



Department
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Annual Fisheries Negotiations

Update to EFRA

2 February 2022



Overview of Fisheries Negotiations

The UK has concluded bilateral and trilateral fisheries negotiations with the EU and Norway, as well as wider coastal States and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations. Negotiations with Faroes are still ongoing.

Our aims throughout negotiations are to:

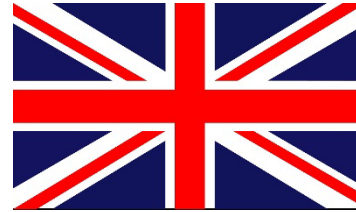
- **Deliver sustainability improvements** including taking steps to allow vulnerable stocks to recover to sustainable levels and increasing the number of Total Allowable Catches (TACs) set consistent with ICES advice on catch opportunities (including Maximum Sustainable Yield advice).
- **Support the fishing industry** in the short and long terms; ensure stock-rebuilding initiatives take appropriate account of socio-economic considerations; provide the industry with catching opportunities that allow them to operate profitably, and
- **Continue to realise the benefits deriving from our status as an independent coastal State.**

Throughout the negotiations, DEFRA took a Team UK approach, through involving colleagues from the **Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Executive**, to deliver a positive and balanced outcome for all parts of the UK.

An assessment on the number of individual TACs set consistent with ICES advice will be published in the next few weeks once a full analysis has been completed by Cefas scientists.



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UK-EU Bilateral Negotiations

Summary of negotiations:

Negotiations for 2022 began on 11 November 2021 and concluded on **21 December 2021**.

This is the second year in which the UK has participated in negotiations with the EU as an **independent coastal State**. The tone of discussions was positive, constructive and honest.

The deal provides much-needed stability for the UK fishing industry ahead of the fishing year. It sets a good platform for our continued future relationship with the EU on fisheries management.

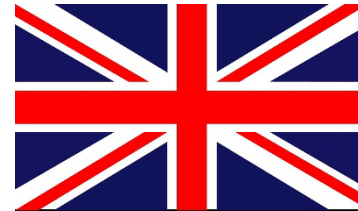
140,000 tonnes of fishing opportunities for the UK fleet, estimated to be worth around **£313 million**

Taking account of scientific advice to deliver sustainable fisheries management, there is around **12,000 tonnes less quota** available than last year for the UK. However, this is still around 7,000 tonnes more than the year before (2020). The UK has around **28,000 tonnes more quota** from these negotiations than it would have received with its previous shares as an EU Member State.

Across the 69 TACs agreed in the UK-EU negotiations, TACs were set lower overall in 2022 compared to 2021. **46% of the TACs were reduced, 22% were increased**, and the remaining **32% were set at the same level**. This is in line with the overall direction of ICES advice, where reductions in catch advice were recommended for the majority of TACs that ICES advice relates to.



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UK-EU Bilateral Negotiations

Agreement summary:

Celtic Sea and Bristol Channel, reflects the need to consider **mixed fishery interactions** when TAC setting in this fishery. Both parties committed to reviewing **skates and rays** to agree a method for TAC-setting.

North Sea/West of Scotland, reflects ambitions for greater sustainability alongside the needs of the industry to avoid serious choke. Positive that the condition and outlook for **West of Scotland whiting** is starting to improve.

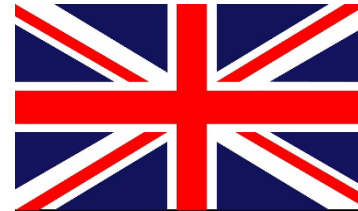
Irish Sea, balances ambitions for greater sustainability alongside the need to provide sufficient bycatch quota for the continuation of a viable Nephrops fishery. Both Parties acknowledge concerns around the need to protect bycatch species, such as **whiting and cod**.

Non-Quota Stocks (NQS), agreed not to apply the 2012-16 tonnage baselines for NQS. The UK secured significant commitments to develop **multi-year strategies for shared NQS**, alongside additional measures to manage the rate of fishing via the SCF. Previously agreed management measures for **seabass** were rolled forward, alongside further adjustments of measures for commercial fishing.

