

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

Herluf SIGVALDSSON

For the Delegation of the Faroe Islands

Elisabeth SØRDAHL

For the Delegation of Norway

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) | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------|
| Party | 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 |
| European Union* | 457.122 | 25.339 | -70.790 | 411.671 | 23.532 | 239.725 | | | | 466 | | | 110.028 | | 373.751 | 37.920 |
| Faroe Islands | 483.042 | 3.504 | -90.500 | 396.046 | 10.694 | | 376.393 | | 7.346 | | | | | | 394.433 | 1.613 |
| Iceland | 286.884 | -13.442 | | 273.442 | 4.811 | | 226.595 | | 55.596 | | | | | | 287.002 | -13.560 |
| Norway | 328.431 | -15.086 | 50.335 | 363.680 | 203.345 | 106.138 | 36.083 | | | 45.277 | | | 7 | | 390.850 | -27.170 |
| United Kingdom | 106.034 | -1.256 | -3.210 | 101.568 | | 59.422 | | | | 3 | | | 40.707 | | 100.132 | 1.436 |
| Total Coastal States | 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 |
| Russian Federation | | | | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| Greenland | 7.342 | | 18.500 | 25.842 | 199 | | 26.039 | | | | | | | | 26.239 | -397 |
| Total all Parties | 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) | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------|
| Party | 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 |
| European Union* | 513.458 | 37.920 | -46.546 | 504.832 | 4.881 | 245.982 | | | | 536 | | | 56.761 | | 308.160 | 196.673 |
| Faroe Islands | 543.483 | 1.613 | -95.500 | 449.596 | 83.546 | | 315.112 | | 12.966 | 127 | | | | | 411.751 | 37.845 |
| Iceland | 323.084 | -13.560 | | 309.524 | 26.654 | | 224.164 | | 8.442 | | | | | | 259.260 | 50.264 |
| Norway | 369.530 | -27.170 | 21.372 | 363.732 | 152.120 | 167.529 | 31.785 | | | 32.686 | | | 4 | | 384.124 | -20.392 |
| United Kingdom** | 120.163 | 1.436 | -1.454 | 120.145 | | 87.676 | | | | 15 | | | 17.714 | | 105.405 | 14.740 |
| Total Coastal States | 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 |
| Russian Federation | | | | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| Greenland | 8.260 | | 20.500 | 28.760 | 10 | | 20.923 | | | | | | | | 20.933 | 7.828 |
| Total all Parties | 1.877.978 | 239 | -101.628 | 1.776.589 | 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 14/10/2024

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 | | | | --- | | | | |
| Norway | 369.530 | -27.170 | | | | | --- | | 26.628 | |
| 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 | --- | | | 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 | | | | | | | --- |