

**AGREED RECORD OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN
THE EUROPEAN UNION AND NORWAY FOR 2015**

CLONAKILTY, 4 DECEMBER 2014

1 A European Union Delegation, headed by Mr John SPENCER, and a Norwegian Delegation, headed by Ms Ann Kristin WESTBERG, met in Clonakilty, Ireland from 1 to 4 December 2014 to consult on mutual fisheries relations for 2015. The meeting was a continuation of a previous meeting held in Bergen.

2 The Heads of Delegation agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the fishery arrangements for 2015 as outlined in this Agreed Record, including Annexes I to XII 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 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 London on 12 March 2014.

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.

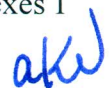
5 JOINTLY MANAGED STOCKS

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 Long-term management strategies

5.3.1 The Delegations reaffirmed their commitment to manage the jointly managed stocks in accordance with the long-term management strategies as set out in Annexes I to V.



5.3.2 The Delegations noted that ICES provides provisional mixed fisheries advice alongside its single stock advice. The Delegations recognised that the mixed fisheries approach needs further consideration by both Parties during 2015.

5.3.3 The Delegations agreed to review the long-term management strategies for cod and saithe, and develop a long-term management strategy for haddock. To that effect, the Delegations agreed that it would be necessary to hold preparatory meetings, including a preliminary dialogue with ICES, in advance of submitting any formal proposals. The joint proposals should be sent to ICES for evaluation no later than 1 June 2015 in the expectation of receiving the advice in late autumn 2015.

5.3.4 The Delegations noted that there was still no jointly agreed management strategy for North Sea plaice, and agreed to continue discussions during 2015.

5.4 Cod

5.4.1 The Norwegian Delegation stated that a revision to the cod management strategy will be needed. Such revision should include agreed measures beyond a TAC strategy and will recognise the need to rebuild all sub-stocks currently being included in the management unit. The strategy may include management measures such as closed areas in order to reduce by-catch of cod.

5.4.2 The EU Delegation agreed that a revision to the cod management strategy was required, but considered that the measures to be included in the strategy should be decided during the course of discussions between the Parties in 2015, and should therefore not be anticipated at these consultations.

5.4.3 The Delegations noted that according to the latest ICES assessment the fishing mortality on cod continues to decrease and that the spawning biomass in 2014 was in the vicinity of B_{lim} . Recruitment has been poor since 2000, and the level of discards is high, at round 28% in 2013.

5.4.4 The Norwegian Delegation noted that the discard level has increased to 28 % of total catch, and pointed out that this represents a major reason behind the poor performance of the management strategy for cod. Recent discards of large and marketable cod seem to be effectively reduced, but discard rates of 1 and 2 year-old cod are increasing. The 2013 discards represent almost 60% of the total catch in numbers. This represents a large amount of foregone catch. Therefore effective discard reducing measures are urgently needed.

5.4.5 The Delegations noted that applying the harvest control rules of the agreed management strategy for cod (Annex I) would result in a 20% decrease in the TAC in 2015 compared to 2014, corresponding to a 45% decrease in fishing mortality. This corresponds to a predicted 35% increase in SSB in 2016.

5.4.6 The EU Delegation considered that past experience had demonstrated that, in the absence of the landing obligation, very large reductions in fishing mortality for cod are unachievable in the mixed fishery context.

5.4.7 The EU Delegation noted that all of the catch options presented by ICES, from the 20% reduction implied by the strategy to the 31% TAC increase at the 2014 level of fishing mortality, would result in increases in spawning biomass during 2015. The EU

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delegation further noted that reductions in the TAC would generate a significant increase in discards, rather than a corresponding reduction in total catches and that ICES had confirmed this in 2013.

5.4.8 Based on the catch tabled provided by ICES, the Delegations agreed that the Parties would apply paragraph 5 of the Strategy, which states that the Parties can deviate from the harvest control rule if it is not appropriate to meet the objectives of the Strategy. The Delegations therefore agreed to set a TAC for 2015 at a level of 29,189 tonnes.

5.4.9 The Norwegian Delegation would have preferred to follow the harvest control rule of the management strategy, but in light of the current circumstances as described in the above paragraph, agreed that deviation from the harvest control rule of the Strategy could be defended.

