



Fisheries information on Channel Sprat (VIIde)

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Name of the Species: Sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*)
Zone: ICES VIIde and VIIe (SPR/7DE)

EU legal framework

Fishing Opportunities for 2014 – Council Regulation (EU) No 43/2014

TAC for 2014 (tonnes) - Precautionary TAC

Belgium:	26
Denmark:	1674
Germany:	26
France:	361
The Netherlands:	361
United Kingdom:	2702
Union:	5150
TAC:	5150

Common Fisheries Policy - EU Regulation No 1380/2013

Article 16.8 of EU Regulation 1380/2013 (“CFP Basic Regulation”) forms the legal basis for allowing quota transfer (“swaps”) between Member States.

Article 16.8: “Member States may, after notifying the Commission, exchange all or part of the fishing opportunities allocated to them”.

The thinking of the co-legislators behind the need for this flexibility is given in Recital 29 of the CFP Basic Regulation: [...] “In the event of a mismatch between available quotas and actual fishing pattern, Member States should consider adjustments through quota swaps with other Member States, including on a permanent basis”.



Fisheries information / data

Belgium – Source: Rederscentrale

Belgium in 2014 has a quota of 26 tonnes of sprat in VIIde, which is available for swaps as currently Belgium has no fisheries targeting this species.

Denmark – Source: Danish Fishermen’s Association (DFA)

Denmark has a share at the level of around 32.5 % of the EU TAC for sprat in the Channel (VIIde). Therefore, the Danish quota has been at the level of 1674 tonnes over the last couple of years (where the TAC has not changed). There has, however, recently only been a very limited Danish (by-) catch of sprat in this area – around 0-6 tonnes a year in 2012 and 2013 – and the last couple of years a 1,000 tonnes a year has been swapped with the UK. This year one vessel might be interested in fishing for this species (a freeze trawler).

France – Source: Comité National des Pêches Maritimes (CNPMEM)

French quota has been at the level of 361 tonnes over the last couple of years. There have been limited catches in the last few years (around 1.5 tonnes) and no targeted fisheries are presumed to take place.

The Netherlands – Source: Dutch Fisheries Organisation (DFO)

Overview quotas and landings of sprat (SPR/7DE) NL-fleet

<u>Year:</u>	<u>Quota in tonnes:</u>	<u>Landings:</u>
2009	430	0
2010	387	0
2011	379	24.903 kg
2012	361	20.378 kg
2013	361	0
2014	361	0 To now

Landings in 2011 and 2012 were by-catch by freezer-trawlers in the herring fishery. There is no targeted fishery for sprat by Dutch vessels.



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United Kingdom – Source: South and West Fish Producer’s Organisation (SWFPO)

In 2013 the SWFPO members caught and landed 3,790 tonnes of sprat. This involved swapping in 1,000 tonnes from Denmark at considerable financial burden to members.

Total value of Vilde Sprats at first sale was £750,000. There are only 3 vessels involved.

By-catch of this fishery among other species are Herring Vilde, Mackerel VII, Whiting VII and non-quota Pilchards. SWFPO members were obliged also to acquire quotas to cover the landings of Mackerel and Herring. There was sufficient whiting quota in the PO for by-catch.

Concerns have been noted that, under the landings obligation, Herring and Mackerel would become "choke" species.

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