

**AGREED RECORD OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN  
NORWAY AND THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR 2016**

**BERGEN, 4 DECEMBER 2015**

- 1 A Norwegian Delegation, headed by Ms Ann Kristin WESTBERG, and a European Union Delegation, headed by Mr Jacques VERBORGH, met in Bergen, Norway from 30 November to 4 December 2015 to consult on mutual fisheries relations for 2016. The meeting was a continuation of a previous meeting held in Copenhagen.
- 2 The Heads of Delegation agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the fishery arrangements for 2016 as outlined in this Agreed Record, including Annexes I to XIII and Tables 1 to 4.
- 3 The Delegations stated that the implementation of this Agreed Record of Conclusions is contingent on a parallel and simultaneous implementation of the provisions of the Agreed Record of Conclusions of Fisheries Consultations between the European Union and Norway on the Management of Mackerel in the North-East Atlantic signed in Brussels on 26 January 2010, as last amended by the Agreed Record of Conclusions of Fisheries Consultations between the European Union and Norway on the Management of Mackerel in the North-East Atlantic signed in Clonakilty on 23 October 2015.
- 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 JOINTLY MANAGED STOCKS**

- 5.1 The Delegations agreed to continue to work to improve the exploitation pattern and reduce discards through the use of technical measures to improve the selectivity of fishing gear, closed seasons and areas as well as any other appropriate measures. They acknowledged 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.
- 5.2 The Delegations noted that the system of inter-annual quota flexibility, as set out in Annex VIII, for the quotas of herring, haddock, saithe and plaice shall continue to apply.
- 5.3 The Delegations pointed out that Norway has had a landing obligation in place for more than two decades. The Delegations also noted that the progressive introduction of the EU landing obligation for all catches taken from stocks subject to catch limits is one of the main elements of the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), and that the first measures for demersal fisheries in the North Sea enter into force 1 January 2016 and will lead to a full implementation by 2019. The Delegations welcomed this convergence of approaches between the EU and Norway.

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5.4 The Delegations recognised that discarding of fish represents a major waste of resources as well as a loss of potential income and is detrimental towards the rebuilding of fish stocks. Furthermore, they recognised that discarding implies that some catches are not recorded with the result that the scientific basis for the management decisions is weakened.

5.5 The Delegations recalled that in the Agreed Record of conclusion of Fisheries Consultation between Norway and the European Community for 2009, it was agreed to implement several measures that would contribute to a significant reduction in levels of discard. Examples of measures are a ban on high grading, technical measures to improve gear selectivity, improved control measures and the introduction of RTC systems. The Delegations stated the importance of continuing to work in order to reduce discards of all commercial species, including juveniles and undersized fish.

5.6 The EU Delegation informed the Norwegian Delegation that the landing obligation in 2016 would apply to catches of haddock in the North Sea by trawlers using gears of mesh size equal to or greater than 100mm, catches of haddock in Skagerrak by all trawlers, catches of plaice in the North Sea by trawlers and beam trawlers using gears of mesh size equal to or greater than 100mm, catches of plaice in Skagerrak by trawlers and beam trawlers using gears with mesh size equal to or greater than 100mm, catches of saithe by trawlers targeting saithe in the North Sea and Skagerrak that use gears of mesh size equal to or greater than 100mm, and to all catches of *Pandalus* in the North Sea and Skagerrak.

5.7 The Delegations noted that the landing quotas advised by ICES are calculated by deducting existing levels of discards from the catch advice. Given that the introduction of the landing obligation would lower the discard rates of the stocks concerned, the Delegations agreed that it is appropriate to adjust the landing quotas accordingly. The level of adjustment is calculated by estimating the contribution of the fleet segments concerned to the current level of discards for each of the stocks, and by assuming that the discard rates of those fleets in 2016 would be zero.

5.8 The Delegations noted that these calculations result in increases in the landings quotas advised by ICES by the following amounts: haddock in the North Sea 17.3%; haddock in Skagerrak 20.9 %; saithe in the North Sea and Skagerrak 5.7%; plaice in the North Sea 2.6%; and plaice in the Skagerrak 17%. In the case of *Pandalus*, the adjusted landings quotas would become equivalent to the catch quotas advised by ICES.

## 5.9 Long-term management strategies

5.9.1 The Delegations agreed that long-term management strategies should continue to constitute the basis for the yearly management of joint stocks. They regretted that long-term management strategies for a number of stocks had not been reviewed in 2015 as originally envisaged, and reaffirmed their commitment to follow up the process which started in Svolvær in May 2015 on reviewing long-term management strategies. To this end the Delegations decided to establish a Working Group on joint management strategies to prepare negotiations by providing options on methodology and other relevant issues, that should be taken into account, as well as drafting proposals for specific management strategies for respectively cod, saithe, whiting, plaice and haddock. The Working Group should deliver its report by 30 May 2016. The Terms of Reference for the Working Group are set out in Annex XIII.

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## 5.10 Cod

- 5.10.1 The Delegations noted that according to the latest ICES assessment the stock is showing signs of recovery. The biomass is now above Blim, but remains below Bpa. The fishing mortality has seen a major decline since 2001 but is still estimated to be above  $F_{msy}$ .
- 5.10.2 The Norwegian Delegation noted that the discard level is estimated to be at 22 % of total catch. Recent discards of large and marketable cod seem to be effectively reduced, but discard rates of 1 and 2 year-old cod are high. The 2014 discards represent almost 53 % of the total catch in numbers. This represents a large amount of foregone catch. Therefore effective discard reducing measures are urgently needed.
- 5.10.3 The Delegations noted that ICES considers the long-term management strategy that entered into force 1 January 2013 (Annex I), to be no longer appropriate. Thus the advice from ICES is based on the MSY approach, resulting in an advice for a 15 % TAC increase in 2016 corresponding to landings of no more than 40,419 tonnes.

## 5.11 Haddock

- 5.11.1 The Delegations recalled that the Parties in the 2015 Agreed Record decided that the overall TAC for 2015 onwards should be split between the areas according to the following percentages: 9.5% for haddock in Division VIa, 90.5% for haddock Subarea IV and Division IIIa West.
- 5.11.2 The Delegations noted that the long-term management strategy (Annex II) is no longer considered appropriate following ICES decision to combine the advice for ICES areas IIIa, IV and VI.
- 5.11.3 The Delegations noted that ICES now considers  $F_{msy}$  to be 0.37 rather than the figure of 0.3 that had been used in the strategy for North Sea haddock. This contributes to a 30% increase in the advised TAC for 2016.
- 5.11.4 The Delegations agreed to base the TAC for 2016, before adjustments to take into account the EU landing obligation, on the ICES landings advice at  $F_{msy}$  of 61,930 tonnes.
- 5.11.5 The EU Delegation informed the Norwegian Delegation of its intention to base its TAC in 2016 on the agreed split for haddock in VIa of 5,883 tonnes, before adjustment to take into account the EU landing obligation.
- 5.11.6 The Delegations noted that the resulting TACs for ICES areas IIIa and IV would be based on quantities of 3,247 tonnes and 52,799 tonnes. Applying the TAC adjustment of 20.9 % in area IIIa and 17.3 % in area IV (see section 5.8) results in TACs in the two areas of 3,926 tonnes and 61,933 tonnes respectively.

