

AGREED RECORD

OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE FAROE ISLANDS, ICELAND, NORWAY AND THE UNITED KINGDOM ON THE MANAGEMENT OF BLUE WHITING IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC IN 2021

Online, 19-21 OCTOBER 2020

1. A delegation from the European Union, headed by Mr Fabrizio DONATELLA, a delegation from the Faroe Islands, headed by Mr Herluf SIGVALDSSON, a delegation from Iceland, headed by Mr Kristján Freyr HELGASON, a delegation from Norway, headed by Mr Vidar LANDMARK, and a delegation from the United Kingdom, headed by Mr Colin FAULKNER, met via video-conference on 19-21 October 2020 to consult on the management of the blue whiting stock in the North-East Atlantic in 2021.
2. A delegation from Greenland, headed by Mr Jákup Emil HANSEN, and a delegation from the Russian Federation, headed by Ms Anna SHULAEVA, attended as observers.
3. The delegations noted that the agreed long-term management strategy for blue whiting dated 27 October 2016 is regarded by ICES as consistent with the precautionary approach (Annex I).
4. The delegations agreed that the level of total catches of blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic for 2021 should be no more than 929,292 tonnes, based on the long-term management strategy for blue whiting with a 20% constraint on the 2020 TAC as advised by ICES. The delegations agreed that establishing unilateral quotas for 2021 does not in any way imply acceptance of the level of these quotas by any Party.
5. The delegations recommended that the NEAFC allowable catches for 2021 would be 73,961 tonnes. These catches should not be considered as additional to the level set in Paragraph 4.
6. The delegations encouraged the Parties to develop and coordinate their scientific research activities in order to improve the information available for the assessment and the management of this stock.
7. The delegations exchanged quota and catch information for 2018, 2019 (final) as well as preliminary information for 2020 (Annex II). The delegations also exchanged information with regard to their fishing activities including exchanges and access

arrangements (Annex III).

8. The delegations agreed to continue to provide information in the same format as set out in Annex II and Annex III to this Agreed Record. Each Party shall, by 1 May 2021, provide updated information in this regard to Norway as host of the consultations on management measures for 2022. Norway shall forward this information as soon as possible to all Parties to this Agreed Record.
9. The delegations agreed that the Parties may fish blue whiting within their quotas in their respective zones of fisheries jurisdiction and in international waters.
10. The delegations agreed that 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.

Online, 21 October 2020

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**ARRANGEMENT FOR THE
LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT
OF THE BLUE WHITING STOCK**

1. The Parties agree to implement a long-term management strategy for the fisheries on the Blue Whiting stock, which is consistent with the precautionary approach and the MSY approach, aiming at ensuring harvest rates within safe biological limits.
2. For the purpose of this long-term management strategy, in the following text, "TAC" means the sum of the agreed Coastal State quotas and the NEAFC allowable catches.
3. As a priority, the long-term strategy shall ensure with high probability that the size of the stock is maintained above B_{lim} .
4. In the case that the spawning biomass is forecast to be above or equal to $B_{trigger}$ ($=B_{pa}$) on 1 January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC shall be fixed to a fishing mortality of F_{MSY} .
5. Where the rules in paragraph 4 would lead to a TAC, which deviates by more than 20% below or 25% above the TAC of the preceding year, the Parties shall fix a TAC that is respectively no more than 20% less or 25% more than the TAC of the preceding year.
6. The TAC constraint described in paragraph 5 shall not apply if:
 - a. The spawning biomass at 1 January in the year preceding the year for which the TAC is to be set is less than $B_{trigger}$; or
 - b. The rules in paragraph 4 would lead to a TAC that deviates by more than 40% from the TAC of the preceding year.
7. In the case that the spawning biomass (SSB) is forecast to be less than the precautionary biomass ($B_{trigger}$) on 1 January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC shall be fixed at a level that is consistent with a fishing mortality given by:

$$\text{Target } F = 0.05 + [(SSB - B_{lim}) * (F_{MSY} - 0.05) / (B_{trigger} - B_{lim})]$$
8. In the case that the spawning biomass is forecast to be less than B_{lim} on 1 January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC will be fixed corresponding to a fishing mortality $F=0.05$.
9. 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.
10. 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.

11. The inter-annual quota flexibility scheme in paragraphs 9 and 10 should be suspended in the year following the TAC year, if the stock is forecast to be under B_{trigger} at the end of the TAC year.
12. The Parties, on the basis of ICES advice, shall review this long-term management strategy at intervals not exceeding five years. The first such review shall take place no later than by December 2021.

