

PROTOCOL
of the Forty Ninth Session in the Joint Faroese – Russian
Fisheries Commission

1. After an invitation from the Faroese Party and according to the Agreement of 27 November 1977 on mutual fishery relations the Forty Ninth session of the Joint Faroese-Russian Fisheries Commission was held by videoconference in Tórshavn, the Faroe Islands, and Moscow, the Russian Federation, on 22-23 December and 29 December 2025.

The following representatives of the Contracting Parties in the Joint Commission participated in the Forty Ninth session:

For the Faroe Islands: Janet Skarðsá

For the Russian Federation: Sergey V. Simakov

Members of the delegations from the Faroe Islands and Russian Federation are listed in Appendix 1.

The Faroese Party informed the Russian Party that from the 1st of January 2026 the Faroe Islands will join Decision 2024/2643 of 8 October 2024 by the Council of the European Union, which specifically applies restrictive measures to Russian fishing companies “Norebo” and “Murman SeaFood” under the EU sanctions regime in view of Russia’s destabilising activities.

The Russian Party proceeds from the fact that the introduction of restrictive measures by the Faroe Islands from the 1st of January 2026 actually denies the access to a considerable number of Russian fishing vessels to the Faroese Fishing Zone, thus violating Article 1 of the Agreement of 27 November 1977 on mutual fishery relations, whereunder each Contracting Party shall give the fishing vessels of the other Contracting Party access to fishing in the area that is subject to its fisheries jurisdiction.

The Russian Party highlighted that for the first time since the Agreement of 27 November 1977 on mutual fishery relations started to be implemented many years ago, the Faroese Party intends to deny licensing some Russian fishing vessels for the reason not related to IUU fishing. In the opinion of the Russian Party, no other reasons to deny licensing, including political ones, are acceptable.

To ensure sustainable utilization of fishery resources in their entire distribution area, the Russian Party underlined the need to lift the unjustified restrictions to be introduced by the Faroe Islands for the considerable number of Russian fishing fleet from the 1st of January 2026.

The Russian Party noted that by introducing restrictive measures on fishing vessels owned by Russian companies “Norebo” and “Murman Seafood” the Faroese Party actually violates the basic provisions of the Agreement of 27 November 1977 on mutual fishery relations, initiating the dismantling of the established efficient system that regulates fisheries relations and in doing so, bears the responsibility for further potential negative consequences.

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The Faroese party was of the view that the adoption of restrictive measures similar to the measures adopted by the European Union under Regulation 2024/2642, which gives effect to Decision 2024/2643 of the 8 of October 2024, is consistent with the Agreement of 27 November 1977 on mutual fishery relations. The Faroese party will, consistent with the agreement, continue to issue licenses for fisheries in the Faroese Fisheries Zone, and the restrictive measures will not generally apply to all vessels flying the flag of the Russian Federation.

Fisheries in the Faroese Fisheries Zone is contingent upon the possession of a fisheries license under article 3 of the agreement of 1977. The restrictive measures will apply to vessels owned by or under the control of the companies Murman Seafood and Norebo JSC, respectively. Thus, issuance of fisheries licenses to the above-mentioned companies in the Faroese Fisheries Zone would be inconsistent with Faroese law.

2. The Joint Commission approved the following agenda:

1. Opening of the session
2. Approval of the agenda. Establishment of the Working Groups
3. Status of fishery resources in the Barents and Norwegian Seas and the Faroese Fishing Zone
4. Exchange of statistical data between the Parties on their fisheries in 2024, and provisional catch statistics for 2025
5. Mutual quota allocations for 2026
6. Technical regulatory measures for fish and shrimps. The unified conversion factors for fish products
7. Number of fishery licences in 2026
8. Procedures for granting fishery permits/licences in 2026, fishing logbook and compliance with fishery regulations
9. Consultations on satellite tracking of fishing vessels of the Parties and electronic data exchange
10. Consultations on joint program of experimental fishery and scientific research for 2026
11. Cooperation according to Article 7 in the Agreement of 27 November 1977
12. Any other business
13. Closing of the session

The Parties agreed to establish the following joint Working Groups: on scientific cooperation; on monitoring and surveillance; on cooperation; and a protocol group.

3. Status of fishery resources in the Barents and Norwegian Seas and the Faroese Fishing Zone

The Parties presented information on the status of main commercial species in the Barents and Norwegian Seas and in the Faroese Fishing Zone.

The Parties agreed that the cod stock in the Barents Sea has stabilised at a low level while the haddock stock has increased. The fishable stocks of cod and haddock are expected to increase in 2026 and 2027.

The blue whiting stock has decreased but it is still above the biomass reference points. The stock will somewhat decrease during the next few years due to poor recruitment of 2023 and 2024 year classes.

The spawning stock of Norwegian spring-spawning herring is below the biomass reference points but has increased due to the strong 2021 and 2022 year classes. The spawning stock of herring is expected to continue to increase in 2026 and 2027 due to strong recruitment of these year classes.

The mackerel stock has decreased and is near the biomass reference point. The reason behind this can be poor recruitment in recent years and poor feeding conditions combined with an overfishing of the advised TAC.

4. Exchange of statistical data between the Parties on their fisheries in 2024 and provisional catch statistics for 2025

The Parties exchanged statistical information on their fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation in the Barents Sea and in the Faroese Fishing Zone in 2024 and provisional information on their fisheries for 2025 to date.

