

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 2013

LONDON, 23 JANUARY 2013

1. A Delegation of the European Union, headed by Mr John SPENCER, a Delegation of the Faroe Islands, headed by Mr Andras KRISTIANSEN, a Delegation of Iceland, headed by Mr Kristján Freyr HELGASON and a Delegation of Norway, headed by Ms Sigrun M HOLST, met in London on 23 January 2013 to consult on the management of the blue whiting stock in the North-East Atlantic in 2013. This was a continuation of previous meetings held in London.

A Delegation of the Russian Federation, headed by Mr Yuriy LEPSEVICH, attended as an observer.

2. The Delegations recognised that the basis for management measures in 2013 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 the ICES advice for 2013, 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 two years. A TAC derived from the target F at 0.18 from the management plan is expected to lead to an SSB safely above B_{pa} in 2014.
4. Within a total catch limitation of 643,000 tonnes of blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic the Delegations agreed to recommend the limitation of their total catches in 2013 to 591,825 tonnes¹ in accordance with the Arrangement for the Long-Term Management of the Blue Whiting Stock (Annex II), that entered into force 1 January 2009.
5. 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 2013 as contained in Annex I to this Agreed Record.
6. 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.

¹ The difference between 643,000 tonnes and 591,825 tonnes is set aside to be allocated by NEAFC to Non-Coastal States.



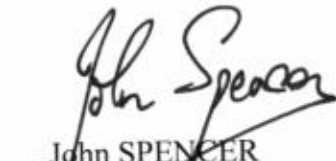
7. The Delegations recalled that, in accordance with point 8 of the Arrangement for the Long-Term Management of the blue whiting stock, they had conducted a review of the existing long-term management plan in June 2012. They had submitted possible revisions of this plan to ICES for evaluation. ICES had informed the Coastal States that advice on these revisions would be available in advance of the Coastal State consultations on blue whiting for 2014.


The Delegations agreed a revised request to be submitted to ICES. This request is set out in Annex IV of this Agreed Record. The European Union Delegation agreed that it would forward this request to ICES.


The Delegations agreed that the Parties would meet in mid-2013 in order to consider the ICES advice.

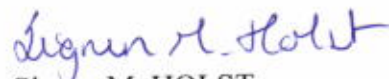
8. The Delegations noted that the NEAFC Working Group to collate information on the distribution of blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic had not yet been convened as set out in the Agreed Record from 22 October 2009 (Annex III) and endorsed by NEAFC. The Delegations agreed to recommend to NEAFC that this work be initiated in the first quarter of 2013 and completed by 1 October 2013.
9. The Delegations agreed to provide information regarding quotas and catches in the format set out in Annex V to this Agreed Record. Each Party shall, by 1 May 2013, provide updated information to Norway as host of the consultations on management measures for 2014 regarding their total catches in 2012, on any allocation of quotas to other Parties in 2013, and on their total provisional catches in 2013. Norway shall forward this information as soon as possible to all Parties to this Arrangement.

London, 23 January 2013


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For the Delegation of the European Union


Andras KRISTIANSSEN
For the Delegation of the Faroe
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Kristján Freyr HELGASON
For the Delegation of Iceland


Sigrun M. HOLST
For the Delegation of Norway

ARRANGEMENT FOR THE REGULATION OF THE FISHERIES OF BLUE WHITING IN 2013

1. In accordance with the arrangement for the long-term management of the blue whiting stock as set out in Annex II to this Agreed Record, the Parties agreed to restrict their fisheries of blue whiting in 2013 to a maximum catch limit of 591,825 tonnes on the basis of the following quotas:

European Union	180,507 tonnes
Faroe Islands	154,614 tonnes
Iceland	104,339 tonnes
Norway	152,365 tonnes

2. Each Party may transfer unutilised quantities of up to 10% of the quota allocated to it for 2013 to 2014. Such transfer shall be in addition to the quota allocated to the Party concerned for 2014.
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 2013 shall be deducted from the Party's allocation for 2014.
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.

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, in the first quarter of 2013, 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 1 October 2013.

REVISED REQUEST FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE FAROE ISLANDS, ICELAND AND NORWAY TO ICES ON EVALUATING THE HARVEST CONTROL RULE ELEMENT OF THE LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BLUE WHITING IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC

1. In accordance with point 7 of the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between Iceland, the European Union, the Faroe Islands and Norway on the management of blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic, signed on 11 October 2011, it was agreed to conduct a review of the long-term management plan.
2. In order to facilitate discussions between Coastal States on possible modifications to the long-term management plan for blue whiting, ICES is requested, by 1 June 2013, to re-evaluate the reference points B_{lim} , B_{pa} and F_{msy} for the stock and to conduct an evaluation of the harvest control rule under the existing management plan.
3. ICES is further requested to evaluate the harvest control rule with the following stability mechanisms when the SSB is above B_{lim} :
 - a. Setting a TAC in the TAC year based on the average of the projected TACs at target F over three years starting with the TAC year.
 - b. Setting the TAC to be the average of the current TAC and the TAC that would result from the application of the harvest control rule for the TAC year.

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4. ICES is also requested to evaluate the following approach shown in Fig 1.

