

AGREED RECORD

OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE FAROE ISLANDS, ICELAND AND NORWAY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF BLUE WHITING IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC IN 2017

LONDON, 27 OCTOBER 2016

1. A Delegation from the European Union, headed by Mr Joost PAARDEKOOPEER, a Delegation from the Faroe Islands, headed by Mr Herluf SIGVALDSSON, a Delegation from Iceland, headed by Mr Sigurgeir THORGEIRSSON, and a Delegation from Norway, headed by Ms Sigrun M HOLST, met in London on 24 to 27 October 2016 to consult on the management of the blue whiting stock in the North-East Atlantic in 2017.
2. A Delegation from Greenland, headed by Ms Katrin Vilhelm POULSEN, and a Delegation from the Russian Federation, headed by Mr Alexandr KRYSOV, attended as observers.
3. The Delegations noted the response of ICES from September 2016 to the request from NEAFC to evaluate a long-term management strategy for the fisheries of the blue whiting stock in the North East Atlantic. Delegations expressed their concern that the 20% TAC change limits in the strategy would not allow a sufficiently rapid response to significant changes in the advice. To this end, the Delegations agreed to change the long-term management strategy as evaluated by ICES in order to further specify TAC change limits (20% reduction – 25% increase) and to suspend the TAC change limits where the advised TAC differs by more than 40% from the previous year's TAC, or where the SSB in the year prior to the TAC year is below $B_{trigger}$. Delegations agreed to request ICES to provide advice on the basis of this modified long-term management strategy as set out in Annex I.
4. The Delegations agreed that the level of total catches of blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic should be no more than 1,342,330 tonnes, corresponding to F_{MSY} as advised by ICES. The Delegations agreed that establishing unilateral quotas for 2017 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 2017 would be 106,834 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.
7. The Delegations exchanged quota and catch information for 2014, 2015 (final) as well as preliminary information for 2016 (Annex II). The Delegations also exchanged information with regard to their fishing activities including exchanges and access provisions (Annex III).

The Delegations agreed to continue to provide information regarding quotas and catches in the same format as set out in Annex II to this Agreed Record. Each Party shall, by 1 May 2017, provide updated information to Norway as host of the consultations on management measures for 2018 regarding their total catches in 2015 and 2016; on any allocation of quotas to other Parties in 2017; and on their total provisional catches in 2017. Norway shall forward this information as soon as possible to all Parties to this Agreed Record.

8. The Delegations agreed that the Parties may fish blue whiting within their quotas in their respective zones of fisheries jurisdiction and in international waters.
9. 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.

London, 27 October 2016



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For the Delegation of the European Union



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**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.



Reporting of quotas and catches of blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic - 2014 to 2016

CATCHES (tonnes)															
2014	Coastal State share/share	Balance from 2013	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 Protection Zone around Svalbard	Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH	Balance	
	331,349	17,755	-115,000	234,104	985	182,303	6,080	0	0	76	0	38	0	189,482	44,622
European Union	288,549	-5,260	-62,000	221,289	17,677	37,918	173,088	0	730	0	0	0	0	229,413	-8,124
Faroe Islands	194,722	-3,430	0	191,292	12,655	0	155,077	0	15,638	0	0	0	0	183,370	7,922
Iceland	284,352	-6,675	84,635	362,312	162,273	212,603	3,170	0	0	21,473	0	0	0	399,519	-37,207
Norway	1,098,972	2,390	-92,365	1,008,997	193,590	432,824	337,415	0	16,368	21,549	0	38	0	1,001,784	7,213
Total Coastal States															
Russian Federation	89,009	0	100,000	189,009	56,713	0	93,151	0	0	106	1,449	837	0	182,256	36,753
Greenland	6,497	0	0	6,497	823	0	5,645	32	0	0	0	0	0	6,500	-3
Total all Parties	1,194,478	2,390	7,635	1,204,503	251,126	432,824	436,211	32	16,368	21,655	1,449	875	0	1,160,540	43,963

