

**Sixth annual meeting of the Joint Icelandic Greenlandic Fisheries
commission**

Copenhagen 28 February – 1 March 2017

Draft 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. Prawns 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
 - a. Regional Fisheries Management Arrangements
 - b. NEAFC
 - c. NAFO
8. Management, control and enforcement in the field of fisheries
 - a. ERS
 - b. Exchange of data on landings
9. Scientific cooperation
10. Further cooperation
11. Other
12. Time and place for the next meeting
13. Adoption of the agreed records.

**Agreed Record of the Annual Meeting of the Joint Icelandic-Greenlandic Fisheries
Commission
Copenhagen, 28 February – 1 March 2017**

The parties met on 28 February – 1 March 2017 in Copenhagen. This was the sixth meeting of the joint Icelandic-Greenlandic Fisheries Commission, and Iceland served as chair. The Greenlandic delegation was headed by Katrin Vilhelm Poulsen and the Icelandic delegation headed by Jóhann Guðmundsson. 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 I and II,

State of fish stocks

a. Cod

Greenland gave an overview of Greenland cod which is divided into two management areas i.e. west and east. In the east two annual surveys are conducted, a Greenlandic and German survey. The advice in 2016 in the east was 14,755 tonnes. Advice for 2017 is 7,930 tons based on ICES framework for category 3 stocks. An analytical assessment for the east area will most likely be implemented for next year. The total stock biomass for the West Greenland stock is very low in 2016 and ICES advices for zero catches in 2017.

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. Management of the stock is in line with the applied HCR. Surveys show that length/age distributions in recent years are much wider than earlier and both fishable stock as well as the spawning stock have not been larger for decades.

b. Northern shrimp in East Greenland

Greenland gave an overview of the status of the shrimp in East Greenland. Catches are declining and biomass is fairly low. Catches in 2016 were only 49 tons. ICES advice is 2,000 tonnes which is unchanged between 2016 and 2017.

c. Greenland Halibut

Greenland 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. The stock is in positive development towards Bmsy and fishing pressure is satisfactory on a long term maximum sustainable yield level. Such effort corresponds to a total catch of no more than 24,000 tonnes for East Greenland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands in 2017.

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

The parties expressed concern over redfish in the Irminger Sea. Greenland gave an overview of the stock. On the shallow stock (above 500 meters) the advice is zero catch in each of years 2017 and 2018. On the deep stock (below 500m meters) the advice is also zero catch in each of years 2017 and 2018. Analytical assessment has been made on the deep pelagic stock which is a step forward. The biomass is below MSY Btrigger. Most likely the biomass is stable but at a very low level. The spawning stock biomass (SSB) is forecasted to remain below Blim in 2019 even with no catches being taken in 2017 and 2018.

Greenland gave overview on demersal *S. mentella* in East Greenland waters. ICES gives advice on that stock based on the precautionary approach. The advice is that catches in 2017 should be no more than 1,120 tonnes, compared to 2,240 tons in 2016.

e. Redfish (*S. norvegicus*)

Greenland and Iceland gave an overview of the stock and management. This is a shared stock between Greenland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands. The input for the analytical assessment conducted by ICES are, in addition to fisheries data, two groundfish surveys in Iceland, the German survey in East Greenland and surveys on the Faroe plateau. In Iceland, there are area restrictions in place to protect juvenile fish. The stock is managed according to a joint management arrangement between Greenland and Iceland and the advice given by ICES for 2017 is that catches should not be higher than 52,800 tonnes.

f. Mackerel

Greenland gave an overview of the status of the stock, its migration and the distribution of the fisheries. There is extensive survey coverage of mackerel by means of standardised trawl survey which gives a good picture of the distribution in the Norwegian Sea, Barents Sea, Icelandic and Greenlandic waters. The ICES benchmark from January 2017 resulted in a 13% downward adjustment in SSB. According to the latest assessment, the stock has increased and consequently the advised TAC was 857,000 tons. Greenland informed that presently the decision on the mackerel quota for 2017 is outstanding.

g. Capelin

Iceland gave an overview of the status of the shared capelin stock in East Greenland – Iceland – Jan Mayen area. Capelin has been subject to more surveys than normally on the fishable stock in 2016-2017 season as 5 surveys have been conducted. Surveys in autumn 2015 and 2016 indicated that the fishable biomass would be very small. The survey in January 2017 showed a fishable biomass of 400 and 500 thousand tonnes which resulted in a TAC of 57.000 tonnes, based on the HCR. The assessment of the survey in February 2017 gave however a final advice for 2016/2017 fishing season of 299,000 tonnes. The recent surveys have not been able to cover the recent distribution of the stock and there is an urgent need for research in order to address this gap in knowledge.

