

AGREED RECORD OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE
FAROE ISLANDS, THE EUROPEAN UNION, ICELAND, NORWAY AND THE UNITED
KINGDOM ON THE MANAGEMENT OF BLUE WHITING IN THE NORTH-EAST
ATLANTIC IN 2023

London, 6 December 2022

1. A delegation from the Faroe Islands, headed by Herluf SIGVALDSSON, a delegation from the European Union, headed by Thomas BRÉGEON, a delegation from Iceland, headed by Áslaug Eir HÓLMGEIRSDÓTTIR, a delegation from Norway, headed by Vidar LANDMARK, and a delegation from the United Kingdom, headed by Will FRANCIS, met at NEAFC in London on 14 October 2022 to consult on the management of the blue whiting stock in the North-East Atlantic in 2023.
2. A delegation from the Faroe Islands, headed by Herluf SIGVALDSSON, a delegation from the European Union, headed by Thomas BRÉGEON, a delegation from Iceland, headed by Áslaug Eir HÓLMGEIRSDÓTTIR, a delegation from Norway, headed by Ann Kristin WESTBERG, and a delegation from the United Kingdom, headed by Will FRANCIS, met at NEAFC in London on 6 December 2022 to conclude the consultations on the management of the blue whiting stock in the North-East Atlantic in 2023.
3. A delegation from Greenland, headed by Iben FUNCH DØJ attended both meetings as an observer.
4. The delegations noted that the agreed long-term management strategy dated 27 October 2016, is regarded by ICES as consistent with the precautionary approach (Annex I). The delegations also noted that the long-term strategy for blue whiting should have been reviewed after five years. The delegations agreed that this review needs to be coordinated with plans for benchmarking in ICES, and the Parties will return to the issue of a review and the planning and preparation of this during 2023.
5. The delegations agreed that the level of total catches for blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic for 2023 should be no more than 1,359,629 tonnes as advised by ICES. The delegations also agreed that the establishing of unilateral quotas for 2023 does not in any way imply the acceptance of the level of these quotas by any Party.
6. The delegations recommended that the NEAFC allowable catches for 2023 would be 108,226 tonnes. These catches should not be considered as additional to the level set in Paragraph 5.
7. The delegations agreed that Parties shall address the issue of a quota-sharing arrangement as early as possible in 2023.
8. The delegations encouraged the Parties to develop and coordinate their scientific research activities in order to improve the information available for the assessment and the management of this stock.

9. The delegations welcomed the outcomes of the Report of the 2022 Coastal States Working Group on the distribution of blue whiting in the Northeast Atlantic, September 2022 to update the “Report from the NEAFC Working Group on Collating Information on the Distribution of All Life Stages of Blue Whiting in the North-East Atlantic and the Distribution of Catches from the Stock, London, 26-28 November 2013” and agreed to update this report in 2023, chaired by [the United Kingdom].
10. The delegations exchanged final quota and catch information for 2020 and 2021 as well as preliminary information for 2022 (Annex II). The delegations also exchanged information with regard to their fishing activities, including exchanges and access arrangements (Annex III).
11. The delegations agreed to continue to provide information in the same format as set out in Annex II and Annex III to this Agreed Record. Each Party shall by 1 May 2023, provide updated information in this regard to the United Kingdom as chair of the consultations for 2024. The chair shall forward this information as soon as possible to all Parties to this Agreed Record.
12. The delegations agreed that the Parties may fish blue whiting within their quotas in their respective zones of fisheries jurisdiction and in international waters.
13. The delegations agreed that further arrangements by the Parties, including arrangements for access, quota transfers and other conditions for fishing in their respective zones of fisheries jurisdiction, are regulated by bilateral agreements.

The UK delegation noted that it would have preferred the TAC to be set at a lower level than that advised by ICES in order to avoid large annual TAC fluctuations, but noted the risks to coastal States acting unilaterally. Therefore, in agreeing to follow the scientific advice and accept an 81% increase in the level of total catches, the UK delegation proposed that coastal States consider how to maintain more stable catch limits for the stock in the longer term.

