



Department
for Environment,
Food & Rural Affairs

Secretary of State determination of fishing opportunities for British fishing boats

February 2026

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural
Affairs**

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Presented to Parliament pursuant to **section 24(2) of the Fisheries Act
2020**

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1. This determination sets fishing opportunities for British fishing boats for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks. These include:
 - a) the maximum quantity of sea fish (quota) that may be caught by British fishing boats; and
 - b) the maximum number of days that British fishing boats may spend at sea.
2. This determination sets fishing opportunities for certain stocks that may be caught by British fishing boats in United Kingdom (“UK”), European Union, Norwegian, Svalbard, Faroese and international waters.
3. The Secretary of State has made this determination under section 23 of the Fisheries Act 2020 for the purpose of complying with the UK’s international obligations to determine the UK’s fishing opportunities, including under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
4. Unless otherwise stated, this determination sets British fishing opportunities from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026 inclusive. This determination withdraws and revokes any fishing opportunities for that period for the stocks listed below that have previously been determined for British fishing boats, and which have not otherwise expired.
5. This document constitutes the notice required by section 24(2) of the Fisheries Act 2020. A summary document of current fishing opportunities as set by Secretary of State determinations can be found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/fishing-opportunities-for-british-fishing-boats-summary-of-current-determinations.

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Annex II: United Kingdom-European Union-Norway trilateral stocks

Code; Species and common name; ICES areas	United Kingdom quota (tonnes)	Conditions
HER/4AB. Herring (North Sea) <i>Clupea harengus</i> United Kingdom, European Union and Norwegian waters of 4 north of 53° 30' N	59,660	1. Catches of herring taken in fisheries using nets with mesh sizes equal to or larger than 32 mm.

Annex III: Coastal States stocks

Code; Species and common name; ICES areas	United Kingdom quota (tonnes)	Conditions
MAC/2CX14- Mackerel (Western) <i>Scomber scombrus</i> 6, 7, 8a, 8b, 8d and 8e; United Kingdom and international waters of 5b; international waters of 2a, 12 and 14	47,178	1. Special condition: up to 100% of this quota may be fished in United Kingdom waters of 4a (MAC/*4A-UK) exclusively within the periods 1 January to 14 February and 1 August to 31 December. 2. Special condition: of which 42,945 tonnes may be fished in European Union waters of 6, 7, 8a, 8b, 8d and 8e (MAC/*2CX14-EU).

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

Code; Species and common name; ICES areas	United Kingdom quota (tonnes)	Conditions
SBR/10- Red Seabream (Azores) <i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i> European Union and international waters of 10	3	
SRX/89-C. Skates and Rays (8,9) <i>Rajiformes</i> European Union waters of 8 and 9	13	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Catches of cuckoo ray (<i>Leucoraja naevus</i>) (RJN/89-C.), blonde ray (<i>Raja brachyura</i>) (RJH/89-C.) and thornback ray (<i>Raja clavata</i>) (RJC/89-C.) shall be reported separately. 2. Shall not apply to undulate ray (<i>Raja undulata</i>). Undulate ray (<i>Raja undulata</i>) shall not be targeted in the areas covered by this TAC. In cases where it is not subject to the landing obligation, by-catch of undulate ray in subareas 8 and 9 may only be landed whole or gutted. The above provisions are without prejudice to relevant prohibitions in UK law for the areas specified therein.

