



Official Statistics Development Programme: Review and consolidation of provisional monthly statistics releases

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The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is consulting on proposals to consolidate the provisional monthly Non-Quota Species (NQS) uptake by UK vessels in EU waters release and the monthly UK Sea Fisheries Statistical (SFS) series at the end of 2026.

The consolidation of the two official statistics series will simplify the statistical offering for users, providing a single source for provisional landings data and making it easier for users to access the data they need. It will also increase the data available to users of the monthly UK SFS release series better aligning with the annual UK SFS statistical series.

As part of a consolidation project, the standalone NQS uptake release will be discontinued at the end of 2026, therefore maintaining a complete time series for the 2026 fishing season.

This statistical notice includes details of the process for how data within the NQS release will be integrated into the monthly SFS publications as well as an outline of the expected timeline for the transition.

The MMO would like to hear your thoughts and feedback on the proposed discontinuation and incorporation of the NQS release into the monthly SFS statistical series outlined below.

Background and Proposal

The monthly Non-Quota Species (NQS) uptake by UK vessels in EU waters publication series was introduced in 2021 following EU exit.

As part of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) signed between the UK and EU governments on 30 December 2020, it was agreed by both Parties that during the adjustment period (2021 to 2026), each Party will grant reciprocal full access to its waters to allow fishing of NQS at a level equal to the average uptake for each Party within the other Party's waters between 2012 and 2016.

The MMO on behalf of other UK Fisheries Administrations decided to publish provisional data on the uptake from this fishery monthly to promote transparency with both the fishing industry and the EU through this period.

Through the Official Statistics Development Programme (OSDP), an overlap in scope between the NQS release and the monthly UK Sea Fisheries Statistics (SFS) release has been identified. Therefore, the MMO are proposing to consolidate the two monthly statistical series.

The NQS uptake statistical series will be integrated into the Monthly UK SFS and its associated underlying datasets. The standalone NQS uptake release will be discontinued.

The NQS uptake statistics will be introduced to the UK SFS release via new summary tables. Additional fields, such as Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and a split by Quota and Non-Quota species, will be incorporated into the provisional underlying dataset published alongside the release.

This aims to simplify the statistical offering for MMO users, creating a single source of data, while ensuring continued access for users to relevant data that meet their needs.

This change will also more closely align the provisional underlying datasets published alongside the monthly UK SFS series with the underlying dataset published alongside the annual UK SFS release.

Expected implementation

The new consolidated format will be implemented for the first monthly release covering January 2027, scheduled for publication in February 2027.

Both the NQS and monthly SFS will continue to be published in their current format covering the period up to and including December 2026 (published January 2027). This will ensure completion of the time series for 2026 and continued access for users.

Share your feedback

The MMO would like to hear your thoughts and feedback on this proposal.

Responses are welcome from anyone with an interest in the monthly NQS or SFS releases. Any feedback will be used to ensure all pertinent information from the NQS release is retained.

Please send any thoughts or feedback to the MMO Statistics and Analysis Team mailbox (statistics@marinemanagement.org.uk) by the 31 October 2026.

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