

**Working Group 2
Pelagic RAC**

**Recommendations
Horse Mackerel and Blue Whiting
TACs 2011**

London 11th Oct. 2010

Horse Mackerel
North Sea IIIa, IVb,c & VIId

ICES Advice

- ◆ MSY = unknown
- ◆ Precautionary approach = unknown
- ◆ Management plan = none
- ◆ EU Policy = category 11
- ◆ TAC 2010 = 47454

Horse Mackerel
North Sea IIIa, IVb,c & VIId

Category 11

TACs should be adjusted towards recent real catch levels but should not be changed by more than 15% per year or Member States should develop an implementation plan to provide advice within a short time.
No increase in fishing effort.

Horse Mackerel
North Sea IIIa, IVb,c & VIId

P RAC ADVICE 2011

- ◆ Category 11 recent real catch levels
- ◆ TAC 2011 = 47,500 (Same as 2010)

Horse Mackerel
Western IIa, IVa, Vb, VIa, VIIa-c,e-k & VIIIa-e

ICES Advice

- ◆ MSY = Less than 229,000
- ◆ Precautionary approach = n/a
- ◆ Management plan = 181,000
- ◆ EU Policy = category 4
- ◆ TAC 2010 = 185,000

Horse Mackerel
Western IIa, IVa, Vb, VIa, VIIa-c,e-k & VIIIa-e

Category 4

The TAC must be set following the relevant plan. This category overrides other categories.

Horse Mackerel
 Western IIa, IVa, Vb, VIa, VIIa-c, e-k & VIIIa-e

PRAC ADVICE 2011

- ◆ Management Plan Category 4
- ◆ TAC 2011 = 181,000

Horse Mackerel
 Southern Stock IXa

ICES Advice

- ◆ MSY = N/A
- ◆ Precautionary approach = 25,000
- ◆ Management plan = none
- ◆ EU Policy = category 6
- ◆ TAC 2010 = 31,142

Horse Mackerel
 Southern Stock IXa
 Category 6

Aim to set the TAC according to STECF advice but do not change the TAC by more than 15%.

ICES States

- ◆ 20% decrease average estimated abundance last two years compared to three preceding years
 → 15% decrease in TAC.

Horse Mackerel
 Southern Stock IXa

PRAC Advice

- ◆ Accept Category 6
- ◆ TAC 2011 = 26,500

Blue Whiting Combined Stock
 I-IX, XII & XIV

- MSY = 50,700 to 223,000 t
- PA = Zero
- Management plan = 40,100 t
- EU Policy = category 4
- Total Agreed TAC 2010: 548,000 t
- ICES advice 2010: 540,000 t

Blue Whiting Combined Stock
 I-IX, XII & XIV

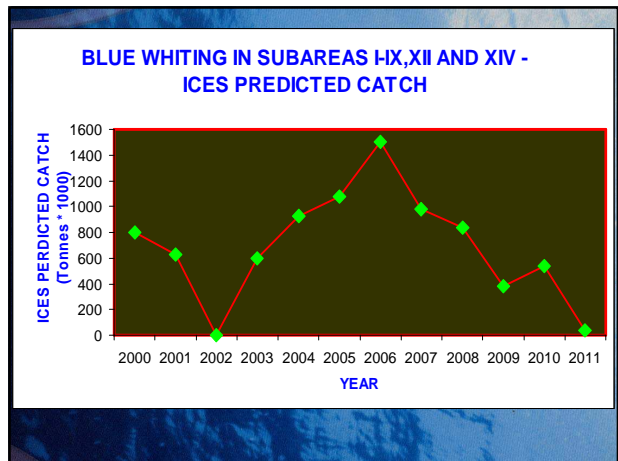
Category 4

The TAC must be set following the relevant plan. This category overrides other categories.

