

AGREED RECORD OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN ICELAND, THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE FAROE ISLANDS, NORWAY AND THE UNITED KINGDOM ON THE MANAGEMENT OF BLUE WHITING IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC IN 2025

London, 15-16 October 2024

1. A delegation from Iceland, headed by Guðmundur ÞÓRÐARSON, a delegation from the European Union, headed by Adela REY, the Faroe Islands, headed by Herluf SIGVALDSSON, a delegation from Norway, headed by Elisabeth SØRDAHL, and a delegation from the United Kingdom, headed by Will FRANCIS, met at NEAFC in London on 15-16 October 2024 to consult on the management of the blue whiting stock in the North-East Atlantic in 2025.
2. A delegation from Greenland, headed by Iben FUNCH DØJ, attended the meeting 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 under the assumption that the catch advice is adhered to (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 once the benchmarking is completed for blue whiting.
4. The delegations agreed that the level of total catches for blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic for 2025 should be no more than 1.447.054 tonnes as advised by ICES. The delegations also agreed that the establishing of unilateral quotas for 2025 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 2025. 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 encouraged the Parties to strengthen monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) at sea and in port, and to continue the cooperation to further strengthen MCS.
8. The delegations welcomed the outcomes of the Report of the 2024 Coastal States Working Group on the distribution of blue whiting in the Northeast Atlantic, October 2024 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 2025, chaired by Iceland and the European Union.




9. The delegations exchanged final quota and catch information 2023 as well as preliminary information for 2024 (Annex II). The delegations also exchanged information with regard to their fishing activities, including exchanges and access arrangements (Annex III).
10. 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 2025, provide updated information in this regard to the chair of the consultations from April 2025 to March 2026, the European Union, who shall forward this information within 10 working days to all Parties to this Agreed Record.
11. The delegations agreed that the Parties may fish blue whiting within their quotas in their respective zones of fisheries jurisdiction and in international waters.
12. 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, 16 October 2024



Guðmundur ÞÓRÐARSON

For the Delegation of Iceland



Adela REY

For the Delegation of the European Union



Elisabeth SØRDAHL

For the Delegation of Norway



Herluf SIGVALDSSON

For the Delegation of the Faroe Islands



Will FRANCIS

For the Delegation of the United Kingdom

Annex I

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:
$$\text{Target } F = 0.05 + [(SSB - \text{Blim}) * (FMSY - 0.05) / (Btrigger - \text{Blim})]$$
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.
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.

The Parties, on the basis of ICES advice, shall review this long-term management strategy at intervals not exceeding five years. The first such review shall take place no later than by December 2021.



Annex II

2023 (Final)	QUOTAS (tonnes)						CATCHES (tonnes)									
	Coastal State share/share	Balance from 2022	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Faroese Fishing Zone	Greenland fishing zone	Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone	Norwegian Economic Zone	Fishery Zone around Jan Mayen	Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard	United Kingdom Zone	Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH	Balance
<b>European Union*</b>	457.122	25.339	-70.790	411.671	23.532	239.725				466			110.028		373.751	37.920
<b>Faroe Islands</b>	483.042	3.504	-90.500	396.046	10.694		376.393	7.346							394.433	1.613
<b>Iceland</b>	286.884	-13.442		273.442	4.811		226.595	55.596							287.002	-13.560
<b>Norway</b>	328.431	-15.086	50.335	363.680	203.345	106.138	36.083		45.277			7			390.850	-27.170
<b>United Kingdom</b>	106.034	-1.256	-3.210	101.568		59.422				3		40.707			100.132	1.496
<b>Total Coastal States</b>	1.661.513	-941	-114.165	1.546.407	242.382	405.285	639.071	62.942	45.746			150.742			1.546.168	239
<b>Russian Federation</b>				0											0	0
<b>Greenland</b>	7.342		18.500	25.842	199		26.039								26.239	-397
<b>Total all Parties</b>	1.668.855	-941	-95.665	1.572.249	242.581	405.285	665.110	62.942	45.746			150.742			1.572.407	-158

(\*) EU's quota after application of the EU-UK TCA, which transferred from the EU quota to the UK for 2023 a total of 4.880 tonnes/0,36 percentage points of EU's share.

2024 (Provisional)	QUOTAS (tonnes)						CATCHES (tonnes)									
	Coastal State share/share	Balance from 2023	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Faroese Fishing Zone	Greenland fishing zone	Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone	Norwegian Economic Zone	Fishery Zone around Jan Mayen	Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard	United Kingdom Zone	Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH	Balance
<b>European Union*</b>	513.458	37.920	-46.546	504.832	4.881	245.982				536			56.761		308.160	196.673
<b>Faroe Islands</b>	543.483	1.613	-95.500	449.596	83.546		315.112	12.966	127						411.751	37.845
<b>Iceland</b>	323.084	-13.560		309.524	26.654		224.164	8.442							259.260	50.264
<b>Norway</b>	369.530	-27.170	21.372	363.732	152.120	167.529	31.785		32.686			4			384.124	-20.392
<b>United Kingdom**</b>	120.163	1.436	-1.454	120.145		87.676			15			17.714			105.405	14.740
<b>Total Coastal States</b>	1.869.718	239	-122.128	1.747.829	267.201	501.187	571.061	21.408	33.364			74.479			1.468.700	279.130
<b>Russian Federation</b>				0											0	0
<b>Greenland</b>	8.260		20.500	28.760	10		20.923								20.933	7.828
<b>Total all Parties</b>	1.877.978	239	-101.628	1.776.599	267.211	501.187	591.984	21.408	33.364			74.479			1.489.632	286.957

(\*\*) EU's quota after application of the EU-UK TCA, which transferred from the EU quota to the UK for 2024 a total of 6.352 tonnes/0,42 percentage points of EU's share.

(\*\*\*) Total to include 11,091 from unknown area of capture, this will be updated when data is available.

02.10.2024

08.10.2024  
11.10.2024

reviewed 14/10/21

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Annex III

Transfers in 2024		Transfer to									
Party	Quotas	Balance from 2023	Total available	European Union	Faroe Islands	Iceland	Norway	United Kingdom	Russian Federation	Greenland	
European Union*	513.458	37.920	475.538	---	---	---	48.000	1.000	---	---	
Faroe Islands	543.483	1.613	541.870	---	---	---	---	---	75.000	20.500	
Iceland	323.084	-13.560	---	---	---	---	---	---	26.628	---	
Norway	369.530	-27.170	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
United Kingdom	120.163	1.436	---	2.454	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Russian Federation	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Greenland	8.260	---	8.260	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	

(\*) EU's quota after application of the EU-UK TCA, which transferred from the EU quota to the UK for 2024 a total of 6.352 tonnes/0.42 percentage points of EU's share.

reviewed 14/10/2024

Access arrangements in 2024		Access to									
Party	European Union	Faroe Islands	Iceland	Norway	United Kingdom	Russian Federation	Greenland				
European Union	---	---	Full access	10.000	Full access	---	---	---	---	---	
Faroe Islands	---	Full access	---	---	---	55.618	8.260	---	---	---	
Iceland	---	Full access	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Norway	150.000	53.600	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
United Kingdom	Full access	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Russian Federation	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Greenland	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	

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