

**AGREED RECORD OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS
BETWEEN NORWAY, THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND
THE FAROE ISLANDS ON THE MANAGEMENT OF
MACKEREL IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FOR 2008**

OSLO, 30 OCTOBER 2007

1. A Delegation from Norway headed by Ms Ann Kristin Westberg, a Delegation from the European Community headed by Mr Constantin Alexandrou and a Delegation from the Faroe Islands headed by Ms Kate Sanderson, met in Oslo on 29 and 30 October 2007 to consult on the management of mackerel in the North-East Atlantic for 2008.
2. The Heads of Delegation agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the arrangements for the management of mackerel for 2008 as set out in the Annexes to this Agreed Record.
3. This Agreed Record constitutes an ad hoc arrangement, it being without prejudice to future fisheries arrangements between the Parties.

Oslo, 30 October 2007

Ann Kristin Westberg
For the Delegation of Norway

Kate Sanderson
For the Delegation of the Faroe Islands

Constantin Alexandrou
For the Delegation of the Community

ANNEX I

1. As relevant coastal States, the Delegations agreed to recommend the adoption of a total catch limitation of 385,366 tonnes for their mackerel fishery within waters under their national fisheries jurisdiction in 2008. Furthermore, they agreed that a part of this quantity might be fished in areas beyond the fisheries jurisdiction of the Parties.
2. Subject to agreement within the framework of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), on the basis of the above TAC, an allowable catch will be established for areas beyond national fisheries jurisdiction by NEAFC.
3. The Faroe Islands shall be entitled to 21,098 tonnes of which 7,803 tonnes will originate from the coastal State share of the intended allowable catch referred to in paragraph 2.
4. The sharing of the relevant part of the TAC referred to in paragraph 1 between the European Community and Norway shall be decided bilaterally by those Parties. Similarly, those Parties shall decide bilaterally the sharing of the remaining part of the coastal State share established for areas beyond national fisheries jurisdiction.
5. Each quota of the coastal State share in international waters may also be fished in areas under its fisheries jurisdiction.
6. The Delegations agreed that there is a need to maintain effective control in this fishery as well as address outstanding issues on control and enforcement. The introduction of the measures agreed in 2004 has improved control and the Delegations believe that the level of underreporting due to undeclared landings has been significantly reduced. The Working Group of Control Experts established jointly by the European Community, Faroe Islands and Norway has monitored the implementation of the measures agreed and the Delegations endorsed the report of this group of September 2007.

Against this background the Delegations agreed to recommend to the Parties that the Working Group of Control Experts should continue to monitor closely the implementation of the measures adopted in 2004. The Delegations further agreed to recommend to the Parties that the Working Group of Control Experts should also give particular attention to the following areas:

- Slipping, discards and high-grading.
 - Assess the implications in the area of control and enforcement of existing knowledge about the mortality of mackerel.
 - Examine the situation with regard to equipment on board vessels that can be used to grade and discard mackerel. Review and consider the situation as well as the relevant regulations in place in this area. To this end, they agreed that consideration should be made to placing observers on board fishing vessels in order to monitor slipping, discards and high-grading in this fishery.
- Review of technical issues, inter alia:

- The feasibility of using flow meters on board vessels.
 - The calibration of RSW tanks.
 - Density factors applied for mackerel.
 - Exchange of inspectors between the Parties, and
 - Exchange of information between the Parties, in particular concerning the follow up of infringements. Such information shall be exchanged in accordance with procedures developed by the Working Group of Control Experts.
7. In their capacity as the relevant coastal States, the Delegations concur that it is of paramount importance to adopt compatible conservation measures in different management areas on the basis of the best scientific evidence available to them. The European Community Delegation informed the other Delegations that it intends to establish an additional TAC of 27,005 tonnes in ICES divisions VIIIe and IXa. With reference to the most recent ICES advice, they agreed to investigate and assess, during 2008, how compatibility can best be assured and, as appropriate, joint management improved. Possible solutions to any outstanding issues will then be addressed at next year's coastal State consultations.

**ARRANGEMENT ON THE LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF
THE MACKEREL STOCK**

The Parties agreed to implement a long-term management plan for the mackerel stock, which is consistent with a precautionary approach and designed to provide for sustainable fisheries and a greater potential yield. The plan shall consist of the following:

1. For 2001 and subsequent years, the Parties agreed to restrict their fishing on the basis of a TAC consistent with a fishing mortality in the range of 0.15 - 0.20 for appropriate age groups as defined by ICES, unless future scientific advice requires modification of the fishing mortality rate.
2. Should the SSB fall below a reference point of 2,300,000 tonnes (B_{pa}), the fishing mortality rate, referred to under paragraph 1, shall be adapted in the light of scientific estimates of the conditions then prevailing. Such adaptation shall ensure a safe and rapid recovery of the SSB to a level in excess of 2,300,000 tonnes.
3. The Parties shall, as appropriate, review and revise these management measures and strategies on the basis of any new advice provided by ICES.

RESEARCH ON THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC MACKEREL STOCK

The Delegations agreed that substantial research on the mackerel stock is called for. In particular, the assessment of the stock needs to be improved. For this purpose they agreed to strengthen mackerel research with the following aims:

1. Improvement of the catch data available to the assessment.
2. Improvement of the fisheries independent surveys as inputs to the assessment, including recruitment indices.
3. Mapping and describing the seasonal distribution and migration of the stock.

The Delegations agreed to encourage their respective authorities to both advance activities in this area through co-ordination of relevant research and to make financial means available from relevant resources.

ANNEX IV

The Delegation of the Faroe Islands and the Delegation of Norway declared that all fisheries of North-East Atlantic mackerel conducted within the zones under the fisheries jurisdiction of the Parties should be jointly managed and consequently be covered within the total catch limitation stipulated under point 1 of Annex I.

The Delegation of the Faroe Islands and the Delegation of Norway declared that the present situation is not acceptable, and prevents the parties from agreeing upon a permanent management regime and sharing of the North East Atlantic mackerel stock. Norway and the Faroe Islands expect to be compensated as a result of this unreasonable sharing of the stock.

The Community Delegation declared that the coastal State agreement only applies to the Northern area as defined by ICES for the North-East Atlantic mackerel stock.

The Community Delegation declared that the current management arrangements constitute an appropriate allocation of fishing opportunities.

REQUEST TO ICES

1. In its 2007 advice, ICES presented analyses indicating that unreported catches are still a major uncertainty affecting the reliability of the assessment.

The coastal States request ICES to:

- i. Provide estimates of the magnitude in tonnes and precision of the unaccounted mortality in the fisheries on North-East Atlantic mackerel;
 - ii. Indicate where possible the sources of this mortality;
 - iii. Evaluate where possible any historical changes in this unaccounted mortality;
and
 - iv. Provide estimates of historic Spawning Stock Biomass and Fishing Mortality that would be compatible with these estimates of unaccounted mortality.
2. The coastal States request ICES to include the North-East Atlantic mackerel stock in their routine reviews of reference points.

ANNEX VI

The European Community Delegation took note of the fact that in agreeing the TAC for 2008, the Parties had applied a fishing mortality rate at the upper range of the options available under the long-term management plan. They noted that despite this mortality rate being within the precautionary range, ICES had considered the agreement to be consistent with the precautionary approach if the fishing mortality rate on average is kept below $F=0.17$.