

Northeast Atlantic Mackerel Dispute Boils Over

Written by Administrator

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In an earlier post [here the](#) issue of the dispute over unilateral mackerel quotas set by Iceland and the Faroe Islands was discussed, including the possible endangerment of MSC certification for the mackerel fishery. This dispute continues to heat up. Iceland's trawler owners

[claim](#)

that the unilateral Icelandic quota is both "legal and responsible." They further claim that for more than a decade the EU and Norway have "unlawfully block(ed) the participation of Iceland in mackerel negotiations". Meanwhile Scottish Fisheries Secretary Richard Lochhead

[warned](#)

that the mackerel quotas set by the Faroe Islands and Iceland governments could be "disastrous" for the Scottish fleet and these quotas are "short-sighted and selfish."

EU Fisheries Commissioner Maria Damanaki [said](#) on Monday: "Should the current anarchic situation in the mackerel fisheries continue with unreasonable positions being maintained by parties, then the Commission will contemplate all necessary measures to conserve the mackerel stock and safeguard EU interests." Possible measures include abandoning current fishing agreements, trade sanctions, or preventing Icelandic boats from landing their fish in EU ports

TAGS: Northeast Atlantic mackerel, mackerel dispute, unilateral mackerel quotas, Iceland, Faroe Islands, EU, Norway, Scotland, MSC, sustainable, fisheries, fishing, illegal fishing, NEAFC

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