

Tórshavn, 13 November 2019

### **Regarding Faroese fishery of queen scallop**

Queen scallops in the Faroese EEZ are a unique and separate stock in the North Atlantic.

Faroe Marine Research Institute (FAMRI) is part of the ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea) working group assessing scallops stocks in the North-East Atlantic. The fishery for queen scallops in the Faroes has been conducted for the past 40-50 years in the east coast and although the stock size in absolute levels is unknown, analysis carried out by the scallop ICES working group suggests that catch rates (measured in catch-per-unit-effort) are stable and have fluctuated in a narrow range in the last 15 years. Thus, the stock is not subject to long-term declines or fisheries depletion (ICES 2016, ICES 2017, ICES 2018). In addition to the traditional fishing grounds in the east a relatively small area in the north was opened to experimental fisheries in the 1990s.

The fishery is managed and monitored by authorities under the Ministry of Fisheries by Parliamentary Act No. 28 from 10 March 1994 on Commercial Fisheries. The queen scallop fishery is regulated by fishing licenses granted to a single vessel which is only permitted to operate in specific fishing areas and under seasonal restrictions. The fishery in the Northern fishing area is regulated by an experimental fishing license and is regulated by quotas.

#### Sources:

ICES, 2016. Report of the ICES Scallop Assessment Working Group (WGScallop), 3-7 October 2016 Aberdeen, UK. ICES CM 2016/ACOM:24

ICES, 2017. Interim Report of the Scallop Assessment Working Group (WGSCALLOP), 10-12 October 2017, Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK. ICES CM 2017/SSGEPD:25

ICES, 2018. Report of the Scallop Assessment Working Group (WGScallop), 10-12 October 2018 York, UK. ICES CM 2018/EPDSG:13

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