

# COMMISSION SERVICES NON-PAPER

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*This document serves as a basis for discussion at the Working Party on Fisheries Policy.  
It cannot in any circumstances be regarded as the official position of the Commission.  
It is intended solely for those to whom it is addressed.*

**Updates to Commission proposal for a Council Regulation fixing for 2024, 2025 and 2026 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/194 as regards deep-sea stocks [COM(2023) 587]**

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## 1. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO COASTAL STATES STOCKS

### EXPLANATORY NOTE

In October 2023, the EU participated in coastal States consultations on the management of Mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) and blue whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*) and Atlanto-Scandian herring (*Clupea harengus*), which are stocks also managed by the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)<sup>1</sup>. The EU's positions in such multilateral consultations on fishing opportunities for those stocks for 2024 were based on positions endorsed by the Council on 5 October 2023. The outcome of those consultations was documented in Agreed Records for: (i) Atlanto-Scandian herring in the north-east Atlantic for 2024 signed on 13 October 2023<sup>2</sup>; (ii) for blue whiting in the north-east Atlantic for 2024 signed on 18 October 2023<sup>3</sup>; and (iii) for mackerel in the north-east Atlantic for 2024 also signed on 18 October 2023<sup>4</sup>. The levels of the total catches for those stocks were set at 390 010 tonnes for Atlanto-Scandian herring, 739 386 tonnes for mackerel, and 1 529 754 tonnes for blue whiting. These levels are in line with the best available scientific advice, as published by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)<sup>5</sup>, which advised that total catches should be no more than 390 010 tonnes for Atlanto-Scandian herring, no more than 739 386 tonnes for mackerel, and no more than 1 529 754 tonnes for blue whiting.

At its 42<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting in 2023, NEAFC adopted recommendations on conservation and management measures for Atlanto-Scandian herring<sup>6</sup> and mackerel<sup>7</sup> for 2024. Those recommendations note the setting of fishing opportunities for Atlanto-Scandian herring and mackerel at the same levels that were agreed during the coastal States consultations. NEAFC did not adopt a recommendation on conservation and management measures for blue whiting for 2024. However, such a recommendation may still be adopted by NEAFC by written procedure.

It is therefore proposed to amend the Commission proposal by establishing the fishing opportunities for Atlanto-Scandian herring and mackerel based on the levels of the total catches set out in the NEAFC recommendations for 2024 and in line with the approach<sup>8</sup> applied for 2021 and subsequent years. Regarding the fishing opportunities for mackerel in Norwegian waters of

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.neafc.org/coastalstatemeetings>

<sup>2</sup> [https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/document/download/e5204c71-1a72-4f54-8f29-482d918934c5\\_en?filename=2024-coastal-states-fisheries-consultations-herring\\_en\\_0.pdf](https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/document/download/e5204c71-1a72-4f54-8f29-482d918934c5_en?filename=2024-coastal-states-fisheries-consultations-herring_en_0.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/document/download/2d071504-2925-4d79-a18e-a8457b1f1a99\\_en?filename=2024-coastal-states-fisheries-consultations-blue-whiting\\_en.pdf](https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/document/download/2d071504-2925-4d79-a18e-a8457b1f1a99_en?filename=2024-coastal-states-fisheries-consultations-blue-whiting_en.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/document/download/43af4be2-6310-463b-97d4-0397e63d2508\\_en?filename=2024-coastal-states-fisheries-consultations-mackerel-north-east-atlantic\\_en.pdf](https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/document/download/43af4be2-6310-463b-97d4-0397e63d2508_en?filename=2024-coastal-states-fisheries-consultations-mackerel-north-east-atlantic_en.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21856533>

<https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.2185655>

<https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21856509>

<sup>6</sup> NEAFC Annual Meeting document AM 2023-43.

<sup>7</sup> NEAFC Annual Meeting document AM 2023-42.

<sup>8</sup> Approach based on an EU-United Kingdom joint share of 49,29% of the agreed TAC for mackerel, and 6,51% for Atlanto-Scandian herring, after applying the quota transfers resulting from implementing respectively tables B and F of Annex 36 of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the other part (OJ L 149, 30.4.2021, p. 10) (TCA).

ICES divisions 4a and of 2a, it is proposed that figures remain in ‘*pro memoria*’ pending discussions in the Council on the basis of the methodologies presented by the Commission to determine the allocation and distribution of the fishing opportunities for mackerel in the waters concerned, as called for in the joint statement of the Council and the Commission at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of December 2021<sup>9</sup>.

