

**AGREED RECORD OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN  
THE EUROPEAN UNION AND NORWAY ON THE REGULATION OF FISHERIES IN  
SKAGERRAK AND KATTEGAT FOR 2025**

**5 DECEMBER 2024**

- 1 A European Union Delegation, headed by Mr. Thomas BRÉGEON, and a Norwegian Delegation, headed by Ms. Ann Kristin WESTBERG, met in Oslo from 28 to 31 October, in Madrid from 18 to 21 November and in Brussels from 3 to 5 December 2024 to consult on mutual fisheries relations for 2025.
- 2 The Delegations recalled the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between United Kingdom, Norway and the European Union of 29 November 2024.
- 3 The Heads of Delegations agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the arrangements for the regulation of fisheries in Skagerrak in 2025, outlined in this Agreed Record, including Annexes I to VII.
- 4 The Delegations reiterated their determination to cooperate, in their mutual interest, in securing continued responsible fisheries and ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable exploitation of the marine living resources for which they are responsible.
- 5 **Discard ban and landing obligation in the Skagerrak**
  - 5.1 The Delegations acknowledged that the introduction of landing obligations, that prohibits most forms of discarding fish, is an important first step to avoid waste of resources. Nevertheless, discards remain a serious problem that with great probability have contributed to the current poor condition of some stocks. Therefore, it is crucial that landing obligations are supported by measures that will assist the fishers to avoid unwanted catches by improving the exploitation pattern and reduce the unwanted catches and the discards using of technical measures to improve the selectivity of fishing gear, closed seasons and areas, as well as any other appropriate measures, including control measures.
  - 5.2 The EU Delegation emphasised the usefulness of harmonised technical measures, noting that the aim of such measures should be to have compatibility of fishing gear, leading to the best possible selectivity achieved by the best possible means. Furthermore, the EU Delegation noted that harmonised rules provide legal certainty regarding compliance issues in cross border fishing.
  - 5.3 The Norwegian Delegation pointed out that most regulations related to gear and other technical measures in Skagerrak, are, as far as possible already harmonised. The Norwegian Delegation also stressed that harmonisation as such does not create adequate legal certainty or resolve issues related the inability to control and enforce possible infringements of Norwegian legislation that take place during cross border fishing hauls. The Norwegian Delegation further referred to its statements under paragraphs 18.2-18.5.

- 5.4 In the light of the de minimis and high survivability exemptions contained in the EU landing obligation, the EU Delegation informed the Norwegian Delegation of its intention in 2025 to continue to adjust from the EU quotas the estimated amounts of the discards.

## **6 Management, including Monitoring, Control and Surveillance**

- 6.1 The Delegations noted that the cooperation on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance for joint stocks in the North Sea is covered by the Agreed Record of Conclusions of Fisheries Consultations between Norway, the European Union and the United Kingdom for 2025. The Delegations agreed to further cooperate to enhance control, monitoring and surveillance activities in Skagerrak within the framework of the trilateral Working Group to be established during 2025.
- 6.2 The Delegations recognised that there is a need to further strengthen cooperation and contact between the control services, both on strategic and operational level, to increase the effectiveness of the control.

## **7 Licencing**

- 7.1 The Delegations referred to point 11 in the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between the European Union and Norway for 2025.

## **8 Reciprocal access agreement for Skagerrak**

- 8.1 The Delegations referred to the Agreement of 15 January 2015 between the Kingdom of Norway and the European Union on Reciprocal Access to Fishing in the Skagerrak for Vessels Flying the Flag of Denmark, Norway and Sweden.
- 8.2 The Delegations agreed to continue the practice of establishing a separate Agreed Record, on an annual basis, for the regulation of fisheries in the Skagerrak.

## **9 Total allowable catches and quotas**

- 9.1 The Delegations agreed that the system of inter-annual quota flexibility should cover haddock, herring and plaice for 2025. The Delegations noted that the regimes for inter-annual quota flexibility are set out in Annex II.
- 9.2 The Delegations agreed that vessels should have adequate quota or fishing possibilities to cover expected catch composition when fishing in Skagerrak.

