

**AGREED RECORD OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN
THE EUROPEAN UNION AND NORWAY FOR 2025**

5 DECEMBER 2024

- 1 A European Union Delegation, headed by Mr. Thomas BRÉGEON, and a Norwegian Delegation, headed by Ms. Ann Kristin WESTBERG, met in Oslo from 28 to 31 October, in Madrid from 18 to 21 November, and in Brussels from 3 to 5 December 2024 to consult on mutual fisheries relations for 2025.
- 2 The Delegations referred to the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between United Kingdom, Norway and the European Union of 29 November 2024.
- 3 The scope of this Agreed Record is quota exchange, zonal access and other bilateral issues relating to fisheries between the Parties.
- 4 The Heads of Delegations agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the fishery arrangements for 2025 as outlined in this Agreed Record, including Annex I and II and Tables 1 to 4.
- 5 **EXCHANGE OF FISHING POSSIBILITIES**
 - 5.1 The Parties agreed to exchange a number of fishing quotas. The exchange is reflected in Tables 2, 3 and 4.
 - 5.2 *Capelin in ICES Area XIV*
 - 5.2.1 The Delegations noted that the EU was not able to transfer Norway 10,000 tonnes of capelin quota for the fishing season 2023/2024, due to the negative scientific advice. As agreed in paragraph 5.2.1 of the Agreed Record of their fisheries consultations for 2024, the EU has compensated Norway with the corresponding amount of cod equivalents in the quota exchanges for 2025.
 - 5.3 *Sprat*
 - 5.3.1 The Delegations noted that the EU was not able to transfer Norway 10,000 tonnes of sprat quota for the fishing season 2024/2025, as the EU quota in the North Sea did not reach the threshold level of 60,000 tonnes. As agreed in paragraph 5.3.1 of the Agreed Record of their fisheries consultations for 2024, the EU has compensated Norway with the corresponding amount of cod equivalents in the quota exchanges for 2025.
 - 5.3.2 The Delegations noted that the ICES advice for sprat covers the period 1 July to 30 June rather than a calendar year, and that as a consequence transfer of sprat from the EU to Norway can be fished only during the period 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026. They further noted that the transfer of 7,500 tonnes shown in Table 2 is conditional on the level of the EU North Sea fishing opportunities in 2025/2026: for a range of 60,000 to 100,000

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tonnes, the EU will transfer 10% of its quota to Norway. Should the level of the quota not allow the EU to transfer 7,500 tonnes, it was agreed that the EU would compensate Norway with the corresponding amount of cod equivalents in the quota exchanges for 2026. Should the transfer exceed 7,500 tonnes, it was agreed that Norway would compensate the EU for the difference with the corresponding amount of cod equivalents in the quota exchanges for 2026 or already in 2025, if so agreed by the Parties.

5.4 *Northern shrimp (Pandalus borealis) in ICES area IV*

5.4.1 The Delegations agreed to consider exchanges of Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in the North Sea from Norway to EU in addition to the level set out in Table 2 once the TAC for the season 2025/2026 has been established. In case of such transfer the EU would compensate Norway with the corresponding amount of cod equivalents for 2026. The Parties also agreed that an alternative option could be that EU compensates Norway with the corresponding amount of cod equivalents already in 2025, if so agreed by the Parties.

5.5 *Northeast Arctic cod*

5.5.1 This Agreed Record does not cover issues related to the implementation of the EU-Norway understanding on fisheries in ICES areas 1 and 2 and exchanges of letters of 8 and 11 November 2024.

5.6 *Redfish in the Norwegian Economic Zone*

5.6.1 The Delegations referred to the Exchange of Letters signed at Oporto on 2 May 1992, which includes an allocation to the EU of 1,500 tonnes of redfish north of 62°N outside the balance of the bilateral fisheries agreement.

6 ZONAL ACCESS

6.1 The Parties agreed to establish zonal access for jointly managed stocks in the North Sea: cod, haddock, herring, plaice, saithe and whiting. The levels and condition of such access are reflected in Table 1.

