

**AGREED RECORD OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN  
THE UNITED KINGDOM AND NORWAY FOR 2024**

**14 DECEMBER 2023**

1. A Delegation from the United Kingdom (UK) headed by Colin FAULKNER and a Norwegian Delegation, headed by Ms. Ann Kristin WESTBERG met in London on 10 November 2023 and 8 December 2023, and subsequently on 14 December 2023 by means of videoconference, to consult on mutual fisheries relations for 2024.
2. The Delegations recalled the Fisheries Framework Agreement between the Parties, signed on 30 September 2020. They recalled the principles which underpin their close cooperation as set out in Article 1 of that agreement. They also recalled the Parties' understanding of December 2021 about enhancing cooperation on fisheries in ICES areas I and II. They further recalled their close cooperation in 2023 in international fisheries forums, including Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, the Food & Agriculture Organisation and beyond. They looked forward to deepening their dialogue further in 2024.
3. The Delegations noted that the Fisheries Consultations between the United Kingdom, Norway and the European Union concluded on 8 December 2023.
4. The Delegations noted that the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between the UK and Norway signed in December 2021, and the subsequent agreement in November 2022, marked the start of a new bilateral fisheries arrangement between Norway and the UK. Both Delegations agreed on the successful implementation of the November 2022 agreement during 2023.
5. The Delegations recalled the fruitful and constructive discussions they had held in Svalbard in May 2023 as part of their first intersessional meeting and agreed on the considerable usefulness of such meetings. Accordingly, they agreed to meet in May or June 2024 for the annual intersessional meeting, to ensure the successful implementation of this Agreed Record and to continue to deepen the strategic relationship between the Parties. The UK offered to host that meeting.
6. The Heads of Delegation agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the fishery arrangements for 2024 as outlined in this Agreed Record, including Tables 1 to 5.

**7. EXCHANGE OF FISHING POSSIBILITIES**

- 7.1 The Delegations agreed to exchange quotas for a number of stocks, as set out in Tables 1 and 2. They also agreed to review potential quota exchanges in the course of 2024, should further opportunities arise.

**8. ZONAL ACCESS**

- 8.1 The Delegations agreed for 2024 to establish mutual zonal access of 30,000 tonnes for all demersal/whitefish stocks in ICES Subarea 4. This will be on the basis that if the relevant Party's vessels are entitled to catch demersal/whitefish stocks in their own Exclusive

Economic Zone, then that same entitlement will apply in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the other Party up to the maximum overall limit of 30,000 tonnes<sup>1</sup>.

- 8.2 The Delegations committed to continue applying appropriate safeguards to ensure that these access arrangements do not have detrimental consequences for fish stocks and the wider marine environment. The Delegations noted the importance of suitable and robust monitoring mechanisms to detect and react swiftly to significant changes from historic fishing patterns and catches as a result of these new arrangements. They further agreed that they will formally review catch data on a regular basis and, where appropriate, implement amended management measures, for example quota management measures, as soon as practicable.
- 8.3 The Delegations agreed that vessels from the UK will be granted zonal access of 20,000 tonnes of Norwegian Spring Spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring in Norway's Exclusive Economic Zone North of 62°N and that Norwegian vessels will be granted zonal access of 20,000 tonnes of North Sea herring in the UK's Exclusive Economic Zone in the North Sea (ICES Subarea 4).
- 8.4 The Delegations also noted that opportunities may arise in 2024 to revisit their respective access arrangements to each other's waters.

## **9. CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT**

- 9.1 The Delegations recalled the longstanding cooperation between the Parties' respective control authorities, which entails both strategic and operational cooperation throughout the entire value chain. The Delegations shared the view that efficient and trustworthy Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) measures were key factors in a comprehensive management regime targeting sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources.
- 9.2 The Delegations noted the work that has been carried out in 2023 in line with the bilateral agreement to improve compliance with fisheries management measures which was signed in 2022. In particular, the Delegations commended the work of the joint Compliance Forum in 2023 in sharing good practice on improving monitoring, control and enforcement measures. The Delegations agreed that the Compliance Forum should continue to meet at least annually and as appropriate. It was noted that the most recent Compliance Forum meeting on 4 October 2023 had agreed that data analysts should meet to share tools and identify common issues with shared fisheries.
- 9.3 The Delegations further agreed that the Compliance Forum should provide them with an update on its work, including any proposals on MCS measures well in advance of their bilateral consultations for 2025.
- 9.4 The Delegations noted the good cooperation this year to implement the relevant technical regulations that apply to vessels fishing in the waters of the other Party, as set out in the Technical Annexes. They further agreed that, as those measures have shown themselves to be effective during 2023, only minimal revision was required for the 2024 Technical Annex. Such revisions are set out in Annex 1.

