

AGREED RECORD OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE FAROE ISLANDS, THE EUROPEAN UNION, ICELAND, NORWAY AND THE UNITED KINGDOM ON THE MANAGEMENT OF BLUE WHITING IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC IN 2023

London, 6 December 2022

1. A delegation from the Faroe Islands, headed by Herluf SIGVALDSSON, a delegation from the European Union, headed by Thomas BRÉGEON, a delegation from Iceland, headed by Áslaug Eir HÓLMGEIRSDÓTTIR, a delegation from Norway, headed by Vidar LANDMARK, and a delegation from the United Kingdom, headed by Will FRANCIS, met at NEAFC in London on 14 October 2022 to consult on the management of the blue whiting stock in the North-East Atlantic in 2023.
2. A delegation from the Faroe Islands, headed by Herluf SIGVALDSSON, a delegation from the European Union, headed by Thomas BRÉGEON, a delegation from Iceland, headed by Áslaug Eir HÓLMGEIRSDÓTTIR, a delegation from Norway, headed by Ann Kristin WESTBERG, and a delegation from the United Kingdom, headed by Will FRANCIS, met at NEAFC in London on 6 December 2022 to conclude the consultations on the management of the blue whiting stock in the North-East Atlantic in 2023.
3. A delegation from Greenland, headed by Iben FUNCH DØJ attended both meetings as an observer.
4. The delegations noted that the agreed long-term management strategy dated 27 October 2016, is regarded by ICES as consistent with the precautionary approach (Annex I). The delegations also noted that the long-term strategy for blue whiting should have been reviewed after five years. The delegations agreed that this review needs to be coordinated with plans for benchmarking in ICES, and the Parties will return to the issue of a review and the planning and preparation of this during 2023.
5. The delegations agreed that the level of total catches for blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic for 2023 should be no more than 1,359,629 tonnes as advised by ICES. The delegations also agreed that the establishing of unilateral quotas for 2023 does not in any way imply the acceptance of the level of these quotas by any Party.
6. The delegations recommended that the NEAFC allowable catches for 2023 would be 108,226 tonnes. These catches should not be considered as additional to the level set in Paragraph 5.
7. The delegations agreed that Parties shall address the issue of a quota-sharing arrangement as early as possible in 2023.
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 welcomed the outcomes of the Report of the 2022 Coastal States Working Group on the distribution of blue whiting in the Northeast Atlantic, September 2022 to update the “Report from the NEAFC Working Group on Collating Information on the Distribution of All Life Stages of Blue Whiting in the North-East Atlantic and the Distribution of Catches from the Stock, London, 26-28 November 2013” and agreed to update this report in 2023, chaired by [the United Kingdom].
10. The delegations exchanged final quota and catch information for 2020 and 2021 as well as preliminary information for 2022 (Annex II). The delegations also exchanged information with regard to their fishing activities, including exchanges and access arrangements (Annex III).
11. The delegations agreed to continue to provide information in the same format as set out in Annex II and Annex III to this Agreed Record. Each Party shall by 1 May 2023, provide updated information in this regard to the United Kingdom as chair of the consultations for 2024. The chair shall forward this information as soon as possible to all Parties to this Agreed Record.
12. The delegations agreed that the Parties may fish blue whiting within their quotas in their respective zones of fisheries jurisdiction and in international waters.
13. The delegations agreed that further arrangements by the Parties, including arrangements for access, quota transfers and other conditions for fishing in their respective zones of fisheries jurisdiction, are regulated by bilateral agreements.

The UK delegation noted that it would have preferred the TAC to be set at a lower level than that advised by ICES in order to avoid large annual TAC fluctuations, but noted the risks to coastal States acting unilaterally. Therefore, in agreeing to follow the scientific advice and accept an 81% increase in the level of total catches, the UK delegation proposed that coastal States consider how to maintain more stable catch limits for the stock in the longer term.

