



**Agreement between the Faroe Islands and the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland for
Cooperation in Search and Rescue Operations**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Faroe Fisheries, Surveillance and Salvage Agency (VØRN), part of the Ministry of Fisheries and the United Kingdom's Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA, part of the Department for Transport, hereinafter referred to as the 'Parties' in this Agreement, recognise the benefits enjoyed from previous close cooperation with regard to search and rescue (SAR) operations and training, and further recognise that additional benefits may be enjoyed from the cooperative agreement detailed herein; and
- 1.2 The Parties have been recognised by their respective governments as having primary responsibility for coordinating and providing SAR services in their respective SAR Regions (SRR).
- 1.3 The Parties recognise the great importance of cooperation in SAR, and in the provision of expeditious and effective SAR services to save lives and reduce suffering and have assumed their respective responsibilities for SAR within the framework of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, the Convention on International Civil Aviation, 1944, and the International Aeronautical and Maritime SAR (IAMSAR) Manual.
- 1.4 The Parties have accordingly reached the following Agreement.

2. Objectives and Scope

- 2.1 This Agreement establishes a framework for cooperation among the Parties in carrying out activities related to SAR and sets out their various responsibilities.
- 2.2 The Parties should ensure close coordination with their respective national aeronautical and maritime SAR agencies to help promote common and effective SAR services under this Agreement.

3. Responsibilities

- 3.1 The Parties are each responsible for the maintenance of safety of life within their respective SRR, under their respective Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC).
- 3.2 Each Party, on receiving information of an incident where any person is in distress within its SRR, should take urgent measures to provide the most

appropriate assistance regardless of the nationality or status of such a person, or the circumstances in which that incident occurred or is detected.

- 3.3 SAR operations should normally be carried out in accordance with the relevant SAR manuals and recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO), including the IAMSAR Manual (as amended from time to time), taking into account SAR procedures established by national legislation.
- 3.4 The Parties should make every effort to retrieve persons in distress, provide for their initial medical or other needs and deliver them to a place of safety; additionally, when it does not involve excessive risk or cost to the units involved in SAR operations, the Parties may attempt to rescue the craft or vessel on which the person in danger are aboard.
- 3.5 To ensure that SAR operations are conducted in an efficient and coordinated manner, the Parties should consult and cooperate with each other as necessary and appropriate, lending mutual assistance as their capabilities allow.
- 3.6 Either Party may conduct SAR operations within the SRR of the other Party under the coordination of that other Party's RCC.
- 3.7 Entry of the SAR units of one Party into or over the territory of the other Party for the purpose of conducting SAR operations should be expeditiously arranged to the best of each Party's ability and via the appropriate RCCs.
- 3.8 Solely for the purpose of searching for the site of an accident, rescuing survivors of such accidents, rendering emergency assistance to persons, vessels, or aircraft in danger or distress and when the location is reasonably well known, permission to enter its territory shall be granted by a State to another State's SAR unit(s), provided that a request has been transmitted to the RCC of the concerned State or to such other authority as has been designated by the State.
- 3.9 The RCC of the State requesting assistance or the use of suitable SAR facilities of another State ('the requesting RCC' and 'the assisting State' respectively), shall provide all pertinent details on the scope of the assistance or facilities required. The requesting RCC should provide a full briefing, directly or indirectly, to the SAR units that have been made available by the

assisting State, on the scope of the mission before the SAR units enter the SRR of the requesting RCC. If it is necessary for the SAR units of an assisting State to land at an airfield or to make use of the facilities of the requesting RCC in the course of performing as assigned SAR task, the RCC concerned should make all necessary arrangements to facilitate the taking of such matters or actions.

3.10 To facilitate the coordination referred to in this section, the Parties should, to the best of their ability, keep each other fully and promptly informed of all relevant SAR operations. The Parties should develop appropriate procedures in accordance with the IAMSAR Manual to provide for the most effective and efficient means of communication.

3.11 In case of an incident exceeding the capabilities of either Party, such as a Mass Rescue Operation, that Party may request additional assistance from the other Party as outlined in section 3.9. Both Parties should cooperate with each other as necessary and appropriate, lending mutual assistance as their capabilities allow.