London, 6 December 2022

Herluf SIGVALDSSON
For the Delegation of the Faroe Islands

Thomas BRÉGEON
For the Delegation of the European Union

Áslaug Eir HÓLMGEIRSDÓTTIR
For the Delegation of Iceland

Ann Kristin WESTBERG
For the Delegation of Norway

Will FRANCIS
For the Delegation of the United Kingdom

ARRANGEMENT FOR THE LONG-TERM
MANAGEMENT OF THE BLUE WHITING
STOCK

1. The Parties agree to implement a long-term management strategy for the fisheries on the Blue Whiting stock, which is consistent with the precautionary approach and the MSY approach, aiming at ensuring harvest rates within safe biological limits.
2. For the purpose of this long-term management strategy, in the following text, “TAC” means the sum of the agreed Coastal State quotas and the NEAFC allowable catches.
3. As a priority, the long-term strategy shall ensure with high probability that the size of the stock is maintained above B_{lim} .
4. In the case that the spawning biomass is forecast to be above or equal to $B_{trigger}$ ($=B_{pa}$) on 1 January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC shall be fixed to a fishing mortality of F_{MSY} .
5. Where the rules in paragraph 4 would lead to a TAC, which deviates by more than 20% below or 25% above the TAC of the preceding year, the Parties shall fix a TAC that is respectively no more than 20% less or 25% more than the TAC of the preceding year.
6. The TAC constraint described in paragraph 5 shall not apply if:
 - a. The spawning biomass at 1 January in the year preceding the year for which the TAC is to be set is less than $B_{trigger}$; or
 - b. The rules in paragraph 4 would lead to a TAC that deviates by more than 40% from the TAC of the preceding year.
7. In the case that the spawning biomass (SSB) is forecast to be less than the precautionary biomass ($B_{trigger}$) on 1 January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC shall be fixed at a level that is consistent with a fishing mortality given by:

$$\text{Target } F = 0.05 + [(SSB - B_{lim}) * (F_{MSY} - 0.05) / (B_{trigger} - B_{lim})]$$

8. In the case that the spawning biomass is forecast to be less than B_{lim} on 1 January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC will be fixed corresponding to a fishing mortality $F = 0.05$.
9. 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.
10. 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.

11. The inter-annual quota flexibility scheme in paragraph 9 and 10 should be suspended in the year following the TAC year, if the stock is forecast to be under B_{trigger} at the end of the TAC year.
12. The Parties, on the basis of ICES advice, shall review this long-term management strategy at intervals not exceeding five years. The first such review shall take place no later than by December 2021.

ANNEX II

Reporting of quotas and catches of blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic - 2020 to 2022

2020 (Final)		QUOTAS (tonnes)				CATCHES (tonnes)										
Party	Coastal State share/share	Balance from 2019	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Faroese Fishing Zone	Greenland fishing zone	Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone	Norwegian Economic Zone	Fishery Zone around Jan Mayen	Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard	United Kingdom Zone	Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH	Balance
European Union	481.141	47.369	-107.400	421.110	5.904	337.046	7.121		0	41					350.112	70.998
Faroese Islands	412.697	43.758	-98.000	358.455	39.849	44.644	258.681		3.131	0					346.305	12.150
Iceland	245.101	-757	-2.000	242.344	43.475	0	184.537		10.839	0					238.851	3.493
Norway	280.602	-38.457	79.681	321.826	58.114	267.822	878		0	27.219					354.033	-32.207
Total Coastal States	1.419.541	51.913	-127.719	1.343.735	147.342	649.512	451.217		13.970	27.260					1.289.301	54.434

Russian Federation	86.162	4.808	104.219	195.189	83.780		80.337			17.379					181.496	13.693
Greenland	6.273	252	13.500	20.025	1.874		17.676								19.550	475
Total all Parties	1.511.976	56.973	-10.000	1.558.949	232.996	649.512	549.230		13.970	44.639					1.490.347	68.602