The Parties agreed to exchange data on their catches in each other's zone on a monthly basis between:

the Severomorskoe Territorial Department of the Federal Agency for Fisheries of the Russian Federation (Severomorskoe Territorial Department), Murmansk, e-mail: murmansk@murmansk.fish.gov.ru;

the Border Guard Department of the FSB of Russia in the Western Arctic area by e-mail: pu.murmanobl2@fsb.ru;

the Murmansk Branch of FGFI "Centre of Fishery Monitoring and Communication" by e-mail: stat15@cfmc24.ru; and

the Faroe Islands Fisheries Inspection, Tórshavn, e-mail: vorn@vorn.fo and fmc@vorn.fo.

5. Mutual quota allocations for 2026

After consultations the Parties agreed on the following mutual quota allocations for 2026:

5.1 The Faroese authorities will permit Russian vessels to fish a quota of 65,000 tonnes of blue whiting (including by-catch of herring – up to 3% and anchovy – 10% of the quota of blue whiting), 4,201 tonnes of mackerel, and 7,414 tonnes of herring in the Faroese Fishing Zone. When fishing for blue whiting and mackerel, Russian vessels are permitted to have a by-catch of herring of up to 300 tonnes. This by-catch shall not be counted against the herring quota. When fishing for mackerel the allowed by-catch of herring is up to 49% of the total catches per landing.

The total catches and by-catches of herring shall not exceed 7,714 tonnes. The maximum by-catch of all other fish species together is up to 2% per haul.

The above-mentioned by-catch rules will be reflected in an Executive Order by the Government of the Faroe Islands.

Based on the catches of blue whiting and mackerel in 2026, the Russian Party may transfer unutilized amount of herring between the amount of herring allocated as by-catch and the amount of herring allocated for directed fishery. A request for such transfer must be made prior to 1 November 2026.

Russian vessels are granted access to the Faroese Fishing Zone in 2026 to fish up to 49% (equal to 30,953 tonnes) of the catch limitation of blue whiting for Russia in the NEAFC Regulatory Area for 2026.

The Russian Party may fish amount limited by quotas for blue whiting, herring and mackerel allocated by the Faroe Islands in the NEAFC regulatory area in 2026.

The quotas allocated, and access granted to Russian vessels in the Faroese Fishing Zone, under this agreement, do not entitle Russian fishing vessels to pursue any fisheries activities in the Special Area as described by the coordinates in Schedule C in the Agreement between the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark together with the Home Government of the Faroe Islands, on the one hand, and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on the other hand, relating to Maritime Delimitation in the Area between the Faroe Islands and the United Kingdom, 18 May 1999.

5.2 The Russian authorities will allow Faroese fishing vessels to catch the following fish species: cod, haddock, flatfish, including plaice and long rough dab, and by-catches of other species in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation in the Barents Sea.

It was agreed to allocate to the Faroese Party a quota of 6,306 tonnes of cod, 1,484 tonnes of haddock, 900 tonnes of flatfish, including plaice and long rough dab, and 4,000 tonnes of northern shrimp.

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The maximum by-catch of fish resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation in the Barents Sea shall be no more than 10% by weight for each species in the catch per haul and no more than 10% for all species of the total weight of the catch in the landing (See also Item 6).

The Faroese Party may fish amount limited by quotas for cod and haddock allocated by the Russian Party in the Norwegian Economic Zone in 2026 following the receipt of a written confirmation from the Russian authorities about approval of such an arrangement with the Norwegian authorities.

The Russian Party will allow Faroese fishing vessels to catch northern shrimp in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation in the Barents Sea. In addition, the Russian Party will allow Faroese fishing vessels to catch northern shrimp in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation in the Barents Sea and adjacent areas of the Arctic Ocean (in accordance with the Order by the Ministry of Agriculture of Russian Federation No. 616 dated 24 September 2025 "*On Approval of the Total Allowable Catch of Aquatic Biological Resources in Inner Marine Waters of the Russian Federation, in the Territorial Sea of the Russian Federation, on the Continental Shelf of the Russian Federation, in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation and in the Caspian Sea in 2026*"), provided that no more than two Faroese fishing vessels simultaneously fish for northern shrimp in that area.

Moreover, for the purposes of the efficient utilization of northern shrimp quota allocated to the Faroese Party, Faroese vessels are allowed to go beyond the limits of the EEZ of the Russian Federation in the Barents Sea and transit through the NEAFC Regulatory Area east of the marine delimitation line established by the Agreement between the Russian Federation and the Kingdom of Norway on Delimitation and Cooperation in the Barents Sea and the Arctic Ocean from 15 September 2010 over the continental shelf of the Russian Federation under the following conditions:

- Comply with the requirements of the Regulation on the procedure for passing check points by Faroese vessels, ensure embarkations (disembarkations) of officers of the Border Guard Department of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation in the Western Arctic area (hereinafter – the Department) onboard the Faroese vessels;
- Undertake fishery in the presence of officials from the Department and under their control;
- Inform the Department on entry (exit) of the vessel into (from) the EEZ of the Russian Federation, about the positions of the vessel when fishing, and about the uptake of aquatic biological resources;
- To pass through the NEAFC Regulatory Area to the fishing ground within the shortest distance in compliance with the rules applicable for passage stated in section 2 of Part III of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982;
- To send information to the addresses notified in section 8.7. of this Protocol on each entry (exit) of the vessel into (from) the EEZ of the Russian Federation, with the purpose of passage to the fishing area, and on daily positions of the vessel while passing.

