



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 17 June 2024
(OR. en)

11322/24

PECHE 253
UK 100

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Bilateral EU-UK consultations on the revision of the fishing opportunities for Irish Sea sole

– Signed Written Record

Delegations will find attached the signed Third addendum to the Written Record of fisheries consultations between the United Kingdom and the European Union for 2024.

Personal data have been redacted.

Third addendum to the Written Record of fisheries consultations between the United Kingdom and the European Union for 2024 signed on 17 June 2024

- I. The Trade and Cooperation Agreement (the TCA)¹ between the United Kingdom (UK) and the European Union (EU) includes the objective of cooperating with a view to ensuring that fishing activities for shared stocks in their waters are environmentally sustainable in the long term and contribute to achieving economic and social benefits, and requires the Parties to hold consultations annually to agree the total allowable catches (TACs) for the following year for the stocks listed in Annex 35 to the TCA.
- II. A Delegation from the United Kingdom, headed by Mrs Helen STEVENS, and a Delegation from the European Union, headed by Dr Norman GRAHAM, met on 13 June 2024 to consult on fishing opportunities for 2024 for Irish Sea sole in accordance with Article 498 (Fishing Opportunities) of the TCA and in line with paragraph 1 section (m) of the Written record of fisheries consultations between the United Kingdom and the European Union for 2024 signed on 6 December 2023 ("the Written Record of 6 December 2023"). This supplementary Written Record documents the outcome of this consultation. For the avoidance of doubt, the recommendations for Irish Sea sole made in this supplementary Written Record update the recommendations for this stock made in the Written Record of 6 December 2023 in relation to the TAC, quota, interannual flexibilities, and applicable footnotes only.
- III. The Heads of Delegations agreed to recommend to their respective authorities the fishery arrangements for 2024, outlined in this supplementary Written Record, including Annex 1. Accordingly, where this supplementary Written Record refers to the Delegations (or the Parties) having agreed on a matter, it should be read as an agreement to recommend to the Delegations' respective authorities to implement the arrangements in this supplementary Written Record, including Annex 1.

¹ Trade and cooperation agreement between the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the other part, which was signed on 30 December 2020 and which came into force on 1 May 2021.

1. Jointly managed stocks (TCA Annex 35)

- a) **Sole in the Irish Sea:** The Delegations took note of the revised ICES advice for sole in the Irish Sea (SOL/07A.) published on 31 May 2024² following their joint request to ICES after the ICES benchmark process carried out in February 2024. The Parties agreed to set a TAC of 625 tonnes for sole in the Irish Sea (SOL/07A.) in line with the headline ICES advice².

2. Special conditions, flexibilities and footnotes

- a) The Parties agreed the special conditions, flexibilities and footnotes applicable to Irish Sea sole, set out in Annex 1.
- b) The Delegations have removed the bycatch provision footnote in line with the updated ICES advice.
- c) All the other relevant arrangements in the Written Record of 6 December 2023 will continue to apply.

3. Inter-annual quota flexibility

As the zero catch advice for Irish Sea sole has been replaced, year to year flexibility applies for this stock and Annex 2 has been updated accordingly. All the remaining relevant arrangements in the Written Record of 6 December 2023 will continue to apply.

London, 17 June 2024



For the United Kingdom

Brussels, 17 June 2024



For the European Union

² Joint request from EU and UK for an updated advice for Sole (*Solea solea*) in Division 7.a (Irish Sea), <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.25921399>

Annex 1

Table 1 – Agreed total catch limits and transfers of quota

Code	Common Name	ICES areas	Agreed Total Allowable Catch (tonnes)	UK allocation				EU allocation			
				TCA TAC share (%)	TCA quota (tonnes)	Transfer to/from EU (tonnes)	UK post-transfer quota (tonnes)	TCA TAC share (%)	TCA quota (tonnes)	Transfer to/from UK (tonnes)	EU post-transfer quota (tonnes)
SOL/07A.	Sole (Irish Sea)	7a	625	23.21%	145	-	145	76.79%	480	-	480
	<i>Solea solea</i>										

Annex 2

TACs not included in Inter-annual quota flexibility – TAC list

- BLI/12INT
- BLI/24
- BLI/03A
- COD/07A
- COD/7XAD34
- HER/7G-K
- JAX/2A-14
- JAX/08C
- POL/56-14
- POL/07
- SBR/678-
- WHG/07A