Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Economic outcomes of annual negotiations for UK fishing opportunities in 2023

April 2023

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Executive summary

The UK participates in fisheries negotiations each year to agree Total Allowable Catches (TACs) and quotas for fish stocks shared with other coastal states.

In December 2022, negotiations concluded setting fishing opportunities for the 2023 fishing year, across 3 key negotiating forums. This report summarises the outcomes of these negotiations.

The outcomes from 3 main negotiation forums are presented:

- UK-EU bilateral negotiations
- UK-EU-Norway trilateral negotiations
- Coastal States negotiations

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is committed to other policy outcomes such as the sustainability of fisheries. An assessment of the sustainability of these outcomes is provided in the independent report ‘Assessing the sustainability of negotiated fisheries catch limits for the UK for 2023’, published alongside this document.

UK quota from other sources, including a quota exchange agreement with Norway, is assessed in the section ‘Other UK Quota’ to provide a full overview of the fishing opportunities available to the UK fleet. A full TAC list and data table is provided in Annex 2.

Methodology and caveats

UK quota is the UK’s share of each Total Allowable Catch (TAC). The UK quota presented in this report is in line with the Secretary of State’s determination of fishing opportunities for British fishing boats.[1] This means that the figures:

- cover both allocated and unallocated quota
- are pre-TAC deductions made for discard exemptions[2]
- account for the quota transfers agreed with third countries, such as Norway
- do not account for any adjustments such as banking or borrowing, or in-year quota exchanges[3]

[1] Fishing opportunities for British fishing boats - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

[2] For example, see 2022 deductions here: Fishing quota allocations for 2022 for England and the UK - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

[3] UK and England quota management rules - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

This report only covers fish stocks subject to quota management and therefore does not include non-quota stocks. Nor does it deal with access arrangements.

This report summarises the 'fishing opportunities' available to the UK fleet as a result of agreements made in annual negotiations. It does not attempt to predict how much of each of the quotas will be utilised, as fishing quota uptake often varies each year and depends on a wide range of factors that are difficult to accurately forecast, such as weather and fishing capacity. However, an estimate using UK average historic uptake is provided in the summary section for context.

Estimated value is included to provide context to the quota tonnages. The average UK landing price for each quota in 2021 is used to estimate the potential value of the available fishing opportunities. Where UK stock-specific values are not available, UK species level values or EU vessel landings have been used as an alternative.[4] In cases where 2021 prices were unavailable, 2019 prices have been used as an alternative instead of 2020 due to the exceptional impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on the market that year. Prices are nominal and in pound sterling at the first point of sale. Consistent prices are applied across all of the years to allow for a direct year-on-year comparison of negotiated outcomes, avoiding accounting for value fluctuations due to other factors external to the negotiations. This means that, for example, 100 tonnes of mackerel quota for the UK in 2020 is assumed to have the same potential economic value as 100 tonnes in 2021. This analysis is limited to estimating the potential value of the agreed quota and does not assess any wider economic benefits.

Comparisons are drawn against the outcomes of negotiations for 2020 fishing opportunities. In 2020, as an EU member state, the UK's quota shares were mainly based on the EU's relative stability sharing mechanism.[5] The UK also participated in the EU's quota transfer deals with countries such as Norway, the Faroe Islands and Greenland. In 2021, 2022 and 2023, the UK's quota shares were based on the new quota sharing arrangement agreed in the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (UK-EU TCA), and the UK was independent from the EU's quota transfer deals.[6]

Estimates of the quota that the UK might have expected to receive in 2021, 2022 and 2023 had the UK remained as an EU member state are also provided. These are based

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[4] UK sea fisheries annual statistics report 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). Average £ per tonne is calculated for each UK quota using live weight landing tonnage and landed value at the first point of sale; see data table 'UK fleet landings by rectangle stock and estimated EEZ 2021'. EU vessel landings are taken from the STECF Fisheries Dependent Information publication.

[5] Relative stability is the mechanism by which TACs are shared between EU member states under the Common Fisheries Policy. Each member state receives a set percentage of the EU's total quota in each stock.

[6] UK/EU and EAEC: Trade and Cooperation Agreement [TS No.8/2021] - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

on the shares of the TAC that the UK received in 2020, which take into account invocations of the Hague Preference, and the EU's quota transfer deals in that year.[7]

The 'Quota allocations' section provides an assessment of the final quota allocated in 2022, following deductions made for discard exemptions. This assessment is not yet available for 2023 as quota allocations have not yet been finalised. Fishing quota allocations are routinely finalised in the spring.

This report is categorised in terms of the negotiation forum where each TAC is set. This means that there are some minor differences between this and the categorisation in the Secretary of State's determination. For example, Atlanto-Scandian herring is included under 'stocks which are present in the waters of only one of the United Kingdom and the European Union' in the determination. However, because in practice this TAC is set at Coastal States negotiations, it is included in the 'Coastal States' total here. There is also a minor difference between the stock lists used here and in sustainability reporting because the latter combines the 2 TACs agreed for mackerel, and the 2 TACs agreed for North Sea herring.

All figures are shown rounded. This means that there may be some instances where figures do not sum precisely to the overall totals shown.

[7] The Hague Preference is a mechanism under the Common Fisheries Policy designed to adjust fishing quota allocations for the UK and the Republic of Ireland when certain TACs fell below determined trigger levels.

Negotiated outcomes

Summary

The UK agrees TACs and other fisheries management measures across a number of negotiation forums. The UK-EU bilateral, UK-EU-Norway trilateral, and Coastal States negotiations together involved 88 TACs, one more than in 2022.

These negotiations provided the UK with approximately 666,000 tonnes in quota, estimated to be worth around £750 million. These figures are net of quota transfers agreed with Norway and the Faroe Islands.

Across these 3 negotiations, there was an increase in UK quota available between 2022 and 2023, with a 65,000t increase in tonnage (+11%) and a £38 million increase in value (+5%).

