



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Annual Fisheries Negotiations

Update to EFRA

17 January 2023

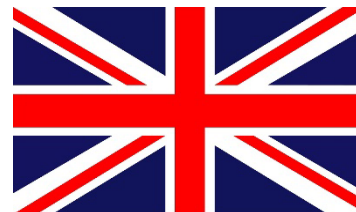
Annual fisheries negotiations for 2023

Context of negotiations

- As an independent coastal State, the UK participates in international fisheries negotiations on a bilateral, trilateral and multilateral basis. Most negotiations take place annually in the autumn to agree the management of stocks for the following year.
- Our goal is to improve the sustainable management of fisheries in line with the objectives of the Fisheries Act 2020 whilst supporting the fishing industry and continuing to realise the benefits from our status as an independent coastal State.
- The 3 main agreements which we negotiate are: the UK-EU bilateral agreement; the UK-EU-Norway trilateral agreement; and coastal state multi-lateral agreements.
- The negotiations are led by UK Government officials working to a mandate set by UK Ministers. Officials from the devolved administrations form part of the UK delegation.

Key outcomes

- *More stocks' quotas were set aligned to the scientific advice than the previous two years since becoming an independent coastal State.*
- *The 3 main agreements were all concluded in time for the 2023 fishing year, providing certainty for businesses.*
- *Significant quota increases, in line with scientific advice, for North Sea Cod, haddock and whiting.*
- *Facilitating a new, cautious fishery for spurdog now the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) has advised a TAC.*
- *Negotiated new access opportunities for albacore tuna into EU waters.*



UK-EU Bilateral Agreement

The UK-EU fisheries negotiations for 2023, which concluded on 20 December, provided the UK with approximately 140,000 tonnes of quota across 69 stocks, estimated to be worth around £282 million. This was a quota uplift of approximately 30,000 tonnes compared to old shares as an EU Member State. It also provided the UK with continued access for non-quota stocks in EU waters, worth around £25 million in previous years.

Key outcomes

- An initial estimate suggests the number of Total Allowable Catches (TACs) that align with scientific advice from ICES has increased by 13% compared to last year. This is the largest increase since 2020 when the UK first started using this metric.
- The UK agreed access to water arrangements with the EU outside of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) provisions for the first time. This will include access for spurdog in the North Sea and for albacore tuna.
- The UK and EU have made additional commitments to work together through the Specialised Committee on Fisheries to improve the management of particular stocks. These include further commitments on progressing the management of deep-sea stocks, as well as reviewing the effectiveness of technical measures, with a view to supporting recovery of vulnerable stocks.

UK-EU-Norway Trilateral Agreement



The UK, Norway and the European Union signed on 10 December a trilateral agreement on catch limits for 2023 on six jointly managed fish stocks.

All Parties agreed to set catch levels in line with, or lower than, those advised by ICES, and to share data and work together on control and enforcement.

The agreed TACs provide the UK with around 195,000 tonnes of fishing opportunities, worth around £213m.

North Sea TACs agreed for 2023 (compared to 2022) are:

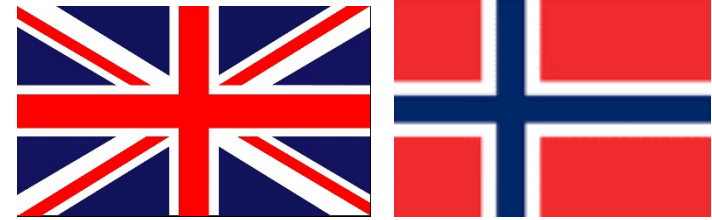
- Cod: 21,652t (+63%)
- Haddock: 58,402t (+30%)
- Herring: 396,556t (-7%)
- Plaice: 132,922t (+6%)
- Saithe: 53,374t (+19%)
- Whiting: 34,294t (+30%)

The Parties have been negotiating a Fisheries Framework Agreement to provide a robust legal basis for these annual trilateral negotiations. We aim to finalise this treaty in time for the next annual negotiations in autumn 2023.



