

**AGREED RECORD OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS
BETWEEN NORWAY , THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE FAROE ISLANDS ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF MACKEREL IN THE NORTHEAST ATLANTIC FOR 2018**

LONDON, 11 OCTOBER 2017

1. Delegations from Norway, the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Greenland met in London on 10 and 11 October 2017 to consult on the management of mackerel for 2018. Regrettably a consensus could not be found, at this stage, allowing for the accession of other Parties to the Fisheries Arrangement between the European Union, the Faroe Islands and Norway on the management of mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic from 2014-2018 (hereinafter referred to as the 2014 Mackerel Arrangement).
2. Subsequently, the Delegation from Norway, headed by Ms Ann Kristin WESTBERG, the Delegation from the European Union, headed by Mr Joost PAARDEKOOOPER and the Delegation from the Faroe Islands, headed by Mr Herluf SIGVALDSSON, continued the consultations in London on 11 October 2017 on the management of mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic for 2018.
3. The Delegations recalled the 2014 Mackerel Arrangement, signed in London on 12 March 2014.
4. The Heads of Delegation agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the arrangements for the management of mackerel for 2018, as set out in this Agreed Record.
5. This arrangement constitutes an *ad hoc* arrangement, it being without prejudice to future fisheries arrangements between the Parties.

Management

6. The Delegations noted the latest annual advice from ICES for mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic.
7. The Delegations recalled the commitment made by the Parties in March 2014 to establish a long-term management strategy, and that they agreed a long-term management strategy for mackerel in 2015. The Delegations also noted ICES performing a benchmarking exercise for Northeast Atlantic mackerel in early 2017, and recalled the request to ICES made by the Parties in May 2017 concerning long-term management strategy for mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic. Furthermore the Delegations recalled the advice given by ICES on 29 September 2017 in response to this request.
8. To this end, the Delegations agreed a new long-term management strategy. This strategy is attached as Annex 1.
9. Furthermore, the Delegations agreed to make a response to the ICES advice on long-term management strategy in order to encourage ICES to continue the scientific work on density dependent growth. This response is attached as Annex 5.

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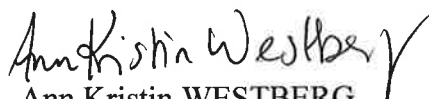
Quotas for 2018

10. On the basis of the long-term management strategy agreed by the Parties, the Delegations agreed to establish a total allowable catch (TAC) of 816,797 tonnes for the mackerel fishery in 2018 in the Northeast Atlantic.
11. In accordance with the relative shares as set out in article 7.4 in the 2014 Mackerel Arrangement, the Delegations agreed to the following arrangement on the quota shares for 2018:
- | | Tonnes |
|-----------------|---------|
| European Union: | 402,596 |
| Faroe Islands: | 102,924 |
| Norway: | 183,857 |
12. In accordance with the 2014 Mackerel Arrangement, 15.6 % of the TAC referred to in paragraph 10 is set aside as a Coastal State and Fishing Party reserve.
13. The Delegations exchanged quota and catch information for 2015, 2016 (final) as well as preliminary information for 2017 (Annex 4). In accordance with paragraph 7.7 of the 2014 Mackerel Arrangement regarding fishing activities in third party waters, the Delegations exchanged information and noted that the Parties had all adhered to the provisions set out in the 2014 Mackerel Arrangement.

Control

14. The Delegations agreed to apply the measures concerning the weighing and inspection of pelagic landings (Annex 2). The Delegations also agreed new Terms of Reference for the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Working Group for 2018 (Annex 3). Furthermore, the Delegations agreed that new Terms of Reference should be extended to 2019, but the Working Group should still report on an annual basis to the Coastal State Meeting.

