

**AGREED RECORD OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN
NORWAY AND THE UNITED KINGDOM FOR 2025**

17 DECEMBER 2024

- 1.** A Norwegian Delegation, headed by Ms. Ann Kristin WESTBERG and a Delegation from the United Kingdom (UK) headed by Mr. Colin FAULKNER met in Brussels on 5 November 2024, in Oslo on 29 November 2024, and in London on 17 December 2024, to consult on mutual fisheries relations for 2025.
- 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 2024 in international fisheries forums, including Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, the Food & Agriculture Organisation and beyond. They looked forward to deepening their dialogue further in 2025.
- 3.** The Delegations recalled the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between Norway and the United Kingdom on the management of mackerel in the North-East Atlantic which they had signed on 17 June 2024 alongside the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between the Faroe Islands, Norway and the United Kingdom on the management of mackerel in the North-East Atlantic. They welcomed the consequential and much-needed reduction in fishing pressure on the stock as compared to 2021, 2022 and 2023. They committed themselves to playing their part in 2025 in reaching a comprehensive quota-sharing arrangement for the stock.
- 4.** The Delegations noted that the Fisheries Consultations between the United Kingdom, Norway and the European Union concluded on 29 November 2024.
- 5.** The Delegations noted that the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between the UK and Norway signed in December 2021, and the subsequent agreements in November 2022 and December 2023, marked the start of a new bilateral fisheries arrangement between Norway and the UK. Both Delegations agreed on the successful implementation of the December 2023 agreement during 2024.
- 6.** The Delegations recalled the fruitful and constructive discussions they had held in Shetland in June 2024 as part of their second intersessional meeting and agreed on the considerable usefulness of such meetings. Accordingly, they agreed to meet in May or June 2025 for the annual intersessional meeting in order to review the functioning of the agreement, to ensure the successful implementation of this Agreed Record, and to continue to deepen the strategic relationship between the Parties. Norway offered to host that meeting.
- 7.** The Heads of Delegation agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the fishery arrangements for 2025 as outlined in this Agreed Record, including Tables 1 to 7.

8. EXCHANGE OF FISHING POSSIBILITIES

8.1 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 2025, should further opportunities arise.

9. ZONAL ACCESS

9.1 The Delegations agreed for 2025 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^{1,2}.

9.2 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.

9.3 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).

10. CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT

10.1 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.

10.2 The Delegations noted the work that has been carried out in 2024 in line with the bilateral agreement to improve compliance with fisheries management measures which was signed in 2023. In particular, the Delegations commended the work of the joint Compliance Forum in 2024 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 Compliance Forum at its most recent meeting on 13-14 May 2024 had agreed to set up a joint workshop related to risk analysis, methodologies and other issues connected to risk topics, including sharing of tools, and

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

² As an exception to paragraph 9.1, Norwegian catches of North Sea blue ling in 2a from the Greenland halibut bycatch stocks shall also be counted as part of Norway's demersal/whitefish zonal access arrangement, using Norwegian quota to account for catches.

identifying common issues with shared fisheries. This workshop is postponed to 2025. In addition, the Forum agreed to explore and cooperate in the field of air surveillance. The Delegations further agreed that the Compliance Forum should provide them with an update on its work and relevant suggestions from the group, including any proposals on MCS measures to consider well in advance of their bilateral consultations for 2026. The UK will host the next Compliance Forum on the week commencing 5 May 2025.

- 10.3 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 those measures have shown themselves to be effective during 2024. The Delegations noted that some revisions were required for the 2025 Technical Annex. Consequently, the Delegations agreed that a Working Group of technical experts should meet virtually as soon as possible in 2025 with the aim of finalising such revisions before 28 February 2025. The 2024 Technical Annex will apply until the revisions have been finalised and published in a separate document alongside this Agreed Record.
- 10.4 The UK Delegation shared information with the Norwegian Delegation about the implementation of Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) on pelagic vessels in the UK. Any relevant pelagic vessels fishing in Scottish waters will be required to have REM installed and operational from 7 March 2026 and to undergo a system test trip when authorised in writing by the Scottish Government. System test trips will be available to take place from 7 September 2025. The Delegations agreed to continue the fruitful dialogue which existed between them to date to ensure timely and successful implementation of this legislation.
- 10.5 The Delegations took note of the report from the Coastal State Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Working Group from September 2024 and the proposed recommendations and best practice. 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 vessel 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 continuing 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.

