

**AGREED RECORD OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN  
THE UNITED KINGDOM AND NORWAY FOR 2026  
18 DECEMBER 2025**

1. A Delegation from the United Kingdom (UK) headed by Mr. Colin FAULKNER and a Norwegian Delegation, headed by Ms. Ann Kristin WESTBERG met in Oslo on 31 October 2025, in Edinburgh on 19 November 2025, and virtually on 10 December 2025 to consult on mutual fisheries relations for 2026.
2. The Delegations recalled the Fisheries Framework Agreement between the Parties, signed on 30 September 2020. They recalled the principles which underpin their close cooperation as set out in Article 1 of that agreement. They also recalled the Parties' understanding of December 2021 about enhancing cooperation on fisheries in ICES areas I and II. They further recalled their close cooperation in 2025 in international fisheries forums, including Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, the Food & Agriculture Organisation and beyond. They looked forward to deepening their dialogue further in 2026.
3. The Delegations recalled the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between Norway and the United Kingdom on the management of mackerel in the North-East Atlantic which they had signed on 15 December 2025 alongside the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway and the United Kingdom on the management of mackerel in the North-East Atlantic. They welcomed the consequential and much-needed reduction in fishing pressure as a result of this agreement, which builds on the reduction that was implemented through the 2024 agreement between the Faroe Islands, Norway and the United Kingdom. The Delegations also committed themselves to playing their part in 2026 in reaching a comprehensive quota-sharing arrangement for the stock.
4. The Delegations noted that the Fisheries Consultations between the United Kingdom, Norway and the European Union concluded on 5 December 2025.
5. The Delegations noted that the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between the UK and Norway signed in December 2021, and the subsequent agreements every year since November 2022, marked the start of a new bilateral fisheries arrangement between Norway and the UK. Both Delegations agreed on the successful implementation of the December 2024 agreement during 2025.
6. The Delegations recalled the fruitful and constructive discussions they had held in Ålesund in May 2025 as part of their third intersessional meeting and agreed on the considerable usefulness of such meetings. Accordingly, they agreed to meet in May or June 2026 for the annual intersessional meeting in order to review the functioning of the agreement, to ensure the successful implementation of this Agreed Record, and to continue to deepen the strategic relationship between the Parties. The UK offered to host that meeting.
7. The Heads of Delegation agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the fishery arrangements for 2026 as outlined in this Agreed Record, including Tables 1 to 7.

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## 8. EXCHANGE OF FISHING POSSIBILITIES

8.1 The Delegations agreed to exchange quotas for a number of stocks, as set out in Tables 1 and 2. They also agreed to review potential quota exchanges in the course of 2026, should further opportunities arise.

## 9. ZONAL ACCESS

- 9.1 The Delegations agreed for 2026 to establish mutual zonal access of 30,000 tonnes for all demersal/whitefish stocks in ICES Subarea 4. This will be on the basis that if the relevant Party's vessels are entitled to catch demersal/whitefish stocks in their own Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), then that same entitlement will apply in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the other Party up to the maximum overall limit of 30,000 tonnes<sup>1,2</sup>. The Delegations agreed that Norway would account for catches of ling in Area 2a from 2025 fishing as part of the demersal/whitefish zonal access arrangement.
- 9.2 The Delegations noted that the reciprocal access arrangement for demersal/whitefish stocks had been in place and agreed annually since 2021. The Delegations agreed to review this arrangement during 2026, to consider how well it has been operating and whether moving to a more lasting footing is now appropriate. The Delegations agreed to discuss this at the forthcoming intersessional meeting.
- 9.3 The Delegations recalled the terms of the Fisheries Consultations between the United Kingdom, Norway and the European Union concluded on 5 December 2025 and welcomed the agreement on a new single Total Allowable Catch (TAC) management model for North Sea herring.
- 9.4 To support that agreement, the Delegations agreed that Norway would transfer 0.2 percentage points of its share to the UK, and the UK will in return grant Norway access to the UK EEZ of ICES Area 4 for the duration of the agreement set out in the trilateral Agreed Record on a single TAC management model for North Sea herring. That access tonnage would be set at 1.85% of the TAC for the year in which access is being granted. For 2026, this results in a transfer of 657 tonnes of North Sea Autumn Spawning herring from Norway to the UK, and access for Norway to fish 6,078 tonnes of its quota in UK waters.
- 9.5 In parallel, the Delegations noted that the reciprocal access arrangements between the UK and Norway on North Sea herring and Norwegian spring spawning herring (Atlanto-Scandian herring) which had been agreed annually had remained stable and mutually beneficial since 2021.
- 9.6 The Delegations agreed that they would put on to a more lasting footing those reciprocal access arrangements on North Sea herring and Norwegian spring spawning herring (Atlanto-Scandian herring). Accordingly, the parties agreed that the UK would grant Norway a fixed annual access of 20,000 tonnes to the UK EEZ of ICES Area 4 for North

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<sup>1</sup> This includes an unavoidable bycatch of Nephrops Norwegian Lobster caught with a 120mm net.

