



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

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27 June 2013

**Press release**

**Trade sanction measures against Faroe Islands to be in place within a month**

Following a successful meeting with Commissioner Maria Damanaki this morning the EU pelagic fishing industry<sup>1)</sup> is very confident that appropriate trade sanction measures will be imposed against the Faroe Islands within a month from now. These measures are a direct consequence of the country's irresponsible behaviour in their Atlantic herring fisheries. Earlier this year they stepped outside the long standing agreed management arrangements and set themselves a quota share more than three times larger than their traditional share (from 31,940t to 105,000t). This follows on last week's decision taken by the Marine Stewardship Council<sup>2)</sup> to suspend the MSC certificate for the Faroese Atlantic herring fishery.

The industry is also confident that associated species such as mackerel will be included in these sanction measures. In that regard the industry specifically requested that salmon be included in the trade sanctions. The Commissioner took on board that salmon was indeed an associated species as Faroese herring and mackerel are reduced to fish feed for their aquaculture industry.

Gerard van Balsfoort, chairman of the NPWG, commented: "today we met a very determined Commissioner to follow through on her commitment to stop the irresponsible behaviour by the Faroe Islands which has a direct detrimental effect on the workforce employed by the EU seafood sector". He added that "we are particularly pleased that the Commissioner has also started the procedure to introduce mackerel sanction measures against Iceland and Faroe Islands".

The background for the industry's consistent plea for trade sanctions against Iceland and the Faroe Islands is the current situation of the management of both the mackerel and Atlantic herring 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 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%.

The EU pelagic industry is fully committed to well managed and sustainable fisheries. We will continue to encourage Iceland and Faroe Islands to join us in this objective.

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1) Below are the persons that attended the meeting:

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2) MSC: independent, third party certification for sustainably managed fisheries. MSC is the global market leader in eco-labels for fisheries. Suspension of certification by MSC means that MSC no longer considers that the Faroese Atlantic herring fisheries is classified as sustainable.



*From L to R:*

*Ian Gatt, Sean O'Donoghue, Commissioner Maria Damanaki, Esben Sverdrup-Jensen, Armando Astudillo (DG MARE), Gerard van Balsfoort, Andreas Papaconstantinou (DG MARE), Bernhard Friess (DG MARE)*