AGREED RECORD

OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE FAROE ISLANDS, ICELAND AND NORWAY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF BLUE WHITING IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC IN 2014

OSLO, 28 MARCH 2014

1. A Delegation of Norway, headed by Ms Signrun M HOLST, a Delegation of the European Union, headed by Mr John SPENCER, a Delegation of the Faroe Islands, headed by Mr Andras KRISTIANSEN, and a Delegation of Iceland, headed by Mr Kristján Freyr HELGASON, met in London on 4-6 February 2014 to consult on the management of the blue whiting stock in the North-East Atlantic in 2014. This was a continuation of previous meetings held in London. The consultations were finalised by correspondence.

   A Delegation of the Russian Federation, headed by Mr Yuri LEPESEVICH, attended as an observer.

2. The Delegations recognised that the basis for management measures in 2014 is the Agreed Record of Conclusions of Fisheries Consultations on the Management of Blue Whiting in the North-East Atlantic concluded in Oslo on 16 December 2005 (the 2005 Agreed Record), including its Annex I.

3. The Delegations noted ICES' response of October 2013 to the revised request from NEAFC of June 2013 to ICES on evaluating the harvest control rule element of the long-term management plan for blue whiting in the North East Atlantic. However, some Delegations had concerns that the forecast model used for the blue whiting stock could have possible implications for the Plan. Consequently, through NEAFC, on the basis of the request set out in Annex III, the Delegations asked ICES to review the forecast model and provide new advice prior to the consultations for 2015.

4. The Delegations agreed to consider, at the annual consultations for blue whiting for 2015, a possible revision of the existing long-term management plan for blue whiting, as set out in Annex II to this *ad hoc* arrangement in the light of the latest ICES advice.

5. The Delegations noted the ICES advice for 2014, which indicated that the steep decline in SSB observed since 2004 has stopped, and that there has been an increase in recruitment in the last three years.

6. As an *ad hoc* arrangement for 2014, the Delegations agreed to recommend the limitation of their total catches in 2014 to 1,104,494 tonnes[1] within a total catch limitation of 1,200,000 tonnes of blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic.

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[1] The difference between 1,200,000 tonnes and 1,104,494 tonnes is set aside to be allocated by NEAFC to Non-Coastal States.

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7. In accordance with paragraphs 5 and 6 of the 2005 Agreed Record, the Delegations agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the arrangement for the regulation of the fisheries of blue whiting in 2014 as contained in Annex I to this Ad hoc Arrangement.

8. The Delegations encouraged the Parties to develop and coordinate their scientific research activities in order to improve the information available for the assessment and the management of this stock.

9. The Delegations agreed to provide information regarding quotas and catches in the format set out in Annex III to this ad hoc arrangement. Each Party shall, by 1 May 2014, provide updated information to the Faroe Islands as host of the consultations on management measures for 2015 regarding their total catches in 2013, on any allocation of quotas to other Parties in 2014, and on their total provisional catches in 2014. The Faroe Islands shall forward this information as soon as possible to all Parties to this Ad hoc Arrangement.

Oslo, 28 March 2014

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ANNEX I

AD HOC ARRANGEMENT FOR THE REGULATION OF THE FISHERIES OF BLUE WHITING IN 2014

1. The Parties agreed to restrict their fisheries of blue whiting in 2014 to a maximum catch limit of 1.104.494 tonnes on the basis of the following quotas:

European Union	336.871 tonnes
Faroe Islands	288.549 tonnes
Iceland	194.722 tonnes
Norway	284.352 tonnes

2. Each Party may transfer unutilised quantities of up to 10% of the quota allocated to it for 2014 to 2015. Such transfer shall be in addition to the quota allocated to the Party concerned for 2015.

3. Each Party may authorise fishing by its vessels of up to 10% beyond the quota allocated. All quantities fished beyond the allocated quota for 2014 shall be deducted from the Party's allocation for 2015.

4. The Parties may fish blue whiting within the quotas laid down in Paragraph 1 in their respective zones of fisheries jurisdiction and in international waters.

5. Further arrangements by the Parties, including arrangements for access, quota transfers and other conditions for fishing in the respective zones of fisheries jurisdiction, are regulated by bilateral arrangements.

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ANNEX II

ARRANGEMENT FOR THE LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF THE BLUE WHITING STOCK

1. The Parties agree to implement a long-term management plan for the fisheries on the blue whiting stock, which is consistent with the precautionary approach, aiming at ensuring harvest within safe biological limits and designed to provide for fisheries consistent with maximum sustainable yield, in accordance with advice from ICES.

2. For the purpose of this long-term-management plan, in the following text, "TAC" means the sum of the coastal State TAC and the NEAFC allowable catches.

3. As a priority, the long-term-plan shall ensure with high probability that the size of the stock is maintained above 1.5 million tonnes (B_{lim})

4. The Parties shall aim to exploit the stock with a fishing mortality of 0.18 on relevant age groups as defined by ICES.

5. When the fishing mortality in paragraph 4 has been reached, the Parties agree to establish the TAC in each year in accordance with the following rules:

   - In the case that the spawning biomass is forecast to reach or exceed 2.25 million tonnes (SSB trigger level) on 1 January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC shall be fixed at the level consistent with the specified fishing mortality.

   - In the case that the spawning biomass is forecast to be less than 2.25 million tonnes on 1 January of the year for which the TAC is to be set (B), the TAC shall be fixed consistent with a fishing mortality given by:

     $$F = 0.05 + [(B - 1.5)(0.18 - 0.05) / (2.25 - 1.5)]$$

   - In the case that spawning biomass is forecast to be less than 1.5 million tonnes on 1 January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC will be fixed that is consistent with a fishing mortality given by F = 0.05.

