



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

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PRESS RELEASE

EU pelagic industry meets Commissioner Maria Damanaki on the stalemate in the mackerel management and to discuss implementation of trade sanctions against Iceland and Faroe Islands

On 26 March 2013 Commissioner Damanaki received representatives of the EU pelagic fishing industry to discuss the current situation of the management of both the North-East Atlantic mackerel stock and the Atlanto Scandian herring stock.

The fishing industry expressed great concern on the actual situation of a standstill in the coastal states negotiations and asked the Commissioner to implement quick and effective sanction measures in accordance with the very strong mandate given to her by both the European Parliament and Council against Iceland and the Faroe Islands with the aim to restore the sustainable management of the two stocks.

The meeting was set up to discuss the current situation of the management of both pelagic stocks where Iceland has set an autonomous mackerel quota for 2013 of 123,000 ton or 22.7% of the science based 2013 TAC and where Faroe Islands has set yesterday an autonomous mackerel quota of 159,000 ton or 29.3% of the 2013 TAC. So, in 2013, both countries will catch 52% of the 2013 TAC, where only in 2006 their joint share in the mackerel catches was just over 5%.

Also yesterday the Faroe Islands decided to set an autonomous quota for Atlanto Scandian herring after stepping out of the five parties management agreement (Norway, EU, Iceland, Faroe, Russia) for this stock in January this year. The autonomously set herring quota by Faroe Islands amounts to 105,000 ton - more than 3 times their share in accordance with the management plan.

Both the Commissioner and the industry shared their concern on this outrageous behaviour of the two countries. The industry representatives strongly pleaded for a quick introduction of effective trade sanction measures by the European Commission. They pointed to the framework agreement (regulation 1026/2012) reached between the Council and the European Parliament in October 2012 which gave a very strong mandate to the European Commission to implement effective trade measures against countries that continue to fish in an unsustainable and irresponsible manner on stocks of shared interest with the EU.

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ICELAND

Year	Mackerel TAC (in t)	Quantity Iceland (in t)	% TAC
2004	532.000	0	0
2005	422.000	363	0,1%
2006	444.000	4.222	1,0%
2007	502.000	36.706	7,3%
2008	458.000	112.286	24,5%
2009	605.000	130.000	21,5%
2010	572.000	130.000	22,7%
2011	646.000	146.818	22,7%
2012	639.000	(est.) 145.000	22,7%
2013	542.000	(ann.) 123.000	22,7%

FAROE ISLANDS

Year	Mackerel TAC (in t)	Quantity Faroe Islands (in t)	% TAC
2004	532.000	24.472	4,6%
2005	422.000	19.412	4,6%
2006	444.000	20.424	4,6%
2007	502.000	23.092	4,6%
2008	458.000	21.068	4,6%
2009	605.000	27.830	4,6%
2010	572.000	85.000	14,9%
2011	646.000	150.000	23,2%
2012	639.000	148.375	23,2%
2013	542.000	159,000*)	29,3%

*) incl. unused 2012 quantity of 33,000 t