AGREED RECORD OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE EUROPEAN UNION, FAROE ISLANDS, ICELAND AND NORWAY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF BLUE WHITING IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC IN 2024

London, 18 October 2023

- 1. A delegation from the United Kingdom, headed by Will FRANCIS, a delegation from the European Union, headed by Eva María CARBALLEIRA FERNANDEZ, a delegation from the Faroe Islands, headed by Herluf SIGVALDSSON, a delegation from Iceland, headed by Guðmundur THÓRDARSON, and a delegation from Norway, headed by Vidar LANDMARK met in London on 11 to 13 October 2023 to consult on the management of the blue whiting stock in the North-East Atlantic in 2024.
- 2. A delegation from Greenland, headed by Iben FUNCH DØJ attended as an observer.
- 3. 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 2024.
- 4. The delegations agreed that the level of total catches for blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic for 2024 should be no more than 1,529,754 tonnes as advised by ICES. The delegations also agreed that the establishing of unilateral quotas for 2024 does not in any way imply the acceptance of the level of these quotas by any Party.
- 5. The delegations agreed that Parties will reconvene to address the issue of a quota-sharing arrangement as soon as possible, and no later than in early 2024. All delegations stressed the importance of maintaining the focus on concluding a comprehensive sharing arrangement as soon as possible. Some delegations also put forward proposals to reduce the total catches over the agreed TAC and scientific advice if needed in the interim.
- 6. 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.
- 7. The delegations welcomed the outcomes of the Report of the 2023 Coastal States Working Group on the distribution of blue whiting in the Northeast Atlantic, September 2023 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 2024, chaired by the United Kingdom and Iceland.
- 8. The delegations exchanged final quota and catch information for 2021 and 2022 as well as preliminary information for 2023 (Annex II). The delegations also exchanged information with regard to their fishing activities, including exchanges and access arrangements (Annex III).

9. 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 2024, provide

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- updated information in this regard to the chair of the consultations for 2025. The chair shall forward this information as soon as possible to all Parties to this Agreed Record.
- 10. The delegations agreed that the Parties may fish blue whiting within their quotas in their respective zones of fisheries jurisdiction and in international waters.
- 11. 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.

London, 18 October 2023

Will FRANCIS

For the Delegation of the United Kingdom

Eva María CARBALLEIRA FERNANDEZ

For the Delegation of the European Union

Herluf SIGVALDSSON

For the Delegation of the Faroe Islands

Herlingsignala

Guðmundur THÓRDARSON

For the Delegation of Iceland

Ann Kristin WESTBERG

On behalf of Vidar LANDMARK

For the Delegation of Norway

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 Blim.
- 4. In the case that the spawning biomass is forecast to be above or equal to Btrigger (=Bpa) on 1 January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC shall be fixed to a fishing mortality of FMSY.
- 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 Btrigger; 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 (Btrigger) 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:

Target
$$F = 0.05 + [(SSB - Blim)*(FMSY - 0.05) / (Btrigger - Blim)]$$

- 8. In the case that the spawning biomass is forecast to be less than Blim 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.

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- 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 Btrigger 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.

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Reporting of quotas and catches of blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic - 2021 to 2023

| 2021 (Final) | | QUOTAS (tonnes) | onnes) | | | | | | | CATCHES | CATCHES (tonnes) | | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------|--|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Party | Coastal State | Balance from 2020 | Quota | 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 Maven | Fishery Protection Zone around Svalband | United Kingdom Zone | Russian Economic Zone | TOTAL | Balance |
| European Union | 313,232 | 48,114 | -38,600 | 322,746 | 14,595 | 152,149 | 1 | | | 28 | | | 94,716 | | 261,488 | 61,258 |
| Faroe Islands | 330,158 | 12,150 | 002,36- | 245,608 | 28,143 | | 172,043 | | 2,137 | 93 | | | | | 202,416 | 43,192 |
| Iceland | 196,081 | 3,493 | -200 | 197,574 | 4,435 | | 144,555 | | 37,355 | | | | | | 186,345 | 11,229 |
| Norway | 224,482 | -32,207 | 21,325 | 213,600 | 99,043 | 144/66 | 973 | | | 34,485 | | | | | 233,942 | -20,342 |
| United Kingdom | 71,670 | 160 | 1,100 | 73,530 | | 42,888 | | | | | | | 30,793 | | 73,681 | -151 |
| Total Coastal States | 1,135,623 | 32,310 | | -113,075 1,053,058 | 146,216 | 294,478 | 317,571 | | 39,492 | 34,606 | | | 125,509 | | 957,872 | 95,186 |
| Russian Federation | 68,929 | 058'4 | 100,175 | 176,454 | 908'99 | | 95,915 | | | 569 | | | | | 162,990 | 13,464 |
| Greenland | 5,032 | 475 | 14,700 | 20,207 | 40 | | 18,695 | | | | | | | | 18,735 | |
| Total all Parties | 1,209,584 | 40,135 | 1,800 | 1,800 1,249,719 | 213,062 | 294,478 | 432,181 | | 39,492 | 34,875 | | | 125,509 | | 1,139,597 | 108,650 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| 2022 (final) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|----------|--|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|---------|
| VareA | Coastal State share/share | Balance from 2021 | Quota | Quotas after transfers and flexibility | NEAFC Regulatory Area | European Union Zore | 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 | Balance |
| European Union | 253,389 | 31,323 | -25,493 | 259,219 | 260 | 169,131 | | | | 37 | | | 63,826 | | 233,254 | 25,965 |
| Faroe Islands | 267,413 | 43,192 | 002'68- | 220,905 | 6,537 | | 208,460 | | 2,404 | | | | | | 217,401 | 3,504 |
| Iceland | 158,827 | 15,730 | 0 | 174,557 | 496 | | 158,696 | | 28,787 | | | | | | 187,979 | -13,422 |
| Norway | 181,832 | -20,342 | 18,398 | 179,888 | 8,851 | 140,814 | 11,852 | | | 32,411 | | | 1,046 | | 194,974 | -15,086 |
| United Kingdom | 58,393 | -151 | -6,007 | 52,235 | | 35,615 | | | | 2 | | | 17,875 | | 53,492 | -1,256 |
| Total Coastal States | 919,854 | 69,752 | -102,802 | 886,804 | 16,144 | 345,560 | 379,008 | | 31,191 | 32,448 | | | 82,747 | | 887,100 | 961 |
| Russian Federation*** | | | 201520 | | | | | | | | | 100 | | | | |
| Greenland | 4,076 | 1,472 | 14,700 | 20,248 | | | 18,778 | | | | | | | | 18,778 | 1,470 |
| Total all Parties | 923,930 | 71,224 | -88,102 | 907,052 | 16,144 | 345,560 | 397,786 | | 31,191 | 32,448 | | | 82,747 | | 905,878 | 2,431 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | • | |