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<sup>1</sup> This includes an unavoidable bycatch of Nephrops/Norwegian Lobster caught with a 120mm net.

- 9.5 The UK Delegation shared information with the Norwegian Delegation about the implementation of Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) on pelagic vessels in the UK, the timing of which will be confirmed following the relevant legislative processes, and which, in the case of Scotland, will include a two-year lead in time for vessels to implement once the legislation is agreed. The Delegations agreed to have a dialogue about the implementation of this programme, in particular to clarify issues such as access to and sharing of data, expected involvement from Norwegian authorities, and other issues, as appropriate.
- 9.6 The Delegations also recalled the agreement on control measures for the pelagic stocks signed in November 2022, and in particular points 7 and 9 in the Agreed Record. They noted that the Coastal State MCS working group has been assigned to engage in testing technological solutions to be used on board fishing vessels to monitor their activity and to map experience and knowledge on the use of technological solutions, e.g. CCTV, sensors, artificial intelligence, to reduce slipping, discarding and high-grading in pelagic fisheries and to improve catch documentation on board fishing vessels, and as appropriate recommend measures on this topic. The Delegations recognised the importance of coordinating and sharing best practice wherever possible, whilst also noting that individual parties may have particular monitoring objectives for which they may deploy the technology and measures they deem most capable of achieving those.
- 9.7 The Delegations agreed to meet early in 2024 to continue the dialogue on this important subject.

## **10. ELECTRONIC DATA EXCHANGE**

- 10.1 The Delegations noted the decision by the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) to implement and set into production the new Electronic Reporting System (ERS) based on the Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (FLUX) UN/CEFACT Standard on 15 January 2024. This date will also be the start of the two-year transition period wherein the remaining Contracting Parties shall test and implement the new ERS data exchange system based on the FLUX UN CEFACT standard. The Delegations agreed that the timeframe established by NEAFC would also be an appropriate timeframe to finalise revisions of the current agreements on bilateral electronic exchange of data between the Parties, including position data, catch and activity data, and notification and authorisation data.
- 10.2 Furthermore, the Delegations noted the progress made at technical level to develop a template for an electronic notification and authorisation scheme based on the FLUX UN/CEFACT standard with the intention to establish bilateral data exchanges, as appropriate. They also noted the ongoing technical work on the electronic exchange of catch and activity data (ERS) based on the FLUX UN/CEFACT standard, and agreed to continue this scoping exercise in a trilateral setting to establish a template with the intention to establish bilateral data exchanges, as appropriate.
- 10.3 The Delegations agreed to seek suitable arrangements within the scope of the Working Group on electronic exchange of data as outlined in Annex 2.

## **11. CATCH INFORMATION**

11.1 The Delegations reviewed the final catch data for 2022, as set out in Tables 4 and 6. They also reviewed the preliminary catch data for 2023, as set out in Tables 5 and 7, and committed to providing final 2023 data by spring 2024. The Delegations agreed to work together in 2024 to further develop their relevant catch information data exchange processes.

## **12. SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION**

12.1 The Delegations recognised the value in scientific cooperation and noted that their respective scientists have been successfully collaborating on issues of shared interest for many years. They agreed in 2023 to explore the potential to strengthen and formalise those bilateral working arrangements.

12.2 The Delegations agreed that they would aim to develop a Memorandum of Understanding between their respective institutions, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science and the Institute of Marine Research no later than end of 2024. They also agreed to explore a state-to-state Memorandum of Understanding in the future. The Delegations also noted that there could be particular benefit in the Parties increasing their joint working on the science underpinning shared stocks.

12.3 The Delegations agreed that it would be in their joint interest to hold a joint industry-science workshop, to explore, inter alia, opportunities and priorities for research collaboration on surveys used to estimate the abundance and distribution of the mackerel stock, and other key pelagic stocks. It was therefore agreed to convene an exploratory meeting during the first half of 2024.

