

**AGREED RECORD OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN  
THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE FAROE ISLANDS FOR 2015**

**BRUSSELS, 9 DECEMBER 2014**

1. A Delegation of the European Union, headed by Mr John SPENCER and a Delegation of the Faroe Islands, headed by Mr Andras KRISTIANSEN, met in Brussels on 8 and 9 December 2014 for consultations on mutual fisheries relations in 2015. A list of participants is attached as Annex 3.
2. In conformity with the Agreement on fisheries between the European Community, of the one part, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Government of the Faroe Islands, of the other part, the Delegations agreed to recommend to their respective authorities that the allocations for 2015 set out in Annex 1 should be made to vessels of either Party fishing in the waters of the other Party.
3. The Delegations recalled that a technical meeting had been held in the Faroe Islands between the Parties in September 2014, which had permitted the Parties to exchange information with one another on their respective current legislation.

#### **Mackerel**

- 4.1 The Delegations noted the results of the consultations in Bergen on 21 November 2014, and the conclusion of a Coastal State arrangement for 2015. This arrangement is in line with the mackerel arrangement of 12 March 2014 between the European Union, the Faroe Islands and Norway for the period 2014 to 2018.
- 4.2 The Delegations agreed to grant reciprocal access for 2015 to one another's waters, as follows:
  - The European Union is granted access to fish 39,824 tonnes of its 2015 catch limit in Faroese waters.
  - The Faroe Islands are granted access to fish 39,824 tonnes of their 2015 catch limit in EU waters of ICES Sub-area VIa north of 56°30'N<sup>1</sup>.

#### **Blue whiting**

- 5 As the major shareholders, the Delegations noted the improved status of the stock and agreed to grant reciprocal access for 2015 to one another's waters, as set out below, in addition to the quotas exchanged under this Agreed Record and set out in Annex 1.
  - The European Union is granted access to fish 25,000 tonnes of its catch limit in Faroese waters.
  - The Faroe Islands is granted access to fish 25,000 tonnes of its catch limit in EU waters of ICES Sub-areas II, V, VIa<sup>2</sup>, VIb and VII<sup>3</sup> and ICES division IVa<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> May be fished in ICES Divisions IIa, IVa North of 59° N (EU Zone) from 1 January to 15 February and from 1 October to 31 December

<sup>2</sup> North of 56°30'N

<sup>3</sup> West of 12°W

<sup>4</sup> The catches in ICES Division IVa, in respect of this arrangement, shall be limited to no more than 25% of the total access quantity

## **Fishery regulations**

- 6.1 As regards real time closures of areas due to high abundance of juvenile fish the competent authorities of the Faroe Islands will inform without delay European Union fishing vessels operating in its waters. European Union fishing vessels concerned have to leave the relevant area(s) within 6 hours from the time and date indicated in the notice sent to the vessel.
- 6.2 The competent authorities of the Faroe Islands will also inform without delay the European Commission and the relevant Member States of each closure. In so doing, the authorities of the Faroe Islands will submit a copy of the measure and the element justifying the adoption of this measure.

## **Licensing and permitted fishing vessels**

- 7.1 The Delegations agreed that the “Agreed Record of Conclusions of Licence Arrangements between the European Community and the Faroe Islands for 2008” signed at Brussels on 5 December 2007, shall remain valid for 2015.
- 7.2 The Delegations agreed that the Parties would exchange information on the lists of vessels authorised to fish in each other’s waters during 2015. Vessels, which were authorised to fish on 31 December 2014, may continue their activities in 2015.
- 7.3 The Delegations agreed that both Parties would ensure that measures are in place to confirm to vessels, on entering the other Party’s waters, whether or not they are included in the list of vessels that are permitted to fish.

## **Catch statistics**

- 8.1 The Delegations agreed that each Party shall supply the other Party with monthly catch statistics of fishing by its vessels in the other Party’s zone. These statistics shall be supplied to the respective Parties by the 30<sup>th</sup> of the month for the previous month’s catches.
- 8.2 In the case of mackerel and blue whiting, daily catch reports shall be submitted when 80% of the quota has been reached.

