

ICELAND



Treaty Series No. 122 (1973)

Exchange of Notes

constituting an Interim Agreement in
the Fisheries Dispute between the
Government of the United Kingdom
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
and the Government of the Republic
of Iceland

Reykjavik, 13 November 1973

[The Interim Agreement entered into force on 13 November 1973]

*Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
by Command of Her Majesty
November 1973*

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EXCHANGE OF NOTES
CONSTITUTING AN INTERIM AGREEMENT IN THE FISHERIES
DISPUTE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ICELAND

No. 1

*The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland to Her Majesty's Ambassador
at Reykjavik*

No. 23

*Reykjavik,
November 13, 1973*

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the discussions which have taken place between our two Governments concerning the fisheries dispute between our two countries. In these discussions the following arrangements have been worked out for an interim agreement relating to fisheries in the disputed area, pending a settlement of the substantive dispute and without prejudice to the legal position or rights of either Government in relation thereto, which are based on an estimated annual catch of about 130,000 metric tons by British vessels:

1. The British fleet of fresher trawlers which will fish in the area will be reduced, by comparison with the number of vessels notified as fishing in 1971, by 15 of the largest trawlers and 15 other trawlers so that it will consist of not more than 68 trawlers of 180 feet or more in registered length and 71 trawlers of less than 180 feet in registered length; and no freezer or factory trawlers will fish in the area.

2. British trawlers will not fish in conservation areas during periods specified as follows:

(I) Off the Northwest Coast all year in an area demarcated by a line between the following points:

(a) 66° 57' N, 23° 36' W

(b) 67° 01' N, 22° 24' W

and a line drawn 340° from point (a) and 22° 24' W.

(II) Off the South Coast during the period 20 March to 20 April in an area demarcated by lines between the following points:

(a) 63° 32' N, 21° 25' W

(b) 63° 00' N, 21° 25' W

(c) 63° 00' N, 22° 00' W

(d) 63° 32' N, 22° 00' W

(III) Off the Northeast Coast during the period 1 April to 1 June in an area demarcated by 16° 11'8 W and a line drawn 045° from Langanes (66° 22'7 N, 14° 31'9 W).

3. British trawlers will not fish in small boat areas as follows:

- (I) Off the West Coast in an area bounded by a line drawn 20 nautical miles outside baselines, north of $65^{\circ} 30' N$ and west of $22^{\circ} 24' W$.
- (II) Off the East Coast in an area bounded by a line drawn 20 nautical miles outside baselines, north of $64^{\circ} 44'4'' N$ and south of a line drawn 045° from Bjarnarey ($65^{\circ} 47'1'' N$, $14^{\circ} 18'2'' W$).
- (III) Off the North Coast in an area bounded by a line between the following points:
 - (a) $66^{\circ} 39'7'' N$, $22^{\circ} 24'0'' W$
 - (b) $66^{\circ} 23'8'' N$, $18^{\circ} 50'0'' W$

4. British trawlers will not fish in the following areas during the periods indicated:

- (A) Off the Northwest Coast an area demarcated by $22^{\circ} 24'$ western longitude and $65^{\circ} 30'$ northern latitude. Closed September/October.
- (B) Off the Southwest Coast an area demarcated by $65^{\circ} 30'$ northern latitude and $20^{\circ} 30'$ western longitude. Closed November/December.
- (C) Off the South Coast an area demarcated by $20^{\circ} 30'$ and $14^{\circ} 30'$ western longitude. Closed May/June.
- (D) Off the Southeast Coast an area demarcated by $14^{\circ} 30'$ western longitude and a line drawn 045° from Bjarnarey ($65^{\circ} 47'1'' N$, $14^{\circ} 18'2'' W$). Closed January/February.
- (E) Off the Northeast Coast an area demarcated by a line drawn 045° from Bjarnarey and $16^{\circ} 11'8''$ western longitude. Closed July/August.
- (F) Off the North Coast an area demarcated by $16^{\circ} 11'8''$ and $22^{\circ} 24'$ western longitude. Closed March/April.

5. The arrangements specified in sub-paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 above are indicated on the attached map.

6. An agreed list of vessels which may fish in these waters in terms of this interim agreement shall be established. The Icelandic Government will not object to the named vessels fishing around Iceland as long as they comply with the terms of this interim agreement. Should a vessel be discovered fishing contrary to the terms of the agreement, the Icelandic coastguard shall have the right to stop it, but shall summon the nearest British fishery support vessel in order to establish the facts. Any trawler found to have violated the terms of the agreement will be crossed off the list.

7. The agreement will run for two years from the present date. Its termination will not affect the legal position of either Government with respect to the substantive dispute.

