



## FISKIMÁLARÁÐIÐ

### INFORMATION NOTE

Submitted to the SPRFMO Interim Secretariat,

31 August 2007

The following information note provides summary catch information on fisheries by Faroese vessels in the South Pacific as well as a brief overview of Faroese fisheries management and the participation of the Faroes in international fisheries cooperation.

#### FISHERIES BY FAROESE VESSELS IN THE AREA OF THE PROPOSED SPRFMO

Since April 2007, 3 Faroese vessels have been fishing jack mackerel and chub mackerel in international waters in the area proposed for regulation under a South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (FAO Statistical Area 87, Southeast Pacific). A summary of total catch information by month in the period from 5 April to 30 August 2007 is shown in Table 1. Of this total catch, 76% was taken by a single vessel, as the other vessels suffered major accidents after fisheries commenced.

**Table 1. Catches by Faroese vessels in international waters, FAO Area 87 (Southeast Pacific) in tonnes**

<b>2007/ Month</b>	<b>Jack mackerel (<i>Trachurus murphyi</i>)</b>	<b>Chub mackerel (<i>Scomber japonicus</i>)</b>
<b>April</b>	3.754	0
<b>May</b>	5.756	359
<b>June</b>	9.936	752
<b>July</b>	5.225	436
<b>August</b>	4.551	300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29.221</b>	<b>1.847</b>

More detailed catch and effort data on Faroese fisheries in the region for use in scientific assessment work under the SPRFMO will be submitted separately to the Interim Secretariat, in accordance with the data standards adopted at the third round of SPRFMO consultations in Chile in May 2007.

## FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

The Faroes are a self-governing territory under the sovereignty of the Kingdom of Denmark, with a large degree of autonomy under the Home Government Arrangement of 1948, which was extensively amended in 2005.

The Faroese Parliament legislates on all matters for which the Faroes have exclusive competence, which include fisheries and trade. The Faroes negotiate and conclude bilateral and multilateral fisheries and trade agreements with other nations independent of Denmark. When Denmark joined the European Community in 1973, the Faroes decided to remain outside.

In relation to the conclusion of conventions under international law in which Denmark's interests are covered by EU ratification on behalf of its member states, the Faroes have the competence to negotiate and conclude such agreements in their own right, with Contracting Party status referred to as "the Kingdom of Denmark in respect of the Faroes" or "the Government of the Faroes".

- **Legal and administrative framework**

The legislative framework for the regulation of all commercial fisheries, including fisheries by Faroese vessels operating in international waters, is the Commercial Fisheries Act of 1994. The fundamental objective of Faroese fisheries management is to conserve and utilise marine fish stocks with a view to ensuring biological and economic sustainability in order to secure optimal socio-economic benefits from fisheries.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Affairs ([www.fisk.fo](http://www.fisk.fo)) is responsible for the management of fisheries according to the legislation. This includes the implementation of detailed regulations governing vessel and fishing licences, area closures, gear and data requirements and other technical regulations for commercial fisheries in Faroese waters and by Faroese vessels fishing in other zones and international waters.

- **Licences, monitoring and control**

All commercial Faroese fishing vessels must hold valid harvesting and fishing licences.

The harvesting licence is an operating licence issued to an individual vessel. Faroese fishing vessels must be registered with the Faroese Shipping Registry and vessels must be certified by the Faroese Maritime Authority. The Maritime Authority is responsible for ensuring that vessels fulfil all relevant requirements for health and safety on board in accordance with national and international standards. The Maritime Authority coordinates Faroese participation as Associated Member of the International Maritime Organization.

Fishing vessels flying the Faroese flag must be at least two-thirds Faroese owned and subject to taxation in the Faroes.

The fishing licence specifies the details of fishing activities (effort, quota & area limitations, etc) in which the vessel is permitted to participate, as well as outlining requirements for reporting of catch data and information on landings or transshipments.

All commercial fishing vessels must maintain a daily log of their activities in an authorised catch logbook issued for this purpose. All vessels larger than 15 GT must have satellite vessel monitoring systems (VMS) in both national and international waters.

The Faroese Fisheries Inspection is responsible for monitoring and inspecting catches and landings of individual vessels and the weighing-in of catches. This includes both on board inspection, monitoring of transshipments and inspection of landings in port. Faroese inspection and rescue vessels, in cooperation with Danish coast guard vessels, provide for a constant patrol presence in Faroese waters, as well as contributing to fisheries inspection in international waters of the North Atlantic at regular intervals in collaboration with the inspection services of other nations in the region.

- **Fisheries research**

The Faroese Fisheries Research Laboratory provides the Ministry of Fisheries with scientific advice on fish stocks and marine ecosystems around the Faroes. Faroese fisheries scientists also participate in international scientific assessments of shared stocks in the North Atlantic, mainly through the work of specialist working groups under the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES).

