

**AGREED RECORD OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN
NORWAY AND THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR 2026**

18 DECEMBER 2025

- 1 A Norwegian Delegation, headed by Ms. Ann Kristin WESTBERG, and a European Union Delegation, headed by Mr. Thomas BRÉGEON, met in Brussels from 3 to 6 November, in Oslo from 24 to 27 November, in Brussels from 4 to 5 and via videoconference from 8 to 11 December 2025 to consult on mutual fisheries relations for 2026.
- 2 The Delegations referred to the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between the United Kingdom, European Union and Norway of 5 December 2025 (hereinafter the “Trilateral Agreed Record for 2026”).
- 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 2026 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. *Sprat (Sprattus sprattus) in ICES Subarea 4*

- 5.2.1. The Delegations noted that the EU transferred 10,000 tonnes of sprat to Norway for the fishing season 2025/2026, thereby exceeding by 2,500 tonnes the level included in Table 2 in the Agreed Record of fisheries consultations between the European Union and Norway of 5 December 2025. Norway has consequently compensated the EU for the difference with the corresponding amount of cod equivalents in the quota exchanges for 2026.
- 5.2.2. 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 2026 to 30 June 2027. They further noted that the transfer of 10,000 tonnes shown in Table 2 is conditional on the level of the EU North Sea fishing opportunities in 2026/2027: for a range of 60,000 to 100,000 tonnes, the EU will transfer 10% of its quota to Norway. Should the level of the quota not allow the EU to transfer 10,000 tonnes, it was agreed that the EU would compensate Norway with the corresponding amount of cod equivalents in the quota exchanges for 2027.

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5.3. Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in ICES Subarea 4

5.3.1. 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 2026/2027 has been established. In case of such transfer the EU would compensate Norway with the corresponding amount of cod equivalents for 2027. The Parties also agreed that an alternative option could be that EU compensates Norway with the corresponding amount of cod equivalents already in 2026, if so agreed by the Parties.

5.4. Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in Greenland waters of ICES Subarea 14 and Division 5.a

5.4.1. The EU Delegation noted that Union fishing opportunities will be accessed by vessels flying the flag of Norway to ensure the proper functioning of the Union's fisheries agreements with Norway, in line with the fishing authorisations issued by Greenlandic authorities and pursuant to Art 5(2) of the Sustainable fisheries partnership agreement (SFPA) between the European Union and Greenland¹.

5.4.2. The Norwegian Delegation noted that in accordance with what is set out in paragraphs 5 and 6 of section 2.4 of the minutes of the second meeting on 19-20 November 2025 of the Joint Committee under the protocol on the implementation of the SFPA between the European Union and Greenland, Norway will have the opportunity to use 3 vessels at any time utilizing the shrimp quota.

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 exchange 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.

¹ OJ L 175, 18.5.2021 http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2021/793/oj

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 noted that zonal access arrangements for Norwegian Spring-Spawning Herring and Blue Whiting are not reflected in this Agreed Record. The Delegations further noted that discussions on these matters are continuing in the relevant fora.
- 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 the mutual interest of the Parties in setting access arrangements at levels allowing for the optimal utilisation of their respective quotas and fishing possibilities.
- 6.6 The Norwegian Delegation noted that EU vessels currently enjoy a high level of zonal access in Norwegian waters of the North Sea and Skagerrak and underscored that access arrangements in addition should be balanced.

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 noted that a research project to test fishing gear technology in Norwegian waters was approved by the relevant Norwegian authorities on 22 October 2024 and

conducted in the period from 1 to 30 April 2025. The Delegations also noted that the mission cruise report so far has not been submitted to the Directorate of Fisheries.

- 8.2 The EU Delegation proposed that the Parties discuss the outcomes of the project once the mission cruise report is submitted to the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries.
- 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 FISHING POSSIBILITIES

- 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.
- 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 the continuous 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, as set out in the Trilateral Agreed Record for 2026.

12 CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT

- 12.1 *Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) measures for joint stocks in the North Sea*
 - 12.1.1 The Delegations recalled their agreement to strengthen cooperation and dialogue on MCS to enhance compliance with fisheries regulations and further improve MCS measures.
 - 12.1.2 In this context, the Delegations noted that consultations to revise the existing Memorandum of Understanding dated 4 October 2006 between the Kingdom of Norway and the European Community have commenced. The purpose of the revision is to facilitate cooperation between their respective control authorities at both strategic and

operational levels, including areas such as mutual assistance requests, exchange of operational information, risk management and joint operational activities.