## **Discards and implementation of landing obligations**

- 9.1 The EU Delegation informed the Faroese Delegation that under the new Common Fisheries Policy a landing obligation has been established and will be gradually implemented for all catches of species, which are subject to catch limits, caught during fishing activities in Union waters. The landing obligation will be introduced fishery by fishery according to timelines specified in the CFP, between 2015 and 2019.
- 9.2 The EU Delegation outlined that in accordance with the rules on the landing obligations, discard plans are in the process of being established for pelagic fisheries with effect from 1 January 2015. The measures contained in these plans, which are intended to facilitate the implementation of the landing obligation, will be directly applicable to both EU and Faroese fishermen from that date. The EU Delegation will notify the Faroese Delegation on the adoption of the discard plans in question.

## **Control and monitoring of fisheries**

- 10.1 The Delegations noted that an Agreed Record between the Parties had been concluded on 21 April 2005 on a Satellite Based Vessel Monitoring System (VMS). Following further consultations between the Parties on 6 and 7 November 2014, the Delegations noted that this Agreed Record has been modified and that this modification makes mandatory the use of VMS when fishing in each other's waters from 1 January 2015.
- 10.2 Furthermore the Delegations noted that at the technical meeting on Electronic Reporting System in November 2014, it was concluded that the respective electronic reporting systems used by the Parties are very similar. Both systems are based on XML and have the same business workflow, using the flag State principle.
- 10.3 The Delegations noted that the Faroe Islands would start testing the FLUX Transportation Layer during the first quarter of 2015. On condition that these tests are positive, the Delegations agreed to start definitive data exchange between the Parties. The first such tests will involve VMS and aggregated catch reports. The EU Delegation agreed that the Faroe Islands would get full access to work aimed at harmonised logbook reporting.
- 10.4 The Delegations agreed that a follow up meeting to discuss ERS would be held before 30 June 2015.

## **Control of blue whiting and mackerel fisheries in European Union waters**

- 11.1 The EU Delegation informed the Faroese Delegation that in order to maintain an effective control of the blue whiting and mackerel fisheries in European Union waters, the provisions on control as set out in Annex 2 would be applied in 2015.
- 11.2 The Delegations noted two amendments to these measures compared to 2014. Firstly, the insertion of a new control point for the Faroese mackerel fisheries with effect from 1 January 2015; and secondly, the requirement from 2015 that Faroese vessels entering EU waters with no catch on board shall notify four hours in advance the competent EU authorities of their intention to enter EU waters.

## **Special Area between the United Kingdom and the Faroe Islands**

12. The Delegations took note of the relevant provisions of the Agreement signed 18 May 1999 between the Government of Denmark together with the Home Government of the Faroe Islands, on the one hand, and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on the other hand, relating to the Maritime Delimitation in the area between the Faroe Islands and the United Kingdom.

Regarding third-party vessels licensed by both Parties to operate in the Special Area defined in the Agreement the Delegations agreed to implement the following system regarding reporting in the Special Area:

The Parties shall exchange information on licences given to third country vessels that will operate in the Special Area.

If both Parties have issued licences to a third country vessel, all relevant vessel information (registration number etc.) shall be submitted to the control authorities of both Parties.

If a third country vessel has obtained a 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.

A specific hail in and hail out system for the Special Area shall be introduced.

Catches taken in the Special Area shall be specified in the logbook.

Third country vessels shall be subject to VMS control by the Party issuing the licence(s). This VMS information shall be exchanged between the Parties.

The Parties agree to establish close collaboration between their relevant control and inspection authorities with a view to an efficient monitoring of the fishing activities in the Special Area.

The Parties agreed that it would be desirable that inspection vessels be present in the Special Area during certain periods of intensive fishing activities (e.g. during blue whiting migration through the area).

If a vessel is licensed by both Parties, each Party shall enforce its own technical measures.

13. The Delegations agreed that fishing activities under this Agreed Record could start on 1 January 2015.

Brussels, 9 December 2014

For the Delegation of the European Union

For the Delegation of the Faroe Islands

John SPENCER

Andras KRISTIANSEN

**QUOTAS FOR 2015**

1. Each Party shall open the catch quotas indicated hereunder for the other Party in its fishery zone:

**1.1. Quotas for European Union vessels fishing in the Faroese zone in 2015**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>ICES-DIVISION</b>	<b>QUANTITY (TONNES)</b>
Cod and Haddock	Vb	950
Saithe	Vb	3,000
Redfish	Vb	1,100
Blue Ling and Ling	Vb	1,500 <sup>(1)</sup>
Flatfish	Vb	300
Blue Whiting	Faroese waters	2,000 <sup>(2)</sup>
Other Species	Vb	800

- (1) By-catch of maximum of 500 tonnes of roundnose grenadier and black scabbard to be counted against this quota.  
(2) Catches of blue whiting may include unavoidable by-catches of argentine.