London, 11 October 2017


Ann Kristin WESTBERG
For the Delegation of Norway


Joost PAARDEKOOPER
For the European Union Delegation


Herluf SIGVALDSSON
For the Delegation of the Faroe Islands

LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR MACKEREL

1. Reference is made to the Agreed Record on a fisheries arrangement between European Union, the Faroe Islands and Norway on the management of mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic from 2014 to 2018, signed in London on 12 March 2014.
2. The Parties agree to implement a long-term management strategy for mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic, aiming at fishing mortality rate that maximizes long-term yield. It shall be consistent with the precautionary approach, which ensures with a probability of 95 % that the size of the stock is maintained above B_{lim} .
3. In the case that the spawning stock biomass (SSB) is forecast to be above or equal to 2.57 million tonnes at spawning time in the year for which the total allowable catch (TAC) is to be set, the TAC shall be fixed at a fishing mortality equal to 0.21.
4. In the case that the SSB is forecast to be less than 2.57 million tonnes at spawning time in the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC shall be fixed that is consistent with a fishing mortality that is given by:

$$\text{Target } F \leq 0.21 * \text{SSB}/2.57\text{Mt}$$

5. When the rules in paragraph 3 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. When the rules in paragraph 4 apply, the TAC constraint in paragraph 5 shall not apply.
7. 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.
8. Each Party may authorise fishing 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.
9. This long-term management strategy shall be applied in fixing the 2018 TAC level and thereafter.
10. The Parties shall review and, if deemed necessary, revise this long-term management strategy at the latest in 2021 on the basis of, inter alia, the ICES benchmark report. If the Parties receive new and relevant information, an earlier review of the long-term management strategy will be considered.

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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 2018 AND 2019

The Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Working Group should meet before 1 April 2018 under the Terms of Reference described below:

The Working Group should submit its reports to the Parties 15 working days in advance of the Coastal State consultations in 2018 and 2019.

Representatives of the Parties should meet no later than 31 January 2018 to plan the activity of the Working Group during 2018.

The objective of the Working Group should be to establish best practice in monitoring, control and surveillance both at sea and on land, to increase compliance and secure a level playing field for fisheries on the following pelagic stocks; 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. Conduct fact finding missions as appropriate concerning;
 - a) Sea-going missions focusing on slipping, discards and high grading, by-catch issues and other relevant issues in the context of MCS;
 - b) Missions on land focusing on weighing and inspections, by-catch issues and other relevant issues in the context of MCS; and
 - c) Consider findings in fact-finding missions with a view to recommend harmonised practises and regulations;
2. Review and identify possible differences in current practices by individual Parties when conducting full inspections, and as appropriate make recommendations to harmonise practices;
3. Follow up interagency cooperation between fisheries authorities and metrology services.
4. Recommend harmonised requirements for the use of weighing systems that reflect the need for additional national requirements established by individual Parties today, and new requirements on storing data, to reduce the possibility of manipulating weighing systems and landing figures;
5. Recommend harmonised requirements for the use of water draining installations

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used on landings for industrial purposes and consider the effect of such installations with the regard to loss of biological material;

6. Follow up on EU's evaluation regarding the tare deduction for landings of pelagic species;
7. Identify possible new elements for risk assessment methods and exchange experience in risk assessment. Consider the possibility to share relevant data related to risk assessment and possible share point solutions.
8. Consider measures to reduce slipping, discarding and high-grading in pelagic fisheries, e.g. catch and size distribution analysis, share point solutions, measuring systems on board vessels and other relevant measures, and as appropriate make proposals on this topic.

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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REPORTING OF QUOTAS AND CATCHES OF MACKEREL IN THE NORTHEAST ATLANTIC – 2015 TO 2017

QUOTAS (tonnes)										CATCHES (tonnes)					
Party	Quota established	Balance 2014	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Farose Fishing Zone	Greenland fishing zone	Islandic Exclusive Economic Zone	Norwegian Economic Zone	Fishery Zone around Jan Mayen	Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard	Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH	Balance to 2016
European Union	519 512	25 711	312	545 533	8 891	437 551	1 263	0	0	16 101	0	0	0	463 806	55 706
Faroe Islands	132 814	-4 287	-20 940	107 587	5 036	33 149	71 185	0	0	0	0	0	0	108 370	-1 763
Iceland	172 964	6 161	1 300	180 425	19 116	0	1 518	0	145 313	0	0	0	0	165 947	14 478
Norway	287 250	-16 133	4 828	225 945	0	19 436	5	0	0	222 545	0	0	0	241 988	-16 043
Greenland	85 000	0	0	85 000	0	0	0	30 415	0	0	0	0	0	30 415	0
Total CS	1 147 540	11 452	-14 500	1 144 492	33 043	490 138	73 971	30 415	145 313	238 646	0	0	0	1 011 526	52 358
Russian Federation*	123 785	0	0	123 785	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total all Parties	1 271 325	11 452	0	1 282 777	33 043	490 138	73 971	30 415	145 313	238 646	0	0	0	1 011 526	52 358

