

**AGREED RECORD OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS (*PANDALUS BOREALIS*)  
BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND NORWAY FOR 2023**

**29 JUNE 2023**

- 1 A European Union Delegation, headed by Mr. Mael LE DRAST, and a Norwegian Delegation, headed by Ms. Ann Kristin WESTBERG, met via means of videoconference and in Brussels between 13 and 29 June 2023 to consult on mutual fisheries relations for 2023.
- 2 The Delegations referred to the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between Norway and the European Union on the Regulation of Fisheries in Skagerrak and Kattegat for 2023, signed 17 March 2023, and, in particular, to paragraphs 12.1 - 12.6, as well as Annex I and Annex II of that Agreed Record.
- 3 The Delegations recalled the decision made on 17 March 2023 establishing a TAC for northern prawn (*Pandalus borealis*) in ICES divisions 3a and 4a East (Skagerrak, Kattegat and Northern North Sea in the Norwegian Deep) of 5,882 tonnes to cover the first six months of 2023. They further recalled that Norway had established a quota of 1,765 tonnes for the Division 4.a. East for the period 1 January 2023 to 30 June 2023.
- 4 The Delegations also recalled the Protocol of Fisheries Consultations between Norway and the European Union on behalf of Sweden for 2023, signed 17 March 2023, as well as Agreed Record on Fisheries Consultations between the European Union and Norway for 2023, signed 17 March 2023.
- 5 The Delegations recalled their decision to revise the joint Long-Term Management Strategy (LTMS) for the stock in line with the precautionary approach as advised by ICES in their reply to the joint request regarding elements in the management strategy, including the move from a two-step TAC setting approach to a single year TAC running from 1 July to 30 June. The joint LTMS is set out in Annex II.
- 6 The Delegations recalled their decision to ask ICES for a catch advice once a year, to be issued annually in May. Furthermore, they recalled the decision to consult on establishing a TAC covering the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 as soon as the ICES advice is available.
- 7 The Delegations noted that ICES released the advice on *Pandalus* in Division 3a and 4a East for the period from July 2023 to June 2024 on 9 June 2023.
- 8 Further to the arrangements recommended in the Agreed Records of 17 March 2023, the Delegations agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the following changes in fishery arrangements for 2023 as outlined in this Agreed Record.

## **9 Revised Quotas for Northern shrimp**

- 9.1 The Delegations welcomed the new management regime and the long-term management strategy for northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in ICES divisions 3a and 4a East, as advised by ICES and reflected in Annex II. They noted that the new TAC year now starts 1 July and ends 30 June the following year.
- 9.2 The Delegations noted that ICES advises that when the EU/Norway LTMS for northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in 3a and 4a East is applied, catches in the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 should be no more than 5,125 tonnes. The Delegations also noted that ICES currently estimates the spawning stock to be below both  $B_{lim}$  and  $B_{trigger}$ .
- 9.3 The Delegations noted the report of the joint NAFO/ICES *Pandalus* Assessment Working Group includes a chapter about alternative catch scenarios in line with ICES advisory principles and the recently adopted harvest control rule. The report indicates that, when assuming that 900 tonnes are left unfished, the TAC would be 6,076 tonnes for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. A TAC of 6,076 tonnes is expected to result in a 97.6% probability of the stock recovering above  $B_{lim}$  in 2024.
- 9.4 The Delegations noted that the TAC established for the period from January to June 2023 would not be fully utilised, and that a quantity similar to the assumed unfished quota referred to in paragraph 9.3 will remain unfished by 30 June.
- 9.5 The Delegations therefore agreed to establish a TAC of 6,076 tonnes for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.
- 9.6 The Delegations consequently agreed to establish a TAC of 4,253 tonnes for Skagerrak for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.
- 9.7 The Norwegian Delegation informed the EU Delegation of its intention to fix within the quantity given in paragraph 9.6 a quota for *Pandalus* for Division 4a East of 1,823 tonnes for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.
- 9.8 The Norwegian Delegation also informed EU Delegation that they will deduct the remaining exchange quotas derived from Agreed Record on Fisheries Consultations between the European Union and Norway for 2023, and Protocol of Fisheries Consultations between Norway and the European Union on behalf of Sweden from Norway's national quota for the period starting 1 July 2023 in order to secure that the total outtake of *Pandalus* does not exceed the TAC for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.
- 9.9 The Delegations agreed to replace Annex I of the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between Norway and the European Union on the Regulation of Fisheries in Skagerrak and Kattegat for 2023, signed 17 March 2023, with Annex I attached to this Agreed Record.
- 9.10 The Delegations agreed to finalise the new LTMS available in Annex II once ICES has completed its evaluation of that new LTMS in line with the request included in Annex III.