## 5.12 Saithe

- 5.12.1 The Delegations noted that recruitment has been below the long-term average since 2006. Fishing mortality (F) has fluctuated around  $F_{msy}$  since 1997. Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has declined and has fluctuated around MSY Btrigger since 2011.
- 5.12.2 The Delegations agreed that the TAC for saithe for 2016, before adjustments to

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take into account the EU landing obligation, should be fixed in accordance with ICES landings advice in accordance with the agreed long-term management strategy (Annex III), namely 68,601 tonnes.

5.12.3 The EU Delegation informed Norway of its intention of ensuring consistency between the TACs that are set for saithe in ICES Division VIa and saithe in ICES Subarea IV and Division IIIa. The EU Delegation informed Norway of its intention to fix a quota for saithe for Division VIa of 6,448 tonnes, before adjustment to take into account the EU landing obligation.

5.12.4 The Delegations noted that the resulting TACs for ICES areas IIIa and IV would be based on an amount of 62,153 tonnes, and that applying the TAC adjustment of 5.7% would result in a TAC of 65,696 tonnes.

### 5.13 Whiting

5.13.1 The agreed management strategy for whiting (Annex V) is based on a previous estimate of  $F_{msy}$  that is no longer considered by ICES to be valid. In view of this, the Delegations agreed to set the same TAC for 2016 as in 2015, namely 13,678 tonnes.

### 5.14 Plaice

5.14.1 The Delegations noted that the ICES advice is now both for the North Sea and Skagerrak combined.

5.14.2 The Delegations agreed that a technical Working Group should examine the most appropriate way of splitting the overall TAC advice between the North Sea and the Skagerrak. In the meantime the Delegations agreed that the existing ratio of TAC levels between the two areas should be maintained for 2016. The Terms of Reference for the Working Group are set out in Annex VI.

5.14.3 The Delegations noted that the stock of plaice in the North Sea and Skagerrak was now at its highest recorded level. It was further noted that ICES has revised its estimate of  $F_{msy}$  from 0.25 to 0.19, and that if a TAC was set corresponding to this new estimate it would result in a TAC decrease of 22% compared to 2015. The EU's management plan for plaice would imply a 15% TAC increase compared to 2015, but this was also considered inappropriate by the Delegations given that it is based on a target fishing mortality of 0.3, and was intended to cover only the North Sea, not both the North Sea and Skagerrak.

5.14.4 In view of this, the Delegations agreed to establish TACs in 2016 based on TACs in 2015 in both areas. These TACs are adjusted by 2.6% in the North Sea and by 17% in the Skagerrak in order to take into account the inclusion of plaice in the EU landing obligation in 2016, resulting in TACs of 11,766 tonnes in the Skagerrak and 131,714 tonnes in the North Sea.

### 5.15 Herring

5.15.1 The Delegations noted that ICES has evaluated the long-term management strategy (Annex IV) and considers it to be precautionary.

5.15.2 The Delegations consequently agreed to establish a TAC in line with this management strategy of 518,242 tonnes for 2016. The Delegations concluded that the

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by-catches of herring in other fisheries would be limited to 13,382 tonnes in 2016 by applying the 15 % constraint in the management strategy; this quota will be allocated to the EU.

- 5.15.3 The Norwegian Delegation stated that as a principle all landings should be counted against ordinary TACs, instead of having additional by-catch quotas (as for the North Sea herring). With the EU landing obligation fully implemented, by-catches in general will be landed and counted against national quotas. There should thus be no need for an exemption for North Sea herring.

## **6 OTHER JOINT STOCKS (NOT JOINTLY MANAGED)**

- 6.1 The Delegations noted the previous joint work undertaken on sandeel, Norway pout, anglerfish and horse mackerel in the North Sea and Skagerrak. They acknowledged that additional work is required before the Parties can take any decisions on allocation.

- 6.2 The Norwegian delegation also noted that hake has started to occur in significant quantities in the North Sea, and that the stock should be subject to joint management as well as allocation between the Parties.

### **6.3 Sandeel**

- 6.3.1 The Norwegian Delegation informed the EU Delegation that the Norwegian system used for managing sandeel in Norwegian waters based on spatial management of the stock in order to prevent local depletion in the Norwegian Economic Zone, has been evaluated. Based on this evaluation Norway will continue using and developing the existing management regime for sandeel, with possible amendments to the delimitation of the management areas.

- 6.3.2 The EU Delegation stated that the TAC for 2016 would be fixed on the basis of ICES advice following the dredge surveys carried out during the fourth quarter of 2015.

- 6.3.3 The Delegations noted that ICES will arrange a benchmark meeting on sandeel in October 2016.

### **6.4 Anglerfish**

- 6.4.1 The Delegations took note of the ICES advice for 2016 stating that catches of anglerfish could be increased by 20% in relation to the average over the last three years. They agreed that management should ensure the improvement of the exploitation pattern, especially in the view of the strong 2013 year class, through, *inter alia*, increased minimum mesh sizes, reduced discards, protection of juveniles and appropriate measures to counter ghost fishing. The Delegations recognised the need for improved scientific knowledge of the stock and enhanced scientific co-operation.

### **6.5 Horse Mackerel**

- 6.5.1 The Norwegian Delegation stated that the Parties should try to develop joint long-term management strategies for all joint stocks, including horse mackerel. In the absence of a joint long-term management strategy Norway will also for 2016 establish regulatory measures for this stock in the Norwegian Economic Zone.

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6.5.2 The EU Delegation stated that it would continue to manage the horse mackerel stock consistent with  $F_{msy}$  advice.

## 6.6 Norway pout

6.6.1 The EU Delegation stated its intention to set the TAC according to a strategy based on an escapement biomass of 150,000 tonnes, which provides for a TAC within the range of 20,000 to 200,000 tonnes, with the additional constraint of a ceiling on fishing mortality of 0.6.

6.6.2 In the light of the latest ICES advice, catches in 2016 should not exceed 390,000 tonnes. The EU Delegation informed the Norwegian Delegation of its intention of setting its quota based on the strategy outlined in paragraph 6.6.1. It would therefore assume a nominal TAC of 200,000 tonnes in 2015, corresponding to a fishing mortality of 0.28 and resulting in an EU quota of 150,000 tonnes.

6.6.3 The EU Delegation reminded the Norwegian Delegation of its intention during 2016 to change the TAC year for Norway pout to 1 November – 31 October.

6.6.4 The Norwegian Delegation informed the EU Delegation that Norway will establish a quota for 2016 based on the latest ICES advice.

## 7 EXCHANGE OF FISHING POSSIBILITIES

### 7.1 Capelin in ICES Area XIV

7.1.1 The Delegations referred to the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between the European Union and Norway, signed in Brussels on 21 May 2015, whereby Norway was granted fishing possibilities for capelin during 2015. The Delegations agreed that in view of the possible inability of Norway to catch its full entitlement of 20,000 tonnes of capelin during 2015 as a result of a reduction in the fishing possibilities agreed by Coastal States, the EU will ensure that appropriate compensation would be made available to Norway for the quotas that could not be caught.

