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Faroe Islands Annual Report on the Implementation of the Revised Interim Measures for Pelagic Fisheries in 2010

In accordance with paragraph 19 of the Pelagic Interim Measures, adopted on 14 November 2009, Participants to the international consultations to establish the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation, engaged in the *Trachurus* species fishery in the Convention Area, as defined in the constitutive treaty, are to provide an annual report to the Interim Secretariat describing how they have implemented the Interim Measures in 2010.

Implementation of Interim measures

In 2010, the Faroe Islands voluntary restrained its catch effort to two vessels with a maximum total gross tonnage (GT) of 15,610 GT in accordance with the provisions in paragraph 12 of the Interim Measures.

Furthermore, the Faroese authorities set a total catch limit of 62,200 metric tonnes for the two vessels present in the Area in 2010 on the basis of the highest catch taken by one of the vessel in the Area in 2007, 2008 or 2009. In 2007 this vessel reported a total catch of 31,122 metric tonnes.

Management and control measures

According to the Commercial Fisheries Act of 1994 vessels flying the flag of the Faroe Islands must hold a valid license issued by Faroese authorities. The fishing license stipulates the terms and conditions for fishing activities and this procedure applies to all vessels flying the flag of the Faroe Islands. According to national legislation, the conditions outlined in a fishing license have the same legal status as an executive order.

In addition to the provisions on limited access and the limitation on catches, a number of other obligations are stipulated in the license for monitoring and control purposes in the fisheries. This implies with regard to fisheries in the Convention Area, that vessels flying the flag of the Faroe Islands, and authorized to fish in the Convention Area, shall regularly, i.e. on a daily basis, notify and report position and catches to the Fisheries Inspection Authorities. All vessels must maintain a daily log of their activities in an authorised catch logbook which is issued for this purpose, recording data for each set or haul. Moreover, the effective presence of vessels in the Convention Area is verified though a satellite vessel monitoring system (VMS), which is obligatory for all fishing vessels larger than 15 GT.

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Observer coverage in 2010

For 2010 a 50 % ovserver coverage for the second half of the fishing season was intended. However, given the slow catch both licensed vessels left the Convention Area midseason. Therefore, no observers were onboard the Faroese vessels in the Convention Area in 2010.

Vessels and catches in the Convention Area in 2010

Two vessels flying the flag of the Faroe Islands were actively fishing in the Convention Area in 2010: F/V Athena, IMO no. 8907096, and F/V Poseidon, IMO no. 8907101. The Faroese Fisheries Inspection has confirmed that their presence in Convention Area in 2010 is verified through the VMS records. The total Faroese catch of *Trachurus* species in the Convention Area was 13,674 metric tonnes. In addition 157 tonnes of other mackerel species were reported as by-catch in the fishery.

Transshipment

Faroese vessels fishing for *Trachurus* species in the Area participated in transshipment operations with the following reefer cargo vessels:

M/V Baltijas Cels - Panama flag - 28.03.2010
M/V Skyfrost - Panama flag - 17.04.2010
M/V Ji Yang - Saint Kitts and Nevis flag - 14.05.2010

M/V Frio Ionian
Liberia flag
M/V Ref Vega
Panama flag
06.06.2010 and 15.06.2010
02.07.2010 and 14.04.2010

M/V Frio Aegean - Panama flag - 14.07.2010
M/V Frio Adriatic - Panama flag - 25.07.2010