Table 1: UK quota from UK-EU, trilateral, and Coastal States negotiations

	2022	2023	Percentage difference from 2022 to 2023
UK quota (tonnes)	601,000	666,000	+11%
UK quota value (£)	£715 million	£753 million	+5%

For each individual UK quota, there are several reasons why the tonnage available may change between years, primarily:

a) A change agreed for the overall Total Allowable Catch (TAC)
b) A change in the UK's share of the TAC, for example, in accordance with the quota share uplifts agreed in the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA)
c) A quota transfer agreement with a third country, for example, Norway or the Faroe Islands

Figures 1 and 2 illustrate the pattern of change in tonnes and value across each of the 3 main negotiation forums between 2022 and 2023. They show that the quota available from the UK-EU negotiations in 2023 was similar to 2022, however quota from the UK-EU-Norway negotiations increased in 2023, as did quota from the Coastal States negotiations. The Coastal States negotiations provided the largest quota tonnage for the UK across in both 2022 and 2023 (due to the high-tonnage pelagic TACs negotiated here, such as mackerel), whereas the UK-EU negotiations provided the highest estimated value.

A more detailed break-down of the data and explanation of these patterns for each negotiation forum is provided in the sections below.

Figure 1: Total UK quota (tonnes) across the 3 main negotiation forums in 2022 and 2023

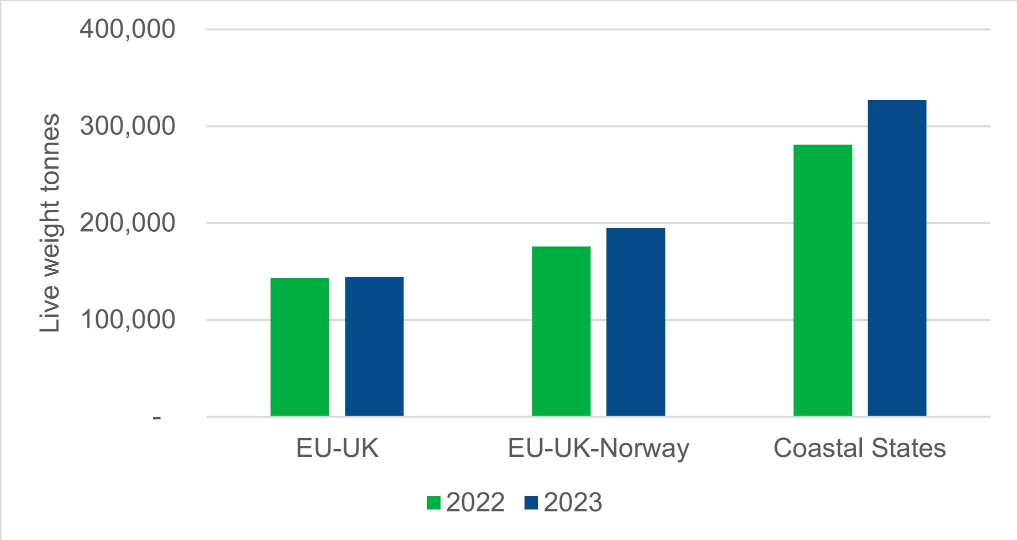
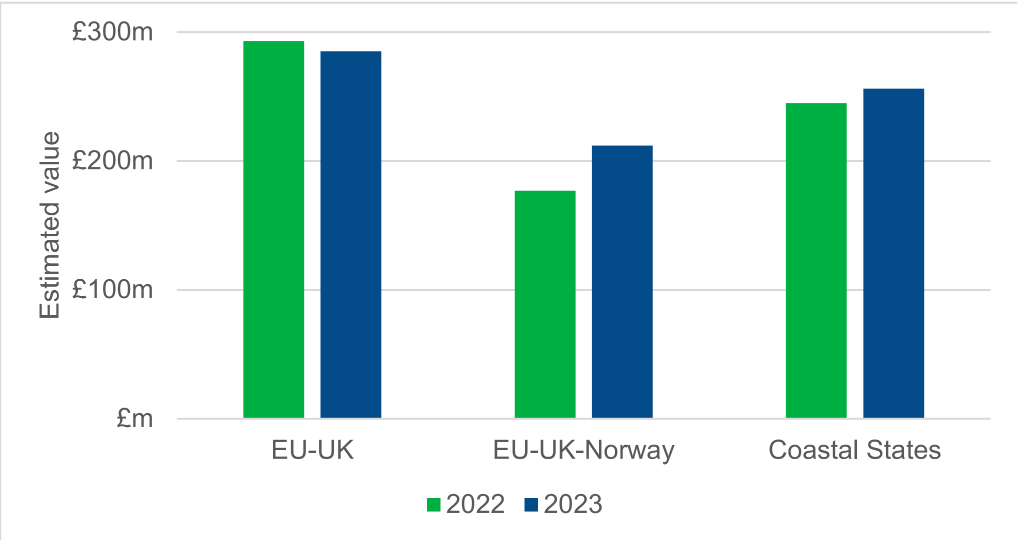


Figure 2: **Total UK quota (estimated value) across the 3 main negotiation forums in 2022 and 2023**



Comparison against UK's shares as an EU member state

Since leaving the EU, the UK now has a larger share of many of the TACs set at these negotiations. This means that TAC cuts are reduced, and TAC increases are heightened, as the UK receives a larger share of the total.