### 7.2 Blue whiting

7.2.1 The Delegations regretted the absence of an agreement between Coastal States on a blue whiting arrangement for 2016.

7.2.2 The EU Delegation noted that ICES have advised a catch level of 776,391 tonnes for 2016, which is equivalent to the  $F_{msy}$  level and that the EU is committed, when setting its unilateral quotas for 2016, to applying this advice.

7.2.3 Taking into account the reduction in the TAC for 2016 compared to the TAC in 2015, the Union will restrict the transfer of blue whiting to Norway to 50,000 tonnes.

7.2.4 Should additional fishing possibilities for blue whiting become available to the Union for 2016, the Delegations agreed that, before 15 January 2016, the Union may consider offering Norway an additional quota of blue whiting for 2016.

7.2.5 The Delegations agreed that, should the transfer take place, and in order to ensure transparency and efficient functioning of these transfers, for every additional

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10,000 tonnes of blue whiting transferred to Norway, Norway will transfer to the Union:

- An additional quantity of 1,000 tonnes of Arcto-Norwegian cod and Arcto-Norwegian haddock in ICES Areas I and II of the Norwegian Zone. This transfer shall be in the same proportions as in the exchange of fishing possibilities for 2016 contained in this Agreed Record.
- Additional quantities of the following species: 150 tonnes of ling; and 200 tonnes of "others" quota to be fished in Norwegian waters of ICES Area IV (North Sea), and equivalent to 250 tonnes of cod equivalents.

### 7.3 Redfish in the Norwegian Economic Zone

7.3.1 The Delegations referred to the enlargement of the European Union in 1986 and welcomed the continued commitment made by Norway to facilitate this enlargement under the terms of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters signed at Oporto on 2 May 1992, which includes an allocation to the EU of 1,500 tonnes of redfish north of 62°N outside the balance of the bilateral fisheries agreement.

7.3.2 The Norwegian Delegation pointed out that ICES for more than a decade has advised zero-catch. Thus the Coastal States to the redfish stock, Norway and Russia, have for years implemented strong conservation measures, including a ban on directed fishing for all redfish as well as special protective measures for juveniles. This precautionary regime has resulted in a stock increase, allowing a small part of the stock to migrate into international waters for a few months during the year, thereby opening up for a fishery in international waters. In spite of the ICES-advice the Union initiated a fishery on the stock.

7.3.3 The Norwegian Delegation stated that it deeply regrets the Union's approach in NEAFC to the management of redfish in international waters in ICES sub-area I and II, which seems to be without any regard for sustainability and duty to establish conservation measures commensurate with those of the Coastal States. On the contrary, the Union's behavior continue to undermine the Coastal States' long-term conservation and management efforts.

7.3.4 In 2009 a joint zonal attachment report was produced by scientists from all parties. This report stipulates a zonal attachment for NEAFC waters of no more than 5.9% of the stock. Regardless of that, the Union have fixed unilateral quotas amounting to as much 65% of the recommended TAC in 2015, technically leaving only a small share for the Coastal States. Moreover, the fact that its vessels only have been able to fish a fraction of this quota illustrates that the level of EUs unilateral quota is out of proportion with the availability of redfish in international waters.

7.3.5 The EU Delegation expressed its regret at the current impasse on the adoption of a NEAFC measure for this stock for 2016. This situation was primarily due to the decision taken by two Coastal States, namely Norway and the Russian Federation, to abrogate for themselves the vast majority of the stock, leaving a minor quantity to cover fisheries in ICES Sub-Areas I and II of the NEAFC Regulatory Area. Furthermore, the EU Delegation noted that one of the Coastal States has for years been prosecuting very damaging redfish fisheries in the Irminger Sea.

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- 7.3.6 The EU Delegation noted that there is an obligation in international law to co-operate on straddling stocks and considers that the action of the two Coastal States in question did not conform to that requirement. The Union remains open to discuss with all NEAFC Parties an agreed solution. It was in that spirit that it had co-sponsored a proposed recommendation to fix a lower TAC for international waters at the recent NEAFC Annual Meeting.

#### **7.4 Other species quota**

- 7.4.1 The Delegations noted that catches of hake constitutes the majority of catches counted against the "others" quotas.

### **8 EXPLORATORY FISHERIES**

- 8.1 The EU Delegation expressed the interest of some EU operators in exploring the potential of under-utilised resources evolving in Norwegian waters, such as crab and prawns. The EU Delegation invited the Norwegian authorities to examine duly motivated requests transmitted by EU operators and to issue where justified fishing authorizations for exploratory campaigns subject to the applicable conditions. The provision of existing scientific and other basic information to interested operators would be much appreciated.

- 8.2 The Norwegian Delegation stated that this subject is outside the scope of this Agreed Record and referred to the website of the Directorate of Fisheries for further information in this respect.

### **9 FULL UTILISATION OF QUOTAS**

- 9.1 The Delegations agreed that the Parties should consult in the event that the exhaustion of any quotas taken in a directed fishery or as a by-catch might prevent the full utilisation of established quotas.

### **10 CATCH INFORMATION**

- 10.1 Each Party shall, when appropriate and on request, inform the other Party of catches, by stock, made in its fishing zone by the vessels of the other Party, the information provided by Norway being broken down by flag.

### **11 TECHNICAL MEASURES**

- 11.1.1 The Delegations agreed on the importance of technical regulations that are both practical and effective. This will strengthen the legitimacy as well as the control and enforcement aspect of the regulations.

- 11.1.2 The Delegations noted the report from a Working Group on Harmonising Technical measures in the North Sea, which was presented at a meeting in Edinburgh in September 2013. The EU Delegation informed the Norwegian Delegation that the report has been taken into account in the formulation of a new technical measures proposal being developed by the European Commission.

- 11.1.3 The EU Delegation informed the Norwegian Delegation that the European Commission intends to adopt this proposal in early 2016. The proposal will basically consist of a framework covering all regions. It concentrates on changing the governance

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model to allow for regionalisation and limits changes to the substance to simplification by removing redundant measures and rationalising others.

11.1.4 Both Delegations recognised the significance of these changes and agreed to meet during 2016 in order to ensure full transparency, on the content of this proposal.

11.1.5 The Norwegian Delegation welcomed this development and hoped that these measures would result in significant reduction of discard. It also noted that there are number of exemptions from the landing obligation, and that the landing obligation will be implemented over a period of time until fully implemented in 2019.

11.1.6 Furthermore, the Norwegian Delegation brought attention to the fact that most of the commercially important stocks in the North Sea, are joint stocks. Therefore, the Parties should aim at harmonising the technical regulations to the extent possible.

## **11.2 Real Time Closures**

11.2.1 The Delegations consider that it is of great importance to continue the Real Time Closure (RTC) systems to protect small fish and juveniles, and furthermore that they will continue to share information on the operation of the RTC systems.