## **10 Cod**

- 10.1 The Delegations recalled that ICES advised that, when the MSY approach is applied for the Southern sub-stock and precautionary considerations to protect the Southern sub-stock are applied to the Northwestern and Viking sub-stocks, catches of Northern Shelf cod in Subarea 4, Divisions 6.a and 7.d and Subdivision 20 (North Sea, West of Scotland, Eastern Channel and Skagerrak) should be no more than 15,511 tonnes in 2025.
- 10.2 The Delegations referred to paragraphs 15.2 to 15.16 of the Agreed Record of fisheries consultations between the EU, Norway and the UK for 2025 of 29 November 2024. In particular, they recalled that the parties agreed in 2023 that they would seek to

devise a methodology that better aligns ICES sub-stock based advice with effective TAC area management. They further noted that the EU, Norway and the UK had requested ICES to move towards, to the extent possible, providing area-specific catch advice for Northern Shelf cod. The Delegations also noted the decision of the three parties to continue the interim set of arrangements for the 2025 TAC year ahead of that longer-term work being concluded.

- 10.3 The Delegations recalled that the EU, Norway and the UK agreed on 29 November 2024 to establish a TAC for cod in ICES Subarea 4, Divisions 6.a and 7.d and Subdivision 20 (North Sea, West of Scotland, Eastern Channel and Skagerrak) in 2025 of 25,028 tonnes. This represents a decrease of 20% compared to 2024.
- 10.4 The Delegations consequently agreed to establish a TAC for cod in ICES Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak) in 2025 of 2,846 tonnes.
- 10.5 The Delegations agreed that in addition to the TAC level as referred to in paragraph 10.4, joint additional measures aimed at the protection of juvenile and adult cod introduced in 2020 should continue to restore the Northern shelf cod stock by reducing unwanted catches and discard and lower fishing pressure.
- 10.6 The European Union Delegation informed the Norwegian Delegation of its intention to continue to apply additional management and control measures aimed at the protection of juvenile and adult cod introduced in 2020.
- 10.7 The Delegations therefore agreed to continue the seasonal closures for the protection of spawning aggregations. The coordinates and timing of such closures are specified in Annex V. The Delegations agreed to prohibit fishing with all gears in these areas with the expect for pelagic trawls and purse seine.
- 10.8 Moreover, the Delegations recalled the report of the Working Group on technical measures of January 2020 and agreed that this report remains a useful basis for cooperation with the view to improve the utilisation of the cod stock.

## **11 Haddock**

- 11.1 The Delegations recalled that ICES, based on its MSY approach, advised that catches of haddock in Subarea 4, Division 6.a, and Subdivision 20 (North Sea, West of Scotland, Skagerrak) in 2025 should be no more than 112,435 tonnes. This represents a decrease of 25% in the advice compared to 2024.
- 11.2 The Delegations recalled that, based on that advice, the EU, Norway and the UK agreed on 29 November 2024 to establish a TAC for haddock in ICES Subarea 4, Division 6.a, and Subdivision 20 (North Sea, West of Scotland, Skagerrak) in 2025 of 112,435 tonnes. This represents a decrease of 5.5% compared to 2024.
- 11.3 The Delegations consequently agreed to establish a TAC for haddock in Skagerrak and Kattegat (ICES Division 3.a) in 2025 of 5,892 tonnes (5,24% of agreed TAC).

## **12 Northern shrimp**

- 12.1 The Delegations referred to the Agreed Record of their fisheries consultations on Northern shrimp in ICES 3a and 4a east, signed on 19 June 2024.

