

Working Group II meeting

9 July 2020, Online

Agenda

- 13:30 Opening of the meeting by the chairman, Sean O'Donoghue
- 13:35 Adoption of the agenda
- 13:40 Follow-up on action items
- 14:00 Fishing opportunities 2021: presentation of ICES advice by Colm Lordan (information)
- Celtic Sea herring
 - Irish Sea herring
 - 6a and 7b,c herring
 - Southern horse mackerel
- 15:00 Break
- 15:15 Northeast Atlantic mackerel
- Update MSE by Andy Campbell (information)



Agenda

- 15:45 Western horse mackerel
- Update from the focus group by Andy Campbell (information)
 - Way forward draft rebuilding plan
- 16:00 Landing Obligation
- Updates regional MS groups (information)
 - Follow-up horse mackerel TAC deductions (information)
- 16:20 AOB
- 16:30 End of meeting



Follow-up on action items

- Ask Paul Fernandes for a costing for a hindcast analysis based on the 5 years of existing data of mackerel acoustics (Gerard van Balsfoort) – *ongoing*
- Continue seeking to develop a management strategy for Irish Sea herring (Ian Gatt, Steve Mackinson, Allan McCulla) – *carried forward ?*
- Continue genetic, acoustic and morphometric research for 6a 7bc herring –(NPWG) – *ongoing*
- Seek benchmark for 6a 7bc herring by end of 2020 (chair, secretariat) – *ongoing*
- Continue work on the assessment model for boarfish (Marine Institute, Working Group members) – *carried forward*



Follow-up on action items

- Explore possibilities for inclusion of Irish WHOM logbook data to the PFA self-sampling plan (Chairman, Martin Pastoors) – **carried forward**
- Complete work on WHOM rebuilding plan using ‘herring’ methods and present at the April meeting (Martin Pastoors, WHOM collaboration group, Focus Group) – **update today**
- Continue genetic stock ID and PFA self-sampling project (PFA, Focus Group) – **ongoing**
- Resend PELAC recommendations on the Control Regulation to MS and the EP Pêche Committee (Secretariat) ✓
- Invite Andy Campbell to the July PELAC meeting to give an update on the NEA mackerel MSE (Secretariat) ✓ **update today**



Follow-up on action items

- Send a letter the Commission to get more clarity on the method applied for the NS and Western horse mackerel TAC deductions (Chairman, secretariat) ✓
- Check if the MoU between the Commission and ICES for 6a herring and Celtic Sea herring include a request for advice on a monitoring TAC. If not, ask the Commission for this (Chairman, secretariat) ✓
- Invite a speaker from the Norwegian tagging project to the next PELAC meeting (Claus Reedtz-Sparrevohn, secretariat) – *postponed to future meeting*
- Hold a meeting to discuss the revision of the Southern horse mackerel management plan (José Beltran, Gonçalo Carvalho, Hugo Mendes, SWWAC members) – *postponed to autumn 2020*



Follow-up on action items

- Reconvene the Control Focus Group in June to review the new proposal (Secretariat, Control Focus Group) – *postponed to autumn 2020*
- On the pelagic discard plans, recommend to ExCom to resubmit list of previously agreed recommendation and the three newly agreed ones (Chairman, secretariat) ✓



Fishing opportunities 2021

Presentation of ICES advice by Colm Lordan, vice-chair of ACOM

- Celtic Sea herring
- Irish Sea herring
- 6a and 7b,c herring incl.