11.2.2 The Norwegian Delegation informed the EU Delegation that new technical regulations in the Pandalus fishery in the North Sea and Skagerrak will be introduced 1 January 2016 (i.e. establishment of a Real Time Closure system).

11.2.3 The Norwegian Delegation informed the EU Delegation that the RTC system applied in Norwegian waters may be further reviewed in 2016.

## **12 CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT**

### **12.1 Control measures for pelagic fisheries**

12.1.1 The Delegations agreed that it was of great importance to follow up the implementation of the measures agreed between the European Community, the Faroe Islands and Norway on 1 July 2009 regarding control measures in the fisheries for pelagic species (mackerel, herring and horse mackerel), which came into force from 1 January 2010. The measures agreed are set down in Annex IX.

12.1.2 The Delegations also noted that the Parties in 2014 had agreed on revised measures concerning weighing and inspection of pelagic landings. The measures are set out in Annex X. The EU Delegation noted that these measures have now been incorporated into EU legislation.

### **12.2 Cooperation, exchange of information and inspectors**

12.2.1 The Delegations agreed that dynamic cooperation on monitoring, control and surveillance related issues between the inspections services of both Parties is important to achieve level playing field and increased compliance.

12.2.2 The Delegations stated that exchanging relevant data and information would improve risk management by both Parties, taking into account an increased demand for cost effectiveness in monitoring, control and surveillance.

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12.2.3 The Delegations expressed satisfaction with the operational collaboration between their respective control authorities and encouraged to continue such cooperation.

12.2.4 The Delegations agreed that the Parties could exchange officials as observers in relation to control and enforcement and that these may accompany inspectors from the other Party.

12.2.5 Furthermore, the Delegations agreed that the Parties, on an operational level, should exchange information and views regarding issues related to monitoring, control and surveillance of bilateral interest and facilitate meetings when appropriate.

12.2.6 The Delegations also agreed to explore the possibility of reconvening the Joint Operational Seminar. The Parties agreed to invite other Coastal States on joint stocks to the Seminar.

### **12.3 Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Working Group for 2016**

12.3.1 The Delegations noted a report from the Working Group reporting on the activity in 2015. The Working Group met two times, in addition to a planning meeting. Four fact-finding missions were carried out to Iceland, Denmark, and Norway (2). The Delegations endorsed the work of the Group, and the importance of cooperation between all relevant Parties related to monitoring and control of the pelagic fisheries.

12.3.2 The Delegations took note of the Terms of Reference of the Working Group for 2016 as set out in Annex XI.

### **12.4 Electronic reporting systems (ERS) and Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) for fishing vessels**

12.4.1 The Delegations noted that the quality of the data was improving and that ERS has given an improved basis for management, monitoring, control and surveillance, and for statistical and scientific purposes. However, the Delegations recognised that there is still room for improving and developing ERS.

12.4.2 The EU Delegation recalled the new reporting obligations in EU waters related to the landing obligation. Separate recording in the logbook of undersized fish is mandatory in EU waters. It informed the Norwegian Delegation that the new EU ERS legislation now foresees a push mechanism similar to Norwegian and NEAFC procedures. The EU foresees to report electronically using the format of the UN/CEFACT standard in 2017.

12.4.3 Furthermore, the Delegations recalled that an agreed record was signed in 2014 introducing a separate transportation layer to electronic exchange of data. It took note of the work of the Working Group of electronic reporting and recording experts in 2015 where it was agreed that VMS should be the first business content using the transportation layer. Consequently, the Agreed Record of Conclusions between Norway and the European Union on Issues Related to Satellite Tracking of Fishing Vessels signed by Norway 15 February 2013 and by the European Union 31 January 2013 needs to be revised.

12.4.4 Therefore, the Delegations agreed to continue the Working Group of electronic reporting and recording experts in 2016. The Delegations agreed that the main focus of

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the Working Group should be on installing and testing the transportation layer for electronic exchange of VMS data, and on the ERS format allowing the fulfilment of the business requirements in EU and Norway. The Working Group should meet before 31 May 2016 under the Terms of Reference set out in Annex XII.

12.4.5 The EU Delegation informed the Norwegian Delegation that bilateral discussions on exchange of electronic catch and activity data have been continued with the Faroe Islands and Greenland. These discussions aim at setting up a common electronic reporting system allowing a harmonised electronic exchange of catch and activity data. Furthermore, tests of data exchanges on the transportation layer have started with NEAFC and NAFO.

12.4.6 The Norwegian Delegation informed the EU Delegation that bilateral arrangement on exchange of electronic catch and activity data have been agreed with Faroe Islands, Iceland and Russia. These agreements are in line with the electronic reporting system that Norway and EU has committed to in the Agreed Record between Norway and EU on electronic exchange of catch and activity data. Furthermore, Norway have started discussions on exchange of electronic catch and activity data with Greenland.

12.4.7 The Delegations recalled that the Parties in 2015 agreed that the Agreed record of Conclusions of Fisheries Consultations between Norway and the European Union on Electronic Exchange of Catch and Activity data, signed in Bergen on 23 February 2010, and updated in Brussels on 14 November 2011, shall apply for all vessels above 12 meters from 1 October 2015.

12.4.8 The Norwegian Delegation informed the EU Delegation that a general requirement to send a POR report when entering Norwegian ports is introduced in 2015 for vessels flying the flag of EU member states.

### 13 NOTIFICATION OF NEW LEGISLATION

13.1 In view of the importance of each Party communicating in a timely manner the introduction of new fisheries legislation and, in particular, of the need to provide such information in an expeditious manner to fishermen from both Parties, the Delegations agreed to devote renewed attention to the respect of this principle.

### 14 UNITED KINGDOM – FAROE ISLANDS SPECIAL AREA

14.1 With regard to Norwegian vessels fishing in the Special Area between the EU fishing zone (United Kingdom waters) and the Faroe Islands fishing zone, the following rules shall apply:

- (1) Vessels fishing in the Special Area shall comply with all relevant fishery rules established by the Party issuing a fishing licence for that vessel.
- (2) If a vessel has obtained a fishing licence from both Parties, the vessel shall report its total catches in the Special Area to both Parties. The catches shall be deducted from the quotas allocated by each Party, divided equally between them. If the quota allocated by one Party is exhausted, the catches shall be deducted from the quota allocated by the other Party.
- (3) Catches taken in the Special Area shall be registered in the logbook.

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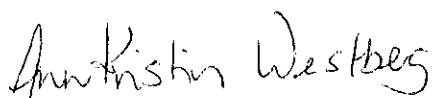
(4) Vessels fishing in the Special Area shall be equipped with VMS and be subject to control by the Party or Parties issuing the fishing licence.

14.2 The EU Delegation, furthermore, informed Norway that a specific hail-in and hail-out system for the Special Area will be introduced as soon as possible.

14.3 The Delegations agreed to continue to examine practical solutions in regard to technical regulations in the Special Area, which are applicable to any vessel, which has obtained a fishing licence from either Party.