- 12.2 The Delegations recalled their decision in 2022 to revise the long-term management strategy (LTMS) as advised by ICES, and to move from a two-step TAC setting approach to a single year TAC running from 1 July to 30 June. The revised LTMS is attached in Annex III of this Agreed Record.
- 12.3 The Delegations noted that the evaluation by ICES of the banking and borrowing part of the revised LTMS is still pending. They recalled their agreement in paragraph 4.12 of the Agreed Record of 19 June 2024 to put this task on hold at least until the Working Group referred in paragraph 12.6 has provided its recommendations to the Parties.
- 12.4 The Delegations further recalled that they had agreed to establish a TAC of 4,557 tonnes for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, and subsequently a TAC of 3,190 tonnes for Skagerrak for that period. They also recalled that Norway had fixed a quota for Northern shrimp for Division 4a East of 1,367 tonnes.
- 12.5 The Delegations agreed to meet as soon as possible after ICES has issued its advice and decide on a TAC for the 2025/26 fishing season.
- 12.6 The Delegations recalled their decision to establish a Working Group of experts to explore and recommend possible technical measures that could contribute to the rebuilding of the stock. The terms of reference for this Working Group are set out in Annex IV. The Working Group should present draft recommendations to the Delegations by 1 March 2025, and final recommendations in due time for consultations on Northern shrimp for 2025/2026.
- 12.7 The Delegations referred to paragraphs 4.8 and 4.9 of the Agreed Record of 19 June 2024 and, in particular, the EU offer to cover additional days in the January 2025 IBTS survey for Norway, in exchange for Norway to ensure sufficient boat time to complete the January 2025 shrimp survey. The Delegations invite the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research to continue coordinating this support through the Swedish and Danish national correspondents for the DCF (Data Collection Framework), Norwegian survey committee and the IBTS committee. The scientists in these committees are further invited to establish communication channels to discuss and coordinate further needs and resources for coming surveys well in advance of yearly and 5-yearly cut-offs for survey planning during the coming years.
- 12.8 The Delegations recalled the outcome of the meeting held between industry representatives, scientists and managers on 17 October 2024 in Gothenburg to discuss, amongst others, concerns from the industry on technical aspects of the shrimp survey. The Delegations invited scientists and industry representatives to continue the constructive dialogue from that meeting discussing and clarifying concerns and methods, including through industry participation as observers on the Norwegian shrimp survey or in relevant ICES working groups.

### **13 Herring**

- 13.1 The Delegations recalled that ICES, based on its MSY approach, advised that catches of North Sea autumn-spawning (NSAS) herring in Subarea 4 and Divisions 3.a and 7.d (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, eastern Channel) in 2025 should be no more than 410,707 tonnes. This represents a decrease of 22.8% in the advice compared to 2024.

- 13.2 The Delegations referred to paragraphs 17.2 to 17.10 of the Agreed Record of fisheries consultations between the EU, Norway and the UK for 2025 of 29 November 2024. In particular, they recalled the agreement by the three parties to start discussions on a reviewed management model for NSAS herring in early 2025, which should be based on a single TAC.
- 13.3 The Delegations recalled that EU and Norway in 2014 had agreed on a TAC-setting method for North Sea herring C fleet catches in Skagerrak, which since 2019 is no longer deemed by ICES to be sustainable due to the biological status of the Western Baltic Spring Spawning (WBSS) herring. The method is as follows: 5.7% of the A fleet TAC plus 41% of the WBSS herring advice. When the ICES advice for WBSS herring from 2019 onwards was zero, the Parties used, as an ad hoc approach, the non-zero TAC established by the EU, to calculate the TAC for herring in Skagerrak. In addition, the Parties used spatial measures (inter-area flexibility) to reduce the fishing mortality in the Skagerrak to protect WBSS herring.
- 13.4 The EU Delegation pointed out that ICES advice on the C fleet TAC setting method should be viewed in the context of the ICES definition of the fleets, as well as ICES forecast that with current measures catches of WBSS herring by the C fleet in Division 3a in 2024 amount to only 4% of total WBSS catches.
- 13.5 The Delegations noted the decision by the European Union to establish a TAC for 2025 of 788 tonnes for WBSS herring in Subareas 22-24 exclusively used for bycatch in the Baltic Sea.
- 13.6 In the absence of an agreed, alternative method, the Delegations decided to apply this TAC when calculating the WBSS herring proportion of the TAC for herring in Skagerrak and Kattegat.
- 13.7 The Delegations agreed to establish a TAC of 22,793 tonnes in the Skagerrak and Kattegat for 2025. This is a decrease of 23% compared to 2024.
- 13.8 The Delegations concluded that the by-catches of herring taken in industrial and sprat fisheries would be limited to 6,659 tonnes in 2025. This represents a rollover compared to the 2024 level.
- 13.9 The Delegations noted their intentions to reduce their fishing activities on NSAS herring in the Skagerrak-Kattegat to reduce the fishing mortality of WBSS herring, when WBSS herring is subject to a bycatch TAC. The Delegations furthermore agreed that for the quotas established for Skagerrak and Kattegat, Norway and the European Union would be able to fish up to 100% of their quotas in the North Sea, subject to any access restrictions.
- 13.10 The EU Delegation noted its intention to set a level of actual catches of herring in the Skagerrak and Kattegat of no more than 969 tonnes.
- 13.11 The Norwegian Delegation stated that at least 90% of their herring quota for Skagerrak would be transferred to the North Sea.
- 13.12 The Norwegian Delegation indicated that it would also consider taking spatial or seasonal measures in Norwegian waters where NSAS herring and WBSS herring intermix, without impacting the fishing mortality of NSAS herring.

