


**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 2009**

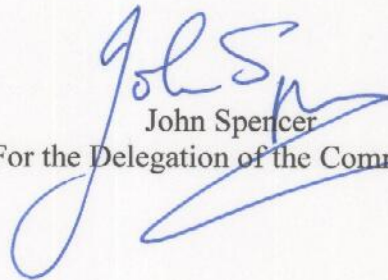
LONDON, 31 OCTOBER 2008

1. A Delegation from the Faroe Islands headed by Ms Kate Sanderson, a Delegation from the European Community headed by Mr John Spencer and a Delegation from Norway headed by Ms Ann Kristin Westberg, met in London on 30 and 31 October 2008 to consult on the management of mackerel in the North-East Atlantic for 2009.
2. The Heads of Delegation agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the arrangements for the management of mackerel for 2009 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.

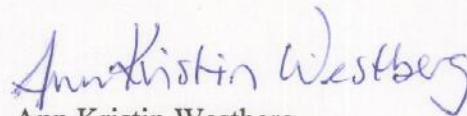
London, 31 October 2008



Kate Sanderson
For the Delegation of the Faroe Islands



John Spencer
For the Delegation of the Community



Ann Kristin Westberg
For the Delegation of Norway

ANNEX I

1. As relevant coastal States, the Delegations agreed to recommend the adoption of a total catch limitation of 511,287 tonnes for their mackerel fishery within waters under their national fisheries jurisdiction in 2009. 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 27,991 tonnes of which 10,352 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. With reference to Annex III,
 - The Parties agreed that NEAFC should consider the organisation of a coordinated scientific survey programme in order to provide a comprehensive overview of seasonal distribution and migration of the mackerel stock in the Northeast Atlantic, with participation by all interested States;
 - The Parties noted that in 2009 Norway will invite all interested Parties to a scientific workshop on the distribution, migration and general biology of the mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic.
7. The Delegations agreed that there is a need to maintain effective control in the mackerel fishery as well as addressing outstanding issues on control and enforcement. Following the introduction of measures agreed in 2004, there has been improved control particularly at the time when the mackerel is landed. The Working Group of Control Experts established jointly by the European Community, Faroe Islands and Norway has monitored the implementation of these measures and the Delegations expressed their appreciation to the Group and endorsed the latest report of this group of September 2008.

The Delegations believe that the level of underreporting due to undeclared landings has been significantly reduced. However, the Delegations recognised that slipping, the level of discards and high grading remain issues to be addressed in the mackerel fishery. Furthermore, they recognised that these practices constitute a considerable waste of resources and a common objective is to minimise such practices and eventually ban discards through effective regulation.

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To this end, the Delegations agreed that there is an urgent need to address this situation through the introduction of appropriate measures. They agreed to recommend to the Parties that the Working Group of Control Experts should be mandated to develop recommendations to minimise slipping and high grading in the mackerel fisheries, as well as technical measures to eradicate discards.

The Delegations agreed to recommend to the Parties that, within the same terms of reference, the Working Group of Control Experts should give priority to developing a proposal for a possible prohibition on the carrying on vessels of equipment, which could permit the discarding of mackerel at the time the catch is taken on board. In particular, the Working Group should make recommendations on the specification of water separators, pipes, conveyor belts, pumps and chutes (water drainage system) and other relevant installations, including installations that can be used to empty tanks containing such fish directly into the sea or which could potentially be used to discard fish into the sea after sorting.

The Delegations further agreed to recommend to the Parties that the Working Group of Control Experts should also be mandated:

- To review and consider the feasibility of introducing the fish flow meter as a control tool on board vessels fishing for mackerel; and
- To review and consider the use of CCTV / Video on board vessels to control slipping.

The Delegations agreed to recommend to the Parties the continuation of the practices of

- Exchange of inspectors between the Parties; and
- Exchange of information between the Parties, in particular concerning the follow up of infringements. Such information shall be exchanged in accordance with procedures developed by the Working Group of Control Experts.

The Delegations requested that the Working Group report be presented to Coastal States no later than 31 May 2009. The Delegations agreed to meet shortly after this date with a view to introducing technical measures no later than 1 October 2009. The Delegations agreed to recommend to the Parties that, other than addressing the specific issues of slipping, level of discards and high grading, effective control on the mackerel fishery should be maintained at the time the fish is landed. Against this background the Delegations agreed to recommend to the Parties that the Working Group of Control Experts should continue to monitor closely the implementation of the existing measures adopted in 2004 and to examine whether equivalent measures may be foreseen for fisheries on the southern component.

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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 in the North-East Atlantic for 2010 and subsequent years, which is consistent with a precautionary approach and designed to provide for sustainable fisheries and a greater potential yield.

The long-term management plan shall consist of the following elements:

1. For the purpose of this long-term management plan, "SSB" means the estimate according to ICES of the spawning stock biomass at spawning time in the year in which the TAC applies, taking account of the expected catch.
2. When the SSB is above 2,200,000 tonnes, the TAC shall be fixed according to the expected landings, as advised by ICES, on fishing the stock consistent with a fishing mortality rate in the range of 0.20 to 0.22 for appropriate age groups as defined by ICES.
3. When the SSB is lower than 2,200,000 tonnes, the TAC shall be fixed according to the expected landings, as advised by ICES, on fishing the stock at a fishing mortality rate determined by the following:

$$\text{Fishing mortality } F = 0.22 * \text{SSB}/2,200,000$$

4. Notwithstanding paragraph 2, the TAC shall not be changed by more than 20% from one year to the next, including from 2009 to 2010.
5. In the event that the ICES estimate of SSB is less than 1,670,000 tonnes, the Parties shall decide on a TAC which is less than that arising from the application of paragraphs 2 to 4.
6. The Parties may decide on a TAC that is lower than that determined by paragraphs 2 to 4.
7. 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.

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.

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ANNEX IV

COMPATIBILITY OF CONSERVATION MEASURES

1. 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.
2. The European Community Delegation informed the other Delegations that it intends to establish an additional TAC in ICES divisions VIIIc and IXa.
3. With reference to the most recent ICES advice, the Delegations agreed to investigate and assess during 2009 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.
4. 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.
5. In the light of the unilateral quota established by the European Community, the Delegation of the Faroe Islands and the Delegation of Norway declared their intention of establishing corresponding unilateral quotas.
6. The European Community Delegation declared it considered that the Coastal State arrangement only applies to the northern area as defined by ICES for the North-East Atlantic mackerel stock, whilst the additional TAC in ICES divisions VIIIc and IXa is fixed within the overall catch limitation established for the North-East Atlantic and is entirely in accordance with the level of the catch limitation agreed by the Coastal States.
7. Furthermore, the European Community Delegation declared that it regretted and strongly disagreed with the unilateral quota established by the Faroe Islands and Norway and remained of the view that the management arrangements for 2008 constitute an appropriate allocation of fishing opportunities.

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