**1.2. Quotas for Faroese vessels fishing in the European Union zone or Greenland waters in 2015**

SPECIES	FISHING AREAS (ICES)	QUANTITY (TONNES)
Ling and Tusk	VIa <sup>(1)</sup> , VIb	200 <sup>(2)</sup>
Blue Ling	VIa <sup>(1)</sup> , VIb	150 <sup>(3)</sup>
Horse Mackerel	IVa, VIa <sup>(1)</sup> , VIIe, f, h	1,700
Norway pout	IV	7,000 <sup>(8) (9)</sup>
Blue Whiting	II, V, VIa <sup>(1)</sup> , VIb and VII <sup>(4)</sup> and IVa <sup>(7)</sup>	15,000 <sup>(5)</sup>
Other White Fish (by-catches only)	IV, VIa <sup>(1)</sup>	150
Herring	IIIa N (Skagerrak) <sup>(6)</sup>	600
Northern deep-water Prawns ( <i>Pandalus borealis</i> )	XIV/V	1,300
Greenland Halibut	XIV/V	110
Redfish <sup>(10)</sup>	XIV/V	50

- (1) North of 56°30'N.
- (2) Of which an incidental catch of other species of 20% per ship, at any given time, is authorised in ICES Divisions VIa and b. However, this percentage may be exceeded in the first 24 hours following the beginning of the fishing on a specific ground. The total incidental catch of other species in Divisions VIa and b may not exceed 75 tonnes.
- (3) By-catches of roundnose grenadier and black scabbard to be counted against this quota.
- (4) West of 12°00'W.
- (5) Catches of blue whiting may include unavoidable by-catches of argentine.
- (6) Limited in the West by a line drawn from the lighthouse of Hanstholm to the lighthouse of Lindesnes and in the South by a line drawn from the lighthouse of Skagen to the lighthouse of Tistlarna and from there to the nearest coast of Sweden.
- (7) The catches in ICES Division IVa shall be limited to no more than 25% of the quota
- (8) Includes 15% unavoidable by-catches to be counted against this quota
- (9) Use of a sorting grid is obligatory
- (10) To be taken with pelagic trawl

**Part I****Conditions for Faroese vessels intending to fish for blue whiting in European Union waters:**

The following provisions shall apply to Faroese vessels intending to fish for blue whiting in European Union waters:

- a) Vessels that already have catch on board may only commence their fishing trip after having received authorisation from the competent authority of the coastal Member State concerned. Such vessels shall only enter European Union waters after passing through one of the following control areas:
  - A. ICES rectangle 48 E2 in Division VIa;
  - B. ICES rectangle 50 F1 in Division IVa;
  - C. ICES rectangle 46 F1 in Division IVa;
  - D. ICES rectangle 36 D4 in VIIc;
  - E. ICES rectangle 37 D4 in VIIc.

Before entering European Union waters, the master of the vessel shall contact the Fisheries Monitoring Centre of the coastal Member State concerned, as follows:

- (i) UK (Edinburgh) by e-mail at the following address: [ukfcc@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ukfcc@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) or by telephone (+44 131 271 9700) at least four hours prior to entering one of the control areas A, B or C, or
- (ii) Ireland (Haulbowline) by e-mail at the following address: [fmcireland@defenceforces.ie](mailto:fmcireland@defenceforces.ie) or by telephone (+353 21 4378752) at least 12 hours prior to entering one of the control areas D or E.

The notification shall specify the name, international radio call sign and port letters and number (PLN) of the vessel, the total quantity by species on board and the position (longitude/latitude) where the master estimates that the vessel will enter European Union waters as well as the area where he intends to commence fishing. The vessel shall not commence fishing until it has received acknowledgement of the notification and instructions on whether or not the master is required to present the vessel for inspection. Each acknowledgement shall have a unique authorisation number which the master shall retain until the fishing trip is terminated.

Notwithstanding any inspections that may be carried out at sea the competent authorities may in duly justified circumstances require a master to present his vessel for inspection in waters of Blacksod Bay or in the ports of Killybegs, Lerwick or Scrabster.

