

**AGREED RECORD OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN
NORWAY AND THE EUROPEAN UNION ON THE REGULATION OF FISHERIES IN
SKAGERRAK AND KATTEGAT FOR 2020**

BRUSSELS, 13 DECEMBER 2019

- 1 A European Delegation, headed by Mr Fabrizio DONATELLA, and a Norwegian Delegation headed by Ms Ann Kristin WESTBERG, met in London, United Kingdom from 18 November to 22 November and in Bergen, Norway from 2 December to 6 December, and Brussels, Belgium on the 13 December 2019 to consult on mutual fisheries relations for 2020.
- 2 The Heads of Delegations agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the arrangements for the regulation of fisheries in Skagerrak in 2020, outlined in this Agreed Record, including Annex I to VIII.
- 3 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.
- 4 **Discard ban and landing obligation in the Skagerrak**
 - 4.1 The Delegations recalled that in 2012 the EU and Norway worked towards the development of harmonised measures for the implementation of a common discard ban in the Skagerrak, including the harmonisation of certain technical measures. It was noted that although the common discard ban was never implemented, Norway, Denmark and Sweden adopted the harmonised technical measures at national level, and that these measures have been incorporated into EU legislation, with effect from 1 January 2016.
 - 4.2 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 Real Time Closure (RTC) systems. The Delegations agreed that technical measures can play a crucial role when it comes to reducing discards and unwanted catches, supporting the landing obligation in the EU and the discard ban in Norway. Due to the particular seriousness of the condition of the cod the Delegations agreed as from end of 2019 to establish a working group on technical measures for the protection of cod in addition to measures already agreed upon. Furthermore, the Delegations stated the importance of continuing to work in order to reduce discards of all commercial species, including juveniles and undersized fish.
 - 4.3 In the light of the *de minimis* and high survivability exemptions contained in the EU landing obligation, the EU Delegation informed the Norwegian

Delegation of its intention in 2020 to continue to adjust from the EU quotas the estimated amounts of the discards.

5 Management, including Monitoring, Control and Surveillance

- 5.1 The Delegations noted that the cooperation on management has been fruitful in recent years.
- 5.2 The Delegations recognised that there is a need to further strengthen cooperation and contact between the control services, in order to increase the effectiveness of the control.
- 5.3 The Delegations noted that the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance measures for joint stocks and the issue of the weighing of landings of pelagic vessels are covered under the Agreed Record of Conclusions of Fisheries Consultations between Norway and the European Union for 2020.
- 5.4 The Delegations took note of the 2015 report from the Working Group on management in the Skagerrak as well as the Consultations in September 2016 in Stockholm regarding catch reporting and control in cross border fisheries.
- 5.5 The Delegations noted that, so far, they had not been able to identify an approach that would allow for cross-border fishing activities, while also securing adequate possibilities for control and enforcement. The Delegations therefore agreed that the Parties would study this issue further.
- 5.6 The Delegations noted that over the years there have been inaccuracies in catch reporting with respect to the allocation of the catches relative to fishing activity to the different economic zones in Skagerrak. The Delegations therefore agreed to develop a new approach to the allocation of catches. The main feature of this method would be to base the allocation on VMS position reports and allocate the catches in proportion to the time spent in each zone. During the annual consultations for 2018, the Delegations had agreed to further develop the allocation method and to make a report no later than June 2018. The Delegations noted that this report is still outstanding and therefore agreed that a status report should be submitted well in advance of the consultations on Skagerrak issues planned for April 2020.

6 Reciprocal access agreement for Skagerrak

- 6.1 The Delegations referred to the *Agreement of 15 January 2015 between the Kingdom of Norway and the European Union on Reciprocal Access to Fishing in the Skagerrak for Vessels Flying the Flag of Denmark, Norway and Sweden*.
- 6.2 The Delegations agreed to continue the practice of establishing a separate Agreed Record, on an annual basis, for the regulation of fisheries in the Skagerrak.



7 Total allowable catches and quotas

- 7.1 The Delegations agreed that vessels should have adequate quota or fishing possibilities to cover expected catch composition when fishing in Skagerrak.

8 Cod

- 8.1 The Delegations agreed that the TAC for 2020 should be 2,103 tonnes in Skagerrak.