## **13. ENHANCED COOPERATION ON DEVELOPMENT OF NEW GEAR TECHNOLOGY**

13.1 The Delegations agreed to cooperate on improving gear technology for the North Sea fisheries, focusing mainly on the protection of juveniles and small fish. To this end they agreed to establish a working group consisting of relevant gear experts. The group should collate existing knowledge, update on their current gear technology status and suggest possible improvements. Furthermore, the group should identify any need for further work. The group should report back to the Delegations on their findings by October 2024. Norway will host the first meeting of the group.

## **14. NOTIFICATION OF NEW LEGISLATION**

14.1 The Delegations agreed to communicate to one another in a timely manner the introduction of any new fisheries legislation of relevance to the vessels of the other Party.

14 December 2023

For the United Kingdom Delegation

For the Norwegian Delegation

Colin FAULKNER

Ann Kristin WESTBERG

**TABLE 1****QUOTAS TO THE UK OF NORWEGIAN EXCLUSIVE STOCKS FOR 2024**

<b>STOCKS</b>	<b>ICES AREA</b>	<b>QUANTITY (TONNES)</b>
Arcto-Norwegian cod	1; 2	700
Bycatch stocks	1; 2	100

TABLE 2

EXCHANGE OF OTHER STOCKS FOR 2024

SPECIES	ICES AREA	STOCKS IN UK WATERS FOR TRANSFER TO NORWAY (TONNES)	STOCKS IN NORWEGIAN WATERS FOR TRANSFER TO THE UK (TONNES)
Cod	NAFO 3M	0	
Cod <sup>2</sup>	6	25	
Greenland Halibut	2a	600	
Bycatch stock	2a	100	
Ling	6	900	
Bycatch stock	6	70	
Saithe	6	400	
Tusk	6	450	
Greater forkbeard <sup>2</sup>	6	150	
Blue ling <sup>2</sup>	6	100	
Pollack <sup>2</sup>	6	5	
Anglerfish	4		700
Blue ling	4		20
Hake	4		0
Whiting	4		0

<sup>2</sup> Bycatch only





**TABLE 3****ZONAL ACCESS FOR NORTH SEA AUTUMN SPAWNING HERRING AND NORWEGIAN SPRING SPAWNING HERRING**

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>ICES AREA</b>	<b>ACCESS FOR UK VESSELS IN NORWEGIAN EEZ</b>	<b>ACCESS FOR NORWEGIAN VESSELS IN UK EEZ</b>
North Sea Autumn Spawning Herring	4	0	20,000
Norwegian Spring Spawning Herring	Norway's Exclusive Economic Zone North of 62 North	20,000	0

**TABLE 4**

**FINAL CATCH DATA FOR EXCHANGE OF STOCKS FOR 2022**

SPECIES	AREA (ICES SUBAREA UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)	UK QUOTA TO NORWAY		NORWAY QUOTA TO UK	
		QUOTA	CATCHES	QUOTA	CATCHES
Cod	NAFO 3M	187	187	-	-
Cod	6	15	4	-	-
Greenland Halibut	2A, 4, 5B, 6	600	584	-	-
Associated bycatch	2A, 5B, 6	0	50	-	-
Ling	6	1,200	1,182	-	-
Associated bycatch	6	650	242	-	-
Tusk	6	150	79	-	-
Greater Forkbeard	6	60	65	-	-
Blue Ling	4	-	-	600	600
Anglerfish	4	-	-	25	18
Hake	4	-	-	600	600
Whiting	4	-	-	500	500
Cod	1, 2	-	-	500	501
Miscellaneous	1, 2	-	-	70	70

TABLE 5

## PRELIMINARY CATCH DATA FOR EXCHANGE OF STOCKS FOR 2023

SPECIES	AREA (ICES SUBAREA UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)	UK QUOTA TO NORWAY		NORWAY QUOTA TO UK	
		QUOTA	CATCHES <sup>[1]</sup>	QUOTA	CATCHES <sup>[2]</sup>
Cod	NAFO 3M	285	285	-	-
Cod	6	15	7	-	-
Greenland Halibut	2a, 4, 5b, 6	700	662	-	-
Associated bycatch	2a, 5b, 6	40	138	-	-
Ling	6	1300	758	-	-
Associated bycatch	6	20	46	-	-
Tusk	6	380	394	-	-
Greater Forkbeard	6	100	126	-	-
Blue Ling	6	70	73	-	-
Anglerfish	4	-	-	1075	1043
Blue Ling	4	-	-	20	4
Hake	4	-	-	25	17

