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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: EU-Norway-United Kingdom Consultations on sprat for 2021-2022
- Commission non-paper

Delegations will find attached the above-mentioned document, as received from the European Commission services.

INFORMAL NON-PAPER

*This document cannot in any circumstances be regarded as the official position of the Commission.
It is intended solely for those to whom it is addressed.*

**Subject: EU/Norway/United Kingdom Consultations:
Preparation of the consultations concerning Sprat in the North Sea
and Skagerrak-Kattegat for 2021/2022 (online, date TBC)**

1) Preparation of the consultations concerning Sprat in the North Sea and Skagerrak-Kattegat for 2021/2022 (online, date TBC)

Prior to 2019, ICES considered the stocks of sprat in the Skagerrak (3a) and the North Sea (4) as biologically distinct. Sprat in Subarea 4 was subject of a full analytical assessment (ICES cat. 1), while sprat in Division 3a was classified as data limited (ICES cat. 3) and ICES issued advice for the two stocks separately. Following an ICES benchmark in 2018, sprat in Division 3.a and Subarea 4 were combined into a single stock unit. ICES issued a new advice in April 2019 for the combined stock area. The new advice is for the period 1 July to 30 June the following year.

In 2020, this revision necessitated a decision on how to distribute the ICES catch advice between the two TAC areas. The Delegations, EU and Norway, had agreed on a method to distribute the ICES single stock advice, which resulted in an allocation of 18.3% of the overall advice as the basis for setting the TAC for the Skagerrak/Kattegat. Noting that the UK is now a coastal State, it is now necessary to consider the TAC setting in the context of the EU-NO-UK trilateral framework.

The EU position for 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 is to follow the ICES advice of 106,715 tonnes, resulting in a TAC in area 3a of 19,529 tonnes and in area 2a and 4 of 87,186 tonnes.

The Council is invited to comment on how to proceed with the oncoming consultations.