- 8.2 The Delegations agreed that in addition to the TAC level as referred to in paragraph 8.1, joint additional measures aimed at the protection of juvenile and adult cod should be introduced as from early 2020 in order to restore the North Sea and Skagerrak cod stock by reducing unwanted catches and discard and lower fishing pressure.

- 8.3 The Delegations therefore agreed to adopt seasonal closures for the protection of spawning aggregations. The coordinates and timing of such closures are specified in Annex VII. The Delegations agreed to prohibit fishing with all gears in these areas with the exception of pelagic trawls and purse seine.

- 8.4 Moreover, the Delegations agreed to establish a Working Group of experts to define technical elements and specificities relating to additional technical measures aimed at the protection of both juvenile and adult cod. The Terms of Reference of this Working Group are set out in Annex IV. The Working Group should provide the recommendations to the Delegations by 1 February 2020. The Delegations shall immediately review such recommendations and decide on the appropriate follow-up, if necessary through further consultations. The Working Group should focus on the following and other potential measures:

- i. Real time closures for the protection of cod;
- ii. Seasonal closures for the protection of juveniles;
- iii. Access conditions to "restricted areas" of high abundance of cod of all ages;
- iv. Gear related technical measures to reduce catches of cod.

- 8.5 The Norwegian Delegation announced that, Norway, as a first step, in the beginning of 2020 will publish regulation establishing areas to protect juvenile and small cod in Norwegian waters. The Delegations noted that the Working Group referred to in 5.7.10 will discuss what fleets and fisheries may be permitted to fish in this area.

- 8.6 The EU Delegation welcomes the intent of the Norway to establish areas for the protection of juvenile cod and considers this to a significant first step.

- 8.7 To support the implementation of the above measures and existing framework, the Delegations agreed to further cooperate to enhance control, monitoring and surveillance activities. This will be considered during the next



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meeting of the NS MCS WG scheduled in February 2020 and focus on monitoring, inspection and surveillance for the control of the cod and cod-related fisheries in the North Sea to ensure compliance with technical measures and catch registration obligations.

- 8.8 Furthermore, given the level of cod TAC reduction, the EU Delegation notifies the Delegations that its intention to introduce additional control, monitoring and surveillance actions to minimise further the risks of discarding and high grading of cod for vessels operating in areas identified as having a high abundance of juvenile or adult cod. These additional actions are set out in Annex V.

9 Haddock

- 9.1 The Delegations agreed to base the TAC for 2020 on the ICES F_{msy} advice, resulting in a TAC of 2,193 tonnes.
- 9.2 The Delegations referred to the Agreed Record of Conclusions of Fisheries Consultations between Norway and the European Union for 2020 and agreed that the system of inter-annual quota flexibility, as set out in paragraph 5.2 of that Agreed Record, are equally applicable to the Skagerrak.

10 Pandalus

- 10.1 The Delegations noted that ICES advises that total allowable catches for the first half of 2020 should be no more than 6,329 tonnes. The Delegations also noted that this advice will be revised early 2020.
- 10.2 The Delegations agreed to establish a preliminary TAC in Skagerrak for 2020 of 4,430 tonnes, and agreed to apply this on a pro rata basis to cover the first four months of the year in the case of Norway, and the first six months of the year in the case of EU.
- 10.3 The Norwegian Delegation informed the EU Delegation of its intention to fix within the quantity given in point 10.2 a quota for *Pandalus* for Division 4.a. East of 1,898 tonnes.
- 10.4 The Delegations agreed to consult on establishing a final TAC for 2020 as soon as the final ICES advice for *Pandalus* is available.
- 10.5 The Delegations recalled that they on 25th April 2018 had agreed to a Long-Term Management Strategy (LTMS) for *Pandalus* in Skagerrak and in the Norwegian Deep that is applicable as from 1 January 2019 onwards. The joint LTMS is set out in Annex II.

