

# Agreed record of fisheries consultations between the European Union, Norway and the United Kingdom for 2022

10 December 2021

- 1 A United Kingdom Delegation headed by Mr Colin FAULKNER, a Norwegian Delegation headed by Ms Ann Kristin WESTBERG, and a European Union Delegation headed by Mr Janusz ZIELINSKI met in the period from 28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> October in London, 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> November in Edinburgh, and between 30<sup>th</sup> November and 10<sup>th</sup> December via videoconference to consult on mutual fisheries relations including the management of joint fish stocks in the North Sea for 2022. These consultations were the second annual negotiations within the new trilateral management regime for North Sea stocks between the United Kingdom, Norway and the European Union, following virtual negotiations for 2021 completed in March 2021.
- 2 The Heads of Delegations agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the fishery arrangements for 2022 as outlined in this Agreed Record, including Annexes I to IX and Tables 1 and 2.
- 3 The Delegations agreed that management measures and sharing of stocks as per Table 1 are without prejudice to possible future arrangements between the Parties.
- 4 The Delegations underlined their determination to cooperate, in their mutual interest, in securing continued responsible fisheries and ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the marine living resources for which they are responsible.
- 5 The Parties agreed that they will intensify consultations on a trilateral framework agreement, which will be the basis for their future cooperation to ensure the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources in the North Sea. Such a framework agreement should lay out the objectives and scope of the cooperation and contain the general principles for management, in addition to procedural rules for the cooperation and regulations on the exchange of information between the Parties. It is a shared ambition between the Parties that consultations on this agreement should be finalised during 2022.
- 6 The Delegations agreed that the scope of this Agreed Record should be the management of fish stocks in the North Sea (ICES Area 4) and associated areas where relevant.
- 7 The Delegations noted that further arrangements by the Parties, including arrangements for access, quota transfers and other conditions for fishing in the respective zones of fisheries jurisdiction, may be regulated by bilateral arrangements.
- 8 The Delegations agreed to share information relevant to stocks of joint interest on a timely and transparent basis, for example relating to quota transfers and zonal access. The Delegations further noted the benefits of continued close collaboration and information exchange.

- 9 The Delegations acknowledged that the continued effects of the Covid 19 pandemic have impacted the Parties' ability to further some aspects of their cooperation on fisheries management. The Parties undertook to renew their efforts in 2022.
- 10 The Delegations agreed to meet in late May-early June in 2022 to review progress on the actions set out in this Agreed Record. They agreed that they would use that opportunity to establish a TAC for sprat in ICES Division 3.a and Subarea 4.

## 11 **Jointly managed stocks**

- 11.1 The Delegations agreed, as an ad hoc approach for 2022, to consider cod, haddock, herring, plaice, saithe and whiting to be jointly managed stocks in the North Sea (ICES Subarea 4) and associated areas where relevant. Each Party's share of each stock for 2022 is shown in Table 1.
- 11.2 The Delegations acknowledged that, although all Parties have introduced legislation that prohibits most forms of discarding of fish, discards remain a serious problem and may be contributing to the current poor condition of some stocks.
- 11.3 The Delegations agreed to work towards improving exploitation patterns and reducing unwanted catches and discards through the use of technical measures to improve the selectivity of fishing gear; closed seasons and areas; as well as any other appropriate measures. They acknowledged the usefulness of complementary technical measures to achieve those objectives.
- 11.4 The Delegations revised Annex II concerning the inter-annual quota flexibility (IAF) scheme. The IAF scheme will apply to haddock, herring, plaice, saithe and whiting for 2022.
- 11.5 In light of the de minimis and high survivability exemptions contained in its landing obligation, the EU Delegation informed the UK Delegation and the Norwegian Delegation of its intention in 2022 to continue to adjust from the EU quotas the estimated amounts of the discards.
- 11.6 In light of the de minimis and high survivability exemptions contained in its landing obligation, the UK Delegation informed the EU Delegation and the Norwegian Delegation of its intention in 2022 to continue to adjust from the UK quotas the estimated amounts of the discards.

## 12 **Long-term management strategies**

- 12.1 The Delegations reaffirmed their commitment to having long-term management strategies in place for jointly managed stocks and committed to progressing this work in 2022. The Delegations agreed that the timelines associated with ICES benchmark processes and the most efficient use of the available scientific resource would be important considerations when deciding on the prioritisation of long-term management strategies for stocks.
- 12.2 The Delegations agreed that they would take forward the development of a long-term management strategy for North Sea herring as part of their consideration of the outputs of the herring Working Group described in Annex III. The Delegations also noted that cod and saithe appeared suitable stocks for prioritisation and

committed to begin the preparations for developing long-term management strategies for those stocks in 2022 including any relevant requests to ICES.