The Faroese Party requested the Russian Party to transfer up to 10 % of unutilised cod and haddock quotas from 2025 to 2026 taking into account that such practice of transferring

unutilised quotas is widely used in other fisheries and ensures their flexibility. The Russian Party informed that it would consider such possibility, also taking the opinion of the Norwegian Party into account.

5.3 The Faroese Party will allow 5 Russian vessels to undertake experimental fishing in the Faroese Fishing Zone at depths deeper than 700 meters, provided that a Russian scientific observer is onboard. No more than 3 vessels can simultaneously be operating.

Two of these vessels can undertake experimental fishery in deep waters around Outer Bailey and Bill Baileys Banks, at depth between 500 and 700 meters, provided that catches in this area do not exceed 500 tonnes of deep-sea species.

5.4 In case any additional information of principal importance from the Permanent Working Group is available, the Parties may decide to hold an extraordinary session of the Joint Faroese – Russian Fisheries Commission before 15 July 2026 to revise mutual quota allocations for 2026.

5.5 The Faroese Party requested the Russian Party to retain the right to fish for cod by its fishing vessels in the Baltic Sea in the future. The Russian Party agreed to look at this issue according to the Baltic cod stock condition.

The Parties discussed the prospects of fishery for crabs by Faroese vessels in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation in the Barents Sea and adjacent areas of the Arctic Ocean.

5.6 The Parties agreed that consultations shall be held, if so requested by either Party, on possible re-transfer of quotas allocated under item 5.1 and 5.2 which are expected not to be fully utilized.

5.7 The Russian Party will consider the possibility of allocating a capelin quota in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation in the Barents Sea to the Faroese Party provided that the Joint Russian-Norwegian Fisheries Commission establishes a quota of capelin to third countries.

5.8 The Faroese Party noted the proposal of the Russian Party to consider the possibility of allocating to it a saithe quota in the Faroese Fishing Zone for targeted fishery.

5.9 The Faroese Party stated its readiness to restrict the total volume of fishery of cod and other demersal species in the Barents Sea to the above-mentioned volumes as well as by the amounts set up by the arrangement between the Faroe Islands and Norway.

6. Technical regulatory measures for fish and shrimps. The unified conversion factors for fish products

Notification

The Parties agreed to inform each other about introductions or amendments of fishery regulations applicable to vessels of the other Party. Such information shall be notified at

least 14 days in advance before the regulations become effective. The Parties agreed to inform each other on such issues through correspondence to the official e-mails of the Parties: Federal Agency for Fisheries – harbour@fishcom.ru or harbour@fish.gov.ru, Severomorskoe Territorial Department – murmansk@murmansk.fish.gov.ru and Faroese Ministry of Fisheries, Industry and Trade – fisk@fisk.fo, Faroe Islands Fisheries Inspection - vorn@vorn.fo and fmc@vorn.fo.

The Faroese Party informed that a new Executive Order on fishing activities by vessels flying the flag of the Russian Federation in the Faroese Fishing Zone in 2026 will replace the Executive Order valid for 2025.

Cod and haddock

Sorting grids are mandatory for use in cod and haddock trawl fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation in the Barents Sea. The applied sorting grids must be in conformity with technical specifications on the basis of the minimal distance between bars of 55 mm.

This provision is not applicable when conducting directed fishery for flatfish.

It is allowed to use fine-meshed netting and materials for guiding parts of sorting grids.

The unified minimum mesh size of bottom trawls in cod and haddock fisheries in the entire area of their distribution is 130 mm. The minimum fish sizes are as follows: 44 cm for cod and 40 cm for haddock. A total by-catch of cod, haddock and saithe below the minimum fish size is allowed of up to 15% of the total number of cod, haddock and saithe from each individual haul and of other bioresources below the minimum fish size - not more than 20%.

It is allowed to have a by-catch of Greenland halibut of up to 12% by weight in each haul and up to 7% of the catch onboard after termination of fishing and in the landing.

The Russian Party will inform the Faroese Party about any possible changes in the Russian Fisheries Regulations for the Northern Fisheries Basin in the percentage of the by-catch of Greenland halibut.

It is permitted to have a by-catch of redfish of up to 20 % of the total weight in each individual haul and in the landing.

It is permitted to have a by-catch of saithe of up to 20 % of the total weight in each individual haul and in the landing.

The decision on the closing or opening of fishing areas shall become effective 7 days after the Parties have notified each other of the decision. Decisions on the closing or opening shall immediately come into force for vessels, which receive information on the decision directly from responsible authorities.

It is forbidden to use mid-water trawls in cod fishery.

Before the day ends it is allowed to make corrections of records in a fishing logbook relating to the previous day.

Capelin

Technical regulatory measures for capelin fishery are applied according to the Protocol of the 56th session of the Joint Russian-Norwegian Fisheries Commission.

Blue whiting

According to the Faroese Party, special rules can be implemented from 15 April to 31 May 2026 concerning the fishery of blue whiting in the Faroese Fishing Zone with a view to prevent congestion, while the fishery is concentrated in a relatively limited area.

