

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 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in the Baltic Sea for 2024 and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/194 as regards certain fishing opportunities in other waters (COM (2023) 492)

1. AMENDMENTS IN RELATION TO HADDOCK IN THE NORTH SEA, SKAGERRAK AND KATTEGAT

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Council Regulation (EU) 2023/194¹ sets total allowable catches (TAC) for haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*) in: (i) United Kingdom, Norwegian and Union waters of ICES subarea 4 and United Kingdom waters of division 2a ('the North Sea'); (ii) Norwegian and Union waters of ICES division 3a ('the Skagerrak-Kattegat'); and (iii) United Kingdom and Union waters of ICES division 6a and United Kingdom and international waters of division 5b ('the West of Scotland'). Those TACs were agreed during the fisheries consultations between the Union, Norway and the United Kingdom, as documented in the Agreed Record, signed on 9 December 2022².

Regulation (EU) 2023/194 allows an inter-area flexibility of up to: (i) 10% of the Member States' quotas for haddock from the North Sea to the West of Scotland³; and (ii) 25% from the West of Scotland to the North Sea⁴. There is therefore currently no inter-area flexibility from the North Sea to the Skagerrak-Kattegat.

On 1 September 2023, the Union quota uptake of the TAC for haddock in the Skagerrak-Kattegat had reached 77%⁵. In order to guarantee the full use of fishing opportunities, it is appropriate to allow for the implementation of a flexible arrangement between some of the TAC areas where the same biological stock is concerned. It is therefore proposed to introduce an inter-area flexibility of up to 10% of the Member States' quotas for haddock from the North Sea to Union waters of the Skagerrak-Kattegat.

AMENDMENTS TO THE RECITALS

Recital (24) is replaced by the following:

“(24) Regulation (EU) 2023/194 fixes fishing opportunities for haddock in ICES subarea 4, division 6a and division 3a (North Sea, West of Scotland, Skagerrak) for 2023, based on the outcome of fisheries consultations between the Union, Norway and the United Kingdom for 2024, as documented in the Agreed Record, signed on 9 December 2022⁶. In order to guarantee the full use of fishing opportunities, it is appropriate to allow for the implementation of a flexible arrangement between some of the TAC areas where the same biological stock is concerned. It is thus appropriate to introduce an inter-area flexibility of Member States' quotas for haddock of up to 10% from the North Sea to Union waters of the Skagerrak-Kattegat.

¹ Council Regulation (EU) 2023/194 of 30 January 2023 fixing for 2023 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, as well as fixing for 2023 and 2024 such fishing opportunities for certain deep-sea fish stocks (OJ L 28, 31.1.2023, p. 1).

² Agreed Record of fisheries consultations between the European Union, Norway and the United Kingdom for 2023, available at https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-12/2023-eu-no-uk-fisheries-consultations_en.pdf.

³ See Annex IA, Part B, footnote 2 of the TAC table for haddock in ICES subarea 4 and United Kingdom waters of division 2a.

⁴ See Annex IA, Part B, footnote 1 of the TAC table for haddock in ICES division 6a and United Kingdom and international waters of 5b.

⁵ Based on aggregated catch data reporting (ACDR) for the period January-August 2023.

⁶ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-12/2023-eu-no-uk-fisheries-consultations_en.pdf

AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES

In Article 12, point 2 is replaced by the following:

- (2) In Annex IA, Part B, the fishing opportunities table for haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*) in ICES Subarea 4 and United Kingdom waters ICES Division 2a is replaced by the following:

Species:	Haddock <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Zone:	4; United Kingdom waters of 2a (HAD/2AC4.)
Belgium	363 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	Analytical TAC	
Denmark	2 495 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	Article 8(2) of this Regulation applies	
Germany	1 588 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾		
France	2 768 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾		
Netherlands	272 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾		
Sweden	223 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾		
Union	7 709 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾		
Norway	13 432 ⁽³⁾		
United Kingdom	37 261		
TAC	58 402		
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⁽¹⁾	Special condition: of which up to 10 % may be fished in United Kingdom, Union and international waters of 6a north of 58°30'N (HAD/*6AN58).		
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⁽²⁾	Special condition: of which up to 10 % may be fished in Union waters of 3a (HAD/*03A-C)		
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⁽³⁾	Of which 11 182 tonnes may be taken in Union waters (HAD/*04-EU). Catches taken within this quota are to be deducted from Norway's share of the TAC.		
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Special condition: within the limits of these quotas, no more than the quantity given below may be taken in the following zones:			
Norwegian waters of 4 (HAD/*04N-)			
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Union	4 774		
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