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11 Herring

- 11.1 The Delegations agreed in 2014 on a TAC-setting method based on the report of the Working Group on management measures for herring in the Skagerrak and Kattegat.
- 11.2 The Delegations noted that there are serious concerns about the status of the western Baltic spring spawning herring (WBSS) stock. ICES therefore advises a zero catch for the WBSS, which implies that if the TAC for Division 3.a is set to zero in 2020, the catches of NSAS by the C- and D-fleets would also be zero.
- 11.3 The Delegations noted that the European Union had established a TAC for herring in Subdivisions 22-24 (Western Baltic) corresponding to a final TAC of 6,300 tonnes for the WBSS stock.
- 11.4 The EU Delegation informed the Norwegian Delegation that this TAC was established with reference to the EU multiannual plan for the stocks of cod, herring and sprat in the Baltic Sea.
- 11.5 The Delegations decided to apply this TAC when calculating the WBSS proportion of the TAC for herring in Skagerrak and Kattegat.
- 11.6 Based on this TAC-setting method, the Delegations agreed to establish a TAC of 24,528 tonnes in the Skagerrak and Kattegat for 2020.
- 11.7 The Delegations agreed that for the quotas established for herring in the Skagerrak and Kattegat areas, Norway would be able to fish 50% of its quota in the North Sea in the Norwegian Economic Zone and the European Union would be able to fish 50% of its quota in European Union waters of ICES Area 4.
- 11.8 The Delegations concluded that the by-catches of herring taken in industrial and sprat fisheries would be limited to 6,659 tonnes in 2020.
- 11.9 The Norwegian Delegation reiterated their concern that juvenile herring is taken as by-catch in the small-meshed fishery. This is yet more serious in light of the poor recruitment to this stock the last decade. Therefore, the Norwegian Delegation urged the EU Delegation to phase out the fishery for juvenile herring.
- 11.10 The EU Delegation considered that the fishing mortality on juveniles represents a very small proportion of the natural mortality rate, and was therefore of negligible significance.
- 11.11 The Delegations agreed that there are several issues related to the management of herring that needs to be discussed and solved, in order to achieve an optimal utilisation of herring stock. Most importantly, new models for TAC setting should be explored.

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11.12 The Delegations therefore agreed to establish a working group with a mandate to examine the management of herring in the North Sea and Skagerrak/Kattegat. The group's main task is to recommend how to optimally and sustainably utilise the North Sea autumn spawning herring (NSAS) in the North Sea and explore potential models for the setting of TAC. The working group shall also make recommendations for management models for the herring in Skagerrak/Kattegat, where NSAS herring mix with WBSS herring stocks. Such a group should consider the elements of the current management of NSAS herring. The working group should assess the current practice of setting separate TACs to cover by-catches in other fisheries. Terms of Reference for the Working Group are set out in Annex VI.

12 Plaice

12.1 The Delegations noted that the ICES advice now encompasses both the North Sea and Skagerrak and recalled that they in 2016 had agreed to apply 11.8% as share for Skagerrak of the overall TAC.

12.2 Based on its MSY approach ICES advices that total catches in 2020 should be no more than 166,499 tonnes.

12.3 The Delegations agreed to establish a TAC for plaice in ICES Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak) in 2020 at 166,499 tonnes. This is an increase of 17% compared to 2019.

12.4 The Delegations agreed to apply the scheme described in paragraph 12.1 and establish a TAC of 19,647 tonnes in Skagerrak (Subdivision 20).

13 Sprat

13.1 The Delegations notes that ICES now considers the sprat in the North Sea and Skagerrak as a single stock and now provides full analytical assessment. Based on the 2019 ICES advice, the Delegations agreed to establish a TAC for 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2020 of 13,312 tonnes. The Delegations agreed to meet in April 2020 to consider the TAC for 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

13.2 The Delegations furthermore decided to meet in 2020 ahead of the release of the advice to consider how to split the TAC between the North Sea and the Skagerrak-Kattegat.

14 Whiting

14.1 The Delegations agreed to establish a TAC of 1,660 tonnes in 2020.

15 «Others» quota

15.1 The Norwegian Delegation informed the EU Delegation that Norway would set an "others" quota of 2,000 tonnes for the EU vessels fishing in the Norwegian zone. Norway also informed EU that Norwegian vessels catch of "others" species in the EU zone, will be restricted to 2,000 tonnes. Jointly

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managed stocks (cod, haddock, whiting, saithe, plaice, mackerel, *Pandalus*, herring and sprat) as well as blue whiting, Norway pout, sandeel and horse mackerel are not to be counted against the “others” quotas.

- 15.2 The EU Delegation was not yet in a position to set an “others” quota for Norwegian vessels in the EU zone, and therefore only require that all vessels continue to report the catches taken in each Party’s waters.

