

**AGREED RECORD OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN  
THE EUROPEAN UNION AND NORWAY FOR 2018**

**25 APRIL 2018**

- 1 A European Union Delegation, headed by Mr Jacques VERBORGH, and a Norwegian Delegation, headed by Ms Ann Kristin WESTBERG, met in Skagen, Denmark, on 24 and 25 April 2018 to consult on mutual fisheries relations for 2018.
- 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 2018, signed in Bergen on 1 December 2017, and, in particular, to paragraphs 10.1 – 10.5 and Annex 1 of that Agreed Record.
- 3 The Delegations recalled the decision made in December 2017 establishing a preliminary TAC of northern prawn (*Pandalus borealis*) for 2018 of 10,475 tonnes, as well as the arrangements made to establish a final TAC for 2018 as soon as the ICES advice for *Pandalus* is available. The Delegations noted that ICES released the advice on *Pandalus* in Division 3a and 4a East (Skagerrak and Kattegat, Northern North Sea in the Norwegian deep) on 26 March 2018.
- 4 Further to the arrangements recommended in the Agreed Records of 1 December 2017, the Delegations agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the following changes in fishery arrangements for 2018 as outlined in this Agreed Record.

**5 REVISED QUOTAS FOR PANDALUS**

- 5.1 The Delegations noted the ICES advice for total catches in 2018, and, agreed to establish a TAC for 2018 at 8,900 tonnes.
- 5.2 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 2018, signed in Bergen on 1 December 2017, with Annex I attached to this Agreed Record.
- 5.3 Furthermore the Norwegian Delegation informed the EU Delegation of its intention to fix within the quantity given in paragraph 5.1 a quota for *Pandalus* for Division 4a East of 2,670 tonnes.
- 5.4 The Delegations agreed that there should be no inter-annual quota flexibility from 2019 to 2018.
- 5.5 The Norwegian Delegation presented the method that was used for estimating discard of *Pandalus* from the Norwegian fleet in 2017. The main essence of the method is to compare length frequency distribution from catches at sea and from landings, and use this information to estimate the discard.
- 5.6 The EU Delegation recalled that estimates of discards in EU fisheries are mostly based on observer schemes which are foreseen by the EU Data Collection Framework and



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detailed in each multi-annual work plans established by all Member States concerned. Since 2008, provisions included in the EU Data Collection Framework are discussed at level of Regional Coordination Groups, as well as by the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries.

- 5.7 Accordingly, Denmark and Sweden conduct on-board sea sampling for *Pandalus* to estimate discard. Vessels are chosen randomly for sampling based on gear type, quarter and depending on the number of trips made the previous year. Total weights and length samples are taken per haul or trip and of each of the *Pandalus* size fractions (boiled, raw, lus that are kept and lus that are discarded). Length weight relationships are then used to estimate total discards from the corresponding catches given that the weight of each fraction in the catch is known.
- 5.8 The Delegations agreed to discuss further issues related to estimating discards in the *Pandalus* fisheries. The Institute of Marine Research in Norway will therefore invite the EU Commission, the Technical University of Denmark and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences to participate in a seminar on methods for estimating discards.

## **6 JOINT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR PANDALUS IN SKAGERRAK AND THE NORWEGIAN DEEP**

The Delegations recalled the decision made in April 2017 to submit a joint request to ICES on options for a joint management strategy for *Pandalus*. The ICES advice in response to the joint request was published on 19 December 2017. The Delegations welcomed the ICES advice. In view of this the Delegations elaborated a joint Long-Term Management Strategy (LTMS) for *Pandalus* in Skagerrak and in the Norwegian Deep. The joint LTMS is set out in Annex II. The Delegations agreed to ask ICES for quota advice only once a year, to be issued annually in March. To facilitate the transition phase, the Delegations agreed to ask ICES to issue an advice for the first two quarters of 2019 based on the LTMS, in October 2018.

## **7 POSSIBLE REQUEST REGARDING A MANAGEMENT OPTION ON WHITING IN SKAGERRAK**

- 7.1 The EU Delegation informed the Norwegian Delegation about a request for a non-recurring advice recently submitted to ICES on the revision of TAC contribution to fisheries management and stock conservation. This request refers specifically to by-catch stocks listed in EU Multi-Annual Plans, including whiting in Skagerrak. The ICES advice is expected for mid-September 2018. Consequently it would be premature at this stage to submit in addition a new joint request to ICES on the matter.
- 7.2 The Norwegian Delegation took note of the information from the EU Delegation, and underlined that the Parties also in the future will have to establish a TAC for whiting and that the traditional sharing must be adhered to unless the Parties agree to a new sharing arrangement for the Skagerrak.