<sup>2</sup> As an exception to paragraph 9.1, Norwegian catches of North Sea blue ling and ling in 2a from the Greenland halibut bycatch stocks shall also be counted as part of Norway's demersal whitefish zonal access arrangement, using Norwegian quota to account for catches.

Sea herring for the duration of the arrangement set out in the trilateral Agreed Record, and that Norway would grant the UK a fixed annual access of 20,000 tonnes to the waters of the Norwegian EEZ for Norwegian spring spawning herring (Atlanto-Scandian herring) for the same time period.

- 9.7 Finally, the Delegations agreed to engage in discussions in the first half of 2026 on further long-term access arrangements for North Sea herring over and above those set out in paragraphs 9.4 and 9.6. They agreed to aim to put in place those further long-term access arrangements by the time of the summer 2026 herring fishery, and that such arrangements should be of a similar duration to the agreement on a single TAC management model for North Sea herring in the trilateral Agreed Record.
- 9.8 The Delegations committed to continue applying appropriate safeguards to ensure that these access arrangements do not have detrimental consequences for fish stocks and the wider marine environment. The Delegations noted the importance of suitable and robust monitoring mechanisms to detect and react swiftly to significant changes from historic fishing patterns and catches as a result of these new arrangements. They further agreed that they will formally review catch data on a regular basis and, where appropriate, implement amended management measures, for example quota management measures, as soon as practicable.

## 10. CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT

- 10.1 The Delegations recalled the longstanding cooperation between the Parties' respective control authorities, which entails both strategic and operational cooperation throughout the entire value chain. The Delegations shared the view that efficient and trustworthy Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) measures were key factors in a comprehensive management regime targeting sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources.
- 10.2 The Delegations noted the work that has been carried out in 2025 in line with the bilateral agreement to improve compliance with fisheries management measures which was signed in 2023. In particular, the Delegations commended the work of the joint Compliance Forum in 2025 in sharing good practice on improving monitoring, control and enforcement measures. The Delegations agreed that the Compliance Forum should continue to meet at least annually and as appropriate.
- 10.3 The Delegations noted that the Compliance Forum at its most recent meeting on 6-8 May 2025 had agreed to set up a joint workshop related to risk analysis, methodologies and other issues connected to risk topics, including sharing of tools, and identifying common issues with shared fisheries. This workshop is postponed to 2026. The Delegations further agreed that the Compliance Forum should provide them with an update on its work and relevant suggestions from the group, including any proposals on MCS measures to consider well in advance of their bilateral consultations for 2027. Norway will host the next Compliance Forum on the week commencing 4 May 2026.
- 10.4 The Delegations referred to the agreement in the 2026 Trilateral Agreed Records to establish a Working Group on MCS in the North Sea, which will begin its work in early 2026 and report on its progress at the Trilateral intersessional meeting.

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- 10.5 The Delegations noted the good cooperation this year to implement the relevant technical regulations that apply to vessels fishing in the waters of the other Party, as set out in the Technical Annexes.
- 10.6 The UK Delegation shared information with the Norwegian Delegation about the implementation of Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) on pelagic vessels in the UK. Any relevant pelagic vessels fishing in Scottish waters will be required to have a fully installed and operational REM system onboard that meets the Scottish Government's technical specifications from 7 March 2026. Relevant vessel owners should contact the Scottish Government's Fully Documented Fisheries Unit<sup>3</sup> as soon as possible to get their REM system validated and to arrange a system test trip.
- 10.7 The Delegations referred to the 'Stand Alone Agreement' signed in November 2022 (Agreed Record of Conclusions of Fisheries Consultations between Norway, the EU, the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and the UK on Control Measures for Pelagic Stocks in the North East Atlantic). The Delegations took note of the report from the Coastal State Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Working Group from September 2024 and the proposed recommendations and best practice. They also noted the ongoing consultations to update the Stand Alone Agreement with further control measures for the pelagic stocks. The Delegations recognised the importance of continuing to coordinate and share best practice wherever possible whilst also noting that individual parties may have monitoring objectives of their own for which they may deploy the technology and measures they deem most capable of achieving those.