16 Technical measures

- 16.1 The Delegations referred to the *Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between the European Union and Norway on Technical Measures in Skagerrak*, signed in Gothenburg 6 September 2018, and in particular to Annex I in that Agreed Record. The Delegations recalled that a joint Real Time Closure (RTC) system for *Pandalus* in Skagerrak should have been ideally established no later than 1 July 2019. The EU Delegation informed the Norwegian Delegation that the adoption date from the EU side is expected to be the 1 January 2020. The Norwegian Delegation confirmed that, until that date, the current RTC for *Pandalus* remains in place in Norwegian waters.

- 16.2 Fishing with beam-trawls for vessels with engines above 221kw is prohibited in an area inside 12 nautical miles from the coast between Hirtshals lighthouse to Hanstholm.

- 16.3 The Delegations noted that authorities, industry and scientists have been working together on solving issues related to management of *Pandalus*, in particular regarding reduction of discard. This cooperation has been fruitful and the Delegations are convinced that the technical solutions being developed and implemented, will contribute to reduced discard of *Pandalus*. The Delegations endorsed this form of cooperation in order to handle specific issues.

17 Catch statistics

- 17.1 The Delegations agreed to communicate to each other, on a monthly basis, catch statistics for fishing by their own vessels for all species. This monthly information shall be communicated not later than the end of the following month.

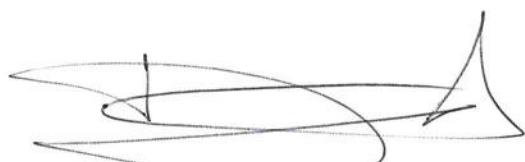
- 17.2 The Delegations agreed that catch statistics, including inter-annual quota flexibility, should be attached to future Agreed Records.

18 Quota arrangements

- 18.1 The Delegations agreed that the negotiated quota arrangements constitute an *ad hoc* solution and shall be without prejudice to future fishery arrangements between the Parties.



For the European Union Delegation

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a sharp upward stroke at the end.

Fabrizio DONATELLA

For the Norwegian Delegation

A handwritten signature in blue ink, written in a cursive style with a prominent 'A' and a long, sweeping tail.

Ann Kristin WESTBERG

TACs AND ALLOCATIONS IN 2020

Catches taken, during the period 1 January to 31 December 2020 in the Skagerrak and the Kattegat of the species mentioned below, shall be limited as follows (metric tonnes, fresh round weight):

SPECIES	AREA ⁽¹⁾	TAC 2020	ALLOCATION TO NORWAY	ALLOCATION TO EUROPEAN UNION
COD	S	2,103	68 ⁽²⁾	2,035
HADDOCK ⁽³⁾	S + K	2,193	92	2,100
WHITING	S + K	1,660	30	1,630
PLAICE	S	19,647	393	19,254
MACKEREL	S + K	pm	pm ⁽⁴⁾	Pm
PANDALUS	S	4,430	2,065	2,366
HERRING	S + K	24,528	3,271	21,257
SPRAT	S + K	13,312	998	12,314

- ⁽¹⁾ Skagerrak (S): the area bounded on the west by a straight line running through the Hanstholm lighthouse and the Lindesnes lighthouse and on the south by a straight line running through the Skagen lighthouse and the Tistlarna lighthouse. Skagerrak and Kattegat (S + K): the area defined as Skagerrak, extended to the southern boundary of Kattegat, and defined as a straight line from Hasenøre to Gnibens spids, from Korshage to Spodsbjerg and from Gilbjerg Hoved to Kullen.
- ⁽²⁾ This quantity does not include catches to be taken with passive gear inside the Norwegian baselines.
- ⁽³⁾ The TAC for haddock includes both a directed fishery for haddock and by-catches in the industrial fisheries.
- ⁽⁴⁾ A part of Norway's quota in the North Sea may be fished in the Skagerrak by vessels not exceeding 90 feet.

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LONG TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN SHRIMP (*PANDALUS BOREALIS*) IN DIVISIONS 3.A. AND 4.A.EAST (SKAGERRAK AND KATTEGAT AND NORTHERN NORTH SEA IN THE NORWEGIAN DEEP)

The Parties agree to implement a Long Term Management Strategy (LTMS) for the Northern shrimp in the Northern North Sea (Norwegian Deep) and in the Skagerrak and Kattegat. The objective of this LTMS is to provide for sustainable fisheries with high and sustainable yields in conformity with the precautionary approach.