## 13 Cod

- 13.1 The Delegations noted that according to the ICES MSY approach catches in 2022 should be no more than 14,276 tonnes. This represents a decrease of 3.2% in the advice compared to 2021. ICES estimates that discards and below minimum size (BMS) landings are at 19.5% of total catch (in weight) in 2020. ICES projects discard rates of 23% of total catch (by weight) in 2021.
- 13.2 The Delegations noted that, as stated in Annex 6 of the ICES Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak (WGNSSK) report, absolute landings data for 2021 for quarters 1-2 and quarters 1-3 were made available by the Parties for a potential North Sea cod autumn forecast. ICES used these landings data to predict landings and catches for the whole year and these predictions were compared to the intermediate year assumptions of the May forecasts. The outcome of this analysis indicates that the predicted TAC overshoot in 2021 is up to 22% and that that the realised TAC overshoot for 2021 is unlikely to be as high as the 71% underlying the published ICES advice.
- 13.3 If the reopening protocol had been triggered for North Sea cod by the International Bottom Trawl Survey (IBTS) Q3 2021 data, the Parties' provisional 2021 landings data would have been used to update the interim year fishing mortality assumption. The Delegations noted that the UK and Norway submitted a joint ICES Technical Service Request to better understand the impact of the 2021 quarters 1-2 and quarters 1-3 landings data on the advice for the stock for 2022 given the reopening protocol was not triggered.
- 13.4 The Delegations agreed to establish a TAC for 2022 in ICES Subarea 4 (North Sea), Division 7.d (Eastern Channel), and Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak) of 15,911 tonnes. This represents a rollover of the TAC in 2021.
- 13.5 The resulting TAC for Subarea 4 is 13,246 tonnes (83.25%), the TAC for Subdivision 20 is 1,893 tonnes (11.90%), and the TAC for Division 7.d is 772 tonnes (4.85%).
- 13.6 The Delegations agreed to continue the closures of spawning grounds as described in Annex IV.
- 13.7 The Norwegian Delegation explained that three areas had been closed in the southeast part of the Norwegian Economic Zone from 15 September to 31 December 2021 in order to protect juveniles and small cod. The aim is to continue such closures in 2022. The Delegation also informed the other Parties that an Institute of Marine Research (IMR) vessel collected additional samples within and close to these areas as an add on to the IBTS Q3 survey in August 2021. IMR's conclusion is that the results of the survey support that the locations of the closed areas are appropriate.
- 13.8 The UK Delegation confirmed that a National Cod Avoidance Plan was still active in UK waters. The plan continues to cover a variety of measures in different areas of UK waters of the North Sea. The measures include restrictions on mesh size

on nets, alongside real time closures and real time reporting to protect high abundances of cod of all ages. These are in addition to existing seasonal closures in UK waters for the protection of spawning aggregations of cod.

- 13.9 The EU Delegation explained that, given the lack of recovery and continued high levels of fishing mortality of this important stock, it intends to continue with the cod avoidance measures introduced in 2020 and 2021 again in 2022. These measures include specific selectivity measures, area closures for protection of spawning aggregations of cod as well as the possibility for member states to introduce National Cod Avoidance Plans. Such plans will be assessed by the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries. In addition, the European Union explained that specific actions on control have been undertaken since 2020 including additional efforts on last haul evaluations and the triggering of real time closures and the procedures for the monitoring of these closures.
- 13.10 The Delegations noted the terms of reference for the North Sea Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Working Group (Annex V) which seeks to enhance the control of the cod and cod-related fisheries in the North Sea to ensure compliance with technical measures and catch registration obligations.

## 14 Haddock

- 14.1 The Delegations noted that according to the ICES MSY approach catches in 2022 should be no more than 128,708 tonnes. This represents an increase of 86% in the advice compared to 2021. ICES estimates that discards and BMS landings are at 23% of total catch (in weight) in 2020. ICES projects discard rates of 31% of total catch (by weight) in 2021.
- 14.2 The Delegations agreed that they would not pursue the full TAC increase implied by the ICES headline advice given that such a large increase could have a detrimental impact on the status of the North Sea cod stock. They therefore agreed this year that it would not be appropriate to follow the MSY approach.
- 14.3 The Delegations agreed to establish a TAC for 2022 in ICES Subarea 4 (North Sea), Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak) and Division 6.a. (West of Scotland) of 52,691 tonnes. This represents an increase of 5% compared to the TAC in 2021.
- 14.4 The Delegations agreed that the resulting TAC for Subarea 4 is 44,924 tonnes (85.26%), the TAC for Subdivision 20 is 2,761 tonnes (5.24%), and the TAC for Division 6.a is 5,006 tonnes (9.50%).