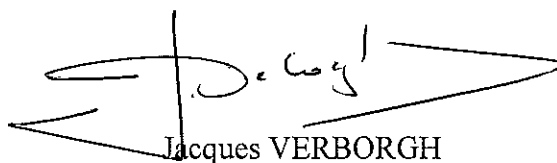
14.4 The Norwegian Delegation informed the EU Delegation that this arrangement has created some uncertainties in the Norwegian fleet in relation to reporting routines, and requested the EU Delegation to consult the Faroese Authorities in order to provide a joint guidance on this issue. The Delegations agreed that the issue would be addressed in the MCS Working Group.

For the Norwegian Delegation



Ann Kristin WESTBERG

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Jacques VERBORGH

## RECOVERY AND LONG TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR COD

The Strategy covers an initial recovery phase as well as a long-term management phase and shall consist of the following elements.

### *Objective*

1. The Parties agree to restrict their fishing on the basis of TACs consistent with a fishing mortality rate that maximises long-term yield and maintains spawning stock biomass above  $B_{pa}$ .

### *Transitional arrangement*

2. The fishing mortality will be reduced by setting a TAC at a level not exceeding that corresponding to a fishing mortality which is a fraction of the estimate of fishing mortality on appropriate age groups in 2008 as follows: 75% for the TACs in 2009, 65% for the TACs in 2011, and applying successive decrements of 10% for the following years.

The transitional phase ends (and will not apply) as from the first year in which the long-term management arrangement (paragraphs 3, 4 and 6) leads to a higher TAC than the transitional arrangement.

### *Long-term management*

3. If the size of the stock on 1 January of the year prior to the year of application of the TACs is:
  - a. Above the precautionary spawning biomass level, the TACs shall correspond to a fishing mortality rate of 0.4 on appropriate age groups;
  - b. Between the minimum spawning biomass level and the precautionary spawning biomass level, the TACs shall not exceed a level corresponding to a fishing mortality rate on appropriate age groups equal to the following formula:
 
$$0.4 - (0.2 * (\text{Precautionary spawning biomass level} - \text{spawning biomass}) / (\text{Precautionary spawning biomass level} - \text{minimum spawning biomass level}))$$
  - c. At or below the limit spawning biomass level, the TAC shall not exceed a level corresponding to a fishing mortality rate of 0.2 on appropriate age groups.
4. Notwithstanding paragraphs 2 and 3, the TAC for 2011 and subsequent years shall not be set at a level that is more than 20% below or above the TACs established in the previous year.
5. When scientific advice indicates that the application of the rules set out in paragraphs 2 to 4 is not appropriate to meet the objectives of the strategy, the Parties may, notwithstanding

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the above mentioned provisions, decide on an alternative TAC level.

6. Where the stock has been exploited at a fishing mortality rate close to 0.4 during three successive years, the parameters of this strategy shall be reviewed on the basis of advice from ICES in order to ensure exploitation at maximum sustainable yield.
7. The TAC shall be calculated by deducting the following quantities from the total removals of cod that are advised by ICES as corresponding to the fishing mortality rates consistent with the management strategy:
  - a. A quantity of fish equivalent to the expected discards of cod from the stock concerned;
  - b. A quantity corresponding to other relevant sources of cod mortality.
8. The Parties agree to adopt values for the minimum spawning biomass level (70,000 tonnes), the precautionary biomass level (150,000 tonnes) and to review these quantities as appropriate in the light of ICES advice.

***Procedure for setting TACs in data-poor circumstances***

9. If, due to a lack of sufficiently precise and representative information, it is not possible to implement the provisions in paragraphs 3 to 7, the TAC will be set according to the following procedure.
  - a. If the scientific advice recommends that the catches of cod should be reduced to the lowest possible level the TAC shall be reduced by 25% with respect to the TAC for the preceding year.
  - b. In all other cases the TAC shall be reduced by 15% with respect to the TAC for the previous year, unless the scientific advice recommends otherwise.

This arrangement entered into force on 1 January 2013 and shall be reviewed no later than 31 December 2015.

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## LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR HADDOCK

The Parties agreed to implement a long-term management strategy for the haddock stock in the North Sea and Skagerrak. The objective of the strategy is to provide for sustainable fisheries with high and stable yields in conformity with the precautionary approach.

The strategy shall consist of the following elements:

1. Every effort shall be made to maintain a minimum level of Spawning Stock Biomass greater than 100,000 tonnes ( $B_{lim}$ ).
2. For 2009 and subsequent years the Parties agreed to restrict their fishing on the basis of a TAC consistent with a fishing mortality rate of no more than 0.3 for appropriate age-groups, when the SSB in the end of the year in which the TAC is applied is estimated above 140,000 tonnes ( $B_{pa}$ ).
3. Where the rule in paragraph 2 would lead to a TAC, which deviates by more than 15 % from the TAC of the preceding year, the Parties shall establish a TAC that is no more than 15% greater or 15% less than the TAC of the preceding year.
4. Where the SSB referred to in paragraph 2 is estimated to be below  $B_{pa}$  but above  $B_{lim}$  the TAC shall not exceed a level which will result in a fishing mortality rate equal to  $0.3 \cdot 0.2 \cdot (B_{pa} - SSB) / (B_{pa} - B_{lim})$ . This consideration overrides paragraph 3.
5. Where the SSB referred to in paragraph 2 is estimated to be below  $B_{lim}$  the TAC shall be set at a level corresponding to a total fishing mortality rate of no more than 0.1. This consideration overrides paragraph 3.
6. In the event that ICES advises that changes are required to the precautionary reference points  $B_{pa}$  (140,000t) or  $B_{lim}$ , (100,000t) the Parties shall meet to review paragraphs 1-5.
7. In order to reduce discarding and to increase the spawning stock biomass and the yield of haddock, the Parties agreed that the exploitation pattern shall, while recalling that other demersal species are harvested in these fisheries, be improved in the light of new scientific advice from *inter alia* ICES.
8. No later than 31 December 2014, the Parties shall review the arrangements in paragraphs 1 to 7 in order to ensure that they are consistent with the objective of the strategy. This review shall be conducted after obtaining *inter alia* advice from ICES concerning the performance of the strategy in relation to its objective.

This arrangement entered into force on 1 January 2009.

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**LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR SAITHE**

The Parties agreed to implement a long-term management strategy for the saithe stock in the Skagerrak, the North Sea and west of Scotland, which is consistent with a precautionary approach and designed to provide for sustainable fisheries and high yields.