h. Herring

Iceland gave an overview of the status of the herring stock and the fisheries. Surveys conducted in April/May and in July show the feeding migration from the spawning grounds west of south-Norway towards the Norwegian Sea and entering into EEZ of Iceland and Greenland. Despite the upwards revision of the assessment made by ICES in its latest advice in October 2016, the stock size is declining and the recruitment has been low during the last decade. Catches based on ICES advice should be no more than 646,075 tonnes in 2017.

i. Blue whiting

Greenland gave an overview of the status of blue whiting. In addition to the fisheries data, assessment of blue whiting is performed by use of acoustic estimation on the spawning grounds. Although the fishery has

been above the advice in recent years, the fishing pressure has been below Fpa and the stock size is at record high due to very good recruitment in recent years. The ICES advice for 2017 is that catches should be no more than 1.342 million tonnes based on MSY approach.

5. Exchange of statistical data

The parties exchanged statistical data. A new balance sheet for Greenland halibut and redfish (*S. norvegicus*) was circulated which takes account of inter annual flexibility and transfers to other parties. The parties also reminded that the agreements on Greenland halibut and redfish call for transmittal of information regarding quota exchanges to other parties.

6. Access arrangements regarding landing of catches

The parties discussed the closure of Icelandic ports regarding herring catches from Greenlandic vessels, and agreed to endeavour to avoid such situations for the future. The parties agreed that for 2017, Greenland could land 35,000 tonnes mackerel and 20,000 tonnes herring in Icelandic ports.

The terms regarding the composition of landings intended for human consumption and industrial purposes, respectively, will be the same as for Icelandic vessels. Greenland stated that the possibility remains open for Icelandic vessels to be chartered in the Greenlandic mackerel fisheries in 2017.

7. International fisheries cooperation

a. Regional Fisheries Management Arrangements

The parties informed each other of the conclusions of their bilateral agreements for 2017. Iceland elaborated on existing bilateral agreements. In the agreement with Faroe Islands they receive 5.600 tonnes of demersal species. They were able to fish 1.900 tonnes of cod but this was increased to 2.400 tons for the 2017 fishing season. Faroe Islands is allocated 5% of the Capelin TAC of up to 30.000 tonnes. The Agreement also include bilateral access arrangement on herring and blue whiting in Icelandic and Faroe Islands EEZ, respectively.

No alterations were made to the bilateral agreement between the Russian Federation and Iceland for 2017 and the agreement with Norway on approx. 30.000 tons of capelin in exchange for 8.129 tons of cod in the Norwegian EEZ in the Barents Sea.

Greenland informed about their bilateral arrangements with other parties. The largest agreement is the Fisheries Partnership agreement with the EU where the current protocol runs from 2016-2020. Greenland also has bilateral arrangements with Russia, Norway and the Faroe Islands, the latter of which has recently increased in scope as Greenland now receives more herring and blue whiting, while the Faroe Islands receives more cod and other demersal stocks.

The parties also discussed developments in coastal State negotiations which continue to be characterised by disagreement. Greenland informed that following the coastal State negotiations in autumn 2016, they are now a coastal State with respect to mackerel. The status as regards herring is unresolved, as the Greenlandic claim for coastal State status had been rejected by certain parties.

b. NEAFC

There are two working groups working on guidelines on allocation criteria and a framework for coastal States negotiations. The ongoing work on ERS is proceeding quite well and will hopefully be concluded before the next Annual Meeting. Both parties highlighted the importance of cooperating within NEAFC

c. NAFO

The importance of following NAFO's work on VMEs and bottom fisheries was reiterated by both parties.

d. The parties discussed the ongoing work towards achieving an agreement on the Arctic High Seas. The next meeting will be hosted by Iceland, and both parties share the hope that an agreement can be made.

8. Management, control and enforcement in the field of fisheries

The parties discussed the prospects for a direct bilateral ERS agreement. The parties agreed to encourage respective national authorities to finalise such bilateral agreement between the two nations, following the conclusions in NEAFC.

b. Exchange of data on landings

The parties exchanged statistical data on landings.

9. 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 be available for research in Greenlandic waters for 4 days in 2017.