The UK and EU agreed to **continue the interim quota exchange mechanism** that has been in place **since July 2021**, allowing UK industry to continue to propose exchanges of quota with their EU counterparts within the fishing year



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UK-EU Bilateral Negotiations

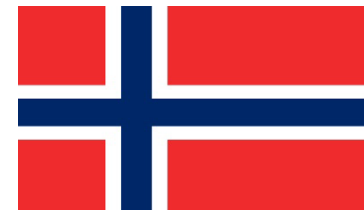
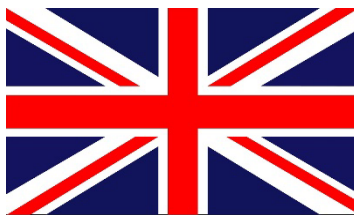
SCF (Specialised Committee on Fisheries):

The TCA (Trade and Cooperation Agreement) committed the UK and EU to work together through the SCF.

The UK will continue to work with the EU on developing sustainable fisheries management. Looking forward to the first half of 2022, the SCF will focus on progressing:

- A permanent mechanism for in-year quota exchanges.
- Development of multi-year strategies for non-quota species.
- Reviewing existing measures permitting quota flexibility.
- Working with ICES (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea) on a range of issues (including biological stock – TAC management area alignment issues, stocks without ICES advice, considering how we can better manage mixed fisheries making use of ICES advice and seeking to improve the ICES catch allocation tool for sea bass).
- Interpretation of ICES advice on skates and rays.
- Reviewing data collection and sharing.

Exceptionally the UK and EU agreed not to apply the NQS tonnage limits provided for in the TCA for 2022. If either Party reaches 80% of their total, they are committed to discuss next steps at the SCF.



UK-EU-Norway Trilateral Negotiations

In December, the UK, Norway and the European Union signed a trilateral agreement on **catch limits for 2022** on six jointly managed fish stocks in the North Sea. This year the **UK chaired** the talks.

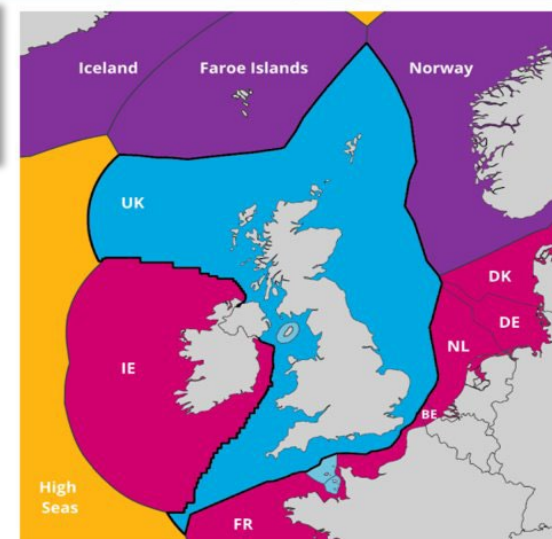
5 of the 6 agreed catch levels (TAC) for 2022 were set within or below the scientific advice to ensure that the North Sea Stock biomass increases.

The agreement commits the parties to focused work on hake and herring, further review of long-term management strategies whilst increased work plans for greater control and enforcement collaboration. Whilst also prioritising development of a Fisheries Framework Agreement to consolidate the trilateral negotiations.

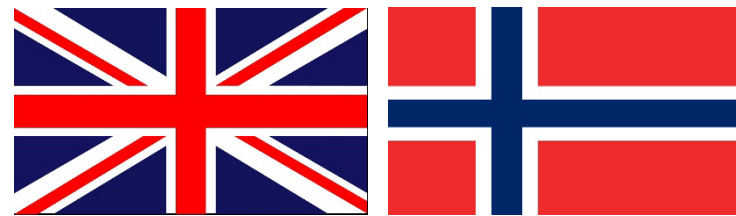
The fishing opportunities for the UK fishing industry are expected to be worth around £191 million (based on historic landing prices). This is £7 million more than 2021.

