying or use on board a fishing vessel of equipment, which is capable of automatically grading by size herring, mackerel or horse mackerel, is prohibited. In the case of fish being frozen on board, the fish shall be frozen immediately after grading.

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**MEASURES TO BE APPLIED CONCERNING THE
WEIGHING AND INSPECTION OF PELAGIC LANDINGS**

The Delegations agreed that the following measures shall be applied to the weighing and inspection of landings exceeding 10 tonnes of mackerel, herring, blue whiting and horse mackerel:

1. All quantities of fresh herring, mackerel, blue whiting and horse mackerel landed must be weighed before sorting and processing. When determining the weight, any deduction for water shall not exceed 2% for landings for human consumption and 0% for landings for industrial purposes.
2. For fish landed frozen the weight shall be determined by weighing all the boxes minus the tare weight (cardboard and plastic) or by multiplying the total number of boxes landed by the average weight of the boxes minus tare weight landed in the same shipment calculated in accordance with an agreed sampling methodology.
3. Landings shall take place in designated ports. Masters of fishing vessels shall submit prior notice of landing including notification of catch on board and submit the estimated catch information to the competent authorities before commencing the discharge of catch.
4. The processor or buyer of the fish shall submit sales information for the payment of the quantities landed to the competent authorities. In cases where fish is placed in storage for a period of time after landings before being sold, information on the catch (weighing note/landing declaration, etc.) should be submitted to the competent authorities.
5. A minimum of 5% of landings and 7.5% of the quantities landed for each species should be subject to a full inspection. This should be based on a risk assessment. A full inspection shall also include cross checks of prior notifications and information submitted to competent authorities of estimated catch, weighing and sales information.

In the case of vessels pumping catch ashore the weighing of the entire discharge from the vessels selected for inspection shall be monitored and a cross-check undertaken between the quantities by species recorded in the landing declaration or sales note and the record of weighing held by the buyer or processor of the fish.

In the case of freezer trawlers, the counting of boxes shall be monitored. The sample weighing of boxes/pallets carried out in order to determine the tare weight shall also be monitored.

It shall be verified that the vessel is empty, once the discharge has been completed.

6. In each case where the checks reveal a significant discrepancy it shall be followed up as an infringement.

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**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR
A MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE (MCS)
WORKING GROUP FOR 2017**

The Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Working Group should meet before 1 April 2017 under the Terms of Reference described below:

The Working Group should submit its report to the Parties well in advance of the Coastal State consultations for 2017. Representatives of the Parties should meet no later than 31 January 2017 to plan the activity of the Working Group during 2017.

The objective of the Working Group should be to establish best practice in monitoring, control and surveillance both at sea and on land, with the goal of securing a level playing field for fisheries on pelagic stocks such as mackerel, Norwegian spring-spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring, blue whiting and horse mackerel.

The Working Group should be composed of operative MCS experts.

The MCS Working Group should:

- 1) Continue to conduct fact finding missions concerning;
 - a. Sea-going missions focusing on slipping, discards and high grading, by-catch issues and other relevant issues in the context of MCS; and
 - b. Missions on land focusing on weighing and inspections, by-catch issues and other relevant issues in the context of MCS;
- 2) Compare and consider findings in fact-finding missions reports with a view to propose harmonised practises and regulations between the Parties;
- 3) Follow up on the report from the Working Group in 2016 regarding proposals highlighted in point 5 of the MCS Working Group Report for 2016 regarding the manipulation of weighing systems;
- 4) Reflect water deduction in pelagic landings, especially in relation to tare used;
- 5) Review and identify possible differences in current practices by individual Parties in relation to risk assessment strategies and identify possible differences between the Parties;
- 6) Identify any common trends in non-compliance in the pelagic industry and elaborate on various methods to ensure detection of such infringements and on how this non-compliance could be mitigated;
- 7) Continue to explore the effects of the 3 systems identified for draining liquid in landings for industrial purposes; and
- 8) Review Annex IV of the Agreed Record of March 2014 regarding measures agreed on slipping, discards and high-grading in pelagic species, and propose measures on both technical and legal issues as appropriate.

If there are any other relevant issues, which the Working Group believes would result in a more efficient Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of pelagic fisheries, the Working Group could explore these as appropriate.

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**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUP ON
ELECTRONIC REPORTING AND RECORDING EXPERTS FOR 2017**

The Delegations agreed that the Working Group on Electronic Reporting and Recording Experts should meet before 31 May 2017 under the Terms of Reference described below. After that the Working Group should meet as appropriate to closely follow and evaluate the development, tests performed and solve practical questions the Parties may encounter.

The Working Group should submit its report to the Parties well in advance of the annual consultations for 2018, and where appropriate make proposals for measures to be adopted in accordance with the agreed ERS format life cycle.

The Working Group shall:

- Follow up the implementation of the Agreed Record on a Transportation layer on exchange of electronic data signed by the Parties 20 June 2014, focusing on VMS data.
- Follow up the implementation of the agreed electronic reporting system between Norway and the European Union, to secure satisfactory exchange and increased quality of catch and activity data.
- Address issues concerning landing catch in more than one factory in a port.
- Revise the arrangements set down in the Agreed Record of Conclusions of Fisheries Consultations between the European Union and Norway on Electronic exchange of catch and activity data of 14 November 2011, with a view to:
 - Allow for the new reporting in EU waters necessary for the landing obligation
 - Further harmonise business in EU, Norway and NEAFC, based on a push approach, complemented with an additional pull where needed.
 - Establish more harmonised technical procedures and specifications taking into account the use of the transportation layer and UN/CEFACT standards.

