

AGREED RECORD

OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, THE FAROE ISLANDS, ICELAND AND NORWAY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF BLUE WHITING IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC IN 2009

London, 11 November 2008

1. A Delegation of the European Community, headed by Mr John SPENCER, a Delegation of the Faroe Islands, headed by Ms Kate SANDERSON, a Delegation of Iceland, headed by Mr Stefán ÁSMUNDSSON, and a Delegation of Norway, headed by Ms Sigrun M. HOLST, met in London on 11 November 2008 to consult on the management of the blue whiting stock in the North-East Atlantic in 2009. This was a continuation of a previous meeting held in London in October.

A Delegation of the Russian Federation attended as an observer.

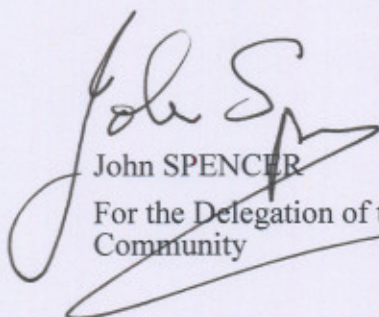
2. The Delegations recognised that the basis for management measures in 2009 is the Agreed Record of Conclusions of Fisheries Consultations on the Management of Blue Whiting in the North-East Atlantic concluded in Oslo on 16 December 2005 (the 2005 Agreed Record), including its Annex I and Annex II.
3. Within a total catch limitation of 590,000 tonnes of blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic, the Delegations agreed to recommend the limitation of their total catches in 2009 to 543,043 tonnes.
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 2009 as contained in Annex I to this Agreed Record.
5. The Delegations agreed to recommend the adoption of a new long-term management plan for the blue whiting stock as set out in Annex II to this Agreed Record. The new plan foresees a reduction in fishing mortality of 35% for both 2009 and 2010, and that fishing mortality will be in accordance with the long-term management plan from 2011.

The phased reduction in the level of fishing mortality outlined in this paragraph may be subject to re-evaluation in the light of any major changes in the stock assessment by ICES.

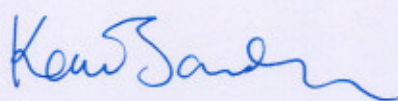


6. The Delegations further agreed to request ICES to provide advice in accordance with Annex III to this Agreed Record.

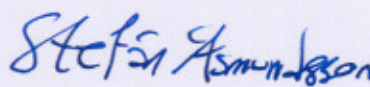
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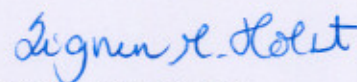
John SPENCER
For the Delegation of the European
Community



Kate SANDERSON
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Stefán ÁSMUNDSSON
For the Delegation of Iceland



Sigrun M. HOLST
For the Delegation of Norway

ARRANGEMENT FOR THE REGULATION OF THE FISHERIES OF BLUE WHITING IN 2009

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 2009 to a maximum catch limit of 543,043 tonnes on the basis of the following quotas:

European Community 165,628 tonnes

Faroe Islands 141,870 tonnes

Iceland 95,739 tonnes

Norway 139,806 tonnes

2. Each Party may transfer unutilised quantities of up to 10% of the quota allocated to it for 2009 to 2010. Such transfer shall be in addition to the quota allocated to the Party concerned for 2010.
3. In the event of over-fishing of the allocated quotas by any Party in 2009, the quantity shall be deducted from the quota allocated in 2010 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 REQUEST TO ICES

The ICES WGWIDE 2008 simulations show a long-term yield of blue whiting of 400,000 tonnes, based on the recruitment estimated from the "low recruitment" period (1981-1996). This is significantly lower than the historical average yield of 591,000 tonnes in the same period.

ICES are therefore requested to examine why the long-term yield in the 2008 simulations is almost 200,000 tonnes lower than the average yield in 1981-1996.



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