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# Exchange of Notes

between the Government of the  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
and the Government of the Republic of Iceland

## concerning Fishing in the Icelandic Fisheries Zone

(with related documents)

Oslo, 1 June 1976

[The Agreement entered into force on 1 June 1976]

*Presented to Parliament  
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs  
by Command of Her Majesty  
July 1976*

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HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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**EXCHANGE OF NOTES**  
**BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**  
**OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE**  
**GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ICELAND CONCERNING**  
**FISHING IN THE ICELANDIC FISHERIES ZONE**  
**(WITH RELATED DOCUMENTS)**

No. 1

*The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland to the  
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs*

*Oslo.*

Your Excellency,

*1 June, 1976.*

I have the honour to refer to the discussions which have taken place between our two Governments about the arrangements for fishing in the Fisheries Zone of 200 nautical miles declared by the Icelandic Regulations of 15 July, 1975. Upon the basis of these discussions, I have the honour to confirm the following arrangements on which agreement has been reached:—

1. The Government of the United Kingdom will ensure that the British fishing effort in the waters referred to above will be limited to an average of 24 trawlers a day, defined in terms of trawler days per month as in the Memorandum at Annex 1.

2. Within the limits referred to in paragraph 1 above, fishing will only be conducted by trawlers whose names appear on the list in Annex 2, which is derived from the list established for the purposes of the Interim Agreement of 13 November 1973<sup>(1)</sup>.

3. (a) The Government of the United Kingdom will ensure that the conservation areas of the Interim Agreement, as amended by the Icelandic authorities after the expiry of that Agreement, will be respected by British trawlers during the periods provided for.

(b) The Government of the United Kingdom will ensure that British trawlers will not fish closer than 20 miles from the Icelandic coastal baselines and will not fish closer than 30 miles from the Icelandic coastal baselines within the sectors defined in paragraphs 3 (I) and 3 (II) of the Interim Agreement.

(c) The areas referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) above are more precisely defined in the schedule at Annex 3.

4. In order to protect concentrations of young or spawning fish within the sea around Iceland, the Government of the United Kingdom will ensure that British trawlers will abstain from such fishing operations in such areas and during such periods as will be prohibited for Icelandic fishing vessels by the competent Icelandic authorities. Such measures which will be based on objective and scientific criteria and which will not discriminate in fact or in law, will be duly notified to the Government of the United Kingdom.

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(1) Treaty Series No. 122 (1973), Cmnd. 5484.

5. As a further contribution to the conservation of the fish stocks around Iceland the Government of the United Kingdom will ensure that British trawlers will comply with the measures listed in Annex 4.

6. The Government of the United Kingdom will ensure that the position of British trawlers fishing in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, and the progress of their catch, will be notified to the Icelandic authorities as specified in the Memorandum referred to in paragraph 1.

7. Should a vessel be discovered fishing contrary to the terms of the Agreement, the appropriate Icelandic authorities shall have the right to stop it and investigate and if an infringement is suspected to summon the nearest British support vessel. Any trawler found to have violated the terms of the Agreement will be crossed-off the list.

8. The Government of the United Kingdom will forthwith invite the European Economic Community to apply, as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made, the provisions of Protocol No. 6 to the Agreement of 22 July, 1972<sup>(2)</sup>, between the Government of Iceland and the Community.

They will also use their best endeavours to ensure that the tariff concessions provided for in that Protocol will be applied at the level which they would have reached had it been in force since 1973.

9. Nothing in this Agreement shall be considered to prejudice the views of the Parties with regard to the mutual limitation of their areas of jurisdiction.

10. This Agreement shall have a duration of 6 months from the date of its entry into force. After its expiry, British vessels will fish within the waters defined in the Icelandic Regulations of 15 July, 1975, only to the extent provided for in arrangements agreed with the Government of Iceland.

Subject to confirmation of these arrangements by Your Excellency, I have the honour to propose that this Note together with Your reply to that effect shall constitute an Agreement between the two Governments which shall enter into force on the date of Your reply.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

EINAR AGUSTSSON

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<sup>(2)</sup> Miscellaneous No. 50 (1972), Cmnd. 5182.