## 11. ELECTRONIC DATA EXCHANGE

- 11.1 The Delegations noted the decision by the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) to implement and set into production the new Electronic Reporting System (ERS) based on the United Nations Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (UN/FLUX standard) on 15 January 2024. This date marked the start of the two-year transition period wherein the remaining Contracting Parties shall test and implement the new ERS data exchange system based on the UN/FLUX standard. The Delegations noted that the transition period has been extended to 31 December 2026. Furthermore, the Delegations noted that the bilateral agreements on exchange of electronic vessel positions data between the EU and Norway and between Norway and the UK have been revised and completed to facilitate exchange of data based on UN/FLUX standard.
- 11.2 The Delegations agreed to continue to make revisions to the current agreements on bilateral electronic exchange of data between the Parties, including fishing activities (ERS) and notifications and authorisations data. The Delegations noted that the discussions and work had been intensified by the Parties in 2025, recognising the technical challenges that need to be overcome.
- 11.3 Furthermore, the Delegations noted the progress made at technical level to develop a template (i.e. common principles) for an electronic notification and authorisation scheme based on the UN/FLUX standard with the intention to establish bilateral data exchanges, as appropriate. They also noted the ongoing technical work on fishing activities (ERS) data based on the UN/FLUX standard and agreed to continue the development in a trilateral

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<sup>3</sup> [FDI.gov.scot](https://fdi.gov.scot)

setting to establish a template (i.e. common principles) with the intention to establish bilateral data exchanges, as appropriate.

- 11.4 The Delegations agreed to seek suitable arrangements within the scope of the Working Group on electronic exchange of data as outlined in Annex 1. The Delegations acknowledged the positive cooperation within the Working Group on electronic exchange of data. This cooperation aims to develop, review and implement the relevant technical regulations applicable to vessels fishing in the waters of the other Party.
- 11.5 The Delegations noted that certain systems referenced in the 2026 Technical Annexes are inherently stable and do not require annual updates or review. The Delegations agreed that the Working Group on electronic exchange of data should be tasked to update the Technical Annexes for 2027 to reflect any separate Agreed Records and to remove these references from the Technical Annexes in order to prevent duplication. The Delegations further agreed to consider whether the Technical Annexes should be reviewed annually and published alongside the Agreed Record or only when an update is requested by either Party.
- 11.6 The UK hosted the first Working Group meeting of 2025 in Scotland in April, Norway the second meeting in Bergen in June and the EU the third meeting in Brussels in October. The UK will host the next meeting in York in 2026.

## **12. CATCH INFORMATION**

- 12.1 The Delegations reviewed the final catch data for 2024, as set out in Tables 4 and 6. They also reviewed the preliminary catch data for 2025, as set out in Tables 5 and 7, and committed to providing final 2025 data by spring 2026. The Delegations agreed to work together in 2026 to further develop their relevant catch information data exchange processes.

## **13. SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION**

- 13.1 The Delegations recognised the value in scientific cooperation and noted that their respective scientists have been successfully collaborating on issues of shared interest for many years. They agreed to explore in 2026 the potential to strengthen and formalise those bilateral working arrangements.
- 13.2 The Delegations welcomed the Memorandum of Understanding between institutions in their respective countries, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture, and the Institute of Marine Research, which was signed and established on 23 June 2025. The Delegations also agreed to explore a state-to-state Memorandum of Understanding on Scientific Cooperation in the future, and agreed to consider the issue further at the intersessional meeting in 2026. They also noted that there could be particular benefit in the Parties increasing their joint working on the science underpinning shared stocks, as well as developing collaborative responses to global marine challenges.
- 13.3 The Delegations noted the continued cooperation following the UK-Norway Science-Industry Workshop to Explore Collaboration on Science Information Needs for the Northeast Atlantic Mackerel Stock, held in April 2024 in Aberdeen. The findings of the workshop were presented to the Heads of Delegation at the intersessional meeting in June 2024 in Lerwick. An update on this work was also provided at the intersessional meeting in May 2025 in Ålesund, and again in Oslo on 31 October 2025. The Delegations

welcomed the encouraging progress towards the re-analysis of existing acoustic data as a basis for potentially establishing an autumn/winter acoustic based survey on distribution and abundance for adult mackerel. The Delegations reaffirmed their commitment to reviewing detailed proposals for the planned pelagic trawl survey in July 2026, west of the British Isles (Area 6a) targeting 2-year-old mackerel, which include project costings, industry funding, and resourcing and will review progress at the intersessional meeting in 2026.

