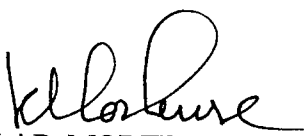


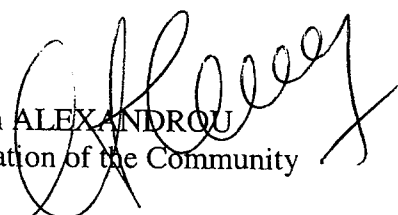
**AGREED RECORD OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN
THE FAROE ISLANDS , THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND NORWAY ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF MACKEREL IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FOR 2006**


Tórshavn, 26 OCTOBER 2005

1. A Delegation of the Faroe Islands headed by Mr. Kaj P. MORTENSEN, a Delegation of the European Community headed by Mr. Constantin ALEXANDROU and a Delegation of Norway headed by Mr. Petter MEIER, met in Tórshavn on 25 - 26 October 2005 to consult on the management of mackerel in the North-East Atlantic for 2006.
2. The Heads of Delegation agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the arrangements for the management of mackerel for 2006 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.

Tórshavn, 26 October 2005


Kaj P. MORTENSEN
For the Delegation of the Faroe Islands


Constantin ALEXANDROU
For the Delegation of the Community


Petter MEIER
For the Delegation of Norway

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ANNEX I

1. As relevant coastal States, the Parties agreed to adopt a total catch limitation of 373,535 tonnes for their mackerel fishery within waters under their national fisheries jurisdiction in 2006. Furthermore, they agreed that a part of this quantity might 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 20,450 tonnes of which 7,563 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 took note of the latest advice from ICES, which indicated that there was a broad perception that there are substantial discards and undeclared landings in the mackerel fishery.

The Delegations agreed on the need for improved and effective control in this fishery. They acknowledged that substantial progress has been made in recent years through their common efforts. In this respect, the Delegations referred to the joint working group of control experts on pelagic fisheries of the European Community, Faroe Islands and Norway and fully endorsed the report of this group of October 2005.

The Delegations agreed as a first priority to monitor closely the implementation of the measures agreed.

The Delegations further agreed to recommend to the Parties that the immediate programme of the joint working group should also concentrate on the following four areas:

- The development of the joint pilot project to place observers on board fishing vessels to monitor the discards, high grading and slippage;
- The application and evaluation of the agreed harmonised methodology for full inspections and the result of such inspections;
- A review of the following technical issues:
 - The tamper-proofing and reliability of weighing equipment;
 - The calibration of weighing equipment; and
 - The percentage of water-content deduction;
- The programme for the exchanges of inspectors between the Parties.

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The Delegations recognised the problems which have become apparent from the control and inspection of landings by vessels of third countries and from transshipments by flag of convenience vessels.

The Delegations agreed to recommend that these problems should be considered and further addressed in NEAFC and in this respect they took note of the recommendations of the FAO Model Scheme on Port State Measures to Combat IUU fishing. The Delegations further noted the intention of tabling a proposal for discussion at the Annual Meeting of NEAFC, which will be held in November 2005.

Finally, the Delegations agreed to encourage their respective authorities to consider improving the implementation of conservation measures through more effective and proportionate sanctions.

7. The Delegations also took note of the observations by ICES that the appearance of strong year-classes in the fishery may lead to increased discarding and in these circumstances the Delegations agreed on the importance of collecting information on discarding to improve stock assessment and management.
8. 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 26,176 tonnes in ICES divisions VIIIc and IXa. With reference to the most recent ICES advice, they agreed to investigate and assess, during 2006, 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 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 Delegations agreed that substantial research on the mackerel stock is called for. In particular, the assessment of the stock needs to be improved. For this purpose they agreed to strengthen mackerel research with the following aims:

1. Improvement of the catch data available to the assessment.
2. Improvement of the fisheries independent surveys as inputs to the assessment, including recruitment indices.
3. Mapping and describing the seasonal distribution and migration of the stock.

Currently assessment of the mackerel stock is based on catch at age data and a triennial egg survey. In order to achieve a better assessment of the stock, the Delegations agreed that priority should be given to improvement of points 1 and 2 above.

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

The Delegations propose to ask ICES to make recommendations on how to improve the scientific surveys being used as inputs to the stock assessment.

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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 Delegation of the Faroe Islands and the Delegation of Norway declared that the present situation is not acceptable, and prevents the parties from agreeing upon a permanent management regime and sharing of the North East Atlantic mackerel stock. Norway and the Faroe Islands expect to be compensated as a result of this unreasonable sharing of the stock.

The 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.

The Community Delegation declared that the current management arrangements constitute an appropriate allocation of fishing opportunities.

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