



NORTH ATLANTIC SEAFOOD FORUM 2022

Post Brexit – Challenges and opportunities for the pelagic fleets

Esben Sverdrup-Jensen,
President of European Association of Fish Producers EAPO



**BREXIT:
NO
WINNERS**



General post-Brexit issues in the Northeast Atlantic

1. Direct economic impact of lost fishing rights

2. Bilateral cooperation with the UK as an independent Coastal State

3. The UK becoming an independent Coastal State on relations between all Coastal States

4. Possible review of the fisheries agreement in the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement

Direct economic impact of lost fishing rights

- EU: -1.6 Bln €
- DK: - 180 mln. € of pelagic quota in value
- DK: - 40.000 t catches
- Brexit Adjustment Reserve: 600 mln. € - but not a real compensation
- UK: net loss of 300 mln £ until 2026 (source: NFFO)?

Impact on the UK fishing industry?

REPORT on BREXIT from the The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) came out June 20th

Six key recommendations from industry emerged from the survey/report:

- Ensure that quotas are distributed and managed more fairly
- **Implement further restrictions on non-UK fishing fleet access to UK waters, and sooner than 2026**
- Ensure effective and inclusive management of UK stocks
- Implement measures to increase the efficiency and reduce the costs of exporting
- Work with the EU to free up trade and remove regulatory and financial barriers
- Invest in infrastructure and new markets both at home and abroad

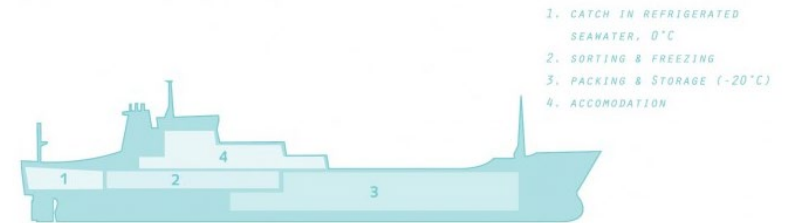
Bilateral cooperation with the UK as an independent Coastal State

- Fewer direct contacts between government, industry and science from both sides
- EU-UK Specialised Committee on Fisheries: unconstructive approach UK, new UK policies and measures without proper consultation (MPAs, economic link, populist approach to legislation)

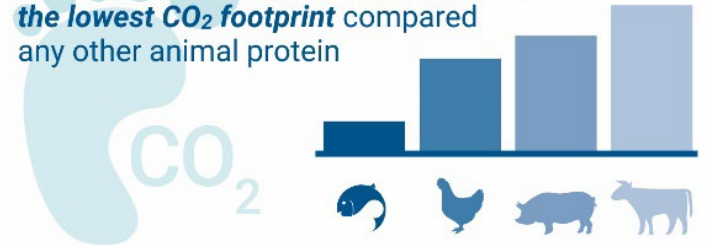
ONE EXAMPLE

EU 'supertrawlers' as a UK target for restricting access

- **Unsubstantiated assumption that larger vessels fish less sustainably than smaller vessels**
- Similar populist attacks on fisheries for Sandeel and Norway Pout, herring bycatch regulation etc.



Wild-caught fish in general and in particular pelagic fish such as herring and mackerel have **the lowest CO₂ footprint** compared any other animal protein



Impact of the UK becoming an independent Coastal State on relations between all Coastal States

Trilateral and bilateral negotiations

- Even more difficult negotiations
 - Reinforced push for zonal attachment as main criterion for sharing arrangements
 - Norway taking a 'UK-ish' approach to relations with the EU (Svalbard cod, beam trawl ban, access cuts on demersal stocks)
-
- Mackerel sharing arrangement negotiations
 - Excessive unilateral quotas for some Coastal States
 - No reciprocal access EU-Norway
 - Need for strong EU position in line with Brexit approach

AND NOW...

- Brexit never finished....
- Volatile situation Northeast Atlantic & North Sea will continue
- EU should work on goodwill and rebuilding trust between Coastal States
- EU industry will play its role through seeking cooperation (e.g. impact of climate change, pollution and wind farms on sea)
- EU should keep promoting facts-based policy and science-based long-term management
- EU should be prepared to use its power as a huge market for seafood exports against rogue states and unilateral quota setting

THANK YOU



info@eapo.com



www.eapo.com



@

