

**AGREED RECORD OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS  
BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE FAROE ISLANDS AND NORWAY ON THE  
MANAGEMENT OF MACKEREL IN THE NORTHEAST ATLANTIC FOR 2020**

**LONDON, 17 OCTOBER 2019**

1. Delegations from the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation met in London on 15-17 October 2019 to consult on the management of mackerel for 2020.
2. The Delegations of the European Union, the Faroe Islands and Norway recalled the Agreed Record on a Fisheries Arrangement between the European Union, the Faroe Islands and Norway on the Management of mackerel in the North East Atlantic from 2014 to 2018 (2014 Mackerel Arrangement) signed in London on 12 March 2014. The Delegations also recalled the Agreed Record on a Fisheries Arrangement between the Faroe Islands, the European Union and Norway on an extension of the 2014 Mackerel Arrangement to 2020, signed in Bergen 29 November 2018.
3. The Heads of Delegation agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the arrangements for the management of mackerel for 2020, as set out in this Agreed Record.
4. Following the revised ICES advice, the Delegations recalled the decision made in June 2019 not to change the setting of the TAC for mackerel for 2019, although ICES had revised its catch advice upwards.
5. As noted in the co-signed letter sent to the Icelandic Head of Delegation, the Delegations deeply regret the decision of Iceland in 2019 to increase its unilateral quota to levels well in excess of its previous claims, which are disputed by the Delegations. Such action, which has no scientific justification, undermines the efforts made by the European Union, the Faroe Islands and Norway to promote long-term sustainability of the stock and the decision taken in 2019 not to revise upwards the TAC in 2019.
6. The Delegations further regret that Iceland chose not to engage with its international partners before the decision to substantially increase its unilateral quota.
7. The Delegations also regret the increase of unilateral quota by Greenland and the Russian Federation.
8. Such actions by Greenland, the Russian Federation and especially Iceland, undermine the actions of the Delegations in striving for sustainability of the stock.
9. The Delegations reiterate their readiness to engage in further consultations to extend the sharing arrangement to all other fishing parties, in due course.



## Management

10. The Delegations noted the latest annual advice from ICES for mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic for 2020. The Delegations also recalled the long-term management strategy, signed in London 11 October 2017, which became outdated after the inter-benchmark exercise conducted by ICES in March 2019, in which the reference points were revised.
11. The Delegations took note of the last consultations on mackerel that took place on 12 and 13 June 2019, when it was agreed to submit a request to ICES to assess the long-term management strategy taking into account the new reference points and following the full feedback approach (Annex 1).
12. The Delegations noted that ICES confirmed that the advice on the long-term management strategy will be delivered in due time before the Coastal States' consultations on mackerel in 2020. ICES also clarified that they were not in a position to deliver the short-cut update for these consultations.

## Research

13. The Parties to the 2014 Mackerel Arrangement and to the 2018 extension of the Mackerel Arrangement acknowledge the outcome of the workshop in Bremerhaven in May 2019 on a Research Roadmap for Mackerel (WKRRMAC). A list of suggested research topics and methods intended to improve the evidence base for the fisheries management of mackerel was developed. During the Bremerhaven workshop, it was highlighted that ICES needs to improve the quality assurance of assessments and evaluate advisory mechanisms with regard to the provision of robust, quality assured advice on optimised yield.
14. Furthermore, the parties recall the results obtained from the ICES Inter-Benchmark Workshop conducted in March 2019, where the catch data proved to have an even larger impact than previous years on the assessment. The parties thus recognize the need for improving schemes for collection of catch data from pelagic fisheries in general, and for mackerel in particular.
15. Traditionally, the design and operation of catch sampling programmes and the estimation of catch numbers are conducted at national level. Regional approaches to the sampling of catch are emerging such as the "herring lottery" scheme in Norway, industry initiatives within EU, and within ICES Working Groups. The Parties also recognize that ICES is developing a Regional Data Base Estimation System, which will significantly contribute to further improve quality assurance and data flow to the stock assessment.
16. The Parties acknowledge the importance of strengthening the quality assurance in all aspects of the stock assessment and advisory processes. The Parties agree that there is a need to consolidate the various initiatives and to establish a joint operational framework for regional catch data sampling. The Parties request ICES to take the leading role in this process and to provide a progress report by 31 August 2020.