2021 (Final)		QUOTAS (tonnes)				CATCHES (tonnes)										
Party	Coastal State share/share	Balance from 2020	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Faroese Fishing Zone	Greenland fishing zone	Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone	Norwegian Economic Zone	Fishery Zone around Jan Mayen	Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard	United Kingdom Zone	Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH	Balance
European Union	313.232	48.114	-38.600	322.746	14.595	149.720				28			90.941		255.284	67.462
Faroese Islands	330.158	12.150	-96.700	245.608	28.143		172.043		2.137	93					202.416	43.192
Iceland	196.081	3.493	-2.000	197.574	4.435		144.555		37.355						186.345	11.229
Norway	224.482	-32.207	21.325	213.600	99.043	99.441	973			34.485					233.942	-20.342
United Kingdom	71.670	760	1.100	73.530		42.888							30.793		73.681	-151
Total Coastal States	1.135.623	32.310	-114.875	1.053.058	146.216	292.049	317.571		39.492	34.606			121.734		951.668	101.541

Russian Federation	68.929	7.350	100.175	176.454	66.806		95.915			269					162.990	13.464
Greenland	5.032	475	14.700	20.207	40		18.695								18.735	1.472
Total all Parties	1.209.584	40.135	0	1.249.719	213.062	292.049	432.181		39.492	34.875			121.734		1.133.393	116.477

2022 (Provisional)		QUOTAS (tonnes)				CATCHES (tonnes)										
Party	Coastal State share/share	Balance from 2021	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Faroese Fishing Zone	Greenland fishing zone	Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone	Norwegian Economic Zone	Fishery Zone around Jan Mayen	Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard	United Kingdom Zone	Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH	Balance
European Union	253.389	31.323	-25.493	253.212	22	158.413				12			47.619		206.066	47.146
Faroese Islands	267.413	43.192	-89.700	220.905	5.225		201.558								206.783	14.122
Iceland	158.827	15.730	0	174.557	3.892		131.223		52.296						187.411	-12.854
Norway	181.832	-20.342	18.398	179.888	8.845	140.814	11.848			25.900			1.046		188.453	-8.565
United Kingdom	58.393	-151	-6.007	52.235		33.385				2			16.742		50.129	2.106
Total Coastal States	919.854	69.752	-102.802	880.797	17.984	332.612	344.629		52.296	25.914			65.407		838.842	41.955

Provisional 04.10.2022

Provisional 06.10.2022

Provisional 06.12.2022

Provisional 06.10.2022

Provisional 11.10.2022

Russian Federation	55.834	6.229	88.102	150.165	35.407		85.615			48					121.070	29.095
Greenland	4.076	1.472	14.700	20.248			18.721								18.721	1.527
Total all Parties	979.764	77.453	0	1.051.210	53.391	332.612	448.965		52.296	25.962			65.407		978.633	72.577

Provisional 11.10.2022

Provisional 07.10.2022

Guideline for the spreadsheet	
Coastal state share/share	Quota allocated to the Party
Balance	Unutilised/fishing beyond the quota from last year. Includes unused quantity related to transfers between countries
Quota exchange	Transfers between countries
Quotas after transfers and flexibility	New quota

ANNEX III

Transfers in 2022¹

Party	Balance			European Union	Faroe Islands	Iceland	Norway	United Kingdom	Russian Federation	Greenland
	Quotas	from 2021	Total available							
European Union	253,389	31,323	284,712	---			31,500			
Faroe Islands	267,413	43,192	310,605		---				75,000	14,700
Iceland	158,827	15,730	174,557			---				
Norway	181,832	-20,342	161,490				---		13,102	
United Kingdom	58,393	-151	58,242	6,007				---		
Russian Federation	55,834	6,229	62,063						---	
Greenland	4,076	1,472	5,548							---

¹ Transfers imply full access

Access arrangements in 2022

Access to

Party	European Union	Faroe Islands	Iceland	Norway	United Kingdom	Russian Federation	Greenland
European Union	---			114,554	full access		
Faroe Islands		---	100%	31,920		13,959*	4076**
Iceland		100%	---				
Norway	114,554			---			
United Kingdom	full access				---		
Russian Federation			-			---	
Greenland							---

*25 % of the Russian NEAFC quota

** 100 % of the Greenlandic NEAFC quota