For the purpose of this LTSM, the following definitions shall apply:

- “SSB” means the estimate according to ICES of the Spawning Stock Biomass at the beginning of the TAC year.
- $B_{TRIGGER}$ is the value of spawning stock biomass (SSB) that triggers a specific management action.
- F_{TARGET} is the fishing mortality to be included in the algorithm for pre-agreed management actions as a function of variables related to the status of the stock.

Values for $B_{TRIGGER}$ and F_{TARGET} are fixed in the light of the latest available ICES advice, at levels of 9 900 t and 0.59 respectively. The TAC will be established for each calendar year (from January 1st to December 31st).

- By end of the year N-1, a preliminary TAC will be adopted by the Parties based on ICES catch forecast for the six first months of the year N, released in March of year N-1.
- The Parties will establish the final TAC for the entire year N in light of the ICES stock advice released in March of year N.

When establishing the preliminary and the final TACs the following rules shall apply:

- a. When the SSB at the start of the year is estimated at or above $B_{TRIGGER}$ the Parties will fix a TAC consistent with a fishing mortality rate of F_{TARGET} .
- b. When the SSB at the start of the year is estimated below $B_{TRIGGER}$, the Parties will fix a TAC consistent with a fishing mortality rate of $F_{TARGET} \times (SSB/B_{TRIGGER})$.

The TAC will include all removals made from the stock.

When SSB is estimated to be at or above $B_{TRIGGER}$, the TAC derived from paragraph (a) can be deviated with up to 10 % according to the “banking and borrowing” scheme described in Annex III to this Agreed Record.

This LTMS will be applicable from 1st January 2019 onwards.

It shall be revised by the end of 2021 or following the next ICES benchmark of the stock.



INTER-ANNUAL QUOTA FLEXIBILITY FOR PANDALUS BOREALIS

1. 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. The quantity cannot be transferred further to the quotas for subsequent years.
2. 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.
3. Complete catch statistics, quotas and inter-annual quota transfers for the previous year should be made available to the other Party no later than 1 May.
4. The inter-annual quota flexibility scheme shall not apply when the SSB is estimated at the beginning of the year to be below B_{TRIGGER}.

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**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A
WORKING GROUP ON TECHNICAL MEASURES FOR 2020**

The Working Group on Technical Measures (WG TM) should meet and start working as from December 2019.

The WG TM should provide the necessary recommendations to the Delegations by 1 February 2020.

The objective of the WG TM is to define technical elements and the specificities relating to additional technical measures aimed at the protection of juvenile and adult cod. The aim should be to restore the North Sea and Skagerrak cod stock by reducing unwanted catches and discard and lower fishing pressure. These additional measures should not impact negatively on fleets that have low levels of cod bycatches. The group should focus on the following and other potential measures:

- a. Real time closures (RTCs) for the protection of cod;
- b. Seasonal closures for the protection of juvenile and small cod;
- c. Access conditions to “restricted areas” of high abundance of cod of all ages;
- d. Gear related technical measures to reduce catches of cod.

The WG TM should recommend on the following technical elements and the specificities:

- 1) Elements and parameters for RTCs:
 - a. Review and recommend on the parameters used to trigger real time closures, in particular:
 - i. the trigger length,
 - ii. proportion of cod below trigger size relative to the overall catch or sample;
 - iii. whether the trigger should be based on number or weight of fish;
 - iv. size and duration of RTC closure;
 - b. Further aspects to be considered and concluded, e.g.:
 - i. access conditions for size selective and other gears with proven naturally absent or low levels of cod catches
- 2) Seasonal closure for juveniles. Elements and conditions for areas for the protection of juveniles:
 - a. Consider appropriate density levels of size groups that would constitute a juvenile area;
 - b. Identify the spatial scale, timing and duration of the closures as well as the fleets and fisheries to which they may apply, and those with low levels of cod by-catches that may be exempted.
- 3) Elements and conditions for restricted areas for the protection of adults.
 - a. Define the appropriate areas using all relevant data (fishery dependent and independent data);
 - b. Decide on a threshold level based on either abundance, biomass or CPUE, or a

combination of these, that can be used to designate such an area;

c. Define the access criteria for:

- i. gears that are highly selective;
- ii. fleets with low levels of cod catches;
- iii. where vessels have adequate quota to undertake directed fishing for cod, the conditions under which this can be undertaken.
- iv. fleets opting to use technologies to document catches.