The strategy shall consist of the following elements:

1. Every effort shall be made to maintain a minimum level of Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) greater than 106,000 tonnes ( $B_{lim}$ ).
2. Where the SSB is estimated to be above 200,000 tonnes the Parties agreed to restrict their fishing on the basis of a TAC consistent with a fishing mortality rate of no more than 0.30 for appropriate age groups.
3. Where the SSB is estimated to be below 200,000 tonnes but above 106,000 tonnes, the TAC shall not exceed a level which, on the basis of a scientific evaluation by ICES, will result in a fishing mortality rate equal to  $0.30 - 0.20 \cdot (200,000 - SSB) / 94,000$ .
4. Where the SSB is estimated by the ICES to be below the minimum level of SSB of 106,000 tonnes the TAC shall be set at a level corresponding to a fishing mortality rate of no more than 0.1.
5. Where the rules in paragraphs 2 and 3 would lead to a TAC, which deviates by more than 15% from the TAC of the preceding year the Parties, shall fix a TAC that is no more than 15% greater or 15% less than the TAC of the preceding year.
6. Notwithstanding paragraph 5 the Parties may where considered appropriate reduce the TAC by more than 15% compared to the TAC of the preceding year.
7. A review of this arrangement shall take place no later than 31 December 2015.

This arrangement entered into force on 1 January 2009.

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**LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR HERRING  
OF NORTH SEA ORIGIN AND ALLOCATION OF CATCHES**

The Parties agreed to continue to implement the management system for North Sea herring, which entered into force on 1 January 1998 and which is consistent with a precautionary approach and designed to ensure a rational exploitation pattern and provide for stable and high yields. This system consists of the following:

1. Every effort shall be made to maintain a minimum level of Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) greater than 800,000 tonnes ( $B_{lim}$ ).
2. Where the SSB is estimated to be above 1.5 million tonnes the Parties agree to set quotas for the directed fishery and for by-catches in other fisheries, reflecting a fishing mortality rate of no more than 0.26 for 2 ringers and older and no more than 0.05 for 0 - 1 ringers.
3. Where the SSB is estimated to be below 1.5 million tonnes but above 800,000 tonnes, the Parties agree to set quotas for the directed fishery and for by-catches in other fisheries, reflecting a fishing mortality rate on 2 ringers and older equal to:  

$$0.26 - (0.16 * (1,500,000 - SSB) / 700,000)$$
 for 2 ringers and older, and  
 no more than 0.05 for 0 - 1 ringers
4. Where the SSB is estimated to be below 800,000 tonnes the Parties agree to set quotas for the directed fishery and for by-catches in other fisheries, reflecting a fishing mortality rate of less than 0.1 for 2 ringers and older and of less than 0.04 for 0-1 ringers.
5. Where the rules in paragraphs 2 and 3 would lead to a TAC which deviates by more than 15% from the TAC of the preceding year the parties shall fix a TAC that is no more than 15% greater or 15% less than the TAC of the preceding year. However, if the resulting fishing mortality rate would be more than 10% higher or more than 10% lower than that indicated by the rules in paragraphs 2 and 3, the TAC shall be fixed at a level corresponding to a fishing mortality that is respectively 10% higher or 10% lower than that indicated by the rules of paragraphs 2 and 3.
6. Notwithstanding paragraph 5 the Parties may, where considered appropriate, reduce the TAC to a level that corresponds to a fishing mortality more than 10% lower than that indicated by the rules of paragraphs 2 and 3.
7. By-catches of herring may only be landed in ports where adequate sampling schemes to effectively monitor the landings have been set up. All catches landed shall be deducted from the respective quotas set, and the fisheries shall be stopped immediately in the event that the quotas are exhausted.
8. The allocation of the TAC for the directed fishery for herring shall be 29% to Norway and 71% to the EU. The by-catch quota for herring shall be allocated to the EU.
9. A review of this arrangement shall take place no later than 31 December 2017

This arrangement shall enter into force on 1 January 2015.

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**LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR WHITING IN THE NORTH SEA**

The Parties agreed to implement a long-term management strategy for the whiting stock in the North Sea, which is consistent with a precautionary approach and designed to provide for sustainable fisheries and high yields.

The strategy shall consist of the following elements:

1. The Parties shall establish a TAC that is consistent with a fishing mortality rate of no more than 0.15 for appropriate age groups.
2. Where the rule in paragraph 1 would lead to a TAC, which deviates by more than 15% from the TAC of the preceding year, the Parties shall establish a TAC that is no more than 15% greater or 15% less than the TAC of the preceding year.
3. A review of this arrangement shall take place no later than 31 December 2017.

This arrangement entered into force on 1 January 2014.

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**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE MANAGEMENT OF PLAICE IN THE  
NORTH SEA AND SKAGERRAK**

The Working Group on Management Measures for the management of plaice in the North Sea and Skagerrak should meet before 1 June 2016. The Working Group shall consist of managers and scientists.

Taking into account the advice given by ICES for plaice in ICES Subarea IV and Division IIIa, the Working Group shall develop and recommend alternative methods to split a joint TAC into separate TACs for Subarea IV and Division IIIa taking into account potential variations in distribution of the stock.

The Working Group shall submit its report to the Parties before 1 October 2016.

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## CONDITIONS FOR FISHERIES BY THE PARTIES IN 2016

### I. JOINT STOCKS

1. The Total Allowable Catches (TACs) for the stocks mentioned in Table 1 for 2016 shall be as indicated in that table. If ICES make new scientific recommendations, the Parties will review these TACs.
2. The TACs referred to in paragraph 1 shall be divided between the Parties as indicated in Table 1.
3. Each Party shall inform the other Party of allocations granted to third countries for fishing on the stocks referred to in Table 1.
4. The Parties shall supply each other with monthly catch statistics for fishing on the stocks referred to in Table 1 by their own vessels. Communication of these statistics for the preceding month shall take place at the latest on the last day of each month.

### II. OTHER STOCKS

Each Party shall authorise fishing by vessels of the other Party for the stocks mentioned in Tables 2 to 4 within the quotas set out in these tables.

### III. LICENSING

1. Licensing by either Party of the other Party's vessels in 2016 shall be limited to the following fisheries.
  - A. EU fishing in the Norwegian Economic Zone:
    - all fishing north of 62° N;
    - all industrial fishing and fishing for mackerel in the North Sea;
    - all other fishing with vessels over 200 GRT in the North Sea.
  - B. Norwegian fishing in the EC zone and in Greenland waters:
    - all fishing in NAFO Sub-area 1 and ICES Sub-area XIV and Division Va;
    - all fishing in the EU's fishing zone with vessels over 200 GRT.

For 2016, the number of licences and the conditions of those licences shall be in accordance with the Agreed Record of Conclusions on Licence Arrangements for 1995 between the European Community and Norway signed at Bergen on 13 May 1995.

2. The Parties shall notify each other, according to the types of fishing indicated above, the name and characteristics of the vessels for which licences may be issued.

It is agreed that the requirement for each Party's vessels to keep on-board a licence

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whilst fishing in the other Party's zone shall no longer apply.

3. Vessels, which were authorised to fish on 31 December 2015, may continue their activities in 2016.
4. Each Party shall submit to the other Party the names and characteristics of the other Party's vessels which will not be authorised to fish in its fishing zone the next month(s) as a consequence of an infringement of its rules.

#### **IV. FISHERY REGULATIONS**

1. The Parties will consult on fishery regulations in the North Sea, with a view to achieving, as far as possible, the harmonisation of regulatory measures in the zones of the two Parties.
2. A Party intending to introduce or amend fishery regulations, applicable to vessels of the other Party, shall inform the latter of such intentions with a notice of at least two weeks. Exceptionally, the introduction or amendment of fishery regulations, due to concentrations of young fish in limited areas, may be implemented with advance notice of one week. Consultations shall be held if so requested by either Party.

