

**AGREED RECORD ON A FISHERIES ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE FAROE ISLANDS AND NORWAY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF MACKEREL IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FROM 2014 TO 2018**

**LONDON, 12 MARCH 2014**

1. Delegations from the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Norway met in Edinburgh from 3 to 5 March to consult on a Coastal State Arrangement on mackerel. This meeting was a continuation of previous meetings held in Clonakilty, London and Bergen. Regrettably, due to divergences between the Parties surrounding a number of inter-related issues, a consensus could not be found.
2. Subsequently, a European Union Delegation headed by Mr John SPENCER, a Faroese Delegation headed by Mr Herluf SIGVALDSSON and a Norwegian Delegation headed by Ms Ann Kristin WESTBERG met in London on 12 March 2014 to further consult on the management of mackerel in the North-East Atlantic.
3. The Heads of Delegation agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the following fisheries arrangement on mackerel management for the period 2014 to 2018.
4. This fisheries arrangement is an *ad hoc* arrangement for five years and is without prejudice to the future sharing arrangements between the Coastal States on the North-East Atlantic mackerel stock.
5. A Coastal State, not party to this arrangement, may request to become a party to this arrangement. Such a request shall be subject to consultations between the Parties and the Coastal State in question.
6. **Management**
  - 6.1. The Delegations agreed to manage the North-East Atlantic mackerel stock in a sustainable manner. They agreed to establish a Long Term Management Plan (LTMP) during 2014 and, to that end, it was agreed to send to ICES the request as set out in Annex 1.
  - 6.2. The Delegations agreed that this fisheries arrangement should cover all their mackerel fisheries in the North-East Atlantic, and that a total catch limit should be set on that basis.
  - 6.3. The Delegations agreed that the Parties to this arrangement would develop, on an annual basis, a joint proposal for NEAFC regulatory measures for the mackerel stock applicable to the NEAFC Regulatory Area.

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## 7. TACs and quotas – 2014 to 2018

7.1. The Delegations agreed to the following *ad hoc* arrangement on the quota shares for 2014:

	Tonnes
European Union	611 205
Faroe Islands	156 240
Norway	279 115
NEAFC	42 537

7.2. The Parties agreed that the TAC for 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 should be based on the level advised by ICES in relation to the above-mentioned LTMP.

7.3. For all years of the arrangement, the Parties agreed to set aside 15,60 % of the TAC as a Coastal State and Fishing Party reserve.

7.4. For the years 2015 to 2018, the Delegations agreed that the Parties would maintain the same relative shares, which have been agreed for the Parties for 2014; EU: 58.40 %, The Faroe Islands: 14.93 %, Norway 26.67 %.

7.5. In the event that a Coastal State in accordance with paragraph 5 above requests to enter this Agreed Record, the Delegations agreed to maintain their relative shares as set out in paragraph 7.4 above.

7.6. The Parties shall fish their allocated quotas referred to in paragraph 7.1 in their respective zones of fisheries jurisdiction or in international waters. However, Parties may conclude between themselves access arrangements on mackerel in separate bilateral arrangements. The Parties concerned shall immediately notify such access arrangements to the other Parties.

7.7. The Parties shall refrain from allowing vessels flying their flag to participate in any fishing activities regarding mackerel in third party waters, unless these activities are exclusively for experimental fisheries purposes with a limit of 4,000 tonnes.

On a yearly basis, the Parties shall inform other Parties to this Agreed Record of their flagged vessels and vessel quotas, which they have authorised to fish in the waters under the jurisdiction of States not party to this Agreed Record.

## 8. Inter-annual quota flexibility

8.1. 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. This quantity cannot be transferred further to the quotas for subsequent years.

8.2. 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.

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## 9. Communication of catches

The Delegations agreed that the Parties would provide information regarding catches in the format set out in Annex 2 to this Agreed Record. Each Party shall by 15 April provide to the chair of the consultations on management measures for that current year information on their total catches in the previous year; on allocation of quotas to other Parties in both the previous year and the current year. This information shall be forwarded by the chair within 1 May the current year to all Parties to this Agreement.