## 15 Herring

- 15.1 The Delegations noted that according to the ICES MSY approach catches in 2022 in the North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, and eastern English Channel should be no more than 532,183 tonnes. This represents an increase of 45% in the advice compared to 2021.
- 15.2 The Delegations noted that the stock underwent an inter-benchmark in 2021 to account for new natural mortality estimates, which led to an improved assessment and updated reference points. The Delegations noted ICES comments that the  $F_{MSY}$  estimate is sensitive to assumptions on the productivity of the stock and recent changes in selection. They also noted that ICES says that stability elements

such as TAC constraints could be considered to dampen fluctuations in catch in the coming years (notably in case of further revisions to the target) given the downward stock trajectory.

- 15.3 A Working Group on herring was established in 2021. The main task of this Working Group was to recommend how to optimally and sustainably utilise the North Sea Autumn Spawning (NSAS) herring in the North Sea and explore methods for TAC-setting. The Working Group was also asked to make recommendations for management models, including TAC-setting for herring in Skagerrak and Kattegat, where NSAS herring mixes with Western Baltic Spring Spawning (WBSS) herring stocks. Several subgroups consisting of scientific experts and policy colleagues convened over the course of 2021 to complete the first action within the Working Group's terms of reference (Annex III). A representative from each subgroup presented their provisional findings during the opening plenary session of the consultations for 2022. The subgroups will produce a report of their findings by the end of 2021 ahead of a Working Group meeting in early 2022 to action the remaining aspects of the terms of reference. The Delegations will then meet in order to develop a long-term management strategy.
- 15.4 The Delegations noted that the presentation of the Working Group on herring given in Round 1 of the consultations, when taken together with information in the ICES stock annex for North Sea herring, indicate the importance of the Skagerrak and the Southern North Sea as nursery areas for juveniles and young herring. Delegations also noted that the presentation of the Working Group indicated the intermixing of North Sea herring and WBSS herring in the Skagerrak and North Sea, whereby the majority of WBSS catches now occur in the Skagerrak and to a lesser extent in the Eastern North Sea.
- 15.5 The Delegations noted that ICES has advised a zero catch of WBSS herring since 2019. They also noted the decision by the European Union to establish a TAC for 2022 of 788 tonnes for WBSS herring in Subareas 22-24 exclusively used for bycatch in the Baltic Sea.
- 15.6 The Delegations also noted that the TACs for the C and D fleets are to be set out in the EU-Norway bilateral agreement on the regulation of fisheries in the Skagerrak and Kattegat for 2022. The Delegations further noted that that agreement set out the TACs for the C and D fleets, which respectively should not exceed 25,021 tonnes and 6,659 tonnes.
- 15.7 The Delegations agreed to establish a TAC for 2022 for the A fleet of 427,628 tonnes. This is an increase of 20% compared to 2021. They also agreed that bycatches of herring in other fisheries (the B fleet) would be limited to 8,174 tonnes in 2022. This is an increase of 5.5% compared to 2021.
- 15.8 The Norwegian Delegation noted that the concept of by-catch quotas was introduced as early as 1997, aiming at limiting large bycatches of juvenile herring in the sprat fishery. Fisheries management has developed considerably since then, and these days most managers understand that such catches will reduce future yield from the stock. This is of particular concern given the low recruitment to the stock since 2001 and the resulting downward stock trajectory. Catches of juvenile herring represent a serious case of growth overfishing. Earlier management plans have restricted catches of juveniles by restricting the F0-1 to a maximum; 0.05 in the previous LTMP. The currently used MSY approach only

directly affect older herring, and thus any F0-1 could theoretically be claimed to be in line with the MSY approach even when being unsustainable - in principle every juvenile (0-1) herring could be fished. In periods with poor recruitment, minimizing juvenile bycatches is especially important. ICES has continued to assume a limit on F0-1 in the advice (around 0.05). The B- and D-fleet contributes most to F0-1, and the sum of all the fleet TACs should not result in an F0-1 above 0.05. When there is a zero advice for Skagerrak, thus a zero catch assumed for the C- and D-fleet, as in the advice for 2022, the B-fleet catches are set higher than they would be if non-zero D-fleet catches are assumed. If a decision is made to set a non-zero TAC for the D-fleet, the B-fleet should be adjusted downwards to avoid fishing at an F0-1 above 0.05.