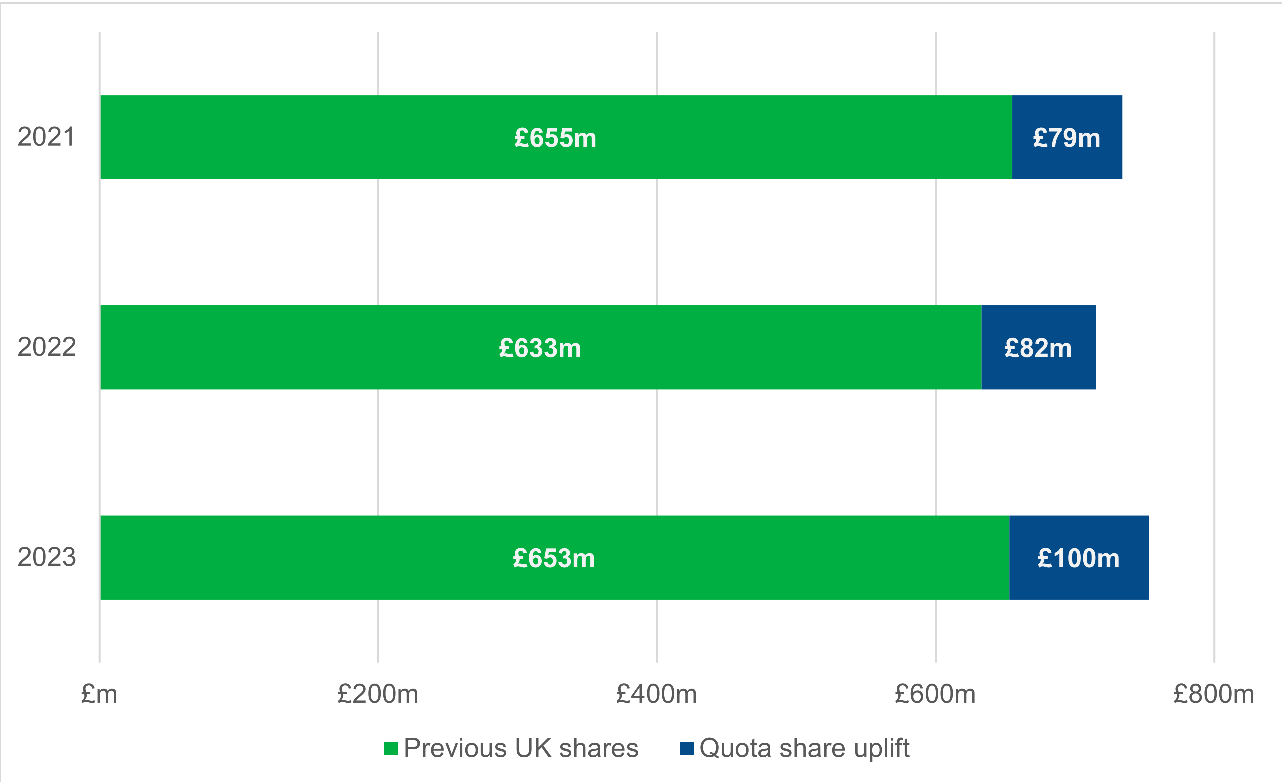
The quota shares that the UK received in 2020 are used to generate an estimate of how much quota the UK might have received from these 3 negotiations had it remained as an EU member state in each year.[8]

Based on these previous shares, it is estimated that the UK might have received around 550,000 tonnes in 2023 (estimated to be worth around £653 million), in comparison to the 666,000 tonnes actually received. This uplift is estimated to be worth around £100 million.

This uplift is comprised of a number of different quotas, with some of the largest contributors being West Coast mackerel, North Sea sole, and North Sea herring. Read Annex 1 and analysis of fishing quota shares in the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement from the Marine Management Organisation for more information.[9]

Figure 3 illustrates the proportion of the UK's overall quota value from these 3 negotiations in 2021, 2022 and 2023 that is estimated to be due to these uplifts. It shows that since 2021, the UK quota share uplift has gradually increased. The UK quota share uplift remains a small proportion of the total UK quota.

Figure 3: UK quota share uplift (estimated value) across the 3 main negotiation forums



[8] 2020 is used as the UK's final year as an EU member state. This share is primarily based on the relative stability sharing mechanism, but also includes invocations of the Hague Preference in that year, as well as contribution to/benefit from the EU's quota transfer agreements with countries such as Norway.

[9] Analysis of fishing quota shares in the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Adjusting for historic uptake

The figures above represent the full quota available to the UK fleet from these negotiations. In a given year, it is difficult to accurately predict how much of each quota will be fished, as this is dependent on a wide range of factors such as weather, fishing capacity, and the availability of by-catch quota.

However, to provide context, the historic percentage uptake of each of the quotas between 2017 and 2021 is used to calculate an approximation.[10] This may not be accurate for a variety of reasons, for example, if the current size of the quota is smaller or larger than in the past. This also does not account for any banking, borrowing, or swapping of quota. In reality, the true landing figures could be higher or lower.

In 2023, based on historic uptake percentages, we might expect around 558,000 tonnes of the 666,000 tonnes of quota across the 3 main negotiating forums to be utilised, with a value of around £620 million.

[10] UK landings for each year between 2017 and 2021 (UK sea fisheries annual statistics report 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)) taken as a percentage of the quota available at the start of that year (Fishing quotas (europa.eu)), and applied to the 2023 opening UK quotas.

UK-EU bilateral negotiations

There were 71 TACs of direct interest to the UK set through UK-EU bilateral negotiations for the 2023 fishing year.

These 71 TACs provided around 144,000 tonnes of UK quota, with an estimated value of around £285 million. These figures are net of quota transfers agreed with Norway and the Faroe Islands.

Table 2: UK quota from UK-EU negotiations

	2022	2023	Percentage difference from 2022 to 2023
UK quota (tonnes)	143,000	144,000	0%
UK quota value (£)	£293 million	£285 million	-3%

In aggregate, TACs were at a similar level in 2023 compared to 2022. 35 TACs (49%) were reduced, 23 TACs (32%) increased, and the remaining 13 TACs (18%) set at the same tonnage.

UK quota saw a 3% fall in value and a similar tonnage compared to 2022. This was primarily due to TAC cuts, which outweighed the UK's quota share uplifts in the overall figure. Some quotas were also used as payment in the UK's deals with Norway and the Faroe Islands.

The UK's largest tonnage uplifts compared to the previous year were in:

- Western Spurdog (+4,700 tonnes)
- North Sea Spurdog (+2,800 tonnes)
- Anglerfish in Area 7 (+1,200 tonnes)

These uplifts were driven by large TAC increases for Spurdog following International Council for Exploration of the Seas (ICES) advice that the Northeast Atlantic spurdog stock is recovering and can support a significant level of landings for 2023 and 2024.

The UK's largest falls in tonnage were in:

- Western Horse Mackerel (-3,500 tonnes)
- North Sea Nephrops (-1,900 tonnes)
- North Sea Anglerfish (-1,500 tonnes)

These were mainly driven by reductions in the agreed TACs.