#### **14. COOPERATION ON GEAR TECHNOLOGY**

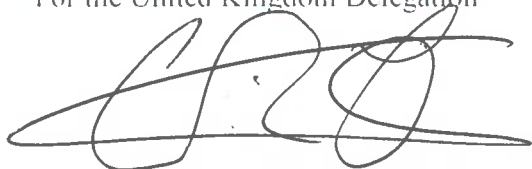
14.1 The Delegations agreed to cooperate on improving gear technology, noting that such technology could contribute to further develop management in the North Sea. To this end, they agreed to organise a workshop in 2026 that will be hosted by Norway. The purpose of the workshop is to create a venue for experts and institutions working in this field of expertise to exchange knowledge and views on the latest gear technology development, and to present relevant projects in the UK and Norway. The participants are invited to, for example, present and discuss solutions that can improve selectivity, prevent bursting of nets and better protect benthic habitats.

#### **15. NOTIFICATION OF NEW LEGISLATION**

15.1 The Delegations agreed to communicate to one another in a timely manner the introduction of any new fisheries legislation of relevance to the vessels of the other Party.

18 December 2025

For the United Kingdom Delegation



Colin FAULKNER

For the Norwegian Delegation



Ann Kristin WESTBERG

TABLE 1

QUOTAS TO THE UK OF NORWEGIAN EXCLUSIVE STOCKS FOR 2026

STOCKS	ICES AREA	QUANTITY (TONNES)
Arcto-Norwegian cod	1:2	850
Bycatch stocks	1:2	200

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TABLE 2

EXCHANGE OF OTHER STOCKS FOR 2026

SPECIES	ICES AREA	STOCKS IN UK WATERS FOR TRANSFER TO NORWAY (TONNES)	STOCKS IN NORWEGIAN WATERS FOR TRANSFER TO THE UK (TONNES)
Cod	NAFO 3M	-	-
Cod <sup>4</sup>	6a, 5b	5	-
Greenland Halibut	2a	400	-
Bycatch stock	2a	70	-
Ling	6a, 5b	250	-
Bycatch stock	6a, 5b	40	-
Saithe	6a, 5b	-	-
Tusk	6a, 5b	250	-
Greater forkbeard <sup>4</sup>	6a, 5b	60	-
Blue ling <sup>4</sup>	6a, 5b	50	-
Pollack <sup>4</sup>	6a, 5b	2	-
Anglerfish	4	-	-
Blue ling	4	-	-
Hake	4	-	-
Whiting	4	-	-

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<sup>4</sup> Bycatch only.

TABLE 3

ZONAL ACCESS FOR NORTH SEA AUTUMN SPAWNING HERRING AND NORWEGIAN SPRING SPAWNING HERRING<sup>5</sup>

SPECIES	ICES AREA	ACCESS FOR UK VESSELS IN NORWEGIAN EEZ	ACCESS FOR NORWEGIAN VESSELS IN UK EEZ
North Sea Autumn Spawning Herring	4	0	20,000 <sup>6</sup>
Norwegian Spring Spawning Herring	Norway's Exclusive Economic Zone North of 62 North	20,000	0

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<sup>5</sup> Subject to quota availability

<sup>6</sup> Total access for Norwegian vessels in UK waters for 2026 is 26,078 tonnes, as per paragraph 9.4

TABLE 4

## FINAL CATCH DATA FOR EXCHANGE OF STOCKS FOR 2024

SPECIES	AREA (ICES SUBAREA UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)	UK QUOTA TO NORWAY:		UK QUOTA TO NORWAY:		NORWAY QUOTA TO UK:	
		QUOTA	CATCHES	QUOTA	CATCHES	QUOTA	CATCHES
COD	NAFO 3M	0	0				
COD	6A. 5B	25	20				
GREENLAND HALIBUT	2A	600	645				
ASSOCIATED BYCATCH	2A	100	62				
LING	6A. 5B	900	417				
ASSOCIATED BYCATCH	6A. 5B	70	63				
SAITHE	6A. 5B	400	1				
TUSK	6A. 5B	450	156				
GREATER FORKBEARD	6A. 5B	150	85				
BLUE LING	6A. 5B	100	21				
POLLACK	6A. 5B	5	0			700	685
ANGLERFISH	4					20	6
BLUE LING	4					0	0
HAKE	4					0	0
WHITING	4					700	700
COD	1.2					100	118
MISCELLANEOUS	1.2						