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

UK-Norway Bilateral Agreement



Background:

The UK- Norway Framework Agreement provides the legal basis to facilitate bilateral negotiations on access to each other's waters and on quota exchanges.

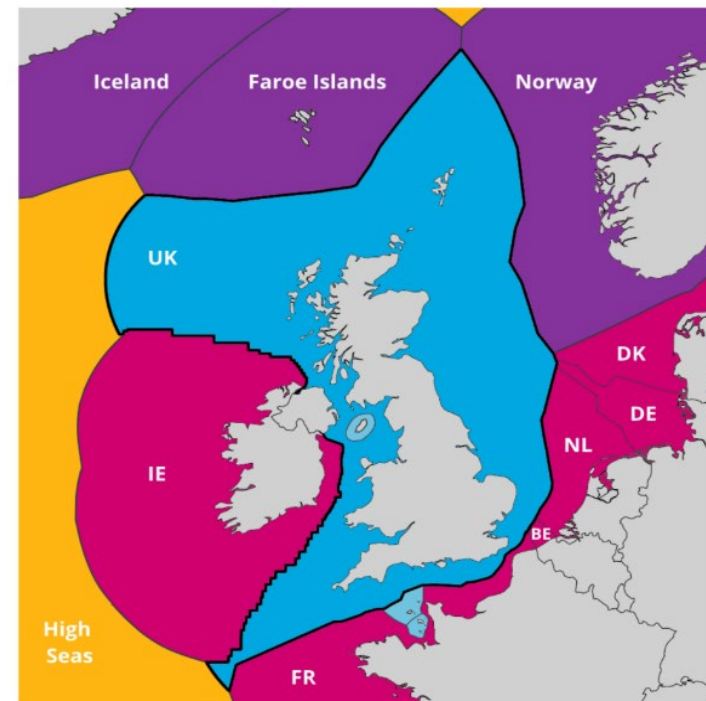
Summary of 2023 agreement:

Negotiations began in October, and a deal was signed on 25 November.

The agreement is more balanced than the arrangements that existed under the EU-Norway agreement while we were an EU member state. The main features of the 2023 agreement are :

- Quota transfers from Norway of valuable North Sea and Arctic whitefish stocks.
- Access to Norwegian waters for our demersal fleet to fish their whitefish quotas for stocks such as cod and haddock.
- A reduction in the level of access to UK waters granted to Norwegian vessels, compared with when we were an EU member state.

Exclusive Economic Zones of the UK and neighbouring coastal states



Coastal State Pelagic negotiations



Summary of negotiations for 2023:

The UK is a coastal State for the some pelagic stocks widely distributed across the North East Atlantic: mackerel, Atlanto-Scandian herring (ASH) and blue whiting.

We take part in annual negotiations with other coastal States to agree Total Allowable Catches. Discussions are also ongoing to agree a new quota-sharing arrangement for mackerel, which the UK is chairing. This is alongside parallel discussions to agree new quota-sharing arrangements for blue whiting and ASH.

The global TACs for these stocks were set in line with the scientific advice for 2023. Overall, the UK secured around 325,000 tonnes of quota, worth around £256m. The 2023 TAC for mackerel and ASH fell, while the TAC for blue whiting increased by 81%.

Aim for 2023:

The UK aims to conclude new quota-sharing arrangements for mackerel, ASH and blue whiting which would increases the UK share of the stock's quota.





Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs)

Highlights of RFMO negotiations

The UK played a key role in agreeing the following RFMO measures:

- A measure to give greater protection to Greenland sharks in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO).
- A new management measure for South Atlantic shortfin mako in the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), complementing the 2021 North Atlantic measure.
- An interim measure for the Greenland salmon fishery in the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO).
- A measure to protect juvenile haddock at the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC).

Aim for 2023:

- Agree a new measure for Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) and a more ambitious yellowfin tuna management measure in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).
- Agree TACs guided by the best available scientific advice at NAFO and NEAFC, maximising opportunities for the UK fleet within sustainable limits.
- Agree new comprehensive management measures for tropical tunas in ICCAT.