#### **V. CONSULTATIONS**

The two Parties will consult on the implementation of the arrangements set out herein.

#### **VI. IMPLEMENTATION**

In the event that the implementation of the fishery arrangements is delayed, the Parties agreed that the arrangements shall be subject to re-negotiation upon the request of either Party.

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## INTER-ANNUAL QUOTA FLEXIBILITY

1. The Inter-annual quota flexibility scheme as described in this Annex is applicable for the quotas of herring, haddock, saithe and plaice established in this Agreed Record.
2. 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. This quantity cannot be transferred further to the quotas for subsequent years.
3. 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.
4. Complete catch statistics and quotas for the previous year should be made available to the other Party no later than 1 April in the format as set out below. 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.
5. The inter-annual quota flexibility scheme should be terminated if the stock is estimated to be under the precautionary biomass level ( $B_{pa}$ ) and the fishing mortality is estimated to be above the precautionary mortality level ( $F_{pa}$ ) the following year, or if the SSB is estimated to be below  $B_{pa}$  in two consecutive years.

## REPORTING OF QUOTAS AND CATCHES

	Quotas for 2016	Catches in 2016	Transfers to 2017	Quotas in 2017	Quotas after transfers in 2017
Norway					
European Union					
Total					

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**MEASURES TO BE MONITORED CONCERNING SLIPPING, DISCARDS  
AND HIGH-GRADING OF PELAGIC SPECIES**

The Delegations agreed that the following control measures shall be applied in fisheries for mackerel, herring and horse mackerel:

1. High grading (*discarding of fish which can be landed legally*) of these species is banned throughout the entire migratory range of the stocks in the North-East Atlantic.
2. Slipping (*releasing the fish before the net is fully taken on board the fishing vessel, resulting in the loss of dead or dying fish*) of these species is banned throughout the entire migratory range of the stocks in the North-East Atlantic.
3. Fishing vessels shall move their fishing grounds when the haul contains more than 10% of undersized fish (*below the minimum landing sizes or the minimum catching sizes*) of these species.
4. The maximum space between bars in the water separator on board fishing vessels shall be 10mm. The bars must be welded in place. If holes are used in the water separator instead of bars, the maximum diameter of the holes must not exceed 10mm. Holes in the chutes before the water separator must not exceed 15mm in diameter.
5. The possibility to discharge fish under the water line of the vessel from buffer tanks or RSW tanks shall be prohibited.
6. Drawings related to catch handling and to discharge capabilities of the vessels, which are certified by the competent authorities of the flag State, as well as any modifications thereto shall be sent to the competent fisheries authorities of the flag State. The competent authorities of the flag State of the vessel shall carry out periodic verifications of the accuracy of the drawings submitted. Copies shall be carried on board at all times.
7. Unless fish is frozen on board the vessel, the carrying or use on board a fishing vessel of equipment, which is capable of automatically grading by size herring, mackerel or horse mackerel, is prohibited. In the case of fish being frozen on board, the fish shall be frozen immediately after grading.

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**MEASURES TO BE APPLIED CONCERNING THE  
WEIGHING AND INSPECTION OF PELAGIC LANDINGS**

The Delegations agreed that the following measures shall be applied to the weighing and inspection of landings exceeding 10 tonnes of mackerel, herring, blue whiting and horse mackerel:

1. All quantities of fresh herring, mackerel, blue whiting and horse mackerel landed must be weighed before sorting and processing. When determining the weight, any deduction for water shall not exceed 2% for landings for human consumption and 0% for landings for industrial purposes.
2. For fish landed frozen the weight shall be determined by weighing all the boxes minus the tare weight (cardboard and plastic) or by multiplying the total number of boxes landed by the average weight of the boxes minus tare weight landed in the same shipment calculated in accordance with an agreed sampling methodology.
3. Landings shall take place in designated ports. Masters of fishing vessels shall submit prior notice of landing including notification of catch on board and submit the estimated catch information to the competent authorities before commencing the discharge of catch.
4. The processor or buyer of the fish shall submit sales information for the payment of the quantities landed to the competent authorities. In cases where fish is placed in storage for a period of time after landings before being sold, information on the catch (weighing note/landing declaration, etc.) should be submitted to the competent authorities.
5. A minimum of 5% of landings and 7.5% of the quantities landed for each species should be subject to a full inspection. This should be based on a risk assessment. A full inspection shall also include cross checks of prior notifications and information submitted to competent authorities of estimated catch, weighing and sales information.

In the case of vessels pumping catch ashore the weighing of the entire discharge from the vessels selected for inspection shall be monitored and a cross-check undertaken between the quantities by species recorded in the landing declaration or sales note and the record of weighing held by the buyer or processor of the fish.

In the case of freezer trawlers, the counting of boxes shall be monitored. The sample weighing of boxes/pallets carried out in order to determine the tare weight shall also be monitored.

It shall be verified that the vessel is empty, once the discharge has been completed.

6. In each case where the checks reveal a significant discrepancy it shall be followed up as an infringement.

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**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR  
A MONITORING, CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE (MCS)  
WORKING GROUP FOR 2016**

The Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Working Group should meet before 1 April 2016 under the Terms of Reference described below:

The Working Group should submit its report to the Parties well in advance of the Coastal State consultations for 2017. Representatives of the Parties should meet no later than 31 January 2016 to plan the activity of the Working Group in 2016.

The objective of the Working Group should be to establish best practice in monitoring, control and surveillance both at sea and on land, with the goal of securing level playing field for fisheries on pelagic stocks such as mackerel, Norwegian spring-spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring, blue whiting and horse mackerel.

The Working Group should be composed of operative MCS experts.

The MCS Working Group should:

- 1) Conduct fact finding missions concerning;
  - a. Sea-going missions focusing on slipping, discards and high grading, by catch issues and other relevant issues in the context of MCS; and
  - b. Missions on land focusing on weighing and inspections, by-catch issues and other relevant issues in the context of MCS;
- 2) Compare and consider findings in fact-finding missions reports with a view to propose harmonised practises and regulations between the Parties;
- 3) Follow up on the report from the Working Group in 2015 to further explore and present existing weighing systems used for pelagic landings and how these systems could be manipulated, hereunder further reflect which challenges need to be faced in the future by the Parties and propose appropriate measures to secure correct catch reporting;
- 4) Review and identify possible differences in current practices by individual Parties in relation to risk assessment strategies and identify possible differences between the Parties; and
- 5) Identify any common trends in non-compliance in the pelagic industry and elaborate on various methods to ensure detection of such infringements and on how this non-compliance could be mitigated.
- 6) Carry out a fact-finding exercise to identify elements that reduce water content in landings for industrial purposes.

If there are any other relevant issues, which the Working Group believes would result in a more efficient Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of pelagic fisheries, the Working Group could explore these as appropriate.