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| Party Coastal State Balance Incommon Quodas attained Kingdom Topologasia States Fishing Coastal States Fances Incommon Fishing Coastal States Fance Incommon Fishing Coastal States Fance Incommon Fishing Coastal State Fance Incommon Fance Incommon <th>2023 (Provisional)</th> <th></th> <th>QUOTAS (tonnes)</th> <th>connes)</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th>4</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th>CATCHE</th> <th>CATCHES (tonnes)</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> | 2023 (Provisional) | | QUOTAS (tonnes) | connes) | | | 4 | | | | CATCHE | CATCHES (tonnes) | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------|-------------|---------------------|------------|---------|--------------|--------|-----------------------|----------------------------|---|---------|---------------------|-----------|---------|
| on 457,122 25,339 -70,790 411,671 22,988 230,813 Analysing zone Zone Zone Mayen Nayen Svalbard Zone Zone on 457,122 25,339 -70,790 411,671 22,988 230,813 357,388 3,780 9 68,087 9 x86,884 -13,422 273,442 3,058 203,345 106,138 34,034 18,470 9 9 68,087 9 pm 106,034 -1,256 -3,210 101,568 203,345 106,138 34,034 22,250 37,186 9 40,725 9 pm 106,034 -1,256 -3,210 101,568 29,644 396,373 600,407 22,250 37,186 108,818 108,818 xion*** 7,342 -95,664 396,373 600,407 22,250 37,186 9 108,818 9 xion*** -95,662 1,546,407 25,249 25,250 37,186 9 | | Coastal State | Balance | Quota | | NEAFC Regulatory | European | Faroese | Greenland | | Norwegian Economic | Fishery Zone around Jan | Fishery Protection Zone around | United | Russian Economic | TOTAL | |
| on 457,122 25,339 -70,790 411,671 22,988 230,813 357,388 357,388 357,388 357,388 357,388 37,80 68,087 68,087 483,042 3,504 -90,500 396,046 10,253 208,985 18,470 9 9 9 nn 286,884 -13,422 3,534 106,138 34,034 18,470 9 9 68,087 nn 328,431 -15,086 50,335 363,680 203,345 106,138 34,034 9 </th <th>Party</th> <th>share/share</th> <th>from 2022</th> <th>exchange</th> <th>flexibility</th> <th></th> <th>Union Zone</th> <th>Zone</th> <th>fishing zone</th> <th>Zone</th> <th>Zone</th> <th>Mayen</th> <th>Svalbard</th> <th>Zone</th> <th>Zone</th> <th>САТСН</th> <th>Balance</th> | Party | share/share | from 2022 | exchange | flexibility | | Union Zone | Zone | fishing zone | Zone | Zone | Mayen | Svalbard | Zone | Zone | САТСН | Balance |
| 286,884 -13,422 -30,500 396,046 10,253 208,985 208,985 18,470 90,000 90,500 306,462 10,253 36,342 106,138 34,034 18,470 90 90,000 90, | European Union | 457,122 | | | | 22,988 | | | | | 180 | | | 68,087 | | 322,068 | 89,603 |
| 286,884 -13,422 2,0336 2,08,985 18,470 18,470 4,470 4,470 4,034 18,470 18,470 4,6725 4,034 34,034 18,470 18,470 40,725 40,725 nm 106,034 -1,256 -3,210 101,568 59,422 600,407 22,250 37,186 9 40,725 stes 1,661,513 -92 -14,165 1,546,407 239,644 396,373 600,407 22,250 37,186 9 108,818 ston**** 7,342 18,500 25,842 396,373 616,118 22,250 37,186 9 108,818 ston*** 7,342 -95,665 1,572,249 239,644 396,373 616,118 22,250 37,186 9 108,818 | Faroe Islands | 483,042 | 3,504 | | 396,046 | 10,253 | | 357,388 | | 3,780 | | | | | | 371,421 | 24,625 |
| 328,431 -15,086 50,335 363,680 203,345 106,138 34,034 9,034 34,034 34,034 34,034 34,034 34,034 34,034 34,034 34,034 34,034 34,034 34,034 36,373 600,407 22,250 37,186 37,186 108,818 40,725 sion**** 7,342 23 23,644 396,373 600,407 22,250 37,186 108,818 108,818 sion**** 7,342 25,842 35,644 396,373 600,407 22,250 37,186 108,818 108,818 | Iceland | 286,884 | | | 273,442 | | | 208,985 | | 18,470 | | | | | | 230,513 | 42,929 |
| orm 106,034 -1,256 -3,210 101,568 59,422 396,373 600,407 22,250 37,186 40,725 40,725 ates 1,661,513 -921 -114,165 1,546,407 239,644 396,373 600,407 22,250 37,186 108,818 108,818 ion**** 7,342 18,500 25,842 396,373 616,118 22,250 37,186 108,818 108,818 | Norway | 328,431 | -15,086 | | 363,680 | 203,345 | 106,138 | 34,034 | | | 37,006 | | | 9 | | 380,529 | -16,849 |
| ates 1,661,513 -921 -114,165 1,546,407 239,644 396,373 600,407 22,256 37,186 108,818 108,818 ion**** 7,342 18,500 25,842 239,644 396,373 616,118 22,250 37,186 108,818 | United Kingdom | 106,034 | -1,256 | | | | 59,422 | | | | 3 | | | 40,725 | | 100,150 | 1,418 |
| ion*** 7,342 1,668,855 -921 -95,665 1,572,249 239,644 396,373 616,118 22,250 37,186 108,818 | Total Coastal States | 1,661,513 | -921 | | 1,546,407 | 239,644 | 396,373 | 600,407 | | 22,250 | 37,186 | | | 108,818 | | 1,404,681 | 140,308 |
| 7,342 18,500 25,842 15,711 15,711 16,68,855 -921 -95,665 1,572,249 239,644 396,373 616,118 22,250 37,186 108,818 | Russian Federation*** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1,668,855 -921 -95,665 1,572,249 239,644 396,373 616,118 22,250 37,186 108,818 | Greenland | 7,342 | | 18,500 | 25,842 | | | 15,711 | | | | | | | | 15,711 | 10,131 |
| | Total all Parties | 1,668,855 | -921 | | 1,572,249 | 239,644 | 396,373 | 616,118 | | 22,250 | 37,186 | | | 108,818 | | 1,420,392 | 150,439 |

