

## Briefing Note

### NAPA blue whiting meeting with Norwegian Department for Fisheries

*Tuesday 20th August, 12:00-13:00 UK time*

- NAPA blue whiting sub-group members met with Elisabeth Sjørdahl (lead Norwegian negotiator on blue whiting) and Ann Kristin Westberg from the Norwegian Department for Fisheries.
- Aoife introduced NAPA and the specific sustainability issues pertaining to blue whiting that the marketplace is trying to address.
- NAPA partners voiced their arguments for Coastal States (CS) to reach a sustainable sharing arrangement at the earliest opportunity.
  - NAPA partners highlighted that the requirement for certified fishmeal from certified fish stocks is increasingly becoming a non-negotiable for many aquafeed companies and salmon producers.
  - If the FIP were to fail, there would be market and wider supply chain implications for business security, Norwegian salmon production and the fishing industry.
  - The trilateral agreement for mackerel is regarded by NAPA as tentatively positive, as it demonstrates cooperation between CS is possible, but it does not go far enough towards a collective agreement.
  - NAPA asked how it could help the Norwegian Government to make the shift towards a resolution on quota sharing.
- Elisabeth responded she was aware of NAPA's concerns. She suggested NAPA could have similar discussions with Iceland and the Faroes. She provided some context to the blue whiting negotiations.
  - The next CS meeting on blue whiting will be chaired by Iceland in September, although a meeting date has not been agreed.
  - Proposals for a sharing arrangement have been put forward by Norway, the UK and Iceland. The Faroes and the EU are yet to state their positions.
  - Norway is the only CS to maintain its quota share in line with the 2005 sharing arrangement.
  - The onus is now on the EU and Faroes to put forward their proposals. Until this happens, the negotiations cannot progress. There also appears to be limited enthusiasm from other parties to meet before the October annual meeting.
- Ann Kristin commented that the blue whiting stock is in good condition in terms of biomass.
  - NAPA Partners appreciated this but argued that the stock remains uncertified due to the inadequate governance and management of the fishery.

- As a result, MSC/ASC certification have been withdrawn.
- This is problematic because customers dictate that all marine ingredients must come from certified sources. Furthermore, aquafeed companies are committed to buying certified raw materials.
- NAPA shared that it views Norway as one of the responsible CS actors and encouraged it to lead the way for blue whiting sustainability.
- Companies are beginning to look beyond forage fish for more sustainable source of fish oil, for example, from algae. The lack of certified marine raw materials is forcing the market to innovate and find alternatives.
- Elisabeth highlighted that Iceland and the Faroes might also be receptive to hearing NAPA's concerns. She suggested NAPA could contact Iceland as Chair of the blue whiting negotiations and ask to present at an upcoming CS meeting. She would share NAPA's concerns with the other CS delegations and would be happy to hear from NAPA in future.

**Actions:**

In terms of next steps, we have:

1. Sent a follow up email to Elisabeth and Ana Kristin thanking them for joining the call and to seek ongoing engagement.
2. Written to the Icelandic team and requested a similar meeting as a priority. Once that is in the calendar we will also contact the Faroes.