6. When the fishing mortality rate on the stock is consistent with that established in paragraph 4 and the spawning stock size on 1 January of the year for which the TAC is to be set is forecast to exceed 2.25 million tonnes, the Parties agree to discuss the appropriateness of adopting constraints on TAC changes within the plan.

7. The Parties, on the basis of ICES advice, shall review this long-term management plan at intervals not exceeding five years and when the condition specified in paragraph 4 is reached.

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Annex III

DRAFT NEAFC REQUEST TO ICES FOR ADVICE

The North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) has noted that ICES in its blue whiting forecast for 2014, assumed the level of recruitment in 2013 to be the same as that in 2012 rather than the geometric mean of the years 1981-2010, which means the spawning biomass in 2015 might be overestimated.

Furthermore, NEAFC noted that the distribution of spawning biomass estimates using the stochastic forecast model is both wide and skewed, which in its view could lead to an overestimation of the F values that are deemed precautionary.

ICES is requested to review the assumptions and performance of the stochastic forecast model. ICES is also requested to assess whether or not there are any implications with respect to the reliability of its previous evaluations of the various options to revise the management plan, as outlined in special requests 9.3.3.1 and 9.3.3.7 of June and October 2013 respectively

Background

In the forecast derived with the stochastic model, the distribution of the spawning stock is both wide and skewed and the lower quantiles of the distribution are tight. This leads to the concern that the spawning stock biomass values corresponding to probability levels in the lower tail of the distribution may be overestimated and thus resulting in too high F values being erroneously found to be precautionary.

Annex III

REPORTING OF QUOTAS AND CATCHES OF OF BLUE WHITING IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC

2011

Party	QUOTAS (tonnes) Coastal State share/share	Balance 2010	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	CATCHES (tonnes) NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Faroese Fishing Zone	Greenland fishing zone	Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone	Norwegian Economic Zone	Fishery Zone around Jan Mayen	Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard	Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH	Balance 2012
European Union	11 072	5 045	-	16 126	-	14 496	-	-	-	-	68	-	-	14 564	1 562
Faroe Islands	9 642	12 985	-8 000	14 627	1 970	-	14 435	-	-	-	-	-	-	16 405	-1 778
Iceland	6 507	-4 090	-	2 417	614	-	738	-	4 421	-	2	-	-	5 775	-3 358
Norway	9 502	13 044	-513	22 033	5 876	6 949	0	-	0	7 714	0	-	-	20 539	1 494
Total CS	36 723	26 984	-8 513	55 203	8 460	21 445	15 173	0	4 421	7 714	70	0	0	57 283	-2 080
Russian Federation*	45 000	-	8 698	53 698	31 511	-	13 857	-	-	379	27	27	-	45 801	7 897
Greenland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	
Total all Parties	81 723	26 984	185	108 901	39 971	21 445	29 030	-	4 421	8 093	97	27	-	103 084	5 817

2012

Party	QUOTAS (tonnes) Coastal State share/share	Balance 2011	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	CATCHES (tonnes) NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Faroese Fishing Zone	Greenland fishing zone	Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone	Norwegian Economic Zone	Fishery Zone around Jan Mayen	Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard	Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH	Balance 2012
European Union	107 964	1 107	-30 000	79 071	-	68 850	-	-	-	84	-	-	-	68 934	10 137
Faroe Islands	94 019	-1 603	-50 000	42 416	2 645		40 411			4				43 060	-644
Iceland	63 447	-3 358		60 089	458		55 852		6 641					62 951	-2 862
Norway	92 651	969	24 996	118 614	18 779	93 777				5 569		52		118 176	438
Total CS	358 081	-2 885	-55 004	300 190	21 882	162 627	96 263	0	6 641	5 657	0	52	0	293 121	7 069
Russian Federation*	29 002	4 500	56 800	90 332	38 073	-	49 900			40	238	48	-	88 303	1 999
Greenland	2 117	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Total all Parties	389 200	1 615	1 796	390 492	59 955	162 627	146 163	-	6 641	5 697	238	100	-	381 424	9 066

2013 Provisional

Party	QUOTAS (tonnes) Coastal State share/share	Balance 2012	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	CATCHES (tonnes) NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Faroese Fishing Zone	Greenland fishing zone	Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone	Norwegian Economic Zone	Fishery Zone around Jan Mayen	Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard	Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH	Balance 2013	As of
European Union	177 548	10 137	-45 000	142 685	-	110 008	-	-	-	14	-		-	110 022	32 663	14.10.2013
Faroe Islands	154 614	894	-75 000	80 508	1 422		67 530							68 952	11 556	01.10.2013
Iceland	104 339	-2 862		101 477			95 910		2 380					98 290	3 187	31.08.2013
Norway	152 395	438	36 767	189 570	56 073	130 282			2	9 344				195 701	-6 131	25.09.2013
Total CS	588 896	8 607	-83 233	514 240	57 495	240 290	163 440	0	2 382	9 358	0	0	0	472 965	41 273	
Russian Federation*	47 694		84 000	131 695	48 858		66 079				1 266	239	-	116 442	15 253	14.10.2013
Greenland	3 451	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			
Total all Parties	640 041	8 607	767	645 935	106 353	240 290	229 519	-	2 382	9 358	1 266	239	-	589 407	56 526	

Guideline for the spreadsheet	
Coastal state share/share	Quota allocated to the Party
Balance	Unutilised/fishing beyound the quota from last year. Includes unused quantity related to transfers between countries.
Quota exchange	Transfers between countries
Quotas after transfers and flexibility	New quota

* Unilateral quota