Blue Whiting Combined Stock I-IX, XII & XIV

Major issues Advice:

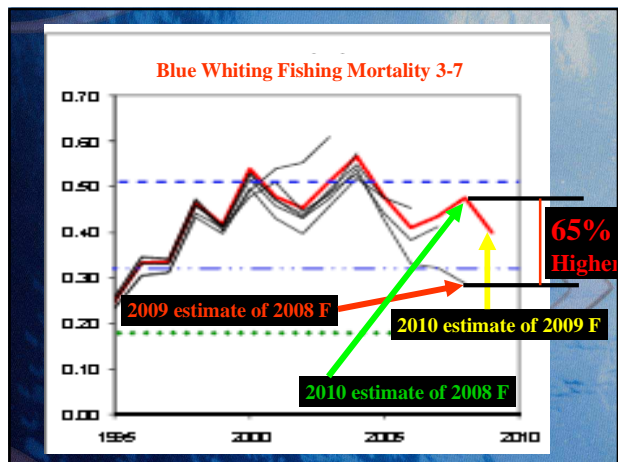
- ◆ Huge variations TAC advice

Blue Whiting Combined Stock I-IX, XII & XIV

Major issues Advice:

- ◆ Huge variations TAC advice
- ◆ Huge variations Fishing Mortality

ICES Advice Last Year

The estimated SSB for 2008 has been revised upwards by 40% and the estimated fishing mortality in 2007 has been revised downwards by 13%. Around 40% of the change in SSB is due to the greater reliance this year on spawning ground survey results (relaxation of the constraint on survey CV), and the remainder due to the addition of recent data.


This Year ICES Advice

Compared to last year, the SSB for 2009 is estimated to be about 42% lower and the fishing mortality in 2008 to be about 65% higher.

Blue Whiting Combined Stock I-IX, XII & XIV

Major issues Advice:

- ◆ Huge variations TAC advice
- ◆ Huge variations Fishing Mortality
- ◆ One stock ICES 2009b report (major ?)
- ◆ Management Plan cannot cater large fluctuations
- ◆ Survey problems
- ◆ Precautionary fishing mortality = 0.32
- ◆ Calculation MSY in transition



Commission's Policy Statement

"For stocks for which no long-term plans have yet been proposed, it would be appropriate to move towards MSY by reducing fishing mortality in equal steps from the 2011 fishing year until the 2014 fishing year to F_{msy} , and exploiting stocks at F_{msy} in 2015 and thereafter. Starting in 2011, this means four equal steps."

Blue Whiting Combined Stock I-IX,XII & XIV

Major issues Advice:

- ◆ Huge variations TAC advice
- ◆ Huge variations Fishing Mortality
- ◆ One stock ICES 2009b report (major ?)
- ◆ Management Plan cannot cater large fluctuations
- ◆ Survey problems
- ◆ Precautionary fishing mortality = 0.32
- ◆ Calculation MSY in transition
- ◆ Basis for no recruitment
- ◆ Catch figures 2009 (major ?)

Total Blue Whiting Landings by Country 2009 Tonnes

Table 9.44.3 Blue whiting in Subareas I-IX, XII, and XIV (Combined stock) Total landings by country and area for 2009 in tonnes

Area	Denmark	Iceland	France	Germany	Italy	Ireland	Netherlands	Norway	Portugal	Spain	UK (Scotland)	Grand Total
IIA	20	141			493		2340		48363			45313
IIIB	119								271			271
IIIC					312				14			326
IIIV	104	221							18347		30	22324
IIIX	5								19			24
IX					433							433
IVB			2288		19412		101	1823		58377		115458
VIa				2337	23878	3826	12145	123351		15389	118	215514
VIb					38166		203	17300		29259		74122
VIIB								355				355
VIIC								23192		50504		73686
VIIX			4070	2458	7057	4255				6159		111010
VIIXa										482		482
VIIXb			1865									1865
VIIXc										20439		20439
VIIXd				31								31
VIIXe												
VIIXf					562			5788				6350
VIIXg					3045			2043				5088
VIIXh												
VIIXi												
VIIXj												
VIIXk												
VIIXl												
VIIXm												
VIIXn												
VIIXo												
VIIXp												
VIIXq												
VIIXr												
VIIXs												
VIIXt												
VIIXu												
VIIXv												
VIIXw												
VIIXx												
VIIXy												
VIIXz												
Grand Total	249	58354	8301	5044	129202	8716	35460	225995	2043	149490	20437	635409

Blue Whiting Combined Stock I-IX,XII & XIV

Conclusion

- ◆ Assessment not fit for purpose
- ◆ Incapable of producing reliable advice

Blue Whiting Combined Stock I-IX,XII & XIV

PRAC Recommendations

- ◆ No TAC advice
- ◆ Instead
- ◆ Point out difficulties with assessment
- ◆ Highlight at Coastal States meeting
- ◆ Seek immediate benchmark 2011
- ◆ Establish PRAC Focus Group with scientists

END