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TABLE 5

## PRELIMINARY CATCH DATA FOR EXCHANGE OF STOCKS FOR 2025

SPECIES	AREA (ICES SUBAREA UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)	UK QUOTA TO NORWAY:		NORWAY QUOTA TO UK:	
		QUOTA	CATCHES <sup>7</sup>	QUOTA	CATCHES <sup>7</sup>
Cod	NAFO 3M	0	0		
Cod*	6A.5B	15	0		
Greenland Halibut	2A	360	358		
Associated bycatch	2A	40	48		
Ling	6A.5B	560	53		
Associated bycatch	6A.5B	40	4		
Saithe	6A.5B	0	0		
Tusk	6A.5B	200	27		
Greater Forkbeard*	6A.5B	60	17		
Blue Ling*	6A.5B	50	2		
Pollack*	6A.5B	2	0		
Anglerfish	4			0	0
Blue Ling	4			0	0
Hake	4			0	0

Whiting	4			0	0
Cod	1.2			1000	1001
Miscellaneous*	1.2			150	146

\* Updated 03/12/2025

\* Bycatch only



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TABLE 6

## CATCH DATA FOR RECIPROCAL ACCESS FOR STOCKS FOR 2024

CATCHES IN ICES SUBAREA 4 UNDER AGREED ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS OF 30 000 TONNES

SPECIES	NORWEGIAN CATCHES IN UK ZONE OF SUBAREA 4	UK CATCHES IN NORWEGIAN ZONE OF SUBAREA 4
Anglerfish	69	309
Argentines	41	0
Atlantic Cod	1524	1601
Atlantic Halibut	5	28
Blue Ling	135	0
European Hake	210	299
European Plaice	4	396
Greater Forkbeard	60	0
Greenland Halibut	813	0
Haddock	550	3565
Lemon Sole	2	51
Ling	2338	319
Norway lobster	0	30
Pollack	80	323
Rabbit fish	28	0
Saithe	8428	1202
Tusk	616	11
Whiting	21	579
Witch Flounder	1	24
Wolfish	26	205
Other species with catches <20	76	68
<b>Total</b>	<b>15026</b>	<b>9010</b>

TABLE 7

PRELIMINARY CATCH DATA FOR RECIPROCAL ACCESS FOR STOCKS FOR 2025 <sup>8</sup>

CATCHES IN ICES SUBAREA 4 UNDER AGREED ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS OF 30 000 TONNES

SPECIES	NORWEGIAN CATCHES IN UK ZONE OF SUBAREA 4	UK CATCHES IN NORWEGIAN ZONE OF SUBAREA 4
Anglerfish	19	308
Argentines	34	0
Atlantic Cod	945	1203
Atlantic Halibut	7	23
Blue Ling	726	0
Spurdog	23	0
European Hake	383	303
European Plaice	0	65
Redfish	65	0
Greater Forkbeard	88	0
Greenland Halibut	292	0
Gurnards	1	74
Haddock	833	4131
Lemon Sole	0	29
Ling	2039	282
Norway Lobster	0	35
Pollack	49	208
Saithe	16514	2064
Tusk	482	12
Whiting	31	533
Wolffish	11	195
Other species with catches <20	39	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>22581</b>	<b>9496</b>

Updated 03 12 2025

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A WORKING GROUP ON ELECTRONIC EXCHANGE OF DATA  
FOR 2026**

The Delegations agreed that the Working Group on Electronic Exchange of data should meet as appropriate in 2026 under the Terms of Reference described below. The necessary technical scoping exercises can be conducted within the same Terms of Reference before the Working Group meets.

The Working Group shall seek to identify suitable technical arrangements for electronic exchange of data based on the United Nations Fisheries Language for Universal Exchange (UN/FLUX) standard.

The Working Group shall:

1. Establish templates (i.e. common principles) for electronic exchange of notification and authorisation data with the intention to revise the current bilateral arrangements between the Parties.
2. Establish templates (i.e. common principles) for electronic exchange of fishing activities data (ERS) with the intention to revise the current bilateral arrangements between the Parties. Furthermore, identify additional reporting needs, any outstanding issues and elements that can improve performance of the current bilateral systems for ERS. Establish technical procedures and specifications which the parties could use to implement, the possibility to pull data covering fishing activities conducted before, during and after exiting the waters of the other Party, from port to port. Establish improved technical procedures to deliver RET messages directly to the fishing vessels to secure satisfactory exchange and increased quality of fishing activities data.
3. To ensure the timely, continuous, and accurate transmission of VMS data for effective monitoring and control, the Working Group will provide updates on any anticipated changes to the respective legal requirements of the Parties and consider the associated technical implementation.

The Working Group should submit its report to the Parties well in advance of the annual consultations for 2027. Reports from possible technical scoping exercises should also be submitted to the Parties well in advance of the annual consultations for 2027.