13.13 The EU Delegation referred to the latest ICES advice for NSAS herring, which recommends that catches of WBSS herring in the eastern part of ICES Subarea 4 are avoided to ensure the effective recovery of the WBSS herring stock. The EU Delegation noted that spatial measures in the Norwegian zone of ICES Divisions 4.a and 4.b are urgently needed for the protection and recovery of this commercially important stock, in addition to the measures already taken by the EU in the Baltic Sea and by the parties in paragraph 13.8 of this Agreed Record. The EU Delegation recalled the commitment of the parties in paragraph 4 of this Agreed Record to cooperate with a view to ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainable exploitation of marine living resources and invited Norway to adopt and implement those measures at the earliest opportunity.

13.14 The Norwegian Delegation explained that they would consider measures to protect WBSS herring in the context of the outcome of the consultations about a new management model for NSAS herring to take place in 2025.

#### **14 Plaice**

14.1 The Delegations recalled that ICES, based on its MSY approach, advised that catches of plaice in Subarea 4 and Subdivision 20 in 2025 should be no more than 176,593 tonnes. This represents an increase of 14.2% in the projected catches of plaice in Subarea 4 and Subdivision 20 compared to 2024.

14.2 The Delegations recalled that, based on that advice, the EU, Norway and the UK agreed on 29 November 2024 to establish a TAC for plaice in ICES Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak) in 2025 of 176,593 tonnes. This is an increase of 14.2% compared to 2024.

14.3 The Delegations consequently agreed to establish a TAC for plaice in ICES Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak) in 2025 of 20,838 tonnes (11.8% of agreed TAC).

#### **15 Sprat**

15.1 The Delegations noted that the ICES advice for sprat now encompasses both the North Sea and Skagerrak, and recalled that they on 12 June 2020 had agreed to apply 18.3% as share for Skagerrak and Kattegat of the overall TAC (Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between the European Union and Norway for sprat for the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021).

15.2 The Delegations recalled that ICES, based on its MSY approach, advised that total catches in July 2024 – June 2025 should be no more than 75,321 tonnes. The Delegations also recalled that, based on this advice, on 11 June 2024 Norway, EU and UK had agreed to establish a TAC of 75,321 tonnes. Applying the agreed ratio, the TAC for Skagerrak and Kattegat for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 was set to 13,784 tonnes.

15.3 The Delegations agreed to meet in May 2025 to consider the TAC for 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026.

#### **16 Whiting**

16.1 The Delegations noted that ICES, based on its precautionary approach, advised that

catches of whiting in ICES Division 3.a (Skagerrak and Kattegat) in 2025 should be no more than 455 tonnes. This represents a decrease of 30% compared to 2024.

- 16.2 The Delegations agreed to establish a TAC for whiting in the Skagerrak and Kattegat in 2025 of 455 tonnes.
- 16.3 The EU Delegation would propose to meet in 2025 to revise this TAC in case it leads to choke issues in other fisheries where whiting is caught as a bycatch.