## ANNEX 1

### Arrangements for limitation of UK fishing effort

1. Only those UK vessels on the agreed list will fish the waters to which this agreement relates.
2. In order to limit the fishing effort of UK vessels but avoid excessive numbers of trawlers on the grounds at any one time and unduly low numbers at others, the number of vessels fishing those waters will be restricted to an average of 24 expressed in trawler days per month with a measure of flexibility around this average.
3. For purposes of applying this limitation, the UK will provide that:
  - (a) There will be 2 civilian control ships stationed in those waters.
  - (b) The trawler operators will inform the UK Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, for onward transmission to the control ships of the names of vessels sailing on any date to the waters.
  - (c) Every vessel on passing latitude  $61^{\circ}$  N will report the fact to a control ship.
  - (d) Before starting to fish on arrival at the fishing grounds, every vessel will register the proposed time of starting with the control ship, and will not fish until the registration has been accepted by the control ship.
4. The control ship will record twice daily the positions of vessels in the waters.
5. The control ship will maintain a running record in respect of each vessel registered to show the number of trawler days attributable to it.
6. On ceasing fishing in the waters, every vessel will inform the support ship the time on which it ceased fishing. It will then be de-registered.
7. The UK Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food will ensure that UK fishing effort is regulated in accordance with this agreement, and in addition will report each week to the appropriate Icelandic authority the cumulative total to date of the tonnage of fish according to species caught in the waters by vessels operating under this agreement.
8. The UK Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food will instruct the control ships to report each day at noon to the appropriate Icelandic authority and UK trawler operator the location of each vessel north of  $61^{\circ}$  N, identifying separately those that have crossed  $61^{\circ}$  N but not yet registered as fishing (paragraph 3 (c) above), those that have registered as fishing (paragraph 3 (d) above) and those that have de-registered (paragraph 6 above), and the number of trawler days attributable as at that date to each vessel currently registered as fishing.
9. If an official of the appropriate Icelandic authorities holds that an infringement of these arrangements for limitation of fishing efforts has occurred by reason of fishing by a vessel not registered under the arrangements, he shall summon the nearest UK control ship in order to establish

the facts. Any vessel found to have infringed the arrangements in this respect will have counted against it, as attributable trawler days, twice the period which has elapsed between the time of its crossing 61° N to the time of the incident.

**Definitions**

10. A trawler day is a period of 24 hours commencing from the time of acceptance of registration (paragraph 3(d)) subject to the exceptions mentioned in paragraph 13.

11. The number of trawler days per month will be the number of days in that month multiplied by 24 subject to the measure of flexibility provided by a tolerance each way of 15% per month, but with the provisos that if in any month the 15% tolerance applies action will be taken in the following month to redress the balance, that the total number of trawler days over the whole term of the Agreement shall not exceed the number of days in that term multiplied by 24 and that the number of vessels fishing shall not exceed 29 in any day.

12. The trawler days attributable to a vessel will be counted as from the time of registration to the time of de-registration (paragraph 6) but any part of a 24-hour period immediately preceding de-registration will count as 1 day.

13. In any case where the skipper satisfies the control ship that his vessel is unable to fish for reasons beyond his control such as serious mechanical breakdown, medical emergency or the like allowances will be made in consultation with the Icelandic authorities for purposes of calculating the tally of trawler days.

14. Periods of steaming or other stoppage of fishing for reasons other than in paragraph 13, once a vessel has registered, will count in calculating trawler days.

