

**AGREED RECORD OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND
NORWAY REGARDING FISHERIES IN SKAGERRAK AND KATTEGAT FOR 2026/2027**

16 JUNE 2026

1. A European Union Delegation, headed by Mr. Mael LE DRAST, and a Norwegian Delegation, headed by Ms. Ann Kristin WESTBERG, met in Bergen on 15 and 16 June 2026 to consult on mutual fisheries relations for 2026 and 2027.
2. The Delegations referred to the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between the European Union and Norway on the Regulation of Fisheries in Skagerrak and Kattegat for 2026, signed on 16 December 2025, and, in particular, to paragraphs 12.1 - 12.7, as well as Annex I and Annex III of that Agreed Record.
3. The Delegations agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the following fishery arrangements for the period from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027, as outlined in this Agreed Record.
4. **Northern shrimp in ICES divisions 3a and 4a East**
 - 4.1. The Delegations noted that ICES released the advice on Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in ICES divisions 3a and 4a East (Skagerrak, Kattegat and northern North Sea in the Norwegian Deep) for the period from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 on 8 June 2026.
 - 4.2. The Delegations noted that ICES advises that when the EU-Norway LTMS is applied, catches in the period from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027 should be no more than 4 612 tonnes. The Delegations also noted that ICES currently estimates the spawning stock to be below both $B_{trigger}$ and B_{lim} and that the fishing pressure of the stock is below F_{msy} and F_{pa} .
 - 4.3. The Delegations agreed to establish a TAC of 4 612 tonnes for the period from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027. This represents an increase of 15% compared to the TAC for the period from July 2025 to June 2026.
 - 4.4. The Delegations consequently agreed to establish a TAC of 3 228 tonnes for Skagerrak for the period from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.
 - 4.5. The Norwegian Delegation informed the EU Delegation of its intention to fix within the quantity given in paragraph 4.3 a quota for Northern shrimp for division 4a East of 1 384 tonnes for the period from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.

- 4.6. The Delegations recalled that in order to avoid a reduction in survey effort EU covered the two Norwegian IBTS stations in Skagerrak in Q1 2026, in exchange for Norway extending the duration of the January 2026 shrimp survey to 23 days.
- 4.7. The Delegations agreed to aim to continue this arrangement for 2027.
- 4.8. The Delegations agreed that there should not be inter-annual flexibility from 2026 to 2027.
- 4.9. The Delegations noted that Norway had offered to host industry representatives on the annual shrimp survey in January 2026, where a total of four representatives together joined the survey. The Delegations also noted that this offer will be extended to future annual shrimp surveys.
- 4.10. The Delegations recalled that they had agreed in June 2024 to establish a Working Group of experts to explore and recommend possible technical measures that could contribute to the rebuilding of the stock. The Working Group submitted a report in May 2025, which recommendations included improving the RTC-regime and increasing selectivity through gear innovations.
- 4.11. The Delegations recalled their decision, in consultations for 2025-2026, to revise the joint real-time closure (RTC) system for Northern shrimp as a remedial measure, as outlined in Annex II of their Agreed Record signed on 23 June 2025. Revisions to the RTC system included a lower trigger threshold for juvenile shrimp in a single haul the extension of the size and duration of the RTCs, and the termination of the exemption for vessels equipped with size-selective grid.
- 4.12. The Delegations welcomed the further report of the Working Group on coordinated scientific gear trials for increased size selectivity in the Northern shrimp fishery, which was presented to the Delegations on 15 June. They took note of the recommendations outlined in the report, which include a coordinated study design for ongoing and planned trials.
- 4.13. The Delegations agreed that this report formed a solid foundation for the coordination of gear trials with comparable results across Denmark, Norway and Sweden. They invited the technical Working Group of experts to coordinate, on such basis, the planning, conduct and analysis of gear trials in 2026 and 2027, involving stakeholders and national scientific institutes. The Delegations further agreed that available results from the trials would be reviewed in advance of consultations for 2027-2028.
- 4.14. The Delegations noted that despite efforts to recover the stock above B_{lim} , ICES currently assesses the spawning stock biomass for Northern shrimp to be below that limit reference point. Both Delegations expressed concerns with the status of the stock, and agreed that further work on exploring additional measures to protect it from depletion was needed. Consequently, they agreed to further explore in 2026 and 2027 the scientific basis of a seasonal closure of the fishery during the hatching season.

4.15. The Delegations recalled their agreement to finalise the new LTMS available in Annex II once ICES has completed its evaluation of that new LTMS in line with the request included in Annex III. The Delegations noted that ICES currently estimates the spawning stock biomass to be below both B_{trigger} and B_{lim} . The Delegations therefore agreed to put this task on hold and will inform ICES accordingly.

5. Sprat

5.1. The Delegations referred to the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between the European Union, Norway and the United Kingdom, signed on 26 May 2026, on fisheries arrangement for sprat for the fishing season from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027. The Delegations recalled that in that Agreed Record it was decided that 18,3 % of the TAC, which amounts to 15 156 tonnes, would be allocated to the Skagerrak and Kattegat.

6. Whiting

6.1. The Delegations noted the challenges associated with the management of whiting in Skagerrak and Kattegat (ICES division 3a), which is taken as a bycatch in the mixed demersal fishery and other fisheries. They noted the risks of choke associated with the low TAC for this bycatch stock, compounded by the intermixing of this stock with North Sea whiting in ICES division 3a. The Delegations agreed to revert to this issue during annual consultations for 2027, to discuss potential improvements to the data availability to support future stock assessment, including genetic information.

