

**FRAMEWORK ARRANGEMENT
BETWEEN GREENLAND AND ICELAND ON THE
CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF CAPELIN**

1. Delegations from Greenland and Iceland (hereafter “the Parties”) met on 27 June to 3 July 2023 to consult on a Framework Arrangement on the conservation and management of capelin (Iceland Grounds, East Greenland and Jan Mayen area). The delegations were headed by Katrine Kærgaard for Greenland and Sóley Kaldal for Iceland. The Heads of Delegations agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the following arrangements:

Consultations on Management

2. The Parties shall meet at least once a year for Coastal State consultations. The Parties shall adopt an Agreed Record for the conservation and management of the capelin stock for each fishing season. All annexes to this Arrangement can be revised annually by agreed record, provided that the involved Parties agree.

Fishing Season

3. The fishing season starts 15 October and ends 15 April the following year.

Establishment of Total Allowable Catch (TAC)

4. The TAC for the fishing season shall be established in accordance with the Long Term Management Plan set out in Annex 1.
5. The TAC shall be determined in three stages; an initial TAC, an intermediate TAC and a final TAC;
 - a. The initial TAC shall follow the advice by ICES that is issued no later than June for the next fishing season starting in accordance with Article 3. The initial TAC shall be based on the estimated abundance of immature capelin (excluding 0-year olds) from the autumn survey.
 - b. The intermediate TAC shall replace the initial TAC and be based on the estimate of maturing capelin from the autumn survey in the fishing season. This advice shall be released without delay after the survey.
 - c. The final TAC shall be set the following winter after the survey of pre-spawning capelin, typically in January/February. The final TAC may be updated based on subsequent winter survey(s). This advice shall be released without undue delay after the survey.

6. As a rule the Long Term Management Plan shall be revised every fifth year. The Long Term Management Plan may however be revised at the yearly Coastal State consultations. If Parties agree on changing the Long Term Management Plan, the changes shall not apply until ICES has confirmed that such changes are precautionary.

Sharing Arrangement

7. The TACs set pursuant to Article 4-6 shall be shared as follows:

Iceland:	81 percent.
Greenland:	18 percent.
Norway:	1 percent.

Unutilized quota by Norway by 31 December will be shared between Iceland and Greenland according to the above allocation key.

Access Arrangements and Technical Measures etc.

8. The Parties may fish their allocated quota in their respective zones of fisheries jurisdiction, as well as in accordance with the access arrangements and the technical measures described in Annex 2.
9. The Parties shall allow landings of catches of capelin in their respective ports.

Compensation

10. Unutilized quota cannot be transferred to the following fishing season due to the life cycle of the species. If a Party exceeds its quota, the same amount of capelin should be subtracted from their quota for the following fishing season and allocated to other Parties of this Arrangement. In case there is no fishery in the subsequent fishing season, the exceeded amount shall be subtracted from the next season when fishing is allowed.
11. If Greenland does not utilize its allocated quota for a given fishing season, Iceland can utilize the remaining quantity. In the event that the final TAC is established 15 February or later, Iceland can fish the unutilized quota against full compensation to Greenland for the amount fished the following season. Iceland shall inform Greenland after the end of the season about the calculation and utilization of their unused quota.

Scientific Cooperation

12. The Parties agreed that research related to improving abundance estimations as well as the knowledge on ecology and distribution of capelin is much needed and agree to cooperate and contribute on these matters.
13. Monitoring surveys shall be planned, conducted, analyzed and reviewed in cooperation with all contributing Parties, with Iceland as the coordinator for both the autumn and winter surveys. The outcome and advice shall without delay be communicated to all Parties.

Chairing of Consultations

14. The annual consultations shall be held no later than 10 October and chaired on a rotating basis by Greenland and Iceland.

Communication of Catches


15. Each Party shall by 15 May provide information on their total catches in the current season.
16. Each Party shall, as soon as possible, inform the other Party on any transfer arrangements involving capelin.
17. The Parties shall provide information regarding catches in the format set out in Annex 3 to this Framework Arrangement. Information pursuant to Articles 15 and 16 shall be transmitted to the Directorate of Fisheries in Iceland. The Directorate shall inform all Parties as soon as the information has been collected using the form described in Annex 3.

Duration and Opting out Procedures

18. This Framework Arrangement enters provisionally into force at the date of signature until final acceptance according to Article 19. The Arrangement shall continue to apply until a Party opts out pursuant to Article 20-22.
19. This Framework Arrangement enters finally into force when the Parties have fulfilled their constitutional requirements necessary for the entry into force of the Arrangement.
20. Any Party may opt out of this Framework Arrangement by giving a formal notification to the other Party before 11 October, containing an explanation and justification of why the Party has chosen to opt out of the Arrangement.
21. This Framework Arrangement shall remain in force until at least the end of the next fishing season after a formal notification is submitted.
22. After receiving a formal notification, the chair shall initiate and organize consultations among the Parties with the aim of reaching a conclusion on a new framework arrangement before the time when this Framework Arrangement is no longer in force.

Signed, Reykjavik 3 July 2023.

For the Greenlandic Party



Katrine Kærsgaard

For the Icelandic Party



Sóley Kaldal

Annex 1

ARRANGEMENT FOR LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT OF THE CAPELIN STOCK IN E-GREENLAND – ICELAND – JAN MAYEN AREA

At the Coastal State consultations in 2023, the Parties agreed that the advisory rule evaluated by ICES in 2023 to be consistent with the precautionary approach should be adopted as a Harvest Control Rule for the capelin stock. The rationale behind the rule is described in ICES 2023¹.