*** The Russian Federation statistics have not been updated for 2022 or 2023, therefore are left blank.

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Transfers in 2023¹

| | | | Total available | European | Faroe Islands Iceland Norway United Russian | Iceland | Norway | United | Russian | Greenland |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|-----------------|----------|---|---------|---------|---------|------------|---------------|
| Party | Quotas | 1.0 | tai availabie | Union | rai oe islatius | TCERTIN | INDIWay | Kingdom | Federation | OTECTIVITA |
| European Union(*) | 457,122 | 25,338 | 482,460 | 1 | | | 74,000 | | | |
| Faroe Islands | 483,042 | 3,504 | 486,546 | | • | | | | 72,000 | 72,000 18,500 |
| Iceland | 286,682 | -13,422 | 273,460 | | | l | | | | |
| Norway | 328,431 | -15,086 | 313,345 | | | | i | | 23,665 | |
| United Kingdom | 106,034 | -1,256 | 104,778 | 3,210 | | | | • | | |
| Russian Federation*** | | | | | | | | | | |
| Greenland | 7,342 | | | | | | | | | |

Access Arrangements in 2023

Access to

| Party | European Union | Faroe Islands | Iceland | Norway | Norway United Kingdom | Russian Federation | Greenland |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------|---------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| European Union | : | | | 150,000 | 150,000 full access | | |
| Faroe Islands | | 1 | 100% | 50,000 | | 25,221* 7,342** | 7,34 |
| Iceland | | Full Access | 1 | | | | |
| Norway | 10,000 | | | | | | |
| United Kingdom | Full access | | | | 2027 | | |
| Russian Federation*** | | | | | | | |
| Greenland | | 7,342 | | | | | ı |

¹ Transfers imply full access *EU quota after application of the EU-UK TCA, which is transferred from the EU quota to the UK for 2023, a total of 0.36% of the EU share

^{* 25%} of the Russian NEAFC quota
** 100% of the Greenlandic NEAFC quota

^{***} The Russian/Federation statistics have not been updated, therefore are left blank.