6.2 The Delegations regretted that they have not been able to agree on zonal access for Norwegian Spring spawning herring and blue whiting. The parties will resume discussions as early as possible with a view to finding suitable access arrangements.

6.3 Norwegian vessels fishing blue whiting in EU waters shall be subjected to control provisions as set out in Annex II.

6.4 The Parties noted that any access granted, comes in addition to the implicit access from quotas that Parties have acquired from the quota exchange arrangements between Norway and the EU described in Tables 2, 3 and 4 in waters of the other Party or in Greenlandic waters.

6.5 The EU Delegation noted that the reciprocal access for jointly managed stocks in the North Sea is one of the fundamental elements of the bilateral cooperation on fisheries management between the Parties. It is of mutual interest that the access arrangements are set at levels allowing both Parties optimal utilisation of the available quotas and fisheries management.

- 6.6 The Norwegian Delegation noted that EU vessels currently enjoy a very high level of zonal access in Norwegian waters of the North Sea and Skagerrak and questioned the mutual interest when EU fleet fish on average 120 times more in Norwegian waters than the Norwegian fleet fish in EU waters in the North Sea.
- 6.7 The EU Delegation noted that, in 2024, Norwegian vessels were provided with approximately 3 times more zonal access than Union vessels in terms of tonnage for all stocks, and that the utilisation of that access in recent years reflects a similar ratio.

7 EXPLORATORY FISHERIES

- 7.1 The EU Delegation expressed the interest of some EU operators in exploring the potential of under-utilised resources evolving in Norwegian waters, such as crab and prawns. The EU Delegation invited the Norwegian authorities to examine duly motivated requests transmitted by EU operators and to issue where justified fishing authorizations for exploratory campaigns subject to the applicable conditions. The provision of existing scientific and other basic information to interested operators would be much appreciated.
- 7.2 The Norwegian Delegation stated that this subject is outside the scope of this Agreed Record and referred to the website of the Directorate of Fisheries for further information in this respect.

8 MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

- 8.1 The Delegations referred to paragraph 7.4 of the Agreed Record of their fisheries consultations for 2024, signed on 8 December 2023, and the possibility for EU to submit a request for authorisation for a research project to test fishing gear technology in Norwegian waters. The Delegations noted that such request was submitted on 15 August 2024 and was approved by the Norwegian authorities on 22 October 2024.
- 8.2 The EU Delegation welcomed the approval of the request by the Norwegian authorities and proposed that the parties take stock of the implementation of the project during their annual consultations for 2026.
- 8.3 The Norwegian Delegation noted that marine scientific research is outside the scope of the this Agreed Record.

9 CATCH INFORMATION

- 9.1 Each Party shall, when appropriate and on request, inform the other Party of catches, by stock, made in its fishing zone by the vessels of the other Party, the information provided by Norway being broken down by flag.

10 TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCHES AND QUOTAS

- 10.1 The Delegations agreed that vessels should have adequate quota or fishing possibilities to cover expected catch composition when fishing in the waters of the other Party in the North Sea.

11 LICENSING

- 11.1 The Delegations agreed to continue the system with licensing as outlined in Annex I.



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- 11.2 The Delegations referred to the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between Norway and the European Union on an electronic licensing scheme for fishing vessels signed 15 May 2013, and highlighted the necessity of continuously revision and sharing of updated information to the other party in real time, as described in that Agreed Record.
- 11.3 The Delegations referred to the ongoing trilateral process with the aim to develop a notification and authorisation system based on the United National Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (UN/FLUX) standard.

12 CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT

12.1 *Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) measures for joint stocks in the North Sea*

12.1.1 The Delegations referred to the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between the European Union, Norway and the United Kingdom for 2025, where it is noted that for a comprehensive management regime, efficient and trustworthy MCS measures are crucial, and that strategic and operative MCS cooperation between the inspections services of the Parties is a prerequisite to improve compliance and to achieve a level playing field.

12.2 *Control Measures for Pelagic Stocks in the Northeast Atlantic*

12.2.1 The Delegations also referred to the November 2022 Agreed Record of Conclusions of Fisheries Consultations between Greenland, Iceland, the United Kingdom, Norway, the European Union and the Faroe Islands on Control Measures for Pelagic Stocks in the Northeast Atlantic. The Delegations noted that the 2023-2024 Coastal States MCS Working Group report was presented in fisheries consultations on control measures for pelagic stocks held in London on 23 October 2024, and that these consultations are ongoing.