Whiting	4	-	-	25	25
Cod	1, 2	-	-	750	749
Miscellaneous	1, 2	-	-	120	118

[\[1\]](#) Updated 12/12/23

[\[2\]](#) Updated 12/12/23

TABLE 6

## CATCH DATA FOR RECIPROCAL ACCESS FOR STOCKS FOR 2022

## CATCHES IN ICES SUBAREA 4 UNDER AGREED ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS OF 30 000 TONNES

SPECIES	NORWEGIAN CATCHES IN UK ZONE OF SUBAREA 4	UK CATCHES IN NORWEGIAN ZONE OF SUBAREA 4
Anglerfish	13	277
Argentines	92	0
Atlantic Cod	1190	1793
Atlantic Halibut	4	36
Blue Ling	159	0
Common Dab	0	23
European Hake	480	1149
European Plaice	1	720
Greater Forkbeard	80	0
Greenland Halibut	453	4
Haddock	249	3525
Lemon Sole	0	56
Ling	4901	246
North European kelp	62	0
Norway Lobster	0	24
Pollack	105	302
Ratfish	37	0
Saithe	6986	1107
Skates and rays	28	0
Tusk	795	1
Whiting	11	720
Witch Flounder	0	34
Wolffish	1	146
Other species with catches <20	31	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>15677</b>	<b>10217</b>

TABLE 7

## PRELIMINARY CATCH DATA FOR RECIPROCAL ACCESS FOR STOCKS FOR 2023

## CATCHES IN ICES SUBAREA 4 UNDER AGREED ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS OF 30 000 TONNES

SPECIES	NORWEGIAN CATCHES IN UK ZONE OF SUBAREA 4	UK CATCHES IN NORWEGIAN ZONE OF SUBAREA 4
Anglerfish	30	291
Argentines	43	0
Atlantic Halibut	4	29
Blue Ling	150	0
Cod	1526	1531
Common Dab	0	15
Greater Forkbeard	96	0
Greenland Halibut	394	0
Haddock	200	3215
Hake	246	374
Lemon Sole	0	96
Ling	2308	235
Plaice	1	1081
Pollack	74	296
Ratfish	21	0
Saithe	5199	1176
Skates and rays	12	0
Tusk	399	1
Whiting	12	667
Witch Flounder	0	59
Wolffish	3	143
Other species with catches	40	69
<b>Total</b>	<b>10758</b>	<b>9277</b>

**TECHNICAL ANNEXES FOR 2024**

Please refer to the separate document of the Technical Annexes published alongside this Agreed Record.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A WORKING GROUP ON ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE OF DATA  
FOR 2024**

The Delegations agreed that the Working Group on Electronic Exchange of data should meet as appropriate in 2024 under the Terms of Reference described below. Before the Working Group meets necessary technical scoping exercises can be conducted within the same Terms of Reference.

The Working Group shall seek to identify suitable technical arrangements for electronic exchange of data based on the Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (FLUX) UN/CEFACT Standard.

The Working Group shall:

1. Establish templates for electronic exchange of notification and authorisation data with the intention to revise the current bilateral arrangements between the Parties.
2. Establish templates for electronic exchange of catch and activity data (ERS) with the intention to revise the current bilateral arrangements between the Parties. Furthermore, identify additional reporting needs, any outstanding issues and elements that can improve performance of the current bilateral systems for electronic exchange of catch and activity data (ERS). Establish technical procedures and specifications to implement the possibility to pull data covering fishing activities before entering and after exiting the economic zone of the other Party. Establish improved technical procedures to deliver RET messages directly to the fishing vessels to secure satisfactory exchange and increased quality of catch and activity data.
3. Follow up the implementation of bilateral arrangements on the exchange of position data (VMS).

The Working Group should submit its report to the Parties well in advance of the annual consultations for 2025. Reports from possible technical scoping exercises should also be submitted to the Parties well in advance of the annual consultations for 2025.