

AGREED RECORD OF CONCLUSIONS OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN, THE
EUROPEAN UNION, THE FAROE ISLANDS, ICELAND, NORWAY AND THE UNITED
KINGDOM ON THE MANAGEMENT OF BLUE WHITING IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC
IN 2026

London, 22-23 October 2025

1. A delegation from the European Union headed by Pawel SWIDEREK, a delegation from the Faroe Islands headed by Ingibjörg Tummassardóttir PETERSEN, a delegation from Iceland headed by Guðmundur ÞÓRÐARSON, a delegation from Norway headed by Elisabeth SØRDAHL, and a delegation from the United Kingdom headed by James SHARPLES, met at NEAFC in London on 22-23 October 2025 to consult on the management of the blue whiting stock in the North-East Atlantic in 2026.
2. A delegation from Greenland headed by Iben FUNCH DØJ also attended the meeting as observer.
3. The delegations noted that the agreed long-term management strategy dated 27 October 2016, is regarded by ICES as consistent with the precautionary approach under the assumption that the catch advice is adhered to (Annex I). The delegations also noted that the long-term strategy for blue whiting should have been reviewed after five years. The delegations agreed that this review needs to be coordinated with plans for benchmarking in ICES, and the Parties will return to the issue once the benchmarking is completed for blue whiting.
4. The delegations agreed that the level of total catches for blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic for 2026 should be no more than 851 344 tonnes as advised by ICES. The delegations also agreed that the establishing of unilateral quotas for 2026 does not in any way imply the acceptance of the level of these quotas by any Party.
5. The delegations agreed that Parties will reconvene to address the issue of a sharing arrangement as soon as possible. All delegations stressed the importance of maintaining the focus on concluding a comprehensive sharing arrangement as soon as possible.
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 encouraged the Parties to strengthen monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) at sea and in port, and to continue the cooperation to further strengthen MCS.
8. The delegations welcomed the outcomes of the Report of the 2025 Coastal States Working Group on the distribution of blue whiting in the Northeast Atlantic and agreed to update this report in 2026, chaired by the European Union and Norway.
9. The delegations exchanged final quota and catch information 2024 as well as preliminary information for 2025 (Annex II). The delegations exchanged information with regards to their fishing activities, including exchanges and access arrangements (Annex III).
10. 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 delegation shall, by 1 May 2026, provide

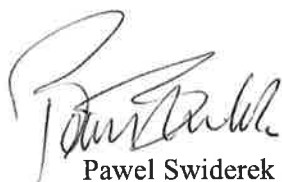
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updated information in this regard to the chair of the consultations from April 2026 to March 2027, Norway, who shall forward this information within 10 working days to all Parties to this Agreed Record.

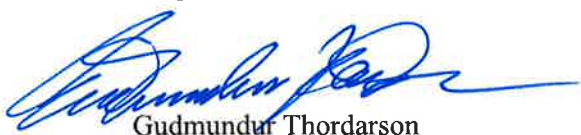
11. The delegations agreed that the Parties may fish blue whiting within their quotas in their respective zones of fisheries jurisdiction and in international waters.
12. The delegations agreed that further arrangements by the Parties, including arrangements for access, quota transfers and other conditions for fishing in their respective zones of fisheries jurisdiction, are regulated by bilateral agreements.

London, 23 October 2025



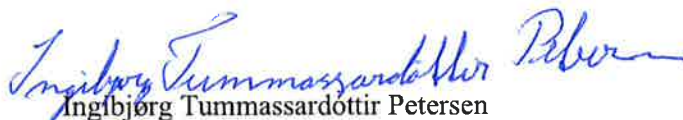
Pawel Swiderek

For the Delegation of the European Union



Gudmundur Thordarson

For the Delegation of Iceland



Ingibjörg Tummassardóttir Petersen

For the Delegation of the Faroe Islands



Elisabeth Sør Dahl

For the Delegation of Norway



James Sharples

For the Delegation of the United Kingdom

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:
 - a. 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
 - 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 (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:
$$\text{Target } F = 0.05 + [(SSB - \text{Blim}) * (FMSY - 0.05) / (Btrigger - \text{Blim})]$$
8. 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 $F = 0.05$.
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 paragraph 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.

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.