11. ELECTRONIC DATA EXCHANGE

- 11.1 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 United Nations Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (UN/FLUX standard) on 15th January 2024. This date marked 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 UN/FLUX standard. Furthermore, the Delegations noted that the bilateral agreements on exchange of electronic vessel positions data between the EU and Norway and between Norway and the UK have been revised and completed to facilitate exchange of data based on UN/FLUX standard.

- 11.2 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 fishing activities (ERS) and notifications and authorisations data. The Delegations noted that the discussions and work need to be intensified by the Parties to follow this timeframe, whilst recognising the technical challenges that need to be overcome.
- 11.3 Furthermore, the Delegations noted the progress made at technical level to develop a template (i.e. common principles) for an electronic notification and authorisation scheme based on the UN/FLUX standard with the intention to establish bilateral data exchanges, as appropriate. They also noted the ongoing technical work on fishing activities (ERS) data based on the UN/FLUX standard, and agreed to continue the development in a trilateral setting to establish a template (i.e. common principles) with the intention to establish bilateral data exchanges, as appropriate.
- 11.4 The Delegations agreed to seek suitable arrangements within the scope of the Working Group on electronic exchange of data as outlined in Annex 1. The Delegations noted the progress made on the electronic exchange of data. The parties noted the implementation of Vessel Position data over FLUX bilaterally between the UK and Norway has been completed.
- 11.5 The EU hosted the Working Group meeting in Brussels in June 2024 and the UK will host the next meeting in early 2025.

12. CATCH INFORMATION

- 12.1 The Delegations reviewed the final catch data for 2023, as set out in Tables 4 and 6. They also reviewed the preliminary catch data for 2024, as set out in Tables 5 and 7, and committed to providing final 2024 data by spring 2025. The Delegations agreed to work together in 2025 to further develop their relevant catch information data exchange processes.

13. SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

- 13.1 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.
- 13.2 The Delegations recognised the progress made towards a Memorandum of Understanding between their respective institutions, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture, and the Institute of Marine Research, and agreed to extend the deadline for its development until no later than the intersessional meeting for 2025. 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.
- 13.3 The Delegations recalled that they agreed in 2023 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.

13.4 The Delegations welcomed the findings from the UK-Norway Science-Industry Workshop to Explore Collaboration on Science Information Needs for the Northeast Atlantic Mackerel Stock, held in April 2024 in Aberdeen, and presented to the Heads of Delegation at the intersessional meeting in June 2024 in Lerwick. It was agreed that the Delegations would invite industry and science representatives from the UK and Norway to develop proposals for 1) a pelagic trawl survey west of the British Isles (Area 6a) for 2-year-old mackerel, and 2) the re-analysis of existing acoustic data as a basis for potentially establishing an autumn/winter acoustic based survey on distribution and abundance for adult mackerel. The Delegations will consider proposals which include project costings, industry funding, and resourcing and will review progress at the intersessional meeting in 2025.

14. COOPERATION ON GEAR TECHNOLOGY

14.1 The Delegations agreed to cooperate on improving gear technology, noting that such technology could contribute to further develop management in the North Sea. To this end, they agreed to organise a workshop in 2025 that will be hosted by Norway. The purpose of the workshop is to create a venue for experts and institutions working in this field of expertise to exchange knowledge and views on the latest gear technology development, and to present relevant projects in the UK and Norway. The participants are invited to, for example, present and discuss solutions that can improve selectivity, prevent bursting of nets and better protect benthic habitats.

15. NOTIFICATION OF NEW LEGISLATION

15.1 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.

17 December 2024

For the Norwegian Delegation

For the United Kingdom Delegation

Ann Kristin WESTBERG

Colin FAULKNER

TABLE 1**QUOTAS TO THE UK OF NORWEGIAN EXCLUSIVE STOCKS FOR 2025**

STOCKS	ICES AREA	QUANTITY (TONNES)
Arcto-Norwegian cod	1; 2	1,000
Bycatch stocks	1; 2	150

TABLE 2

EXCHANGE OF OTHER STOCKS FOR 2025

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 ³	6a, 5b	15	
Greenland Halibut	2a	360	
Bycatch stock	2a	40	
Ling	6a, 5b	560	
Bycatch stock	6a, 5b	40	
Saithe	6a, 5b	0	
Tusk	6a, 5b	200	
Greater forkbeard ³	6a, 5b	60	
Blue ling ³	6a, 5b	50	
Pollack ³	6a, 5b	2	
Anglerfish	4		0
Blue ling	4		0
Hake	4		0
Whiting	4		0

³ Bycatch only.