The UK and EU also agreed fishing opportunities for non-quota stocks. These outcomes are not within the scope of this publication.

UK-EU-Norway trilateral negotiations

There are 11 TACs of direct interest to the UK set through these negotiations.

For 2023, these 11 TACs provided around 196,000 tonnes of UK quota, estimated to be worth approximately £213 million.

Table 3: UK quota from UK-EU-Norway negotiations

	2022	2023	Percentage difference from 2022 to 2023
UK quota (tonnes)	176,000	195,000	+11%
UK quota value (£)	£177 million	£212 million	+20%

In aggregate, TACs were set higher in 2023 than in 2022. Of the 11 TACs, 8 were increased, and the remaining 3 TACs reduced. This led to UK quota increasing by 11% in tonnage and 20% in value compared to the previous year.

The largest tonnage increase was in North Sea haddock (+9,000 tonnes). This was driven by a TAC increase compared to 2022. The largest value increase was in North Sea cod (+£14 million), which was also driven by a TAC increase compared to 2022. North Sea cod increased in value by more than North Sea haddock despite a smaller quota increase as it is worth more per tonne (using 2021 landing prices).

The largest fall in both tonnage and value was in North Sea herring (-3,000 tonnes).

Coastal States negotiations

There are 6 TACs of direct interest to the UK set through these negotiations. The most important of these to the UK are mackerel, blue whiting, and Atlanto-Scandian herring (ASH).

For 2023, these 6 TACs provided around 327,000 tonnes of UK quota, estimated to be worth approximately £256 million.[11]

The most significant component of this in terms of the tonnage and value was mackerel with 211,000 tonnes, worth £229 million.

Table 4: UK quota from Coastal States negotiations

	2022	2023	Percentage difference from 2022 to 2023
UK quota (tonnes)	281,000	327,000	+16%
UK quota value (£)	£245 million	£256 million	+4%

The TACs for mackerel and ASH were reduced in 2023 compared to 2022, and the TAC for Blue Whiting was increased. The resulting increase in tonnage is noticeably more significant than the increase in quota value as mackerel is a more valuable stock than Blue Whiting.

Note that whilst the Coastal State TACs have been agreed, UK quota figures are provisional and are subject to the ongoing quota sharing arrangement discussions on these stocks.

[11] UK quota figures taken from written record. (Fisheries: consultations between the UK and the EU - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk))

Total UK quota from all sources

The UK also holds quota in a number of TACs that are not negotiated at the 3 forums covered above. The following section summarises these, to provide a full overview of UK quota in 2023.

In total, for the 2023 fishing year, the UK had around 691,000 tonnes of quota from the 3 main negotiation forums and other sources summarised below. This is estimated to be worth approximately £823 million.

Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs)

The Secretary of State's determination records UK quota for TACs managed through 3 RFMOs: the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), the North West Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO), and the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC).

The UK secured new shares in 4 Atlantic TACs managed through ICCAT (albacore tuna, bluefin tuna, blue shark, and swordfish) in the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement.[12] In 2023, this translated to around 650 tonnes of UK quota, estimated to be worth approximately £1.5 million. This represents the full UK albacore quota for 2023, which is shared among UK and UK overseas territories.

In 2023, the UK had 569 tonnes of cod quota in area 3M through NAFO, estimated to be worth approximately £1.1 million. 285 tonnes of this quota were transferred to Norway and 284 tonnes to the Faroe Islands, meaning the UK transferred out all quota in this stock in 2023 as part of bilateral quota transfer deals. Therefore, it is not included in the total below.

In 2022, the UK had 820 tonnes quota in stocks exclusively in the NEAFC Regulatory Area of Redfish, estimated to be worth approximately £0.7 million. This is largely unchanged in 2023, with around 815 tonnes of UK redfish quota.

Table 5: Total UK quota from RFMO negotiations

	2022	2023	Percentage difference from 2022 to 2023
UK quota (tonnes)	1,750	1,460	+30%
UK quota value (£)	£1.9 million	£2.8 million	+46%

[12] As there were very few UK landings of blue shark and swordfish in 2021, prices based on EU vessel average landings are used to estimate the potential value of the quota.

Stocks which are present in the waters of only one of the UK or the EU

There are several stocks that are present in either UK or EU waters, but not in both, for which the other party to the UK-EU TCA nevertheless holds a share. For example, ling in Area 5. In these cases, the party in whose waters the stock occurs is responsible for setting the TAC and notifying the other of their quota. There are also stocks, such as Clyde herring, which is exclusive to the UK and for which the UK holds 100% of the quota.[13]

In 2023, these stocks provided around 13,000 tonnes of UK quota, estimated to be worth approximately £46 million. This excludes 1,450 tonnes of North Sea and West of Scotland Greenland halibut transferred to Norway and the Faroe Islands.

Over 90% of this value is due to one stock that is present in UK waters only: West of Scotland nephrops (£45 million). TAC increases in this stock drive the overall increases in value shown in the table below.

Table 6: UK quota outcomes across stocks present in only one of UK / EU waters

	2022	2023	Percentage difference from 2022 to 2023
UK quota (tonnes)	12,000	13,000	+11%
UK quota value (£)	£42 million	£46 million	+11%

Quota under the Treaty of Paris

The UK has access to fishing opportunities in the waters around Svalbard through the Treaty of Paris.[14]

In 2023, these opportunities included 5,200 tonnes of Svalbard cod allocated by Norway, estimated to be worth approximately £10.4 million.

Table 7: UK quota outcomes under the Treaty of Paris

	2022	2023	Percentage difference from 2022 to 2023
UK quota (tonnes)	6,600	5,200	-20%
UK quota value (£)	£13.0 million	£10.4 million	-20%

[13] The TAC for Clyde herring starts on 1 July, therefore this TAC has not yet been agreed beyond July 2023.