5.4.10 The EU Delegation considered that the trials on fully documented fisheries represented an important initiative that facilitates the introduction of a discard ban in the EU for pelagic species from 1 January 2015 and for North Sea cod, haddock, saithe and whiting from 1 January 2016. The trials have already demonstrated behavioural changes in fishing practices that contribute to the reduction of discards and a diminution of fishing mortality. The EU Delegation proposed that the trials should be continued for a final year in 2015.

5.4.11 The Delegations agreed that an additional 12% is made available to the EU Member States share of the cod TAC in 2015 in order to facilitate the continuation of the trials. The Delegations agreed that 2015 would be the final year with additional quotas for this trial. Furthermore, the Delegations agreed that an additional 12% would be added to the Norwegian quota for cod in the North Sea and Skagerrak in 2015.

5.4.12 The Norwegian Delegation is still of the view that the trials do not give sufficient evidence on full documentation of the fishery and should therefore only be considered as a supplement to other control measures. There is grave concern that the quotas needed for these trials lead to catches higher than the TAC implied from agreed total landings. Such quotas should preferably have been covered by the ICES advice.

5.4.13 However, in light of the changes introduced in the reform of the CFP on the landing obligation, the Norwegian Delegation could accept a continuation of the extra quotas in relation to these trials in 2015, under the condition that 2015 would be the last year where the Parties added extra quotas for these trials.

5.5 Haddock

5.5.1 The Delegations noted that ICES has revised the stock definition merging haddock in Division VIa (West of Scotland) with haddock in Subarea IV and Division IIIa West. The Delegations agreed 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.

5.5.2 The Delegations noted that ICES now considers F_{msy} to be 0.35 rather than the figure of 0.3 that had been used in the strategy for North Sea haddock. This would result in a 12% increase in the advised TAC.

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5.5.3 The EU Delegation stated that since the actual fishing mortality in 2014 is estimated to be around 0.19, fully utilising such an increased TAC could almost double the current level of fishing mortality, and could therefore generate increased discard levels in cod, which is often caught together with haddock.

5.5.4 The Norwegian Delegation noted that an increased haddock quota would not lead to discards of cod from the Norwegian fleet, first and foremost because discarding is banned; moreover Norwegian vessels fishing for haddock shall adhere to the limitation on by-catch of cod.

5.5.5 The Delegations noted that there was some evidence of a strong recruiting year class to the haddock stock, which should be protected by means of additional measures by the Parties.

5.5.6 The Delegations agreed to set the TAC for 2015 at 40,711 tonnes.

5.5.7 The EU Delegation informed the Norwegian Delegation of its intention to set a TAC in 2015 for haddock in VIa of 4,536 tonnes.

5.6 Saithe

5.6.1 The Delegations noted that the SSB has been declining since 2005 with fishing mortality estimated to be at F_{msy} and SSB to be below B_{pa} .

5.6.2 The Delegations agreed that the TAC for saithe should be fixed in accordance with the agreed long-term management strategy (Annex III), which results in a TAC of 66,006 tonnes in 2015, which is a decrease of 15% compared to 2014.

5.6.3 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 6,848 tonnes.

5.7 Whiting

5.7.1 The Delegations agreed to set the TAC for 2015 according to the management strategy (Annex V) to 13,678 tonnes, which corresponds to a 15% decrease from 2014.

5.8 Plaice

5.8.1 The Delegations noted that the stock of plaice in the North Sea was now at its highest recorded level and that fishing mortality was well below F_{msy} .

5.8.2 The Delegations agreed to establish a TAC of 128,376 tonnes for 2015, which represents a 15% increase compared to 2014.

5.9 Herring

5.9.1 The Delegations noted that ICES had not been able to review the revised long-term management strategy for herring (Annex IV). However, as several of the elements of the Strategy had already been evaluated by ICES, the Delegation agreed to set the TAC for 2015 on the basis of the revised strategy.

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5.9.2 The Delegations consequently agreed to establish a TAC of 445,329 tonnes for 2015.

5.9.3 The Delegations concluded that the by-catches of herring in other fisheries would be limited to 15,744 tonnes in 2015; this quota will be allocated to the EU.

5.9.4 The Norwegian Delegation stated that this type of arrangement is an anomaly and not in line with sustainable practices and should be revised with a view to being phased out.

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 Sandeel

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

6.2.2 The EU Delegation stated that the TAC for 2015 would be fixed on the basis of ICES advice following the dredge surveys carried out during the fourth quarter of 2014.