- b) Vessels that enter European Union waters with no catch on board shall be exempt from the requirements laid down in point (a). However, the vessels shall notify four hours in advance the competent authorities mentioned in point (a) above of their intention to enter EU waters.
- c) The fishing trip shall be considered as being terminated when the vessel leaves EC waters or enters a European Union port where its catch is fully discharged.

Vessels shall only leave European Union waters after passing through one of the following control routes:

- A. ICES rectangle 48 E2 in zone VIa;
- B. ICES rectangle 46 E6 in zone IVa;
- C. ICES rectangles 48 E8, 49 E8 or 50 E8 in zone IVa.

The master of the vessel shall give at least four hours' prior notification of entering one of the afore mentioned control routes to the Fisheries Monitoring Centre in Edinburgh by e-mail or telephone as provided for in point (a). The notification shall specify the name, international radio call sign and port letters and number (PLN) of the vessel, the total quantity by species on board and the control route through which the vessel intends to pass.

The vessel shall not leave the area within the control route until it has received acknowledgement of the notification and instructions on whether or not the master is required to present the vessel for inspection. Each acknowledgement shall have a unique authorisation number, which the master shall retain until the vessel leaves European Union waters.

Notwithstanding any inspections that may be carried out at sea the competent authorities may in duly justified circumstances require a master to present his vessel for inspection in the ports of Lerwick or Scrabster.

- d) Vessels that transit through European Union waters must stow their nets so that they may not readily be used in accordance with the following conditions:
  - (i) Nets, weights and similar gear shall be disconnected from their trawl boards and towing and hauling wires and ropes; and
  - (ii) Nets, which are on or above deck, shall be securely lashed to some part of the superstructure.

## **Part II**

### **Conditions for Faroese vessels intending to fish mackerel in European Union waters**

The following provisions shall apply to Faroese vessels intending to fish for mackerel in EC waters:

- a) Vessels may only commence their fishing trip after having received authorisation from the competent authority of the coastal Member State concerned. Such vessels shall only enter European Union waters after passing through one of the following control areas:

ICES rectangle 48 E2 in Division VIa;

ICES rectangle 48 E6 in Division IVa;

ICES rectangle 50 F1 in Division IVa;

ICES rectangle 46 F1 in Division IVa;

At least four hours prior to entering one of the control areas, upon entering European Union waters, the master of the vessel shall contact the UK Fisheries Monitoring Centre (Edinburgh) by e-mail at the following address: [ukfcc@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ukfcc@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) or by telephone (+44 131 271 9700).

The notification shall specify the name, international radio call sign and port letters and number (PLN) of the vessel, the total quantity by species on board and the control area through which the vessel will enter EC waters. The vessel shall not commence fishing until it has received acknowledgement of the notification and instructions on whether or not the master is required to present the vessel for inspection. Each acknowledgement shall have a unique authorisation number which the master shall retain until the fishing trip is terminated.

Notwithstanding any inspections that may be carried out at sea the competent authorities may in duly justified circumstances require a master to present his vessel for inspection in the ports of Killybegs, Lerwick or Scrabster.

- b) Vessels that enter European Union waters with no catch on board shall be exempt from the requirements laid down in point (a). However, the vessels shall notify four hours in advance the competent authorities mentioned in point (a) above of their intention to enter EU waters.
- c) The fishing trip shall be considered as being terminated when the vessel leaves EC waters or enters a European Union port where its catch is fully discharged.

Vessels shall only leave the European Union waters after passing through one of the control areas.

Before leaving European Union waters, the master of the vessel shall give at least two hours prior notification of entering one of the control areas, to the Fisheries Monitoring Centre in Edinburgh by e-mail or telephone as provided for in point (a).

The notification shall specify the name, international radio call sign and port letters and number (PLN) of the vessel, the total quantity by species on board and the control area through which the vessel intends to pass. The vessel shall not leave the control area until it has received acknowledgement of the notification and instructions on whether or not the master is required to present the vessel for inspection. Each acknowledgement shall have a unique authorisation number, which the master shall retain until the vessel leaves the European Union waters.

Notwithstanding any inspections that may be carried out at sea the competent authorities may in duly justified circumstances require a master to present his vessel for inspection in the ports of Killybegs, Lerwick or Scrabster.

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**EUROPEAN UNION:**

John Spencer (Head of Delegation)

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**FAROE ISLANDS:**

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