12.3 *Cooperation, exchange of information and inspectors*

12.3.1 The Delegations agreed that both strategic and operative MCS cooperation between the inspections services of the Parties is a prerequisite to improve compliance with the regulations and thereby achieve a level playing field. Enhanced cooperation between inspection services in Norway and the EU (including at Member States level) is of mutual interest, e.g. in light of transparency, compliance, securing level playing field, effective use of resources and to increase the general understanding of the Parties' MCS regimes.

12.3.2 The Delegations agreed to strengthen their cooperation and dialogue on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance to enhance compliance with fisheries regulations and further improve MCS measures. To this end, the Delegations agreed that they would seek to revise the existing Memorandum of Understanding from 4 October 2006 between the Kingdom of Norway and the European Community on the Conclusion of Future Bilateral Arrangements for Enhanced Fisheries Cooperation on Control and Enforcement between Norway and the Member States of the European Community. The aim of this revision is to facilitate the cooperation between their respective control authorities both at strategic and operational levels, covering also risk management and joint operational activities. The Delegations agreed to discuss and prepare such an agreement by October 2025.

12.4 The European Union Delegation noted that Regulation (EU) 2024/2594 lays down conservation, management and control measures applicable in the area covered by the Convention on future multilateral cooperation in the North-East Atlantic fisheries,



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including certain control measures for pelagic fisheries in Union waters and ports. The European Union also noted the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2023/2842, amending Regulation No 1224/2009 (the Control Regulation) and other regulations. These amendments introduced a number of provisions on digitalisation of reporting requirements and control measures to be implemented within certain deadlines such as remote electronic monitoring systems and vessel reporting requirements.

13 ELECTRONIC REPORTING SYSTEMS (ERS) AND VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEMS (VMS) FOR FISHING VESSELS

13.1 Electronic reporting

- 13.1.1 The Delegations noted the decision by the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) to implement and set into production the new Electronic Reporting System (ERS) based on the UN/FLUX standard on the 15th of January 2024. This date marked the start of the two-year transition period wherein the remaining Contracting Parties shall test and implement the new ERS data exchange system based on the UN/FLUX standard. The Delegations agreed that the timeframe established by NEAFC would also be an appropriate timeframe to finalise revisions of the current agreements on bilateral electronic exchange of data between the Parties, including fishing activities (ERS) and notifications and authorisations data. The Delegations noted that the discussions and work need to be intensified by the Parties to follow this timeframe, whilst recognising the technical challenges that need to be overcome.
- 13.1.2 The Delegations noted that Norway and EU from 1 January 2023 had already implemented and set into production exchange of vessel position data (VMS) based on the UN/FLUX standard.
- 13.1.3 Furthermore, the Delegations noted the progress made at technical level to develop a template (i.e. common principles) for an electronic notifications and authorisations scheme based on the UN/FLUX standard with the intention to establish bilateral data exchanges, as appropriate. They also noted the ongoing technical work on the fishing activities (ERS) data based on the UN/FLUX standard, and agreed to continue the development in a trilateral setting to establish a template (i.e. common principles) with the intention to establish bilateral data exchanges, as appropriate.
- 13.1.4 The Delegations highlighted that well-functioning and reliable systems are of exceptional importance for science, management, control and enforcement of the regulations. Furthermore, the Delegations underlined the requirement of the flag State FMC to forward information of the RET message from the coastal State FMC without undue delay to the master of the vessel to enable the master to fulfil the reporting requirements in Norwegian waters, as well as the importance of the agreed fallback procedures in case of technical issues.
- 13.1.5 The Delegations agreed to seek suitable arrangements within the scope of the trilateral Working Group on electronic exchange of data as outlined in Annex IX to the Agreed Record of fisheries consultations between the EU, Norway and the United Kingdom for 2025 of 29 November 2024.

