

**AGREED RECORD OF FISHERIES CONSULTATIONS (*PANDALUS BOREALIS*)  
BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND NORWAY FOR 2024**

**19 JUNE 2024**

1. A European Union Delegation, headed by Mr. Mael LE DRAST, and a Norwegian Delegation, headed by Ms. Ann Kristin WESTBERG, met in Oslo on 18 and 19 June 2024 to consult on mutual fisheries relations for 2024.
2. The Delegations referred to the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between Norway and the European Union on the Regulation of Fisheries in Skagerrak and Kattegat for 2024, signed on 8 December 2023, and, in particular, to paragraphs 12.1 - 12.6, as well as Annex I and Annex III of that Agreed Record.
3. The Delegations agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the following fishery arrangements for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, as outlined in this Agreed Record.
4. **Northern shrimp in ICES divisions 3a and 4a east**
  - 4.1. The Delegations noted that ICES released the advice on Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) in divisions 3a and 4a East for the period from July 2024 to June 2025 on 7 June 2024.
  - 4.2. The Delegations noted that ICES advises that when the EU/Norway LTMS is applied, catches in the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 should be no more than 4,557 tonnes. The Delegations also noted that ICES currently estimates the spawning stock to be above  $B_{lim}$  but below  $B_{trigger}$ .
  - 4.3. The Delegations agreed to establish a TAC of 4,557 tonnes for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.
  - 4.4. The Delegations consequently agreed to establish a TAC of 3,190 tonnes for Skagerrak for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.
  - 4.5. The Norwegian Delegation informed the EU Delegation of its intention to fix within the quantity given in paragraph 4.3 a quota for Northern shrimp for Division 4a East of 1,367 tonnes for the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.
  - 4.6. The Delegations agreed to replace Annex I of the Agreed Record of Fisheries Consultations between Norway and the European Union on the Regulation of Fisheries in

Skagerrak and Kattegat for 2024, signed on 8 December 2023, with Annex I attached to this Agreed Record.

- 4.7. The Delegations noted that some stations traditionally covered by the Norwegian shrimp survey could not be covered in 2024 due to a general reduction in survey effort. According to ICES, that slight reduction in survey coverage in 2024 is not expected to influence the estimated mean index and provided catch advice.
- 4.8. To address the reduction in survey effort, the EU Delegation offered that the EU covers a maximum of 5 days in the January 2025 IBTS survey for Norway, in exchange for Norway extending the duration of the January 2025 shrimp survey to 23 to 24 days.
- 4.9. The Delegations invited the Norwegian Institute of Marine Research and other relevant national scientific institutes to coordinate this as soon as possible and in close cooperation.
- 4.10. The Delegations noted that the industry offered to engage in a pilot study in January 2025 involving parallel trawling with the Norwegian survey on selected trawl stations in the Skagerrak, to collect information on possible differences in gear selectivity and catch composition between scientific and commercial trawls. The Delegations agreed that a planning meeting in early autumn should be attended by scientists from the relevant ICES working group, and representatives from the industry.
- 4.11. The Delegations noted that, despite the spawning stock biomass having recovered above  $B_{lim}$ , the stock of Northern shrimp in ICES divisions 3a and 4a east remains depleted, with prospects of a low recruitment in 2024. They pointed out to the need for additional protection of the stock to help its recovery. The Delegations therefore agreed to establish a Working Group of experts to explore and recommend possible technical measures that could contribute to the rebuilding of the stock. The terms of reference for this Working Group are set out in Annex II. The Working Group should present draft recommendations to the Delegations by 1 March 2025, and final recommendations in due time for consultations on Northern shrimp for 2025-2026.
- 4.12. The Delegations recalled their agreement to finalise the new LTMS available in Annex III once ICES has completed its evaluation of that new LTMS in line with the request included in Annex IV. They noted that the availability of resources within ICES would likely not allow the relevant experts to take up this task in parallel with the work on measures outlined in Annex II. The Delegations therefore agreed to put this task on hold and will inform ICES accordingly.

## 5. New reporting requirements in cross-border fisheries

- 5.1. The Delegations noted that since 1 January 2024, Norway prohibits cross-border fishing hauls for vessels above 12 meters in the Skagerrak. This comes with an obligation for vessels to send Catch on Entry (COE) and Catch on Exit (COX) reports before entering or exiting the Norwegian exclusive economic zone in the Skagerrak.

## 6. Other

- 6.1. The EU delegation referred to the ICES advice for North Sea autumn spawning (NSAS) and Western Baltic spring spawning (WBSS) herring for 2025, released on 31 May 2024. ICES notes that 81% of all WBSS herring catches in 2024 are projected to be taken in the eastern part of divisions 4a and 4b, and that these catches should be avoided to allow for the effective recovery of the stock. The EU Delegation further referred to paragraph 13.10 of the Agreed Record of fisheries consultations for the Skagerrak for 2024, signed on 8 December 2023, and information by Norway that they would consider taking spatial or seasonal measures in Norwegian waters where NSAS and WBSS herring intermix.
- 6.2. The Norwegian Delegation reminded the EU Delegation that topic for these consultations was management of Northern shrimp. The Norwegian Delegation further explained that possible additional management measures regarding the North Sea herring complex would be considered in the context of the upcoming discussions on new management models.