## **10 Protection of Atlantic halibut**

- 10.1 The EU Delegation referred to the paragraphs 18.6 and 18.7 of the Agreed Record of fisheries consultations for the Skagerrak for 2023, signed 17 March 2023, and agreement

by the EU Delegation to consider the introduction of an EU level seasonal closure for Atlantic halibut in the Skagerrak, in addition to the measures adopted by Sweden.

- 10.2 The EU Delegation informed the Norwegian Delegation that the process for introducing an EU level seasonal closure is ongoing, with a view to have the measure in place ahead of the next spawning season.
- 10.3 The EU Delegation recalled the importance of working towards the harmonisation of technical measures as an integral part of their cooperation in the Skagerrak. The EU Delegation recalled the statement made in paragraph 18.5 of the Agreed Record of fisheries consultations for the Skagerrak for 2023, in which the EU Delegation asked Norway not to put any measures negatively affecting cross-border fishing in the Skagerrak until both Parties agree on common arrangements for the Skagerrak, and restated its intention to invite Norway to consultations on the matter.
- 10.4 The Norwegian Delegation welcomed the EU's decision to adopt seasonal closures to protect spawning halibut. Furthermore, the Norwegian Delegation recalled that Norwegian legislation has had in place closure of directed fishing for halibut during the spawning period between 20 December to 31 March, since the 1940s, and hoped that the introduction of corresponding measures in EU waters would enable better management of this stock.
- 10.5 The Norwegian Delegation reminded the EU Delegation that Norway from 1 January 2024 will introduce new reporting requirements, that entails that vessels will have to haul the vessel's gear before entering the Norwegian EEZ in Skagerrak. Vessels must also send inter alia catch on entry or exit reports (COE, COX reports) prior to crossing the border. Moreover, the Norwegian Delegation recalled that since 2013, technical measures for the main fisheries in Skagerrak have already been harmonised; particularly in the Pandalus fishery, the directed Nephrops fishery and in the mixed demersal and Nephrops fishery in the Skagerrak. Harmonisation of regulatory measures would not, however, abate the current challenges with control and enforcement of cross border fishing in Skagerrak, and furthermore referred to the Agreed Record of fisheries consultations for the Skagerrak for 2023, signed 17 March 2023, where this issue in particular is thoroughly explained.

29 June 2023

For the European Union Delegation

For the Norwegian Delegation

Mael LE DRAST

Ann Kristin WESTBERG

## TACs AND ALLOCATIONS IN 2023

Catches taken, during the period 1 January to 31 December 2023 in the Skagerrak and the Kattegat of the species mentioned below, shall be limited as follows (metric tonnes, fresh round weight):

| SPECIES                 | AREA <sup>(1)</sup> | TAC 2023 | ALLOCATION TO NORWAY | ALLOCATION TO EUROPEAN UNION |
|-------------------------|---------------------|----------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| COD                     | S                   | 3,095    | 100 <sup>(2)</sup>   | 2,995                        |
| HADDOCK <sup>(3)</sup>  | S + K               | 3,589    | 151                  | 3,438                        |
| WHITING                 | S + K               | 676      | 12                   | 664                          |
| PLAICE                  | S                   | 17,783   | 356                  | 17,427                       |
| MACKEREL                | S + K               | PM       | PM <sup>(4)</sup>    | PM                           |
| PANDALUS <sup>(5)</sup> | S                   | 4,253    | 1,982                | 2,271                        |
| HERRING                 | S + K               | 23,250   | 3,102                | 20,148                       |
| SPRAT <sup>(6)</sup>    | S + K               | 26,278   | 1,971                | 24,307                       |

