AGREED RECORD OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN NORWAY, THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE FAROE ISLANDS ON CONTROL MEASURES FOR PELAGIC STOCKS IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FOR 2020

22 APRIL 2020

1. Delegations from the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Norway met in London, United Kingdom, from 22 to 24 January 2020 to consult on control measures for pelagic stocks in the North-East Atlantic for 2020.

2. The Delegations took note of the Coastal States Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Working Group (CS MCS WG) report for 2018-2019. The report included recommendations on control measures for the mackerel, herring, blue whiting and horse mackerel fisheries. The Delegations noted that experts from Coastal States took part in the meetings of the CS MCS WG.

3. Regrettably, the Delegation from Iceland and the Delegation from Greenland were not in the position to commit to any joint control measure for the pelagic stocks.

4. Subsequently, the Delegation from Norway headed by Ms Ann Kristin WESTBERG, the Delegation from the European Union headed by Mr Fabrizio DONATELLA and the Delegation from Faroe Islands headed by Mr Herluf SIGVALDSSON agreed to proceed with the cooperation on control measures.

5. The Heads of Delegation agreed to recommend to their respective authorities to introduce the agreed management and control measures for pelagic stocks as set out in Annex I-V. The measures shall be applied to landings exceeding 10 tonnes of mackerel, herring, blue whiting and horse mackerel. They agreed to review progress and seek to establish the final implementation date during the Coastal State consultations for 2021. Furthermore, they invited other Coastal States to any of the pelagic stocks to co-sign this Agreed Record.

6. The Delegations recognized the need to cooperate to further improve the harmonized management measures to secure a correct account of all catches and landings of mackerel, herring, blue whiting and horse mackerel, and hereby consider and introduce measures with the objective to reduce the possibility to deduct fish as water, including the further reduction in a stepwise approach of allowed water deduction to 0% for landings for human consumption. As far as fish landed frozen is concerned, the European Union noted that the ongoing evaluation regarding the fixed 1.5 kg tare weight for frozen fisheries products would be finalized in 2020. The Delegations agreed that the report from this evaluation should be considered by the CS MCS WG with the objective to recommend measures that will allow level playing field with regard to water deduction.

7. The Delegations agreed to apply the Terms of Reference for a CS MCS WG for 2020 included in Annex VI, noting, however, the limitations imposed by the covid-19 travel restrictions etc.

8. The Delegations agreed to engage in testing camera and sensor monitoring systems on vessels. The Delegations agreed that the MCS Working Group shall examine best practices on implementation and coverage of pilot projects of cameras, sensor systems and other technological solutions with the purpose of monitoring the fishing operations and processing activities on vessels.

22 April 2020

Ann Kristin WESTBERG
For the Delegation of Norway

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For the Delegation of the European Union

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ANNEX I

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

1. Compliance with any discard ban or landing obligation of these species is mandatory 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 shall be prohibited. Any discharge points under the waterline shall be sealed or monitored by electronic means, and added to the drawing requirements described in paragraph 6. Data on the electronic monitoring shall be available to the control authorities.

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.

ANNEX II

MEASURES TO BE APPLIED CONCERNING INSPECTION OF PELAGIC LANDINGS

1. 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 arrival at port.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. In each case where the checks reveal a significant discrepancy it shall be followed up as an infringement.

ANNEX III

MEASURES TO BE APPLIED CONCERNING WEIGHING OF PELAGIC LANDINGS

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 1% 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.

ANNEX IV

MEASURES TO BE APPLIED CONCERNING WEIGHING SYSTEMS USED FOR PELAGIC LANDINGS

1. General requirements for all weighing systems

1.1. Weighing data (including at least quantities, vessel, time stamp and other relevant information) concerning landings shall be stored by those responsible for the weighing. Competent authorities shall be given real-time access to such data. Data shall be stored securely for a minimum of 3 years.

1.2. All changes in parameters and functions in the weighing system that effect the weighing result shall be logged. Such changes shall be logged with date and time.

1.3. Camera surveillance shall be mandatory at the landing and processing facilities for landings of the pelagic stocks and where more than 3,000 tonnes per year are weighed. The surveillance shall apply to the landing process and weighing locations and cover the flow of landed fish until the weighing has been completed. This requirement does not apply to transportation of landed catches to the processing plant. Competent authorities shall have access to camera footage by data stored and if required by competent authorities by live stream.

1.4. The weighing indicator shall be located in or close to and visible from the weighing unit.

1.5. To prevent manipulation of the weighing system, critical functions shall be secured by sealing as determined by the competent authorities.

