

COMMISSION SERVICES NON PAPER

1 JUNE 2023

*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 amending Regulation (EU) 2022/109 of 27 January 2022 fixing for 2022 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in Union waters and for Union fishing vessels in certain non-Union waters, and Regulation (EU) 2023/194 of 30 January 2023 fixing for 2023 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks, applicable in Union waters, 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 [COM(2023) 276]

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Regulation (EU) 2023/194¹ provisionally sets at zero the total allowable catches (TAC) for sprat in EU and UK waters of International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) divisions 7d and 7e (English Channel) for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, pending publication by ICES of its scientific advice. That stock is listed in Annex 35 to the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA)².

On 20 April 2023, ICES published its scientific advice³ for sprat in ICES divisions 7d and 7e for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. Following the publication of that advice, the EU and the UK held consultations on the level of the TAC for that stock pursuant to Articles 498(2), (4) and (6) of the TCA. Those consultations were conducted on 4 May 2023, on the basis of the general principles and the specific orientations for consultations with the UK set out in Council Decision (EU) 2021/1875⁴, and the approach outlined in the Commission services non-paper as endorsed by the Council on 27 April 2023.

The outcome of those consultations was documented in a Written Record. The EU and the UK agreed to set the TAC for sprat in ICES divisions 7d and 7e for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 in line with the ICES advice, at the level of 2 437 tonnes. It is therefore proposed to set that TAC at the level agreed with the UK.

AMENDMENTS TO THE RECITALS

Recital (5) is replaced by the following:

“(5) On 4 May 2023, the Union and the United Kingdom held consultations on the level of the TAC for sprat in Union and United Kingdom waters of ICES divisions 7d and 7e for the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. Those consultations were conducted pursuant to Articles 498(2), (4) and (6) of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement⁵ and on the basis of the Union position endorsed by the Council on 27 April 2023. The outcome of those consultations was documented in a Written Record. That TAC should therefore be set at the level agreed with the United Kingdom.”

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 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).

³ <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21975377.v1>

⁴ Council Decision (EU) 2021/1875 of 22 October 2021 concerning the position to be adopted on behalf of the Union in the annual consultations with the United Kingdom to agree on total allowable catches (OJ L 378, 26.10.2021, p. 6–11)

⁵ 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).

AMENDMENTS TO THE ANNEXES

In point 2 of Annex I, point (e) is replaced by the following:

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- (e) the table for sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) in ICES divisions 7d and 7e is replaced by the following:

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Species:	Sprat <i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	Zone:	7d and 7e (SPR/7DE.)
Belgium	5 ⁽¹⁾	Analytical TAC	
Denmark	341 ⁽¹⁾		
Germany	5 ⁽¹⁾		
France	73 ⁽¹⁾		
Netherlands	73 ⁽¹⁾		
Union	497 ⁽¹⁾		
United Kingdom	1940 ⁽¹⁾		
TAC	2437 ⁽¹⁾		

⁽¹⁾ The quota may only be fished from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

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