AGREED RECORD
OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN
ICELAND, THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE FAROE ISLANDS AND NORWAY
ON THE MANAGEMENT OF BLUE WHITING IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC IN 2020

LONDON, 22-23 OCTOBER 2019

1. A delegation from Iceland, headed by Mr Kristján Freyr HELGASON, a delegation from the European Union, headed by Mr Fabrizio DONATELLA, a delegation from the Faroe Islands, headed by Mr Herluf SIGVALDSSON and a delegation from Norway, headed by Mr Vidar LANDMARK, met in London on 22-23 October 2019 to consult on the management of the blue whiting stock in the North-East Atlantic in 2020.

2. A delegation from Greenland, headed by Mr Emanuel ROSING, and the Russian Federation, headed by Ms Anna SHULAeva, attended as observers.

3. The delegations noted that the agreed long-term management strategy for blue whiting dated 27 October 2016 is regarded by ICES as consistent with the precautionary approach (Annex I).

4. The delegations agreed that the level of total catches of blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic for 2020 should be no more than 1,161,615 tonnes, based on the long-term management strategy for blue whiting and corresponding to F_{MSY} as advised by ICES. The delegations agreed that establishing unilateral quotas for 2020 does not in any way imply acceptance of the level of these quotas by any Party.

5. The delegations recommended that the NEAFC allowable catches for 2020 would be 92,452 tonnes. These catches should not be considered as additional to the level set in Paragraph 4.

6. The delegations encouraged the Parties to develop and coordinate their scientific research activities in order to improve the information available for the assessment and the management of this stock.

7. The delegations exchanged quota and catch information for 2017, 2018 (final) as well as preliminary information for 2019 (Annex II). The delegations also exchanged information with regard to their fishing activities including exchanges and access arrangements (Annex III).
8. The delegations agreed to continue to provide information in the same format as set out in Annex II and Annex III to this Agreed Record. Each Party shall, by 1 May 2020, provide updated information in this regard to the European Union as host of the consultations on management measures for 2021. The European Union shall forward this information as soon as possible to all Parties to this Agreed Record.

9. The delegations agreed that the Parties may fish blue whiting within their quotas in their respective zones of fisheries jurisdiction and in international waters.

10. The delegations agreed that further arrangements by the Parties, including arrangements for access, quota transfers and other conditions for fishing in the respective zones of fisheries jurisdiction, are regulated by bilateral arrangements.

London, 23 October 2019

Kristján Freyr HELGASON  
For the Delegation of Iceland

Herluf SIGVALDSSON  
For the Delegation of the Faroe Islands

Fabrizio DONATELLA  
For the Delegation of the European Union

Vidar LANDMARK  
For the Delegation of Norway
ARRANGEMENT FOR THE
LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT
OF THE BLUE WHITING STOCK

1. The Parties agree to implement a long-term management strategy for the fisheries on the Blue Whiting stock, which is consistent with the precautionary approach and the MSY approach, aiming at ensuring harvest rates within safe biological limits.

2. For the purpose of this long-term management strategy, in the following text, "TAC" means the sum of the agreed Coastal State quotas and the NEAFC allowable catches.

3. As a priority, the long-term strategy shall ensure with high probability that the size of the stock is maintained above $B_{\text{lim}}$.

4. In the case that the spawning biomass is forecast to be above or equal to $B_{\text{trigger}} (=B_{ps})$ on 1 January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC shall be fixed to a fishing mortality of $F_{\text{MSY}}$.

5. Where the rules in paragraph 4 would lead to a TAC, which deviates by more than 20% below or 25% above the TAC of the preceding year, the Parties shall fix a TAC that is respectively no more than 20% less or 25% more than the TAC of the preceding year.

6. The TAC constraint described in paragraph 5 shall not apply if:

   a. The spawning biomass at 1 January in the year preceding the year for which the TAC is to be set is less than $B_{\text{trigger}}$; or

   b. The rules in paragraph 4 would lead to a TAC that deviates by more than 40% from the TAC of the preceding year.

7. In the case that the spawning biomass (SSB) is forecast to be less than the precautionary biomass ($B_{\text{trigger}}$) on 1 January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC shall be fixed at a level that is consistent with a fishing mortality given by:

   $$\text{Target } F = 0.05 + [(SSB - B_{\text{lim}})*(F_{\text{MSY}} - 0.05) / (B_{\text{trigger}} - B_{\text{lim}})]$$

8. In the case that the spawning biomass is forecast to be less than $B_{\text{lim}}$ on 1 January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC will be fixed corresponding to a fishing mortality $F = 0.05$.

9. Each Party may transfer to the following year unutilised quantities of up to 10% of the quota allocated to it. The quantity transferred shall be in addition to the quota allocated to the Party concerned in the following year.

10. Each Party may authorise fishing by its vessels of up to 10% beyond the quota allocated. All quantities fished beyond the allocated quota for one year shall be deducted from the Party's quota allocated for the following year.
11. The inter-annual quota flexibility scheme in paragraphs 9 and 10 should be suspended in the year following the TAC year, if the stock is forecast to be under B\text{trigger} at the end of the TAC year.

12. The Parties, on the basis of ICES advice, shall review this long-term management strategy at intervals not exceeding five years. The first such review shall take place no later than by December 2021.
### Annex II

#### Reporting of quotas and catches of blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic - 2017 to 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Party</th>
<th>QUOTAS (tonnes)</th>
<th>Balance</th>
<th>CATCHES (tonnes)</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Coastal State</td>
<td>Balance from 2016</td>
<td>Quota exchange</td>
<td>Quotas after transfers and flexibility</td>
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<th>CATCHES (tonnes)</th>
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<th>CATCHES (tonnes)</th>
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**Guideline for the spreadsheet**

- **Quota allocation to the Party**
  - **Balance**
    - Unutilised/fishing beyond the quota from last year: includes unused quota by related to transfers between countries
  - **Quota exchange**
    - Transfers between countries
  - **Quota after transfers and flexibility**
    - New quota
Transfers and access arrangements for blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic in 2019

Transfers in 2019\(^1\)

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<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Quotas</th>
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<th>Total available</th>
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<th>Faroe Islands</th>
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<th>Norway</th>
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\(^1\) Transfers imply full access

Access arrangements in 2019

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<th>Iceland</th>
<th>Norway</th>
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* Of the NEAFC quota