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Table 1

2017 JOINT STOCK QUOTAS IN THE NORTH SEA

Species and ICES Area	TAC	Zonal Attachment ⁽⁷⁾				Transfer from Norway to European Union ⁽⁵⁾	Transfer from EU to Norway ⁽⁵⁾	Quota to Norway		Quota to European Union	
		Norway		European Union				Total	EU Zone ⁽¹⁾	Total	Norwegian Zone ⁽¹⁾
		%	Tonnes	%	Tonnes						
Cod 4	39,220	17	6,667	83	32,553			6,667	6,667	32,553	28,293
Haddock 4	33,643 ⁽²⁾	23	7,738	77	25,905	500		7,238	7,238	26,405	19,641
Saithe 4, 3.a	100,287	52	52,149	48	48,138		250	52,399	52,399	47,888	47,888
Whiting 4	16,003 ⁽²⁾	10	1,600	90	14,403	300		1,300	1,300	14,703	9,961
Plaice 4	129,917	7	9,094 ⁽⁶⁾	93	120,822			9,094	9,094	120,822	49,578
Herring 4, 7.d	481,608	29	139,666	71	341,942			139,666	50,000 ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	341,942	50,000 ⁽⁴⁾

- (1) Any part of this allocation not taken may be added to the allocation in the Party's own zone.
- (2) TAC to include industrial by-catches.
- (3) Limited to ICES Divisions 4.a and 4.b.
- (4) An additional quantity of maximum 10,000 tonnes will be granted if such an increase is called for.
- (5) The Delegations may consider in 2017 possible further transfers.
- (6) Of which 300 tonnes may be fished in the Skagerrak
- (7) Based on the Nantes Report

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TABLE 2

2017 JOINT STOCK QUOTAS (NOT JOINTLY MANAGED)

SPECIES AND ICES AREA	QUOTA TO NORWAY IN THE EU ZONE (TONNES)	QUOTA TO EU IN THE NORWEGIAN ZONE (TONNES)
Norway pout 4	25,000 ⁽¹⁰⁾	
Blue ling 4; 5.b; 6; 7; 2.a	150	
Ling 4; 5.b; 6; 7; 2.a	6,500 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	
Tusk 4; 5.b; 6; 7; 2.a	2,923 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	
Combined quota 5.b; 6; 7	250 ⁽³⁾	
Shrimps 4		205
Horse mackerel 4;b, c	3,550 ⁽⁴⁾	
Others 4; 2.a (EU Zone)	5,250 ⁽⁵⁾	9,500 ⁽⁵⁾
Sole 4	10	
Anglerfish 4		1,500
Norway lobster 4		1,000
Ling 4		1,350
Tusk 4		170
Saithe 6.a	510 ⁽⁶⁾	
Blue Whiting 2; 4.a; 6.a ⁽⁶⁾ ; 6.b; 7 ⁽⁹⁾	110,000 ⁽⁷⁾⁽⁸⁾	

- (1) The quotas for ling and tusk are interchangeable of up to 2,000 tonnes and may only be fished with long-lines in ICES Division 5.b and Subareas 6 and 7.
- (2) Of which an incidental catch of other species of 25 % per vessel at any moment is permitted in ICES Subareas 5.b, 6 and 7. However, this percentage may be exceeded in the first 24 hours following the beginning of the fishing on a specific fishing ground. This total incidental catch of other species in 5.b, 6 and 7 may not exceed 3,000 tonnes.
- (3) Fishing with long-lines for grenadiers, rat tails, mora mora and greater forkbeard.
- (4) This quota may be fished in ICES Division 4.a.
- (5) Including fisheries not specifically mentioned; exceptions may be introduced after consultations as appropriate
- (6) North of 56°30'N.
- (7) Of which up to 500 tonnes of argentine (*Argentina spp.*) may be fished.
- (8) Of which up to 40,000 tonnes may be fished in ICES Division 4.a.
- (9) West of 12°W.
- (10) Use of a sorting grid is obligatory

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TABLE 3

2017 QUOTAS TO THE EU OF NORWEGIAN EXCLUSIVE STOCKS

SPECIES	ICES AREA	QUANTITY (TONNES)
Arcto-Norwegian cod	1; 2	23,002
Arcto-Norwegian haddock	1; 2	1,200
Saithe	1; 2	2,550
Greenland halibut (by-catches)	1; 2	50
Others (by-catches)	1; 2	350

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TABLE 4

**2017 QUOTAS TO NORWAY FROM EU EXCLUSIVE STOCKS
AND FROM EU QUOTAS IN GREENLAND WATERS**

SPECIES	ICES AREA	QUANTITY (TONNES)
Sprat	4	10,000 ⁽⁴⁾
Greenland halibut	2.a; 6 ⁽¹⁾	1,100
Shrimp	14; 5.a	1,750
Greenland halibut	NAFO 1 ICES 14; 5.a	575 575
Grenadier (by-catches)	NAFO 1, ICES 14; 5.a	90
Redfish	14; 5.a	740 ⁽²⁾

- (1) In ICES Division 6 with long-lines only.
- (2) May be fished with pelagic trawls.
- (3) May only be fished with long-lines.
- (4) To be fished after 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018

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