Sorting grids are mandatory for the use by all fishing vessels operating in the blue whiting fishery in the Faroese Fishing Zone.

The Faroese Party informed the Russian Party that a sorting grid may be used in accordance with the Agreed amendments to the sorting grid arrangements (Appendix 2).

Mackerel and herring

The Faroese Party informed the Russian Party that on the basis of the Agreement from 1st of July 2009 between the European Union, the Faroe Islands and Norway on control measures in the fisheries for pelagic species, new control measures were put into effect in 2012 for all Faroese vessels fishing for these species.

In 2014, these measures were put in place for foreign fishing vessels fishing for mackerel and herring in Faroese waters as well.

Real time closures in the Faroese Fishing Zone

The Faroese Party informed the Russian Party about real time closures of areas within the Faroese Fishing Zone due to high abundance of juvenile fish as stipulated in Executive Order No. 118 on the protection of juveniles and the maximum admixture of juveniles from 20 July 2021. In case of real time closure the Faroe Islands Fisheries Inspection will inform without delay Russian fishing vessels operating in its waters. Russian fishing vessels concerned have to leave the relevant areas within 2 hours as from the time and date indicated in the notice sent to the vessels.

The competent authorities of the Faroe Islands will also inform without delay the Russian Party of each closure to Severomorskoe Territorial Department – murmansk@murmansk.fish.gov.ru.

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Shrimp

A minimum mesh size in bottom trawls used in shrimp fisheries is 35 mm. The use of sorting grid with a maximum bar spacing of 19 mm is mandatory in all cases of fishing for shrimp in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation. It is allowed to use a reinforcement net on trawls when fishing for Northern shrimps provided that the mesh size of the reinforcement net is not less than 80 mm.

A by-catch of juvenile cod in shrimp fishery should not exceed a total of 800 individuals per 1 tonne of shrimp; by-catch of juvenile haddock should not exceed 2000 individuals per 1 tonne of shrimp. A by-catch of juvenile redfish should not exceed 300 individuals per 1 tonne of shrimp. A by-catch of juvenile Greenland halibut shall not exceed 300 individuals per 1 tonne of shrimp.

A decision on the closing or opening of fishing areas shall become effective 7 days after the Parties have notified each other of the decision. Decision on the closing or opening shall immediately come into force for vessels, which receive information on the decision directly from responsible authorities.

Before the day ends it is allowed to make corrections of records in a fishing logbook relating to the previous day.

Closed areas and periods of closure:

The Russian Party informed that there are no changes in coordinates of closed areas for fishery and periods of closure previously submitted to the Faroese Party.

Unified conversion factors for fish products

The Russian Party informed the Faroese Party about the unified conversion factors for products of cod and haddock endorsed by the Joint Norwegian-Russian Fisheries Commission at its 56th session.

The Faroese Party has agreed that the Faroese fishermen similarly to the Russian and Norwegian fishermen use the following unified conversion factors for products:
of cod:

- gutted with head	- 1.18
- gutted without head	- 1.50 (round cut)
- gutted without head	- 1.55 (straight cut)
- gutted without head and without collar bone	- 1.74

filleted cod:

- fillet with skin (with bone)	- 2.65
- fillet without skin (with bone)	- 2.84
- fillet without skin (without bone)	- 3.25
- fillet with skin (without bone)	- 2.95
- fillet with skin (without bone), without belly	- 3.16

- fillet without skin (without bone), without belly - 3.43

of haddock:

- gutted with head - 1.14
- gutted without head - 1.40 (round cut)
- gutted without head and without collar bone - 1.69

filleted haddock:

- fillet with skin (with bone) - 2.76
- fillet without skin (with bone) - 3.07
- fillet without skin (without bone) - 3.15
- fillet with skin (without bone) - 2.80
- fillet with skin (without bone), without belly - 3.01
- fillet without skin (without bone), without belly - 3.28

According to the Faroese Executive Order No. 44 from 9 April 2003 the Russian Party has agreed to use the following established conversions factors for products in the Faroese Fishing Zone:

Of mackerel:

- gutted with head - 1.15
- gutted without head - 1.30
- fillet with skin and bone - 2.60
- fillet without skin with bone - 2.60
- fillet without skin boneless - 2.60
- fish meal - 5.22

Of blue whiting:

- gutted with head - 1.20
- gutted without head - 1.40
- fillet with skin with bone - 2.80
- fillet without skin with bone - 2.80
- fillet without skin boneless - 2.80
- fish meal - 5.11

Of herring:

- gutted with head - 1.00
- gutted without head - 1.00
- fillet with skin with bone - 2.00
- fillet without skin with bone - 2.00
- fillet without skin boneless - 2.00
- fish meal - 5.11

The Russian Party informed the Faroese Party that in accordance with paragraph 14 of the Fisheries Regulations for the Northern Fisheries Basin adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation on May 13, 2021 No. 292, it is prohibited to receive (deliver) catches of aquatic biological resources without weighing or

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determining the amount of catch of aquatic biological resources using the volume-weight method and (or) by piece-by-piece recalculation, followed by recalculation to the average weight of aquatic biological resources and (or) recalculation according to the norms of output for fish products (conversion factors).