## **17 "Others" quota**

- 17.1 The Norwegian Delegation informed the EU Delegation that Norway would set an “others” quota of 2,000 tonnes for the EU vessels fishing in the Norwegian zone of Skagerrak. Norway also informed the EU Delegation that Norwegian vessels catch of “others” species in the EU zone of Skagerrak, will be restricted to 2,000 tonnes.
- 17.2 The EU Delegation was not yet in a position to set an “others” quota for Norwegian vessels in the EU zone, and therefore only require that all vessels continue to report the catches taken in each Party`s waters.
- 17.3 The Norwegian Delegation noted that jointly managed stocks (cod, haddock, whiting, saithe, plaice, Northern shrimp, herring and sprat) are not to be counted against the “others” quotas.
- 17.4 Furthermore, the Norwegian Delegation noted that the same applies to catches of blue whiting, Norway pout, sandeel, mackerel and horse mackerel. The Norwegian Delegation explained that, according to Norwegian regulations, catches of those species in Norwegian waters of Skagerrak should be kept at an unavoidable bycatch level.
- 17.5 The Delegations agreed to discuss in 2025 possible improvements to the monthly catch statistics exchanged by the parties, including catch data for non-jointly managed stocks (i.e. species not listed in paragraph 17.3).

## **18 Technical measures**

- 18.1 The Delegations referred to the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between the European Union and Norway on Technical Measures in Skagerrak, signed in Gothenburg 6 September 2018, and in particular to Annex I in that Agreed Record related to a joint Real Time Closure scheme for Pandalus in Skagerrak.
- 18.2 The Norwegian Delegation referred to the Agreed Record of Conclusion between Norway and the European Union of 8 December 2023, which states that cross-border fishing will no longer be allowed when entering or exiting areas under Norwegian jurisdiction in Skagerrak as of 1 January 2024. As a first step, vessels above 12 meters is required to haul the gear before entering or exiting the Norwegian Economic Zone in Skagerrak.
- 18.3 The Norwegian Delegation further informed the EU Delegation that a proposal on a general ban on cross-border fishing were subject of a public consultation from April 2024, with the aim of this prohibition to enter into force 1 January 2025. This regulation is proposed to apply to all vessels, regardless of length, and includes both vessels above and below 12 meters. The general ban will apply to all fishing operations

crossing the outer border of the Norwegian Exclusive Economic Zone (including Skagerrak), the Fishing Zone around Jan Mayen and the Fisheries Protection Zone around Svalbard, and areas covered by different management regimes, for example different quotas. The Regulation on electronic reporting for foreign fishing vessels in the Norwegian Exclusive Economic Zone, territorial waters, the Fishery Zone around Jan Mayen, and the Fisheries Protection Zone around Svalbard will be amended to reflect these changes.

- 18.4 In practice, this is a new ban for vessels below 12 meters in Skagerrak only, as cross-border fishing in this area has previously been allowed for vessels below 12 meters. The existing prohibition on cross-border fishing for vessels above 12 meters and reporting requirements when crossing the border will remain unchanged, including the removal of the reporting deadline. For vessels above 12 meters, this new Regulation remains merely a legal technicality.
- 18.5 The proposal is currently under review in the Ministry of Trade Industry and Fisheries. Its entry into force will be notified the EU as well as Swedish and Danish governments through diplomatic channels.
- 18.6 The EU Delegation regretted the unilateral decision by Norway to prohibit cross-border fishing in the Skagerrak and referred to their statement in paragraph 18.7 of the Agreed Record of fisheries consultations between the EU and Norway for the Skagerrak for 2024 for further details. The EU Delegation recalled the importance of working towards the harmonisation of technical measures in the Skagerrak.
- 18.7 The EU Delegation informed Norway that an EU-wide seasonal closure for Atlantic halibut in the Skagerrak had been introduced in EU legislation. The EU Delegation noted that, despite efforts from the EU to harmonise measures and to solve previous challenges relating to catches of halibut in Norwegian waters in the Skagerrak, Norway decided to unilaterally introduce and extend the ban on cross-border fishing.
- 18.8 The Norwegian Delegation reiterated that Norway has had a prohibition on the fishing of halibut during the spawning season (20 December-31 March) for more than 50 years. This management measure is in itself a suitable measure that protects the stock in a vulnerable period of the year. This measure is unrelated to the inability to enforce illegal activity in the Norwegian EEZ and cross-border fishing. The Norwegian Delegation expressed its appreciation that EU have harmonised protectional measures for halibut during the spawning period in EU waters.
- 18.9 The Norwegian Delegation recalled that several technical measures have been harmonised in Skagerrak from 2013 onwards, particularly in the Northern shrimp fishery, the directed Nephrops fishery and in the mixed demersal and Nephrops fishery in the Skagerrak. This means that technical measures for the main fisheries in Skagerrak are already harmonised.