15.9 The EU Delegation notes that in general, protection of juveniles is an important element of fisheries management. The current level of juvenile herring mortality in the EU industrial fisheries is very low in comparison to natural mortality and therefore the EU Delegation does not consider current by-catches to constitute a risk of growth overfishing. In 1997, the EU and Norway agreed to limit by-catches of herring to 22,000 tonnes and that this quota should be allocated to the EU, being the only Party that decided to impose such a limitation on its industrial fisheries. Since this date, the EU has set specific by-catch limits in order to cap catches at a pre-defined level and that once the by-catch TAC is reached, fisheries with by-catches of herring are stopped. Since 1997 fisheries mortality on juvenile herring by the EU fleet have as a result been constrained to levels below one fourth of those 1960-1996. The EU considers that permitting fisheries with by-catches of herring without limits on juvenile by-catches does not offer protection for juveniles as catches could substantially exceed levels as prescribed and agreed by managers. The EU notes that the usage of by-catch limits increases transparency as well as prevents that the entire herring quota can be utilised for the purpose of by-catches of juveniles taken in other fisheries. In order to fully assess the impact of herring by-catches associated with other fisheries, the EU Delegation considers that catches of 0-1 herring should be computed separately to those originating from directed fisheries for herring and catch levels be exchanged between parties. The EU Delegation also considers that monitoring and control of herring by-catches should be considered by the joint Working Group on Control, Monitoring and Surveillance as a priority. The EU Delegation notes that there is no agreed target limit for F0-1, and that a separate target for F0-1 is not included in the criteria for the ICES MSY approach. The EU Delegation takes note of the view expressed by Norway. However, the EU Delegation considers fixed quotas for herring bycatches in industrial fisheries as an effective and therefore key management measure to limit juvenile herring mortality. The EU Delegation is committed through the joint Expert Group on herring to explore management approaches that have the objective to limit herring by-catches.

15.10 The United Kingdom Delegation noted the many complexities inherent to managing herring stocks across the North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat and the Western Baltic, and urged all Parties to focus their efforts, in the relevant forums in 2022, on putting in place robust management measures for these stocks in the interests of long-term stock sustainability, particularly in light of the downward trajectory of the North Sea stock, as noted by ICES.

## 16 **Plaice**

- 15.11 The Delegations noted that according to the ICES MSY approach catches in 2022 should be no more than 142,508 tonnes. This represents a decrease of 15.1% in the advice compared to 2021. ICES estimates that discards and BMS landings are at 48% of total catch (in weight) in 2020, and ICES projects discard rates of 47% of total catch (by weight) in 2021.
- 15.12 The Delegations agreed to establish a TAC for 2022 in ICES Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak) of 142,508 tonnes. This is a decrease of 12.36% compared to 2021, taking into account the correction to the advice for plaice in Subarea 4 and Subdivision 20 for catches in 2021 published in May 2021.
- 15.13 The Delegations agreed that the resulting TAC for Subarea 4 is 125,692 tonnes (88.20%) and the TAC for Subdivision 20 is 16,816 tonnes (11.80%).

## 17 **Saithe**

- 15.14 The Delegations noted that according to the ICES MSY approach, catches in 2022 should be no more than 49,614 tonnes. This represents a decrease of 24% compared to 2021. ICES estimates that discards and BMS landings are at 3.9% of total catch (in weight) in 2020. ICES projects discard rates of 5.3% of total catch (by weight) in 2021.
- 15.15 The Delegations agreed to establish a TAC for 2022 in ICES Subareas 4 (North Sea) and 6 (Rockall and West of Scotland), and Division 3.a. (Skagerrak and Kattegat) of 49,614 tonnes. This is a decrease of 24% compared to the TAC for 2021.
- 15.16 The Delegations agreed that the resulting TAC for Subarea 4 and Division 3.a is 44,950 tonnes (90.60%), and the TAC for Subarea 6.a is 4,664 tonnes (9.40%).

## 18 **Whiting**

- 15.17 The Delegations noted that according to the ICES MSY approach catches in 2022 should be no more than 88,426 tonnes. This represents an increase of 236% in the advice compared to 2021. ICES estimates that discards and BMS landings are at 41% of total catch (in weight) in 2020, and ICES projects discard rates of 41% of total catch (by weight) in 2021.
- 18.2 The Delegations agreed that they would not pursue the full TAC increase implied by the ICES headline advice given that such a large increase could have a detrimental impact on the status of the North Sea cod stock. They therefore agreed this year that it would not be appropriate to follow the MSY approach.
- 18.3 The Delegations discussed the methodology for the split of whiting TACs between the ICES Subarea 4 and Division 7.d. They committed to further consider this issue in 2022, as part of the discussions referred to in paragraph 10, in order to ensure consistency with the methodology used for the other demersal jointly managed stocks.