CATCHES (tonnes)															
2015	Quota established	Balance from 2014	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 Protection Zone around Svalbard	Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH	Balance	
	347,087	33,135	-115,605	264,617	2,113	188,942	2,749	0	0	1	0	0	0	193,805	70,812
European Union	425,000	-8,224	-67,000	349,776	6,284	48,741	231,502	0	0	0	0	0	0	286,527	63,249
Faroe Islands	204,458	7,922	0	212,380	1,453	0	184,150	0	29,287	0	0	0	0	214,890	-2,510
Iceland	417,459	-37,207	80,674	460,966	244,138	101,405	78,457	0	0	65,439	0	0	0	489,439	-28,473
Norway	1,394,044	-4,374	-101,931	1,287,739	253,988	339,088	496,858	0	29,287	65,440	0	0	0	1,184,661	103,078
Total CS															
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	6,822	0	0	6,822	0	0	5,651	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,651	1,171
Total all Parties	1,494,325	5,976	800	1,501,101	341,997	339,088	582,011	0	29,287	83,570	49	73	0	1,376,075	125,026

CATCHES (tonnes)															
2016 Provisional	Quota established	Balance from 2015	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 Protection Zone around Svalbard	Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH	Balance	
	321,570	34,709	-81,500	274,779	2,024	154,780	1,685	0	0	56	0	0	0	158,545	116,234
European Union	275,832	71,475 *	-82,500	264,807	14,277	29,790	204,168	0	0	0	0	0	0	248,235	16,572
Faroe Islands	163,570	-2,510	-1,500	159,560	1,623	0	154,625	0	7,796	0	0	0	0	164,044	-4,484
Iceland	243,495	-28,473	57,455	272,477	64,001	214,488	739	0	0	29,005	0	0	0	308,233	-35,756
Norway	1,004,467	75,201	-108,045	971,623	81,925	399,058	361,217	0	7,796	29,061	0	0	0	879,057	92,566
Total CS															
Russian Federation	70,714	9,346	100,045	180,105	75,725	0	77,047	0	0	15,111	30	0	0	167,913	12,192
Greenland	4,565	96	8,000	12,661	3,212	0	9,449	0	0	0	0	0	0	12,661	0
Total all Parties	1,079,746	84,643	0	1,164,389	160,862	399,058	447,713	0	7,796	44,172	30	0	0	1,059,631	104,758

* Includes unutilised quota exchanged with a fishing Party of 8,226 tonnes

Transfers and access arrangements for blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic in 2016

Transfers in 2016 ¹

	Quotas	Transfer from 2015	Total available	Transfer to European Union	Faroe Islands	Iceland	Norway	Greenland	Russian Federation
European Union	321,570	34,709	356,279	---	9,000	0	75,000	0	0
Faroe Islands	275,832	71,475	347,307	2,500	---	0	0	8,000	81,000
Iceland	163,570	-2,510	161,060	0	---	---	0	0	1,500
Norway	243,495	-28,473	215,022	0	0	0	---	0	17,545
Greenland	4,565		4,565	0	0	0	0	---	0
Russian Federation	70,714	9,346	80,060	0	0	0	0	0	---

¹ - Transfers imply full access

Access arrangements for 2016

	Access to									
	European Union	Faroe Islands	Iceland	Norway	Greenland	Russian Federation	European Union	Faroe Islands	Iceland	Russian Federation
European Union	---	21,500	0	149,506	0	0	---	21,500	0	0
Faroe Islands	21,500	---	100%	0	100%	0	21,500	---	100%	0
Iceland	0	100%	---	0	0	0	0	100%	---	0
Norway	149,506	34,800	0	---	0	0	149,506	34,800	0	0
Greenland	0	12,565	0	0	---	0	0	12,565	0	0
Russian Federation	0	98,679	0	0	0	0	0	98,679	0	---