## **19 Catch statistics**

- 19.1 The Delegations agreed to communicate to each other, on a monthly basis, catch statistics for fishing by their own vessels for all species. This monthly information shall be communicated not later than the end of the following month.
- 19.2 Final catch statistics of the Parties for 2023, and preliminary catch statistics for 2024,



are available in Annex VI to VII to this Agreed Record.

## **20 Quota arrangements**

- 20.1 The Delegations agreed that the negotiated quota arrangements constitute an *ad hoc* solution and shall be without prejudice to future fishery arrangements between the Parties.
- 20.2 The Norwegian Delegation stated that the ad hoc sharing arrangement for 2025 is greatly imbalanced in Norway's disfavour. Norway will therefore invite the European Union for consultations during 2025 with the purpose of establishing a sharing arrangement closer to zonal attachment of the main species.

5 December 2024

For the European Union Delegation

For the Norwegian Delegation

Mr. Thomas BRÉGEON

Ms. Ann Kristin WESTBERG

## TACs AND ALLOCATIONS IN 2025

Catches taken, during the period 1 January to 31 December 2025 in the Skagerrak and the Kattegat of the species mentioned below, shall be limited as follows (metric tonnes, fresh round weight):

SPECIES	AREA <sup>(1)</sup>	TAC 2025	ALLOCATION TO NORWAY	ALLOCATION TO EUROPEAN UNION
COD	S	2,846	92 <sup>(2)</sup>	2,754
HADDOCK <sup>(3) (4)</sup>	S + K	5,892	248	5,644
WHITING	S + K	455	8	447
PLAICE	S	20,838	417	20,421
MACKEREL	S + K	pm	pm	pm
NORTHERN SHRIMP <sup>(5)</sup>	S	3,190	1,487	1,703
HERRING	S + K	22,793	3,038	19,755
SPRAT <sup>(5)</sup>	S + K	13,784	1,034	12,750

- <sup>(1)</sup> Skagerrak (S): the area bounded on the west by a straight line running through the Hanstholm lighthouse and the Lindesnes lighthouse and on the south by a straight line running through the Skagen lighthouse and the Tistlarna lighthouse. Skagerrak and Kattegat (S + K): the area defined as Skagerrak, extended to the southern boundary of Kattegat, and defined as a straight line from Hasenøre to Gnibens spids, from Korshage to Spodsbjerg and from Gilbjerg Hoved to Kullen.
- <sup>(2)</sup> This quantity does not include catches to be taken with passive gear inside the Norwegian baselines.
- <sup>(3)</sup> The TAC for haddock includes both a directed fishery for haddock and by-catches in the industrial fisheries.
- <sup>(4)</sup> In addition, up to 5% of the haddock quotas of the Parties in ICES subarea 4 (North Sea) in 2025 can be fished in ICES Division 3a (Skagerrak-Kattegat).
- <sup>(5)</sup> To be fished in the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

### INTER-ANNUAL QUOTA FLEXIBILITY

The inter-annual quota flexibility scheme applicable to the jointly managed stocks discussed during these consultations shall be terminated if:

- The spawning stock biomass is estimated to be below the precautionary reference point  $B_{pa}$  in the TAC year and the fishing mortality is estimated to be above the precautionary reference point  $F_{pa}$  in the intermediate year; or
- the SSB is estimated to be below  $B_{pa}$  in both the TAC year and the year thereafter.

Each Party may transfer unutilised quota from the TAC year to be caught in the following year. Each Party may transfer up to 10% of its total quota allocation. This quantity cannot be transferred further in subsequent years.

Each Party may authorise fishing by its vessels beyond its total quota allocation for the TAC year by up to 10%. The quantity fished beyond the allocated quota shall be deducted from the Party's allocation for the year after the TAC year.