18.4 The Delegations agreed to establish a TAC for 2022 in ICES Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Division 7.d (Eastern Channel) of 32,880 tonnes. This is an increase of 25% compared to 2021.

18.5 The Delegations agreed that the resulting TAC for Subarea 4 is 26,636 tonnes (81.01%), and the TAC for Division 7.d is 6,244 tonnes (18.99%).

## 19 **Other joint stocks (not jointly managed)**

19.1 The Delegations agreed during the fisheries consultations for 2021 that there are several stocks not covered in Table 1 that, based on their migration pattern, are shared stocks and consequently should be jointly managed. This includes inter alia hake, anglerfish and Norway pout.

19.2 The Delegations agreed to establish a Working Group of experts that should collect and collate data on the distribution of hake in the Greater North Sea, Celtic Seas, the Northern Bay of Biscay and adjacent waters. The terms of reference for this Working Group are set out in Annex VII. The Working Group shall present its report by 1 November 2022.

19.3 The Delegations agreed to establish a Working Group of experts that should collect data on Norway pout in Subarea 4 and Division 3.a (North Sea, Skagerrak, and Kattegat) and adjacent waters. The terms of reference for the Working Group are set out in Annex VIII. The Working Group shall present its report by 1 November 2023.

## 20 **Catch information**

20.1 Catch information was submitted by all Parties and is included in Table 2. The Delegations agreed to continue to work together in 2022 to refine this process.

## 21 **Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures for joint stocks**

21.1 The Delegations noted that for a comprehensive management regime, efficient and trustworthy MCS measures are crucial, and that strategic and operative MCS cooperation between the inspections services of the Parties is a prerequisite to improve compliance and to achieve a level playing field. Hence, the Delegations welcomed initiatives to improve dialogue and exchange experience between the inspection services to increase the general understanding of the Parties' MCS regimes.

21.2 The Delegations referred to the decision in 2018 by the EU and Norway to establish a Working Group on MCS of Fisheries on Joint Stocks in the North Sea (NS MCS WG) under the terms of reference outlined in Annex V. They also agreed that the revised work plan for 2019-2024 outlined in Annex VI would constitute the basis for working on MCS in fisheries on joint stocks in the North Sea and agreed to build on the work carried out in previous years by the NS MCS WG. Furthermore, the Delegations agreed to review the terms of reference and procedures of the NS MCS WG in 2022.



21.3 The Delegations agreed that monitoring, control and surveillance of the joint stock North Sea herring is covered by any relevant measures concluded for the four species covered by the coastal State agreements, without prejudice to the consideration of additional or specific measures recommended by the NS MCS WG.

## 22 **Electronic exchange of vessel data**

22.1 The Delegations noted the ongoing implementation in the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) of electronic exchange of vessel position data and fishing activity based on the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and electronic business (UN/CEFACT) Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (FLUX) International Standard.

22.2 The Delegations agreed to seek harmonised arrangements on an electronic notification and authorisation scheme and agreed to establish the Working Group of experts on Notification and Authorisation of Fishing Vessels outlined in Annex IX.

10 December 2021

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## Conditions for fisheries by the parties in 2022

### I. Joint Stocks

1. The Total Allowable Catches (TACs) for the stocks mentioned in Table 1 for 2022 shall be as indicated in that table. If ICES make new scientific recommendations, the Parties will review these TACs.
2. The TACs referred to in paragraph 1 shall be divided between the Parties as indicated in Table 1.
3. Each Party shall inform the other Parties of allocations granted to a third country for fishing of the stocks referred to in Table 1.
4. The Parties shall supply each other with monthly catch statistics for fishing on the stocks referred to in Table 1 by their own vessels. Communication of these statistics for the preceding month shall take place at the latest on the last day of each month.

### II. Fishery Regulations

1. The Parties will inform each other of their respective fishery regulations applicable in the North Sea.
2. A Party intending to introduce or amend fishery regulations applicable to vessels of the other Parties shall duly inform the other Parties of such intentions.

## Inter-annual quota flexibility

The inter-annual quota flexibility scheme applicable to the jointly managed stocks discussed during these consultations shall be terminated if:

- The spawning stock biomass is estimated to be below the precautionary reference point  $B_{pa}$  in the TAC year and the fishing mortality is estimated to be above the precautionary reference point  $F_{pa}$  in the intermediate year; or
- the SSB is estimated to be below  $B_{pa}$  in both the TAC year and the year thereafter.