[14] Fisheries: cooperation between the UK and Norway - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Quota from transfers with countries other than the EU

The UK concluded bilateral negotiations with Norway having agreed a quota exchange deal for the 2023 fishing year in November 2022.[15] Negotiations with the Faroe Islands concluded in April 2023.[16]

The deal with Norway included inward quota transfers for the UK in North Sea whiting, Arcto-Norwegian cod, anglerfish and hake in Norwegian waters. These inward transfers are estimated to be worth around £5 million in value to the UK. The UK transferred out primarily Western ling, Western tusk, and Greenland halibut in exchange.

The deal with the Faroe Islands includes inward transfers of stocks in Faroese waters, including cod, haddock and saithe. These inward transfers are estimated to be worth around £5 million in value to the UK. This has the potential to increase to £7 million if the UK and the Faroe Islands agree to a mid-year adjustment. The UK transferred out primarily Greenland halibut, haddock, NAFO cod, ling and blue ling in exchange.

The table below summarises the transfers of quota in third country waters only. This does not include transfers of quotas in the North Sea because these are already accounted for in the sections above, in the forums where those TACs are set.

Table 8: UK quota from transfers with Norway and the Faroe Islands

	2022	2023	Percentage difference from 2022 to 2023
UK quota (tonnes)	5,000	4,000	-7%
UK quota value (£)	£12 million	£11 million	-4%

North Sea whiting and hake in Norwegian waters and saithe in Faroese waters compromise most of the decrease between 2022 and 2023. This decrease is partly offset by increases in UK quota in other stocks such as anglerfish in Norwegian waters.

Quota allocations

Quota allocations have not yet been finalised for 2023, so this assessment is available for 2022 only.[17]

[15] UK reaches deal with Norway to secure opportunities for UK fishing industry – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

[16] Fisheries: bilateral agreement with the Faroe Islands for 2023 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

[17] Fishing quota allocations for 2022 for England and the UK - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

After TAC deductions for discard exemptions were applied, and excluding unallocated quotas, around 610,000 tonnes of quota was allocated to UK vessels in 2022, estimated to be worth approximately £765 million.

During the allocation process, this quota was split into 'existing quota' (quota the UK would have expected to receive as an EU member state), and 'additional quota' (quota received as a result of the quota share uplifts agreed in the UK-EU TCA).[18] The below table shows the tonnage and estimated value split between these 2 categories in 2022.

Table 9: Existing vs. additional quota in 2022

	Total allocated quota	Existing quota	Additional quota	Additional quota as % of total allocated quota
UK quota (tonnes)	610,000	540,000	70,000	12%
UK quota value (£)	£764 million	£681 million	£83 million	11%

Pelagic stocks comprised the majority (72%) of the additional quota tonnage in 2022. This was primarily driven by the UK's quota share uplift agreed for mackerel, which provided the largest amount of additional quota overall in terms of tonnage (around 24,000 tonnes) followed by North Sea herring (around 16,000 tonnes).

Additional quota was apportioned between the 4 UK fisheries administrations using a hybrid approach: 90% of additional quota was apportioned based on the previous track record of fishing activity in each nation, and 10% was apportioned on the principle of zonal attachment (which reflects the geographical areas where fish are present in UK waters). There were also some exceptions made for Wales.

Table 10: Additional quota per Fisheries Administration in 2022

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
UK quota (tonnes)	20,100	5,700	44,000	400
% Of total tonnes	28.7%	8.1%	62.7%	0.5%
UK quota value (£)	£30.5 million	£6.3 million	£36.8 million	£1 million
% Of total value	36.9%	7.6%	54.3%	1.2%

This table shows that most of the additional quota tonnage was apportioned to Scotland (63%), whereas England received a relatively higher proportion of the additional quota value (37%). This is primarily due to Scotland's share of high-tonnage pelagic quotas, and England's share of high-value demersal quotas.

For context on the size of the fleets in each fisheries administration, England contributes the highest number of vessels to the UK fleet (48%), but Scotland's fleet has more

[18] UK and England quota management rules - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

capacity (60%). 46% of UK fishers worked onboard English vessels and 40% on Scottish vessels. The rest (14%) are split almost evenly between Welsh and Northern Irish vessels.[19]

[19] UK sea fisheries annual statistics report 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Annex 1: UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement

On 30 December 2020, the UK and the EU signed the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), which included agreement on the management of UK-EU fish stocks following the UK's departure from the EU and the end of the transition period.[20]

The TCA includes agreed quota shares for over 100 fish stocks. Many of the UK's shares will increase gradually over a 5-year period, with the highest uplifts in a single year received in 2021.

Comparison of figures

The full quota share uplifts (by 2026) secured in the TCA were estimated to be worth around £146 million.

This figure was calculated using the full stock list negotiated in the TCA and estimates the difference between the UK's Relative Stability shares and UK's final shares in 2026, assuming 2020 TACs, and 2018 UK average prices. For more detail, read the Marine Management Organisation's Analysis of fishing quota shares in the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

Although similar, this is not directly comparable to the figures in this report. This is because the figures in this report are calculated using the stock list for each annual negotiation forum, which are subsets of the stock list negotiated in the TCA. They also use the UK's agreed shares for 2023 (rather than 2026) and are based on different TACs (those agreed at annual negotiations for 2023), and more recent UK average prices (2021).

[20] UK/EU and EAEC: Trade and Cooperation Agreement [TS No.8/2021] - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Annex 2: TAC categories

In practice, there are some minor differences between the categorisation of TACs in the Secretary of State's determination (based on which Parties share the TACs, following the annexes in the Trade & Cooperation Agreement), and the categorisation of TACs in this report (based on which negotiation forum sets the relevant TAC).[21]

Explanation of how these categories fit with one another is provided below, as well as a data table.

UK-EU

There are 77 UK-EU shared TACs.

Of these, 3 are shared only between the UK and the EU but in practice are dependent on TACs decided at the UK-EU-Norway negotiations. These TACs are therefore included in the UK-EU-Norway section below: Cod (Eastern Channel), Haddock (West of Scotland), and Saithe (West of Scotland).

There are 3 TACs are excluded from this report:

- 1 TAC is prohibited: Deep-Sea Sharks (Western). No quota has been set for this TAC.
- 1 TAC is an 'of which' provision of another TAC and is excluded to avoid double counting: Nephrops (Porcupine Bank)
- 1 TAC is set in-year and did not have an agreed TAC at the time of negotiations concluding: Sandeels (North Sea)[22]

Consequently, 71 UK-EU TACs are covered in this report.