4. SAR Regions (SRRs)

4.1 The provisions of this Agreement apply to the Faroe Islands and the United Kingdom's SRRs, as declared to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and promulgated in the Global SAR Plan. A graphical representation of the SRRs is contained in Annex 1 to this Agreement.

4.2 The establishment of SRRs is intended only to provide an understanding concerning the regions within which each Party accepts primary responsibility for the coordinating SAR operations.

4.3 The delineation of SRRs is not related to and does not prejudice or have any bearing on the delimitation of any boundaries between States.

5. Rescue Coordination Centres (RCCs)

5.1 The primary operational point of contact under this Agreement are the internationally recognised aeronautical and maritime RCCs of the Parties.

5.1.1 For the Faroe Islands, MRCC Torshavn,

5.1.2 For the United Kingdom, the UK MRCC and ARCC.

5.2 The Parties, to the best of their ability, should provide each other any information which might be useful in order to expedite and improve coordination.

5.3 Identification of the operational points of contacts, as referred to in this section, is not intended to preclude appropriate direct coordination between any SAR facility or organisational unit of the Parties, especially when time is of the essence in the saving of lives.

5.4 Transfer of SAR mission coordination responsibilities between RCCs, if deemed necessary, should be conducted by consultation between RCCs.

6. Cooperation

6.1 The subordinate elements of the Parties may provide for further coordination and cooperation by the establishment of appropriate operational arrangements and procedures consistent with this Agreement.

6.2 In addition to information related to specific SAR cases, the Parties may exchange any other information that may serve to improve the effectiveness of SAR operations.

6.3 The Parties will endeavour to promote mutual SAR cooperation by giving due consideration to collaboration on SAR matters.

7. Finances

7.1 Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, each Party is to fund its own expenses for activities pertinent to this Agreement.

7.2 The provisions of the Agreement are contingent upon the availability of SAR personnel, facilities and funding.

8. Application of this Agreement

8.1 Nothing in this Agreement is intended to affect in any way rights and duties based on international agreements or other arrangements between the Parties or their respective governments.

8.2 All activities conducted under this Agreement should be in conformity with national legislation of the Parties, as well as with the relevant international conventions in force.

8.3 No provision of this Agreement should be construed as an obstacle to prompt and effective action by any Party to relieve distress whenever and wherever found.

8.4 Any dispute regarding the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement is to be resolved by consultation between the Parties and is not to be referred to any international body, court or third party for settlement.

9. Modification and Review

9.1 This Agreement may be modified in writing by the Parties.

9.2 The Parties or their designated representatives should meet annually, either in person or through audio / video conference to review the agreement.

10. Duration, Withdrawal and Discontinuation

10.1 Cooperation under this Agreement may commence from the date of signature and may continue indefinitely.

10.2 Either Party may withdraw from this Agreement at any time, upon giving 3 months' notice in writing to the other Party.

10.3 Cooperation under this Agreement may be discontinued mutually by the Parties in writing, or by any superseding arrangement. This Agreement supersedes the Local Agreement on Mutual Support Between Her Majesty's Coastguard and Faroes Inspection and Rescue Service for Cooperation During the Co-ordination of Search and Rescue, having entered into force on 16th May 2007.

10.4 The Parties should ensure that such discontinuation does not adversely impact any SAR operations or other cooperation in progress at the time that such discontinuation takes effect and should consult each other closely for this purpose.

Signed



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For the Faroe Islands

Edvard Bjarnason

Head of MRCC Department
Vørn

Date:

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22/10-2019

Signed



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For the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland

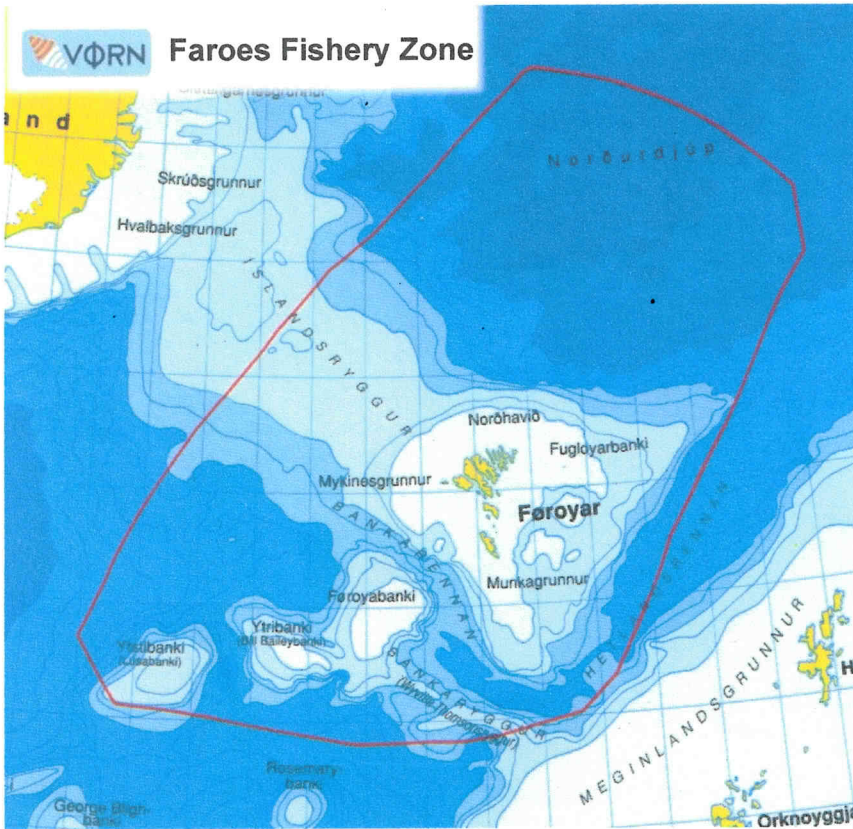
Richard Parkes

Director of Her Majesty's Coastguard
Maritime and Coastguard Agency

Date:

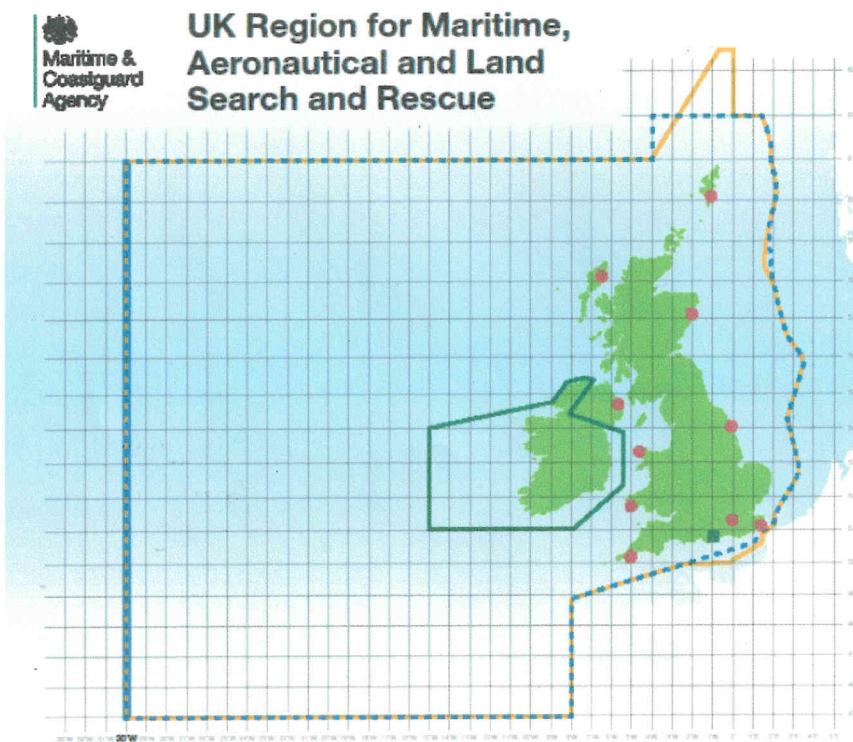
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Annex 1 – Search and Rescue Regions



Legend

- Faroes Fisheries Zone and SAR Area of Responsibility



Legend

- UK Maritime Search and Rescue Region
- UK Aeronautical Search and Rescue Region
- Land Search and Rescue Area
- Irish Search and Rescue Region
- National Maritime Operations Centre and Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre
- Coastguard Operations Centre