

European Association of Fish Producers Organisations (EAPO)
(Northern Pelagic Working Group)



Norwegian Fishermen's Association



Norwegian Seafood Federation



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Press release

After failure Reykjavik mackerel talks industry asks for full quota allocation for 2012

Now the Coastal States consultation failed again to come to an agreement on joint management and sharing of the North East Atlantic mackerel stock the EU and Norwegian fishing sector call upon their respective governments to decide quickly on a full mackerel quota allocation for this year.

The EU and Norwegian fishing industries once again express their disappointment and grave concern on the inconclusive outcome of the Coastal State consultations on mackerel that took place in Reykjavik from 15 to 16 February 2012. Both industries agree fully with the joint statement by European commissioner Maria Damanaki and Norwegian minister Lisbeth Berg-Hansen¹ condemning the inflexible positions taken by Iceland and the Faroe Islands.

Now, after the failure of the Reykjavik talks, EU and Norway have to decide on the definitive mackerel quota allocation for 2012. EU and Norway have to decide this in collaboration and on the basis of the current bilateral mackerel agreement.

The EU and Norwegian industries call upon their respective governments that the mackerel TAC for 2012 shall be set at 639,000t, in conformity with the ICES advice and the current long term management plan for this stock and that after deducting the traditional shares of the TAC for Faroe Islands, Iceland and Russia, the TAC will be shared between EU and Norway according to the bilateral agreement.

It would be against all principles of fairness if the mackerel industries of EU and Norway have to suffer a further limitation in their fishing opportunities for mackerel at the same time when the Faroese and Icelandic fishermen continue to have large mackerel quota given to them by their governments contrary to the scientific advice.

The EU industry furthermore urges the European Commission, Council and European Parliament to rapidly decide for and implement effective sanction measures against Iceland and Faroe Islands.

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¹ http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/news_and_events/press_releases/2012/20120216/index_en.htm or <http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/fkd/pressemelder/pressemeldinger/2012/felleserklaring-fra-fiskeri--og-kystmini.html?id=672636>