The approved conversion factors for cod and haddock products are given in Annex 7 to the Protocol of the 56th session of the Joint Russian-Norwegian Fisheries Commission, and for products made from other fish species the approved norms of output are given in *"Norms of output for processed products from aquatic biological resources in the Northern Fisheries Basin" on the Severomorskoe Territorial Department website* (<https://murmansk.fish.gov.ru/upload/iblock/384/7o67s2yqw48wg7ifvsrp8dh6qmr1thiv.pdf>).

In case of producing fish products other than those indicated in the above publications, individual one-year raw material output norms can be developed and approved at FSBSI "VNIRO".

The Faroese Party will send a request to the Russian Party about development of conversion factors.

Contact details of the organization for addressing issues related to development and application of conversion factors are as follows: FSBSI "VNIRO", 19 Okruzhnoy proezd, Moscow, 105187; Telephone: +7 (499) 264-93-87; e-mail: vniro@vniro.ru.

7. Number of fishing licences in 2026

7.1 The Russian authorities will for the year 2026 permit Faroese vessels to fish cod, haddock, flatfish, including plaice and Long rough Dab, and by-catch in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation in the Barents Sea, and to fish Northern shrimp in accordance with Section 5.2. of this Protocol.

The Faroese authorities will for the year 2026 permit Russian vessels to fish blue whiting, mackerel and herring in the Faroese Fishing Zone.

7.2 For the year 2026 the Faroese authorities will permit the following number of Russian vessels to fish for blue whiting, mackerel and herring in the Faroese Fishing Zone:

- From 1 January to 31 March : 20 vessels.
- From 1 April to 31 October : 29 vessels. If an area, as provided for in item 6 is defined with a view to prevent congestion, 16 Russian vessels, simultaneously, are allowed to be present in the defined area (from 15 April to 31 May).
- From 1 November to 31 December : 28 vessels.

The Russian Party requested to increase the number of Russian fishing vessels permitted to fish in the Faroese Fishing Zone from 1 April to 31 October 2026. The Faroese Party agreed to address the request.

7.3 Upon a request from the Russian Party, the Faroese authorities will consider permitting a specified number of the Russian vessels referred to under item 7.2 to carry out directed fishery for a specified quantity of Atlanto-Scandian herring in the Faroese Fishing Zone in 2026 against the quota of the Russian Federation that will be allocated under Agreed Record from Consultations of coastal states on the management measures for the Norwegian spring-spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring.

When the vessels change from one type of fishery to another they should in due time before the fishery starts inform the appropriate Faroese authorities accordingly.

8. Procedures for granting fishing permits/licences in 2026, fishing logbooks and compliance with fishery regulations

8.1 The Parties informed each other about the rules in force for fishery in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation in the Barents Sea and adjacent areas of the Arctic Ocean, and in the Faroese Fishing Zone.

The Faroese Party informed the Russian Party that transshipment of frozen fish and fish products is prohibited at sea.

Upon application from a vessel owner, the Faroese fisheries authorities may permit transshipment operations at quay side at designated Faroese ports.

8.2 It is the responsibility of each Party that its vessels comply with rules and regulations in force for fishery in areas under the jurisdiction of the other Party.

8.3 Concerning the procedure for granting licences for fishery in areas of fisheries jurisdiction of Russia and the Faroe Islands, the Parties agreed that they for 2026 should forward lists of the authorised fishing vessels not later than 15 days before the fishery starts. Experimental and research fishery vessels have to be reported separately and are not included in the list of vessels mentioned under item 7.2. These vessels have to transmit information every 24 hours to the Faroese authorities in accordance with a special procedure.

The Faroese Party informed the Russian Party about the procedure for granting licences in the Faroese Fishing Zone from 1 January 2026. Registration of vessels, submission of vessel lists, and communication of licensing decisions are carried out using a standardised Excel spreadsheet, which contains all required information for each individual vessel. The format for the register of vessels is set out in Appendix 13.

8.4 The Russian Party informed the Faroese Party that in accordance with the Russian legislation the harvesting (fishing) of aquatic biological resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation in the Barents Sea and adjacent areas of the Arctic Ocean as well as authorised on-loading, off-loading or transshipment of aquatic biological resources harvested (fished) in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation shall be undertaken in the presence of officials from a federal executive security body and under their control. The Faroese vessels shall ensure that embarkation (disembarkation) of the officials takes place at the sea check points ("Sever-1" or "Sever-

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The Russian Party informed the Faroese Party that the procedure of passing the checkpoints for foreign vessels fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation in the Barents Sea is laid down in Appendix 3.

The Faroese Party reiterated that Faroese vessels fishing for shrimp in the north of Spitsbergen that intend to enter or exit the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation to fish for shrimp have to sail a long distance to a check-point due to the current Russian regulation and location of the check-points (Sever-1 and Sever-2). This procedure makes utilization of the Faroese shrimp quota in Russian waters difficult. The Faroese Party once again asked the Russian Party to explore the possibility of simplifying the procedures.

The Parties discussed the problems relating to shrimp fishery by Faroese vessels in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation north of 77°N. There are significant costs associated with the fishing of this fishery resource, as its harvesting occurs in fishing grounds that are at far distances from the designated check points, and the associated procedures under Appendix 3 to this Protocol prevent the effective use of these quotas by Faroese vessels.

