

## Govt ensures Basque fleet will boost fishing quota for 2015

The head of the [Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment](#) (MAGRAMA), Isabel García Tejerina, clarified that the government is working for the Basque fleet to fish more this year and improve its quota of certain species, such as horse mackerel.

The official pointed out that the aim of the central government "is to benefit all fleets of Biscay and enable Spanish purse seiners to optimize the fishing opportunities that we have."

"In this way, the Basque fleet will be able to fish more in 2015 than it did in 2014 and improve its quota in those areas," added García Tejerina.

She recalled that zone 8 B has reserved 2,000 tonnes of horse mackerel for 2015 while last year the Basque fleet had fished 459 tonnes.

And in zone 8 C it was assigned 1,936 tonnes, a figure that is higher than the 1,330 tonnes caught in 2014.

"The criteria for distributing the horse mackerel in zones 8 C and 8 B are those set in the order establishing the management plan for this fishery ground vessels," explained the minister.

And she noted that to offer the industry the maximum fishing opportunities, the government employed "the flexibility achieved through negotiations in Brussels"; and therefore, it was possible to transfer the horse mackerel quota of the western waters of the European Union (EU).

The government is always looking for the best utilization of fisheries resources for the benefit of fishermen and their families and for that reason efforts are made to maximize the fishing opportunities for the fleet.

"Thanks to these negotiations we can transfer up to 50 per cent of the quota from western waters to zone 8 C, where the Cantabrian fleet performs its fishing activities," she added.

García Tejerina ensured it will be possible to reserve a quota of horse mackerel to exchange the necessary quotas of megrim, monkfish and hake, which represent "exclusive interest to the Basque fleet," with other EU countries, the agency *Europa Press* reported.