

**Agreed Record of the Annual Meeting of the Joint Icelandic-Greenlandic Fisheries Commission
Nuuk - 2-3 February 2016**

The parties met on 2-3 February 2016 in Nuuk. This was the fifth meeting of the joint Icelandic-Greenlandic Fisheries Commission and Greenland served as host. The Icelandic delegation was headed by Jóhann Guðmundsson and the Greenlandic delegation by Emanuel Rosing. The parties expressed their contentment with the work and progress of the joint Icelandic-Greenlandic Fisheries Commission. The agenda and the list of participants are found in Annex 1.

Shrimp in Dohrn Bank

Iceland gave an overview of the status of the shrimp in Dohrn Bank. The stock is assessed by NAFO. Icelandic catches are negligible and Greenlandic catches have declined as the advice remains low.

The parties expressed contentment that the agreement on mutual access for shrimp on the Dohrn Bank entered in to force in 2015 following the approval by the relevant authorities.

Greenland Halibut

Iceland gave an overview of the status of Greenland Halibut. Greenland Halibut is a shared stock in the Greenland, Iceland and Faroe area. The basis for the ICES advice is a surplus model which uses catches, survey indices and cpue as input. ICES recommends that effort be reduced to a level corresponding to the long term maximum sustainable yield. Such effort corresponds to a total catch of no more than 22,000 tonnes for East Greenland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands in 2016. Greenland noted that the index for Greenland has been on an increasing trend for the latest two years. The parties expressed their contentment with the agreement on Greenland Halibut from May 2014.

Redfish (*S. mentella*) in the Irminger Sea

The parties expressed concern over redfish in the Irminger Sea. Iceland gave an overview of the stock. The latest survey observed the lowest biomass since 1999. The latest biannual survey in 2015 focused only on the deeper stock as the survey was reduced following the Russian Federation's exit from the survey at short notice. Consequently, the survey is now only carried out by Iceland and Germany. NEAFC has requested ICES to clarify the current model and rationale behind it. A benchmark is scheduled for August 2016. The Greenland Institute for Natural Resources has recently concluded a study which supports the stock structure regime. Both parties expressed serious concerns regarding the fisheries of the Russian Federation exceeding the ICES advice by more than three times.

Redfish (*S. norvegicus*)

Iceland gave an overview of the stock and an update on the Icelandic management system and their effort to protect juvenile fish. This is a shared stock between Greenland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands. The input for the assessment are two groundfish surveys in Iceland, the German survey in Greenland and surveys on the Faroe plateau. There are concerns about the recruitment indices as there are great gaps in length below 33 cm which confirms trends in Greenland. This is a cause of concern as it may result in a decline in the TAC in 5-10 years. Greenland gave an overview of the fishery for redfish north of 66° in 2015. Two ships had spent approximately 20 days in total during May and October and the catches were negligible. This was partially attributable to ice coverage. The parties expressed their contentment with the agreement on Golden Redfish from September 2015.

Mackerel

Iceland gave an overview of the status of the stock. There is extensive survey coverage of mackerel by means of standardised trawl survey which gives a good picture of the distribution at that time. The only potential mackerel area currently not covered is the Irminger Sea. While the catches exceed the ICES advice by far, the recruitment is still doing well.

Iceland gave an update on the salmon sampling programme in the mackerel fishery in which Greenland had participated in 2015. One or two individual salmon samples have been sent from Greenlandic mackerel vessels to the Institute of Freshwater Fisheries in Iceland. Greenland agreed to apply the protocol for salmon sampling in 2016 also. Greenland will reiterate the importance of sampling to the operators of Greenlandic vessels.

Capelin

Capelin has been subject to more surveys than normally in the 2015/2016 season as 4 surveys have been conducted. The first survey in September 2015 lasted 21 days and went to 74° north. The survey experienced problems with ice and it was considered to be likely that the capelin was below the ice. A second survey was carried out in November 2015 which was partially funded by Greenland. Further scouting has taken place through early January to February. The initial part of the latter survey was rejected for assessment purposes.

Iceland expressed their gratitude for the financial assistance by Greenland in this regard. Iceland informed that no such contribution had been received from Norway.

The latest advice of January 2016 gave a TAC of 173,000 tonnes according to the HCR. Iceland noted that the old model would have resulted in a higher TAC. The previous model for calculating TCA was rejected by the scientific community. It was noted that the new HCR is in line with ICES recommendations and takes into account uncertainty in measurements and predation. It was noted that especially in the past three years, the migration appears to have changed with a westward trend.

