

**AGREED RECORD OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS
BETWEEN NORWAY, THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE FAROE ISLANDS ON THE
MANAGEMENT OF MACKEREL IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FOR 2015**

BERGEN, 21 NOVEMBER 2014

1. Delegations from Norway, the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and the Russian Federation met in London from 21 to 23 October to consult on the management of mackerel for 2015. Regrettably a consensus could not be found allowing for the accession of other Parties to the Fisheries Arrangement between the European Union, the Faroe Islands and Norway on the management of mackerel in the North-East Atlantic from 2014-2018 (hereinafter referred to as the 2014 Mackerel Arrangement).
2. Subsequently, the Delegation from Norway, headed by Ms Ann Kristin WESTBERG, the Delegation from the European Union, headed by Mr John SPENCER, and the Delegation from the Faroe Islands, headed by Mr Herluf SIGVALDSSON, continued the consultations in London on 23 and 24 October 2014 and in Bergen on 21 November on the management of mackerel in the North-East Atlantic for 2015.
3. The Delegations recalled the 2014 Mackerel Arrangement, signed in London on 12 March 2014.
4. The Heads of Delegation agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the arrangements for the management of mackerel for 2015, as set out in this Agreed Record.
5. The Delegations urged Greenland, Iceland and the Russian Federation to exercise restraint when establishing their own mackerel quotas for 2015.
6. This arrangement constitutes an *ad hoc* arrangement, it being without prejudice to future fisheries arrangements between the Parties.

Management

7. The Delegations regretted that ICES in September 2014 had been unable to answer the joint request by the Parties, on the basis of which the Parties could have developed a revised management strategy for mackerel on which to base the appropriate fishing levels for 2015.
8. On receipt of ICES advice in early 2015 however, the Delegations agreed to meet in the Faroe Islands in order to agree on a Management Strategy for the mackerel stock in the North-East Atlantic. The Delegations furthermore agreed to invite Greenland, Iceland and the Russian Federation as observers to this meeting.

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Quotas for 2015

9. The Delegations reviewed the catch options identified by ICES for 2015. In the absence of an answer from ICES to the joint request from the Parties on new reference points, the Delegations agreed to establish the TAC based on the precautionary reference points established at the last benchmarking exercise on the stock in February 2014.
10. Consequently, they agreed to recommend the adoption of a total catch limitation of 1,054,000 tonnes for the mackerel fishery in 2015 in the North East-Atlantic, which corresponds to the F_{pa} estimated by ICES and is therefore sustainable and precautionary.
11. In accordance with the relative shares as set out in article 7.4 in the 2014 Mackerel Arrangement, the Delegations agreed to the following arrangement on the quota shares for 2015:

	Tonnes
European Union:	519,512
Faroe Islands:	132,814
Norway:	237,250

12. In accordance with the 2014 Mackerel Arrangement, 15.6 % of the TAC referred to in paragraph 10 is set aside as a Coastal State and Fishing Party reserve.
13. In accordance with paragraph 7.7 of the 2014 Mackerel Arrangement regarding fishing activities in third party waters, the Delegations exchanged information and noted that the Parties had all adhered to the provisions set out in the 2014 Mackerel Arrangement.

Inter-annual quota flexibility

14. The Delegations agreed to recommend that, by derogation from paragraph 8.1 of the 2014 Mackerel Arrangement, each Party may transfer from 2014 to 2015 unutilised quantities of up to 25% of the quota allocated to that Party for 2014. This quantity shall be in addition to the quota allocated to the Party concerned in 2015.

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Control

15. The Delegations agreed to apply the revised measures concerning the weighing and inspection of pelagic landings (Annex 1) and new Terms of Reference for the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Working Group for 2015 (Annex 2). The EU Delegation noted that adoption of these measures at EU level could take up to two years.

Bergen, 21 November 2014



Ann Kristin WESTBERG
For the Delegation of Norway



John SPENCER
For the European Union Delegation



Herluf SIGVALDSSON
For the Delegation of the Faroe Islands

**MEASURES TO BE APPLIED CONCERNING THE
WEIGHING AND INSPECTION OF PELAGIC LANDINGS**

The Delegations agreed that the following measures shall be applied to the weighing and inspection of landings exceeding 10 tonnes of mackerel, herring, blue whiting and horse mackerel:

1. All quantities of fresh herring, mackerel, blue whiting and horse mackerel landed must be weighed before sorting and processing. When determining the weight, any deduction for water shall not exceed 2% for landings for human consumption and 0% for landings for industrial purposes.
2. For fish landed frozen the weight shall be determined by weighing all the boxes minus the tare weight (cardboard and plastic) or by multiplying the total number of boxes landed by the average weight of the boxes minus tare weight landed in the same shipment calculated in accordance with an agreed sampling methodology.
3. Landings shall take place in designated ports. Masters of fishing vessels shall submit prior notice of landing including notification of catch on board and submit the estimated catch information to the competent authorities before commencing the discharge of catch.
4. The processor or buyer of the fish shall submit sales information for the payment of the quantities landed to the competent authorities. In cases where fish is placed in storage for a period of time after landings before being sold, information on the catch (weighing note/landing declaration, etc.) should be submitted to the competent authorities.
5. A minimum of 5% of landings and 7.5% of the quantities landed for each species should be subject to a full inspection. This should be based on a risk assessment. A full inspection shall also include cross checks of prior notifications and information submitted to competent authorities of estimated catch, weighing and sales information.

In the case of vessels pumping catch ashore the weighing of the entire discharge from the vessels selected for inspection shall be monitored and a cross-check undertaken between the quantities by species recorded in the landing declaration or sales note and the record of weighing held by the buyer or processor of the fish.

In the case of freezer trawlers, the counting of boxes shall be monitored. The sample weighing of boxes/pallets carried out in order to determine the tare weight shall also be monitored.

It shall be verified that the vessel is empty, once the discharge has been completed.

6. In each case where the checks reveal a significant discrepancy it shall be followed up as an infringement.

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**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR
A MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE (MCS)
WORKING GROUP FOR 2015**

The Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Working Group should meet before 1 April 2015 under the Terms of Reference described below.

The Working Group should submit its report to the Parties well in advance of the Coastal State consultations for 2016. Representatives of the Parties should meet no later than 31 January 2015 to plan the activity of the Working Group in 2015.

The objective of the Working Group should be to establish best practice in monitoring, control and surveillance both at sea and on land, with the goal of securing a level playing field for fisheries on pelagic stocks such as mackerel, Norwegian spring-spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring, blue whiting and horse mackerel.

The Working Group should be composed of operative MCS experts.

The MCS Working Group should:

- 1) Conduct fact finding missions concerning;
 - a. Sea-going missions focusing on slipping, discards and high grading, by catch issues and other relevant issues in the context of MCS; and
 - b. Missions on land focusing on weighing and inspections, by-catch issues and other relevant issues in the context of MCS;
- 2) Compare and consider findings in fact-finding mission reports with a view to harmonising practices between the Parties;
- 3) Explore and present existing weighing systems used for pelagic landings and how these systems could be manipulated, hereunder reflect which challenges need to be faced in the future by the Parties to secure correct catch reporting;
- 4) To review the current practices by individual Parties in relation to risk assessment strategies; and
- 5) Exchange information on any common trends in infringements regarding the pelagic industry and discuss approaches to such infringements.

If there are any other relevant issues, which the Working Group believes would result in a more efficient Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of pelagic fisheries, the Working Group could explore these as appropriate.

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