



April 2023 news alert (sent by email 5 April 2023)

This Seafish fishmeal industry news e-alert covers news items, legislation and reports. See also:

<https://www.seafish.org/responsible-sourcing/aquaculture-farming-seafood/sourcing-fishmeal-and-fishoil/>

Seafish news and reports

- [**Seafish summary of 2023 ICES advice for pelagic stocks**](#) (March 2023)

Stock status and quotas - Northeast Atlantic and Baltic Fish Stocks

Quota negotiations

North East Atlantic (NEA) mackerel stripped from MCS Green List in Good Fish Guide (5 April 2023)

The Marine Conservation Society (MCS) has updated its 'Good Fish Guide' and has moved NEA mackerel from the Green List to the Amber List. The charity claims that the population of mackerel in the past have been large enough to withstand fishing, however, in recent years the population has been in steady decline. An amber rating means that improvements are needed – in this case, better management to end overfishing of the stock.

Scottish fishing group calls out MCS advice to avoid eating mackerel (5 April 2023)

The Scottish Pelagic Sustainability Group (SPSG) has criticised the MCS decision. While the 'amber' classification under the MCS traffic light system means that under its own definition mackerel is still an 'OK choice' for consumers to buy, the SPSG says that given the current scientific status of the stock, this is an overly harsh assessment and mackerel should have retained its green status.

Coastal States have 'blown it' on NEA mackerel (31 March 2023)

In December 2022, the NEA Coastal States announced they had set themselves a deadline of 31 March 2023, to reach an agreement on the sharing of NEA mackerel catch. As their own "hard deadline" passed, the negotiations ended in dismal failure with no agreement reached.

Chair of Coastal States issues report on NEA mackerel talks (30 April 2023)

The Chair of the North Atlantic Coastal States consultations for a quota sharing arrangement for NEA mackerel has issued his report on the latest round of negotiations. This states more time is required to reach a "comprehensive and inclusive set of arrangements" for the sharing of NEA mackerel sharing.

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[MSC calls on coastal states to “act decisively” on NEA mackerel quotas \(24 March 2023\)](#)

The Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) is calling on coastal states that harvest NEA mackerel to secure a long-term quota-sharing agreement as the deadline to make a decision approaches.

[Norway, EU exchange quotas in NEA to limit herring catch \(21 March 2023\)](#)

The European Union and Norway signed three bilateral agreements that will result in a herring quota and fishing-access exchange. The agreement will “significantly limit” herring catches in the Skagerrak and the Kattegat, as well as in the North Sea. As part of the wider agreement, reciprocal access to jointly managed stocks in the North Sea will decrease slightly.

[Zero hour for NEA pelagics: Waitrose repeats call for Coastal States to fish responsibly \(1 March 2023\)](#)

Waitrose, one of the UK’s leading food retailers, has added its voice to the chorus of supply chain businesses and retailers calling for the collaborative and sustainable management of mackerel, herring, and blue whiting in the NEA.

[Eminent UK salmon retailers step forward to highlight consequences of inaction on NEA blue whiting management \(16 February 2023\)](#)

The salmon-producing sector steps forward to echo calls for politicians to seize a rare, golden opportunity to reduce their blue whiting quota allocations.

[Golden opportunity for NEA blue whiting \(31 January 2023\)](#)

Three of the world’s largest buyers of NEA blue whiting - Skretting, Cargill and Biomar - are calling on politicians to seize a rare, golden opportunity to reduce their quota allocations, whilst not cutting catches.

[Sandeel](#)

[Seafish summary of 2023 International Council for the Exploration of the Sea \(ICES\) advice for pelagic stocks \(April 2023\)](#). The new advice for 2023, to date, covers sandeel.

[UK and EU agree sandeel total allowable catches for 2023 \(24 March 2023\)](#)

The European Union will take 97% of the agreed total allowable catch (TAC) of 194,367 tonnes of sandeel in ICES areas 4, 2a and 3a according to the agreement reached between the UK and the EU.

