



sea
source

SEA SOURCE/ ANIFPO

News Net

December Fisheries Council

The EU's December 2018 News Net was a historic occasion. Another step towards the EU's goal of managing fish stocks to a level defined around the principle of Maximum Sustainable Yield. Negotiations in the context of the full implementation of the EU's Landing Obligation or discard ban. Finally, BREXIT - and the last December Fisheries Council at which the United Kingdom delegation would play a full part.

ANIFPO/Sea Source has attended every one of the year end Councils since December 1993 - 26 in total. Whilst the memory bank doesn't recall the detail of everyone one of them, the majority do register for the wrong reasons - a succession of decisions that have resulted in dramatic reductions in many of the quotas available to all British fishermen, including those from Northern Ireland fishermen in the Irish Sea. The list of negatives is too long to mention here; quota cuts further exacerbated by the Hague Preference and cod recovery closures to name a few.

The irony is not lost that since the BREXIT vote, cuts to the Irish Sea's main whitefish species have stalled and at least to some small extent been reversed, a trend that continued at this week's negotiations in Brussels.

Of course in advance of the meeting signals around some of the quota figures had been loud and clear. Industry representatives, like officials were eager to minimise the issues tabled at the Council to enable discussion to focus on the critical matter of the discard ban, which for the Irish Sea was focused on whiting and the potential this has to choke the targeted fishery for prawns.

As we leave Brussels and count down the days left to BREXIT one question is will we be back in Brussels this time next year? The answer, which of course remains subject to a deal, would seem to be yes. Given the politics around the subject seem to be changing almost on a daily basis, who knows what the next twelve months will bring? But assuming there is a plan that sticks, then the UK will at least be consulted and have observer status at the Fisheries Council in December 2019. Any meaningful change should come in 2020, as we look forward to the end of the Implementation Period and the UK becoming an independent coastal state. As the only part of the United Kingdom with a land frontier with the EU, a frontier that extends seawards, our unique geographic location is set to present further complications ahead. From 1 January 2021 we should begin to see real changes, but who knows? No Deal, any deal - a

week, even a day is a short time in politics.

As 2018 draws to an end, we have just seen the release of the Government's consultation on future Immigration Policy. This will be one of the focuses of our attention in the New Year. After all, without crew there is no one to man our fishing vessels - the sea of opportunities that beckons post Brexit could be lost to many coastal communities. Welfare of all our crews be they local, European or non-EEA is paramount and to all of them, especially those who are working away from home this Christmas we wish them a Very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.



2019 Irish Sea TACs (Tonnes)

Stock	2018 TAC	2019 TAC	% Change
Irish Sea			
Cod	695	807	+16%
Haddock	3,207	3,739	+17%
Whiting	80	727	+809%
Plaice	1,793	3,075	+72%
Sole	40	414	+935%
Herring	7,016	6,896	-2%
Area 7			
Nephrops	29,091	19,784	-32%
Hake (6 & 7)	62,536	79,762	+28%
Anglers	33,516	32,999	-2%
Megrim	12,310	18,132	+47%
Ling	20,396	20,396	n/c
Skates & Rays	9,699	10,184	+5%
Cod (7b-K)	3,076	1,610	-48%
Haddock (7b-k)	6,910	8,329	+20%
Whiting (7b-k)	22,213	19,184	-14%
Pelagics			
Western Mackerel	326,014	260,813	-20%
NS Herring	359,977	230,782	-36%
Western Horse Mackerel	99,470	117,518	+18%
NS Horse Mackerel	12,629	12,629	n/c
Blue Whiting	401,363	319,727	-20%
Celtic Sea Herring	10,127	4,742	-53%
North Sea			
Cod	35,819	23,211	-35%
Haddock	32,461	22,591	-30%
Whiting	20,651	10,554	-49%
Nephrops	24,518	22,103	-10%
West of Scotland			
Cod	0	1,735	BIG
Haddock (6a)	4,654	3,226	-31%
Haddock (6b)	5,163	10,469	+103%
Whiting	213	1,112	+422%
Nephrops	12,129	15,092	+24%
Megrim	5,432	5,782	+6%
Anglers	9,180	11,453	+25%

Commentary

With Area 7 prawns the reduction of 32% in the TAC is significant, but the resulting figure is still within the catch for recent years. Whilst it reflects a less positive outlook in the science, the species has also been exempted from the discard ban in 2019. For the past two years a significant uplift in the TAC reflected the estimated numbers for prawns that were being discarded by the

fleet. There was some disagreement around the final TAC calculation for 2019 and ICES has been asked to review some of the advice for the stock early in the New Year, which may lead to some mid-year increase in the TAC.

With demersal stocks the increasing trends off the past couple of years have continued. Most notably for 2019 is the 935% increase in the 7a sole TAC, reflecting a much

more positive scientific perception on the stock. The 809% increase in 7a whiting goes some way to addressing the issue around the landing obligation and discards of whiting mainly in the prawn fishery, but this, like cod and plaice was subjected to the Hague Preference, with quota being deducted from UK fishermen and given to our neighbours in Ireland. For cod and haddock in the Irish Sea, TAC increases of 16% and 17% reflect recent improving trends.