14 NOTIFICATION OF NEW LEGISLATION

- 14.1 The Parties agreed to communicate in a timely manner the introduction of new fisheries legislation that are of relevance for the other Party's fishing vessels.

- 14.2 The EU Delegation once again reminded the Norwegian Delegation of the need to provide new legislation in a format which is easily understandable, i.e. English, as soon as such legislation is available. The EU Delegation highlights that the lack of understandable rules substantially increases the risk of unintentional non-compliance with Norwegian law and creates a climate of legal uncertainty for the masters of European Union member states vessels. Furthermore, it multiplies the risk of discrepancies between the original Norwegian version and unofficial translation(s) by the EU or its Member States. The implications of this are that reliance on unofficial translations increases the risk of inadvertently contravening Norwegian rules. This means vessel owners may be subject to legal proceedings even if they are operating in good faith as a result of an incorrect interpretation.
- 14.3 The Norwegian Delegation reiterated that no additional translations will be provided and stressed that the current notification practice is in line with the requirements under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- 14.4 The Norwegian Delegation reminded the EU that every fishing vessel that intend to fish in areas under Norwegian jurisdiction has the duty to seek information on the relevant laws and regulations. Norway expects the EU vessels to comply with the regulations adopted by Norway when fishing in Norwegian waters.

5 December 2024

For the European Union Delegation



Thomas BRÉGEON

For the Norwegian Delegation



Ann Kristin WESTBERG

TABLE 1

ZONAL ACCESS FOR JOINTLY MANAGED STOCKS IN THE NORTH SEA FOR 2025

Species	ICES Areas	TAC		Norwegian Quota		EU Quota		Norwegian access in EU waters		EU access in Norwegian waters	
		Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes
Cod	4	19,910		3,385		7,106		2,816		5,142	
Haddock	4	95,862		22,048		11,686		18,346		7,236	
Saithe	4, 3a	71,638		37,252		25,446		30,997		21,184	
Whiting	4	111,861		11,186		26,645		9,308		15,028	
Plaice	4	155,755		10,903		103,624		9,073		35,399	
North Sea herring	4, 7d	388,542		112,677		195,242		2,700		2,700	

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EXCHANGE OF QUOTAS FROM NORTH SEA AND OTHER AREAS FOR 2025

SPECIES	ICES AREA	QUOTA TO NORWAY IN THE EU ZONE (TONNES)	QUOTA TO THE EU IN THE NORWEGIAN ZONE (TONNES)
Saithe	4, 3a	1,500	
Northern shrimp	4		50
Anglerfish	4		1,100
Norway lobster	4		200
Sole	4	5	
Hake	4		1,675
Sprat ¹	4	7,500	
Tusk	4		50
Blue whiting	2a, 4, 6a ² , 6b, 7 ³	81,750	
Ling	4		550
Others ⁴	4	500	1,650

¹ To be fished from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

² North of 56°30'N

³ West of 12°W

⁴ Defined as species not specifically mentioned in Tables 1 to 4

TABLE 3

QUOTAS TO THE EU OF NORWEGIAN EXCLUSIVE STOCKS FOR 2025

SPECIES	ICES AREA	QUANTITY (TONNES)
Arcto-Norwegian cod	1; 2	10,316
Arcto-Norwegian haddock	1; 2	600
Saithe	1; 2	575
Greenland halibut (by-catches)	1; 2	175
Others (by-catches)	1; 2	225

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TABLE 4**QUOTAS TO NORWAY FROM THE EU QUOTAS IN GREENLANDIC WATERS FOR 2025**

SPECIES	ICES AREA	QUANTITY (TONNES)
Shrimp	14; 5.a	1,700
Greenland halibut	NAFO 1 ICES 14; 5.a	275 650
Grenadier (by-catches)	NAFO 1	55
Grenadier (by-catches)	ICES 14; 5.a	40
Redfish (demersal)	NAFO 1; ICES 14; 5.a	900

CONDITIONS FOR FISHERIES BY THE PARTIES IN 2025**I. JOINT STOCKS**

1. The Total Allowable Catches (TACs) for the stocks mentioned in Table 1 for 2025 shall be as indicated in that table. If ICES make new scientific recommendations, the Parties will review these TACs.
2. The TACs referred to in paragraph 1 shall be divided between the Parties as indicated in Table 1.
3. Each Party shall inform the other Parties of allocations granted for fishing on the stocks referred to in Table 1.
4. The Parties shall supply each other with monthly catch statistics for fishing on the stocks referred to in Table 1 by their own vessels. Communication of these statistics for the preceding month shall take place at the latest on the last day of each month.