## 10. Control and enforcement

10.1. The Delegations agreed that control of the mackerel fishery throughout its migratory range is an integral part of management of the North-East Atlantic mackerel stock. The Delegations agreed that the Parties should monitor the implementation of agreed measures as stipulated in Annex 4 and Annex 5 and address any outstanding issues on control and enforcement in this regard.

10.2. The Delegations noted that during the Coastal State consultations on mackerel in the North-East Atlantic in 2012, the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation had agreed that a Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) fact-finding Working Group should be established. The Delegations agreed to continue this Working Group under the Terms of Reference set out in Annex 3.

## 11. Science

The Delegations agreed that substantial research related to improved abundance estimation from international surveys, distribution and ecology is highly needed.

## 12. Chairing of annual consultations

For the purpose of these arrangements, the Delegations agreed that for the years 2015 to 2018, the annual consultations shall be hosted and chaired by Norway, the Faroe Islands, the European Union and Norway, respectively.

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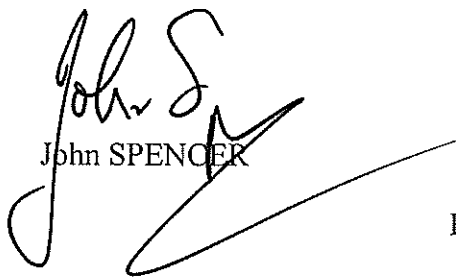
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### 13. Duration of the arrangement

The Delegations agreed that the arrangement laid down in this Agreed Record should apply for the five year period, 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2018.


London, 12 March 2014

For the European Union Delegation



John SPENCER

For the Faroese Delegation



Herluf SIGVALDSSON

For the Norwegian Delegation



Ann Kristin WESTBERG

MS

**Request to ICES**

In order for the Parties to develop a revised management plan for mackerel on which to base the appropriate fishing levels in the years 2015 to 2018, ICES is requested by September 2014 to:

1. Evaluate new biological reference points for the North East Atlantic mackerel stock based on the revised (WKPELA 2014) mackerel assessment method .
2. Evaluate the alternative fishing mortalities corresponding to  $F_{msy}$ , 0.20, 0.25, 0.30 and 0.35 for appropriate age groups as defined by ICES.
3. Each alternative should be assessed in relation to how it performs with respect to stock development in the short, medium and the long term and the level of uncertainty in the stock assessment, inter annual TAC variability, long term yield, as well as in relation to the precautionary approach.

Each alternative shall be evaluated with an annual quota flexibility of 10%.

Each alternative shall also be assessed with a stability clause where the TAC shall not deviate by more than 20% from the TAC of the preceding year, but the F shall not deviate by more than 10% from the target F.

4. The Parties shall assume the costs of this advice in accordance with point 7.4 of this Arrangement.

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Reporting of quotas and catches of mackerel in the North-East Atlantic

Year x	QUOTAS (tonnes)					CATCHES (tonnes)							Balance to Year y	
	Quota established	Balance Year x+1	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Faroese Fishing Zone	Greenland fishing zone	Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone	Norwegian Economic Zone	Fishery Zone around Jan Mayen	Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard		Russian Economic Zone
Party														
European Union														
Faeroe Islands														
Iceland														
Norway														
Total CS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Russian Federation														
Greenland														
Total all Parties														

Year y	QUOTAS (tonnes)					CATCHES (tonnes)							Balance to Year z	
	Quota established	Balance Year x	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Faroese Fishing Zone	Greenland fishing zone	Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone	Norwegian Economic Zone	Fishery Zone around Jan Mayen	Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard		Russian Economic Zone
Party														
European Union														
Faeroe Islands														
Iceland														
Norway														
Total CS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Russian Federation														
Greenland														
Total all Parties														

Year z - Provisional	QUOTAS (tonnes)					CATCHES (tonnes)							Balance to Year z+1	
	Quota established	Balance Year y	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Faroese Fishing Zone	Greenland fishing zone	Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone	Norwegian Economic Zone	Fishery Zone around Jan Mayen	Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard		Russian Economic Zone
Party														
European Union														
Faeroe Islands														
Iceland														
Norway														
Total CS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Russian Federation														
Greenland														
Total all Parties														

Guideline for the spreadsheet	Quota allocated to the Party
Coastal State share/share	
Balance	Undispatched beyond the quota from last year, includes unused quantity related to transfers between countries
Quota exchange	Transfers between countries
Quotas after transfers and flexibility	New quota

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**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR  
A MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE (MCS)  
WORKING GROUP FOR 2014**

Delegations from the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation agreed that a Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Working Group should meet before 1 April 2014 under the Terms of Reference described below.