Reporting of quotas and catches of blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic - 2018 to 2020

2018		QUOTAS (tonnes)				CATCHES (tonnes)										
Party	Quota established	Balance from 2017	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	TOTAL CATCH	Balance	
European Union	574.836	55.597	-117.500	512.933	5.814	412.828	13.419	0	0	20	0	0	0	432.082	80.852	
Faroe Islands	493.081	15.599	-89.500	419.180	54.362	26.023	271.936	0	175	0	0	0	0	352.496	66.684	
Iceland	293.000	18.821	-1.500	310.321	30.738	0	225.315	0	31.041	0	0	0	0	287.094	23.227	
Norway	335.257	-26.406	85.843	394.694	61.685	345.267	8.726	0	0	22.750	0	0	0	438.428	-43.734	
Total CS	1.696.174	63.611	-122.657	1.637.128	152.599	784.118	519.396	0	31.216	22.770	0	0	0	1.510.100	127.029	
Russian Federation	102.945	8.779	105.805	217.529	64.101		106.779			0				170.880	46.649	
Greenland	7.514	153	16.000	23.667	60	0	23.273							23.333	334	
Total all Parties	1.806.633	72.543	-852	1.878.324	216.760	784.118	649.448	0	31.216	22.770	0	0	0	1.704.313	174.012	

2019		QUOTAS (tonnes)				CATCHES (tonnes)										
Party	Quota established	Balance from 2018	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	TOTAL CATCH	Balance	
European Union	473.691	57.484	-107.400	423.775	1.615	345.090	1.963	0	0	44	0	0	0	348.713	75.062	
Faroe Islands	406.307	64.064	-87.000	383.371	70.321	29.900	237.514	0	1.878	0	0	0	0	339.613	43.758	
Iceland	241.000	23.227	-2.000	262.227	95.191	0	164.098	0	3.695	0	0	0	0	262.984	-757	
Norway	276.257	-43.734	79.994	312.517	59.690	267.251	2.452	0	0	21.582	0	0	0	350.974	-38.457	
Total CS	1.397.255	101.041	-116.406	1.381.890	226.817	642.241	406.027	0	5.573	21.626	0	0	0	1.302.284	79.606	
Russian Federation	84.828	10.295	102.135	197.258	90.316		79.262			18.428				188.006	9.252	
Greenland	6.192	334	13.500	20.026	134	0	19.640							19.774	252	
Total all Parties	1.488.275	111.670	-771	1.599.174	317.267	642.241	504.929	0	5.573	40.054	0	0	0	1.510.064	89.110	

2020 (Provisional)		QUOTAS (tonnes)				CATCHES (tonnes)										
Party	Coastal State share/share	Balance from 2019	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	TOTAL CATCH	Balance	
European Union	481.141	47.369	-107.400	421.110	3.290	302.951	2.989	0	0	6	0	0	0	309.237	111.873	
Faroe Islands	412.697	43.758	-98.000	358.455	39.813	47.246	196.608	0	0	1.052	0	0	0	284.719	73.736	
Iceland	245.101	-757	-2.000	242.344	43.460	0	137.695	0	1.825	0	0	0	0	182.980	59.364	
Norway	280.602	-38.457	79.681	321.826	57.927	267.802	878	0	0	24.241	0	0	0	350.849	-29.023	
Total Coastal States	1.419.541	51.913	-127.719	1.343.735	144.490	618.000	338.170	0	1.825	25.299	0	0	0	1.127.785	215.950	
Russian Federation	86.162	4.808	104.219	195.189	81.405		75.011			15.908				172.324	22.865	
Greenland	6.273	252	13.500	20.025	1.874		12.554							14.428	5.597	
Total all Parties	1.511.976	56.973	-10.000	1.558.949	227.769	618.000	425.735	0	1.825	41.207	0	0	0	1.314.537	244.412	

01.10.2020

15.10.2020

21.09.2020

13.10.2020

30.09.2020

16.10.2020

Guideline for the spreadsheet

Coastal state share/share	Quota allocated to the Party
Balance	Unutilised fishing 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

Transfers and access arrangements for blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic in 2020

Transfers in 2020¹

Party	Quotas	Balance from 2019	Total available	Transfer to					
				European Union	Faroe Islands	Iceland	Norway	Russian Federation	Greenland
European Union	481.141	47.369	528.510	---	10.000		99.900		
Faroe Islands	412.697	43.758	456.455	2.500	---			82.000	13.500
Iceland	245.101	-757	244.344			---		2.000 ²	
Norway	280.602	-38.457	242.145				---	20.219	
Russian Federation	86.162	4.808	90.970					---	
Greenland	6.273	252	6.525						---

¹ Transfers imply full access

² Transfers do not imply full access

Access arrangements in 2020

Party	Access to					
	European Union	Faroe Islands	Iceland	Norway	Russian Federation	Greenland
European Union	---	37.500		190.809		
Faroe Islands	37.500	---	100%	30.000	25% *	6.290
Iceland		100%	---			
Norway	190.809			---		
Russian Federation		82.000		20.219	---	
Greenland		6.273				---

* of the NEAFC quota for 2020