II. OTHER STOCKS

Each Party shall authorise fishing by vessels of the other Party for the stocks mentioned in Tables 1 to 4 within the quotas set out in these tables.

III. FISHERY REGULATIONS

1. The Parties will consult on fishery regulations in the North Sea, with a view to achieving, as far as possible, the harmonization of regulatory measures in the zones of the two Parties.
2. A Party intending to introduce or amend fishery regulations, applicable to vessels of the other Party shall duly inform the Parties of such intentions without delay.

IV. LICENSING

1. Licensing by either Party of the other Party's vessels in 2025 shall be limited to the following fisheries.
 - A. EU fishing in the Norwegian Economic Zone:
 - all fishing north of 62° N;
 - all industrial fishing and fishing for mackerel in the North Sea;
 - all other fishing with vessels over 200 GRT in the North Sea.
 - B. Norwegian fishing in the EU zone and in Greenland waters:
 - all fishing in NAFO Sub-area 1 and ICES Sub-area XIV and Division Va;
 - all fishing in the EU's fishing zone with vessels over 200 GRT.

For 2025, the number of licences and the conditions of those licences shall be in accordance with the Agreed Record of Conclusions on Licence Arrangements for 1995 between the European Community and Norway signed at Bergen on 13 May

1995.

2. The Parties shall notify each other, according to the types of fishing indicated above, the name and characteristics of the vessels for which licences may be issued.

It is agreed that the requirement for each Party's vessels to keep on-board a licence whilst fishing in the other Party's zone shall no longer apply.

3. Vessels, which were authorised to fish on 31 December 2024, may continue their activities in 2025.
4. Each Party shall submit to the other Party the names and characteristics of the other Party's vessels which will not be authorised to fish in its fishing zone the next month(s) as a consequence of an infringement of its rules.

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**CONDITIONS FOR NORWEGIAN VESSELS INTENDING TO FISH
FOR BLUE WHITING IN EUROPEAN UNION WATERS**

The following provisions shall apply to Norwegian vessels intending to fish for blue whiting in European Union waters in 2025:

1. Vessels that already have catch on board.
 - 1.1. Vessels that already have catch on board may only commence their fishing trip after having received authorisation from the competent authority of the coastal Member State concerned.
 - 1.2. Upon entering European Union waters, the master of the vessel shall contact the Fisheries Monitoring Centre of the coastal Member State concerned, as follows:
Ireland (Haulbowline) by e-mail at the following address: fmcireland@defenceforces.ie or by telephone (+353 21 4378752) at least 12 hours prior to entering one of the control areas referred to in point 1.1.
 - 1.3. The notification shall specify the name, international radio call sign and port letters and number (PLN) of the vessel, the total quantity by species on board and the position (longitude/latitude) where the master estimates that the vessel will enter European Union waters as well as the area where he intends to commence fishing. The vessel shall not commence fishing until it has received acknowledgement of the notification and instructions on whether or not the master is required to present the vessel for inspection. Each acknowledgement shall have a unique authorisation number which the master shall retain until the fishing trip is terminated.
 - 1.4. Notwithstanding any inspections that may be carried out at sea the competent authorities may in duly justified circumstances require a master to present his vessel for inspection in waters of Blacksod Bay or in the port of Killybegs.
 - 1.5. Vessels that enter European Union waters with no catch on board shall be exempt from the requirements laid down in point 1.
 - 1.6. Vessels that transit through European Union waters must stow their nets so that they may not readily be used in accordance with the following conditions:
 - a. Nets, weights and similar gear shall be disconnected from their trawl boards and towing and hauling wires and ropes; and
 - b. Nets, which are on or above deck, shall be securely lashed to same part of the superstructure.

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