The Working Group should submit its report to the Parties well in advance of the Coastal State consultations for 2015. Representatives of the Parties should meet no later than 31 January 2014 to plan the activity of the Working Group in 2014.

The objective of the Working Group should be to establish best practice in monitoring, control and surveillance both at sea and on land, with the goal of securing level playing field for fisheries on pelagic stocks such as 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. Review the measures agreed between the European Union, the Faroe Islands and Norway in 2004 concerning weighing and inspections, with a view to propose common and revised measures for weighing and inspections applicable to all Coastal States.
2. Conduct and compare fact-finding missions in order to ensure equivalent effect of the measures concerning slipping, discards and high grading, by catch issues and weighing and inspections.
3. Explore and present MCS related data and study how this data could be exchanged between the Parties to improve the risk based monitoring, control and surveillance work, e.g. by using Fishery Monitoring Centres (FMC).
4. Consider the financial aspects of the observer scheme outlined by the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Working Group for 2013.

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.

It was agreed that Greenland would be invited to participate

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**MEASURES TO BE MONITORED CONCERNING SLIPPING, DISCARDS AND HIGH-GRADING OF PELAGIC SPECIES**

The Delegations agreed that the following control measures shall be applied in fisheries for mackerel, herring and horse mackerel:

1. High grading (*discarding of fish which can be landed legally*) of these species is banned throughout the entire migratory range of the stocks in the North-East Atlantic.
2. Slipping (*releasing the fish before the net is fully taken on board the fishing vessel, resulting in the loss of dead or dying fish*) of these species is banned throughout the entire migratory range of the stocks in the North-East Atlantic.
3. Fishing vessels shall move their fishing grounds when the haul contains more than 10% of undersized fish (*below the minimum landing sizes or the minimum catching sizes*) of these species.
4. The maximum space between bars in the water separator on board fishing vessels shall be 10mm. The bars must be welded in place. If holes are used in the water separator instead of bars, the maximum diameter of the holes must not exceed 10mm. Holes in the chutes before the water separator must not exceed 15mm in diameter.
5. The possibility to discharge fish under the water line of the vessel from buffer tanks or RSW tanks, shall be prohibited.
6. Drawings related to catch handling and to discharge capabilities of the vessels, which are certified by the competent authorities of the flag State, as well as any modifications thereto shall be sent to the competent fisheries authorities of the flag State. The competent authorities of the flag State of the vessel shall carry out periodic verifications of the accuracy of the drawings submitted. Copies shall be carried on board at all times.
7. Unless fish is frozen on board the vessel, the carrying or use on board a fishing vessel of equipment, which is capable of automatically grading by size herring, mackerel or horse mackerel, is prohibited. In the case of fish being frozen on board, the fish shall be frozen immediately after grading.

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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 and horse mackerel:

1. All quantities of fresh herring, mackerel and horse mackerel landed must be weighed before sorting and processing. When determining the weight, any deduction for water shall not exceed 2%.
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. Skippers of fishing vessels shall give prior notice of landing including notification of catch on board and give the logbook sheet to the competent authorities before commencing the discharge of catch.
4. The processor or buyer of the fish shall submit a copy of the sales note for the payment of the quantities landed to the competent authorities.
5. A minimum of 10% of landings and 15% of the quantities landed should be subject to a full inspection. A full inspection shall include:
  - a) Cross-checks of the quantities by species indicated in the prior notice of landing and the quantities recorded in the vessel's logbook;
  - b) Cross-checks of the quantities by species recorded in the vessel's logbook and the landing declaration;
  - c) Cross-checks of the quantities by species recorded on the landing declaration and the sales note issued by the buyer.

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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