It is also proposed to establish the fishing opportunities for blue whiting at the level of the catches set out in that Agreed Record for 2024, in line with the EU position expressed in NEAFC and in line with the approach<sup>10</sup> applied for 2021 and subsequent years. However, pending the conclusion of bilateral consultations, which could include transfers of blue whiting as part of exchanges of fishing opportunities, it is proposed that EU quotas and Member States quotas also remain marked ‘*pro memoria*’.

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE RECITALS

Recital (34) is replaced by the following:

“(34) Mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*), blue whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*) and Atlanto-Scandian herring (*Clupea harengus*) in the north-east Atlantic are subject to coastal States consultations on the fisheries management for those stocks, and are are stocks also managed by NEAFC. The Union participated in those consultations on the basis of the positions endorsed by the Council on 5 October 2023. The outcome of those consultations was documented in Agreed Records for (i) Atlanto-Scandian herring in the north-east Atlantic for 2024 signed on 13 October 2023<sup>11</sup>; (ii) for blue whiting in the north-east Atlantic for 2024 signed on 18 October 2023<sup>12</sup>; and (iii) for mackerel in the north-east Atlantic for 2024 also signed on 18 October 2023<sup>13</sup>. At its 42<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting in 2023, NEAFC adopted recommendations on conservation and management measures for Atlanto-Scandian herring<sup>14</sup> and mackerel<sup>15</sup> for 2024. NEAFC did not adopt a recommendation on conservation and management measures for blue whiting for 2024. It is therefore appropriate to set the TACs for Atlanto-Scandian herring and mackerel in the north-east Atlantic at the level of fishing opportunities agreed in the respective coastal States Agreed Records and NEAFC recommendations. It is also appropriate to set the TAC for blue whiting in the north-east Atlantic at the level of the fishing opportunities set out

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<sup>9</sup> <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-14892-2021-REV-2/en/pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Approach based on an EU-United Kingdom joint share of 41,42% of the agreed TAC for blue whiting, after applying the quota transfers resulting from implementing table B of Annex 36 of the TCA.

<sup>11</sup> [https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/document/download/e5204c71-1a72-4f54-8f29-482d918934c5\\_en?filename=2024-coastal-states-fisheries-consultations-herring\\_en\\_0.pdf](https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/document/download/e5204c71-1a72-4f54-8f29-482d918934c5_en?filename=2024-coastal-states-fisheries-consultations-herring_en_0.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> [https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/document/download/2d071504-2925-4d79-a18e-a8457b1f1a99\\_en?filename=2024-coastal-states-fisheries-consultations-blue-whiting\\_en.pdf](https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/document/download/2d071504-2925-4d79-a18e-a8457b1f1a99_en?filename=2024-coastal-states-fisheries-consultations-blue-whiting_en.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> [https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/document/download/43af4be2-6310-463b-97d4-0397e63d2508\\_en?filename=2024-coastal-states-fisheries-consultations-mackerel-north-east-atlantic\\_en.pdf](https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/document/download/43af4be2-6310-463b-97d4-0397e63d2508_en?filename=2024-coastal-states-fisheries-consultations-mackerel-north-east-atlantic_en.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> NEAFC Annual Meeting document AM 2023-43.

<sup>15</sup> NEAFC Annual Meeting document AM 2023-42.

in the coastal States Agreed Record for blue whiting and in line with the Union position expressed in NEAFC.”

**AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES**

In Annex IA, Part B, Tables 56 to 59 and 99 to 102 are replaced by the following:

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**Table 56**

Species: Blue whiting <i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	Zone: Norwegian waters of 2 and 4 (WHB/24-N.)
Denmark pm	Analytical TAC
Union pm	
TAC	1 529 754

**Table 57**

Species: Blue whiting <i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	Zone: United Kingdom, Union and international waters of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8a, 8b, 8d, 8e, 12 and 14 (WHB/1X14)
Denmark pm <sup>(1)</sup>	Analytical TAC
Germany pm <sup>(1)</sup>	
Spain pm <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	Article 7(2) of this Regulation applies
France pm <sup>(1)</sup>	
Ireland pm <sup>(1)</sup>	
Netherlands pm <sup>(1)</sup>	
Portugal pm <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	
Sweden pm <sup>(1)</sup>	
Union pm <sup>(1)(3)</sup>	
Norway pm <sup>(4)(5)</sup>	
Faroe Islands pm	
United Kingdom pm	
TAC	

<sup>(1)</sup> Special condition: within a total access limit of pm tonnes for the Union, Member States may fish up to the following percentage of their quotas in Faroese waters (WHB/\*05-F.): pm%

<sup>(2)</sup> Transfers of this quota may be effected to 8c, 9 and 10 and to Union waters of CEECAF 34.1.1. However, such transfers shall be notified in advance to the Commission.