Outcomes across UK-EU- Norway Trilateral		2020	2021
UK Quota (tonnes) (Difference from previous year)		151,000	(
			£

Exclusive Economic Zones of the UK and neighbouring coastal states



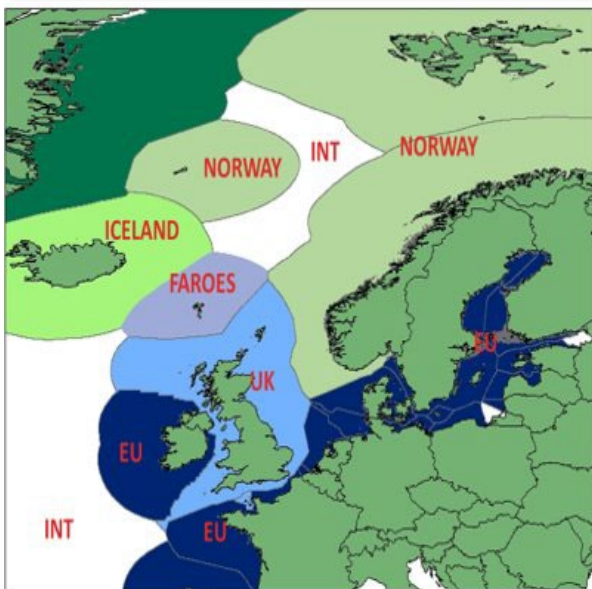
UK-Norway Bilateral Negotiations



In **December 2021**, the United Kingdom and Norway signed a bilateral agreement for 2022. The agreement covers **access** to each other's waters, **quota** exchange, **control and enforcement**.

The UK has secured a **more balanced package** which:

- ensures priority access for both parties
- delivers a considerable **reduction in Norwegian vessels' access** to UK waters compared to when the UK was a member of the EU.



The quota exchange is worth **approximately £5.1 million to UK vessels**.

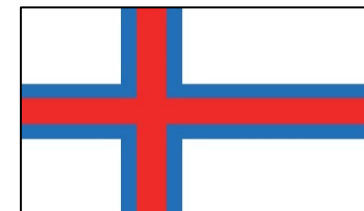
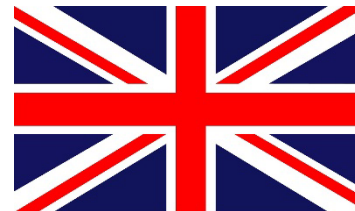
The agreement also commits to creating a closer working relationship on **Control and Enforcement** and includes a new Working Group on Electronic Reporting Systems (ERS).

The agreement ensures that the appropriate safeguards are put in place so that the fishing arrangements do not have **detrimental consequences** for fish stocks and the wider marine environment.

The Parties will hold quarterly meetings and closely monitor all fishing activity to enforce sustainable stock management.

In 2021, the UK also concluded a separate Svalbard agreement where Norway allocated 6,550 tonnes of cod around **Svalbard** to the UK for 2022.

UK-Faroes Bilateral Negotiations



The **first round of negotiations** took place on 23-24 November in Torshavn, with a second virtual round in December.

The consultations concern **quota exchange** (each party seeking quota to be fished in the other party's waters) and **control and enforcement**.

Both sides would like a deal that is **balanced** and both have shown **pragmatism**.

Significant progress has been made towards reaching a deal for fishing opportunities in 2022 however this has not been completed as there was a change in Faroese minister just before Christmas. The UK is seeking to recommence negotiations.

Talks are ongoing on how to work more closely on management of shared areas of the North Sea.



Coastal State Negotiations: UK, EU, Norway, Iceland, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Russia

Background:

The UK is a coastal State for the following straddling stocks: mackerel, Atlanto-Scandian herring (ASH) and blue whiting.

We take part in negotiations each year to agree management measures such as Total Allowable Catches (TACs) with the other coastal States.

Discussions will take place next year to agree sharing arrangements.
The UK will chair discussions on mackerel and ASH.
The UK will support an approach based on zonal attachment.

Summary of negotiations for 2022:

In 2021 we agreed a global TAC for mackerel, blue whiting and ASH in line with the scientific advice for 2022. We will pursue agreements on sharing arrangements as we proceed with negotiations in 2022.

Blue Whiting

The UK's share will be 7.76%. The value of these fishing opportunities is estimated at around £13m - £18m.