Faroese marine research aims to provide the best possible scientific basis for responsible exploitation of marine resources. Fish stock assessments are based on investigations such as 0-group surveys, bottom trawls surveys and acoustic surveys carried out by the research vessel, *Magnus Heineson*, in addition to catch and effort statistics from the commercial fleet. Marine research in the Faroes also focuses on consideration of ecosystem dynamics, primary production and the impacts of climate change on ocean currents and marine ecology around the Faroes, which have a major influence on the conservation status of commercially important fish stocks and species. See [www.frs.fo](http://www.frs.fo) for further details.

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Fisheries in other zones and international waters have long been an important part of total Faroese catches. It is a priority for the Faroes as a fisheries dependent nation to conclude and strengthen bilateral and multilateral arrangements and participate fully in all relevant regional fisheries management bodies in order to ensure responsible and sustainable conservation and management measures for all fisheries in which Faroese vessels participate.

The Faroes have reciprocal fisheries agreements with neighbouring countries in the North Atlantic region (EU, Iceland, Norway, Russia and Greenland), involving the exchange of fishing opportunities which give foreign fleets quotas and access to the Faroes zone in exchange for equal fishing opportunities for the Faroese fleet in their zones. These agreements provide Faroese fishing vessels with the scope and flexibility to pursue a variety of fisheries in the best seasons. An important aspect of bilateral fisheries relations in the region is active cooperation on control and inspection and the development of agreed standards for the monitoring of fishing activity.

Fisheries for shared stocks figure prominently in overall Faroese catches, in particular the important pelagic stocks of blue whiting, Atlanto-Scandian herring and mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic. The conservation and management of these stocks is based on arrangements agreed between the relevant coastal states, which also provide a basis for measures in international waters adopted through the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC - [www.neafc.org](http://www.neafc.org)). NEAFC, to which the Faroes are a Contracting Party together with Greenland<sup>1</sup>, has also adopted measures for the regulation of deep sea fisheries in international waters of the Northeast Atlantic, and certain areas have been closed to bottom fishing to protect vulnerable marine habitats, including seamounts.

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<sup>1</sup> "Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland"

In the Northwest Atlantic, fisheries in international waters are regulated through the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO - [www.nafo.int](http://www.nafo.int)). The Faroes fish shrimp and some Greenland halibut and redfish and have an historical stake in cod fisheries in the NAFO area.

The North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO – [www.nasco.int](http://www.nasco.int)) promotes the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean. The Faroes maintain their right to fish for salmon at sea when the conservation status of relevant stocks allows for such a fishery.

The Faroes are a founding member of the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO – [www.nammco.no](http://www.nammco.no)) and currently have the chair of the Council. NAMMCO was established in 1992 by the Agreement on Cooperation in Research, Conservation and Management of Marine Mammals in the North Atlantic, of which Greenland, Iceland and Norway are also members. Since its inception, NAMMCO has in particular focussed its work on the study, conservation and management of small cetaceans, such as long-finned pilot whales which are utilised for food in the Faroes, as well as seals and walrus. NAMMCO has also developed an international observation scheme, promotes technical cooperation on hunting methods and coordinates regular scientific abundance surveys of cetaceans across the North Atlantic.

- **North Atlantic cooperation to deter and prevent IUU fishing**

In 2006 NEAFC adopted significant new measures to tackle IUU fishing, extending port state measures under the existing NEAFC Control Scheme to include IUU activity in the zones of Contracting Parties, in addition to international waters. Blacklisted vessels shall not be permitted to call at ports, receive services and supplies, change crew members, etc. in any port of the member countries of NEAFC, which includes all EU member states. The new port state measures came into effect on 1 May 2007.

NEAFC and NAFO have agreed to recognize and apply each other's blacklists, leading to the closure of ports to IUU listed vessels in all Contracting Parties in both organisations. NAFO is also working to enhance its current scheme for port state controls by adopting similar measures to the NEAFC Control Scheme.

The listing of vessels and the follow-up actions included in the NEAFC and NAFO blacklisting procedures have so far had significant results. Ports in North Africa, North America, Japan and Korea are also closed as a result of bilateral agreements, as well as through cooperation with other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations.

- **FAO**

The Faroese Government, with the approval of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Faroese Parliament, has recently decided to seek Associated Membership of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, FAO. A formal application has now been lodged on behalf of the Faroes by the Government of Denmark. The Faroes look forward to a favourable decision on this application in the formal decision-making body of FAO in November 2007. As FAO Associated Member, the Faroes will focus in particular on contributing to the work of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) and enhancing contacts and cooperation with fisheries nations around the world.