[Consultation on management of sandeel fishing \(7 March 2023. Closes 29 May 2023\)](#)

Defra are consulting on proposed measures to ban the industrial fishing of sandeels within UK waters. Sandeels are a major food source for puffins and kittiwakes, and these talks come in response to calls for increased protections on the UK’s seabird populations and the wider ecosystems they inhabit. **[Evidence on the ecosystem risks and benefits of full prohibition of industrial sandeel fishing in UK waters of the North Sea.](#)**

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[Provisional advice for 2023 Norwegian sandeel fishery set at 60,000 tonnes \(3 March 2023\)](#)

The Norwegian Institute of Marine Research has advised a provisional quota of 60,000 tonnes to be set for the sandeel fishery in 2023. The advice is similar to the advice that came last year, and the researchers believe that the stock is in good health on the sandbanks in the south of the North Sea.

[ICES issues advice on catch limits for North Sea sandeel for 2023 \(28 February 2023\)](#)

The International Council for the Exploration of the Seas ICES has issued its advice for sandeel in the greater North Sea ecoregion for 2023.

Other stocks

[Research finds positive results from 2023 herring spawning season \(30 March 2023\)](#)

Marine researchers examining the distribution and abundance of Norwegian Spring Spawning Herring in 2023 have found positive results and that the most important spawning grounds are now in the area west of Lofoten and Røst. The estimated biomass was about 18% higher, and the estimated number was about 7% higher compared to last year's cruise.

Stock Status and Quotas – Atlantic and South America

Peru divides its anchovy fishing areas into two regions – south and north-central – with different capture limits and seasons set for each one. The north-central is Peru's main fishing region, with tonnage capture measuring roughly six times that of the south region.

[Late anchoveta season in Peru driving major fishmeal production increase \(5 April 2023\)](#)

Global fishmeal production was up 55% in the first two months of 2023 compared to the same period of 2022, according to IFFO, the international trade body that represents the marine ingredients industry. A late start to the second anchoveta-fishing season in the north-central area of Peru resulted in more raw material being available to fishmeal producers in early part of 2023. Peru's second fishing season closed 5 February with 84% of the 2.283-million-metric-tonne quota landed.

Reports/studies/resources

[IFFO's analysis on marine ingredient market trends \(4 April 2023\)](#)

Overall, the raw material used was about 15% higher in February 2023 compared with the same month in 2022. This was due to better catches in all the regions, bar Spain and the Icelandic and North Atlantic area. Cumulative total fishmeal production during the first two months of 2023 was up by more than 55% compared to the cumulative production reported through February 2022. The larger production of fishmeal in Peru due to the late start of the second fishing season in the North-centre area of the country was the main driver, but most regions have started the year with an improved availability of raw material.

[EFFOP holds successful workshop on “European fishmeal health and safety in relation to PFAS contamination” \(27 March 2023\)](#)

A total of 55 participants attended the European Fishmeal and Fish Oil Producers (EFFOP) workshop to share and exchange their experiences with the ongoing issue. It has been suggested that the Poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) (so-called forever chemicals) identified in Danish organic eggs originated from fishmeal (an

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ingredient in chicken feed). [EFFOP statement on the safety of European fishmeal](#) (31 January 2023).

[Australia's aquaculture industry looks beyond fishmeal to improve sustainability](#) (25 March 2023)

Australia's growing aquaculture industry is trying to end its reliance on fishmeal in order to become more sustainable. Fish farms are steadily overtaking wild-caught fish as the predominant form of seafood production and the industry has worked to move away from fishmeal.

[Globefish report on fishmeal and fish oil: Peru halts most fishing, Chinese demand wanes](#) (16/03/2023)

Higher quotas in the North Atlantic and greater production in Chile are propping up global supplies of fishmeal and fish oil, which have been depleted by low catches in Peru. China accounted for half of global imports of fishmeal in 2021, but flooding and other disruption to aquaculture production has muted demand this year.

[Study claims fishmeal as the source of PFAS in chicken eggs](#) (2 February 2023)

The European Fishmeal and Fish Oil Producers have initiated analyses to get a complete picture of all the fish species that are used to produce European fishmeal.

[You cannot manage, what you cannot measure](#) (February 2023)

The Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) approach allows us to make sustainability choice management based on a comparison of the full range of environmental effects assignable to different products and services.

See also

- [Seafish aquaculture web](#)
- [Seafish aquaculture profiles](#)

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