## Quotas for 2020

17. The Delegations agreed to establish a total allowable catch (TAC) corresponding to MSY approach amounting to 922,064 tonnes for the mackerel fishery in 2020 in the Northeast Atlantic.
18. In accordance with the relative shares as set out in paragraph 7.4 in the 2014 Mackerel Arrangement, the Delegations agreed to the following arrangement on the quota shares for 2020:
- |                 | Tonnes  |
|-----------------|---------|
| European Union: | 454,482 |
| Faroe Islands:  | 116,188 |
| Norway:         | 207,551 |
19. In accordance with the 2014 Mackerel Arrangement, 15.6% of the TAC referred to in paragraph 17 is set aside as a Coastal State and Fishing Party reserve.
20. The Delegations exchanged quota and catch information for 2017, 2018 as well as preliminary information for 2019 (Annex 2). 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.

## Control

21. The Delegations agreed to apply the control measures in Annex 3.
22. The Delegations took note of the Coastal States Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Working Group (CS MCS WG) report presented during the meeting. The report included recommendations on control for the mackerel, horse mackerel, blue whiting and herring fisheries.
23. Furthermore, the Delegations agree to meet early in 2020 to explore commitment by parties to further cooperation on control, and if relevant develop an implementation process of proposed recommendations and agree on planning of future control cooperation by the Coastal States.


London, 17 October 2019



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**REQUEST TO ICES FOR  
AN ADVICE ON THE LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY ON  
NORTHEAST ATLANTIC MACKEREL (FULL FEEDBACK APPROACH)**

The European Union, Norway and the Faroe Islands jointly request ICES to advise on the long-term management strategies on Northeast Atlantic Mackerel. A request is provided below.

ICES is requested to identify appropriate precautionary combinations in the Tables given in its response to the EU, Norway and the Faroe Islands request to ICES to evaluate a multi-annual management strategy for mackerel in the North East Atlantic (ICES 2017), using:

1. A range of  $B_{trigger}$  from two to five million tonnes with an appropriate range of target  $F_s$ ;
2. A harvest control rule with a fishing mortality equal to the target  $F$  when  $SSB$  is at or above  $B_{trigger}$ ;
3. In the case that the  $SSB$  is forecast to be less than  $B_{trigger}$  at spawning time in the year for which the  $TAC$  is to be set, the  $TAC$  shall be fixed consistently with a fishing mortality that is given by:  $F = F_{target} * SSB / B_{trigger}$ .

All alternatives should be evaluated with and without a constraint on the inter-annual variation of  $TAC$ . When the rules 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. The  $TAC$  constraint shall not apply if the  $SSB$  at spawning time in the year for which the  $TAC$  is to be set is less or equal to  $B_{trigger}$ .

The constraint mechanism shall be tested separately from and in combination with 10% banking and borrowing mechanism.

**Evaluation and performance criteria**

Each alternative shall be assessed in relation to how it performs in the short term (5 years), medium term (next 10 years) and long term (next 25 years) in relation to:

1. Average  $SSB$ ;
2. Average yield;
3. Indicator for year to year variability in  $SSB$  and yield;
4. Risk of  $SSB$  falling below  $B_{lim}$ .

The approach should follow the same full feedback methodology that has been recently used to evaluate stocks in the North Sea (ICES, 2019). The evaluation should be conducted to identify options that are robust to alternative operating models including but not limited to:

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- Investigating alternative plausible recruitment dynamics and scenarios;
- Alternative natural mortality assumptions;
- The potential impact of density dependent growth.

### **Deadline for ICES**

The special request on the full feedback approach should be finalized by ICES in due time before the ICES WG WIDE meeting in August 2020 and Coastal States Negotiations on NEA mackerel in October 2020.

### **References**

ICES, 2017. EU, Norway, and the Faroe Islands request concerning long-term management strategy for mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic. ICES Special Request Advice. [http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2017/Special\\_requests/eu-fo-no.2017.19.pdf](http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2017/Special_requests/eu-fo-no.2017.19.pdf)

ICES, 2019. EU and Norway request concerning the long-term management strategy of cod, saithe, and whiting, and of North Sea autumn-spawning herring. In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2019. ICES Advice 2019, sr.2019.06, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.4895>



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REPORTING OF QUOTAS AND CATCHES OF MACKEREL IN THE NORTHEAST ATLANTIC – 2017 TO 2019

