

Written Record of fisheries consultations on 4 May 2023 between the United Kingdom and the European Union on sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) in Divisions 7.d and 7.e (English Channel) from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

1. The Trade and Cooperation Agreement ('the TCA') between the United Kingdom (UK) and the European Union (EU) includes the objective of cooperating with a view to ensuring that fishing activities for shared stocks in their waters are environmentally sustainable in the long term and contribute to achieving economic and social benefits, and requires the Parties to hold consultations annually to agree the total allowable catches (TACs) for the following year for the stocks listed in Annex 35 to the TCA. English Channel sprat (SPR/7DE) is included in that Annex.
2. A Delegation from the European Union, headed by Dr Norman GRAHAM, and a Delegation from the United Kingdom, headed by Ms Grace ROSINSKI, met in a virtual format on 4 May 2023 to consult on fishing opportunities for English Channel sprat (SPR/7DE) from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 in accordance with Article 498 (Fishing Opportunities) of the TCA. This Written Record documents the outcome of those consultations.
3. The Heads of Delegations agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the fishery arrangements for 2023-2024 outlined in this Written Record, including Annex 1. Accordingly, where this Written Record refers to the Delegations (or the Parties) having agreed on a matter, it should be read as an agreement to recommend to the Delegations' respective authorities to implement the arrangements in this Written Record, including Annex 1.
4. The Delegations considered the sprat stock listed in Annex 35 to the TCA and agreed to establish a total allowable catch (TAC) from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 of 2,437 tonnes. The TAC and respective Parties' quotas are shown in Annex 1.
5. The other relevant arrangements, including inter-annual quota flexibility, for jointly managed stocks in the Written Record of fisheries consultations between the United Kingdom and the European Union for 2023 signed on the 20th of December 2022 ("the Written Record of 20 December 2022") will continue to apply for English Channel sprat.
6. The Delegations reaffirm their commitment to implementing an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management as set out in the Parties' domestic legislation and in regional and international agreements. The Delegations note the ecological significance of forage fish species such as sprat, Norway pout, herring and sandeel as an important food source for seabirds, other fish species and marine mammals and that their function and role should be considered when setting fishing opportunities, guided by the best available scientific advice.

Brussels

London

For the European Union
Norman GRAHAM

For the United Kingdom
Grace ROSINSKI

Annex 1

Code	Common Name	ICES areas	Agreed Total Allowable Catch (tonnes)	UK allocation				EU allocation			
				TCA TAC share (%)	TCA quota (tonnes)	Transfer to/from EU (tonnes)	UK post-transfer quota (tonnes)	TCA TAC share (%)	TCA quota (tonnes)	Transfer to/from UK (tonnes)	EU post-transfer quota (tonnes)
SPR/7DE	Sprat (English Channel)	7d and 7e	2,437 ⁽¹⁾	77.70% ⁽²⁾	1940		1940	22.30% ⁽²⁾	497		497
	<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	<p>(1) The TAC may only be fished from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. The TAC is split equally between the two 6 month periods (1st July 2023-31st Dec 2023, and 1st Jan 2024 – 30th June 2024) and the relevant TCA TAC share is applied to each. The TCA quota represents the sum of the quota for those two periods.</p> <p>(2) TAC split for 2023 in the TCA.</p> <p>(3) TAC split for 2024 in the TCA.</p>									