6.3 Anglerfish

6.3.1 The Delegations took note of the ICES advice for 2015 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 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.

6.4 Horse Mackerel

6.4.1 The Norwegian Delegation noted that the EU is in the process of establishing a long-term management plan for the joint stock of horse mackerel. The Norwegian Delegation stated that ideally the Parties should try to develop joint long-term management strategies for joint stocks. In the absence of a joint long-term management strategy Norway would also for 2015 establish regulatory measures for this stock in the Norwegian Economic Zone.

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



6.5 Norway pout

- 6.5.1 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.
- 6.5.2 In the light of the latest ICES advice, catches in 2015 should not exceed 326,000 tonnes. The EU Delegation informed the Norwegian Delegation of its intention of setting its quota based on the strategy outlined in paragraph 6.5.1. It would therefore assume a nominal TAC of 200,000 tonnes in 2015, corresponding to a fishing mortality of 0.34 and resulting in an EU quota of 150,000 tonnes.
- 6.5.3 The EU Delegation reminded the Norwegian Delegation of its intention during 2015 to change the TAC year for Norway pout to 1 November – 31 October.
- 6.5.4 The Norwegian Delegation informed the EU Delegation that Norway will establish a quota for 2015 based on the latest ICES advice using the same methodology as in 2014.
- 6.5.5 The Norwegian Delegation stated that they would have preferred a joint management strategy between the Parties based on the recommendation from ICES, with the TAC being set within a range of minimum 27,000 tonnes and maximum 100,000 tonnes, as this would achieve stable TACs and at the same time keep the stock within safe biological limits. The Norwegian Delegation regretted that EU did not show interest in discussing a joint management approach at this junction.

7 EXCHANGE OF FISHING POSSIBILITIES

7.1 Capelin in ICES Area XIV

- 7.1.1 In the event that fishing possibilities for capelin are offered to the EU by Greenland in 2015, the EU shall offer Norway the first 20,000 tonnes of any capelin availability. In exchange for this transfer, Norway will grant 1,600 tonnes of cod equivalent for quantities of Arcto-Norwegian cod and Arcto-Norwegian haddock in ICES Areas I and II of the Norwegian Zone in the same proportions as in the exchange of fishing possibilities for 2015 contained in this Agreed Record, as well 400 tonnes of cod equivalent of stocks of interest to the Union in the North Sea.

7.2 Redfish in the Norwegian Economic Zone

- 7.2.1 The Delegations noted that in its advice for 2015 for *Sebastes mentella* in ICES Subareas I and II, ICES had recommended that the catch should not exceed 30,000 tonnes. This follows on from the advice for 24,000 tonnes for 2014, preceded by many years of recommendations for no directed fisheries.
- 7.2.2 The Delegations referred to the enlargement of the European Union in 1986 and to the 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.

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- 7.2.3 The EU Delegation recalled that in recent years, this provision had not been activated since the scientific advice recommended that only by-catches of redfish (*Sebastes mentella*) be permitted in view of the status of the stock. However, in its advice for 2014 and 2015, ICES signalled an abrupt change in its evaluation of the status of the stock, with its recommendation for catch levels of up to 30,000 tonnes for 2015.
- 7.2.4 The EU Delegation, noting that directed redfish fisheries were once again authorised in Norwegian waters, requested that the provisions, as set out in point 7.2.2 above, be activated.
- 7.2.5 In taking note of the statements of the EU Delegation, the Norwegian Delegation referred to the two Parties' common interest in the long-term health of the redfish stock.
- 7.2.6 Nevertheless, the Norwegian Delegation stated that the Union's approach to the redfish fisheries in the past years is not in compliance with the Coastal States' long-term conservation and management measures.
- 7.2.7 The Norwegian Delegation pointed out that the Coastal States to the redfish stock, Norway and Russia, for years have 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. Even though ICES for many years advised against any directed fishery on this stock, NEAFC still decided to open up for a directed fishery in its regulatory area. Norway, however, continued the ban on directed fishery for redfish in its own waters until 2014.
- 7.2.8 The Delegations agreed that further consultations on redfish are needed and that such consultations in the appropriate forum should take place in early 2015.

7.3 Other species quota

- 7.3.1 The Norwegian Delegation noted that catches of hake, within the "others quota" remains high, and constituted 72% of the catches in 2014, and informed the EU Delegation that Norway might consider the management of hake in Norwegian waters during 2015.