- <sup>(1)</sup> Skagerrak (S): the area bounded on the west by a straight line running through the Hanstholm lighthouse and the Lindesnes lighthouse and on the south by a straight line running through the Skagen lighthouse and the Tistlarna lighthouse. Skagerrak and Kattegat (S + K): the area defined as Skagerrak, extended to the southern boundary of Kattegat, and defined as a straight line from Hasenøre to Gnibens spids, from Korshage to Spodsbjerg and from Gilbjerg Hoved to Kullen.
- <sup>(2)</sup> This quantity does not include catches to be taken with passive gear inside the Norwegian baselines.
- <sup>(3)</sup> The TAC for haddock includes both a directed fishery for haddock and by-catches in the industrial fisheries.
- <sup>(4)</sup> A part of Norway's quota in the North Sea may be fished in the Skagerrak by vessels not exceeding 90 feet.
- <sup>(5)</sup> Catches in the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.
- <sup>(6)</sup> Catches in the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

**LONG TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN SHRIMP (*Pandalus borealis*) IN DIVISIONS 3.A AND 4.A EAST (SKAGERRAK AND KATTEGAT AND NORTHERN NORTH SEA IN THE NORWEGIAN DEEP)**

The Parties agree to implement a Long Term Management Strategy (LTMS) for the Northern shrimp in the Northern North Sea (Norwegian Deep) and in the Skagerrak and Kattegat.

The objective of this LTMS is to provide for sustainable fisheries with high and sustainable yields in conformity with the precautionary approach.

For the purpose of this long term management strategy, the following definitions shall apply:

- "SSB" means the estimate according to ICES of the Spawning Stock Biomass at the beginning of the TAC year.
- $B_{TRIGGER}$  is the value of spawning stock biomass (SSB) that triggers a specific management action.
- $F_{TARGET}$  is the fishing mortality to be included in the algorithm for the agreed long-term management strategy as a function of variables related to the status of the stock.

The value for  $B_{TRIGGER}$  is fixed in the light of the latest available ICES advice. The value of  $F_{target}$  is fixed by ICES and fulfilling the following criteria:

1. The Parties shall set a 12 month TAC for northern shrimp for a period between 1 July to 30 June that is consistent with fishing at  $F_{target}$  provided that SSB at the start of the TAC year is equal to or greater than  $MSY B_{trigger}$ .
2. Where the SSB at the start of the TAC year is estimated to be below  $MSY B_{trigger}$  the Parties agree that the fishing mortality referred to in paragraph 1 is reduced linearly from  $F_{TARGET} \times$  at SSB equal to  $MSY B_{trigger}$  to  $F$  equal to zero at SSB equal to zero.
3. Overriding the rules set out in paragraphs 1 and 2, the  $F_{TARGET}$  should be in line with the criteria specified in the ICES MSY approach for SSB falling below  $B_{lim}$  in the year following the TAC year.

**EU-Norway request to ICES for a revision of the Long-Term Management Strategy for Northern shrimp in Skagerrak and the Norwegian Deep**

EU-Norway request to ICES to assess elements of a revised long-term management strategy for Northern shrimp in Skagerrak and the Norwegian Deep

In the previous Pandalus LTMS, a 5% downscale of the F target was considered appropriate when applying a maximum 10% banking and borrowing. ICES is requested to confirm if this is still valid given the newly agreed LTMS, the updated assessment model and new perception of the stock.