The parties expressed their contentment with the developments within research cooperation on capelin. With reference to the MoU between the research institutes, Iceland encouraged Greenlandic research to participate actively on the ongoing monitoring research activities. Greenland informed that they are planning to participate with vessel during the autumn survey in 2018, and continue their research efforts with commercial vessels.

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 is now recognizes three separate stocks.

10. Other

Salmon sampling in the mackerel fishery had taken place in 2015, and Greenland reiterated that they would be willing to continue the programme but further instructions from the relevant coordinators in Iceland would be necessary. Iceland promised to contact the Icelandic MRI in order to solve this issue.

The access arrangements for research vessels were discussed. Iceland still thought the process was burdensome and Greenland emphasised that they attempted for a very pragmatic approach to avoid any delays.

11. Time and place for the next meeting

Greenland will host the next meeting which is foreseen to take place in early 2018 in Nuuk.

The parties expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the meeting and the cordial atmosphere in which the meeting took place.

For the Greenlandic party



Katrin Vilhelm Poulsen

For the Icelandic party



Jóhann Guðmundsson

**ANNEX I.
ADOPTED AGENDA**

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ANNEX II.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Greenland:

Katrin Vilhelm Poulsen, Ministry of Fisheries and Hunting (HoD)
Jákup Emil Hansen, Ministry of Fisheries and Hunting
Jesper Boje, Greenland Institute of Natural Resources
Teunis Jansen, Greenland Institute of Natural Resources
Tønnes Berthelsen, Association of Fishers and Hunters in Greenland
Jens Bisgaard, Royal Greenland
Henrik Leth, Polar Seafood
Jonas Engilbertsson, Arctic Prime Fisheries

Iceland

Jóhann Guðmundsson, Director General MII (HoD)
Baldur Erlingsson, Lawyer MII
Þorsteinn Sigurðsson, Head of Department MRI
Jens Garðar Helgason, Chairman of Fisheries Iceland
Ingimundur Ingimundarson, Fleet Manager HB Grandi
Guðmundur Kristjánsson, Brim

Golden redfish (Sebastes norvegicus) - balance sheet

All figures in tons

2015	Quotas						Catch				Balance 2016		
	TAC according to shares	Balance 2014	Transfers from previous year Art. 4	Transfers from following year Art. 5	Transfers to/from between parties Art. 6	Quotas after transfers	Va	Vb	Party XIVb	Other		Total	Foreign parties Total
Greenland	5,065	-	0	0	-1,966	3,099	0	0	3,026	7	3,033	1,195	837
Iceland													
Total													0

Notes

- Managed in Greenland as a mixed fishery on the continental shelf on Sebastes mentella and Sebastes norvegicus. Total quota 8,500 (REG 5,065, REB 3,435)
- 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
- Where vessels have reported mixed redfish ICES evaluation of 30% Norwegian is used (30% of catches in 2015 were not reported by species, all catches were reported by species in 2016).

REG	5065	59,59%	3300	1966,41176
REB	3435	40,41%		
Mixed	8500	100,00%		

2016	Quotas						Catch				Balance 2016		
	TAC according to shares	Balance 2015	Transfers from previous year Art. 4	Transfers from following year Art. 5	Transfers to/from between parties Art. 6	Quotas after transfers	Va	Vb	Party XIVb	Other		Total	Foreign parties Total
Greenland	5,065	837	0	0	-1,788	4,114	0	0	2,263	0	2,263	1,708	1,931
Iceland													
Total													

REG	5065	59,59%	3000	1787,64706
REB	3435	40,41%		
Mixed	8500	100,00%		

Greenland halibut - balance sheet

All figures in tons

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

2015	Quotas						Catch				Balance 2015		
	TAC according to shares	Balance 2014	Transfers from previous year Art. 4	Transfers from following year Art. 5	Transfers to/from between parties Art. 6	Quotas after transfers	Va	Vb	Party XIVb	Other		Total	Foreign parties Total
Greenland	9.468	686	0	0	-5.665	3.803	41	0	3.643	38	3.722	5.752	-6
Iceland													
Faroe Islands													
Total	25.180												

2016	Quotas						Catch				Balance 2016		
	TAC according to shares	Balance 2015	Transfers from previous year Art. 4	Transfers from following year Art. 5	Transfers to/from between parties Art. 6	Quotas after transfers	Va	Vb	Party XIVb	Other		Total	Foreign parties Total
Greenland	8.272	-6	0	0	-6.475	1.797			1.460	367	1.827	6.482	-37
Iceland													
Faroe Islands													
Total	22.000												

Notes

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- 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