The Parties discussed different options to solve this problem, one of which was to explore the possibility to conclude an intergovernmental agreement that would provide for a simplified procedure for shrimp fishery by Faroese vessels, including passing the outer limit of the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation.

Under such simplified arrangement the Faroese fishing vessels could exit and enter the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation pursuant to a procedure other than the procedure foreseen under Appendix 3 to this Protocol.

The Faroese Party drew the attention of the Russian Party to this issue and wished to continue to give it the utmost priority. The Russian Party recognises the concern of the Faroese Party and proposed to continue the work to find a solution satisfying both Parties.

The Faroese Party informed the Russian Party about its intention to establish check points for all foreign vessels within the Faroese Fishing Zone. The Faroese Party informed further that the Russian Party will be informed prior to the entry of the above-mentioned regulation into force.

The Faroese Party informed the Russian Party about its intention to establish an Observer Scheme for all foreign vessels within the Faroese Fishing Zone. The Faroese Party informed the Russian Party that the above mentioned regulation has entered into force.

8.5 The Faroese Party agreed that Faroese vessels during fisheries in the Economic Zone of Norway must report on a weekly basis on uptake of quota allocated to the Faroe Islands by Russia to the Severomorskoe Territorial Department, Murmansk, e-mail: murmansk@murmansk.fish.gov.ru. Such reports as well as any other catch reports shall include the number of the Russian permit/licence to fish aquatic biological resources. For the convenience of the masters of the Faroese fishing vessels in sending reports when fishing Russian quota, the Russian Party proposed to use the "Catch Report when fishing inside EEZ of the Russian Federation" and "Catch Report when fishing Russian quota outside of the Russian EEZ" forms (Appendices 6 and 7).

The Russian Party agreed that Russian fishing vessels during fisheries in the NEAFC Regulatory Area of quotas allocated by the Faroe Islands shall submit notifications to the Faroe Islands Fisheries Inspection (Vørn) in accordance with the same procedures and time limits as apply to fishing activities in the Faroese Fishing Zone, with the following specifications:

- Start fishing of Faroese quota (COE):

A COE notification shall be submitted no later than 2 hours prior the commencement of fishing of Faroese quota.

- Daily catch report (CAT):

While fishing of Faroese quota in the NEAFC Regulatory Area, a CAT notification shall be submitted daily before 12:00 hours.

- End of fishing of Faroese quota (COX):

In all notifications in NEAFC waters, the species code (FAO) shall be reported together with the letter "I", designating fishing in international waters.

Notifications shall be transmitted using the communication channels applicable to notifications in the Faroese Fishing Zone.

8.6 The Russian Party confirmed to the Faroese Party that applications for licences to the Faroese fishing vessels for harvesting (fishing) aquatic biological resources in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation in the Barents Sea, and to the vessels fishing for northern shrimp in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation in the Barents Sea and adjacent areas of the Arctic Ocean (hereinafter referred to as applications for harvesting (fishing) aquatic biological resources) shall be submitted by the Faroese authorities in writing to the Severomorskoe Territorial Department in the English language either by post to 7 Komintern Street, 183038 Murmansk, Russia, or by their representative. Applications for licences may be submitted by the Faroese Party in electronic form to the email address: murmansk@murmansk.fish.gov.ru, followed by hard copies of applications to be subsequently submitted to the Severomorskoe Territorial Department.

The Severomorskoe Territorial Department considers applications and associated documents and informs the Faroese authorities no later than 15 working days after the day of receiving an application about the place, time and order of licences granting or notify in writing about motivated refusal on licences granting.

The Russian Party informed the Faroese Party that in accordance with the tax legislation of the Russian Federation a state duty for granting a permit/licence to harvest (fish)

aquatic biological resources is 800 RUR and for amending the issued permit/licence is 350 RUR.

The Russian Party provided the Faroese Party with the application form for granting a permit/licence to harvest (fish) aquatic biological resources in 2026 and with the application form for amending the permit/licence (Appendices 8 and 9).

The Russian Party also confirmed that after the Faroese vessels have been granted licences for harvesting (fishing) of aquatic biological resources, their originals must be kept on board the vessel. The original licence shall include the name of captain, species composition and amount of aquatic biological resources allowed for harvesting (fishing), and other information. The Russian Party agreed to render assistance to the Faroese Party to make delivery of original licences faster.

The Russian Party informed the Faroese Party that according to the Federal Law No. 166-FZ dated December 20, 2004 *On Fishing and Conservation of Aquatic Biological Resources* (as amended and supplemented, effective from March 30, 2023) licences for the harvest (fishing) of aquatic biological resources are issued in form of an electronic document signed with an enhanced qualified electronic signature of an authorized official of the federal executive body in the field of fisheries, including via the federal state information system Unified portal of state and municipal services (functions).

Modifications to original licences are allowed as stipulated by the existing legislation of the Russian Federation (Executive Order of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 2066 of November, 15 2022).

Requests for any modification to the licences for the Faroese fishing vessels for harvesting (fishing) aquatic biological resources shall be submitted by the Faroese authorities to the Severomorskoe Territorial Department in writing either by post to 7 Komintern Street, 183038 Murmansk, Russia, or by their representative.