Blue whiting

Iceland gave an overview of the status of blue whiting. The assessment of blue whiting stock is highly uncertain and the acoustic estimate on the spawning areas indicate that the stock is declining. Iceland noted that the fishery in 2015 supports the worrying trend that the fishery consists of many juveniles and no common management rules exist for preventing such fisheries. Greenland gave an overview of their fishery and research regarding blue whiting which are both under development.

Cod

Iceland gave an overview of the development of the Icelandic management regime of cod. Over time the exploitation rate has decreased while at the same time the biomass has increased. Greenland gave an overview of the migratory patterns in Greenland cod. As year classes mature they migrate from mid-west Greenland towards the south, then to the east and finally some migrate to Iceland. The parties discussed the connection between the large biomass in Iceland and recruitment in Greenland. The Greenlandic tagging programme shows recapture of cod in Iceland. However, the exact results should be treated with caution as the Icelandic fishery is larger than the Greenlandic and the reporting of tags in Greenland may be wanting.

JK

End

The main topics currently dealt with by Greenlandic researchers are the eastward migration, weight-at-age discrepancies between the German and Greenlandic surveys and developing a modelling approach.

Exchange of statistical data

The parties exchanged statistical data. It was noted that certain clerical errors were found in the S. norvegicus balance sheet. It was also noted that this balance sheet does not take into account that Greenland has a mixed redfish management system. The parties agreed that any unutilised transfers to other countries can still be balanced and forwarded. The parties discussed letting the responsible agencies look in to drafting new balance sheet form.

Access arrangements

Greenland noted that they had been pleased with the conditions for access for landings of mackerel and herring in 2015. Iceland informed that they would allow for free access to landings of mackerel and herring by vessels flying the flag of Greenland in 2016. This is provided that Greenland continues a responsible approach to the management of such shared stocks.

International fisheries cooperation

The parties informed each other of the conclusions of their bilateral agreements for 2016. The parties also discussed developments in coastal State negotiations in 2015 which continue to be characterised by disagreement. Greenland expressed that they had been pleased with the September 2015 Glymur meeting which Iceland had initiated. The parties noted that two working groups will take place in the coming month within the framework of NEAFC and the parties agreed to consult each other beforehand. Iceland informed that the Icelandic minister of fisheries had met with his Faroese counterpart in December 2015 and they had concluded that a Faroese-Icelandic-Greenlandic fisheries ministers' meeting could be fruitful. Such a meeting is foreseen to take place in Spring 2016. Greenland agreed that such a meeting would be beneficial. Iceland will soon involve Greenland and Faroe Island in the preparation of this meeting.

ERS

Greenland gave a short overview of the most recent developments within ERS. Just prior to the Joint Commission meeting, a NEAFC ERS meeting had taken place in Iceland following the change of positions by the EU in autumn 2015. The January 2016 ERS meeting had been positive as there was agreement on the push and storage principle. Certain elements have been reopened and certain challenges lie ahead, such as agreement on definitions, ambiguities regarding catch on entry/exit and whether information should be transferred haul by haul or on daily basis. The parties discussed a direct bilateral ERS agreement. The parties agreed to await the conclusions of the NEAFC ERS working group and revisit the topic at the next Joint Commission meeting at the latest.

Iceland stressed on behalf of the Icelandic Fisheries Directorate that it is important to include the weight of packaging when sending notices to ports.

Scientific cooperation

The research institutes of Greenland and Iceland have cooperated on mackerel surveys since 2013 particularly by means of chartering the Icelandic research vessel Árni Friðriksson. This vessel will not be available to the same degree in 2016. The parties discussed other potential options and were hopeful as to finding a solution.

JL

ERK

The parties expressed their contentment with the developments within research cooperation on capelin. With reference to the Memorandum of Understanding between the research institutes, Iceland encouraged Greenlandic researchers to participate on board the research vessels during the capelin surveys.

As regards research on cod, the parties meet directly in the ICES North-Western Working Group. Greenland explained that the goal is achieve an analytical assessment of cod which is foreseen to be developed within the next few years as there is good survey coverage and data. Much progress has taken place within the last few years as ICES now recognises three separate stocks. Greenland further explained that the management plan for cod in East Greenland and NAFO 1F will expire by the end of this year after which a new one will be developed. The parties expressed their appreciation regarding their cooperation on tagging.

The parties agreed that this is an important issue on which there is basis for further cooperation, and that the topic should be revisited at the next meeting.

