

SECTION B

Read Extracts A and B and Figure 1 before answering Question 6.

Answer ALL Questions 6(a) to 6(e) and EITHER Question 6(f) OR Question 6(g).

You are advised to spend 1 hour and 5 minutes on this section.

Question 6

The market for fish

Extract A

Total allowable catches of North Sea cod halved in response to falling stocks

In 2020, new lower limits on the quantity of cod that can be caught by the UK fishing fleet came into force. These limits on the fish catch, called total allowable catches (TACs), were agreed at the annual EU fisheries negotiations.

It was the last December EU meeting attended by the UK before it left the EU. It was agreed that cod catch limits will be cut by 50% in the North Sea, while reduced limits were agreed for cod in the Celtic Sea, Irish Sea and west of Scotland. 5

However, there were increases for other types of fish, with TACs for haddock in the North Sea rising by 23% and for sole rising by 19%.

UK Fisheries Minister George Eustice said: "This year there has been mounting scientific evidence suggesting that cod is being overfished in many parts of the northeast Atlantic and we have responded to conserve stocks". 10

These new regulations applied to the UK while it remained part of the Common Fisheries Policy. In the future it will become an independent coastal state and negotiate on fisheries with the EU and other coastal states such as Norway. 15

(Source adapted from: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/business/news/north-sea-cod-stocks-quota-climate-change-brexit-a9252196.html>)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA



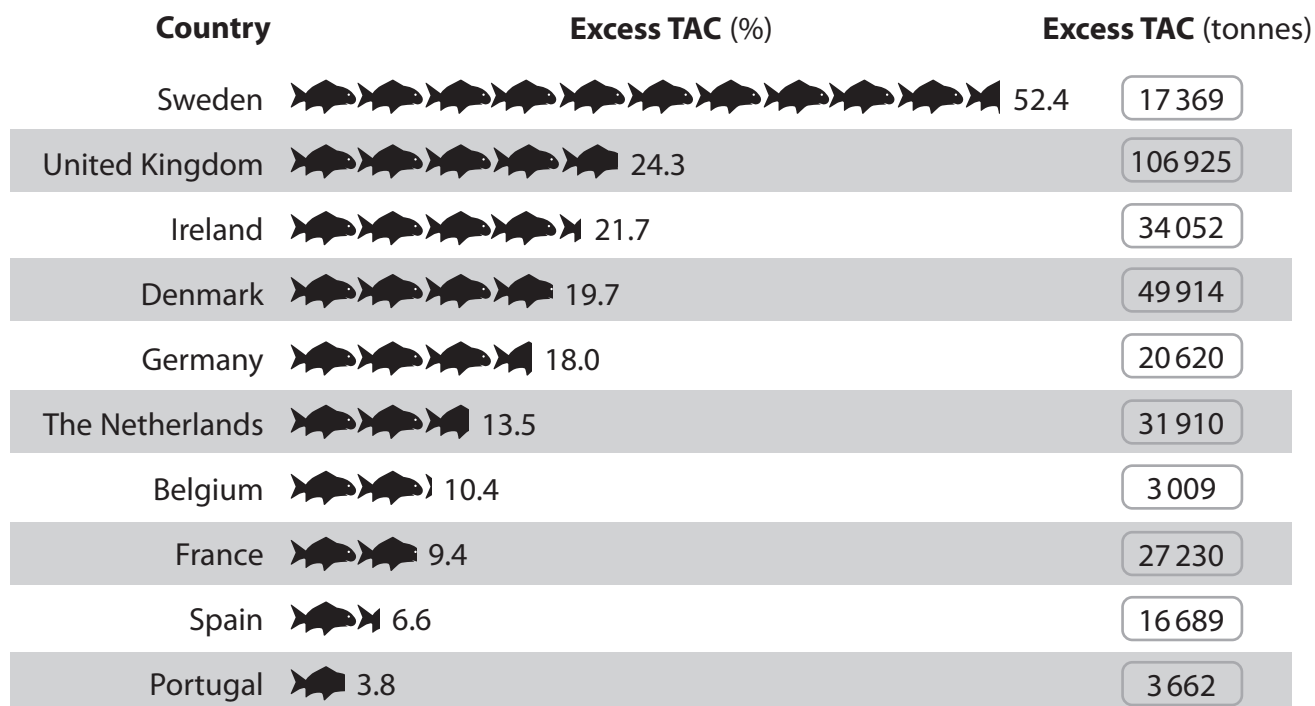
DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Figure 1

Atlantic over-fishing: share of total allowable catch (TAC) in excess of scientific advice (2019)



(Source adapted from: Statista 2018)

Extract B**The tragedy of the commons**

The 'tragedy of the commons' may occur when there are common access resources (CARs). These are natural resources over which no private ownership has been established. Therefore, there are difficulties in excluding people from using or exploiting them. CARs include fisheries and common grazing lands. Oceans are so vast that it is impractical for one fishing company to establish ownership and control. This means that others cannot be prevented from exploiting the ocean. Economists have suggested that with the lack of ownership of these resources, private producers will act in their own self-interest and exploit CARs to maximise profit. This exploitation is unsustainable. In other words, CARs provide an opportunity for individuals to create profit, while creating negative externalities which impact on everybody else. This process is referred to as the 'tragedy of the commons'.

5

10

The 'tragedy of the commons' is at the core of a range of problems that are relevant and threatening to natural resources, environments and human health. In the case of overfishing, fishing companies are not made accountable for the state of the ocean. They continue to fish as much as possible to maximise profit. Today, 90% of fish stocks are depleted.

15

The reason for such a wide range of problems is because there is an environmental cost for everything. The 'tragedy of the commons' is the outcome of the fact that every resource is limited on this planet, coupled with the rising level of demand for these resources. These issues are large-scale and require laws, regulation and international cooperation.

20

(Source adapted from: <http://felixonline.co.uk/articles/2019-12-09-tragedy-commons-drama-planet-not-enjoying/>)

