

Atlantic Fleet begins sardine fishing season

The season begins today and ends on November 30. Fishermen from Spain and Portugal have a limit of 14,000 tonnes, below last year's ceiling, due to the delicate status of the species.

The purse seine fleet of Spain and Portugal will be able to capture up to a maximum of 14,000 tonnes of sardines, compared with the 19,000 tonnes, which had been set in 2015.

The distribution of the species catch, published in the Official Gazette (BOE) also establishes a catch limit of 10,000 tonnes until July 31; a quantity that will be able to be reviewed from that date.

For the Spanish fleet, monthly catch limits of 750 tonnes for all the sardines caught in zones VIIIc and XIa, corresponding to the fishing grounds comprising the Spanish waters of the Bay of Biscay, Galicia and Gulf of Cadiz zones.

Within the monthly limit, 450 tonnes will be for the purse seiners of the Northwest Cantabrian and a maximum of 300 tonnes for the purse seiners of the Gulf of Cadiz.

Furthermore, for the entire season, an amount of 175 tonnes is reserved, which is not subject to catch limits, to be caught only by those vessels using the gear called xeito. In fact, the ships using this gear were able to catch sardine before this morning, when the season began. They can also continue fishing after November 30.

The deal agreed by the Gulf of Cadiz will remain in force, as well as the limitation of 3,000 kilograms per boat per week for purse seine vessels of Biscay and the northwest.

Within the Spanish fleet that has been surveyed as within the purse seine mode, some 252 boats are operating in the Northwest Cantabrian Sea and 86 in the Gulf of Cadiz, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

Source : <http://fis.com/fis/worldnews/worldnews.asp?monthyear=3-2016&day=1&id=82699&l=e&country=0&special=&ndb=1&df=0>