

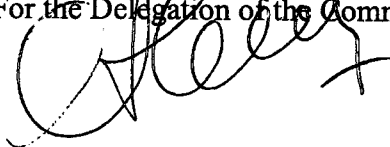
**AGREED RECORD OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN  
THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, THE FAROE ISLANDS AND NORWAY ON  
THE MANAGEMENT OF MACKEREL IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FOR 2007**


**EDINBURGH, 24 OCTOBER 2006**


1. A Delegation from the European Community headed by Mr. Constantin Alexandrou, a Delegation from the Faroe Islands headed by Ms Kate Sanderson and a Delegation from Norway headed by Mr. Petter Meier, met in Edinburgh on 23 and 24 October 2006 to consult on the management of mackerel in the North-East Atlantic for 2007.
2. The Heads of Delegation agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the arrangements for the management of mackerel for 2007 as set out in the Annexes to this Agreed Record.
3. This Agreed Record constitutes an ad hoc arrangement, it being without prejudice to future fisheries arrangements between the Parties.

Edinburgh, 24 October 2006

Constantin Alexandrou  
For the Delegation of the Community



  
Kate Sanderson  
For the Delegation of the Faroe Islands

  
Petter Meier  
For the Delegation of Norway



1. As relevant coastal States, the Delegations agreed to recommend the adoption of a total catch limitation of 422,551 tonnes for their mackerel fishery within waters under their national fisheries jurisdiction in 2007. Furthermore, they agreed that a part of this quantity might be fished in areas beyond the fisheries jurisdiction of the Parties.
2. Subject to agreement within the framework of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), on the basis of the above TAC, an allowable catch will be established for areas beyond national fisheries jurisdiction by NEAFC.
3. The Faroe Islands shall be entitled to 23,134 tonnes of which 8,556 tonnes will originate from the coastal State share of the intended allowable catch referred to in paragraph 2.
4. The sharing of the relevant part of the TAC referred to in paragraph 1 between the European Community and Norway shall be decided bilaterally by those Parties. Similarly, those Parties shall decide bilaterally the sharing of the remaining part of the coastal State share established for areas beyond national fisheries jurisdiction.
5. Each quota of the coastal State share in international waters may also be fished in areas under its fisheries jurisdiction.
6. Noting the latest advice from ICES on the issues of unaccounted mortality in the mackerel fisheries as a result of, *inter alia* slipping, discards, high-grading and undeclared landings, the Delegations agreed that there is a need to maintain effective control in this fishery as well as address outstanding issues on control and enforcement.

The Delegations welcomed the significant progress that was achieved during 2006 on the implementation of measures adopted by the Parties in 2004. It was noted that the standardised percentage for the deduction of water had been introduced by all Parties and the primary objective of introducing the obligation to weigh all fish landed had been achieved. In this respect the Delegations referred to the Working Group of Control Experts established jointly by the European Community, Faroe Islands and Norway and fully endorsed the report of this group of October 2006.

Against this background the Delegations agreed to recommend to the Parties that, as a first priority, the Working Group of Control Experts should continue to monitor closely the implementation of the measures adopted in 2004 in particular with regard to the application of the harmonised methodology for full inspections and results of such inspections.

The Delegations further agreed to recommend to the Parties that the Working Group of Control Experts on Pelagic Fisheries should also give particular attention to the following areas:

- Development of a joint pilot project to place observers on board fishing vessels to monitor slipping, discards and high grading,
- Review of the following technical issues:
  - The tamper-proofing and reliability of weighing equipment;

- The calibration of weighing equipment; and
- The percentage of water-content deduction
- Exchange of inspectors between the Parties, and
- Exchange of information between the Parties, in particular concerning the follow up of infringements. Such information should be exchanged in accordance with procedures developed by the Working Group of Control Experts.

The Delegation of the European Community informed the Delegations of Norway and the Faroe Islands that the development of the joint pilot project to place observers on board fishing vessels to monitor slipping, discards and high grading might be allocated to the Community Fisheries Control Agency.

The Delegations recognised the need to inform each other in detail on the regulations and practical measures in place to account for and address over-fishing. The Delegations agreed that this issue should be examined by the Working Group of Control Experts.