Each Party may transfer unutilised quota from the TAC year to be caught in the following year. Each Party may transfer up to 10% of its total quota allocation. This quantity cannot be transferred further in subsequent years.

Each Party may authorise fishing by its vessels beyond its total quota allocation for the TAC year by up to 10%. The quantity fished beyond the allocated quota shall be deducted from the Party's allocation for the year after the TAC year.

The Delegations agreed that in order to ensure transparency in the operation of inter-annual quota flexibility, more detailed information on catch utilisation shall be exchanged.

To note, the TAC year is the year for which the agreed TAC applies, and the intermediate year is the year prior to the TAC year.

## Terms of reference for a Working Group on Herring

The group's main task is to recommend how to optimally and sustainably utilise the North Sea Autumn Spawning Herring (NSAS) in the North Sea and explore methods for TAC setting.

The Working Group shall also make recommendations for management models, including TAC setting for the herring in Skagerrak and Kattegat, where NSAS herring mix with Western Baltic spring spawning (WBSS) herring stocks.

The Working Group should also look at the current practice of setting separate TACs to cover by-catches in other fisheries. Important elements to consider are fishing areas and seasons, exploitation pattern as well as bycatches in other fisheries.

In particular, the Working Group shall:

1. For an appropriate range of reference years defined by the group:
  - a. Describe the development of the herring fisheries in the North Sea.
  - b. Describe the catch composition in the herring fisheries (by type of fleet, age, stock, quarter, and ICES subdivision).
  - c. Describe the development of relevant herring stocks (WBSS herring) and species caught together with NSAS.
  - d. Describe the development and impact of management measures.
2. Elaborate on any specificities that may explain certain important development traits.
3. Suggest a management model that secures that the exploitation of NSAS herring stock is sustainable, and at the same time practical and controllable.
4. Explore/consider different models where catches of stocks are kept separate and in which all landings (also bycatches) within a management area are counted against stock specific TACs.

The Working Group shall submit its recommendations preferably before 1 October 2021.

## Seasonal area closures to protect spawning cod

The following areas in the table below will be closed for all gears excluding pelagic gears (purse seine and trawl), for the identified time period:

### Time Limited Closures

No	Area Name	Coordinates	Time period	Additional Comment
1	Stanhope ground	60° 10N - 02° 00E 60° 10N - 02° 45E 60° 25N - 01° 45E 60° 25N - 02° 00E	01 January to 30 April	
2	Long Hole	59° 07.35N - 0° 31.04W 59° 03.60N - 0° 22.25W 58° 59.35N - 0° 17.85W 58° 56.00N - 0° 11.01W 58° 56.60N - 0° 08.85W 58° 59.86N - 0° 15.65W 59° 03.50N - 0° 20.00W 59° 08.15N - 0° 29.07W	01 January to 31 March	
3	Coral edge	58° 51.70N - 03° 26.70E 58° 40.66N - 03° 34.60E 58° 24 00N - 03° 12.40E 58° 24 00N - 02° 55.00E 58° 35 65N - 02° 56.30E	01 January to 28 February	
4	Papa Bank	59° 56N - 03° 08W 59° 56N - 02° 45W 59° 35N - 03° 15W 59° 35N - 03° 35W	01 January to 15 March	
5	Foula Deeps	60° 17.5N - 01° 45W 60° 11.0N - 01° 45W 60° 11.0N - 02° 10W 60° 20.0N - 02° 00W 60° 20.0N - 01° 50W	01 November to 31 December	

No	Area Name	Coordinates	Time period	Additional Comment
6	Egersund Bank	58° 07.40N - 04° 33.0E 57° 53.00N - 05° 12.0E 57° 40.00N - 05° 10.9E 57° 57.90N - 04° 31.9E	01 January to 31 March	(10 x 25 nm)
7	East of Fair Isle	59° 40N - 01° 23W 59° 40N - 01° 13W 59° 30N - 01° 20W 59° 10N - 01° 20W 59° 10N - 01° 28W 59° 30N - 01° 28W	01 January to 15 March	
8	West Bank	57° 15N - 05° 01E 56° 56N - 05° 00E 56° 56N - 06° 20E 57° 15N - 06° 20E	01 February to 15 March	(18 x 4 nm)
9	Revet	57° 28.43N - 08° 05.66E 57° 27.44N - 08° 07.20E 57° 51.77N - 09° 26.33E 57° 52.88N - 09° 25.00E	01 February to 15 March	(1.5 x 49 nm)
10	Rabarberen	57° 47.00N - 11° 04.00E 57° 43.00N - 11° 04.00E 57° 43.00N - 11° 09.00E 57° 47.00N - 11° 09.00E	01 February to 15 March	East of Skagen (2.7x4 nm)

## **Terms of reference for a Working Group on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) of fisheries on joint stocks from 2019 to 2024**

The objective of the Working Group is to cooperate, exchange information and best practices related to control of joint stocks, in mutual interest of securing continued responsible fisheries and ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable exploitation of the marine living resources for which the Parties are responsible.

