

**Agreed Record of the Annual Meeting of the Joint Iceland-Faroe Islands Fisheries  
Commission**

The Parties met for a virtual meeting on 5 December 2024 (hosted by the Faroese Party). The Faroese delegation was headed by Janet Skarðsá from the Faroe Islands' Ministry of Fisheries- and Infrastructure and the Icelandic delegation was headed by Sóley Kaldal from Iceland's Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries. The agenda and the list of participants are presented in Annex I and II, respectively.

**1. Opening of the Meeting**

The Heads of Delegation expressed the mutual importance and appreciation of the good and longstanding relationship between Iceland and the Faroe Islands on fisheries.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was adopted without comments.

**3. Cooperation in International Fora**

The Parties discussed their cooperation in different international fora. Cooperation in NAFO and NEAFC has been good. The Parties shared their concerns that the work of NEAFC is negatively affected by geopolitical circumstances.

In coastal state negotiations on the three large pelagic stocks in the Northeast-Atlantic, both Parties share the sincere will and commitment to seek comprehensive agreements and bring fishing pressure down to the level of scientific advice. The parties discussed that regular dialogue between them is always beneficial.

The Parties referred to the 2024 COFI meeting and expressed their will to continue the good cooperation and further promoting their shared interest in global and multilateral forums.

**4. Domestic Policy Update**

The Faroese Party informed that a decision has been taken to enhance the observer coverage in the Faroese fisheries zone. This implies that observers may be deployed to Icelandic vessels fishing in the Faroese zone from time to time. It was clarified that Icelandic vessels will bear the costs associated with the placement of observers on board.

Iceland informed that a caretaker government had been in place in Iceland since 17 October 2024 and a general election was held on 30 November 2024. Coalition negotiations are

JS

SK

underway for the formation of a new government. Under those circumstances Iceland chose not to present domestic policy updates.

## **5. Catch Figures**

The Parties exchanged statistical information on their fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Iceland and in the Faroese Fishing Zone in 2023 and provisional information on their fisheries for 2024 to date.

The Parties agreed, that Fiskistofa and Vørn shall exchange data on catches in each other's zone on a monthly basis and upon request.

## **6. Cooperation on Compliance, Control and Enforcement**

The Icelandic Party raised their concern, that Faroese vessels fishing for Norwegian Spring Spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring in Icelandic waters had difficulties with fully complying with the data sampling requirements implemented in 2024. The Parties agreed to address and resolve this issue.

## **7. Quota Transfers and Access Arrangements**

The Parties noted that according to Art. 3 of the Framework Arrangement the Parties shall consult annually regarding relevant fisheries-related issues, and shall seek to conclude on e.g. transfer of fishing opportunities from one Party to the other; granting of access; and on compliance, control and enforcement matters. All decisions shall be reflected in an Agreed Records from the meeting.

### ***7.1. Quota transfers and access arrangements for 2025***

1. Faroese longline and handline vessels may catch a total of 5,600 tonnes of demersal species in 2025, of which cod catches shall not exceed 2,400 tonnes and tusk catches shall not exceed 400 tonnes. No fishing of tuna, halibut or Greenland halibut is authorized. No more than 20 longline vessels may operate in the Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone at any given time.
2. Iceland will transfer capelin quota to the Faroe Island and grant access to capelin fisheries. Fishing opportunities for Faroese vessels in 2025 will be 30,000 tonnes, if the total allowable catch is at least 500,000 tonnes. If the total allowable catch is less than 500,000 tonnes, the share for Faroese fishing vessels will be 5% thereof. Faroese fishing vessels are permitted to land their catches for processing in Iceland. If the total allowable catch is less than 500,000 tonnes, up to as much as 3/4 of the quota for Faroese fishing vessels may be landed for human consumption outside of Iceland, or

processed for human consumption on board Faroese fish processing vessels. If, however, the total allowable catch is more than 500,000 tonnes, no more than 2/3 of the quota for Faroese fishing vessels may be landed for human consumption outside of Iceland, or processed for human consumption on board Faroese fish processing vessels. After 17 February, no more than 1/3 of the total quota for Faroese fishing vessels may be processed for human consumption outside of Iceland or processed for human consumption on board Faroese fish processing vessels. The permission to land catches outside of Iceland for human consumption, or for processing for human consumption on board Faroese fish processing vessels after 17 February shall amount to no less than 4,000 tonnes, even if that amounts to a higher proportion than 1/3 of the Faroese capelin quota.

3. Faroese fishing vessels are permitted access to catch up to 10,000 tonnes of capelin within Iceland's exclusive economic zone, from fishing opportunities acquired through agreements between the governments of the Faroe Islands and Greenland.
4. Faroese fishing vessels are permitted access to catch blue whiting and Norwegian Spring Spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring within Iceland's fisheries jurisdiction in 2025. The Icelandic Government can decide, after consulting with the Faroese Government, that this fishing may only be carried out by a specific number of vessels at the same time. Iceland informed that they might re-evaluate the basis for the area regulation regarding fisheries of Faroese vessels fishing for Norwegian Spring Spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring in order to avoid mixture with Icelandic Summer Spawning herring.
5. Icelandic fishing vessels are permitted access to catch blue whiting and Norwegian Spring Spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring within the Faroe Islands' fisheries jurisdiction in 2025. No more than 15 fishing vessels may fish for blue whiting at the same time within the Faroese fishing jurisdiction. The Faroe Islands reserve the right to further limit the number of vessels, to prevent congestion on the fishing grounds. The Faroese Government can, after consulting with the Icelandic Government, decide that the fisheries for Norwegian Spring-Spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring may only be carried out by a specific number of vessels at the same time.
6. Icelandic fishing vessels are permitted to catch up to 1,300 tonnes of mackerel within the Faroe Islands' fisheries jurisdiction in 2025.
7. Faroese vessels carrying out fishing within the Icelandic fisheries jurisdiction in conformity with this Agreement shall be subject to the same fishing rules as Icelandic

