



January 2024 news alert (sent by email 31 January 2024)

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**](#) (October 2023)

Stock status and quotas – North East Atlantic (NEA) and Baltic Fish Stocks **Scots pelagic fishermen urge Coastal States to focus on more equitable quota shares** (19 December 2023)

Scotland's pelagic fishermen have urged the Coastal States fishing mackerel, blue whiting and Atlanto-Scandian herring in the north-east Atlantic to focus on more equitable quota shares as they renew their efforts to agree long-term sharing agreements for each of these stocks.

NEAFC plans 'performance review' in 2024 amid pelagics mismanagement (23 November 2023)

The review will help address two longstanding issues: mismanagement by coastal states of [pelagics] and the need to improve rules around observer access and information dissemination.

Back to the grindstone for Coastal States: Despite tentative progress, there's work to do to end overfishing in the North East Atlantic (20 November 2023)

Despite so-called agreements by Coastal States to follow the scientific advice in 2024, the market forewarns that the absence of quota sharing arrangements means the hard work is yet to come.

Outcome of the 2023 Annual Meeting of the North-east Atlantic Fisheries Commission (17 November 2023)

At the annual meeting of the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) parties agreed on a number of proposals which aim to ensure the conservation and best use of fishery resources in the NEAFC Regulatory Area.

UK among nations condemned for 'epic' mackerel overfishing disaster (17 November 2023)

As reported in The Guardian newspaper seafood companies and retailers, who are members of the North Atlantic Pelagic Advocacy Group (NAPA), have threatened to boycott the North East Atlantic catch after two-decade failure to agree sustainable quotas.

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Total Allowable Catches for mackerel, blue whiting and herring agreed for 2024 (16 November 2023)

Coastal States met during October to agree the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for mackerel, blue whiting, and Norwegian spring-spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring. TACs have been set in line with International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) advice for each of the stocks resulting in the following changes compared with the catch limits set for 2023: mackerel - 5.46%, blue whiting + 12.51% and Atlanto-Scandian herring - 23.70%. Sharing arrangement consultations are ongoing, with coastal States due to meet at the end of November to discuss Norwegian spring-spawning (Atlanto-Scandian) herring, with mackerel and blue whiting consultations planned for early in 2024.

Scottish mackerel sector calls for resolution to quota share dispute (6 November 2023)

Following the recent setting of the total allowable catch (TAC) of North East Atlantic mackerel (and blue whiting and Atlanto-Scandian herring) for 2024, the Scottish mackerel sector is calling for renewed efforts to resolve the quota shares dispute among coastal states, underlining that the UK has meticulously abided to its traditional share and not embarked upon unilateral increases in quota as carried out by other countries.

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.

Peru closes anchovy season with 25% uncaught as global fishmeal production down 16% (16 January 2024)

The Peruvian Ministry of Production (PRODUCE) closed the country's second anchovy season on 12 January, leaving more than 25% of the fishery's quota in the water. Peru's industrial anchovy fishing fleet launched its second season after the cancellation of the first season of 2023. The season had been underwhelming during its run and has now closed with roughly 75% percent of the 1.682-million-metric-ton (MT) quota caught.

Concerns rise as over 30% of Peru anchovy catches are juveniles (5 December 2023)

Catches have surpassed the 1 million metric tonne mark, but there are concerns at the high levels of juveniles in the landings.

Peru starts second anchovy fishery season after cancellation of first cost seafood industry over USD 1 billion (27 October 2023)

Peru's Ministry of Production (PRODUCE) authorized a 26 October launch of the second anchovy fishery season in the country's north-central zone, establishing a total allowable catch (TAC) of 1.68 million metric tons (MT). Giving hope to Peruvian fishermen and the seafood industry as a whole that had to adjust to the first season's cancellation earlier this year.

