

Draft Request to ICES: Celtic Sea Herring

Background

The Council and the Commission consider that it would be appropriate to set the TAC for herring in the Celtic Sea (Zones VIIhjk) according to the rule advised by ICES. However, it is necessary to evaluate the consequences of applying this rule instead of current arrangements, and to consider the possibility of applicable alternatives.

Detailed Request

ICES is requested to evaluate the consequences of applying the following harvest rule for the management of herring in the Celtic Sea (Zones VIIhjk):

1. For 2010 and subsequent years the TAC will be set consistent with a fishing mortality rate of $F_{0.1} = 0.19$.
2. If, in the opinion of ICES and STECF the catch should be reduced to the lowest possible level, the TAC for the following year will be reduced by 25%

The evaluation should address:

- the consequences of implementing the above rule instead of implementing ICES' current advice for this stock according to the precautionary approach;

- the extent to which the application of this rule would deliver management in conformity with the precautionary approach;

- the extent to which the application of this rule would deliver maximum sustainable yield from the stock;

- where possible, stochastic future time-streams of TACs and fishing effort necessary to catch those TACs should be made available to STECF for economic analysis. ICES is invited to liaise with STECF on this issue.

The effect of national fisheries management arrangements put in place by Ireland should be taken into account.

ICES is also invited to propose alternative rules or modified rules on its own initiative or in consultation with RACs and to evaluate these. Such alternative rules should lead to either or both higher or more stable catches and lower biological risks.

Draft Request to STECF

Impact assessments concerning Celtic Sea herring

Background

ICES has been requested to prepare a biological assessment of long-term plan options concerning Celtic Sea herring.

STECF is requested to assess economic consequences of implementing the various options advised by ICES compared to continuing to fish under current arrangements. STECF is particularly invited to liaise with ICES on the compatibility of evaluation systems. Account should be taken of national fisheries management arrangements put in place by Ireland.

Detailed Request

Based on ICES biological assessments and stochastic future time-streams of TACs and fishing effort, STECF is requested to evaluate probable future trends in :

- catches and the value of those catches;
- fishing effort, in terms of vessel numbers, activity and kWh deployed, and the costs (both fixed and variable) of deploying such effort;
- employment associated with this activity
- net revenue from the resource
- if possible, additional incidental impacts on populations of other marine organisms.

Such trends should be contrasted with the probable consequences of continuing to fish the stock according to rates of fishing mortality as recently experienced, or according to ICES advice according to the precautionary approach.

A 20-year time frame should be used for the evaluations.