**ANNEX 2**

**Trawlers under 180 feet registered length**

<i>Name of vessel</i>	<i>Registered length in feet</i>	<i>Gross registered tonnage</i>
Admiral Nelson	115.9	300
Aldershot	139.7	427
Arctic Vandal	166.5	594
Arlanda	139.8	431
Barnsley	139.9	441
Belgaum	165.4	577
Ben Lui	145.6	469
Blackburn Rovers	139.9	439
Boston Attacker	139.5	444
Boston Beverley	140.5	517
Boston Blenheim	140.5	517
Boston Comanche	179.8	699
Boston Crusader	138.8	402

<i>Name of vessel</i>	<i>Registered length in feet</i>	<i>Gross registered tonnage</i>
Boston Explorer	139·7	425
Boston Kestrel	142	431
Boston Marauder	139·5	444
Boston Phantom	142	431
Brucella	175·1	678
Carlisle	139·9	441
Crystal Palace	139·9	441
C. S. Forester	169·7	768
Ella Hewett	164	567
Fyldea	151·3	582
Gavina	137·1	532
Glen Carron	106·4	299
Glen Urquhart	106·4	299
Grampian Monarch	132·3	480
Gillingham	137·3	427
Huddersfield Town	139·9	439
Hammond Innes	175·9	897
Irvana	137·1	533
Idena	128·7	387
Jacinta	151·3	599
Kennedy	138·8	426
Locarno	134·2	324
Lord Jellicoe	166·5	594
Luceda	149·2	405
Luneda	137·1	532
Maretta	139·8	439
Norina	128·7	387
Northern Gift	166·5	576
Northern Reward	166·5	576
Notts Forest	137·3	441
Port Vale	138·8	427
Prince Philip	139·7	442
Real Madrid	139·9	441
Robert Hewett	164	567
Ross Kandahar	163	507
Ross Kashmir	162·7	469
Ross Kelly	162·7	449
Ross Kelvin	162·7	468
Ross Khartoum	163	507
Ross Kipling	162·7	489
Ross Resolution	172·6	564
St. Gerontius	173·6	659
St. Giles	178·8	658
Spurs	139·9	439
Arctic Rebel	165	606
Vianova	165	559
Volesus	165·3	577
William Wilberforce	179·9	698

<i>Name of vessel</i>	<i>Registered length in feet</i>	<i>Gross registered tonnage</i>
Wyre Conqueror ... ..	138·8	398
Wyre Defence ... ..	132	338
Wyre Gleaner ... ..	155·3	498
Wyre Revenge ... ..	132	338
Wyre Vanguard ... ..	132	338
Zonia ... ..	139·8	440

**Trawlers over 180 feet registered length**

<i>Name of vessel</i>	<i>Registered length in feet</i>	<i>Gross registered tonnage</i>
Arctic Corsair ... ..	191·7	764
Benella ... ..	189·8	785
Boston Boeing ... ..	185	752
Boston Concord ... ..	196·1	758
Falstaff ... ..	194	896
Joseph Conrad ... ..	190·7	740
Kingston Amber ... ..	193·5	785
Kingston Beryl ... ..	180·3	691
Kingston Pearl ... ..	180·3	691
Loch Eriboll ... ..	180·8	734
Portia ... ..	195·8	883
Primella ... ..	189·8	789
Prince Charles ... ..	180·1	691
Ross Altair ... ..	180·25	677
Ross Canaveral ... ..	186·00	805
Ross Leonis ... ..	189·7	775
Ross Otranto ... ..	198·1	822
Ross Ramillies ... ..	183·3	673
Ross Renown ... ..	188·1	790
Ross Revenge ... ..	221·8	987
Ross Rodney ... ..	185·5	751
Ross Sirius ... ..	180·25	677
Ross Trafalgar ... ..	189·5	787
Somerset Maugham ... ..	189·7	789
Vivaria ... ..	189·7	744
Westella ... ..	189·7	779