UK-EU-Norway

There are 8 UK-EU-Norway shared TACs.

Including the 3 TACs mentioned above means that 11 UK-EU-Norway TACs are covered in this report.

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[21] [Fishing opportunities for British fishing boats - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)]

[22] English Channel Sprat and North Sea Sprat are also mid-year TACs. Their quotas, from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, are included in this report.

Coastal states

There are 3 Coastal State TACs: mackerel (North Sea), mackerel (western), and blue whiting (northern).

There are 3 further TACs that are included in the section 'stocks which are present in the waters of only one of the United Kingdom and the European Union' in the Secretary of State's determination, however in practice are agreed at the Coastal States negotiations: Atlanto-Scandian herring (ASH), redfish [deep pelagic] and redfish [shallow pelagic].

Therefore, 6 Coastal State TACs are covered in this report.

Overall, this gives 88 TACs (71 + 11 + 6) across the UK's annual fisheries consultations for 2023.

Other sources of UK quota

The UK also receives quota from other TACs:

The UK receives quota through 3 RFMOs: The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO), the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), and the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC). There are 7 TACs in this category.

The UK has access to fishing opportunities in the waters around Svalbard under the Treaty of Paris. The UK is not involved in setting the TAC for this stock. There is 1 TAC in this category (Svalbard cod).

There are a number of stocks where the UK or EU alone set the TAC, such as Clyde herring and skates and rays (8,9). There are 8 TACs in this category.

The UK may receive quota transfers through agreements with third countries such as Norway and the Faroe Islands. The UK has agreed to quota transfers with both Norway and the Faroe Islands for 2023.

TAC list and UK quota data

The tables below align with the annexes in the Secretary of State's determination of fishing opportunities for British fishing boats. The third column indicates which negotiation category these TACs fall into in this report, as detailed above.

UK quota tonnages for 2022 and 2023, as well as the percentage change between years, are also shown.

Annex Table 1: United Kingdom-European Union bilateral stocks

TAC code	Common name	Annual negotiation TAC-setting forum	2022 UK quota (tonnes)	2023 UK quota (tonnes)	% Change in quota (2023 vs. 2022)
ALF/3X14-	Alfonsinos (3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,12,14)	UK-EU	7	5	-29%
ANF/07.	Anglerfish (7)	UK-EU	8,959	10,197	+14%
ANF/2AC4-C	Anglerfish (North Sea)	UK-EU	7,849	6,338	-19%
ANF/56-14	Anglerfish (West of Scotland)	UK-EU	2,060	1,704	-17%
ARU/1/2.	Greater Silver Smelt (1,2)	UK-EU	25	25	-
ARU/3A4-C	Greater Silver Smelt (North Sea)	UK-EU	13	13	-
ARU/567.	Greater Silver Smelt (Western)	UK-EU	650	454	-30%
BLI/12INT-	Blue Ling (International 12)	UK-EU	1	1	-
BLI/24-	Blue Ling (North Sea)	UK-EU	32[23]	27[24]	-16%
BLI/5B67-	Blue Ling (Western)	UK-EU	1,967[25]	2,291[26]	+16%
BOR/678-	Boarfish (Western)	UK-EU	1,450	1,450	-
BSF/56712-	Black Scabbardfish (Western)	UK-EU	110	103	-6%
COD/07A.	Cod (Irish Sea)	UK-EU	91	73	-20%
COD/07D.	Cod (Eastern Channel)	UK-EU-Norway	71	117	+65%
COD/5BE6A	Cod (West of Scotland)	UK-EU	904[27]	893[28]	-1%
COD/5W6-14	Cod (Rockall)	UK-EU	51	52	+2%
COD/7XAD34	Cod (Celtic Sea)	UK-EU	61	63	+3%
DGS/15X14	Spurdog (Western)	UK-EU	117	4,825	+4024%
DGS/2AC4-C	Spurdog (North Sea)	UK-EU	-	2,781	N/A
DWS/56789-	Deep-sea Sharks (Western)	Prohibited	N/A	N/A	N/A

[23] Includes 25t inward quota transfer from Norway.

[24] Includes 20t inward quota transfer from Norway.

[25] Excludes 60t outward quota transfer to Norway and 500t outward quota transfer to Faroe Islands.

[26] Excludes 70t outward quota transfer to Norway and 250t outward quota transfer to Faroe Islands.

[27] Excludes 15t outward quota transfer to Norway and 10t outward quota transfer to Faroe Islands.

[28] Excludes 15t outward quota transfer to Norway and 5t outward quota transfer to Faroe Islands.