4) Review option for gear related technical measures to reduce catches of cod.

All these elements should be closely linked to the work of the bilateral MCS Working Group. If there are any other relevant issues which the WG TM believes would result in a more adequate definition of additional technical measures, the Working Group could explore these as appropriate.

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EU MEASURES FOR MONITORING, CONTROL, AND SURVEILLANCE ACTIONS AND ADDITIONAL MEASURES FOR FISHING OPERATIONS CONDUCTED IN AREAS DESIGNATED AS HAVING HIGH ABUNDANCE OF JUVENILE OR ADULT COD.

1. Dedicated control actions to verify compliance with closed and restricted areas:

- a) Automatic alarms at the FMC level to cross-check VMS, AIS and ERS data and vessels' authorisations to guarantee the absence of fishing activity in closed areas and the access to restricted access. In particular, this will include:
- Defining the areas in the FMC system (coordinates, period, restrictions etc)
 - Setting automatic alerts for the presence of vessels based on the cross-checking of VMS (and AIS) and ERS information
 - Automatic classification of results based on the authorised and/or reported fishing gear, database of authorisations and other parameters such as speed, depth or fishing depth.
- b) Introduction of haul by haul recording to verify catch composition and percentage of cod by fishing operations providing for the possibility to restrict access to certain areas if cod catches exceed a certain threshold; to be accompanied by seagoing inspections and surveillance.
- c) Verification of compliance with access conditions to restricted areas by cross-checks of catch composition percentages reported on board, to be accompanied by seagoing inspections and surveillance.
- d) Dedicated seagoing inspections with last haul evaluations aiming at verifying percentage of below minimum size catches and if appropriate, triggering Real Time Closures.
- e) Enhanced exchange of risk assessment information to verify compliance with landing obligation, including exchange of last haul evaluation by the seagoing inspecting Party to verify that below minimum size catches are reported and later landed in compliance with applicable provisions, including in the case of the EU, marketing for non-human consumption purposes.

2. Inspection and surveillance benchmarks:

- a) The minimum inspection presence and activity at sea during the year 2020 shall be:
- Number of patrol vessel days: 500
 - Number of flights: 100
- b) A minimum of 20 % of all landed catches of cod are subject to inspection.
- c) At least 5 % of the quantities of cod marketed or offered for sale at auction are inspected.

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3. The inspection activity shall be based on risk management

- a) The risk assessment methodology shall establish the level of risk by stocks, gear, area covered and time of the year, based on likelihood and potential impact. The estimated risk level shall be expressed as 'very high', 'high', 'medium', 'low'.
- b) On a yearly basis at least 60 % of total inspections at sea (excluding aerial surveillance) and 60 % of the total inspections at landing shall be conducted on fishing vessels belonging to the fleet segments in the two highest risk level categories.

4. Consequences for failure to comply with the conditions specified above

- a) Real Time Exclusions (RTEs) from a restricted area triggered by inspections at sea where the last haul evaluation by inspectors shows a percentage of cod by-catches exceeding the threshold authorised in restricted areas.
- b) The conditions of the authorisation may also include its permanent withdrawal following the excess of a defined threshold in one or more hauls as evaluated by the inspectors.
- c) Inspections at sea showing misreported quantities of cod on board or mismatches in catch composition may base the withdrawal of the authorisation to fish in restricted areas.
- d) Misreporting of catches can require the fishing vessel to proceed immediately to a port for a full investigation.
- e) When an infringement related to access conditions is detected, the relevant authorities will pay particular attention to the level of sanctions to be imposed. Such sanctions may include the attribution of points for serious infringements to licence holders and masters, in accordance with the relevant legal instruments.



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TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A WORKING GROUP ON HERRING

The group's main task is to recommend how to optimally and sustainably utilise the North Sea autumn spawning herring (NSAS) in the North Sea and explore methods for the setting of TAC.

The working group shall also make recommendations for management models, including TAC setting for the herring in Skagerrak and Kattegat, where NSAS herring mix with western Baltic spring spawning (WBSS) herring stocks.