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Annex II

2024		QUOTAS (tonnes)				CATCHES (tonnes)										
	Quota established	Balance from 2023	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Faroese Fishing Zone	Greenland fishing zone	Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone	Norwegian Economic Zone	Fishery Zone around Jan Mayen	Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard	United Kingdom Zone	Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH	Balance to 2025
Party																
European Union *	513 458	37 920	-44 179	507 199	5 086	263 106				824			123 592		392 608	114 591
Faroe Islands	543 483	1 613	-95 500	449 596	84 471	337 199			14 793	127					436 590	13 006
Iceland	323 084	-13 560	0	309 524	21 195	263 077			37 297						321 569	-12 045
Norway	369 530	-27 170	21 372	363 732	152 162	167 529	32 460			36 796			4		388 951	-25 219
United Kingdom	120 163	1 435	-3 821	117 777		96 401				15			20 087		116 503	1 274
Total Coastal States	1 869 718	238	-122 128	1 747 828	262914	527036	632736	0	52090	37762	0	0	143 683	0	1 656 221	91 607
Greenland	8 260		0	20 500	236		28 987								29 223	-463
Russian Federation																
Total all Parties	1 877 978	238	-101 628	1 776 588	263 150	527 036	661 723	0	52 090	37 762	0	0	143 683	0	1 685 444	91 144

(*) EU's quota after application of the EU-UK TCA, which transferred from the EU quota to the UK for 2024 a total of 6.352 tonnes/0,42 percentage points of EU's share.

2025 (Provisional)	QUOTAS (tonnes)				CATCHES (tonnes)											
	Quota established	Balance from 2024	Quota exchange	Quotas after transfers and flexibility	NEAFC Regulatory Area	European Union Zone	Faroeese Fishing Zone	Greenland fishing zone	Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone	Norwegian Economic Zone	Fishery Protection Zone around Jan Mayen	Fishery Protection Zone around Svalbard	United Kingdom Zone	Russian Economic Zone	TOTAL CATCH	Balance to 2026
Party																
European Union*	485 210	51 346	-78 800	457 756	61	197 948	2			742			116 216		314 969	142 787
Faroe Islands	514 101	13 006	-98 750	428 357	59 507		299 569		12 697						371 773	56 584
Iceland	305 328	-12 041		293 287	22 850		174 545		41 247						238 642	54 645
Norway	349 549	-25 219	56 562	380 892	223 411	78 141	60 718			31 824			65		394 159	-13 267
United Kingdom	114 157	1 274	-2 550	112 881		84384							33 082		117 466	-4 585
Total Coastal States	1 768 345	28 366	-123 538	1 673 173	305829	360473	534834	0	53944	32566	0	0	149 363	0	1 437 009	236 164
Greenland	7 814		23 750	31 564	156,00		21 336								21 492	10 072
Russian Federation																
Total all Parties	1 776 159	28 366	-99 788	1 704 737	305 985	360 473	556 170	0	53 944	32 566	0	0	149 363	0	1 458 501	246 236

(*) EU's quota after application of the EU-UK TCA, which transferred from the EU quota to the UK for 2025 a total of 6 499 tonnes^{0,45} percentage points of EU's share.

(**) The UK notes that 2025 is the last full year of the EU-UK TCA transition period.

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Annex III

Reporting of blue whiting quotas transfers and access arrangements in 2025

Quota transfers in 2025

Party	Quotas	Balance from 2024	Total available	Transferred to				
				European Union	Faroe Islands	United Kingdom	Iceland	Norway
European Union	485 210	51 346	536 556	---	---	2 200	---	81 750
Faroe Islands	514 101	13 006	527 107	---	---	---	---	---
United Kingdom	114 157	1 274	115 431	4 790	---	---	---	---
Iceland	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Norway	349 549	-25 219	324 330	---	---	---	---	---
Greenland	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Russian Federation	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

(*) EU's quota after application of the EU-UK TCA, which transferred from the EU quota to the UK for 2025 a total of 6.499 tonnes/0,45 percentage points of EU's share.

Access arrangements in 2025

Party	Access granted to the EEZ of							
	European Union	Faroe Islands	United Kingdom	Iceland	Norway	Greenland	Russian Federation	
European Union	---	---	Full access	---	---	---	---	---
Faroe Islands	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
United Kingdom	Full access	Full access	---	---	---	---	---	---
Iceland	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Norway	---	233 234	---	---	---	---	---	---
Greenland	---	7 814	---	---	---	---	---	---
Russian Federation	---	52 612	---	---	---	---	---	---



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