



July 2023 news alert (sent by email 2 August 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 \(July 2023\)**](#)

Stock status and quotas – North East Atlantic (NEA) and Baltic Fish Stocks Annual Pelagic Survey finds large mackerel in Northern waters (28 July 2023)

The Norwegian Institute of Marine Research (HI) has released its preliminary findings from its participation in the Annual International Pelagic Ecosystem Survey of the North Atlantic. There have been lower trawl catches of mackerel in these northern areas compared to further south during the first part of the survey, but the mackerel that is now feeding far north during the summer has been significantly larger than further south.

North Atlantic Pelagic Survey shows pivot of mackerel has shifted (27 July 2023)

As the Annual International Pelagic Ecosystem Survey of the North Atlantic draws to a close, the Icelandic and Norwegian Institutes of Marine Research have released an update on how the survey has progressed.

Warming seas in NEA could harm key fish stocks (24 July 2023)

The combined impact of the record-breaking marine heat wave in the North Atlantic on top of warming seas linked to accelerated climate change could have a significant impact on iconic pelagic fish species in the NEA, warns the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC).

Report. NEA pelagic fisheries – Management Challenges for Straddling Fish Stocks (21 June 2023)

A new report by ABPmer, commissioned by the MSC shows coastal state governments need to adopt a radical new approach to reach an agreement on quota sharing for NEA pelagic fish stocks. The report says that years of broken agreements on quota sharing for blue whiting, herring and mackerel has resulted in quotas being set above sustainable limits, threatening the long-term health of these vital fish stocks.

North Sea and Icelandic herring fisheries receive ICES catch increase recommendation (12 June 2023)

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) has released advice for herring in both the North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, and eastern English channel (autumn spawning); and in the Iceland Grounds (summer spawning); raising the available catch for both in 2024.

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[Scottish pelagic sector declares North Sea Herring in “Great Shape” \(June 2023\)](#)

The robust state of the North Sea herring stock has been confirmed with the latest scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of Sea (ICES) recommending a 28.3% increase in catch for 2024. Excellent recruitment of juvenile fish has boosted the stock status. Fishing pressure on the stock is currently below the Maximum Sustainable Yield level (MSY) and fishing mortality is consistent with last year. The spawning stock size is above MSY levels.

[Norway and UK set mackerel quota claiming 59% of total NEA quota \(9 June 2023\)](#)

Norway has set the quota at 249,870 metric tons, while the UK has set one of 210,814t; the coastal states -- the UK, EU, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, and Norway -- had agreed to catch no more than 782,066t between them all, in line with advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES).

[Scotland’s pelagic fishing industry taking government to court \(13 April 2023\)](#)

Scotland’s Pelagic fishing industry is taking the government to court over the changes introduced to the economic link provisions attached to the vessel’s licence. The action has been taken jointly by the Shetland Fish Producers’ Organisation (SFPO) and the Scottish Fishermen’s Organisation. The sector says it stands to lose millions of pounds in revenue should it be legally required to land 55% of mackerel and herring at Scottish ports.

[The road to incorporating Scottish pelagic industry data in science for stock assessments \(21 April 2023\)](#)

A new paper describes the development of the Scottish Pelagic Industry-Science Data Collection Programme; why and how it started, and what it has taken to develop a routine and consistent voluntary sampling regime of sufficient quality to become the main source of biological data on pelagic fish catches in Scotland.

[Sandeel](#)

[Consultation launched on proposals to close sandeel fishing in Scottish waters \(21 July 2023. Closing date is 13 October 2023\)](#)

The Scottish Government is consulting on proposals to close fishing for sandeel in all Scottish waters to further ensure the sustainability of the sandeel stock, as well as providing wider ecosystem benefits.

[No UK sandeel fishing or swaps for 2023 in effort to protect marine ecosystem \(14 June 2023\)](#)

For the third consecutive year, the UK government has decided to not allow UK sandeel fishing for 2023 for the benefit of the wider marine ecosystem, such as seabirds and marine mammals. This means that UK fishermen cannot catch or swap any of the pre-agreed quota for sandeel fishing in the North Sea, totalling 5,773 tonnes.

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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 considers exploratory anchovy fishing in main north-central zone (31 July 2023)

The Peruvian Production Ministry (Produce) is awaiting a new report from Peru's Institute of the Sea (Imarpe), to determine whether exploratory fishing can be authorized in the area or not.

Peru's reduced fishmeal production drives down global output (25 July 2023)

Global fishmeal and fish oil production has plunged following Peru's cancellation of the main anchovy fishing season in the country's north-central zone in June 2023. A drop in fishmeal and fish oil production was expected as a result of the cancellation, as Peru's anchoveta fishery is the largest reduction fishery by volume in the world.

Peru's cancelled anchovy fishing season seen as necessary trade-off for sustainability (14 June 2023)

The cancellation by Produce of the main anchovy fishing season in the country's north-central zone will negatively affect the production of fishmeal, but its stated justification is guaranteed sustainability of the biomass.

Reports/studies/resources

IFFO marine ingredients market trends up to May 2023 (July 2023)

This flags Peru's reduced fishmeal and fish oil production drives global output down (the primary factor driving such decline is the production drop of approximately 50% reported in Peru), and domestic fishmeal and fish oil production remains poor in China.

MarinTrust Annual Report highlights traceability and ESG focus (17 July 2023)

MarinTrust, the leading business to business certification programme for marine ingredients, has just released its 2022-2023 new interactive report, summarising the key areas of growth and global engagement. The report gives snapshot insights of each aspect of MarinTrust's work, from the latest developments of its Standard Version 3 (to be launched in October 2023) to the further global expansion of the Improver Programme and MarinTrust Chain of Custody Standard.

Alltech releases 2022 Sustainability Report (26 June 2023)

The company is committed to the efficient production of nutritious food while working to minimize its carbon footprint and helping producers find and implement solutions to their sustainability challenges.

Skretting increases transparency in its latest sustainability report (30 May 2023)

The company has made significant strides in quantifying greenhouse gas emissions, promoting circular economy principles, and improving traceability throughout its supply chain.

SFP's 2022 reduction fisheries report warns of stagnation in sustainability improvements (19 April 2023)

The Sustainable Fisheries Partnership's 2022 reduction fisheries (stocks used mainly for fishmeal and fish oil) assessment has raised concerns over the continued stagnation of

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movement on sustainability in the sector since 2018. The 2022 evaluations have been conducted in two phases, to better align with the timings of the release of key management measures and stock assessment information of each fishery. The first phase focused on 11 fisheries, mostly from Europe and South America, and reflects information on status as of July 2022. Evaluations for the remaining eight fisheries are included in the current report (phase 2) of the 2022 overview

[IFFO webinar. Southeast Asian Fisheries.](#) Thursday 31 August 2023. 3pm to 4pm BST.

This one hour InFocus webinar will feature Dave Martin, Programme Director at SFP, providing an update on several ongoing projects, all with an interesting focus on multispecies fisheries, aimed at strengthening fisheries governance in the Gulf of Thailand and Vietnam.

See also

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

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