Access arrangements for research vessels

There is an increase in the numbers of surveys which include the economic zone of both parties. The parties discussed the sometimes cumbersome bureaucratic process of achieving permits for research activities which causes delays. The parties discussed ways of circumventing this problem in the future. Greenland agreed to look in to this and keep Iceland informed on the progress made

Update on the work on zonal attachment of capelin

Iceland gave an update on the work of the working group on zonal attachment of capelin. Catch information through the reference period has been compiled but the work is not yet finalised. The parties discussed the option of having the next capelin meeting before the finalisation of the report.

Time and place for the next meeting

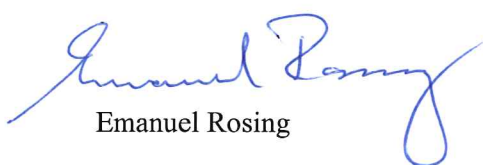
Iceland will host the next meeting which is foreseen to take place in January or February 2017 in Reykjavik. The parties expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the meeting and the cordial atmosphere in which the meeting took place. The meeting was adjourned at 13.00.

For the Icelandic party



Jóhann Guðmundsson

For the Greenlandic party



Emanuel Rosing

Fifth Annual Meeting of the Joint Icelandic-Greenlandic Fisheries Commission

Nuuk, 2-3 February 2016

Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Appointment of rapporteurs, one from each party
4. State of fish stocks
 - a. Cod
 - b. Shrimp in Dohrn Bank
 - c. Greenland Halibut
 - d. Redfish in Irminger Sea
 - e. *Sebastes norvegicus*
 - f. Mackerel
 - g. Capelin
 - h. Herring
 - i. Blue whiting
5. Exchange of statistical data
6. Access arrangements regarding landing of catches
7. International cooperation
 - j. Regional Fisheries Management Arrangements
 - k. NEAFC
 - l. NAFO
8. Management, control and enforcement in the field of fisheries
 - m. ERS
9. Scientific cooperation
 - n. Scientific cooperation regarding mackerel
 - o. Scientific cooperation regarding capelin
 - p. Scientific cooperation regarding cod
10. Further cooperation
11. Other
 - q. Access arrangements regarding research vessels in GEEZ
 - r. Update on the work regarding zonal attachment of capelin
12. Time and place for the next meeting
13. Adoption of the agreed records

List of Participants

Iceland

Jóhann Guðmundsson (HoD)

Baldur P. Erlingsson

Þorsteinn Sigurðsson

Pétur Ásgeirsson

Greenland

Emanuel Rosing (HoD)

Katrin Vilhelm Poulsen

Jóhanna Lava Køtlum

Mads Rossing Lund

Rasmus Hedeholm

Søren Post

Sámal Jákup Olsen

Frans Heilmann

Jonas Engilbertsson

Greenland halibut - balance sheet

All figures in tons

Annex II

2014	TAC according to shares	Balance 2013	Transfers from previous year Art. 4	Quotas		Transfers to/from between parties Art. 6	Quotas after transfers	Catch			Balance 2014		
				Transfers from following year Art. 5	Transfers to/from following year Art. 5			Party XIV/b	Other	Total		Foreign parties Total	
Party	8.320	-	0	0	-5.934	2.386	Va	Vb	Party XIV/b	Other	Total	Foreign parties Total	Balance 2014
Greenland							0	0	1.883	0	1.883	5.751	686
Iceland													
Faroe Islands													
Total													

2015	TAC according to shares	Balance 2014	Transfers from previous year Art. 4	Quotas		Transfers to/from between parties Art. 6	Quotas after transfers	Catch			Balance 2015		
				Transfers from following year Art. 5	Transfers to/from following year Art. 5			Party XIV/b	Other	Total		Foreign parties Total	
Party	9.468	686	0	0	-5.665	3.803	Va	Vb	Party XIV/b	Other	Total	Foreign parties Total	Balance 2015
Greenland							1	0	3.540	42	3.583	5.752	133
Iceland													
Faroe Islands													
Total	25.180												

2016	TAC according to shares	Balance 2015	Transfers from previous year Art. 4	Quotas		Transfers to/from between parties Art. 6	Quotas after transfers	Catch			Balance 2016		
				Transfers from following year Art. 5	Transfers to/from following year Art. 5			Party XIV/b	Other	Total		Foreign parties Total	
Party	8.272	133				8.272	Va	Vb	Party XIV/b	Other	Total	Foreign parties Total	Balance 2016
Greenland													8.272
Iceland													
Faroe Islands													
Total	22.000												

Notes

- Transfer according to Art. 5 and 6 have been put in separate columns for transparency
- A new column "Catch Foreign parties" have been added to reflect the understanding that a party may transfer all unutilized quotas originating from that party (within the cap) to the following year