TABLE 3**ZONAL ACCESS FOR NORTH SEA AUTUMN SPAWNING HERRING AND NORWEGIAN SPRING SPAWNING HERRING⁴**

SPECIES	ICES AREA	ACCESS FOR UK VESSELS IN NORWEGIAN EEZ	ACCESS FOR NORWEGIAN VESSELS IN UK EEZ
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

⁴ Subject to quota availability

TABLE 4

FINAL CATCH DATA FOR EXCHANGE OF STOCKS FOR 2023

SPECIES	AREA (ICES SUBAREA UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)	UK QUOTA TO NORWAY: QUOTA	UK QUOTA TO NORWAY: CATCHES	NORWAY QUOTA TO UK: QUOTA	NORWAY QUOTA TO UK: CATCHES
COD	NAFO 3M	285	285		
COD	6, 5B	15	7		
GREENLAND HALIBUT	2A	700	694		
ASSOCIATED BYCATCH	2A	40	146		
LING	6, 5B	1300	758		
ASSOCIATED BYCATCH	6, 5B	20	47		
TUSK	6, 5B	380	394		
GREATER FORKBEARD	6, 5B	100	126		
BLUE LING	6, 5B	70	73		
ANGLERFISH	4			1075	1043
BLUE LING	4			20	27
HAKE	4			25	17
WHITING	4			25	25
COD	1, 2			750	749
MISCELLANEOUS	1, 2			120	118

TABLE 5

PRELIMINARY CATCH DATA FOR EXCHANGE OF STOCKS FOR 2024

SPECIES	AREA (ICES SUBAREA UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)	UK QUOTA TO NORWAY: QUOTA	UK QUOTA TO NORWAY: CATCHES ^[1]	NORWAY QUOTA TO UK: QUOTA	NORWAY QUOTA TO UK: CATCHES ^[1]
Cod	NAFO 3M	0	0		
Cod *	6, 5b	25	20		
Greenland Halibut	2a	600	645		
Associated bycatch	2a	100	62		
Ling	6, 5b	900	417		
Associated bycatch	6, 5b	70	63		
Saithe	6, 5b	400	1		
Tusk	6, 5b	450	156		
Greater Forkbeard *	6, 5b	150	85		
Blue Ling *	6, 5b	100	21		
Pollack *	6, 5b	5	0		
Anglerfish	4			700	681
Blue Ling	4			20	13
Hake	4			0	0
Whiting	4			0	0
Cod	1, 2			700	701

Miscellaneous	1, 2			100	97
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[1] Updated 25/11/2024

* Bycatch only

TABLE 6

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	38	314
Argentines	43	0
Atlantic Cod	1614	1599
Atlantic Halibut	4	29
Blue Ling	150	0
European Hake	255	374
European Plaice	1	1081
Greater Forkbeard	96	0
Greenland Halibut	397	0
Haddock	209	3424
Lemon Sole	0	96
Ling	2377	237
Pollack	81	302
Rabbit fish	21	0
Saithe	5581	1219
Tusk	400	1
Whiting	14	683
Witch Flounder	0	60
Wolffish	3	144
Other species with catches <20	52	87
Total	11338	9652

TABLE 7

PRELIMINARY CATCH DATA FOR RECIPROCAL ACCESS FOR STOCKS FOR 2024 ⁵

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	69	307
Argentines	41	0
Atlantic Cod	1469	1576
Atlantic Halibut	5	27
Blue Ling	135	0
Greater Forkbeard	60	0
Greenland Halibut	813	0
Haddock	550	3584
Hake	210	298
Lemon Sole	2	47
Ling	2334	309
Norway Lobster	0	29
Plaice	4	397
Pollack	80	315
Saithe	8412	1162
Tusk	616	11
Whiting	21	580
Wolffish	26	204
Other species with catches <20	104	77
Total	14951	8924

⁵ Updated 25/11/2024

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A WORKING GROUP ON ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE OF DATA
FOR 2025**

The Delegations agreed that the Working Group on Electronic Exchange of data should meet as appropriate in 2025 under the Terms of Reference described below. The necessary technical scoping exercises can be conducted within the same Terms of Reference before the Working Group meets.

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

The Working Group shall:

1. Establish templates (i.e. common principles) for electronic exchange of notification and authorisation data with the intention to revise the current bilateral arrangements between the Parties.
2. Establish templates (i.e. common principles) for electronic exchange of fishing activities 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 fishing activities 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 fishing activities data.

The Working Group should submit its report to the Parties well in advance of the annual consultations for 2026. Reports from possible technical scoping exercises should also be submitted to the Parties well in advance of the annual consultations for 2026.