The working group should look at the current practice of setting separate TACs to cover bycatches in other fisheries. Important elements to consider is fishing areas and seasons, exploitation pattern as well as bycatches in other fisheries.

In particular, the Working Group shall:

- For an appropriate range of reference years defined by the group
 - Describe the development of the herring fisheries in the North Sea and in the Skagerrak/Kattegat
 - Describe the catch composition in the herring fisheries (by type of fleet, age, stock, quarter and ICES subdivision)
 - Describe the development of relevant herring stocks and species caught together with NSAS
 - Describe the development and impact of management measures
- Elaborate on any specificities that may explain certain important development traits
- Suggest a management model that secures that the exploitation of NSAS herring stock is as sustainable, and at the same time practical and controllable.
- Suggest potential TAC setting models for Skagerrak and Kattegat, that also take into consideration the intermixture of WBSS.

Explore/consider different models in which all landings (also bycatches) within a management area are counted and how they are set against stock specific TACs.

The working group shall submit its recommendations before 1 September 2020.




SEASONAL AREA TO PROTECT SPAWNING COD

The following areas in the table below will be closed for all gears excluding pelagic gears (purse seine and trawl), for the identified time period:

Time Limited Closures				
No	Area Name	Coordinates	Time period	Additional Comment
1	Stanhope ground	60° 10N - 01° 45E 60° 10N - 02° 00E 60° 25N - 01° 45E 60° 25N - 02° 00E	01 January to 30 th April	
2	Long Hole	59° 07.35N - 0° 31.04W 59° 03.60N - 0° 22.25W 58° 59.35N - 0° 17.85W 58° 56.00N - 0° 11.01W 58° 56.60N - 0° 08.85W 58° 59.86N - 0° 15.65W 59° 03.50N - 0° 20.00W 59° 08.15N - 0° 29.07W	01 January to 31 March	

Time Limited Closures				
No	Area Name	Coordinates	Time period	Additional Comment
3	Coral edge	58° 51.70N - 03° 26.70E 58° 40.66N - 03° 34.60E 58° 24 00N - 03° 12.40E 58° 24 00N - 02° 55.00E 58° 35 65N - 02° 56.30E	01 January to 28 February	
4	Papa Bank	59° 56N - 03° 08W 59° 56N - 02° 45W 59° 35N - 03° 15W 59° 35N - 03° 35W	01 January to 15 March	
5	Foula Deeps	60° 17.5N - 01° 45W 60° 11.0N - 01° 45W 60° 11.0N - 02° 10W 60° 20.0N - 02° 00W 60° 20.0N - 01° 50W	01 November to 31 st December	
6	Egersund Bank	58° 07.40N - 04° 33.0E 57° 53.00N - 05° 12.0.E 57° 40.00N - 05° 10.9E 57° 57.90N - 04° 31.9E	01 January to 31st March	(10 x 25 nm.)



Time Limited Closures				
No	Area Name	Coordinates	Time period	Additional Comment
7	East of Fair Isle	59° 40N - 01° 23W 59° 40N - 01° 13W 59° 30N - 01° 20W 59° 10N - 01° 20W 59° 30N - 01° 28W 59° 10N - 01° 28W	01 January to 15 th March	
8	West Bank	57° 15N - 05° 01E 56° 56N - 05° 00E 56° 56N - 06° 20E 57° 15N - 06° 20E	01 February-15 March	(18 x 4 nm)
9	Revet	57° 28.43N - 08° 05.66E 57° 27.44N - 08° 07.20E 57° 51.77N - 09° 26.33E 57° 52.88N - 09° 25.00E	01 February-15. March	(1.5 x 49 nm.)
10	Rabarberen	57° 47.00N - 11° 04.00E 57° 43.00N - 11° 04.00E 57° 43.00N - 11° 09.00E 57° 47.00N - 11° 09.00E	01 February-15. March	East of Skagen (2.7x4 nm)

PRELIMINARY CATCH STATISTICS

Skagerrak agreement		Catch in 2018	
Species	Area	Norway	EU
Cod	S	108	5,036
Haddock	S+K	75	742
Whiting	S+K	30	213
Plaice	S	336	5,976
Mackerel	S+K	-	0
Pandalus	S	5,133*	2,887
Herring	S+K	3,406	39,549
Sprat	S+K	314	4,1

*of norwegian quota in North Sea and Skagerrak combined