7. Quotas of the parties

7.1. The Delegations agreed to replace Annex I of the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between Norway and the European Union on the Regulation of Fisheries in Skagerrak and Kattegat for 2026, signed on 16 December 2025, with Annex I attached to this Agreed Record.

8. Other

8.1. The Delegations referred to paragraph 13.9 of the Agreed Record of their fisheries consultations for the Skagerrak for 2026, signed on 16 December 2025, where Norway informed that it would conduct during the first half of 2026 a public consultation with a view to establishing in 2026 spatial temporal management measures to reduce catches of Western Baltic spring spawning (WBSS) herring and juvenile North Sea autumn spawning (NSAS) herring in the relevant areas of Norwegian waters of Division 4.a and 4.b.

8.2. The Norwegian Delegation informed the EU Delegation that the public consultation closed on 8 May 2026. The consultation input is currently being reviewed before a final decision on measures is taken.

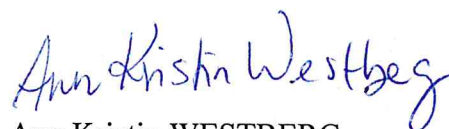
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For the European Union Delegation

For the Norwegian Delegation



Mael LE DRAST



Ann Kristin WESTBERG

TACs AND ALLOCATIONS IN 2026

Catches taken during the period from 1 January to 31 December 2026 in the Skagerrak and the Kattegat of the species mentioned below shall be limited as follows (metric tonnes, fresh round weight):

SPECIES	AREA ⁽¹⁾	TAC 2026	ALLOCATION TO NORWAY	ALLOCATION TO EUROPEAN UNION
COD	S	1 596	52 ⁽²⁾	1 544
HADDOCK ⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾	S + K	5 675	238	5 437
WHITING	S + K	455	8	447
PLAICE	S	19 346	387	18 959
MACKEREL	S + K	pm	pm	pm
PANDALUS ⁽⁵⁾	S	3 228	1 504	1 724
SPRAT ⁽⁵⁾	S + K	15 156	1 137	14 020

- (1) Skagerrak (S): the area bounded on the west by a straight line running through the Hanstholm lighthouse and the Lindesnes lighthouse and on the south by a straight line running through the Skagen lighthouse and the Tistlarna lighthouse. Skagerrak and Kattegat (S + K): the area defined as Skagerrak, extended to the southern boundary of Kattegat, and defined as a straight line from Hasenøre to Gnibens spids, from Korshage to Spodsbjerg and from Gilbjerg Hoved to Kullen.
- (2) This quantity does not include catches to be taken with passive gear inside the Norwegian baselines.
- (3) The TAC for haddock includes both a directed fishery for haddock and by-catches in the industrial fisheries.
- (4) In addition, up to 10% of the haddock quotas of the Parties in ICES subarea 4 (North Sea) in 2026 can be fished in ICES division 3a (Skagerrak-Kattegat).
- (5) To be fished in the period from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027.

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LONG TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN SHRIMP (*Pandalus borealis*) IN DIVISIONS 3.A AND 4.A EAST (SKAGERRAK AND KATTEGAT AND NORTHERN NORTH SEA IN THE NORWEGIAN DEEP)

The Parties agree to implement a Long Term Management Strategy (LTMS) for the Northern shrimp in the Northern North Sea (Norwegian Deep) and in the Skagerrak and Kattegat.

The objective of this LTMS is to provide for sustainable fisheries with high and sustainable yields in conformity with the precautionary approach.

For the purpose of this long term management strategy, the following definitions shall apply:

- "SSB" means the estimate according to ICES of the Spawning Stock Biomass at the beginning of the TAC year.
- $B_{TRIGGER}$ is the value of spawning stock biomass (SSB) that triggers a specific management action.
- F_{TARGET} is the fishing mortality to be included in the algorithm for the agreed long-term management strategy as a function of variables related to the status of the stock.

The value for $B_{TRIGGER}$ is fixed in the light of the latest available ICES advice. The value of F_{target} is fixed by ICES and fulfilling the following criteria:

1. The Parties shall set a 12 month TAC for northern shrimp for a period between 1 July to 30 June that is consistent with fishing at F_{target} provided that SSB at the start of the TAC year is equal to or greater than $MSY B_{trigger}$.
2. Where the SSB at the start of the TAC year is estimated to be below $MSY B_{trigger}$ the Parties agree that the fishing mortality referred to in paragraph 1 is reduced linearly from $F_{TARGET} \times$ at SSB equal to $MSY B_{trigger}$ to F equal to zero at SSB equal to zero.
3. Overriding the rules set out in paragraphs 1 and 2, the F_{TARGET} should be in line with the criteria specified in the ICES MSY approach for SSB falling below B_{lim} in the year following the TAC year.

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EU-Norway request to ICES for a revision of the Long-Term Management Strategy for Northern shrimp in Skagerrak and the Norwegian Deep

EU-Norway request to ICES to assess elements of a revised long-term management strategy for Northern shrimp in Skagerrak and the Norwegian Deep

In the previous Pandalus LTMS, a 5% downscale of the F target was considered appropriate when applying a maximum 10% banking and borrowing. ICES is requested to confirm if this is still valid given the newly agreed LTMS, the updated assessment model and new perception of the stock.

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