Applications for amendments to the licences may be submitted by the Faroese Party in electronic form to the email address: murmansk@murmansk.fish.gov.ru, followed by a hard copy of the application for amendments to be subsequently submitted to the Severomorskoe Territorial Department.

Modifications to licences are forwarded to the Faroese authorities, Faroe Islands Fisheries Inspection by e-mail: vorn@vorn.fo and fmc@vorn.fo. Modifications shall become an integral part of the licence and shall upon receipt be onboard the relevant vessel.

The Russian Party informed the Faroese Party that due to the entry into force of Executive Order of the Government of the Russian Federation No.1963 of 29 November 2025 the issuance of licences from 1 March 2026 will be executed by entering a record (entry) into the Licence Register based on an application for licence. The additional information on this issue will be provided to the Faroese Party on a later stage.

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The Faroese Party recalled that the Faroese authorities have not so far demanded any special licences for Russian fishing vessels operating in waters under Faroese fisheries jurisdiction, as they have up to now found it sufficient that the name and other relevant characteristics of such vessels appeared on the list mentioned under paragraph 8.3.

The Faroese Party informed that Faroese authorities contemplate the introduction, in conformity with Faroese fisheries legislation, of licensing procedures for Russian vessels that will mirror the Russian procedures for Faroese vessels. Russian authorities will be informed of such rules at least 60 days before their introduction.

The Faroese Party found that the procedures for application and issuing of licences for Faroese vessels in waters under the fisheries jurisdiction of the Russian Federation, and for modification of such licences, as laid down in the Decree by the Government of the Russian Federation No. 2066 dated 15 November 2022, are unnecessarily cumbersome and prone to create situations that could lead to accusations of breaches of the Russian rules. The Faroese authorities stated that it would be an advantage to have simple procedures for dealing with licences.

The Faroese Party proposed that the Russian Party make their licensing procedures for Faroese vessels fishing in Russian waters more flexible, and notably suggested the following points:

- That it should be considered sufficient that the vessels are on the list mentioned under Point 8.3., mirroring the existing Faroese rules, or
- in the case that individual licences are considered necessary
 - that applications for new licences may be sent by electronic means;
 - that issued licences may be sent by electronic means;
 - that the original licence need not be on board the vessel, as an electronic copy of the original licence will be considered sufficient;
 - that applications for changes in existing licences may be sent by electronic means;
 - that changes in existing licences are sent by electronic means and together with the first issued licence will be regarded as one modified licence.

The Faroese Party noted that simplified licencing procedures were agreed in the 42nd session of the Joint Russian-Norwegian Fisheries Commission (Annex 14 to the Protocol of the 42nd session of the Joint Russian-Norwegian Fisheries Commission) and requested the same licencing procedures to be implemented for Faroese fishing vessels.

The Russian Party agreed to address this matter.

8.7 The Parties should use e-mail for the solution of all operative questions in connection with the mutual fishery.

Russian vessels fishing in the Faroese Fishing Zone shall give notice to the Faroe Islands Fisheries Inspection to e-mail: vakt@vorn.fo on the following:

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- Entry into the Faroese Fishing Zone. The notice (a catch on entry report) shall be given at the earliest 6 hours and not later than 2 hours before entry;
- Daily catches. When fishing is ongoing, fishing vessels shall report the daily catches (a daily catch report) every morning before noon (12:00). When fishing for blue whiting in the Faroese Fishing Zone, Russian vessels shall indicate in section "(RE): Remarks" in the daily catch report under what quota (a Faroese quota or a NEAFC quota) the fishery is conducted;
- Exit from the Faroese Fishing zone. The notice (a catch on exit report) shall be given at the earliest 8 hours and no later than 2 hours before exit. If the vessel is leaving the Faroese Fishing Zone without entering a Faroese port, this report shall be transmitted at least 12 hours in advance of the exit.

Format for the catch on entry, daily catch and catch on exit reporting is in Appendix 12.

Faroese vessels shall give notice to the Severomorskoe Territorial Department, Murmansk, e-mail: murmansk@murmansk.fish.gov.ru, to coordination division of the Border Guard Department of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation in the Western Arctic area (5 Severny proezd, 183038 Murmansk, Russia, tel: +7 8152 487582, fax: +7 8152 487625, e-mail: pu.murmanobl2@fsb.ru) and to the Murmansk branch of FGFI "Centre of Fishery Monitoring and Communication" (Murmansk branch of FGFI CFMC), fax: +7 8152 474852 (dial 0) or e-mail: stat15@cfmc24.ru on:

- every entry into the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation for authorized fishing of aquatic biological resources or transshipping the harvested (fished) aquatic biological resources from other vessels and exit from this area;
- positions of the vessel, when fishing for aquatic biological resources or transshipping the harvested (fished) aquatic biological resources from other vessels on a daily basis;
- information on uptake of aquatic biological resources on a daily, 10-day and monthly basis.

8.8 The Parties agreed to resume the practice of mutual exchange of experts from fisheries control and enforcement authorities of the Russian Federation and the Faroe Islands to monitor catches and control landings by their vessels in the ports of both Parties.

The Parties agreed to address technical issues intersessionally within the Permanent Working Group.

8.9 The Parties agreed that vessels of one Party fishing in the fishing zone/exclusive economic zone of the other Party at the end of one year may continue fishing from 1 January of the following year until a new licence is received in accordance with the established procedure. The Faroese vessels can start fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation before original licences are received, on the basis of their electronic copies.