QUOTAS (tonnes)										CATCHES (tonnes)					
Party	Quota established	Balance 2015	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Farose Fishing Zone	Greenland fishing zone	Islandic Exclusive Economic Zone	Norwegian Economic Zone	Fishery Zone around Jan Mayen	Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard	Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH	Balance to 2017
European Union	341 596	51 951	338	493 875	4 324	401 432	1 787	0	0	6 522	0	0	0	414 126	27 461
Faroe Islands	172 962	-11 768	-20 109	90 940	2 151	29 893	60 403	0	0	1 205	0	0	0	93 662	-2 722
Iceland	147 824	14 418	1 300	163 602	11 129	0	1 403	0	149 446	0	0	0	0	161 978	1 604
Norway	201 663	-16 043	4 031	189 651	0	12 933	0	0	0	197 414	0	0	0	210 347	-20 696
Greenland	85 000	0	0	85 000	0	0	0	35 655	0	0	0	0	0	35 655	0
Total CS	988 965	48 603	-14 500	1 023 068	17 664	444 238	63 599	35 655	149 446	205 145	0	0	0	915 787	5 667
Russian Federation*	106 467	0	0	106 467	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total all Parties	1 095 432	48 603	0	1 144 035	17 664	444 238	63 599	35 655	149 446	205 145	0	0	0	915 787	5 667

QUOTAS (tonnes)										CATCHES (tonnes)					
Party	Quota established	Balance 2016	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Farose Fishing Zone	Greenland fishing zone	Islandic Exclusive Economic Zone	Norwegian Economic Zone	Fishery Zone around Jan Mayen	Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard	Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH	Balance to 2018
European Union	503 245	27 461	328	531 034	0	221 768	12	0	0	83	0	0	0	221 863	281 362
Faroe Islands	128 655	-2 722	-20 779	105 154	8 482	31 351	49 167	0	0	0	0	0	0	89 000	16 154
Iceland	168 464	1 624	1 300	171 388	51 966	0	697	0	108 366	0	0	0	0	161 018	10 369
Norway	229 821	-20 696	4 651	213 776	17 102	2 857	4 221	0	0	132 676	0	0	0	156 856	56 920
Greenland	65 365	0	0	65 365	9 652	0	0	36 730	0	0	0	0	0	46 382	0
Total CS	1 096 550	5 667	-14 500	1 087 717	87 192	255 976	54 097	36 730	108 366	132 759	0	0	0	675 120	364 825
Russian Federation*	123 785	0	0	123 785	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total all Parties	1 220 335	5 667	0	1 226 002	87 192	255 976	54 097	36 730	108 366	132 759	0	0	0	675 120	364 825

* Based on information regarding conservation and management measures from Russia to NEAFC

Guideline for the spreadsheet:
 Coastal state share/share
 Quota allocated to the Party
 Unutilised fishing beyond the quota from last year
 Includes unused quantity related to transfers between countries
 Transfers between countries
 New quota

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RESPONSE FROM THE PARTIES TO ICES ON ADVICE FROM ICES ON LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR MACKEREL

The Parties discussed the advice provided by ICES in September 2017 in response to the request from EU, Norway and Faroe Islands concerning long-term management strategy for mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic. The Parties found the response from ICES very useful in terms of developing a long-term management strategy for the fisheries on mackerel.

The response did not allow for discussion on short-term consequences of possible management strategies, as the starting point for the management strategy evaluations conducted by ICES and the assumption on catches in the first year i.e. 2017 deviates from what ICES has used as basis for its advice on fishing opportunities for 2018.

The Parties invite ICES to ensure consistency in the use of models for fisheries management strategy evaluations and for short term advice on fishing opportunities.

The Parties furthermore encourage ICES to continue the scientific work on a possible link between stock size and production (e.g. density dependent growth) and the development of an appropriate modelling approach to incorporate such a link in management strategy evaluations.

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