The scope of the Working Group is mainly fisheries for cod, haddock, saithe, whiting, plaice and herring in the North Sea.

The MCS Working Group should:

1. Compare existing inspection practices and guidelines with the view to recommend best practices for:
  - Sea inspections (e.g., gear, catch composition, discard ban/landing obligation).
  - Landing inspections.
2. Compare relevant topics with the view to, as appropriate, recommend best practices such as:
  - Weighing requirements, including sampling plans etc.,
  - Logbook, landings, sales documentation, and traceability requirements.
3. Conduct missions (exchange of inspectors) to identify inspection best practices, weighing and documentation practices as appropriate.
4. Consider the need and topics for training or workshops for inspectors taking advantage of other fora or meetings.
5. Exchange experience on other relevant issues such as discard ban/landing obligation, post landing inspections, procedures and practices, including as regards enforcement measures further to the identification of violations.
6. Exchange experience on existing risk assessment methods and consider the possibility to share relevant output data related to risk assessment (identified risks and risk handling).

In addition, the NS MCS WG should also focus on monitoring, inspection and surveillance for the control of the cod and cod-related fisheries in the North Sea to ensure compliance with technical measures and catch registration obligations.

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

## Tentative work plan for the MCS WG North Sea

Task	2019	2020 / 2021	2022	2023	2024
1. Sea Inspections	Compare	-	Recommen d best practice	-	-
2. Landing inspections	Compare	-	Recommen d best practice	-	-
3. Weighing requirements	-	-	Compare	Recommen d best practice	
4. Logbook, landing, sales data and traceability requirements	-	-	Compare	Recommen d best practice	-
5. Training/Workshop as appropriate	Training TBD	Training TBD	Training TBD	Training TBD	Training TBD
6. Exchange inspectors/missions (as appropriate)	Missions TBD	Missions TBD	Missions TBD	Missions TBD	Missions TBD
7. Post Landing Inspections	-	-	Compare	Recommen d best practice	-
8. Risk assessment	Exchange experienc e and exchange relevant output data (strategic level)	Exchange experienc e and exchange relevant output data (strategic level)	Exchange experience and exchange relevant output data (strategic level)	Exchange experience and exchange relevant output data (strategic and tactical level)	Exchange experienc e and exchange relevant output data (strategic and tactical level)



## Terms of reference for a Working Group on Hake

Terms of Reference for a Working Group on the distribution of hake (*Merluccius merluccius*) in the Greater North Sea, Celtic Seas, the Northern Bay of Biscay and adjacent waters.

The objective of the Working Group is to collect and collate information on the entire geographical distribution of all life stages of hake (Northern stock), based on internationally recognised data collection methods and on the distribution of catches from this stock.

The Working Group shall:

1. Present currently available fishery independent data on the geographical distribution on an annual survey basis for all life stages (biomass and abundance or their appropriate proxies) at the highest level of spatial resolution possible and coded by relevant ICES Areas and national fisheries jurisdiction and international waters since year 1987, or for an alternative period if so decided by the Working Group.
2. Describe/Evaluate the quality, coverage and utility of the survey data for the purposes of assessing the distribution of the stock in time and space, consistent with standards acceptable to the Working Group, including listing all the scientific surveys which are available for determining the distribution of the stock or which are carried out by the Parties.
3. For each coastal State, present total annual catch data by month and ICES statistical rectangle from 1987-2020, and by the respective zones of national fisheries jurisdiction and international waters as precisely as the data allow since 1987, or for an alternative period if so decided by the Working Group.
4. Describe the quality, coverage and utility of the catch data for the purposes of assessing the distribution of the stock in time and space.
5. Compile the management measures, as provided by fisheries managers, adopted by the Parties for the stock, such as catch limitations and quota schemes (including quota uptake levels), as well as any management measures which would have an impact on such catch limitations.
6. Present a description of the fleet segments involved in the fisheries of the stock by each Party since year 1987, or for an alternative period if so decided by the Working Group.

The Working Group shall be composed of scientific experts from the Coastal States. Managers will provide the Working Group with the necessary material to document the management measures.

