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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB item for the meeting of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council of 27-28 October 2025 Call for urgent EU action to save North East Atlantic pelagic stocks - Information from Ireland, supported by Poland and Spain

**AOB Item from Ireland, supported by Poland and Spain, for
AGRIFISH Council of 27-28 October 2025
Call for urgent EU action to save North East Atlantic pelagic stocks
Explanatory Document**

Ireland, supported by Poland and Spain, takes this opportunity to highlight the worrying state of some of most important Pelagic stocks in the North East Atlantic and the need for urgent action at EU level to protect and rebuild these stocks.

The scale of the reductions advised by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) for Total Allowable Catches in 2026 for Mackerel (-70%) and Blue Whiting (-41%) are a matter of serious concern.

Failure to agree on comprehensive sharing arrangements for Mackerel, Blue Whiting and Atlanto-Scandian Herring threatens the long-term sustainability of these fish stocks.

Member States have, on several occasions over the last number of years, raised concerns regarding the actions of some Coastal States in setting excessive and unsustainable unilateral quotas. These actions threaten the sustainability of these stocks, and, consequently the viability of the EU fleet and wider seafood sector.

The EU continues to act responsibly in setting of quotas in order to prevent overexploitation of the stocks. These efforts are continuously being undermined by the behaviour of some Coastal States, the consequences of which are now evident

Given the magnitude of the problem we now face with the Mackerel stock, a concerted EU approach is necessary.

Ireland, Poland and Spain call on the European Commission to identify and adopt suitable measures to respond to this crisis, and in particular to bring forward measures regarding Third Countries which fail to cooperate and that allow unsustainable fishing of a stock of common interest for the Union in line with the recently amended Regulation (EU) No 1026/2012 as soon as it comes into effect.

The EU stands ready to engage constructively and as an equal partner with our fellow Coastal States in the North East Atlantic on the sustainable management of our shared fisheries resources.

However, we must send a clear signal that the EU will no longer tolerate actions which threaten the sustainability of this vital natural capital or the viability of the EU's seafood sector.