Reports/studies/resources

Marine Ingredients Market Trends (January 2024)

Cumulative total fishmeal production during the first 11 months of 2023 was down by approximately 16% compared to the cumulative production reported through November 2022. The predominant factor contributing to this decline must be attributed to the 41% year-on-year decrease in Peru, whose activities were heavily affected by the El Niño

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phenomenon and the subsequent cancellation of the April-June first fishing season of the year.

[High feed prices could be set to continue in 2024 \(29 January 2024\)](#)

Based on historical patterns, we have observed that feed trends reflect political, market and environmental turbulence. During 2022 to 2023, geopolitical issues, energy price increases and limited raw materials led to an increase in feed prices of 30%. This suggests that the prices of key commodities are likely to further increase in 2024.

[Overexploitation of round sardinella may lead to the collapse of flat sardinella: What lessons can be drawn for shared stocks \(January 2024\)](#)

A recent paper describes the fisheries and presents quantitative stock assessments for two stocks of Sardinella in the waters of NW Africa.

[Global Fishing Watch: 75% of the world's industrial fishing vessels are hidden from public view \(3 January 2024\)](#)

Using machine learning, satellite imagery, and automatic identification systems (AIS) data, Global Fishing Watch (GFW) has created – under its Open Ocean Project – the most detailed global map of large vessel traffic and offshore infrastructure that has ever been publicly available. The research found approximately 75% of the world's industrial fishing vessels are not publicly tracked, with much of that activity taking place around Africa and South Asia. By comparison, over 25% of transport and energy vessel activity are not included in public tracking systems.

[Scottish pelagic data collection scheme paves way for a sustainable future \(13 December 2023\)](#)

Dr Steven Mackinson, the Chief Scientific Officer of the Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association (SPFA), says the collaborative approach now adopted between the pelagic industry and science bodies on data collection represents a major sea-change in fisheries management that sets the standard for others to follow.

[Rabobank predicts fishmeal, fish oil prices will remain high amid potential prolonged El Nino \(4 December 2023\)](#)

El Nino's unpredictable influence may continue to disrupt anchovy fishing seasons in 2024, causing uncertainty for the global aquaculture industry.

[FAO report: Small fish for food security and nutrition \(24 November 2023\)](#)

<https://www.fao.org/3/cc6229en/cc6229en.pdf>

The latest report from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) explores the potential utilization of small fish species in addressing global food security and nutritional needs. This underscores the significance of fishmeal and fish oil as highly nutritious and easily digestible components in farmed fish feed.

[Scottish Pelagic and Cefas sign MoU to Collaborate on Scientific Research \(1 November 2023\)](#)

The Scottish Pelagic Fishermen's Association (SPFA) and the Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to partner to collect and analyse scientific data on pelagic stocks, and further develop scientific research in the field.

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Takeaways from IFFO Annual Conference (25 and 26 October 2023)

- [Market trends session](#)
- [Closing session on environmental, social, governance \(ESG\) risks](#)

[New report finds South American reduction fisheries performance declining or stagnant \(24 October 2023\)](#)

A new report by the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership on global reduction fisheries found that multiple fisheries in South America – some among the world’s largest – are either stagnant or declining. The report found that three South American fisheries – the Southern Peruvian anchoveta fishery, Los Lagos Chile Anchoveta fishery, and the Central-South Chile Araucanian herring fisheries all saw drops in performance. The SFP report rated all three as “poorly managed” and placed them in the lowest sustainability category.

[Version 3 of the MarinTrust factory standard \(23 October 2023\)](#)

V3 Version 3 of the MarinTrust factory standard increases accessibility for responsibly sourced and produced marine ingredients and encourages the use of by-products. The standard and supporting documents are effective from 1 May 2024.

[New video on Scottish pelagic industry-science data collection programme \(11 October 2023\)](#)

A new video on the Scottish pelagic industry-science data collection programme has been released, which highlights the benefits this innovative scheme brings to fisheries management and the marine environment.

See also

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

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