1. Opening of the meeting
The Chair, Terje Løbach, Norway, opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates.

All Contracting Parties were represented.

2. Adoption of the agenda and appointment of rapporteur
The agenda was adopted in the form that had been circulated before the meeting.

The Secretary was appointed as rapporteur.

3. Report of the sub-group of scientists
The Chair of the sub-group of Scientists, Peter Hopkins, EU, presented the sub-group’s report.

It was agreed that the conclusions of the sub-group was helpful for the Working Group in formulating a conclusion regarding the zonal attachment criterion. The members of the sub-group were thanked for their good work.

4. Consideration of individual points in the Working Group’s Terms of Reference
1. The criteria for quota allocations on stocks occurring in the North-East Atlantic, both discrete stocks in the Regulatory Area and straddling stocks occurring both in the waters of the Coastal States and the Regulatory Area
2. The appropriate reference period
3. The weighting to be given to each of those criteria
4. The minimum time period for which the allocation criteria should apply and the consequent timing of any review
There were in-depth discussions under agenda item 4, where many issues were raised, with an emphasis on sub-item 4.1. These discussions built on the basis that had been created at the meetings of the Working Group in 2016.

The delegates cooperated in the drafting of an informal working document, where the different criteria were listed and clarified and the results of the sub-group of scientist were incorporated, but no final agreement was made on the issues that were reflected in this informal working document.

It was agreed that while significant progress had been made in addressing the tasks given to the Working Group, further discussions would be needed before those tasks could be finalised and further work would be needed before proposals to the Annual Meeting could be formulated.

5. **Formulation of possible proposals to the 2017 Annual Meeting**
No proposals to the 2017 Annual Meeting were formulated at this meeting.

6. **Any other business**
No issues were raised under this agenda item.

7. **Arrangements for possible additional meetings of the Working Group**
It was agreed that the Working Group would meet again on 8-9 June 2017.

8. **Report of the meeting**
The draft report was circulated on 21 March 2017 and the final report of the meeting was adopted on 29 March 2017.

9. **Closing of the meeting**
The Chair thanked all the participants for a fruitful meeting and wished everyone a safe journey home.