<sup>(3)</sup> Special condition: from the Union quotas in United Kingdom, Union and international waters of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8a, 8b, 8d, 8e, 12 and 14 (WHB/\*NZJM1) and in 8c, 9 and 10; Union waters of CEECAF 34.1.1 (WHB/\*NZJM2), the following quantity may be fished in the Norwegian Economic Zone or in the fishery zone around Jan Mayen:  
pm

<sup>(4)</sup> Can be fished in Union waters of 4, 6a North of 56°30'N, 6b and 7 West of 12°W (WHB/\*46AB7-EU).

- (5) Special condition: from the Norwegian quota, the following quantity may be fished in Union waters of 4, 6a North of 56°30'N, 6b and 7 West of 12°W:

pm

**Table 58**

Species:	Blue whiting <i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	Zone:	8c, 9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (WHB/8C3411)
Spain	pm	Analytical TAC	
Portugal	pm	Article 7(2) of this Regulation applies	
Union	pm <sup>(1)</sup>		
TAC	1 529 754		

- (1) Special condition: from the Union quotas in Union and international waters of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8a, 8b, 8d, 8e, 12 and 14 (WHB/\*NZJM1) and in 8c, 9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (WHB/\*NZJM2), the following quantity may be fished in the Norwegian Economic Zone or in the fishery zone around Jan Mayen:

pm

**Table 59**

Species:	Blue whiting <i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	Zone:	United Kingdom and Union waters of 2, 4a, 5, 6 north of 56°30'N and 7 west of 12°W (WHB/24A567)
Norway	pm <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	Analytical TAC	
Faroe Islands	pm	Article 7(2) of this Regulation applies	
TAC	1 529 754		

- (1) To be counted against quota established by Norway.

- (2) To be fished in Union waters of 4, 6 and 7.

**Table 99**

Species:	Mackerel <i>Scomber scombrus</i>	Zone:	3a; United Kingdom and Union waters of 2a, 3b, 3c; 3d and 4 (MAC/2A34.)
Belgium	476 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	Analytical TAC	
Denmark	16 292 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	Article 7(2) of this Regulation applies	
Germany	496 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>		
France	1 498 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>		
Netherlands	1 508 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>		
Sweden	4 247 <sup>(1)(2)(3)</sup>		
Union	24 517 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>		
Norway	Not relevant <sup>(4)</sup>		
United Kingdom	Not relevant <sup>(1)(2)</sup>		
TAC	739 386		

- (1) Special condition: up to 60% may be fished in United Kingdom and international waters of 2a, 5b, 6, 7, 8d, 8e, 12 and 14 (MAC/\*2AX14).
- (2) Within the limits of these quotas, no more than the quantities given below may also be taken in the two following zones:

	Norwegian waters of 2a (MAC/*02AN-)	Faroese waters (MAC/*FRO1)
Belgium	pm	pm
Denmark	pm	pm
Germany	pm	pm
France	pm	pm
Netherlands	pm	pm
Sweden	pm	pm
Union	pm	pm

- (3) Special condition: including the following tonnage to be taken in Norwegian waters of 2a and 4a (MAC/\*2A4AN):

pm

When fishing under this special condition, by-catches of cod, haddock, pollack, whiting and saithe are to be counted against the quotas for these species.

- (4) To be deducted from Norway's share of the TAC (access quota). This amount includes the following Norwegian share in the North Sea TAC:

pm

This quota may be fished in 4a only (MAC/\*04A.), except for the following amount, which may be fished in 3a (MAC/\*03A.):

pm

Special condition: within the limits of these quotas, no more than the quantities given below may be taken in the following zones:

	3a (MAC/*03A.)	United Kingdom and Union waters of 3a, 4b and 4c (MAC/*3A4BC)	4b (MAC/*04B.)	4c (MAC/*04C.)	United Kingdom and international waters of 2a, 5b, 6, 7, 8d, 8e, 12 and 14 (MAC/*2AX14)
Belgium	0	0	0	0	286
Denmark	0	4 130	0	0	9 775
Germany	0	0	0	0	298
France	0	490	0	0	899
Netherlands	0	490	0	0	905
Sweden	0	0	390	10	2 548
Union	0	5 110	390	10	14 710
United Kingdom	0	Not relevant	0	0	Not relevant
Norway	0	0	0	0	0