2017	QUOTAS (tonnes)					CATCHES (tonnes)							Balance to 2018		
	Quota established	Balance 2016	Quota exchange	Quota 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		Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH
European Union *	503.245	27.461	328	531.034	7.431	476.486	473	0	2.080	0	0	0	0	486.470	44.564
Faroe Islands	128.655	-2.722	-20.779	105.154	8.482	38.120	51.469	0	575	0	0	0	0	98.646	6.508
Iceland	168.464	1.697	1.300	171.461	59.315	772	102.325	0	0	0	0	0	0	162.412	9.049
Norway	229.821	-20.696	4.651	213.776	17.102	46.660	4.221	0	154.324	0	0	0	0	222.307	-8.531
Greenland	66.365	0	0	66.365	9.721	36.730	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46.451	0
<b>Total CS</b>	<b>1.096.560</b>	<b>5.740</b>	<b>-14.500</b>	<b>1.087.790</b>	<b>102.051</b>	<b>561.266</b>	<b>56.935</b>	<b>36.730</b>	<b>102.325</b>	<b>156.979</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.016.286</b>	<b>51.590</b>
Russian Federation	123.785	0	14.500	138.285	123.693	14.410	0	0	57	0	0	0	0	138.160	129
<b>Total all Parties</b>	<b>1.220.335</b>	<b>5.740</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.226.075</b>	<b>225.744</b>	<b>561.266</b>	<b>71.345</b>	<b>36.730</b>	<b>102.325</b>	<b>157.036</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.154.446</b>	<b>51.715</b>

2018	QUOTAS (tonnes)					CATCHES (tonnes)							Balance to 2019		
	Quota established	Balance 2017	Quota exchange	Quota 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		Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH
European Union *	402.599	44.564	354	447.517	2.992	400.986	15	0	389	0	0	0	0	404.382	43.136
Faroe Islands	102.924	6.508	-20.879	88.553	9.167	28.335	38.649	0	4.778	0	0	0	0	80.929	7.624
Iceland	134.772	9.049	-200	143.621	80.289	188	60.239	0	0	0	0	0	0	140.716	2.905
Norway	183.857	-8.531	5.625	180.951	2.843	156.884	0	0	27.495	0	0	0	0	187.222	-6.271
Greenland	66.365	0	0	66.365	9.847	53.132	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	62.979	0
<b>Total CS</b>	<b>890.517</b>	<b>-15.100</b>	<b>927.007</b>	<b>105.138</b>	<b>38.852</b>	<b>586.205</b>	<b>53.132</b>	<b>60.239</b>	<b>32.662</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>876.228</b>	<b>47.393</b>
Russian Federation	109.415	129	15.100	124.640	104.783	0	13.492	0	0	0	0	0	0	118.255	6.385
<b>Total all Parties</b>	<b>999.932</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.051.647</b>	<b>209.901</b>	<b>586.205</b>	<b>52.344</b>	<b>53.132</b>	<b>60.239</b>	<b>32.662</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>994.483</b>	<b>51.778</b>

2019 Provisional	QUOTAS (tonnes)					CATCHES (tonnes)							Balance to 2020		
	Quota established	Balance 2018	Quota exchange	Quota 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		Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH
European Union *	322.077	43.136	253	365.465	3.986	224.775	18.411	0	11	0	0	0	0	224.786	140.679
Faroe Islands	82.339	7.624	-19.779	70.184	60.476	20.256	589	0	6.883	0	0	0	0	49.536	20.648
Iceland	140.240	2.905	-200	142.945	80.476	109.549	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	125.449	17.496
Norway	147.085	-6.271	5.726	146.540	23.805	70.411	0	0	29.148	0	0	0	0	138.697	7.843
Greenland	70.411	0	0	70.411	88.267	354.580	6.655	0	0	0	0	0	0	30.460	0
<b>Total CS</b>	<b>762.152</b>	<b>47.393</b>	<b>-14.000</b>	<b>795.545</b>	<b>113.921</b>	<b>354.580</b>	<b>19.000</b>	<b>6.655</b>	<b>36.042</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>568.928</b>	<b>186.666</b>
Russian Federation (*)	108.840	6.152	0	114.992	202.188	12.462	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	126.383	252.766
<b>Total all Parties</b>	<b>870.992</b>	<b>53.545</b>	<b>-14.000</b>	<b>910.537</b>	<b>202.188</b>	<b>354.580</b>	<b>31.462</b>	<b>6.655</b>	<b>36.042</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>695.311</b>	<b>439.432</b>

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## 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.

