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Subject: Bilateral Agreement 2015 - Iceland and the Faroe Islands

With reference to the discussions in Reykjavík on 20 November 2014 and to the Agreement on authorisations for Faroese vessels to fish in Icelandic waters of 20 March 1976, as subsequently amended, the Ministry hereby informs you of the following:

A. Catch quotas

Faroese longline and handline vessels may catch a total of 5,600 tonnes of demersal species in Icelandic jurisdiction in 2015. The cod catch shall be a maximum of 1,375 tonnes in 2015. The tusk catch shall be a maximum of 750 tonnes in 2015.

No mutual quotas for tuna fishing are included. No fishing of halibut or Greenland halibut is authorised. No more than 20 longline vessels may fish in Iceland's exclusive fishing zone at any one time.

Headed and gutted fish may be frozen aboard Faroese vessels. No further on-board processing is authorised; see however, section C on pelagic catch. Catch figures shall be based on ungutted fish. If demersal catch is gutted on board the vessel, figures for ungutted fish catch shall be calculated based on conversion co-efficients. In calculating the weight of ungutted catch, the following conversion co-efficients shall be used:

	To convert headed and gutted fish to ungutted fish		To convert gutted fish to ungutted fish
	with collar bone	without collar bone	
Tusk	1.47	1.56	1.11
Ling	1.41	1.50	1.25
Blue ling	1.41	1.50	1.25
Wolffish/Spotted wolffish	1.45	1.59	1.11
Greenland halibut	1.39	1.42	1.09
Halibut	1.36	1.39	1.09
Redfish	1.61	1.82	1.06
Cod	1.55	1.70	1.19
Haddock	1.47	1.61	1.19
Pollock	1.39	1.49	1.19
Other species	1.30	1.40	1.10

B. Information in connection with supervision of landed catch

The Faroese fisheries supervision authority Vørn shall send the Directorate of Fisheries within three working days after landing the following information on each catch landed which has been caught in Icelandic jurisdiction:

1. The name and vessel registry number.
2. Date of landing.
3. Period of sailing in Icelandic jurisdiction.
4. Species of fish.
5. Quantity of landed catch of each species.
6. Whether the catch is whole/headed, gutted/ungutted, chilled/frozen, with or without collar bone or other details of the catch condition which are relevant.
7. If the catch is processed aboard the vessel the weight of landed catch (products) must be

converted to ungutted catch using conversion co-efficients (see above).


Faroese vessels should comply with regulation no. 468/2013 on the utilization of catch and by-products (*Reglugerð um nýtingu afla og aukaafurða*).

C. Pelagic catch

It applies especially that if roe is extracted from capelin aboard a fishing vessel the quantity of catch shall be calculated as a total of the roe and cuttings. If capelin is reduced aboard a fishing vessel an inspector from the Directorate of Fisheries must always be on board; the vessel operator shall pay all costs of the inspector's presence aboard the vessel.

As appropriate, the Regulation on fishing by Faroese vessels in Icelandic waters will be amended to accord with the substance of this letter.

Fyrir hönd sjávarútvegs- og landbúnaðarráðherra



Jóhann Guðmundsson



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