1.6. The competent authorities shall have immediate access to the weighing system.

2. Special requirements for belt weighing systems (flow scales)

2.1. The weighing instrument shall have a counting device that has a total running number of minimum eight digits.

2.2. The belt weighing system shall have a stop function. This function shall automatically stop feeding of fish to the belt weighing system if there are detectable errors or if the weighing system cannot carry out weighing.

2.3. The belt weighing system shall have an automatic zero setting function to be activated prior to the start of the weighing operations and at a frequency to be determined by the competent authority.

3. Special requirements for batch weighing scales

3.1. The weighing instrument shall have a counting device that have a total running number of minimum eight digits.

3.2. The batch weighing system shall have a stop function. This function automatically stop feeding of fish to the batch weighing system if there are detectable errors or if the weighing system cannot carry out weighing.

3.2.1. The pressure sensor shall be a part of the stop function to secure sufficient pressure to hatch functions.

3.2.2. To prevent free flow of unweighted material through the batch scales sensors shall detect the position of the hatch.

4. Special requirements for pallet scales (non-automatic weighing instrument).

4.1. Pallet scales shall have automatic or semi-automatic log of pallet weighing.

ANNEX V

MEASURES TO BE APPLIED CONCERNING LANDINGS FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES

The following measures shall be applied for all species landed for industrial purposes:

1. All species landed shall pass through a water draining system before weighing.

2. It is prohibited with arrangements that may contribute to loss of biological material between the water draining system and the weighing system.

3. **Drum sieve systems**

   3.1. During landing, landed material shall go through only one drum sieve for water draining before weighing.

   3.2. The filtering holes in the drum sieve shall not exceed 10 mm.

   3.3. The inside diameter of the drum sieve shall not exceed 1700 mm.

   3.4. The length of the sieves before weighing, excluding conveyor belts, shall not exceed 11 meters in total.

   3.5. Rotation speed of the drum sieve shall not exceed 28 rounds per minute.

   3.6. Light opening in the filtering area shall not exceed 45%.

4. **Belt draining systems**

   4.1. In the front sieve, the bar distance or filtering holes shall not exceed 10mm.

   4.2. The width of the conveyer steel belt shall be 1.8 – 2.5 meter.

   4.3. The length of the conveyer steel belt shall not be less than 2.6 meter and not more than 10 meters.

ANNEX VI

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A COASTAL STATES MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE WORKING GROUP (CS MCS WG) FOR 2020

The Coastal States Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Working Group (CS MCS WG) should meet as appropriate under the following Terms of Reference:

The Working Group should submit its reports to the Parties 15 working days in advance of the Coastal State consultations in 2020.

Representatives of the Parties should meet as appropriate to plan and to prioritize the activity of the Working Group during 2020.

The objective of the Working Group should be to establish best practice in monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) both at sea and on land, and recommend harmonised MCS measures with the objective to increase compliance and secure a level playing field for fisheries on the following pelagic stocks; mackerel, Norwegian spring-spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring, blue whiting and horse mackerel.

The Working Group should be composed of operational MCS experts who, in their role as technical experts, shall provide professional advice on relevant MCS measures to be discussed in the Working Group. The Working Group may also rely on the assistance on experts on the fields relating to the tasks described below. The Working Group may, at the appropriate level, share information on MCS.

The CS MCS WG should:

1) Consider the report from EU's evaluation regarding the tare deduction for landings of pelagic species and recommend measures that will allow level playing field with regard to water deduction.

2) Continue follow up interagency cooperation between fisheries authorities and metrology services and the implementation of weighing requirements outlined in Annex IV.

3) Follow up requirements for the use of water draining installations used on landings for industrial purposes outlined in Annex V and consider the effect of such installations with regard to loss of biological material.

4) Consider and recommend measures with the objective to reduce the possibility to deduct fish as water, including the further reduction in a stepwise approach of allowed water deduction to 0% for landings for human consumption and for fish landed frozen.

5) Review sampling systems in use when landings for industrial purposes take place.

6) Continue to consider measures to reduce slipping, discarding and high-grading in pelagic fisheries, e.g. catch and size distribution analysis, measuring systems on board vessels and other relevant measures, and as appropriate make proposals on this topic.

7) Map existing minimum catch and landing sizes of the Parties and recommend follow up procedures.

8) Recommend a sampling methodology for fish landed frozen.

9) Map experience, knowledge and possibilities on new technologies, e.g. CCTV, sensors, artificial intelligence, to improve accounting of catches on board fishing vessels.

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.