



Working Group I meeting Chaired by Christian Olesen

11 July 2012, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Start of meeting

- Approval of the agenda
- Approval of the minutes of 8 February 2012



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Communication with HAWG

West of Scotland herring

PRAC:

- Would it be possible to take into account mortality by seal predation in the assessment of this stock? If not, what could be done in the future to do so?

HAWG:

- Suggests a benchmark in 2015 where natural mortality values used in the assessment will be reviewed and if appropriate revised.
- Expects work on multi-species assessment in the North Sea over the next 3 years.



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Communication with HAWG

Western Baltic herring

PRAC:

- Have local stocks present in area IIIa which declined in abundance in the past recovered in recent years?
- The mix of fish originating from North Sea herring and Western Baltic herring is sampled to determine the percentage ratio between the two. Does HAWG think that the sampling scheme is suitable to establish a reliable estimate on the mixing ratio?

HAWG:

- Both concerns will be incorporated on the issue list for the upcoming benchmark in 2013.



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Communication with HAWG

North Sea herring

PRAC:

- Is it feasible for HAWG to investigate cannibalism (as a possible density dependence effect) and to estimate and incorporate effects of cannibalism in future assessments of this stock?

HAWG:

- The benchmark in 2012 did not incorporate cannibalism in the assessment, stock recruitment modelling and forecast. However, the issue was debated, but it remains unknown if cannibalism has a significant impact on the productivity of this stock. More work is needed in the future before implications for management can be considered.



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Fishing opportunities for 2013

- Presentation of ICES advice
 - Ms Carmen Fernandez (ACOM vice-chair)
- Recommendations from Pelagic RAC



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WBSS Herring

CATCHES

- Assumed catch in 2012 = 41 kt (Assuming a utilization in 2012 of the WBSS part of the TAC/bycatch ceiling of 100% (F-fleet), 58% (C-fleet), and 41% (D-fleet))
- SSB(2012) = 132 kt (Above MSY biomass trigger)

| Management Objective (s) | Landings in 2013 |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| MSY Framework | 51.9 kt |
| F ₂₀₁₂ * 1.14 | 50.6 kt |
| F ₂₀₁₂ * 1.36 | 59.5 kt |
| F ₂₀₁₂ * 1.6 | 68.5 kt |



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Herring in IIIa (and 22-24) TACs

- TACs 2012:

| 22-24 | IIIa | |
|---------|---------|---------|
| Fleet F | Fleet C | Fleet D |
| 20.9 | 45 | 6.7 |

- ICES advice 2013:

| Management Objective (s) | IIIa | | |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| | Fleet F | Fleet C | Fleet D |
| MSY Framework | 25.8 | 34.3 | 3.6 |
| F ₂₀₁₂ * 1.14 | 25 | 33 | 3.4 |
| F ₂₀₁₂ * 1.36 | 33.8 | 45 | 4.7 |
| F ₂₀₁₂ * 1.6 | 33.8 | 45 | 4.7 |

+23%

-24%



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Herring in IIIa (and 22-24)

- PRAC recommendation?



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Advice Drafting Groups

- Do stakeholders make a difference as observers in the Advice Drafting Groups?



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Advice Drafting Groups

- DRAFT Herring advice:
 - ICES advises on the basis of the agreed EU/Norway management plan that catches in 2013 should be no more than 480 200 t, including 465 800 t for the A-fleet.
 - ICES advises that no bottom disturbing activities, e.g. aggregate extraction, should occur in areas with spawning grounds during the spawning season and within 1 month before and after this period
- And later:
- The analysis carried out by the benchmark (ICES 2012a) implies that the reference points for NSAS may have shifted under the perception of the stock assessment and thus a full revision of the existing management plan for NSAS is highly warranted



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Advice Drafting Groups

- FINAL Herring advice:
- ICES advises a revision of the EU-Norway management plan.
- Until then, ICES advises on the basis of the agreed EU-Norway management plan that catches in 2013 should be no more than 480 200 t, including 465 750 t for the A-fleet.
- ICES advises that no bottom disturbing activities, e.g. aggregate extraction, should occur in areas with spawning grounds during the spawning season and within 1 month before and after this period



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North Sea herring advice

- TAC 2012 = 405 000 t
- Assumed catch in 2012 = 423.500 t (including 50% transfer from IIIa quota)
- SSB(2012) = 2 271 000 t (above B_{pa}, above B_{trig})

