INACTIVE Northeast Atlantic Ocean mackerel and herring - hook & line, trawl, and purse seine

Overview

FIP Description

There are two fisheries captured within this FIP: the North East Atlantic (NEA) mackerel fishery, and the Atlanto-Scandian herring (ASH) (also known as the Norwegian spring spawning herring) fishery.

Both fisheries are prosecuted using pelagic (midwater) trawls and purse seines. Coastal vessels also use mechanised handlines.

These fisheries are managed by the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC). NEAFC was formed to recommend measures to maintain the rational exploitation of fish stocks in the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. Most of this area is under the fisheries jurisdiction of NEAFC's Contracting Parties (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland (DFG)), the EU, Iceland, Norway and the Russian Federation), but four large areas (including the area around the North Pole) are international waters and constitute the NEAFC Regulatory Area.

The allocation of national quotas is based on allocation keys negotiated in connection with the establishment of the EU Common Fisheries Policy or negotiated in the framework of NEAFC, the Joint Norwegian-Russian Fisheries Commission (JNRFC) or in bilateral agreements between EU (at the time EC) and Norway and the Faroe Islands. Many of these allocations were established when the 200 nm EEZs were established in the late 1970s. These keys are to a large extent based on the coastal states' fishing records during the period 1971–76 and has subsequently and with only a few amendments been used by the European Union (EU) for the annual allocation of fishing quotas among its Member States. Known as "the relative stability" this is one of the cornerstones of the EU Common Fisheries Policy, CFP.

However, the changing distribution of these stocks has led to demands for a share of the catch by those countries that have little history of it. The parties have not been able to reach a satisfactory agreement on quotas.

All mackerel MSC certificates were suspended in March 2019. The suspension originally took place after ICES advice showed stock (SSB) level below trigger point. After revised ICES advice, showing the stock (SSB) above trigger level, the relevant CABs nevertheless concluded:

"*The outcome of harmonisation during the 2nd surveillance audit is that despite the change in mackerel stock status with the SSB currently above the MSY BTrigger, PI 1.2.2 Harvest Control Rules & Tools score remains < 60 and the fishery still fails, for the following reasons:*

- *The current level of exploitation does not provide evidence that the tools used to implement the generally understood HCRs are appropriate and effective in controlling exploitation.*
- *There is a continuing dispute over mackerel quota allocation resulting in annual catches well in excess of the advised catches. There is an absence of long-term management strategy for the mackerel agreed by all parties involved in mackerel fisheries. Therefore, it could not be concluded with confidence that the management agency can and will act effectively and in a timely manner to reduce exploitation rate if the point of recruitment impairment is approached.*
- *Despite the change in mackerel stock status with the SSB currently above the MSY BTrigger and the improvement in the management of the advised catch, with current and predicted exploitation level together with low recruitment, the stock is nevertheless predicted to continue to decline. Therefore, there is a reason to conclude that such high level of exploitation will lead to a situation where the stock is likely to fall below sustainable level in the foreseeable future.*

Therefore, the suspension of the fishery certificate is not lifted"

The reinstatement of certification is reliant on the effective adoption and implementation of the HCRs.

For herring, independent assessors identified the risk to future stock health and set conditions against their certification in 2015, requiring states to reach a quota-sharing agreement by November 2020. This was not achieved and these fisheries lost their MSC certificates on 30 December 2020. The latest expedited audit (Aug 2020) reveals that the fisheries require:

- The fishery needs to demonstrate that the harvest strategy is achieving its objectives and that overall quotas are within sustainable limits.
- The ongoing allocation dispute needs to be resolved.
- The fishery should work with the EU, the Pelagic Advisory Council, other certified or suspended UoCs in the fishery and/or other parties as appropriate to support the resolution of the dispute between the Coastal States and to re-establish an effective international cooperation and dispute-resolution mechanism for the fishery.

How is this FIP Doing?

Current Status:

Actions Progress This shows the proportion of actions in the workplan that the FIP has completed.

0%

Actions Overview This shows the proportion of actions that are behind schedule, on track,completed, or not yet started.

Behind	On Track	Complete	Future
33%	67%	0%	0%

Red Indicator Progress This shows the proportion of actions specifically addressing red indicators that are behind schedule, on track, completed, or not yet started. This helps users understand the progress the FIP is making on the biggest challenges in the fishery.

Behind	On Track	Complete	Future
0%	100%	0%	0%

FIP Objective(s)
FIP stakeholders are implementing management improvements with a goal to re-certify the FIP fisheries against the MSC Standard by 2024.

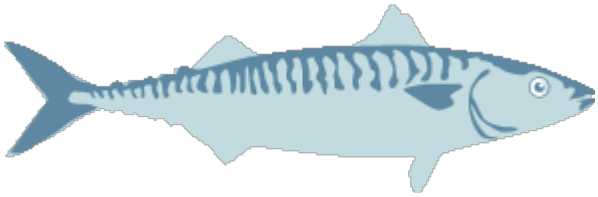
FIP Type
Comprehensive

FIP Stage
Stage 3: FIP Implementation

Start and Projected End Dates
April, 2021 -
April, 2024

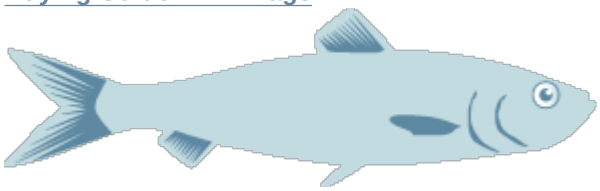
Species

Common Name
Atlantic Mackerel
Scientific Name
Scomber scombrus
Buying Guide Link Image



Atlantic Mackerel
Buying Guide

Common Name
Atlantic Herring
Scientific Name
Clupea harengus
Buying Guide Link Image



Atlantic Herring
Buying Guide

Gear Type

Hydraulic Hook & Line

Midwater Trawl

Purse Seine-Unassociated

Location

FAO Major Fishing Area

Area 27 (Atlantic, Northeast)

Exclusive Economic Zones

Country
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the)

Geographic Scope
Entire EEZ

Country
Norway

Geographic Scope

Entire EEZ

Country
Iceland

Geographic Scope
Entire EEZ

Country
Faroe Islands (the)

Geographic Scope
Entire EEZ

Country
Greenland

Geographic Scope
Entire EEZ

Country
Russian Federation (the)

Geographic Scope
Entire EEZ

Country
European Union

Geographic Scope
Entire EEZs of coastal states

Country Flag of Vessel
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the)

Country Flag of Vessel
Norway

Country Flag of Vessel
Russian Federation (the)

Country Flag of Vessel
Iceland

Country Flag of Vessel
Faroe Islands (the)

Country Flag of Vessel
European Union

Regional Fisheries Management Organization (RFMO)
NEAFC
High Seas Name
Atlantic Ocean

Estimated Total FIP Landings
1606178 metric tons

FIP Leads

Organization Name
North Atlantic Pelagic Advocacy Group (NAPA)

Organization Type
Industry

Primary Contact
Tom Pickerell

Email
tom@tomolamolaconsulting.com

Website Name
NAPA

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