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

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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 DISCARDS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LANDING OBLIGATIONS

11.1 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.

11.2 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.

11.3 The EU Delegation informed the Norwegian delegation that under the new Common Fisheries Policy a landing obligation has been established and will be gradually implemented for all catches of species, which are subject to catch limits, caught during fishing activities in Union waters. The landing obligation will be introduced fishery by fishery according to timelines specified in the CFP, between 2015 and 2019.

11.4 The Norwegian Delegation was informed by the EU Delegation that limited exemptions and flexibility mechanisms are possible under the rules on the landing obligation. Specifically fishermen will be allowed to continue discarding species which, according to the best available scientific advice, have a high survival rate when released back into the sea, fish that are used for live bait, and species on which fishing is prohibited under EU law. In order to cater for unwanted catches that are unavoidable even when all the measures for their reduction are applied, limited exemptions ("*de minimis*") from the landing obligation should be established for the fisheries to which the landing obligation applies. It will also be permitted to count catches of by-catch species against the quota of the target species under conditions of good conservation status of the by-catch stocks, and to transfer limited quotas between years, up to a percentage of 10% for species under the landing obligation.

11.5 The EU Delegation outlined that in accordance with the rules on the landing obligations, discard plans are in the process of being established for pelagic fisheries with effect from 1 January 2015. The measures contained in these plans, which are intended to facilitate the implementation of the landing obligation, will be directly applicable to both EU and Norwegian fishermen from that date.

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- 11.6 The Norwegian Delegation noted that new requirements will be enforced from 1 January 2015. As these new requirements have not been notified the effect on the Norwegian fisheries in EU waters has not been assessed. The Norwegian Delegation requested to be informed in due time before such decisions are made.
- 11.7 The Norwegian Delegation noted that the CFP has been revised, and expressed that in its view, the new CFP should make it possible to largely improve the sustainability of the fishing sector in the EU. In particular the introduction of a landing obligation is seen as an important step, as well as increased focus on technical measures in order to reduce unwanted by-catches. The Norwegian Delegation noted that several exemptions from the landing obligations are foreseen. The detailed application of these exemptions has still to be decided upon. The Norwegian Delegation recommended that the EU ensure that these exemptions do not undermine the landing obligation.
- 11.8 The EU Delegation also informed the Norwegian Delegation that the new Common Fisheries Policy envisages a regionalised governance dimension under which Member States with a direct interest in a fishery can develop joint recommendations to the Commission, for adoption under Commission Acts. These joint recommendations and subsequent Commission Acts are circumscribed in Union legislation, such as multiannual plans or the new Common Fisheries Policy Regulation. Any transposition of joint recommendations shall result in Union legislation. The regionalized governance is without prejudice to international agreements. Where it concerns a fish stock shared with a third country, the Union shall consult on these measures with the relevant partner(s).
- 11.9 The EU Delegation confirmed that the landing obligations for the main demersal joint stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak would apply from 1 January 2016. The discard plans are currently being developed to ensure the practical implementation of the landing obligation. The Delegations agreed that in order to ensure transparency between the Parties, consultations would be held throughout 2015 on this issue.
- 11.10 The Norwegian Delegation noted that the Norwegian regulations on discard (discard ban) would remain in force for Norwegian vessels fishing in EU-waters, even though EU regulation might open up for exemptions to the landing obligation.

11.11 Future EU Technical Measures

- 11.11.1 The EU Delegation informed the Norwegian Delegation that the Commission intends to develop in 2015 a proposal for a new framework for technical measures. This framework will align the technical measures with the regionalised approach envisaged in the new CFP. It will also create an opportunity to bring about a general improvement in the selectivity of European fisheries to facilitate the implementation of the landing obligation, and to further the ecosystem-based approach.
- 11.11.2 Both Delegations recognised the significance of these changes and agreed to meet during 2015 in order to ensure full transparency, on the content of future legislation.
- 11.11.3 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 would be an input into a process that will start with a consultation process in the EU leading to a revised regulation on technical measures to be in force in 2015.



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11.11.4 In the first half of 2015, the EU Delegation will arrange a meeting between the Parties in order to discuss the status of the work on developing new technical regulations.

11.11.5 The Norwegian Delegation welcomed the invitation from the EU Delegation and pointed at the importance of cooperation between the Parties in such matters.