TOTAL 93 vessels

## ANNEX 3

- I. British trawlers will not fish in the following conservation areas:
- (1) In the North West an area defined by a line joining the following points:
    - (a)  $66^{\circ} 57.0$  N  $23^{\circ} 21.0$  W
    - (b)  $67^{\circ} 01.0$  N  $22^{\circ} 11.5$  W
    - (c)  $67^{\circ} 20.5$  N  $22^{\circ} 31.5$  W
    - (d)  $67^{\circ} 17.0$  N  $23^{\circ} 51.0$  W
  - (2) In the North East an area bounded by a line drawn 70 nautical miles outside baselines east of  $16^{\circ} 11.8$  W and north of  $66^{\circ} 22.7$  N.
  - (3) In the South East an area bounded by a line joining the following points:
    - (a)  $64^{\circ} 05.5$  N  $13^{\circ} 46.0$  W
    - (b)  $63^{\circ} 49.5$  N  $13^{\circ} 39.0$  W
    - (c)  $63^{\circ} 45.0$  N  $14^{\circ} 00.0$  W
    - (d)  $64^{\circ} 01.0$  N  $14^{\circ} 07.0$  W
  - (4) In the West an area bounded by a line joining the following points:
    - (a)  $65^{\circ} 25.0$  N  $26^{\circ} 45.0$  W
    - (b)  $65^{\circ} 25.0$  N  $27^{\circ} 00.0$  W
    - (c)  $64^{\circ} 40.0$  N  $27^{\circ} 00.0$  W
    - (d)  $64^{\circ} 40.0$  N  $27^{\circ} 15.00$  W

II. British trawlers will not fish in reserved areas as follows:

- (1) Off the West coast in an area bounded by a line drawn 30 nautical miles outside baselines north of  $65^{\circ} 30.0$  N and west of  $22^{\circ} 24.0$  W.
- (2) Off the East coast in an area bounded by a line drawn 30 nautical miles outside baselines north of  $64^{\circ} 44.4$  N and south of a line drawn  $45^{\circ}$  from Bjarnarey ( $65^{\circ} 47.1$  N  $14^{\circ} 18.2$  W).
- (3) Off the North coast in an area bounded by a line drawn 20 nautical miles outside a line between base points 1 and 3 (Horn and Siglunes).

## ANNEX 4

### Conservation measures : Fish sizes and mesh sizes

- (a) British trawlers operating in the waters referred to in the Agreement will take full account of the relevant provisions of the regulations for Icelandic fishermen, duly notified to the Government of the United Kingdom, relating to the size of fish which may be fished for or retained on board; and
- (b) British trawlers operating in the waters referred to in the Agreement will not use nets with meshes smaller than 130 millimetres in size and will use only the Polish type of topside chafer.



No. 2

*The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to the  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland*

*Oslo.*

Your Excellency,

*1 June, 1976.*

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's Note of today's date together with the four Annexes thereto, which reads as follows:—

[As in No. 1]

I have the honour to confirm these arrangements and accordingly agree that Your Excellency's Note together with this reply constitute an Agreement between the two Governments which shall enter into force on today's date.

I have the honour to be,  
with the highest consideration and respect,  
Your Excellency's obedient servant,

**ANTHONY CROSLAND**

*The following Note was handed over to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland on conclusion of the Agreement*

*Oslo.*

Your Excellency,

*1 June, 1976.*

I have the honour to refer to the Agreement of today's date on British fishing in the waters around Iceland and, in connection with paragraph 8 thereof, to state the following on behalf of the Government of the United Kingdom.

The United Kingdom Government will invite the European Economic Community to undertake negotiations with Iceland as soon as possible with a view to reaching a long term reciprocal fisheries agreement. If it is not possible for such an agreement to be concluded before the end of the 6 months period of the present Agreement between the United Kingdom and Iceland, the United Kingdom Government will invite the Community to make a bridging agreement under which British vessels would continue to fish at levels agreed with the Icelandic Government.

The United Kingdom Government will forthwith invite the European Economic Community to apply the provisions of Protocol No. 6<sup>(2)</sup> as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made. They hope that these can be applied indefinitely. But, given the nature of the present arrangement and the terms of Protocol No. 6, the United Kingdom Government will advise the Community that the Protocol should not be applied beyond the duration of the present Agreement between the United Kingdom and Iceland unless satisfactory arrangements can be made for the period following it or pending the entry into force of a long term agreement covering fishery questions between the EEC and Iceland.<sup>(3)</sup>

I have the honour to be,  
with the highest consideration and respect,  
Your Excellency's obedient servant,

ANTHONY CROSLAND

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<sup>(3)</sup> In a Note dated 1 June, 1976 replying to the above, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland stated that it was the view of the Government of Iceland that Protocol No. 6 would be definitively applied and that it was their understanding that this was also the view of the European Economic Community.

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