## Terms of Reference for a Working Group on Norway pout

Terms of Reference for a Working Group on the distribution of Norway pout (*Trisopterus esmarkii*) in Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Division 3.a (Skagerrak and Kattegat) and adjacent waters.

The objective of the Working Group is to collect and collate information on the entire geographical distribution of all life stages of Norway pout, based on internationally recognised data collection methods and on the distribution of catches from this stock.

The Working Group shall:

1. Present currently available fishery independent data on the geographical distribution on an annual survey basis for all life stages (biomass and abundance or their appropriate proxies) by relevant ICES Areas and national fisheries jurisdiction since year 1987, or for an alternative period if so decided by the Working Group.
2. Describe/Evaluate the quality, coverage and utility of the survey data for the purposes of assessing the distribution of the stock in time and space, consistent with standards acceptable to the Working Group, including listing all the scientific surveys which are available for determining the distribution of the stock or which are carried out by the Parties.
3. For each coastal State, present total annual catch data by month and ICES statistical rectangle from 1987-2020, and by the respective zones of national fisheries jurisdiction as precisely as the data allow since 1987, or for an alternative period if so decided by the Working Group.
4. Describe the quality, coverage and utility of the catch data for the purposes of assessing the distribution of the stock in time and space.
5. Compile the management measures, as provided by fisheries managers, adopted by the Parties for the stock, such as catch limitations and quota schemes (including quota uptake levels), as well as any management measures which would have an impact on such catch limitations.
6. Present a description of the fleet segments involved in the fisheries of the stock by each Party since year 1987, or for an alternative period if so decided by the Working Group.

The Working Group shall be composed of scientific experts from the Coastal States. Managers will provide the Working Group with the necessary material to document the management measures.

## **Terms of Reference for a Working Group on notification and authorisation of fishing vessels for 2022**

The Delegations agreed that the Working Group on Notification and Authorisation of fishing vessels should meet before 31 May 2022 under the Terms of Reference described below. After that, the Working Group should meet as appropriate.

The Working Group shall carry out a scoping exercise to seek harmonisation of technical arrangements, procedures and specifications based on the UN/FLUX standard for the exchange between the Parties on how to notify vessels, request and grant fishing authorisations/licences, as well as any other domain identified by the Working Group during the scoping exercise.

The Working Group should submit its report to the Parties well in advance of the annual consultations for 2022.

TABLE 1

## 2022 quotas for Jointly Managed Shared Stocks in the North Sea

Species	ICES Area	TAC	Sharing					
			Norway		EU		UK	
			%	Tonnes	%	Tonnes	%	Tonnes
<b>Cod</b>	4	13,246	17.00	2,252	38.20	5,060	44.80	5,934
<b>Haddock</b>	4	44,924	23.00	10,333	13.71	6,159	63.29	28,432
<b>Saithe</b>	4, 3.a	44,950	52.00	23,374	36.85	16,564	11.15	5,012
<b>Whiting</b>	4	26,636	10.00	2,664	29.44	7,842	60.56	16,131
<b>Plaice</b>	4	125,692	7.00	8,798	66.53	83,623	26.47	33,271
<b>Herring</b>	4, 7.d	427,628	29.00	124,012	51.98	222,281	19.02	81,335

TABLE 2

## 2021 Provisional catch statistics for jointly managed shared stocks in the North Sea

Species	ICES area	EU catches <sup>1</sup>				Norway catches <sup>2</sup>				UK catches <sup>3</sup>			
		Fisheries jurisdiction			Total	Fisheries jurisdiction			Total	Fisheries jurisdiction			Total
		EU	Norway	UK		EU	Norway	UK		EU	Norway	UK	
<b>Cod</b>	4	652	1,660	687	3,000	12	1,461	-	1,473	13	-	4982	4,995
<b>Haddock</b>	4	679	485	1,035	2,199	2	2,110	-	2,112	4	-	14,363	14,367
<b>Saithe</b>	4, 3a	558	3,873	8,688	13,119	9	18,725	-	18,734	0.1	-	6287	6,287
<b>Whiting</b>	4	692	66	553	1,310	-	1,083	-	1,083	43	-	9,822	9,864
<b>Plaice</b>	4	13,486	3,480	1,594	18,559	-	19	-	19	2,375	-	1,816	4,191
<b>Herring</b>	4, 7d	21,506	7	121,917	143,430	-	92,213	-	92,213	3	-	65,962	65,965

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<sup>1</sup> January – September 2021

<sup>2</sup> January – October 2021

<sup>3</sup> January – October 2021