

Northeast Atlantic Mackerel- Who Are The Villains?

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Tempers have flared in Europe during recent weeks as EU and particularly Scottish fishermen and politicians denounce the unilateral quotas for Northeast Atlantic mackerel established by Iceland and the Faroe Islands. Iceland unilaterally raised its mackerel quota from 2,000 to 130,000 tons for the year in early August, and the Faroese raised their 25,000-ton quota to 85,000 tons. Historically the highly migratory mackerel stock was harvested primarily by vessels from the EU and Norway who agreed on the Total Allowable Catch. These two major players gave token quotas to the other two players, crumbs from the table, so to speak. Changes in ocean temperatures have resulted in the mackerel moving further north than usual and hence rendered them more accessible to fishermen from Iceland and the Faroe Islands. In the absence of international agreement within the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NEAFC), Iceland and the Faroese were free to set their own quotas. Continued [here](#)

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