TAC code	Common name	Annual negotiation TAC-setting forum	2022 UK quota (tonnes)	2023 UK quota (tonnes)	% Change in quota (2023 vs. 2022)
HAD/07A.	Haddock (Irish Sea)	UK-EU	1,628	1,440	-12%
HAD/5BC6A.	Haddock (West of Scotland)	UK-EU-Norway	4,035	5,245	+30%
HAD/6B1214	Haddock (Rockall)	UK-EU	4,874	3,430	-30%
HAD/7X7A34	Haddock (Celtic Sea)	UK-EU	2,550	2,142	-16%
HER/07A/MM	Herring (Irish Sea)	UK-EU	7,736	6,870	-11%
HER/5B6ANB	Herring (West of Scotland)	UK-EU	2,250	791	-65%
HER/7EF.	Herring (Western Channel and Bristol Channel)	UK-EU	465	279	-40%
HER/7G-K.	Herring (Celtic Sea)	UK-EU	1	1	-
HKE/2AC4-C	Hake (North Sea)	UK-EU	1,181	1,339	+13%
HKE/571214	Hake (Western)	UK-EU	8,821[29]	9,374	+6%
JAX/2A-14	Horse Mackerel (Western)	UK-EU	4,767[30]	1,258	-74%
JAX/4BC7D	Horse Mackerel (Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel)	UK-EU	2,816	3,074	+9%
L/W/2AC4-C	Lemon Sole and Witch (North Sea)	UK-EU	2,766	2,042	-26%
LEZ/07.	Megrims (7)	UK-EU	3,660	4,285	+17%
LEZ/2AC4-C	Megrims (North Sea)	UK-EU	2,660	2,621	-1%
LEZ/56-14	Megrims (West of Scotland)	UK-EU	2,258	2,296	+2%
LIN/03A-C.	Ling (3a)	UK-EU	11	11	-
LIN/04-C.	Ling (North Sea)	UK-EU	2,473	2,046	-17%
LIN/6X14.	Ling (Western)	UK-EU	4,032[31]	3,048[32]	-24%
NEP/07.	Nephrops (7)	UK-EU	6,686	7,371	+10%
NEP/2AC4-C	Nephrops (North Sea)	UK-EU	21,021	19,120	-9%
NOP/2A3A4.	Norway Pout (North Sea)	UK-EU (mid-year)	10,204[33]	11,439[34]	+12%
PLE/07A.	Plaice (Irish Sea)	UK-EU	1,404	1,042	-26%
PLE/56-14	Plaice (West of Scotland)	UK-EU	400	360	-10%
PLE/7DE.	Plaice (English Channel)	UK-EU	2,717	2,020	-26%
PLE/7FG.	Plaice (7fg)	UK-EU	441	103	-77%
PLE/7HJK.	Plaice (7hjk)	UK-EU	19	22	+16%
POK/56-14	Saithe (West of Scotland)	UK-EU-Norway	1,913	2,456	+28%
POK/7/3411	Saithe (Celtic Sea)	UK-EU	384	383	-

[29] Excludes 10t outward transfer to Faroe Islands.

[30] Excludes 1,000t outward quota transfer to Faroe Islands.

[31] Excludes 1,200t outward quota transfer to Norway and 300t outward quota transfer to Faroe Islands.

[32] Excludes 1,300t outward quota transfer to Norway and 250t outward quota transfer to Faroe Islands.

[33] TAC available from 1 November 2021 to 31 October 2022.

[34] TAC available from 1 November 2022 to 31 October 2023.

TAC code	Common name	Annual negotiation TAC-setting forum	2022 UK quota (tonnes)	2023 UK quota (tonnes)	% Change in quota (2023 vs. 2022)
POL/07.	Pollack (7)	UK-EU	1,821	1,506	-17%
POL/56-14	Pollack (West of Scotland)	UK-EU	57	46	-19%
PRA/2AC4-C	Northern Prawn (North Sea)	UK-EU	218	218	-
RJE/7FG.	Small-eyed Ray (7fg)	UK-EU	57	43	-25%
RJU/7DE.	Undulate Ray (English Channel)	UK-EU	75	1,051	+1301%
RNG/5B67-	Roundnose Grenadier (Western)	UK-EU	112	112	-
RNG/8X14-	Roundnose Grenadier (8,9,10,12,14)	UK-EU	4	4	-
SAN/2A3A4.	Sandeel (North Sea, All Banks)	UK-EU (mid-year)	N/A	N/A	N/A
SBR/678-	Red Seabream (Western)	UK-EU	11	11	-
SOL/07A.	Sole (Irish Sea)	UK-EU	181	140	-23%
SOL/07D.	Sole (Eastern Channel)	UK-EU	471	347	-26%
SOL/07E.	Sole (Western Channel)	UK-EU	1,111	861	-23%
SOL/24-C.	Sole (North Sea)	UK-EU	2,022	1,323	-35%
SOL/56-14	Sole (West of Scotland)	UK-EU	11	11	-
SOL/7FG.	Sole (7fg)	UK-EU	415	421	+1%
SOL/7HJK.	Sole (7hjk)	UK-EU	36	36	-
SPR/2AC4-C	Sprat (North Sea)	UK-EU (mid-year)	3,331[35]	2,144[36]	-36%
SPR/7DE.	Sprat (English Channel)	UK-EU (mid-year)	410[37]	6,859[38]	N/A
SRX/07D.	Skates and Rays (Eastern Channel)	UK-EU	233	240	+3%
SRX/2AC4-C	Skates and Rays (North Sea)	UK-EU	1,194	1,202	+1%
SRX/67AKXD	Skates and Rays (Western)	UK-EU	2,793	2,937	+5%
T/B/2AC4-C	Turbot and Brill (North Sea)	UK-EU	1,022	715	-30%
USK/04-C.	Tusk (North Sea)	UK-EU	92	92	-
USK/567EI.	Tusk (Western)	UK-EU	585[39]	867[40]	+48%
WHG/07A.	Whiting (Irish Sea)	UK-EU	422	428	+1%
WHG/56-14	Whiting (West of Scotland)	UK-EU	1,140	1,692	+48%
WHG/7X7A-C	Whiting (Celtic Sea)	UK-EU	1,188	1,077	-9%

[35] TAC available from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

[36] TAC available from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

[37] TAC is for first 6 months of 2022 only (1 January to 30 June).

[38] TAC available from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

[39] Excludes 650t outward quota transfer to Norway and 30t outward quota transfer to Faroe Islands.

[40] Excludes 380t outward quota transfer to Norway and 25t outward quota transfer to Faroe Islands.

