**AGREED RECORD**

**OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN**

**NORWAY, THE EUROPEAN UNION, THE FAROE SLANDS AND ICELAND**

**ON THE MANAGEMENT OF BLUE WHITING IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC IN 2018**

**LONDON, 17 OCTOBER 2017**

**DRAFT at 14.00**

1. A Delegation from Norway, headed by Ms Sigrun M. HOLST, the European Union, headed by Mr Joost PAARDEKOOPER, a Delegation from the Faroe Islands, headed by Mr Herluf SIGVALDSSON and a Delegation from Iceland, headed by Mr Sigurgeir THORGEIRSSON, met in London on 16 to 17 October 2017 to consult on the management of the blue whiting stock in the North-East Atlantic in 2018.
2. A Delegation from Greenland, headed by Ms Katrin Vilhelm POULSEN, and a Delegation from the Russian Federation, headed by Ms Anna SHULEVA, attended as observers.
3. The Delegations noted that the agreed long term management plan 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 should be no more than 1.387.872 tonnes, based on the long term management plan for Blue Whiting and corresponding to FMSY as advised by ICES. The Delegations agreed that establishing unilateral quotas for 2018 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 2018 would be 110.450 tonnes.
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 2015, 2016 (final) as well as preliminary information for 2017 (Annex II). The Delegations also exchanged information with regard to their fishing activities including exchanges and access provisions (Annex III).
8. The Delegations agreed to continue to provide information regarding quotas and catches in the same format as set out in Annex III to this Agreed Record. Each Party shall, by 1 May 2018, provide updated information to The Faroe Islands as host of the consultations on management measures for 2019 regarding their total catches in 2016 and 2017; on any allocation of quotas to other Parties in 2018; and on their total provisional catches in 2018. The Faroe Islands 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, 17 October 2017

Sigrun M. HOLST

For the Delegation of Norway

Herluf SIGVALDSSON

For the Delegation of the Faroe Islands

Joost PAARDEKOOPER

For the Delegation of the European Union

Sigurgeir THORGEIRSSON

For the Delegation of Iceland

Annex I

**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 Blim.
4. In the case that the spawning biomass is forecast to be above or equal to Btrigger (=Bpa) on 1 January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC shall be fixed to a fishing mortality of FMSY.
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:
	1. The spawning biomass at 1 January in the year preceding the year for which the TAC is to be set is less than Btrigger; or
	2. 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 (Btrigger) 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:

Target F = 0.05 + [(SSB -B1im)\*(FMSY - 0.05) *I* (Btrigger -Blim)]

1. In the case that the spawning biomass is forecast to be less than Blim 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.
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 concemed in the following year.
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. 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 Btrigger at the end of the TAC year.
5. The Parties, on the basis ofICES 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 lI

**Reporting of quotas and catches of blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic - 2015 to 2017**





* Includes unutilized quota exchanged with a fishing Party of 8 226 tonnes.



. Annex III

**Transfers and access arrangements for blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic in 2017**

**Transfers in 20171**



**Access arrangements for 2017**