ASH

The UK's share will be 1.95%. The value of these fishing opportunities is estimated at around £3m - £6m.

Mackerel

We will set the UK share of mackerel in line with the TCA: 26.52%. The value of these fishing opportunities is estimated at around £218m - £252m.





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Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs)

Summary of negotiations:

The UK attended some of these RFMOs (ICCAT and IOTC) as an independent Contracting Party for the first time in 2021.

In each of the RFMOs, we attended annual negotiations and several intersessional meetings.

The UK played **a key role** in the agreement of several important RFMO measures this year including:

New 'area closures' to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO).

A new **rebuilding plan for shortfin mako** in the International Commission for the Conservation for Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

A new **management measure for the yellowfin tuna fishery** in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

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).



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Funding



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Funding headline overview

Funding has been provided to the sector through; emergency funding to respond to changing markets, at the domestic level tailored to the industry needs within each administration (through repatriated funds) and at the UK level to support large strategic change.

Emergency funding = £26m delivered over the past two years including:

- **Fisheries Response Fund (FRF)** in 2020
- **Domestic Seafood Supply scheme (DSSS)** in 2020
- **Seafood Disruption Support Scheme (SDSS)** in 2021
- **Seafood Response Fund (SRF)** in 2021

+ additional **£6m** spent by the **DAs** in 2021 on emergency schemes.

Repatriated funding = £32.7m p.a. across the UK through to FY 2024/25

This is allocated to each administration with a breakdown as follows: £14m to Scotland; £13.5m to England, £2.1m to Wales, and £3.1m to NI

Funding is provided to each administration to deliver a domestic grants scheme; support data and evidence collection to progress policy development; and protect UK waters through control and enforcement activities.

UK Seafood fund = £100m of which

- **Infrastructure:** at least **£65m** to invest in physical improvements throughout the supply chain.
- **Science and innovation:** **£24m** to invest in new technology and evidence to support quotas.
- **Skills and training:** up to **£10m** to improve recruitment and retention through better training
- **International Markets:** **£1m** to improve access to markets outside of the EU.



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The UK Seafood Fund

The UK Seafood Fund provides funding for infrastructure, training, research and to improve access to international markets. We are also working to ensure the seafood industry is eligible and encouraged to bid for funding from the Levelling Up Fund and other relevant Government grants.

Infrastructure. We have allocated at least £65 million to make improvements throughout the supply chain. This funding will be provided to the industry over a number of rounds. The first round is focussed on improvements to landing sites and processing facilities because these large projects take the longest time. Future rounds will fund shorter projects for those sectors of the industry that are not funded in this first round. That could include funding to modernise the fleet.

Now collecting industry's views on our plans. Open for bids in early March and award in the Summer. Second rounds to be launched in Autumn.

Skills and Training. We have allocated up to £10 million to improve training in the industry and boost recruitment and retention in the industry.

Science and Innovation. We have allocated £24 million to two research programmes. The Seafood Innovation Fund will provide for technological improvements that will benefit the industry. The Fisheries Industry Science Partnerships allows industry directed research into fisheries and aquaculture to allow us to develop evidence-based Fishery Management Plans.

Now assessing bids received before awarding funding in coming weeks.

International Markets. We have allocated £1 million to boost access to external markets to reduce dependence on the EU.

Timing to be announced.



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Domestic Funding Schemes

Repatriated funding: the Government has allocated **£32.7m** p.a. to support the UK seafood sector through FY 2024/25 (in addition to the £100m UK Seafood Fund). **The settlement enables each of the four fishing administrations to deliver financial support schemes** tailored to the specific needs of their sectors; support data and evidence collection to progress policy development; and protect UK waters through control and enforcement activities.

Fisheries and Seafood Scheme (FaSS): the scheme for England opened on 6 April 2021. Administered by the MMO. Applications welcome from across the catching (inc. recreational fishing), aquaculture and processing sectors.

England's share of repatriated funding = £13.5 p.a.

FaSS objectives: the FaSS delivers investment to safeguard the long-term sustainability, resilience and prosperity of the seafood sector across England.

Initial support focused on helping the sector adapt to new conditions outside the EU and recover from the impact of COVID-19.