Northern hake received saw an increase of 28%, Area 7 Megrin was increased by 47%,

while Area 7 Anglers was cut by 2%, although this was offset by a 25% increase in Area 6 Anglers.

On the other nephrop stocks, North Sea was cut by 10%, whilst West of Scotland was increased by 24%.

Pelagic stocks saw some of the biggest changes, mainly negative. Wester mackerel was cut by 20% - probably reflecting earlier mis-management of the stock when it was increased to placate Icelandic and Faroese interests. North Sea herring was cut by a significant 36%, as was Blue Whiting where another cut of 20% was imposed. Huge tonnages are involved with these stocks, as well as a huge value.

Landing Obligation

As of 1 January 2019, all catches of fish subject to quotas, including those under the minimum landing size should be brought ashore, subject to further detailed guidance as issued by UK Fisheries Administrations. This advice can be found at the following URL/web address.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/landing-obligation-2019-rules-and-regulations>

Haddock and prawns caught in the Irish Sea have been subject to the landing obligation since 1 January 2017. It is the responsibility of vessel owners to dispose of all catches. Sea Source will have arrangements in place to facilitate this.

Anglo-Spanish Fishing Vessels in the UK

A Brief History

The first Anglo-Spanish vessels were registered in the UK in the 1960s. By 1980 there were proximately 62 Anglo-Spanish vessels on the UK registry, increasing to 128 in 1988. These vessels fished mainly for Hake, Monk, Megrin and Nephrops.

The Relative Stability Shares of EU quotas were based on catches made by fishing vessels registered in each member state during the period 1973-1978. In 1983 when the first TACs and Quotas were agreed, the Anglo-Spanish contributed a significant proportion of what became the UK's Relative Stability key, reflecting their historic fishing activities under the UK flag.

Catches by 52 Anglo-Spanish fishing vessels accounted for 84.4% of total Hake quota for the UK. A comparable contribution to the UK share of the TAC for Monk and Megrin was recorded. With Nephrops the Anglo-Spanish generated a high proportion of the UK's quotas in areas IV, VI and VII.

In later years these vessels also started new fisheries for Ling and Forkbeard,

also contributing to the UK share of the TAC for these species.

Three and sometimes up to five vessels have been fishing in the Indian Ocean for the last 15 years and these will also contribute to future TACs for the UK in quotas such as Tuna, Swordfish and many other species in these areas. They are the only UK vessels that have fished in the Indian Ocean.

At the same time these fishing vessels did not fish for species that are caught by the domestic fleet, such as Cod, Haddock or Mackerel. They were and are High Sea vessels, meaning they mainly fish outside 6/12 miles of UK territorial waters, a completely different fishery to for example the under 10m fleet.

The Anglo-Spanish have only purchased quotas they target and most of this was from other Anglo Spanish vessels that have left the UK fishing registry. These vessels have always worked closely with the domestic fleet, joining Fleet-

wood PO in 1999, opening new markets for the UK fishermen, moving up to 80% of frozen Nephrops to EU markets. The former members of the Fleetwood PO joined the Anglo-North Irish Fish Producers Organisation on 1 January 2018, where they are investing in partnership with domestic fishing vessel owners.

Our Anglo-Spanish members contribute economically to coastal fishing ports in the UK by landing their catches when possible. They also gift quota every year to the UK under 10 meter vessels and like any other UK domestic vessels they pay taxes in the UK. They also sell small parts of their catches in the UK which is gradually increasing, but cannot land all quantities as this would flood local fish markets in the UK.

As with the UK domestic fleet the Anglo Spanish vessels have suffered under the Common Fisheries Policy.

Discussing Brexit, Hard Borders and Crewing Issues



On 25th October, the day the new U.K. Fisheries Bill was laid before Parliament, we were delighted to welcome and host Shadow EFRA Secretary of State Sue Hayman MP and Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary of State Tony Lloyd MP to ANIFPO/Sea Source, NIFPO and Kilkeel.



On 24th October, a good friend of County Down's fishing industry visited us at Kilkeel harbour. Great to see Margaret Ritchie again.



Alan met with DUP Leader Arlene Foster MLA & Diane Dodds MEP on 30th November to discuss NI fishing priorities - Crewing & immigration issues, Dublin's hard sea fisheries border and Brexit. "Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed."



Northern Ireland fishing industry representatives and DUP MPs met with UK Fisheries Minister George Eustice MP this afternoon. 2019 fishing opportunities, crew, Brexit, UK Fisheries Bill and MCZs all on the agenda.



Seafood Shop
KILKEEL

FIND US:



21a Newcastle Street, Kilkeel, BT34 4AF

CONTACT US:

W: www.seasourceseafoodshop.com

T: 07710090260

LIKE US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Support our local
NI fishing families
#seasourceNI

Sea Source/ Anglo North Irish FPO Ltd
The Harbour
Kilkeel
Northern Ireland
BT34 4AX

Phone: +44 (0)28 4176 2855

Fax: +44 (0)28 4176 4904

E-mail: info@anifpo.com



Sustainable | Wild caught | Seafood