The Delegations agreed that in order to ensure transparency in the operation of inter-annual quota flexibility, more detailed information on catch utilisation shall be exchanged.

The TAC year is the year for which the agreed TAC applies, and the intermediate year is the year prior to the TAC year.

**LONG TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN SHRIMP (*PANDALUS BOREALIS*) IN DIVISIONS 3.A. AND 4.A.EAST (SKAGERRAK AND KATTEGAT AND NORTHERN NORTH SEA IN THE NORWEGIAN DEEP)**

The Parties agree to implement a Long Term Management Strategy (LTMS) for the Northern shrimp in the Northern North Sea (Norwegian Deep) and in the Skagerrak and Kattegat.

The objective of this LTMS is to provide for sustainable fisheries with high and sustainable yields in conformity with the precautionary approach.

For the purpose of this long term management strategy, the following definitions shall apply:

- "SSB" means the estimate according to ICES of the Spawning Stock Biomass at the beginning of the TAC year.
- $B_{\text{TRIGGER}}$  is the value of spawning stock biomass (SSB) that triggers a specific management action.
- $F_{\text{TARGET}}$  is the fishing mortality to be included in the algorithm for the agreed long-term management strategy as a function of variables related to the status of the stock.

The value for  $B_{\text{TRIGGER}}$  is fixed in the light of the latest available ICES advice. The value of  $F_{\text{target}}$  is fixed by ICES and fulfilling the following criteria:

1. The Parties shall set a 12 month TAC for northern shrimp for a period between 1 July to 30 June that is consistent with fishing at  $F_{\text{target}}$  provided that SSB at the start of the TAC year is equal to or greater than  $MSY B_{\text{trigger}}$ .
2. Where the SSB at the start of the TAC year is estimated to be below  $MSY B_{\text{trigger}}$  the Parties agree that the fishing mortality referred to in paragraph 1 is reduced linearly from  $F_{\text{TARGET}} \times$  at SSB equal to  $MSY B_{\text{trigger}}$  to  $F$  equal to zero at SSB equal to zero.
3. Overriding the rules set out in paragraphs 1 and 2, the  $F_{\text{TARGET}}$  should be in line with the criteria specified in the ICES MSY approach for SSB falling below  $B_{\text{lim}}$  in the year following the TAC year.

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A WORKING GROUP ON NORTHERN SHRIMP**

The objective of the working group on Northern shrimp (WG) is to evaluate measures to protect juveniles and/or mature females with the goal of supporting the current Long-term Management Plan in restoring the Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) stock in Divisions 3.a and 4.a East to levels which can produce maximum sustainable yield.

The WG will consist of managers, scientists, and industry experts from both Parties. The WG will be co-chaired by one representative from each Party.

The WG should compile relevant information describing:

- Spatio-temporal distribution of juveniles and mature females
- The fishery for Northern shrimp.
- The present management of the fishery

The WG should recommend on technical elements for potential management measures to support stock recovery and suggest plans for the follow-up of their effects. These measures should focus on measures for the Northern shrimp fishery and aim at lowering fishing pressure on incoming recruitment and/or mature females, inter alia:

- a. Evaluate the existing joint EU-Norway system for real time closures (RTCs) for protection of juvenile shrimp.
- b. Spatial and/or temporal closures for the protection of juveniles and/or mature females.
- c. Review options for gear related technical measures.

If there are any other relevant issues which the WG believes would result in a more adequate definition of additional measures, the WG could explore these as appropriate.

The WG should submit a draft of the recommendations to the Delegations by 1 March 2025. A final report should be submitted to the Parties in due time for the Northern shrimp consultations for 2025-2026.