8.10 The Parties agreed that Faroese fishing vessels will use the Fishing Logbook form endorsed by the competent authorities of the Faroese Party when fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the Russian Federation (Appendix 10). The Faroese Party informed

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the Russian Party that since 2023 Faroese vessels have applied electronic log books. Thus, paper format logbooks will not be required, except in the event of a technical break down.

The Russian fishing vessels will use the Fishing Logbook form endorsed by the competent authorities of the Russian Party when fishing in the Faroese Fishing Zone (Appendix 11). The Russian Party informed the Faroese Party that since 2024 Russian vessels have been applying electronic fishing logbooks. Thus, paper format logbooks are not required, except in the event of a technical break down according to the Russian legislation.

8.11 The Parties noted their cooperation in recent years concerning international inspection activity in Regulatory Areas of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations in the North Atlantic and expressed their intention to continue this cooperation in the future.

9. Consultations on satellite tracking of fishing vessels of the Parties and electronic data exchange

9.1. Satellite tracking of fishing vessels of the Parties

The Parties discussed the functioning of the "Agreed Record of Conclusions between Russia and The Faroe Islands on Issues related to Satellite Based Vessel monitoring Systems" (Appendix 4) in 2025 and agreed to prolong the validity of the above-mentioned Agreed Record until 31 December 2026.

The Parties agreed to discuss the next period of validity of this Agreed Record during the next regular session of the Joint Commission.

The Parties agreed to exchange the lists of equipment installed on their respective vessels according to item 22 of the "Agreed Record of Conclusions between Russia and the Faroe Islands on Issues related to Satellite Based Vessel monitoring Systems" (Appendix 4). The lists shall continue to be exchanged annually and updated in case of any changes.

9.2. Electronic Reporting System and electronic fishing logbook

The Parties took note of the status of their respective implementation of the FLUX system.

The Russian Party noted that they expect the FLUX system to become operational within approximately six months.

The Faroese Party noted their expectation that the system would be tested and operational before the end of January, subject to the capacity and availability of the NEAFC Secretariat.

Taking this into account, the Parties noted that further discussions on the Electronic Reporting System (ERS) would be deferred until both Parties have finalised the testing and implementation of the FLUX system.

10. Consultations on joint program of experimental fishery and scientific research for 2026

The Parties have agreed upon the joint programme of scientific research in the North East Atlantic (see Appendix 5).

11. Cooperation according to Article 7 in the Agreement of 27 November 1977

Based upon Article 7 in the Agreement of 27 November 1977 on mutual fishery relations between the Faroe Islands and the Russian Federation the Parties have agreed to further extend their cooperation and to enhance the framework for the cooperation between companies and firms in the fishing industry for the mutual benefit of both Parties.

11.1 The Parties agreed to continue the activities of the Permanent Working Group on cooperation between Russia and the Faroe Islands, including, as appropriate, involvement of experts and interpreters working under the Joint Russian-Faroese Fisheries Commission.

The Permanent Working Group proposes that the relevant fisheries authorities of the Parties seek to achieve arrangements enabling allocated amount of aquatic biological resources to be fished within their entire distribution area, which will contribute to effective, ecological and sustainable fisheries.

The Parties discussed closures of fishing grounds in the Russian EEZ in the Barents Sea in connection with military exercises noting that they resulted in production delays of the Russian and Faroese fishing vessels. The Parties agreed to communicate together and with appropriate public and state bodies regarding this issue to avoid losses in fishing time.

11.2 The Permanent Working Group shall in the most effective way coordinate issues mentioned in 11.3-11.6. The Permanent Working Group shall also prepare proposals for representatives of both Parties on operative solutions of matters, which may arise in 2026, including proposals on possible allocations on quotas in the zones of both Parties.

The Permanent Working Group has a mandate to carry out the following:

11.3 Possibilities for Faroese vessels and companies to provide fish and raw material to Russian companies and vessels and for Russian vessels to provide fish, shellfish and other marine living resources for Faroese companies and vessels.

11.4 Regional joint ventures between companies from both Parties to ensure optimal economic use of resources, facilities and experience available to the Parties, including in fish-farming, co-operation concerning knowledge on fish stocks, management of stocks, experiments with different fishing gear, production technology in the fishing industry, ship

technology, repairs and ship building, fisheries economy, management in the fishing industry on and off shore, fish farming, marketing with a view to provide effective and fast communication when questions arise and to implement various forms of cooperation between companies of both Parties.

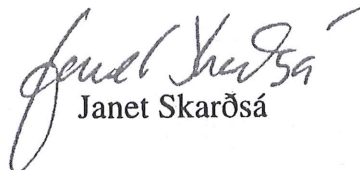
11.5 Any other possibilities, which might be acceptable for both Parties on a basis of mutual benefit.

12. Any other business

12.1. The Parties agreed that the Fiftieth session of the Joint Commission should take place in the Russian Federation in late November/early December 2026.


The present Protocol is done in Tórshavn, the Faroe Islands, and Moscow, the Russian Federation, on December 29th 2025, in the English and Russian languages with the same authenticity for both texts.

Head of the Delegation
of the Faroe Islands



Janet Skarðsá

Head of the Delegation
of the Russian Federation



Sergey V. Simakov