7. The Delegations also took note of the observations by ICES that the appearance of strong year-classes in the fishery may lead to increased discarding, slipping and high-grading, and in these circumstances the Delegations agreed on the importance of collecting information to improve stock assessment and management.
8. In their capacity as the relevant coastal States, the Delegations concur that it is of paramount importance to adopt compatible conservation measures in different management areas on the basis of the best scientific evidence available to them. The European Community Delegation informed the other Delegations that it intends to establish an additional TAC of 29,611 tonnes in ICES divisions VIIIc and IXa. With reference to the most recent ICES advice, they agreed to investigate and assess, during 2007, how compatibility can best be assured and, as appropriate, joint management improved. Possible solutions to any outstanding issues will then be addressed at next year's coastal State consultations.

**ARRANGEMENT ON THE LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF THE MACKEREL STOCK**

The Parties agreed to implement a long-term management plan for the mackerel stock, which is consistent with a precautionary approach and designed to provide for sustainable fisheries and a greater potential yield. The plan shall consist of the following:

1. For 2001 and subsequent years, the Parties agreed to restrict their fishing on the basis of a TAC consistent with a fishing mortality in the range of 0.15 - 0.20 for appropriate age groups as defined by ICES, unless future scientific advice requires modification of the fishing mortality rate.
2. Should the SSB fall below a reference point of 2,300,000 tonnes ( $B_{pa}$ ), the fishing mortality rate, referred to under paragraph 1, shall be adapted in the light of scientific estimates of the conditions then prevailing. Such adaptation shall ensure a safe and rapid recovery of the SSB to a level in excess of 2,300,000 tonnes.
3. The Parties shall, as appropriate, review and revise these management measures and strategies on the basis of any new advice provided by ICES.

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**RESEARCH ON THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC MACKEREL STOCK**

The Delegations agreed that substantial research on the mackerel stock is called for. In particular, the assessment of the stock needs to be improved. For this purpose they agreed to strengthen mackerel research with the following aims:

1. Improvement of the catch data available to the assessment.
2. Improvement of the fisheries independent surveys as inputs to the assessment, including recruitment indices.
3. Mapping and describing the seasonal distribution and migration of the stock.

The Delegations agreed to encourage their respective authorities to both advance activities in this area through co-ordination of relevant research and to make financial means available from relevant resources.

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#### ANNEX IV

The Delegation of the Faroe Islands and the Delegation of Norway declared that all fisheries of North-East Atlantic mackerel conducted within the zones under the fisheries jurisdiction of the Parties should be jointly managed and consequently be covered within the total catch limitation stipulated under point 1 of Annex I.

The Delegation of the Faroe Islands and the Delegation of Norway declared that the present situation is not acceptable, and prevents the parties from agreeing upon a permanent management regime and sharing of the North East Atlantic mackerel stock. Norway and the Faroe Islands expect to be compensated as a result of this unreasonable sharing of the stock.

The Community Delegation declared that the coastal State agreement only applies to the Northern area as defined by ICES for the North-East Atlantic mackerel stock.

The Community Delegation declared that the current management arrangements constitute an appropriate allocation of fishing opportunities.

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**REQUEST TO ICES**

1. In its 2006 advice, ICES reported that there are indications of substantial underreporting of catches for the North-East Atlantic mackerel stock. The preliminary analyses carried out by ICES suggest an underestimation of catch by 60% that is not taken into consideration in the estimates of SSB or predicted landings.

The coastal States request ICES to:

- i. Provide estimates of the magnitude in tonnes and precision of the unaccounted mortality in the fisheries on North-East Atlantic mackerel;
  - ii. Indicate where possible the sources of this mortality;
  - iii. Evaluate where possible any historical changes in this unaccounted mortality; and
  - iv. Provide estimates of historic Spawning Stock Biomass and Fishing Mortality that would be compatible with these estimates of unaccounted mortality.
2. The coastal States request ICES to include the North-East Atlantic mackerel stock as one species to be reviewed in 2007 under their routine reviews of reference points (WKREF) with specific reference to the relationship between  $F_{0.1}$  and  $F_{pa}$ .

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