Annex Table 2: United Kingdom-European Union-Norway trilateral stocks

TAC code	Common name	Annual negotiation TAC-setting forum	2022 UK quota (tonnes)	2023 UK quota (tonnes)	% Change in quota (2023 vs. 2022)
COD/2A3AX4	Cod (North Sea)	UK-EU-Norway	5,934	9,882	+67%
HAD/2AC4.	Haddock (North Sea)	UK-EU-Norway	28,032[41]	36,861[42]	+31%
HER/2A47DX	Herring (North Sea bycatch)	UK-EU-Norway	149	140	-6%
HER/4AB.	Herring (North Sea)	UK-EU-Norway	75,915	72,563	-4%
HER/4CXB7D	Herring (Southern North Sea and Eastern Channel)	UK-EU-Norway	5,420	5,162	-5%
PLE/2A3AX4	Plaice (North Sea)	UK-EU-Norway	33,271	35,184	+6%
POK/2C3A4	Saithe (North Sea)	UK-EU-Norway	5,012	6,186	+23%
WHG/2AC4.	Whiting (North Sea)	UK-EU-Norway	16,631[43]	21,435[44]	+29%

Annex Table 3: Coastal states stocks

TAC code	Common name	Annual negotiation TAC-setting forum	2022 UK quota (tonnes)	2023 UK quota (tonnes)	% Change in quota (2023 vs. 2022)
MAC/2A34.	Mackerel (North Sea)	Coastal states	1,603	1,610	-
MAC/2CX14-	Mackerel (Western)	Coastal states	209,217	209,204	-
WHB/1X14	Blue Whiting (Northern)	Coastal states	58,393	106,034	+82%

Annex Table 4: United Kingdom-Norway stocks

TAC code	Common name	Annual negotiation TAC-setting forum	2022 UK quota (tonnes)	2023 UK quota (tonnes)	% Change in quota (2023 vs. 2022)
COD/1N2AB.	Arcto-Norwegian Cod	Transfer (Norway)	500	750	50%
No code	Miscellaneous Arctic cod by-catch	Transfer (Norway)	70	120	71%
ANF/04-N.	Anglerfish (Norway)	Transfer (Norway)	600	1,075	79%
OTH/04-N.	Hake (Norway)	Transfer (Norway)	600	25	-96%

41 Excludes 400t outward quota transfer to Faroe Islands.

42 Excludes 400t outward quota transfer to Faroe Islands.

43 Includes 500t inward quota transfer from Norway.

44 Includes 25t inward quota transfer from Norway.

Annex Table 5: United Kingdom-Faroe Island Stocks

TAC code	Common name	Annual negotiation TAC-setting forum	2022 UK quota (tonnes)	2023 UK quota (tonnes)	% Change in quota (2023 vs. 2022)
C/H/05B-F.	Cod and Haddock (5b)	Transfer (Faroes)	1,000	1,200	+20%
POK/05B-F.	Saithe (5b)	Transfer (Faroes)	1,250	600	-52%
RED/05B-F.	Redfish (5b)	Transfer (Faroes)	10	10	-
B/L/05B-F.	Blue Ling and Ling (5b)	Transfer (Faroes)	225	180	-20%
FLX/05B-F.	Flatfish (5b)	Transfer (Faroes)	75	40	-47%
OTH/05B-F.	Other Species (5b)	Transfer (Faroes)	500	475	-5%

Annex Table 6: ICCAT Convention Area stocks

TAC code	Common name	Annual negotiation TAC-setting forum	2022 UK quota (tonnes)	2023 UK quota (tonnes)	% Change in quota (2023 vs. 2022)
ALB/AN05N	Albacore (North Atlantic)	RFMO (ICCAT)	442	551	+25%
BFT/AE45WM	Bluefin Tuna (Northeast Atlantic)	RFMO (ICCAT)	48	63	+30%
BSH/AN05N	Blue Shark (North Atlantic)	RFMO (ICCAT)	33	33	-
SWO/AN05N	Swordfish (North Atlantic)	RFMO (ICCAT)	1	1	-

Annex Table 7: NAFO Convention Area stocks

TAC code	Common name	Annual negotiation TAC-setting forum	2022 UK quota (tonnes)	2023 UK quota (tonnes)	% Change in quota (2023 vs. 2022)
COD/N3M.	Cod (NAFO 3M)	RFMO (NAFO)	0[45]	0[46]	N/A

[45] Excludes 187t outward quota transfer to Norway and 186t outward quota transfer to Faroe Islands.

[46] Excludes 285t outward quota transfer to Norway and 284t outward quota to Faroe Islands.

Annex Table 8: Stocks which are present in the waters of only one of the United Kingdom and the European Union

TAC code	Common name	Annual negotiation TAC-setting forum	2022 UK quota (tonnes)	2023 UK quota (tonnes)	% Change in quota (2023 vs. 2022)
GHL/2A-C46	Greenland Halibut (North Sea and West of Scotland)	UK to set TAC	518[47]	418[48]	-19%
HER/06ACL.	Herring (Clyde)	UK to set TAC	0	0	-
HER/4C_BW	Herring (Blackwater)	UK to set TAC (mid-year)	10[49]	10[50]	-
HER/1/2-	Herring (ASH)	Coastal states	11,690	9,983	-15%
LIN/05EI.	Ling (5)	UK to set TAC	6	4	-33%
LIN/1/2.	Ling (1,2)	UK to set TAC	8	8	-
NEP/5BC6.	Nephrops (West of Scotland)	UK to set TAC	11,582	12,997	+12%
RED/51214D	Redfish [Deep Pelagic] (5,12,14)	Coastal states	0	0	-
RED/51214S	Redfish [Shallow Pelagic] (5,12,14)	Coastal states	0	0	-
SBR/10-	Red Seabream (Azores)	EU to set TAC	5	5	-
SRX/89-C.	Skates and Rays (8,9)	EU to set TAC	11	12	+9%
USK/1214EI	Tusk (1,2,14)	UK to set TAC	6	6	-

Annex Table 9: Special cases

TAC code	Common name	Annual negotiation TAC-setting forum	2022 UK quota (tonnes)	2023 UK quota (tonnes)	% Change in quota (2023 vs. 2022)
COD/1/2B.	Cod (Svalbard)	Quota under the Treaty of Paris	6,550	5,214	-20%

Annex Table 10: NEAFC Regulatory Area Stocks

TAC code	Common name	Annual negotiation TAC-setting forum	2022 UK quota (tonnes)	2023 UK quota (tonnes)	% Change in quota (2023 vs. 2022)
RED/1/2/INT	Redfish (International 1,2)	RFMO (NEAFC)	820	815	-1%

[47] Excludes 600t outward quota transfer to Norway and 750t outward quota to Faroe Islands.

[48] Excludes 700t outward quota transfer to Norway and 750t outward quota to Faroe Islands.

[49] TAC available from 1 September 2021 to 31 January 2022.

[50] TAC available from 1 September 2022 to 31 January 2023.