For the European Union Delegation



Mael LE DRAST

For the Norwegian Delegation



Ann Kristin WESTBERG

## TACS AND ALLOCATIONS IN 2024

Catches taken, during the period 1 January to 31 December 2024 in the Skagerrak and the Kattegat of the species mentioned below, shall be limited as follows (metric tonnes, fresh round weight):

SPECIES	AREA <sup>(1)</sup>	TAC 2024	ALLOCATION TO NORWAY	ALLOCATION TO EUROPEAN UNION
COD	S	3,559	115 <sup>(2)</sup>	3,444
HADDOCK <sup>(3)(4)</sup>	S + K	6,233	262	5,971
WHITING	S + K	676	12	664
PLAICE	S	18,250	365	17,885
MACKEREL	S + K	pm	pm	pm
PANDALUS <sup>(5)</sup>	S	3,190	1,487	1,703
HERRING	S + K	29,735	3,964	25,771
SPRAT <sup>(5)</sup>	S + K	13,784	1,034	12,750

<sup>(1)</sup> Skagerrak (S): the area bounded on the west by a straight line running through the Hanstholm lighthouse and the Lindesnes lighthouse and on the south by a straight line running through the Skagen lighthouse and the Tistlarna lighthouse. Skagerrak and Kattegat (S + K): the area defined as Skagerrak, extended to the southern boundary of Kattegat, and defined as a straight line from Hasenøre to Gnibens spids, from Korshage to Spodsbjerg and from Gilbjerg Hoved to Kullen.

<sup>(2)</sup> This quantity does not include catches to be taken with passive gear inside the Norwegian baselines.

<sup>(3)</sup> The TAC for haddock includes both a directed fishery for haddock and by-catches in the industrial fisheries.

<sup>(4)</sup> In addition, up to 5% of the haddock quotas of the Parties in ICES subarea 4 (North Sea) in 2024 can be fished in ICES division 3a (Skagerrak-Kattegat).

<sup>(5)</sup> To be fished in the period from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A WORKING GROUP ON NORTHERN SHRIMP

The objective of the working group on Northern shrimp (WG) is to evaluate measures to protect juveniles and/or mature females with the goal of supporting the current Long-term Management Plan in restoring the Northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) stock in divisions 3.a and 4.a East to levels which can produce maximum sustainable yield.

The WG will consist of managers, scientists, and industry experts from both Parties. The WG will be co-chaired by one representative from each Party.

The WG should compile relevant information describing:

- Spatio-temporal distribution of juveniles and mature females
- The fishery for Northern shrimp.
- The present management of the fishery

The WG should recommend on technical elements for potential management measures to support stock recovery and suggest plans for the follow-up of their effects. These measures should focus on measures for the Northern shrimp fishery and aim at lowering fishing pressure on incoming recruitment and/or mature females, inter alia:

- a. Evaluate the existing joint EU-Norway system for real time closures (RTCs) for protection of juvenile shrimp.
- b. Spatial and/or temporal closures for the protection of juveniles and/or mature females.
- c. Review options for gear related technical measures.

If there are any other relevant issues which the WG believes would result in a more adequate definition of additional measures, the WG could explore these as appropriate.

The WG should submit a draft of the recommendations to the Delegations by 1 March 2025. A final report should be submitted to the Parties in due time for the Northern shrimp consultations for 2025-2026.

LONG TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN SHRIMP (*Pandalus borealis*) IN DIVISIONS 3.A AND 4.A EAST (SKAGERRAK AND KATTEGAT AND NORTHERN NORTH SEA IN THE NORWEGIAN DEEP)

The Parties agree to implement a Long Term Management Strategy (LTMS) for the Northern shrimp in the Northern North Sea (Norwegian Deep) and in the Skagerrak and Kattegat.

The objective of this LTMS is to provide for sustainable fisheries with high and sustainable yields in conformity with the precautionary approach.

For the purpose of this long term management strategy, the following definitions shall apply:

- "SSB" means the estimate according to ICES of the Spawning Stock Biomass at the beginning of the TAC year.
- $B_{\text{TRIGGER}}$  is the value of spawning stock biomass (SSB) that triggers a specific management action.
- $F_{\text{TARGET}}$  is the fishing mortality to be included in the algorithm for the agreed long-term management strategy as a function of variables related to the status of the stock.

The value for  $B_{\text{TRIGGER}}$  is fixed in the light of the latest available ICES advice. The value of  $F_{\text{target}}$  is fixed by ICES and fulfilling the following criteria:

1. The Parties shall set a 12 month TAC for northern shrimp for a period between 1 July to 30 June that is consistent with fishing at  $F_{\text{target}}$  provided that SSB at the start of the TAC year is equal to or greater than  $MSY B_{\text{trigger}}$ .
2. Where the SSB at the start of the TAC year is estimated to be below  $MSY B_{\text{trigger}}$  the Parties agree that the fishing mortality referred to in paragraph 1 is reduced linearly from  $F_{\text{TARGET}} \times$  at SSB equal to  $MSY B_{\text{trigger}}$  to  $F$  equal to zero at SSB equal to zero.
3. Overriding the rules set out in paragraphs 1 and 2, the  $F_{\text{TARGET}}$  should be in line with the criteria specified in the ICES MSY approach for SSB falling below  $B_{\text{lim}}$  in the year following the TAC year.

**EU-Norway request to ICES for a revision of the Long-Term Management Strategy for Northern shrimp in Skagerrak and the Norwegian Deep**

EU-Norway request to ICES to assess elements of a revised long-term management strategy for Northern shrimp in Skagerrak and the Norwegian Deep

In the previous Pandalus LTMS, a 5% downscale of the F target was considered appropriate when applying a maximum 10% banking and borrowing. ICES is requested to confirm if this is still valid given the newly agreed LTMS, the updated assessment model and new perception of the stock.

akw