**Table 100**

Species: Mackerel <i>Scomber scombrus</i>		Zone: 6, 7, 8a, 8b, 8d and 8e; United Kingdom and international waters of 5b; international waters of 2a, 12 and 14 (MAC/2CX14-)
Germany	14 268 (1)	Analytical TAC
Spain	15 (1)	Article 7(2) of this Regulation applies
Estonia	119 (1)	
France	9 513 (1)	
Ireland	47 560 (1)	
Latvia	88 (1)	
Lithuania	88 (1)	
Netherlands	20 808 (1)	
Poland	1 005 (1)	
Union	93 464 (1)	
Norway	pm (2)(3)	
Faroe Islands	pm (4)	
United Kingdom	Not relevant (1)	
TAC	739 386	

- (1) Special condition: of which up to 25% can be made available for exchanges to be fished by Spain, France and Portugal in 8c, 9 and 10 and Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (MAC/\*8C910).
- (2) May be fished in 2a, 6a north of 56°30'N, 4a, 7d, 7e, 7f and 7h (MAC/\*AX7H).
- (3) The amount of access limit indicated below (MAC/\*N5630), in tonnes, may be fished by Norway north of 56° 30' N. The amounts not counted under footnote (2) shall be counted against the catch limit established by Norway.  
pm
- (4) This amount shall be deducted from the Faroe Islands catch limit (access quota). It may be fished only in 6a north of 56°30'N (MAC/\*6AN56). However, from 1 January to 15 February and from 1 October to 31 December this quota may also be fished in 2a, 4a north of 59°N (MAC/\*24N59).

Special condition: within the limits of these quotas, no more than the quantities given below may be taken in the following zones and periods:

	United Kingdom waters of 4a. During the periods from 1 January to 14 February and from 1 August to 31 December	Norwegian waters of 2a	Faroese waters
	(MAC/*4A-UK)	(MAC/*2AN-)	(MAC/*FRO2)
Germany	14 268	pm	pm
Spain	15	pm	pm
Estonia	119	pm	pm
France	9 513	pm	pm
Ireland	47 560	pm	pm

Latvia	88	pm	pm
Lithuania	88	pm	pm
Netherlands	20 808	pm	pm
Poland	1 005	pm	pm
Union	93 464	pm	pm
United Kingdom	Not relevant	pm	pm

**Table 101**

Species: Mackerel <i>Scomber scombrus</i>	Zone: 8c, 9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (MAC/8C3411)
Spain	27 832 <sup>(1)</sup> Analytical TAC
France	185 <sup>(1)</sup> Article 7(2) of this Regulation applies
Portugal	5 753 <sup>(1)</sup>
Union	33 770
TAC	739 386

<sup>(1)</sup> Special condition: quantities subject to exchanges with other Member States may be taken in 8a, 8b and 8d (MAC/\*8ABD.). However, the quantities provided by Spain, Portugal or France for exchange purposes and to be taken in 8a, 8b and 8d shall not exceed 25% of the quotas of the donor Member State.

Special condition: within the limits of these quotas, no more than the quantities given below may be taken in the following zone: 8b (MAC/\*08B.)

Spain	2 338
France	16
Portugal	483

**Table 102**

Species: Mackerel <i>Scomber scombrus</i>	Zone: Norwegian waters of 2a and 4a (MAC/2A4A-N)
Denmark	pm Analytical TAC
Union	pm
TAC	739 386

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In Annex IB, Table 1 is replaced by the following:

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**Table 1**



Species:	Herring <i>Clupea harengus</i>	Zone:	United Kingdom, Faroese, Norwegian and international waters of 1 and 2 (HER/1/2-)
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Belgium	8	Analytical TAC
Denmark	7 797	
Germany	1 365	
Spain	26	
France	336	
Ireland	2 019	
Netherlands	2 791	
Poland	395	
Portugal	26	
Finland	121	
Sweden	2 889	
Union	17 773	
United Kingdom	Not relevant	
Faroe Islands	pm <sup>(1)</sup>	
Norway	pm <sup>(2)</sup>	
TAC	390 010	

<sup>(1)</sup> To be counted against the catch limits of the Faroe Islands.

<sup>(2)</sup> To be counted against the catch limits of Norway.

Special condition: within the limits of the abovementioned quotas, no more than the quantities given below may be taken in the following zones:

Norwegian waters north of 62°N and the fishery zone around Jan Mayen (HER/\*2AJMN)

pm

2, 5b north of 62°N (Faroese waters) (HER/\*25B-F)

Belgium	pm
Denmark	pm
Germany	pm
Spain	pm
France	pm
Ireland	pm
Netherlands	pm
Poland	pm
Portugal	pm
Finland	pm
Sweden	pm

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