

**Annex 1**

**From:** Ingibjörg Thomsen [<mailto:Ingibjorg.Thomsen@fisk.fo>]  
**Sent:** 22 April 2015  
**To:** Stefan Asmundsson  
**Cc:** Diane Hacker

17:44

**Subject:** NEAFC request to ICES regarding blue whiting

Dear Stefán Ásmundsson,

Please find enclosed a request on behalf of NEAFC concerning options for a revised management strategy for blue whiting. ICES is requested to respond to this request together with its annual advice for 2016.

In the event that ICES is unable to deliver its response by the deadline specified, NEAFC requests that catch options corresponding to fishing mortalities of 0.22, 0.25 as well as  $F_{msy}$  are included in its catch option table for 2016.

NEAFC would further like to inform ICES that the existing management plan is no longer considered valid by the Coastal States, and that ICES should therefore no longer give advice on that basis.

Kind regards,

Herluf Sigvaldsson

Chairman for the Blue Whiting Consultations

**NEAFC REQUEST TO ICES ON OPTIONS FOR A  
REVISED LONG-TERM MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR BLUE WHITING**

ICES is requested to evaluate the following long-term management strategy for blue whiting over 5 and 10-year periods, assuming recent average levels of recruitment, where:

- The value of  $F$  in paragraph 4 is a)  $F_{0.1}=0.22$  or b)  $F=0.25$  or c)  $F_{msy}=0.3$
- The value for the deviation from  $F$  of  $X\%$  in paragraph 6 is a) 10% or b) 15%
- The value for inter-annual flexibility of  $Y\%$  in paragraphs 9 and 10 is a) 10% or b) 20%

For each combination of the above mentioned values, ICES is asked to tabulate:

- The risk of SSB falling below  $B_{lim}$
- The risk of SSB falling below  $B_{pa}$
- The average annual yield
- The inter-annual TAC variability

**Proposal for a long-term management strategy for blue whiting:**

1. *The Parties agree to implement a long-term management strategy for the fisheries on the Blue Whiting stock, which is consistent with the precautionary approach, aiming at ensuring harvest within safe biological limits.*
2. *For the purpose of this long-term management strategy, in the following text, "TAC" means the sum of the Coastal State TAC and the NEAFC allowable catches.*
3. *As a priority, the long-term strategy shall ensure with high probability that the size of the stock is maintained above 1.5 million tonnes ( $B_{lim}$ ).*
4. *In the case that the spawning biomass is forecast to be 2.25 million tonnes ( $=B_{trigger} = B_{pa}$ ) or more on 1 January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC shall be fixed corresponding to a fishing mortality of  $[F]$  on relevant age groups as defined by ICES.*
5. *Where the rules in paragraph 4 would lead to a TAC, which deviates by more than 20% from the TAC of the preceding year, the Parties shall fix a TAC that is no more than 20% greater or 20% less than the TAC of the preceding year.*

6. *Where the rule in paragraph 5 would lead to an F which deviates by more than [X%] from the F referred to in paragraph 4, the Parties shall fix a TAC corresponding to an F that is no more than [X%] greater or [X%] less than the F referred to in paragraph 4.*
7. *In the case that the spawning biomass (B) is forecast to be less than the precautionary biomass (B<sub>pa</sub>) on 1 January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC shall be fixed that is consistent with a fishing mortality given by:*

$$\text{Target F} = 0.05 + [(B - 1.5) * (F - 0.05) / (2.25 - 1.5)]$$

8. *In the case that spawning biomass is forecast to be less than 1.5 million tonnes (B<sub>lim</sub>) on 1 January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC will be fixed that is consistent with a fishing mortality given by F=0.05*
9. *Each Party may transfer to the following year unutilised quantities of up to [Y %] of the quota allocated to it. The quantity transferred shall be in addition to the quota allocated to the Party concerned in the following year.*
10. *Each Party may authorise fishing by its vessels of up to [Y %] beyond the quota allocated. All quantities fished beyond the allocated quota for one year shall be deducted from the Party's quota allocated for the following year.*
11. *The inter-annual quota flexibility scheme in paragraphs 9 and 10 should be suspended in the year following the TAC year, if the stock is forecast to be under the precautionary biomass level (B<sub>pa</sub>) at the end of the TAC year.*
12. *The Parties, on the basis of ICES advice, shall review this long-term management strategy at intervals not exceeding five years.*