Zero TAC Catch Scenario

- Southern horse mackerel



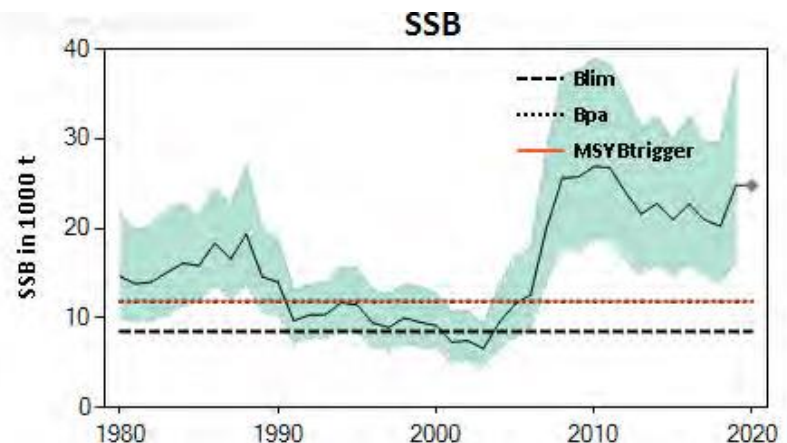
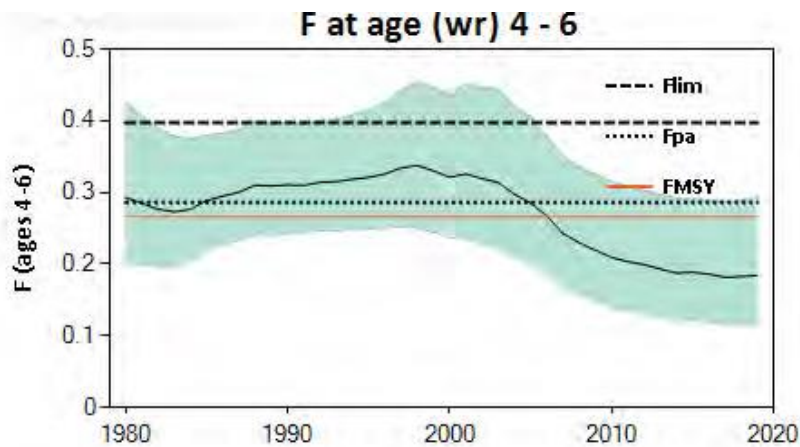
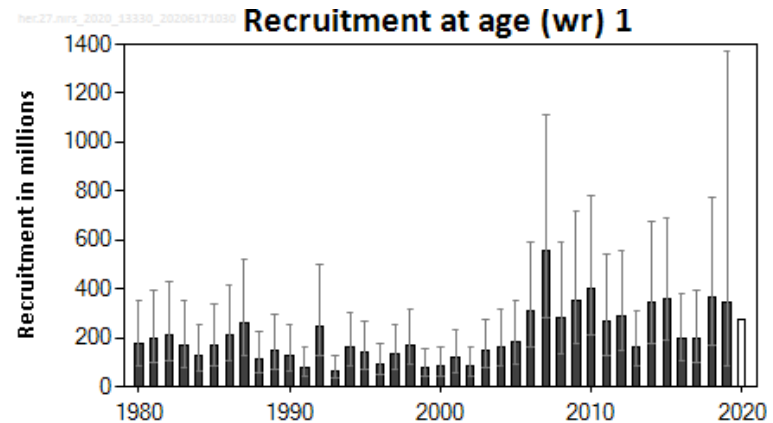
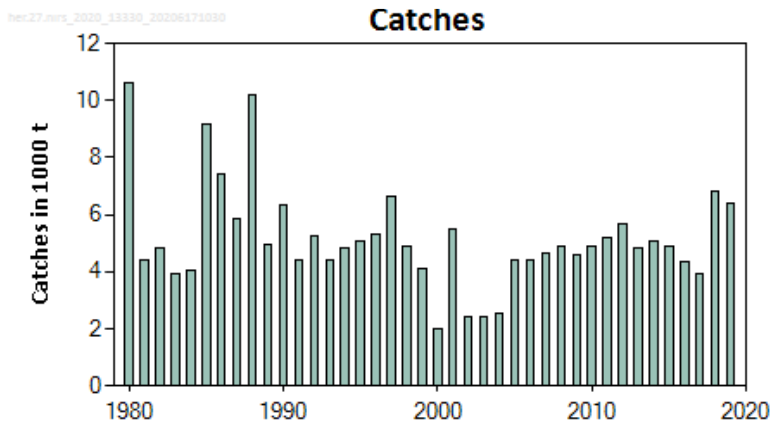
PELAC TAC advice 2021