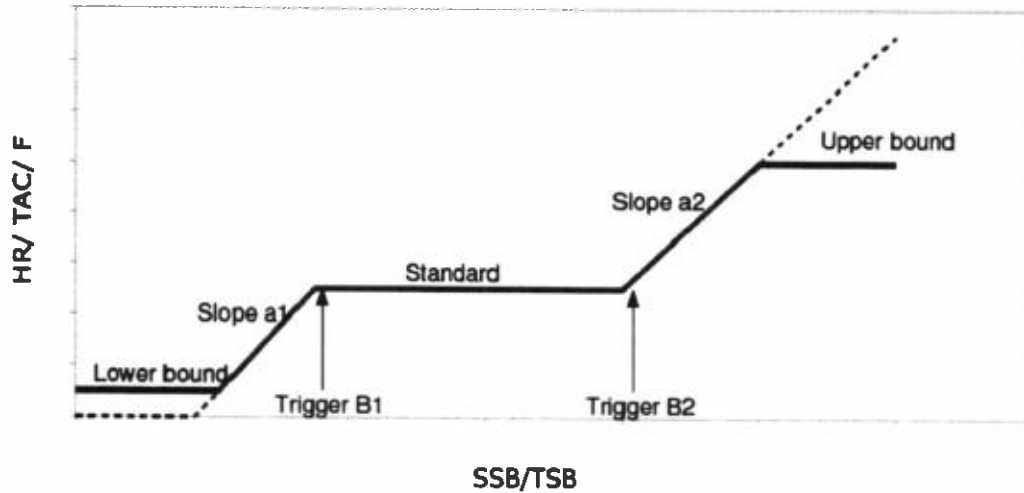


Figure 1. General outline of the new harvest rule examined, with different parameters indicated.

The harvest rule fixes a TAC, harvest rate or fishing mortality, the level of which depend on the estimated biomass, as follows:

- A lower bound below Trigger B1;
- A linear sliding scale with slope a1 below Trigger B1;
- A standard level applied between Trigger B1 and Trigger B2;
- A linear sliding scale with slope a2 above Trigger B2; and
- An upper bound at higher stock sizes.

ICES is asked to evaluate appropriate values for each of the parameters identified above in relation to stability, and maximum sustainable yield on a long-term basis.

5. With regard to the above requests, ICES is further requested to undertake an evaluation with respect to application of inter-annual quota flexibility of +/- 10% for the blue whiting stock.

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REPORTING OF QUOTAS AND CATCHES OF BLUE WHITING IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC
London, January 2013

2010															
Party	QUOTAS (tonnes)					CATCHES (tonnes)									
	Coastal State share/share	Balance 2009	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 Zone around Jan Mayen	Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard	Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH	Balance 2010
European Union	151,562	71	-64,200	87,321	0	81,217	1,039	0	0	7	13	0	0	82,276	5,045
Faroese Islands	129,847	14,187	-93,195	50,839	3,659	19,202	29,964	0	0	153	0	0	0	49,978	861
Iceland	87,625	-4,218	-	83,407	14,352	67,373	0	6,354	30	0	0	0	0	88,109	-4,396
Norway	127,968	14,252	63,582	205,792	37,366	139,831	2,150	0	7	14,926	0	0	0	194,317	11,475
Total CS	487,022	24,292	-	55,377	55,377	240,250	97,528	0	6,361	15,116	13	0	0	414,680	0
Russian Federation	48,054	17,027	94,896	159,977	43,228	0	81,679	0	0	2,264	295	495	0	127,961	32,016
Greenland	2,924	-	-	2,924	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total all Parties	548,000	41,319	-	98,605	98,605	240,250	179,205	0	6,361	17,380	308	495	0	542,641	0

2011															
Party	QUOTAS (tonnes)					CATCHES (tonnes)									
	Coastal State share/share	Balance 2010	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 Zone around Jan Mayen	Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard	Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH	Balance 2012
European Union	11,072	5,045	-	16,126	-	14,495	-	-	-	-	88	-	-	14,564	1,582
Faroese Islands	9,642	12,985	-8,000	14,627	1,970	-	14,435	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,405	-1,778
Iceland	8,507	-4,080	-	2,417	814	-	738	-	4,421	-	2	-	-	5,775	-3,358
Norway	8,502	13,044	-513	22,033	5,878	6,949	-	-	7,714	-	-	0	-	20,539	1,484
Total Coastal State	36,723	26,984	-8,513	55,203	8,460	21,445	15,173	-	4,421	7,714	70	0	-	57,283	-2,080
Russian Federation*	45,000	-	8,658	53,658	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 Provisional															
Party	QUOTAS (tonnes)					CATCHES (tonnes)									
	Coastal State share/share	Balance 2011	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 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	-	64,088	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64,066	15,005
Faroese Islands	84,019	-1,778	-50,000	42,241	2,509	-	39,101	-	-	-	-	-	-	41,610	631
Iceland	83,447	-3,358	-	60,089	453	-	55,531	-	3,524	-	-	-	-	59,508	581
Norway	82,651	969	24,894	118,614	18,779	84,413	-	-	4,958	-	10	-	-	118,160	454
Total CS	358,081	-3,060	-85,006	300,015	21,741	158,479	94,632	-	3,524	4,958	0	10	-	283,344	16,671
Russian Federation	29,002	-	56,800	85,802	37,539	-	48,206	-	-	4	232	13	-	85,994	-192
Greenland	2,117	-	-	2,117	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
Total all Parties	389,200	-3,060	1,794	385,817	59,280	158,479	142,838	-	3,524	4,962	232	23	-	369,338	16,479

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

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* Unilateral quotas