12.1.3 The Delegations referred to the agreement in the 2026 Trilateral Agreed Records to establish a Working Group (WG) on MCS in the North Sea, which will begin its work in early 2026 and report on its progress through the trilateral Fisheries Consultations.

12.2 *Cooperation, exchange of information and inspectors*

12.2.1 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.

12.2.2 The European Union Delegation recalled 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. The European Union Delegation notified the Norwegian delegation of Implementing Regulation 2025/2196 as regards access to waters and resources, control of fisheries, surveillance, inspection and enforcement, deduction of quotas and fishing efforts, data and information and Delegated Regulation 2025/1766 laying down rules on the control of fisheries and on the surveillance and inspection of fishing activities, enforcement and compliance, published on 12 November 2025.

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

12.3.1 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 to revise the agreement from 2022 are still ongoing.

12.3.2 The Delegations stressed the importance of timely and effective implementation of the control measures concluded within the 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 and the importance of the timely conclusion of ongoing consultations to revise the agreement.

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

13.1 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 United Nations Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (UN/FLUX standard) on 15th 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. Furthermore, the Delegations noted that the bilateral agreements on exchange of electronic vessel positions data between the EU and Norway and between Norway and the UK have been revised and completed to facilitate exchange of data based on UN/FLUX standard.

- 13.2 The Delegations agreed to continue to make 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 had been intensified by the Parties in 2025 recognising the technical challenges that need to be overcome.
- 13.3 Furthermore, the Delegations noted the progress made at a technical level to develop a template (i.e. common principles) for an electronic notification and authorisation 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 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.
- 13.4 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.
- 13.5 The Delegations noted the important progress made in the Working Group on the electronic exchange of data following the Terms of Reference in Annex IX of the Trilateral Agreed Record for 2025. The Delegations agreed to seek suitable arrangements within the scope of the Working Group on electronic exchange of data as outlined in Annex X of the Trilateral Agreed Record for 2026. The work plan for the Working Group on electronic exchange of data can be found in Annex XI of the Trilateral Agreed Record for 2026.

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.

18 December 2025

For the Norwegian Delegation



Ann Kristin WESTBERG

For the European Union Delegation



Thomas BRÉGEON

TABLE 1

ZONAL ACCESS FOR JOINTLY MANAGED STOCKS IN THE NORTH SEA FOR 2026

Species	ICES Areas	TAC	Norwegian Quota	EU Quota	Norwegian access in EU waters	EU access in Norwegian waters
		Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes
Cod	4	11,164	1,898	3,984	1,579	2,883
Haddock	4	92,337	21,237	11,256	17,671	6,970
Saithe	4, 3a	54,053	28,108	19,200	23,388	15,980
Whiting	4	159,304	15,934	37,956	13,259	21,407
Plaice	4	144,605	10,122	96,206	8,423	32,865
North Sea herring	4, 7d, 3a	328,566	91,013	174,140	2,700	2,700

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TABLE 2

EXCHANGE OF QUOTAS FROM NORTH SEA AND OTHER AREAS FOR 2026

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	25
Northern shrimp	4		990
Anglerfish	4		200
Norway lobster	4		
Sole	4	5	
Hake	4		1,385
Sprat ²	4	10,000	
Tusk	4		25
Blue whiting	2a, 4, 6a ³ , 6b, 7 ⁴	47,905	
Ling	4		465
Others ⁵	4	300	1,390

² To be fished from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

³ North of 56°30'N

⁴ West of 12°W

⁵ Defined as species not specifically mentioned in Tables 1 to 4

TABLE 3

QUOTAS TO THE EU OF NORWEGIAN EXCLUSIVE STOCKS FOR 2026

SPECIES	ICES AREA	QUANTITY (TONNES)
Arcto-Norwegian cod	1; 2	9,196
Arcto-Norwegian haddock	1; 2	500
Saithe	1; 2	400
Greenland halibut (by-catches)	1; 2	165
Others (by-catches)	1; 2	200

TABLE 4

QUOTAS TO NORWAY FROM THE EU QUOTAS IN GREENLANDIC WATERS FOR 2026

SPECIES	ICES AREA	QUANTITY (TONNES)
Shrimp	14; 5.a	1,500
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 2026

I. JOINT STOCKS

1. The Total Allowable Catches (TACs) for the stocks mentioned in Table 1 for 2026 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 2026 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 2026, 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 2025, may continue their activities in 2026.
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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ANNEX II

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 2026:

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: fincireland@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.