To be formulated in detail during the PELAC
October 2020 meetings

Irish Sea Herring



Irish Sea herring



- ICES advises catches of no more than **7,341** tonnes in 2021 (MSY)
- 2020 Advice: 8,064 tonnes (MSY)



Irish Sea herring

Thoughts for PELAC Recommendations

- Follow ICES Advice 2021 **7,341 t**
- WKIRISH6 Ecosystem approach
- Mixing issue with Celtic Sea
- **Commence work on management strategy ?**



Northeast Atlantic mackerel

Update Management Strategy Evaluation

➤ By Andy Campbell



Western horse mackerel

- COVID 19 Pandemic Delay
- Huge amount work done
- Online Focus Group meetings held on May 25 and July 2nd 2020
- At least 6 Technical Scientific meetings
- Draft rebuilding plan in advanced stage
- Finalisation draft rebuilding **Way Forward today**



Western horse mackerel

Update from the Focus Group

- By Andy Campbell



Western horse mackerel

Possible Way forward draft rebuilding plan

- Circulate draft to WG II Members 14 July
- Arrange WG II 20th July one agenda item
- Use expedited written EXCOM procedure deadline 27th July
- Send request to Commission 28th July



Landing Obligation

Updates Regional MS groups

- PELAC recommendations on revision pelagic discard plans submitted to the Regional Groups in March 2020
- JRs for revised discard plans submitted to the Commission in May 2020 and evaluated by STECF
- This year JRs combined both demersal and pelagic discard plans
- STECF Evaluation
- Commission Letter Scheveningen group



SWW Joint Recommendation

De minimis exemptions

(e) for **horse mackerel** (*Trachurus spp.*), **up to a maximum of 5% of the total annual catches of that species** by vessels using beam trawls, bottom trawls and seines (gear codes: OTB, OTT, PTB, TBN, TBS, TBB, OT, PT, TX, SSC, SPR, SDN, SX, SV) in ICES subareas 8 and 9 (See annexes III.4 and XV);

- Same wording applies to mackerel
- In 2019, the exemption was for 7%.
- De minimis exemptions from the pelagic discard plans remain the same



Scheveningen Joint Recommendation

4.3.2. De minimis request for horse mackerel for demersal vessels using bottom trawls (OTB, OTT, PTB, TBB) of mesh size 80-99mm (TR2, BT 2) in the North Sea (ICES area 4).

De minimis for blue whiting of up to 5% of blue whiting caught by industrial pelagic trawlers in ICES subarea 4 (NEW)

The Scheveningen Group recommends a continued de minimis exemption for by-catches of horse mackerel, up to a maximum of 7% for 2020 and 6% for 2021 of the total annual catches of horse mackerel caught **in demersal fisheries**, for the trawler mixed fishery using bottom trawls (OTB, OTT, PTB, TBB) with a mesh size of 80-99 mm in ICES area 4.

- Same wording applies to mackerel



NWW Joint Recommendation

- for **horse mackerel** (*Trachurus spp.*), up to a maximum of 7 % in 2020 of the total annual by-catches of those species, caught in demersal mixed fisheries, by vessels using bottom trawls, seines and beam trawls (OTB, OTT, OT, PTB, PT, SSC, SDN, SPR, SX, SV, TBB, TBN, TBS, TB, TX) in ICES subarea 6 and ICES divisions 7b to 7k; (See Annex 4 for justification)
- Same wording applies to mackerel
- De minimis exemptions in pelagic discard plan remain the same



Landing Obligation

- STECF Evaluation
- Commission Letter Scheveningen group



Landing Obligation

Commission

- STECF considers appropriate evidence provided **grant exemption** or technical measure
- STECF indicates additional **grant temporary exemptions**. Report Commission 1 May
- STECF considers that the request was not sustained by adequate evidence, exemption or technical measure **cannot be granted**.



