

## **Draft Management Strategy for Boarfish in the Northeast Atlantic**

This management strategy aims to achieve sustainable exploitation of boarfish in line with the precautionary approach to fisheries management, FAO guidelines for new and developing fisheries, and the ICES form of advice.

- 1) The TAC shall be set in accordance with the following procedure, depending on the ICES advice
  - a) If category 1 advice (stocks with quantitative assessments) is given based on a benchmarked assessment, the TAC shall be set following that advice.
  - b) If category 1 or 2 (qualitative assessments and forecasts) advice is given based on a non-benchmarked assessment the TAC shall be set following this advice.
  - c) Categories 3-6 are described below as follows :
    - i) Category 3 : stocks for which survey-based assessments indicate trends This category includes stocks with quantitative assessments and forecasts which for a variety of reasons are considered indicative of trends in fishing mortality, recruitment, and biomass.
    - ii) Category 4: stocks for which only reliable catch data are available. This category includes stocks for which a time-series of catch can be used to approximate MSY.
    - iii) Category 5: landings only stocks. This category includes stocks for which only landings data are available.
    - iv) Category 6 : Category 6 – negligible landings stocks and stocks caught in minor amounts as bycatch
- 2) Notwithstanding paragraph 1, if, in the opinion of ICES, the stock is at risk of recruitment impairment, a TAC may be set at a lower level.
- 3) If the stock, estimated in the either of the 2 years before the TAC is to be set, is at or below  $B_{lim}$  or any suitable proxy thereof, the TAC shall be set at 0 t.
- 4) The TAC shall not exceed 75,000 t in any year.
- 5) The TAC shall not be allowed to increase by more than 25% per year. However there shall be no limit on the decrease in TAC.

- 6) Closed seasons, closed areas, and moving on procedures shall apply to all directed boarfish fisheries as follows:
  - a) A closed season shall operate from 31<sup>st</sup> March to the 31<sup>st</sup> August. This is because it is known that herring and mackerel are present in these areas and may be caught with boarfish.
  - b) A closed area shall be implemented inside the Irish 12-mile limit south of 52°30 from 12th February to 31st October, in order to prevent catches of Celtic Sea herring, known to form aggregations at these times.
  - c) If catches of other species covered by a TAC amount to more than 5% of the total catch by day by ICES statistical rectangle, then all fishing must cease in that rectangle for 5 consecutive days.