Annex I

PELAC proposal for a long-term management strategy for the Southern horse mackerel stock

Background
A long-term management strategy (LTMS) was developed for this stock by initiative of the Pelagic Advisory Council (PELAC) in a collaborative work between scientists from IPMA and IEO and stakeholders from Portugal and Spain, with collaboration/knowledge of the South Western Waters Advisory Council (SWWAC).

Objectives
The Parties agree to propose a LTMS for the fisheries on the southern horse mackerel stock, which is consistent with the precautionary approach and the MSY objective (article 2.2) of the Common Fisheries Policy.

Criteria and definitions

**Article 1 - Subject matter**
This management strategy pertains to the Southern horse mackerel stock.

**Article 2 - Geographical definitions of stocks**
ICES Division 9.a (The Iberian coast from the Strait of Gibraltar to Cape Finisterre in Galician waters).

**Article 3 - Definitions**
For the purpose of this management strategy, in addition to the definitions laid down in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1380/2013, the following definitions shall apply:

i) “Fby-catch” refers to the level of fishing mortality which shall be applied when the Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) is equal to or below B<sub>lim</sub> to account for horse mackerel by-catches.

**Article 4 - Reference points**

i) The minimum spawning biomass level and the precautionary spawning biomass level for the combined shall be as follows: B<sub>lim</sub> = 103 000 tonnes, B<sub>pa</sub> or MSY B<sub>trigger</sub> = 181 000 tonnes (ICES, 2017a,b).

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ii) The maximum fishing mortality associated with Maximum Sustainable Yield \( (F_{\text{msy}}) \) for the southern horse mackerel stock shall be as follows: \( F_{\text{msy}} = 0.11 \) (ICES, 2017a,b).

**Article 5 - TAC setting procedures**

1. In the case that the spawning stock biomass is forecast to be above or equal to MSY \( B_{\text{trigger}} \) (equivalent to \( B_{\text{pa}} \)) at mid-January* of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC shall be fixed to a catch estimated based on an gradual increase of fishing mortality towards \( F_{\text{msy}} \) in 2025.

2. In the case that the spawning stock biomass of the stock is forecast to be less than MSY \( B_{\text{trigger}} \) and larger than \( B_{\text{lim}} \) at mid-January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC shall be fixed that is consistent with a fishing mortality \( (F) \) given by the harvest control rule:

\[
F = F_{\text{by-catch}} + \left( \frac{(F_{\text{MSY}} - F_{\text{by-catch}})}{(B_{\text{trigger}} - B_{\text{lim}}) / (SSB - B_{\text{lim}})} \right)
\]

3. In accordance with the objectives of the plan detailed in article 1 above, where the rules in paragraph 1 and 2 would lead to a fishing mortality higher than \( F_{\text{MSY}} \), this fishing mortality shall be set in line with article 2.2 of the CFP.

4. Where the rules in paragraph 1, 2 and 3 would lead to a TAC which deviates by more than 15% from the TAC of the preceding year a TAC shall be set that is no more than 15% greater or 15% less than the TAC of the preceding year.

5. In the case that the spawning biomass is forecast to be equal to or less than \( B_{\text{lim}} \) in mid-January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC will be fixed corresponding to a fishing mortality \( F_{\text{by-catch}} = 0.01 \).
*For this stock, the spawning stock biomass is determined at spawning time (assumed to be mid-January)

**Article 6 - Conditions of the monitoring fishery**

Vessels participating in the fishery, if requested, shall take on-board scientific fisheries observers under the Data Collection Framework (DFC) to improve knowledge of the state of the stock. Those vessels upon request shall provide samples for the same scientific purpose.

**Article 7 - End of the management strategy**

The Parties, on the basis of ICES advice, shall review the biological reference points and this long-term management strategy at intervals not exceeding five years.

**References**