STECF Advice North Sea exemptions

Exemption	STECF advice	Commission decision
Mackerel and herring survivability (pelagic discard plan)	Not assessed	Prolong for 2021-2023 3 years
Horse mackerel in demersal fisheries (demersal discard plan)	Limited new information is provided. Selectivity information provided has also previously been used to support this and other exemptions. Many of the studies are outdated (2014 and earlier) Supporting info refers mainly to area 4c and 7d and for the French fleet. It is not clear how representative this information for other fleets	Not accepted
Mackerel in demersal fisheries (demersal discard plan)	Same comments as above	Not accepted
Combined de minimis mackerel, horse mackerel, herring and whiting (pelagic discard plan)	It is not clear why mackerel and horse mackerel are included in the exemption, if the issue is around unwanted catches of whiting. It is not possible to precisely identify which vessels or trips would be subject to a de minimis exemption	If MS want to continue the exemption beyond 2022, MS should by May 2022 provide additional evidence to support assertions that selectivity measures have been exhausted and explain why this exemption is needed not just for whiting only.
de minimis for blue whiting of up to 5% of blue whiting caught by industrial pelagic trawlers in ICES subarea 4	Relationship between the level of de minimis requested and the levels of unwanted catch unclear. Lack of documentation and evidence provided to support the assertions made	Not accepted discrepancies in the figures lack of documentation and evidence provided to support assertions made

STECF Advice SWW exemptions

Exemption	STECF advice	Commission decision
Anchovy, horse mackerel and mackerel survival (pelagic discard plan)	Provided evidence sufficiently supports high survival	Exemption granted
Horse mackerel in demersal fisheries (demersal discard plan)	Study provided estimating over 2 million euro losses if exemption not granted Also costs of landing unwanted catches presented Unclear if study is representative of all the fisheries covered by exemption Limited info available to explain level of de minimis required	Exemption granted for 3 years until STECF develops methodology to assess the study Supporting info should be submitted as soon as possible
Mackerel in demersal fisheries (demersal discard plan)	Estimates Spanish study: disproportionate costs in handling and sorting time onboard. Applies to all species not just mackerel. Unclear if study is representative for all fisheries covered by the exemption. Justification based on selectivity improvement based on regulatory measures to avoid mackerel catches hard to achieve without economic impacts – this is based on French selectivity trials (not specific to mackerel) Limited info available to explain level of de minimis required	Exemption granted for 3 years until STECF develops methodology to assess the study Supporting info should be submitted as soon as possible



Deductions horse mackerel TACs

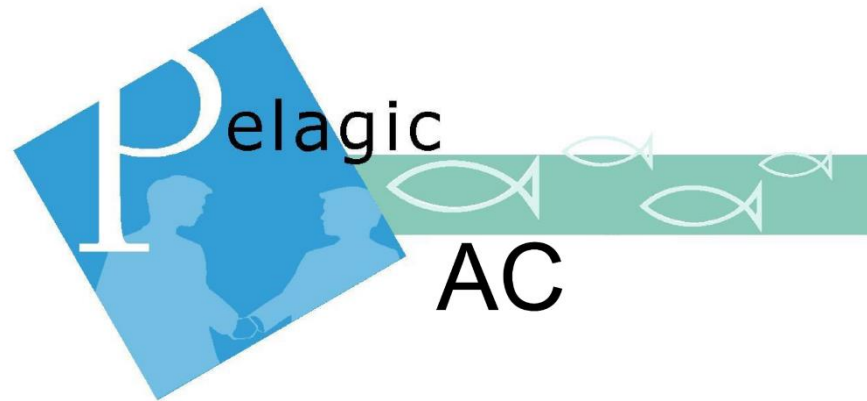
- 2018 discard figures used for 2020 TAC deductions
- Discard deductions 2021 TACs for Western and NS horse mackerel?



AOB



Thank you!



Working Group II, 9 July 2020