London, 6 December 2022



Herluf SIGVALDSSON

For the Delegation of the Faroe Islands



Thomas BRÉGEON

For the Delegation of the European Union



Áslaug Eir Hólmgeirsdóttir

Áslaug Eir HÓLMGEIRSDÓTTIR

For the Delegation of Iceland

Ann Kristin Westberg

Ann Kristin WESTBERG

For the Delegation of Norway

Will Francis

Will FRANCIS

For the Delegation of the United Kingdom

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

1. The Parties agree to implement a long-term management strategy for the fisheries on the Blue Whiting stock, which is consistent with the precautionary approach and the MSY approach, aiming at ensuring harvest rates within safe biological limits.
2. For the purpose of this long-term management strategy, in the following text, "TAC" means the sum of the agreed Coastal State quotas and the NEAFC allowable catches.
3. As a priority, the long-term strategy shall ensure with high probability that the size of the stock is maintained above Blim.
4. In the case that the spawning biomass is forecast to be above or equal to B_{trigger} ($=B_{\text{pa}}$) on 1 January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC shall be fixed to a fishing mortality of F_{MSY} .
5. Where the rules in paragraph 4 would lead to a TAC, which deviates by more than 20% below or 25% above the TAC of the preceding year, the Parties shall fix a TAC that is respectively no more than 20% less or 25% more than the TAC of the preceding year.
6. The TAC constraint described in paragraph 5 shall not apply if:
 - a. The spawning biomass at 1 January in the year preceding the year for which the TAC is to be set is less than B_{trigger} ; or
 - b. The rules in paragraph 4 would lead to a TAC that deviates by more than 40% from the TAC of the preceding year.
7. In the case that the spawning biomass (SSB) is forecast to be less than the precautionary biomass (B_{trigger}) on 1 January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC shall be fixed at a level that is consistent with a fishing mortality given by:

$$\text{Target } F = 0.05 + [(SSB - B_{\text{lim}}) * (F_{\text{MSY}} - 0.05) / (B_{\text{trigger}} - B_{\text{lim}})]$$

8. In the case that the spawning biomass is forecast to be less than B_{lim} on 1 January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC will be fixed corresponding to a fishing mortality $F = 0.05$.
9. Each Party may transfer to the following year unutilised quantities of up to 10% of the quota allocated to it. The quantity transferred shall be in addition to the quota allocated to the Party concerned in the following year.

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10. Each Party may authorise fishing by its vessels of up to 10% beyond the quota allocated. All quantities fished beyond the allocated quota for one year shall be deducted from the Party's quota allocated for the following year.
11. The inter-annual quota flexibility scheme in paragraph 9 and 10 should be suspended in the year following the TAC year, if the stock is forecast to be under B_{trigger} at the end of the TAC year.
12. The Parties, on the basis of ICES advice, shall review this long-term management strategy at intervals not exceeding five years. The first such review shall take place no later than by December 2021.

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ANNEX II
Reporting of quotas and catches of blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic - 2020 to 2022

2020 (Final)	QUOTAS (tonnes)					CATCHES (tonnes)								
	Coastal State share/share	Balance from 2019	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Faroese Fishing Zone	Greenland fishing zone	Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone	Norwegian Economic Zone	Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard	Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH	Balance
Party	481,141	47,369	-107,400	421,110	5,904	337,046	7,121		0	41			350,112	70,998
European Union	412,697	43,758	-98,000	358,455	39,649	44,644	258,681	3,131	0				346,305	12,150
Faroese Islands	245,101	-757	-2,000	242,344	43,475	0	184,537	10,839	0				238,851	3,493
Iceland	280,602	-38,457	79,681	321,826	58,114	267,822	678	0	27,219				354,033	-32,207
Norway	1,419,541	51,913	-127,719	1,343,735	147,342	649,512	451,217	13,970	27,260				1,289,301	54,434
Total Coastal States	86,162	4,808	104,219	195,189	83,780	80,337			17,379				181,496	13,693
Russian Federation	6,273	252	13,500	20,025	1,874	17,676							19,550	475
Greenland	1,511,976	56,973	-10,000	1,558,949	232,996	649,512	549,230	13,970	44,639				1,490,347	66,602
Total all Parties														