12 TECHNICAL MEASURES

12.1.1 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.

12.1.2 The Delegations recalled the decision of 2013 to establish a Working Group on gear technology to review all available information on selection measures in fishing gears, and noted the report from the Working Groups meeting held in Edinburgh 7 to 8 May 2013.

12.1.3 The Norwegian Delegation informed the EU Delegation that the same technical regulations (i.e. sorting grids) regarding fishing for *Pandalus* in the Norwegian zone in Skagerrak will be introduced in the Norwegian zone in the North Sea from 1 January 2015.

13 REAL TIME CLOSURES

13.1 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.

13.2 The Norwegian Delegation informed the EU Delegation that the RTC system applied in Norwegian waters may be reviewed in 2015.

14 CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT

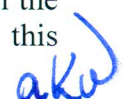
14.1 Control measures for pelagic fisheries

14.1.1 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.

14.2 Exchange of information and inspectors

14.2.1 The Delegations agreed that cooperation between the inspections services of both Parties, in particular through involvement of Norwegian inspection services in the operation of specific control and inspection programmes through bilateral contact between competent control authorities, could take place.

14.2.2 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 on missions related to the implementation of measures agreed in this Agreed Record.



14.2.3 Furthermore, the Delegations agreed that the Parties should exchange information and views regarding monitoring, control and surveillance issues of bilateral interest and agreed to facilitate meetings when appropriate.

14.3 **Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) Working Group for 2015**

14.3.1 The Delegations noted a report from the Working Group reporting on the activity in 2014. The Working Group met two times, in addition to a planning meeting. Five fact-finding missions were carried out to the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Ireland and Norway. 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. Furthermore they welcomed the proposal from the Working Group for revised measures to be applied concerning the weighing and inspection of pelagic landings.

14.3.2 The Delegations noted that for the proposed measures to be effective, it was essential that all Coastal States accept them. The measures represented a necessary step in order to further develop the harmonised landing control and agreed to implement the revised measures. The agreed revised measures concerning weighing and inspection of pelagic landings are set out in Annex X. The EU Delegation noted that adoption of these measures at EU level would take up to two years.

14.3.3 The Delegations reviewed and agreed revised Terms of Reference for the Working Group as set out in Annex XI.

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

14.4.1 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.

14.4.2 Furthermore, the Delegations took note of the work of the Working Group of electronic reporting and recording experts in 2014. An agreed record was signed introducing a separate transportation layer to electronic exchange of data. It was also agreed to complement the existing push approach for exchanging catch and activity data with a pull approach. It was decided to establish a subgroup to produce technical specifications for a harmonised ERS reply to a query (pull).

14.4.3 Therefore, the Delegations agreed to continue the Working Group of electronic reporting and recording experts in 2015. The Delegations agreed that the main focus of the Working Group should be on installing and testing the transportation layer for electronic exchange of data and on the production of specifications for a harmonised ERS reply to a query (pull). The Working Group should meet before 31 May 2015 under the Terms of Reference set out in Annex XII.

14.4.4 The EU Delegation informed the Norwegian Delegation that bilateral discussions on exchange of electronic catch and activity data have been started with the Faroe Islands and Greenland. These discussions aim at setting up a common electronic reporting system allowing a harmonized electronic exchange of catch and activity data that fulfils the business requirements of all parties.

14.4.5 The Norwegian Delegation informed the EU Delegation that bilateral arrangement on exchange of electronic catch and activity data have been entered with Iceland, Russia and Greenland. 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.

14.4.6 The Delegations noted that under 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, the Parties had agreed on ERS reporting for vessels over 15 metres.

14.4.7 The Delegations agreed that the provisions related to electronic exchange between the Parties of catch and activity data as outlined in the Agreed Record on Electronic Exchange of catch and activity data, shall apply to all vessels above 12 metres from 1 October 2015 when fishing in the waters of the other Party. Furthermore, the Delegations recognised that the Agreed Record on Electronic Exchange of catch and activity data would need to be amended in order to harmonise with this Agreed Record.

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

15 NOTIFICATION OF NEW LEGISLATION

15.1 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.

16 UNITED KINGDOM – FAROE ISLANDS SPECIAL AREA

16.1 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.
- (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.

16.2 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.

16.3 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.

Clonakilty, 4 December 2014

For the European Union Delegation

For the Norwegian Delegation


John SPENCER


Ann Kristin WESTBERG