£6.1 m initially allocated to FaSS - funding considers the best ways to support industry

Upcoming changes: Going forward the FaSS will continue to fund these areas and will also invest in opportunities to: boost the sale of English seafood; increase business resilience; and adopt more environmentally sustainable practices to protect our waters and help achieve net zero.

Changes to implement these ambitions will be introduced as we enter the new financial year in April 2022 – with support that is focused on the right areas, less prescriptive and more flexible in response to changing conditions.



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Emergency funding support 2020-2021

The Fisheries and aquaculture sector have faced unprecedented difficulties over the past 2 years due to Covid 19 and trade disruption. As a result, Defra have provided several financial schemes aimed at supporting and developing the sector to ensure they can reap the benefits as an independent coastal state.

Defra has delivered £26m of emergency funds to support the sector over the past two years. An additional £6m was spent by the DAs in emergency schemes during 2021.

Fisheries Response Fund (FRF) & Domestic Seafood Supply scheme (DSSS) in 2020 – During 2020 Defra delivered 2 schemes targeted at English businesses, one to support business costs as a result of Covid 19 lockdown (equivalent to schemes launched for land-based businesses). In conjunction we offered a competitive scheme of £1m to allow businesses to adapt to a new way of selling produce with the aim of increasing domestic consumption of locally caught fish. £10million was delivered through both these initiatives.

Seafood Disruption Support Scheme (SDSS) & Seafood Response Fund (SRF) in 2021 – Following the significant trade disruption in January 2021 Defra developed a UK scheme to support businesses which suffered an actual loss while exporting. Following further monitoring of the sector, Defra expanded the emergency support package to deliver the SRF which again supported the costs of businesses as they adapted to new Covid restrictions. Just under £16 million was delivered through the UK-wide SDSS and SRF schemes, supporting over 2,300 eligible businesses. An additional £6.3 million was administered directly by Devolved Administrations.



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Fisheries Enforcement



Surveillance and Inspection Assets

- The key platforms are 2 x MMO commercial contract offshore patrol vessels (**OPVs**)/ MMO has recently re-tendered and changed suppliers (from Atlantic Offshore Holdings to Sentinel Marine).
- **Royal Navy OPV:** The current partnership arrangement with MMO and RN is due to be renewed following a change in the MMO offshore surveillance supply model. Any tasking of RN OPVs would require Ministerial agreement and operational agreement on costs.
- **Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs):** The ten IFCAs have fisheries patrol vessels. MMO have agreements in place to utilise IFCA vessels. These are predominantly day boats, but with MMO boarding officers on board, can be used to perform standard inspections.
- **Aerial Surveillance:** MMO can commission flights through Maritime and Coastguard Agency. Aerial patrols increase visibility of enforcement agencies and detect presence of vessels not having vessel monitoring systems (VMS) on board (all those 12metres and under).
- **Devolved Administrations:** Fisheries control & enforcement is devolved, as such Devolved Administrations have their own assets in place to provide that function in their respective waters.



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Catch App

- Catch recording for under-10 metre vessels in England was introduced in November 2019. Catch recording helps ensure we have a complete picture of the fish that are being taken out of our seas. Having confidence that we know what is being caught legally is a key part of managing our fish stocks sustainably, of facilitating our lucrative fish export trade, and of strengthening our hand in quota negotiations with other coastal states.
- Vessel masters are required to submit a catch record for every trip they undertake via the MMO's catch recording app. Data shows that 88% of England's active under ten fishing fleet have signed up for the catch app.
- Compliance is variable. On average 69% of vessels signed up to the system are compliant (regularly submitting records).
- A two-year education and support phase has allowed for U10m fishers to adapt to the Catch Recording requirement. To support compliance, MMO will be moving to an enforcement backed by support and engagement from 28 February 2022.
- An update on catch recording was published in MMO's Fish and Seafood Industry Bulletin in December 2021. The intent was to give industry notice of the changes coming into place and to encourage compliance. Face to face engagement with fishers who are non-compliant by coastal officers began in early December 2021. MMO recognises fishers will continue to require on-going support in using the catch recording service and so the MMO's telephone helpline will remain in place.