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**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUP ON  
ELECTRONIC REPORTING AND RECORDING EXPERTS FOR 2016**

The Delegations agreed that the Working Group on Electronic Reporting and Recording Experts should meet before 31 May 2016 under the Terms of Reference described below. After that the Working Group should meet as appropriate to closely follow and evaluate the development, tests performed and solve practical questions the Parties may encounter.

The Working Group should submit its report to the Parties well in advance of the annual consultations for 2017, and where appropriate make proposals for measures to be adopted in accordance with the agreed ERS format life cycle.

The Working Group shall:

- Follow up the implementation of the Agreed Record on a Transportation layer on exchange of electronic data signed by the Parties 20 June 2014, focusing on VMS data.
- Follow up the implementation of the agreed electronic reporting system between Norway and the European Union, to secure satisfactory exchange and increased quality of catch and activity data.
- Revise the arrangements set down in the Agreed Record of Conclusions of Fisheries Consultations between the European Union and Norway on Electronic exchange of catch and activity data of 14 November 2011, with a view to:
  - Allow for the new reporting in EU waters necessary for the landing obligation
  - Further harmonise business in EU, Norway and NEAFC, based on a push approach, complemented with an additional pull where needed.
  - Establish more harmonised technical procedures and specifications taking into account the use of the transportation layer and UN/CEFACT standards.

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**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR AN EU-NORWAY WORKING GROUP ON JOINT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES**

Taking into account the legislative framework under which each Party operates including commitments to a precautionary approach, the Working Group is requested to:

- a) Suggest common long term management objectives regarding, inter alia, exploitation rates, exploitation patterns and the avoidance of harmful effects of fishing activities for each of the stocks of cod, haddock, saithe, whiting and plaice in the North Sea and Skagerrak.
- b) Indicate the annual limitations on exploitation rate needed in order to meet those objectives.
- c) Identify additional management measures that might be needed in support of the objectives.
- d) Identify and describe conflicting management objectives including any conflicts that could arise in simultaneously trying to achieve the single species objectives for all the stocks concerned.

Based on its deliberations, the Working Group is asked to create one or more outline management strategies for each of the stocks concerned and to report to the Delegations by 1 June 2016.

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TABLE 1

## 2016 JOINT STOCK QUOTAS IN THE NORTH SEA

Species and ICES Area	TAC	Zonal Attachment <sup>(7)</sup>				Transfer from Norway to European Union <sup>(5)</sup>	Transfer from EU to Norway <sup>(5)</sup>	Quota to Norway		Quota to European Union	
		Norway		European Union				Total	EU Zone <sup>(1)</sup>	Total	Norwegian Zone <sup>(1)</sup>
				%	Tonnes			%	Tonnes		
Cod IV	33,651	17	5,721	83	27,930	-----	-----	5,721	5,721	27,930	24,276
Haddock IV	61,933 <sup>(2)</sup>	23	14,245	77	47,688		-----	14,245	14,245	47,688	35,473
Saithe IV, IIIa	65,696	52	34,162	48	31,534	-----	250	34,412	34,412	31,284	31,284
Whiting IV	13,678 <sup>(2)</sup>	10	1,368	90	12,310	300	-----	1,068	1,068	12,610	8,543
Plaice IV	131,714	7	9,220 <sup>(6)</sup>	93	122,494		-----	9,220	9,220	122,494	50,264
Herring IV, VIIId	518,242	29	150,290	71	367,952	-----	-----	150,290	50,000 <sup>(3)(4)</sup>	367,952	50,000 <sup>(4)</sup>

(1) Any part of this allocation not taken may be added to the allocation in the Party's own zone.

(2) TAC to include industrial by-catches.

(3) Limited to ICES Divisions IVa and IVb.

(4) An additional quantity of maximum 10,000 tonnes will be granted if such an increase is called for.

(5) The Delegations may consider in 2016 possible further transfers.

(6) Of which 300 tonnes may be fished in the Skagerrak

(7) Based on the Nantes Report

TABLE 2

## 2016 JOINT STOCK QUOTAS (NOT JOINTLY MANAGED)

SPECIES AND ICES AREA	QUOTA TO NORWAY IN THE EU ZONE (TONNES)	QUOTA TO EU IN THE NORWEGIAN ZONE (TONNES)
Norway pout	15,000 <sup>(10)</sup>	
Blue ling	150	
Ling	6,500 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	
Tusk	2,923 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	
Combined quota	140 <sup>(3)</sup>	
Shrimps		357
Horse mackerel	3,550 <sup>(4)</sup>	
Others	4,750 <sup>(5)</sup>	8,000 <sup>(6)</sup>
Sole	10	
Anglerfish		1,500
Norway lobster		1,000
Ling		950
Tusk		170
Saithe	500 <sup>(6)</sup>	
Blue Whiting	50,000 <sup>(7)(8)</sup>	

- (1) The quotas for ling and tusk are interchangeable of up to 2,000 tonnes and may only be fished with long-lines in ICES Division Vb and Sub-areas VI and VII.
- (2) Of which an incidental catch of other species of 25 % per vessel at any moment is permitted in ICES Sub-areas Vb, VI and VII. However, this percentage may be exceeded in the first 24 hours following the beginning of the fishing on a specific fishing ground. This total incidental catch of other species in Vb, VI and VII may not exceed 3,000 tonnes.
- (3) Fishing with long-lines for grenadiers, rat tails, mora mora and greater forkbeard.
- (4) This quota may be fished in ICES Division IVa.
- (5) Including fisheries not specifically mentioned; exceptions may be introduced after consultations as appropriate
- (6) North of 56°30'N.
- (7) Of which up to 500 tonnes of argentine (*Argentina spp.*) may be fished.
- (8) Of which up to 40,000 tonnes may be fished in ICES Division IVa.
- (9) West of 12°W.
- (10) Use of a sorting grid is obligatory

TABLE 3

## 2016 QUOTAS TO THE EU OF NORWEGIAN EXCLUSIVE STOCKS

SPECIES	ICES AREA	QUANTITY (TONNES)
Arcto-Norwegian cod	I, II	17,547
Arcto-Norwegian haddock	I, II	1,100
Saithe	I, II	2,550
Greenland halibut (by-catches)	I, II	50
Others (by-catches)	I, II	350

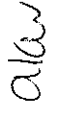



TABLE 4

**2016 QUOTAS TO NORWAY FROM EU EXCLUSIVE STOCKS  
AND FROM EU QUOTAS IN GREENLAND WATERS**

SPECIES	ICES AREA	QUANTITY (TONNES)
Sprat	IV	20,000
Greenland halibut	IIa, VI <sup>(1)</sup>	1,100
Shrimp	XIV, Va	2,000
Greenland halibut	NAFO I XIV, Va	575 575
Grenadier (by-catches)	NAFO I, XIV, Va	90
Redfish	XIV, Va	800 <sup>(2)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> In ICES Division VI with long-lines only.

<sup>(2)</sup> May be fished with pelagic trawls.

<sup>(3)</sup> May only be fished with long-lines.

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