



July 2009

TACs and Quotas 2009

Overview

The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) is the European Union's instrument for the management of fisheries and aquaculture. It sets quotas for EU member states outlining when and what volume of fish can be caught by each country in each fishing area.

The policy reformed in 2002 and since then it has been controversial in its attempts to prevent over-fishing. Total Allowable Catches (TACs) and quota figures are now updated annually by the EU Council of Ministers.

For several years quotas have gradually fallen across white, pelagic and shellfish species while the number of days spent fishing at sea have also been restricted.

However, for 2009 quota changes for the North Sea and West of Scotland have been mixed, with both increases for some white fish species (30% rise in North Sea cod) and decreases for some pelagic catches (West of Scotland herring by 16%).

North Sea Fishery

Figure 1 shows the 2009 TACs and UK quotas for main North Sea fish stocks, compared to those quotas set for 2008. The white fish species of cod and plaice have experienced a rise in quota: 30% and 9.9% respectively.

The biggest falls in quotas were for herring, which saw a drop of 15.8% from 30,025 tonnes to 25,275 tonnes, and haddock where the quota fell from 31,672 tonnes to 25,507 tonnes. The quota for anglerfish has remained constant.

The UK quota for the main North Sea pelagic species of mackerel saw a significant increase of 216.7%; albeit from a very small base (462 tonnes).

The mackerel TAC extends across both North Sea and West of Scotland waters, with the bulk of the UK quota applying to the West Coast zone.

The Norway lobster (shellfish) quota has dropped slightly in 2009, from 22,644 to 21,513 tonnes. The species sandeel saw a quota of 3,660 tonnes; the first quota of the fish since 2005.

Figure 1 - North Sea Total Allowable Catches and UK Quotas 2009, Main Species

Species	TAC (Tonnes)			UK Quota (Tonnes)			% Change in Quota	
	2009	2008	2007	2009	2008	2007	2008-09	2007-08
Cod	28,798	22,152	19,957	11,216	8,628	7,773	+30.0%	+11.0%
Haddock	42,110	46,444	54,640	27,507	31,672	36,466	-13.2%	-13.1%
Whiting	15,173	17,850	23,800	8,426	9,336	11,297	-9.7%	-17.4%
Saithe	125,934	135,900	123,250	10,110	10,911	9,895	-7.3%	+10.3%
Plaice	55,500	49,000	50,261	14,975	13,626	13,987	+9.9%	-2.6%
Lemon Sole	6,793	6,793	6,175	4,151	4,151	3,773	0.0%	+10.0%
Anglerfish	11,345	11,345	11,345	9,233	9,233	9,233	0.0%	0.0%
Megrims	1,597	1,597	1,479	1,537	1,597	1,424	-3.8%	+12.1%
Sandeel	200,000	N/A	N/A	3,660	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Herring	171,000	201,227	341,063	25,275	30,025	50,279	-15.8%	-40.3%
Mackerel	N/A	N/A	422,551	1,463	462	1,092	+216.7%	-57.7%
Horse Mackerel	39,309	39,309	42,727	3,470	3,721	4,104	-6.7%	-9.3%
Norway Lobster	24,837	26,144	26,144	21,513	22,644	22,644	-5.0%	0.0%

TACs and Quotas are for fishing zones IVa and IVb (North and Central North Sea).

Source: Europa (http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/publications/maps_en.htm).

West of Scotland Fishery

The 2009 TACs and UK quotas, together with those quotas set in 2008 and 2007 for West Scotland fish stocks are shown in *Figure 2*. Over the year, megrims was the only white fish species to experience a rise in quota (8.0%); mackerel being the only pelagic species to receive a rise, of 33%. The quota for plaice remained constant at 477 tonnes.

The herring quota for 2009 stands at 12,749: a fall of 20.5% over the year. The quota for herring (Clyde) remained constant at 800 tonnes. Blue whiting experienced the biggest cut in quota; falling from 34,759 tonnes to 14,670 tonnes. This was followed by haddock which saw a drop in quota from 4,743 tonnes to 2,737 tonnes.

The west coast Norway lobster shellfish quota experienced a 5% decrease; from 19,415 tonnes to 18,445 tonnes. This accounts for almost all of the TAC, and set at a higher level than quotas for the main white fish species in the West of Scotland.

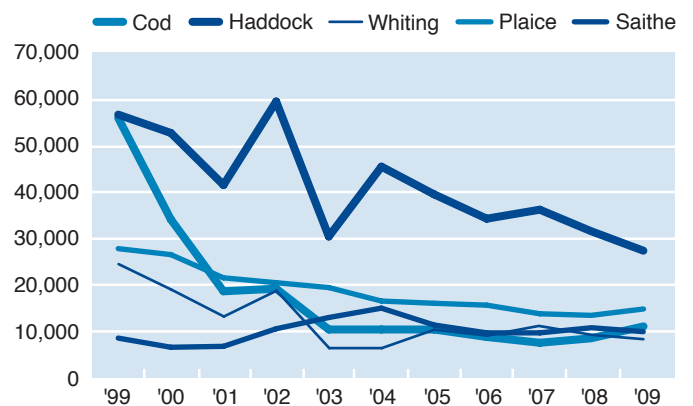
Recent Trends

Figure 3 reveals the trend in North Sea white fish quotas since 1999. There have been some notable improvements in the quotas; 2002, 2008 and 2009 witnessed increases for some white fish species.

The quota restrictions introduced in 2009 show a drop in allowances for most white fish species. Over the 10 year time frame, all UK white fish quotas have fallen with the exception of saithe where quotas have increased by 14.9% from 8,800 in 1999, to 10,110 in 2009.

The quota for cod has fallen dramatically by 45,116 tonnes (80.1%) since 1999, the largest decline of all the main fish species. Whiting experienced a significant decline in quota, dropping 65.7% from 26,400 tonnes in 1999, to 8,426 tonnes in 2009. Haddock and plaice quotas have also fallen over the 10 year period by 51.7% and 46.7 % respectively.

Figure 3 - North Sea Fishery, UK Quotas 1999-2009



Source: Europa (<http://ec.europa.eu>)

Figure 2 - West of Scotland Total Allowable Catches and UK Quotas 2009, Main Species

Species	TAC (Tonnes)			UK Quota (Tonnes)			% Change in Quota	
	2009	2008	2007	2009	2008	2007	2008-09	2007-08
Cod	302	402	490	182	240	294	-24.2%	-18.4%
Haddock	3,516	6,120	7,200	2,737	4,743	5,392	-42.3%	-12.0%
Whiting	574	765	1,020	329	438	585	-24.9%	-25.1%
Saithe	13,066	14,100	12,787	3,617	3,708	3,592	-2.5%	+3.2%
Plaice	786	786	786	477	477	477	0.0%	0.0%
Anglerfish	5,567	5,155	5,155	1,713	1,586	1,586	+8.0%	0.0%
Megrims	2,799	2,592	2,880	878	813	903	+8.0%	-10.0%
Herring	36,474	38,842	47,860	12,749	16,036	20,145	-20.5%	-20.4%
Herring (Clyde)	800	800	800	800	800	800	0.0%	0.0%
Mackerel	511,287	385,366	422,551	181,694	136,522	149,519	+33.1%	-8.7%
Blue Whiting	N/A	N/A	N/A	14,670	34,759	55,283	-57.8%	-37.1%
Norway Lobster	18,891	19,885	19,885	18,445	19,415	19,415	-5.0%	0.0%

TACs and Quotas are for fishing zone VIa (West of Scotland).

Source: Europa (http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/publications/maps_en.htm).

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