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**8 JOINT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR NORWAY POUT**

The Delegations recalled the decision made in April 2017 to submit a joint request to ICES to evaluate options for a management strategy for Norway pout. The Delegations noted that ICES will release its advice in response to the joint request on 29 May 2018. The Delegations agreed to consider this advice during their forthcoming consultations on Long Term Management Strategies.

**9 WORKING GROUP ON TECHNICAL MEASURES IN SKAGERRAK**

The Delegations noted that the Working Group on Technical Measures in Skagerrak, as referred to the paragraph 16.1 of the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between Norway and the European Union on the Regulation of Fisheries in Skagerrak and Kattegat for 2018, signed in Bergen on 1 December 2017, is expected to make recommendations by 1 July 2018. It was agreed that Delegations will consider the Recommendations from the Working Group during the forthcoming consultations on Technical Measures in Skagerrak.

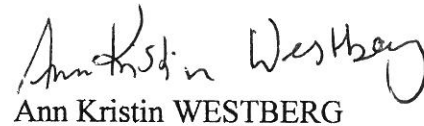
Skagen, 25 April 2018

For the European Union Delegation



Jacques VERBORGH

For the Norwegian Delegation



Ann Kristin WESTBERG

## TACs AND ALLOCATIONS IN 2018

Catches taken, during the period 1 January to 31 December 2018 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 2018	ALLOCATION TO NORWAY	ALLOCATION TO EUROPEAN UNION
COD	S	7,995	259 <sup>(2)</sup>	7,736
HADDOCK <sup>(3)</sup>	S + K	2,569	108	2,461
WHITING	S + K	1,050	19	1,031
PLAICE	S	15,343	307	15,036
MACKEREL	S + K	pm	pm <sup>(4)</sup>	Pm
PANDALUS	S	6,230	2,903	3,327
HERRING	S + K	48,427	6,459	41,968
SPRAT	S + K	26,624	1,997	24,627

- (1) 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 Tislarna 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.
- (2) This quantity does not include catches to be taken with passive gear inside the Norwegian baselines.
- (3) The TAC for haddock includes both a directed fishery for haddock and by-catches in the industrial fisheries.
- (4) A part of Norway's quota in the North Sea may be fished in the Skagerrak by vessels not exceeding 90 feet.

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**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 LTMS, 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 pre-agreed management actions as a function of variables related to the status of the stock.

Values for  $B_{TRIGGER}$  and  $F_{TARGET}$  are fixed in the light of the latest available ICES advice, at levels of 9 900 t and 0.59 respectively. The TAC will be established for each calendar year (from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>).

- By end of the year N-1, a preliminary TAC will be adopted by the Parties based on ICES catch forecast for the six first months of the year N, released in March of year N-1.
- The Parties will establish the final TAC for the entire year N in light of the ICES stock advice released in March of year N.

When establishing the preliminary and the final TACs the following rules shall apply:

- a. When the SSB at the start of the year is estimated at or above  $B_{TRIGGER}$  the Parties will fix a TAC consistent with a fishing mortality rate of  $F_{TARGET}$ .
- b. When the SSB at the start of the year is estimated below  $B_{TRIGGER}$ , the Parties will fix a TAC consistent with a fishing mortality rate of  $F_{TARGET} \times (SSB/B_{TRIGGER})$ .

The TAC will include all removals made from the stock.

When SSB is estimated to be at or above  $B_{TRIGGER}$ , the TAC derived from paragraph (a) can be deviated with up to 10 % according to the "banking and borrowing" scheme described in Annex III to this Agreed Record.

This LTMS will be applicable from 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2019 onwards.

It shall be revised by the end of 2021 or following the next ICES benchmark of the stock.

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**INTER-ANNUAL QUOTA FLEXIBILITY FOR PANDALUS BOREALIS**

1. Each Party may transfer to the following year unutilised quantities of up to 10% of the quota allocated to it. The quantity transferred shall be in addition to the quota allocated to the Party concerned in the following year. This quantity cannot be transferred further to the quotas for subsequent years.
2. Each Party may authorise fishing by its vessels of up to 10% beyond the quota allocated. All quantities fished beyond the allocated quota for one year shall be deducted from the Party's quota allocated for the following year.
3. Complete catch statistics, quotas and inter-annual quota transfers for the previous year should be made available to the other Party no later than 1 May.
4. The inter-annual quota flexibility scheme shall not apply when the SSB is estimated at the beginning of the year to be below  $B_{TRIGGER}$ .



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