

Ad-hoc exploratory consultations in relation to the fisheries in ICES areas 1 and 2

1. The European Union and Norway are committed to sustainable fisheries management under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("UNCLOS"), and other relevant international agreements, regional fisheries management organisations and other international instruments relating to management of fisheries. They bear in mind Norway's rights and duties as a coastal State to regulate, in accordance with international law, the conservation and management of marine living resources in areas where it has sovereign rights, including in the Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard.
2. More particularly, the European Union and Norway reiterate their commitment to continued sustainable management of marine living resources in ICES areas 1 and 2. The established fisheries management regime in the ICES areas 1 and 2 in waters north of the 62°N line has over decades secured the sustainable management of marine living resources and been beneficial for the coastal States and vessels from other States through different arrangements. The European Union is ready to engage with Norway and, where appropriate, also with other Parties concerned, on the conservation of stocks occurring in the high seas of ICES areas 1 and 2.
3. In the spirit of continued cooperation regarding sustainable fisheries and taking into account the European Union's long-term interests in the Arctic region, the European Union and Norway have reached the following understanding¹:
 - a. Norway will set a quota of cod to the European Union calculated as 2,8274 % of the reference TAC for the relevant year. For 2022, this equates to 19 636 tonnes. This quota will be outside any bilateral fisheries agreement between Norway and the European Union, and may also be fished in the Fisheries Protection Zone around Svalbard.
 - b. In addition, Norway will positively consider setting an additional quota of cod for European Union vessels fishing in the Norwegian EEZ for 2023.
 - c. With the same objective of ensuring sustainable fishing, following consultations, Norway will set limitations in ICES areas 1 and 2 for redfish, cod, haddock, and Greenland halibut, for both directed fisheries and as by-catch. On this basis, in a coordinated manner, the Union will fix quotas and adopt necessary technical regulations for the same areas and species.
 - d. Norway will continue to set the quota of cod on the basis that the European Union carries out the provisions of this understanding.
4. This understanding is without prejudice to objective exceptional circumstances. In case of objective exceptional circumstances impacting on the implementation of this understanding, Norway and the European Union will carry out appropriate consultations for a renewed amicable solution. The European Union and Norway are looking forward to continuing and further strengthening their mutually beneficial cooperation.

¹ This understanding is without prejudice to the interpretation of the 1920 Treaty of Paris on Spitzbergen (Svalbard) of either the European Union and its Member States or that of Norway. This understanding is also without prejudice to their rights and duties under Part VII of UNCLOS, also set out in the UN Fish Stocks Agreement. Moreover, this understanding is subject to compliance with the relevant internal procedures.