

## **AGREED RECORD**

### **OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE BLUE WHITING STOCK IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC**

1. A Delegation of the European Community, headed by Mr Constantin ALEXANDROU, a Delegation of the Faroe Islands, headed by Ms Kate SANDERSON, a Delegation of Iceland, headed by Mr Vilhjálmur EGILSSON, and a Delegation of Norway, headed by Mr Johán H. WILLIAMS, met in Oslo on 15 and 16 December 2005 to consult on the management of the Blue Whiting stock in the North-East Atlantic.
2. The Delegations agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the arrangement for the regulation of the fisheries of Blue Whiting in 2006 and subsequent years set out in Annex I to this Agreed Record. They also agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the multi-annual management arrangement set out in Annex II.
3. The Delegations agreed to recommend that, in 2006, ICES be requested to evaluate, as soon as possible, whether the multi-annual management arrangement as set out in Annex II is in accordance with the precautionary approach and to make the results of this evaluation available to the Parties. The Delegations agreed to review the multi-annual management arrangement on the basis of evaluation by ICES.
4. This Agreed Record, including bilateral arrangements related to the implementation thereof, shall be applied provisionally from 1 January 2006 and enter into force when all Parties have notified each other of the completion of their necessary procedures.
5. For subsequent years, Delegations agreed to allocate allowable catches in the proportions that are set out in paragraph 1 of Annex I.
6. Unless one or more of the Parties notifies its withdrawal not later than by the end of June, the Agreed Record shall be renewed annually, including Annexes, in which years, maximum catch limit and quotas are updated.
7. The Delegations agreed to inform the NEAFC Secretariat about the regulatory measures they intend to take on the basis of this Agreed Record, for the fisheries of Blue Whiting in 2006 and in subsequent years.

Done in Oslo on 16 December 2005 in four originals in English.

For the Delegation of the European Community      For the Delegation of the Faroe Islands

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Kate SANDERSON

For the Delegation of Iceland

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## ANNEX I

### ARRANGEMENT FOR THE REGULATION OF THE FISHERIES OF BLUE WHITING IN 2006

1. In accordance with the multi-annual management arrangement for the fisheries of Blue Whiting set out in Annex II to this Agreed Record, the Parties agree to restrict their fisheries of Blue Whiting in 2006 to a maximum catch limit of 2,000,000 tonnes on the basis of the following quotas:

European Community	610,000 tonnes
Faroe Islands	522,500 tonnes
Iceland	352,600 tonnes
Norway	514,900 tonnes

2. Each Party may transfer unutilised quantities of up to 10% of the quota allocated to it for 2006 to 2007. Such transfer shall be in addition to the quota allocated to the Party concerned for 2007.
3. In the event of overfishing of the allocated quotas by any Party in 2006, the quantity shall be deducted from the quota allocated in 2007 for the Party or Parties concerned.
4. The Parties may fish Blue Whiting within the quotas laid down in paragraph 1 in their respective zones of fisheries jurisdiction and in international waters.
5. Further arrangements by the Parties, including arrangements for access, quota transfers and other conditions for fishing in the respective zones of fisheries jurisdiction, are regulated by bilateral arrangements.

## ANNEX II

### ARRANGEMENT FOR THE MULTI-ANNUAL MANAGEMENT OF THE BLUE WHITING STOCK

1. The Parties agree to implement a multi-annual management arrangement for the fisheries on the Blue Whiting stock which is consistent with the precautionary approach, aiming at constraining harvest within safe biological limits, protecting juveniles, and designed to provide for sustainable fisheries and a greater potential yield, in accordance with advice from ICES.
2. The management targets are to maintain the Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) of the Blue Whiting stock at levels above 1.5 million tonnes ( $B_{lim}$ ) and the fishing mortality rates at levels of no more than 0.32 ( $F_{pa}$ ) for appropriate age groups as defined by ICES.
3. For 2006, the Parties agree to limit their fisheries of Blue Whiting to a total allowable catch of no more than 2 million tonnes.
4. The Parties recognise that a total outtake by the Parties of 2 million tonnes in 2006 will result in a fishing mortality rate above the target level as defined in paragraph 2. Until the fishing mortality has reached a level of no more than 0.32, the Parties agree to reduce their total allowable catch of Blue Whiting by at least 100,000 tonnes annually.
5. When the target fishing mortality rate has been reached, the Parties shall limit their allowable catches to levels consistent with a fishing mortality rate of no more than 0.32 for appropriate age groups as defined by ICES.
6. Should the SSB fall below a reference point of 2.25 million tonnes ( $B_{pa}$ ), either the fishing mortality rate referred to in paragraph 5 or the tonnage referred to in paragraph 4 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 2.25 million tonnes.
7. This multi-annual management arrangement shall be reviewed by the Parties on the basis of ICES advice.