2021 (Final)	QUOTAS (tonnes)					CATCHES (tonnes)								
	Coastal State share/share	Balance from 2020	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Faroese Fishing Zone	Greenland fishing zone	Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone	Norwegian Economic Zone	Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard	Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH	Balance
Party	313,232	48,114	-38,600	322,746	14,595	149,720	172,043		2,137	93			255,284	67,462
European Union	330,156	12,150	-96,700	245,608	28,143		172,043		37,355				202,416	43,192
Faroese Islands	196,081	3,493	-2,000	197,574	4,435		144,555						186,345	11,229
Iceland	224,482	-32,207	213,600	99,043	99,441	973			34,485				233,942	-20,342
Norway	71,670	760	1,100	73,530	42,888								73,681	-151
United Kingdom	1,135,623	32,310	-114,875	1,053,058	146,216	292,049	317,571	39,492	34,606				951,668	101,541
Total Coastal States	66,929	7,350	100,175	176,454	66,806		95,915		269				162,990	13,464
Russian Federation	5,032	475	14,700	20,207	40		18,695						18,735	1,472
Greenland	1,209,584	40,135	0	1,249,719	213,062	292,049	432,181	39,492	34,875				1,133,393	116,477
Total all Parties														

2022 (Provisional)	QUOTAS (tonnes)					CATCHES (tonnes)								
	Coastal State share/share	Balance from 2021	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Faroese Fishing Zone	Greenland fishing zone	Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone	Norwegian Economic Zone	Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard	Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH	Balance
Party	253,389	31,323	-25,493	253,212	22	158,413			12				206,066	47,146
European Union	267,413	43,192	-49,700	220,905	5,225		201,558						206,783	14,122
Faroese Islands	158,827	15,730	0	174,557	3,892		131,223		52,296				187,411	-12,854
Iceland	181,832	-20,342	18,398	179,888	8,845	140,814	11,848		25,900		1,046		188,453	-8,565
Norway	58,399	-151	-6,007	52,235	33,385				2				50,129	2,106
United Kingdom	919,854	69,752	-102,802	880,797	17,984	332,612	344,629	52,296	25,914		65,407		838,842	41,955
Total Coastal States	55,834	6,229	88,102	150,165	35,407		85,615		48				121,070	29,095
Russian Federation	4,076	1,472	14,700	20,248	18,721		18,721						18,721	1,527
Greenland	979,764	77,453	0	1,051,210	53,391	332,612	448,965	52,296	25,962		65,407		978,633	72,577
Total all Parties														

Provisional 04.10.2022
Provisional 06.10.2022
Provisional 06.12.2022
Provisional 06.10.2022
Provisional 11.10.2022

Provisional 11.10.2022
Provisional 07.10.2022

Guideline for the spreadsheet	
Coastal state share/share	Quota allocated to the Party
Balance	Unutilised/fishing beyond 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

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ANNEX III

Transfers in 2022¹

Party	Quotas		Balance from 2021		Total available	Transfer to						
	253,389	31,323	267,413	43,192		European Union	Faroe Islands	Iceland	Norway	United Kingdom	Russian Federation	Greenland
European Union	253,389	31,323	267,413	43,192	284,712	---	---	---	31,500	---	---	---
Faroe Islands	267,413	43,192	158,827	15,730	310,605	---	---	---	---	---	75,000	14,700
Iceland	158,827	15,730	181,832	-20,342	174,557	---	---	---	---	---	13,102	---
Norway	181,832	-20,342	58,393	-151	161,490	6,007	---	---	---	---	---	---
United Kingdom	58,393	-151	55,834	6,229	58,242	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Russian Federation	55,834	6,229	4,076	1,472	62,063	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Greenland	4,076	1,472			5,548	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

¹ Transfers imply full access

Access arrangements in 2022

Party	Access to					
	European Union	Faroe Islands	Iceland	Norway	United Kingdom	Russian Federation
European Union	---	---	100%	114,554	full access	---
Faroe Islands	114,554	---	---	31,920	---	13,959*
Iceland	---	100%	---	---	---	4076**
Norway	114,554	100%	---	---	---	---
United Kingdom	full access	---	---	---	---	---
Russian Federation	---	---	---	---	---	---
Greenland	---	---	---	---	---	---

*25 % of the Russian NEAFC quota

** 100 % of the Greenlandic NEAFC quota

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