The objective of the Harvest Control Rule is to set a final TAC which ensures, with a 95% probability, that a minimum of 114,000t (B_{lim}) remains for spawning. This is achieved by a series of acoustic surveys from September – February and the TAC is determined in three stages; an initial TAC, an intermediate TAC and a final TAC.

1. **The initial TAC** for the next fishing season is set based on estimates of the immature part of the stock following an acoustic survey in autumn (September - October).

Two fixed points are defined:

- a. $U_{trigger} = 50$ billion immature capelin.
- b. $TAC_{MAX} = 400,000$ tonnes for $U > 127$ billion immature capelin.

The method for setting the initial/preliminary TAC is:

- $TAC = 0$ if $U_{imm} < 50$ billion.
- $TAC = 5.2x(U_{imm} - U_{trigger})$ thous. tonnes for U_{imm} in the range 50–127 billion.
- $TAC = 400,000$ tonnes if $U_{imm} > 127$ billion.

2. **The intermediate TAC** for the current fishing season is set following the acoustic survey in autumn. Estimates on capelin spawning stock biomass (SSB) with uncertainty estimate are combined with data on predicted predator stocks size and distribution. The estimates are fed into a predation model run with varying catches until spawning in March. The intermediate TAC is set at 2/3 of the catch giving $p(SSB < B_{lim} = 114,000 \text{ tonnes}) < 0.05$.
3. **The final TAC** is set following an acoustic survey in winter (January–February). Estimates on capelin spawning stock biomass with uncertainty estimate are combined with data on predicted predator stocks size and distribution. Final TAC is set based on all acoustic surveys on the mature part of the stock from autumn to winter. The estimates are fed into a predation model run with varying catches until spawning in March. The final TAC is set at the catch giving $p(SSB < B_{lim} = 114,000 \text{ tonnes}) < 0.05$.

¹ ICES. 2023. Benchmark workshop on capelin (WKCAPELIN). ICES Scientific Reports. 5:62. 282 pp.
<https://doi.org/ices.pub.23260388>

Annex 2

Measures for access and technical conditions in the capelin fishery between Iceland and Greenland

Greenlandic vessels are allowed to catch Capelin in the Icelandic Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):

1. The amount of Capelin that is fishable after 15 February south of 64°30 shall be limited to 35,000 tonnes.
2. Production on board shall be permitted for three specified Greenlandic vessels for a quantity of 6,500 tonnes when operating in the Icelandic EEZ.
3. Greenlandic vessels shall have the same conditions regarding gear as Icelandic vessels when operating in the Icelandic EEZ.
4. The fishery is to be conducted according to regulations applying for foreign vessels fishing in the relevant EEZ, or according to rules agreed upon by the Parties. The Parties shall be notified on a mutual basis on the relevant regulations applying for the capelin fishery in their EEZ. Information about existing regulations shall be forwarded. The Parties are obliged to coordinate their regulations in the best possible manner.
5. Icelandic vessels are allowed to catch Capelin in the Greenlandic EEZ East of Kap Farvel and North of 64°30' N. The number of Icelandic vessels is limited to 5 vessels at a time.

Annex 3

Table 1 and 2

REPORTING OF QUOTAS AND CATCHES OF CAPELIN IN THE ICELAND - EAST GREENLAND - JAN MAYEN AREA

TAC tonnes

20.../20...	QUOTAS (TONNES)				CATCHES (TONNES)			
	Coastal states' shares	Quota exchange	Exceeded quota	Quotas after exchange	Iceland EEZ	Greenland EEZ	Total catch	Balancer
Coastal state:								
Iceland ¹				-	-	-	-	-
Greenland ²				-	-	-	-	-
Norway ³				-	-	-	-	-
Total coastal states	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others:								
Faroe Islands ⁴	-			-		-	-	-
Total	-	-		-	-	-	-	-

¹ Transfer to Norway (..... tonnes - "Loophole Agreement") and Faroe Islands (..... tonnes - "Bilateral Agreement between Iceland and Faroe Islands")

² Transfer to EU (..... tonnes - "EU - Greenland Fisheries Partnership Agreement")

³ Transfer from Iceland (..... tonnes - "Loophole Agreement") and from EU (..... tonnes - "Bilateral Agreement Norway and EU")

⁴ Transfer from Iceland (..... tonnes "Bilateral Agreement between Iceland and Faroe Islands")

TAC tonnes

20.../20...	QUOTAS (TONNES)				CATCHES (TONNES)			
	Coastal states' shares	Quota exchange	Exceeded quota	Quotas after exchange	Iceland EEZ	Greenland EEZ	Total catch	Balancer
Coastal state:								
Iceland ¹				-	-	-	-	-
Greenland ²				-	-	-	-	-
Norway ³				-	-	-	-	-
Total coastal states	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others:								
Faroe Islands ⁴	-			-		-	-	-
Total	-	-		-	-	-	-	-

¹ Transfer to Norway (..... tonnes - "Loophole Agreement") and Faroe Islands (..... tonnes - "Bilateral Agreement between Iceland and Faroe Islands")

² Transfer to EU (..... tonnes - "EU - Greenland Fisheries Partnership Agreement")

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