

**AGREED RECORD OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS
BETWEEN THE FAROE ISLANDS, THE EUROPEAN UNION AND NORWAY ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF MACKEREL IN THE NORTHEAST ATLANTIC FOR 2016**

CLONAKILTY, 23 OCTOBER 2015

1. Delegations from the Faroe Islands, the European Union, Norway, Iceland and Greenland met in Clonakilty from 20 to 22 October to consult on the management of mackerel for 2016. 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 North-East Atlantic from 2014-2018 (hereinafter referred to as the 2014 Mackerel Arrangement). It was agreed that a further meeting on this subject would be held during November 2015.
2. Subsequently, the Delegation from the Faroe Islands, headed by Mr Herluf SIGVALDSSON, the Delegation from the European Union, headed by Mr John SPENCER, and the Delegation from Norway, headed by Ms Ann Kristin WESTBERG, continued the consultations in Clonakilty on 22 and 23 October 2015 on the management of mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic for 2016.
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 2016, 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. To this end, the Delegations agreed a long-term management strategy for mackerel. This strategy is attached as Annex 1. The Delegations agreed that it would be applied for the management of the mackerel stock in 2016.
8. The Delegations agreed that this long-term management strategy would be submitted to ICES for its evaluation during 2016. Furthermore, the Delegations agreed to request ICES to perform a benchmarking exercise for Northeast Atlantic mackerel and deliver a report on the basis of the results of this benchmark by 31 May 2017.

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Quotas for 2016

9. On the basis of the long-term management strategy agreed by the Parties, the Delegations agreed to establish a total catch limitation of 895,900 tonnes for the mackerel fishery in 2016 in the North East-Atlantic.
10. 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 2016:

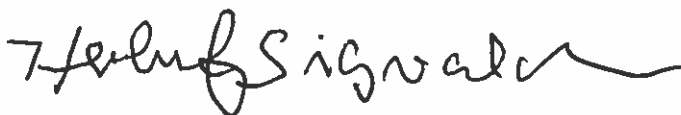
	Tonnes
European Union:	441,586
Faroe Islands:	112,892
Norway:	201,663

11. 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.
12. The Delegations exchanged quota and catch information for 2013 and 2014 (final) as well as preliminary information for 2015 (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.

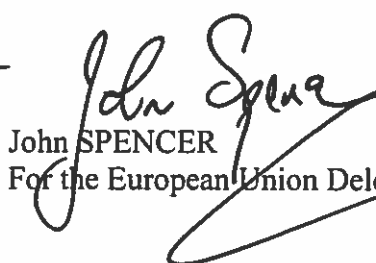
Control

13. The Delegations agreed to apply the revised measures concerning the weighing and inspection of pelagic landings (Annex 2) and new Terms of Reference for the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Working Group for 2016 (Annex 3). The EU Delegation noted that adoption of these measures at EU level could take up to two years.
14. With regard to the fact-finding missions, the EU Delegation confirmed that the land-based missions in the European Union would take place in the Netherlands in 2016 and in the United Kingdom in 2017.

Clonakilty, 23 October 2015



Herluf SIGVALDSSON
For the Delegation of the Faroe Islands



John SPENCER
For the European Union Delegation



Ann Kristin WESTBERG
For the Delegation of Norway

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 North-East Atlantic from 2014 to 2018, signed in London on 12 March 2014.
2. The Parties agree to implement a long-term management strategy for the fisheries on the mackerel stock, which is consistent with the precautionary approach, aiming at ensuring harvest rates within safe biological limits.
3. For the purpose of this management strategy, in the following text, "TAC" means the TAC agreed by the Parties to the above mentioned Agreed Record from 2014.
4. As a priority, the long-term strategy shall ensure with high probability that the size of the stock is maintained above B_{lim} .
5. In the case that the spawning stock biomass (SSB) is forecast to be above or equal to 3.0 million tonnes at spawning time in the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC shall be fixed at a fishing mortality equal to 0.24.
6. When setting the TAC for 2016, and where the rules in paragraph 5 would lead to a TAC, which is more than 15% greater than or more than 15% less than the TAC of 2015, the Parties shall fix a TAC that is 15% greater or 15% less, respectively, than the TAC of 2015.

When setting the TAC for 2017 and succeeding years, and where the rules in paragraph 5 would lead to a TAC, which is more than 20% greater than or more than 20% less than the TAC of the preceding year, the Parties shall fix a TAC that is 20% greater or 20% less, respectively, than the TAC of the preceding year.

7. In the case that the SSB is forecast to be less than 3.0 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:

$$\text{Target } F \leq 0.24 * \text{SSB}/3.0\text{Mt}$$

8. 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.
9. 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.