fishing vessels regarding fishing gear and fishing areas. Icelandic vessels carrying out fishing within the Faroese fisheries jurisdiction in conformity with this Agreement shall be subject to the same fishing rules as Faroese fishing vessels regarding fishing gear and fishing areas. Vessels fishing for blue whiting may not carry fishing gear that can be used for catching demersal species.

8. Each Party shall submit a list of fishing vessels that intend to fish within the jurisdiction of the other Party. The list shall be communicated in due time to the appropriate authorities and shall include the name of the vessels, registration numbers and other pertinent information. The list must be approved by the appropriate authorities of the licencing Party before fisheries can commence. Only vessels that are included on these lists have the right to fish within the jurisdiction of that Party.

#### **8. Identification of Issues for Bilateral Expert Dialogue**

The Parties agreed to work together to strengthen the quality of data sampling in the Norwegian Spring Spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring fisheries of Faroese vessels in Icelandic waters in order for them to meet the regulatory requirements. The relevant control and scientific authorities will facilitate this process.

The transition period to the Flux system in the NEAFC area will create challenges for the control authorities. Iceland and the Faroe Islands have a 2016 agreement on cooperation between control authorities, which includes provisions on meetings and consultations. How to facilitate smooth transition will be further discussed by experts of the respective control authorities.

The Parties agreed to consult with each other in advance of the meeting of the COFI Sub-Committee on Fisheries Management that will take place in October 2025 or early 2026.

#### **9. Next Steps**

Considering that the 2024 meeting was moved to a virtual platform, the Faroe Islands offered to chair the next annual meeting. Iceland expressed gratitude on the generous offer and will get back to the Faroe Islands when the new government has been formed and the ministry is back to regular operations.

fs

SR

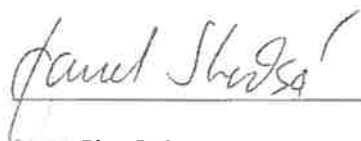
## 10. Any Other Business

The Faroese Party referred to the visit of Minister Holm at Hafrannsóknastofnun in October and noted the will of both Hafrannsóknastofnun and Havstovan to strengthen and formalize their cooperation.

## 11. Closing of the Meeting

The virtual meeting was held on 5 December and the Agreed Record of the meeting was finalized by correspondence on 6 December 2024.

Online, 6 December 2024



Janet Skarðsa  
Head of Delegation,  
Faroe Islands Ministry of Fisheries and  
Infrastructure



Sóley Kaldal  
Head of Delegation,  
Iceland Ministry of Food, Agriculture  
and Fisheries

## ANNEX I

### Faroe Islands-Iceland Annual Fisheries Consultations Tórshavn, 5. December 2024

#### Virtual meeting

#### Draft agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Cooperation in International Fora
  - 3.1. Coastal State Consultations
  - 3.2. NEAFC
  - 3.3. Other RFMOs
  - 3.4. Other Global / Multilateral Processes
  - 3.5. Fisheries and the Environment
4. Domestic Policy Update
5. Catch Figures 2023 (final) and 2024 (preliminary)
6. Cooperation on Compliance, Control and Enforcement
7. Quota Transfers and Access Arrangements
8. Identification of Issues for Bilateral Expert Dialogue
9. Next Steps
10. Any Other Business
11. Closing of the Meeting

#### Draft Timetable

Thursday 5 December

9.30-11.30: Opening of the meeting and plenary

11.30-12.30: Lunch break

13-15: Heads of Delegation

15-16: Plenary and closing of the Meeting

DS

SK

## ANNEX II

### Faroe Islands-Iceland Annual Fisheries Dialogue

Online, 5 December 2024

#### Faroese Delegation

<b>List of Participants, Faroe Islands</b>	
Janet Skarðsá	Ministry of Fisheries- and Infrastructure, HoD
Ólavur Dalsgarð	Ministry of Fisheries- and Infrastructure
Jóhan Simonsen	Faroe Islands Fisheries Inspection
Majbritt Lamhauge	Faroe Islands Fisheries Inspection
Sverri S. Joensen	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Industry and Trade

#### Icelandic Delegation

<b>List of Participants, Iceland</b>	
Sóley Kaldal	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, HoD
Agnar Bragi Bragason	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries
Guðmundur Þórðarson	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries
Skúli K. Skúlason	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries
Þorvarður Atli Þórsson	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Þórarinn S. Traustason	Fiskistofa Directorate of Fisheries
Hrefna Karlsdóttir	Fisheries Iceland

JS

SK

