



NEAFC Meeting: 11 November 2025

NAPA Statement

Opening Statement:

Good morning President, distinguished representatives and colleagues, thank you for the opportunity to join this Annual Meeting of NEAFC.

The North Atlantic Pelagic Advocacy Group, NAPA, is a coalition of over 55 global businesses engaged in fish meal production, aquafeed, salmon farming, seafood processing, distribution, and retail. Since its establishment in 2020, NAPA has had the single focus of securing the long-term sustainable management of North East Atlantic blue whiting, mackerel, and Atlanto-Scandian herring.

Our members view the ongoing management of these key species with deep disappointment and growing frustration. That frustration has only intensified in light of the most recent ICES advice.

NAPA continues to call for:

1. Comprehensive sharing arrangements that allocate catches equitably within long-term management plans.
2. TACs aligned with scientific advice to prevent overfishing and safeguard stock health. and
3. A binding dispute resolution mechanism to ensure we do not find ourselves in this situation again.

NAPA recognises that the NEAFC Annual Meeting must address a wide range of important issues. However, we urge Parties to remain acutely mindful of the status of mackerel, herring, and blue whiting, and of your vital role in ensuring their sustainable management into the future. The time for action, collaboration and concession is NOW.



Intervention Statement

Once again thank you for providing this opportunity to speak on behalf of the North Atlantic Pelagic Advocacy Group. As you heard earlier today, NAPA is a market facing supply chain initiative focused on achieving long-term sustainable management of three priority North East Atlantic fisheries – mackerel, blue whiting and Atlanto-Scandian herring

Collectively, NAPA serves as the voice of a multi-billion-euro seafood sector.

Small pelagic supply chains are under enormous pressure. There are complex challenges (fish stock sustainability, rising prices, lack of certification) that need to be addressed. These challenges are not insurmountable but meeting them will require political leadership underpinned by collaboration, concession and compromise from all parties.

As we have heard today, we find ourselves in a situation where mackerel has fallen below Blim, blue whiting requires a 41% reduction in the TAC, and herring is clinging on, buoyed only by strong year classes. We are also operating in a commercial environment where businesses are reluctantly choosing to stop sourcing these species. These are not decisions taken lightly. They carry real costs and have implications for consumers and supply chains alike. They are also decisions that are difficult to reverse. But they reflect the seriousness of the situation - and the responsibility that businesses are willing to shoulder to do the right thing.

Despite these challenges, NAPA remains firmly committed to finding a solution, and to working collaboratively with Coastal States and collectively through NEAFC to achieve it. In that spirit of cooperation, but also out of growing frustration with the limited progress made in advancing a resolution, NAPA members took a critical look in early 2025 at what action they could take to create a circuit breaker to reignite a stalled negotiation process and to bring fresh momentum to the table.



We consider our non-partisan status is a strength, and it places us in a unique position to intervene constructively. As such we have developed a model sharing arrangement.

We have provided a more detailed overview in our accompanying submission to this meeting, but we are pleased to present a summary, of the key points.

Our proposal is grounded in four core principles:

1. **Shared Responsibility:** A recognition that concession and compromise are required from all parties, including NAPA.
2. **Equity and Balance:** Outcomes must be fair to all, avoiding extreme gains or losses for any one party.
3. **Replicability:** The approach should be applicable across all three species to ensure consistency and coherence.
4. **Supply Chain Support:** It must be capable of securing backing from the full seafood supply chain.

This proposal has also been shaped by the views and perspectives shared with us by each Coastal State over the past five years. Through countless discussions, we have listened carefully, and we have worked hard to reflect and account for the issues that you consider important.

It is built on a comprehensive analysis of existing fishing party data, including catch records and declared TACs. This analysis was used to identify the most effective structure for a model sharing arrangement, one that aligns with our four core principles and can deliver a balanced and workable solution.

Our model takes a collective approach to the three species and seeks to represent all fishing parties. By grounding the model in actual data, it reflects both the historical context and the present-day realities of these fisheries. We consider that it implicitly acknowledges the influence of zonal attachment over the past two decades, while actively addressing the risk of perpetuating historically inflated TACs.



The model sharing arrangement is agile, designed to adapt as circumstances evolve. At its core, it delivers a pathway to long-term sustainable fisheries. But it also offers additional benefits of greater business certainty and improved security of quota tenure.

The model sharing arrangement will have an economic impact, and while that may be unpalatable, it is negligible when set against the drastic quota cuts already triggered by more than a decade of unilateral action. More importantly, the economic loss to any party is small compared to the far greater risk posed by the continued absence of a comprehensive sharing arrangement and the damage that inflicts on the wider supply chain.

To put this in perspective, in 2025 we estimate that a 1% share of the mackerel TAC is worth approximately €10 million. However, that figure pales in comparison to the value of the shore-side industries that depend on sustainably managed fisheries. By focusing solely on the immediate impacts on the catching sector, there is a risk of misdirecting the conversation, and jeopardising billion-euro industries that underpin jobs, communities, and long-term food security.

Importantly, we do not consider our approach to be absolute. We welcome further refinement if it helps secure an agreement. We also recognise the important role that Access will play in easing the path toward a solution. And, in line with our primary objectives, we acknowledge that any resolution reached is likely to be fragile. That is why there remains a pressing need to establish a clear and credible dispute resolution mechanism.

Our ask of NEAFC and the Coastal State representatives here is threefold:

1. That the voice of the many businesses across the supply chain who are being directly impacted by the absence of effective management is listened to.
2. That the NAPA proposal is considered for constructive discussion and debate, and given serious consideration as a mechanism to break the current stalemate.
3. That NEAFC seizes this moment to demonstrate leadership.



Finally, I would again point to our accompanying submission, and note that we would be happy to discuss the detail of our proposal with interested parties. We believe this is a credible, balanced, evidence-based, and actionable proposal. We encourage you to collaborate with others to adopt the proposal, or to shape it into a version that meets your collective needs. The opportunity is here. The responsibility is shared. And the time to act is now.