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10. The inter-annual quota flexibility scheme in paragraph 8 should be suspended in the year following the TAC year, if the SSB is forecast to be less than 3.0 million tonnes at spawning time in the TAC year. This derogates from the provisions contained in point 8 of the 2014 Mackerel Arrangement.
11. This long-term management strategy shall be applied in fixing the 2016 TAC level and thereafter. It shall be submitted to ICES for its evaluation during 2016.
12. The Parties shall review and, if deemed necessary, revise this long-term management strategy in 2017 on the basis of, *inter alia*, the ICES benchmark report.

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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 2016**

The Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Working Group should meet before 1 April 2016 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 2017. Representatives of the Parties should meet no later than 31 January 2016 to plan the activity of the Working Group in 2016.

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) Conduct fact finding missions concerning;
 - a. Sea-going missions focusing on slipping, discards and high grading, by catch issues and other relevant issues in the context of MCS; and
 - b. Missions on land focusing on weighing and inspections, by-catch issues and other relevant issues in the context of MCS;
- 2) Compare and consider findings in fact-finding missions reports with a view to propose harmonised practises and regulations between the Parties;
- 3) Follow up on the report from the Working Group in 2015 to further explore and present existing weighing systems used for pelagic landings and how these systems could be manipulated, hereunder further reflect which challenges need to be faced in the future by the Parties and propose appropriate measures to secure correct catch reporting;
- 4) Review and identify possible differences in current practices by individual Parties in relation to risk assessment strategies and identify possible differences between the Parties; and
- 5) Identify any common trends in non-compliance in the pelagic industry and elaborate on various methods to ensure detection of such infringements and on how this non-compliance could be mitigated.
- 6) Carry out a fact-finding exercise to identify elements that reduce water content in landings for industrial purposes.

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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ANNEX 4

Reporting of quotas and catches of mackerel in the North-East Atlantic - 2013 to 2015

2013	QUOTAS (tonnes)					CATCHES (tonnes)							Balance to 2013	
	Quota established	Balance 2012	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Faroese 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
Party														
European Union	336 285	33 590	-	369 875	1	308 747	142 733	-	-	3 238	-	-	-	312 086
Faroese Islands	128 852	32 743	-13 000	148 595	268	-	142 733	-	-	-	-	-	-	143 001
Iceland	123 182	7 480	1 300	131 962	21	-	1 301	-	137 810	-	-	-	-	139 532
Norway	153 597	-5 054	-242	147 661	70	80 079	-	-	84 573	-	-	-	-	184 728
Total EU	742 916	67 869	-31 242	797 973	384	388 826	144 836	0	137 810	87 911	0	0	0	798 347
Russian Federation														
Greenland	71 400		-1 400	70 000				52 797						52 797
Total all Parties	814 316	67 869	-33 242	847 973	384	388 826	144 836	52 797	137 810	87 911	0	0	0	812 144

2014	QUOTAS (tonnes)					CATCHES (tonnes)							Balance to 2014	
	Quota established	Balance 2013	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Faroese 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
Party														
European Union	611 205	33 829	-15 300	629 734	1 168	583 668	94 895	-	1 228	1 228	-	-	-	583 484
Faroese Islands	156 240	5 694	-	161 934	3 248	48 846	73	-	192 064	-	-	-	-	190 931
Iceland	187 826	7 590	1 300	191 536	13 185	-	1 301	-	186 221	-	11	10	-	196 375
Norway	278 115	-17 287	-247	260 601	25 602	706 439	95 382	0	190 047	190 047	11	18	0	277 794
Total EU	1 233 386	14 486	-14 247	1 233 625	25 602	706 439	95 382	0	192 064	190 047	11	18	0	1 088 524
Russian Federation														
Greenland	100 000		-	100 000				78 670						78 670
Total all Parties	1 333 386	14 486	-14 247	1 333 625	25 602	706 439	95 382	78 670	192 064	190 047	11	18	0	1 244 184

2015	QUOTAS (tonnes)					CATCHES (tonnes)							Balance to 2015	
	Quota established	Balance 2014	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Faroese 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
Party														
European Union	519 812	25 171	-20 540	519 443	5 758	353 309	60 689	-	944	944	-	-	-	354 253
Faroese Islands	132 814	4 281	-	137 095	4 404	4 404	68 689	-	144 273	-	-	-	-	71 088
Iceland	172 824	6 181	1 300	180 305	16 785	-	1 301	-	0	-	-	-	-	183 884
Norway	237 250	-18 133	4 878	223 995	24 581	359 989	81 564	0	219 595	220 543	0	0	0	228 855
Total EU	1 062 540	11 482	-14 812	1 058 210	24 581	359 989	81 564	0	144 273	220 543	0	0	0	818 095
Russian Federation														
Greenland	85 000		-	85 000				30 429						30 429
Total all Parties	1 147 540	11 482	-14 812	1 142 210	24 581	359 989	81 564	30 429	144 273	220 543	0	0	0	840 223

Guidance for the spreadsheet	
Quota allocated to the Party	
Balance	
Quota exchange	
Quotas after transfers and flexibility	
Undersubjecting beyond the quota from last year. Includes unused quantity related to transfers between countries	
Transfers between countries	
New quota	

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