

Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Greenland on enhancing cooperation on fisheries and related issues

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of Greenland (hereinafter referred to as the 'Participants'),

NOTING that the Government of Greenland signs this Memorandum of Understanding pursuant to Act. No. 473 of 12 June 2009 on Greenland Self-Government;

NOTING that Greenland, under the Act on Greenland Self-Government Arrangement, exercises its jurisdiction in the Greenlandic Exclusive Economic Zone;

DESIRING to develop, strengthen, and broaden the positive relationship between the Participants, particularly in respect of fisheries and marine issues;

MINDFUL of the Participants' desire to increase bilateral business opportunities and private sector cooperation;

HAVING REGARD to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks;

AWARE of the importance of the principles established by the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries adopted at the FAO Conference in 1995;

WELCOMING the signing in 2018 of the Agreement to Prevent Unregulated High Seas Fisheries in the Central Arctic Ocean;

ACKNOWLEDGING the Participants' mutual interest in and obligations to cooperate on the conservation and sustainable management of fish stocks and, in particular, shared stocks for which both Participants are coastal States;

DETERMINED to ensure that the management of fishery and aquaculture activities is based on the best available scientific advice;

COMMITTED to ensuring that fishery and aquaculture activities are managed using an ecosystem-based approach so as to ensure that their negative impacts on marine ecosystems are minimised and, where possible, reversed;

NOTING the importance of broader marine conservation, restoration, and enhancement in their efforts to pursue sustainable fisheries;

Enter into the following arrangements:

1. The Participants will establish a UK-Greenland fisheries dialogue (hereinafter referred to as 'the Fisheries Dialogue'), through which the Participants will discuss, share information, and cooperate on fisheries and marine issues, and other associated matters, including but not limited to:
 - a. Fisheries management, including the Participants' respective fisheries management systems and their respective systems for fisheries monitoring, control, and enforcement;
 - b. Issues related to capture fisheries, aquaculture, and processing (including, in relation to all these areas: enhancing innovation; minimising waste; the traceability and marketing of fisheries products; and the optimisation of value, distribution, and transport);
 - c. Issues related to broader marine conservation, restoration, and enhancement and their implications for the Participants' efforts to pursue sustainable fisheries;
 - d. Facilitating and enhancing cooperation between the Participants' respective private sectors in relation to the issues described at sub-paragraph b.;
 - e. Matters addressed within relevant fisheries-related international fora, including possibilities for mutual support within such fora (relevant fora include consultations on shared stocks between coastal States in the North-East Atlantic); and
 - f. Scientific and academic knowledge, practices, and experiences, including facilitating and enhancing cooperation between scientists, research institutes, and academic bodies.
2. Through the Fisheries Dialogue, the Participants may also:
 - a. Bring together businesses, and other private sector organisations, to promote innovation in fisheries, processing, and marketing that optimises the use of resources, and to support the increased use of scientific research and innovation;
 - b. Arrange meetings involving experts to discuss specific issues; and
 - c. Establish projects, including scientific and other research projects, to address specific issues and expand bilateral cooperation.
3. The Fisheries Dialogue will consist of formal meetings, which will take place not less than annually, and other ad hoc meetings and communications between the Participants.

4. The Participants will decide on the time and place of meetings of the Fisheries Dialogue and will endeavour to alternate the locations of the formal meetings referred to in paragraph 3 between Greenland and the UK. Where necessary, the formal meetings referred to in paragraph 3 may take place via videoconference, or other electronic means.
5. Experts and other advisers may attend meetings of the Fisheries Dialogue, as agreed by the Participants.
6. Each Participant will nominate a representative or representatives for the Fisheries Dialogue. The Participants will notify each other of any changes to representatives.
7. This Memorandum of Understanding:
 - a. Will come into effect on 1 January 2021; and
 - b. Will continue in effect until terminated by either Participant giving six months' written notice to the other.

The foregoing represents the understandings reached by the Participants on the matters referred to in this Memorandum of Understanding.

Signed in duplicate at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, London, and the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture, Nuuk, on 9 November 2020 in the English language.

For the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

For the Government of Greenland

Victoria Prentis
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State

Jens Immanuelson
Minister of Fisheries, Hunting and
Agriculture