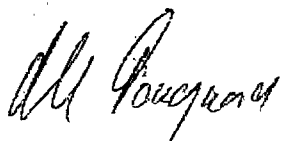


**AGREED RECORD OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS  
BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, THE FAROE ISLANDS AND NORWAY  
ON THE MANAGEMENT OF MACKEREL IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC  
FOR 2004**

**BRUSSELS, 4 NOVEMBER 2003**

1. A Delegation of the European Community headed by Mr. Ole TOUGAARD, a Delegation of the Faroe Islands headed by Mr. Andras KRISTIANSEN and a Delegation of Norway headed by Mr. Petter MEIER met in Brussels on 3 and 4 November 2003 to consult on the management of mackerel in the North-East Atlantic for 2004.
2. The Heads of Delegation agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the arrangements for the management of mackerel for 2004 as set out in the Annexes to this Agreed Record.
3. This Agreed Record constitutes an ad hoc arrangement, it being without prejudice to future fisheries arrangements between the Parties.

Brussels, 4 November 2003



Ole TOUGAARD  
For the Delegation of the Community



Andras KRISTIANSEN  
For the Delegation of the Faroe Islands



Petter MEIER  
For the Delegation of Norway

## ANNEX I

1. As relevant coastal States, the Parties agreed to adopt a total catch limitation of 461,000 tonnes for their mackerel fishery within waters under their national fisheries jurisdiction in 2004. Furthermore, they agreed that a part of this quantity may be fished in areas beyond the fisheries jurisdiction of the Parties.
2. Subject to agreement within the framework of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), on the basis of the above TAC, an allowable catch will be established for areas beyond national fisheries jurisdiction by NEAFC.
3. The Faroe Islands shall be entitled to 25,239 tonnes of which 9,334 tonnes will originate from the coastal State share of the intended allowable catch referred to in paragraph 2.
4. The sharing of the relevant part of the TAC referred to in paragraph 1 between the European Community and Norway shall be decided bilaterally by those Parties. Similarly, those Parties shall decide bilaterally the sharing of the remaining part of the coastal State share established for areas beyond national fisheries jurisdiction.
5. Each quota of the coastal State share in international waters may also be fished in areas under its fisheries jurisdiction.
6. The Delegations agreed on the need for effective control and enforcement of the mackerel fishery. Noting that improvements have been made in recent years, the Delegations agreed that with even closer co-operation, they should be able to enhance control and enforcement of this fishery both at sea and in ports.
7. In their capacity as the relevant coastal States, the Delegations concur that it is of paramount importance to adopt compatible conservation measures in different management areas on the basis of the best scientific evidence available to them. The European Community Delegation informed the other Delegations that it intends to establish an additional TAC of 32,305 tonnes in ICES division VIIIc and IXa. With reference to the most recent ICES advice, they agreed to investigate and assess, during 2004, how compatibility can best be assured and, as appropriate, joint management improved. Possible solutions to any outstanding issues will then be addressed at next year's coastal State consultations.

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ANNEX II**ARRANGEMENT ON THE  
LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF THE MACKEREL STOCK**

The Parties agreed to implement a long-term management plan for the mackerel stock, which is consistent with a precautionary approach, intended to constrain harvesting within safe biological limits and designed to provide for sustainable fisheries and a greater potential yield. The plan shall consist of the following:

1. For 2001 and subsequent years, the Parties agreed to restrict their fishing on the basis of a TAC consistent with a fishing mortality in the range of 0.15 - 0.20 for appropriate age groups as defined by ICES, unless future scientific advice requires modification of the fishing mortality rate.
2. Should the SSB fall below a reference point of 2,300,000 tonnes ( $B_{pa}$ ), the fishing mortality rate, referred to under paragraph 1, shall be adapted in the light of scientific estimates of the conditions then prevailing. Such adaptation shall ensure a safe and rapid recovery of the SSB to a level in excess of 2,300,000 tonnes.
3. The Parties shall, as appropriate, review and revise these management measures and strategies on the basis of any new advice provided by ICES.

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ANNEX III**RESEARCH ON THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC MACKEREL STOCK**

The coastal States agreed that substantial research on the mackerel stock is called for. For this purpose they agreed to strengthen international mackerel research with the aim of:

1. mapping by season the spatial distribution of juveniles, immature and mature North East-Atlantic mackerel;
2. describing the migration pattern of North East-Atlantic mackerel; and
3. improving the scientific assessment of the stock, including estimation of recruiting year-classes.

The coastal States agreed to encourage their respective authorities to both advance activities in this area through the co-ordination of relevant research and to make financial means available from relevant resources.



ANNEX IV

The Delegation of the Faroe Islands and the Delegation of Norway declared that all fisheries of North-East Atlantic mackerel conducted within the zones under the fisheries jurisdiction of the Parties should be jointly managed and consequently be covered within the total catch limitation stipulated under point 1 of Annex I.

The European Community Delegation declared that the coastal States agreement only applies to the Northern area as defined by ICES for the North-East Atlantic mackerel stock.

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