## SEASONAL AREA TO PROTECT SPAWNING COD

The following areas in the table below will be closed for all gears excluding pelagic gears (purse seine and trawl), for the identified time period:

Time Limited Closures				
No	Area Name	Coordinates	Time period	Additional Comment
1	Stanhope ground	60° 25N - 001° 45E 60° 25N - 002° 00E 60° 10N - 002° 00E 60° 10N - 001° 45E	01 January to 30 April	
2	Long Hole	59° 07.35N - 0° 31.04W 59° 03.60N - 0° 22.25W 58° 59.35N - 0° 17.85W 58° 56.00N - 0° 11.01W 58° 56.60N - 0° 08.85W 58° 59.86N - 0° 15.65W 59° 03.50N - 0° 20.00W 59° 08.15N - 0° 29.07W	01 January to 31 March	
3	Coral edge	58° 51.70N - 03° 26.70E 58° 40.66N - 03° 34.60E 58° 24 00N - 03° 12.40E 58° 24 00N - 02° 55.00E 58° 35 65N - 02° 56.30E	01 January to 28 February	
4	Papa Bank	59° 56N - 03° 08W 59° 56N - 02° 45W 59° 35N - 03° 15W 59° 35N - 03° 35W	01 January to 15 March	
5	Foula Deep	60° 17.5N - 01° 45W 60° 11.0N - 01° 45W 60° 11.0N - 02° 10W 60° 20.0N - 02° 00W 60° 20.0N - 01° 50W	01 November to 31 December	
6	Egersund Bank	58° 07.40N - 04° 33.0E 57° 53.00N - 05° 12.0E 57° 40.00N - 05° 10.9E 57° 57.90N - 04° 31.9E	01 January to 31 March	(10 x 25 nm)
7	East of Fair Isle	59° 40N - 01° 23W 59° 40N - 01° 13W 59° 30N - 01° 20W 59° 10N - 01° 20W 59° 10N - 01° 28W 59° 30N - 01° 28W	01 January to 15 March	

<b>Time Limited Closures</b>				
<b>No</b>	<b>Area Name</b>	<b>Coordinates</b>	<b>Time period</b>	<b>Additional Comment</b>
8	West Bank	57° 15N - 05° 01E 56° 56N - 05° 00E 56° 56N - 06° 20E 57° 15N - 06° 20E	01 February to 15 March	(18 x 4 nm)
9	Revet	57° 28.43N - 08° 05.66E 57° 27.44N - 08° 07.20E 57° 51.77N - 09° 26.33E 57° 52.88N - 09° 25.00E	01 February to 15 March	(1.5 x 49 nm)
10	Rabarberen	57° 47.00N - 11° 04.00E 57° 43.00N - 11° 04.00E 57° 43.00N - 11° 09.00E 57° 47.00N - 11° 09.00E	01 February to 15 March	East of Skagen (2.7x4 nm)

## FINAL 2023 CATCH STATISTICS

Skagerrak agreement	Area	Final catch statistics 2023					
Species		Norway			EU		
		Fisheries jurisdiction			Fisheries jurisdiction		
		EU	Norway	Total	EU	Norway	Total
Cod	S	10	88	98	2,545	137	2,682
Haddock	S+K	176	33	209	3,155	116	3,271
Whiting	S+K	1	4	5	253	14	267
Plaice	S	5	2	7	3,387	9	3,396
Mackerel	S+K	0	95	95	0	1	1
Northern shrimp (*)	S	71	4,438	4,509	1,198	479	1,677
Herring	S+K	0	588	588	400	1	401
Sprat	S+K	0	912	912	117	0	117

\*Of Norwegian quota in North Sea and Skagerrak combined



## PRELIMINARY 2024 CATCH STATISTICS

Skagerrak agreement	Area	Provisional catch statistics 2024					
		Norway <sup>1</sup>			EU <sup>2</sup>		
Fisheries jurisdiction			Fisheries jurisdiction				
EU		Norway	Total	EU	Norway	Total	
Cod	S	27	94	111	1,959	189	2,148
Haddock	S+K	561	105	666	4,187	209	4,396
Whiting	S+K	6	2	8	227	13	240
Plaice	S	23	4	27	4,122	12	4,133
Mackerel	S=K	2	104	106	0	0	0
Pandalus (*)	S	26	3,262	3,288	1,257	513	1,770
Herring	S+K	130	66	196	216	0	216
Sprat	S+K	0	258	258	1,032	0	1,032

\*Of Norwegian quota in North Sea and Skagerrak combined

<sup>1</sup> January – 20 November 2024 (landing notes)

<sup>2</sup> January – October 2024 (aggregated catch data based on landed weight)