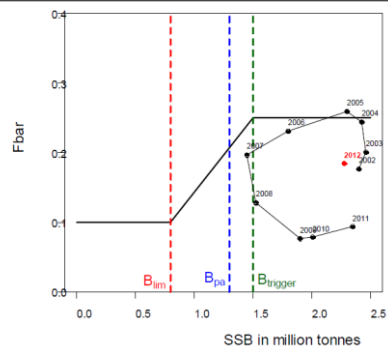
| Management Objective (s) | Landings in 2013 | SSB in 2013 |
|---|------------------|-------------|
| LTM plan (which invokes the 15% limit on TAC change) | 465 750 t | 2 047 000 t |
| The EU-Norway Harvest Control Rule as implemented within the management plan (no restriction on TAC change) | 514 700 t | 2 013 000 t |
| Human consumption fishing mortality = 0.3 | 606 200 t | 1 950 000 t |



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North Sea herring management plan



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ICES considerations on LTM plan and new assessment

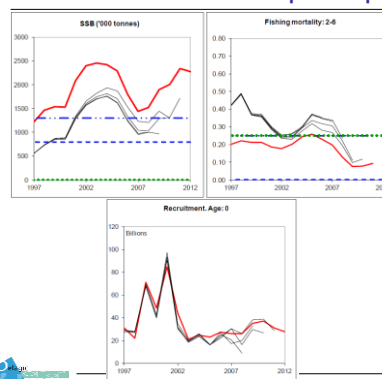
- A full revision of the existing (= a new) management plan is needed due to the new assessment.
- However, until then the current EU-Norway management plan can be used, since it is consistent with the precautionary and the MSY approach.
- 15 % TAC variability limit is unsatisfactory in regard to achieving stable and high yields.
- Absolute values of SSB have changed due to revisions in the estimated selection of the fishery and natural mortality, but trends remain similar.



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New stock perception



Herring in subarea IV and divisions IIIa VIII. Comparison between the 2011 stock assessment (black line) and the 2012 benchmarked assessment (red line with 95% confident intervals) over the full assessment period.



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North Sea herring

- PRAC recommendation?



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West of Scotland herring advice

- TAC 2012 = 29 000 t
- SSB 2011 = 101 000 t
- ICES advises on the basis of the Management Plan

| Management Objective (s) | Landings in 2013 |
|--|-----------------------|
| The agreed management Plan (limited by +20%) | No more than 27 480 t |
| The MSY approach | no more than 31 000 t |



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West of Scotland herring

- PRAC recommendation?



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VlaSouth and VIIb,c herring advice

- TAC 2012 = 4 247 t
- SSB 2012 = no assessment
- ICES advises on the basis of the MSY approach

| Management Objective (s) | Landings in 2013 |
|---|--|
| Advise on the basis of the MSY approach | No catches unless a rebuilding plan is implemented |



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VlaSouth and VIIc,d herring

- PRAC recommendation?



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Celtic Sea herring advice

- TAC 2012 = 21 100 t
- SSB (2012/2013) = 84 300 t
- ICES advises on the basis of the MSY approach

| Management Objective (s) | Landings in 2013 |
|---|------------------|
| Advise on the basis of the MSY approach | 19 000 t |
| Proposed Rebuilding Plan | 15 000 t |
| Proposed Long Term Management plan | 17 000 t |



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Celtic Sea herring

- PRAC recommendation?



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Irish Sea herring advice

- TAC 2011 = 5 280 t
- SSB 2011 = no assessment
- ICES advises on the basis of the MSY approach

| Management Objective (s) | Landings in 2013 |
|---|------------------|
| Advise on the basis of the MSY approach | 5 100 t |



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Irish Sea herring

- PRAC recommendation?



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Communication with WG WIDE

NEA MACKEREL:

- Is the current productivity an indication of a regime shift and if so, what would be needed scientifically to determine whether this is actually the case and should management take this into account ?
- Does ICES and the scientific community in general agree with the Simmonds paper stating a structural underestimation of SSB of mackerel and SSB being at least double of the official figure ?

BLUE WHITING:

- Since 2006 almost all of the catch of blue whiting has been taken outside the Icelandic EEZ, what is the reason of this? Change in migration pattern, or collapse of blue whiting stock etc.
- Overlapping distribution of mackerel and blue whiting / ecological interaction between the two stocks – what are the implications of this observation in terms of the management of the 2 stocks?



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End of Working Group I meeting

Thank you