

AGREED RECORD

OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN NORWAY, THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, THE FAROE ISLANDS AND ICELAND ON THE MANAGEMENT OF BLUE WHITING IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC IN 2010

London, 22 October 2009

1. A Delegation of Norway, headed by Ms Sigrun M. HOLST, a Delegation of the European Community, headed by Mr John SPENCER, a Delegation of the Faroe Islands, headed by Mr Andras KRISTIANSEN and a Delegation of Iceland, headed by Ms Hrefna KARLSDÓTTIR, met in London from 19 to 22 October 2009 to consult on the management of the blue whiting stock in the North-East Atlantic in 2010.

A Delegation of the Russian Federation attended as an observer.

2. The Delegations recognised that the basis for management measures in 2010 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 and Annex II.
3. Within a total catch limitation of 540,000 tonnes of blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic, the Delegations agreed to recommend the limitation of their total catches in 2010 to 497,022 tonnes.¹
4. 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 2010 as contained in Annex I to this Agreed Record.
5. The Delegations agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the long-term management plan for the blue whiting stock as set out in Annex II to this Agreed Record.

¹ The Coastal States took note that within the framework of NEAFC the Russian Federation was granted an additional quantity of 16,237 tonnes for 2009. NEAFC agreed that this quantity will be reduced in 2010 to 8,000 tonnes and in 2011 to 4,000 tonnes. There will be no additional quantity available in 2012. In 2010 the total outtake will be 548,000 tonnes.

6. The Parties agreed to propose to NEAFC the establishment of a Working Group to collate information on the distribution of blue whiting in the Northeast Atlantic. The proposed Draft Terms of Reference for this Working Group are set out in Annex III to this Agreed Record.

London, 22 October 2009

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ARRANGEMENT FOR THE REGULATION OF THE FISHERIES OF BLUE WHITING IN 2010

1. In accordance with the multi-annual management arrangement for the fisheries of blue whiting set out in Annex II to the 2005 Agreed Record, the Parties agree to restrict their fisheries of blue whiting in 2010 to a maximum catch limit of 497,022 tonnes on the basis of the following quotas:

European Community 151,592 tonnes

Faroe Islands 129,847 tonnes

Iceland 87,625 tonnes

Norway 127,958 tonnes

2. Each Party may transfer unutilised quantities of up to 10% of the quota allocated to it for 2010 to 2011. Such transfer shall be in addition to the quota allocated to the Party concerned for 2011.
3. In the event of over-fishing of the allocated quotas by any Party in 2010, the quantity shall be deducted from the quota allocated in 2011 for the Party or Parties concerned.
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.

**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. While fishing mortality exceeds that specified in paragraphs 4 and 6, the Parties agree to establish the TAC consistent with reductions in fishing mortality of 35% each year until the fishing mortality established in paragraphs 4 and 6 has been reached. This paragraph shall apply only during 2009 and 2010.

For the purposes of this calculation, the fishing percentage mortality reduction should be calculated with respect to the year before the year in which the TAC is to be established. For this year, it shall be assumed that the relevant TAC constrains catches.

6. 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 $F = 0.05$.

7. 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.
8. 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.

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

FOR A NEAFC WORKING GROUP TO COLLATE INFORMATION ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF ALL LIFE STAGES OF BLUE WHITING IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF CATCHES FROM THE STOCK

The European Community, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation agreed to recommend to NEAFC the establishment of a Working Group to collate information on the distribution of all life stages of blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic and the distribution of catches from this stock.

The Working Group shall:

1. Present data on the geographical distribution of all life stages of blue whiting (biomass and abundance or their appropriate proxies versus time, where time is both age/year and quarter) by relevant areas under national fisheries jurisdiction and in international waters.
2. Tabulate catch data on a monthly basis, both total and divided by country, distributed by areas under national fisheries jurisdiction and beyond as precise as the data allow.

Distributions shall be calculated for :

- a. Each of the years since fisheries started;
- b. Averages of the last five, ten, fifteen, twenty and thirty years both for geographic distribution (1) and fisheries (2).

The Working group shall meet twice. In an initial meeting, data exchange formats and working methods shall be decided. Prior to the second meeting, data shall be submitted to the Working Group by the contracting parties in the agreed formats. In a second meeting, data shall be compiled, cross-checked and the appropriate distributions shall be calculated. The data compiled by the working Group shall be made available to ICES for scientific and assessment purposes.

The final report shall be submitted to NEAFC by 1st March 2011.