If the foregoing is acceptable to the British Government, I have the honour to propose that this Note and Your Excellency's reply in that sense shall constitute an interim agreement between our two countries which shall

become effective forthwith and be registered with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with Article 102 of the United Nations Charter⁽¹⁾.

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

EINAR ÁGÚSTSSON
Minister for Foreign Affairs

No. 2

*Her Majesty's Ambassador at Reykjavik to the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Iceland*

*British Embassy,
Reykjavik.
13 November, 1973*

Your Excellency,

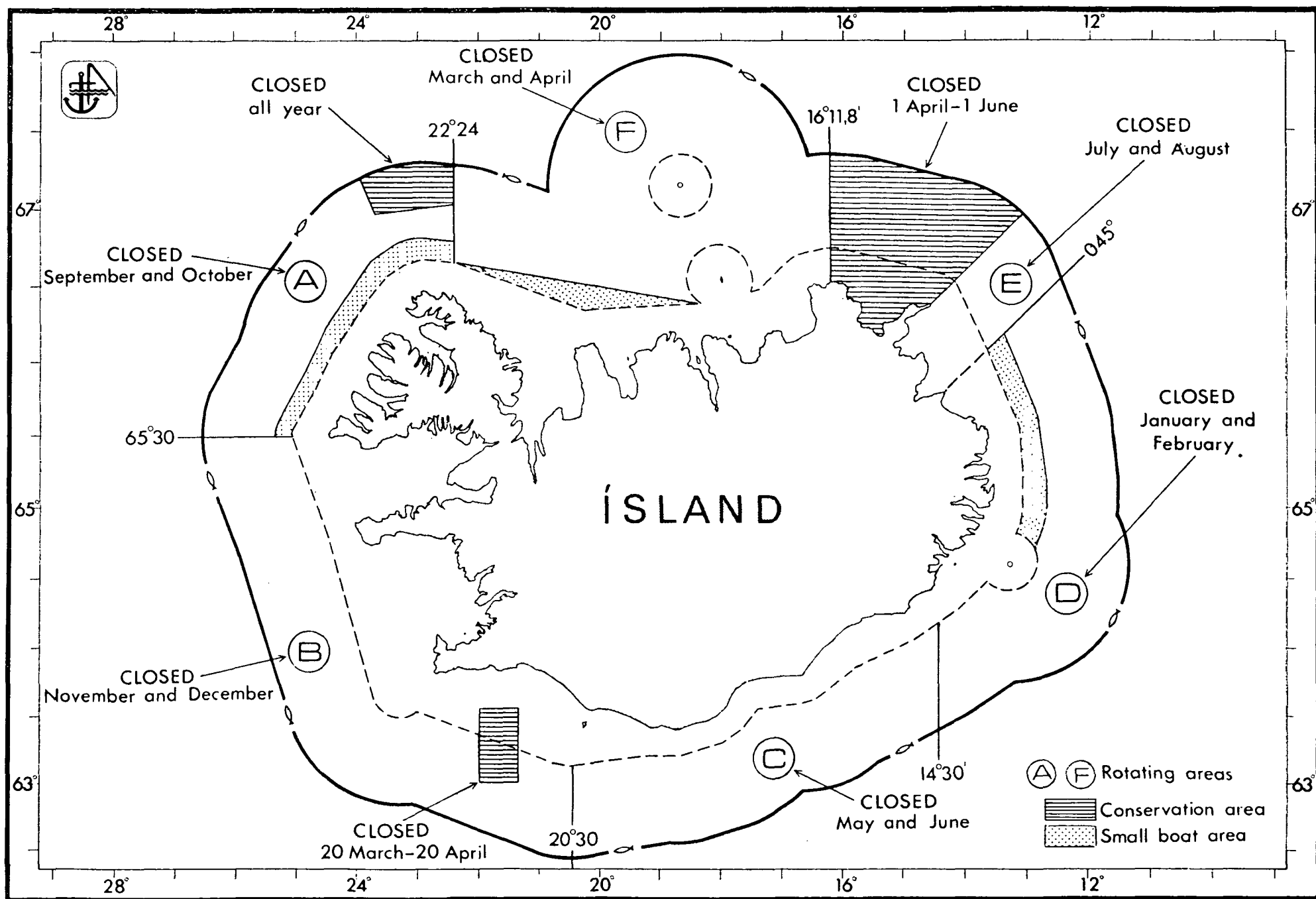
I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's Note of today's date, together with the map attached, concerning the fisheries dispute between our two countries.

I have the honour to confirm that the contents of Your Excellency's Note are acceptable to the British Government, who therefore agree that Your Excellency's Note and this reply constitute an interim agreement which shall become effective forthwith and be registered with the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with Article 102 of the United Nations Charter.

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

JOHN MCKENZIE

⁽¹⁾ Treaty Series No. 67 (1946), Cmd. 7015.



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