

Working Groups II meeting 29th January 2009

Recommendations to Executive Committee

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Leiden - 13 February 2009

Horse Mackerel Recommendations

- If the horse mackerel management plan is not considered precautionary in the long-term; explain why and suggest what action should be taken to make it precautionary;
- Advise on the best way to approach forming rules around the minimum TAC of 85,000 tonnes;
- Advise how the management plan should be tested for efficacy in periods of low recruitment;
- With regard to the late publication of the annual advice from ICES, explain why WG WIDE cannot meet in spring like other ICES Working Groups?
- Clarify in the 2009 ICES advice why there was no revision of the horse mackerel assessment to reflect the missing egg survey data.

Blue Whiting Recommendations

- Promote the fast-tracking of a project on the structure of the blue whiting stock;
- Re-examine the fishing mortality rate $F = 0.18$ target level;
- Undertake a benchmark assessment on all reference points;
- Develop a recruitment index;
- Investigate the environmental factors affecting the stock;
- Provide guidance on how fishermen's knowledge can be integrated into the assessment from both a short and long-term perspective; and
- Address the late publication of the annual advice from ICES.

CFP Review Recommendations

RAC should have at least one special Working Group II meeting to discuss the scope of the RAC response to the Green Paper and then agree the RAC response.

Issues for consideration

- ◆ Involvement in general issues CFP
- ◆ Advisory Role or more
- ◆ New regional Structure or not
- ◆ Involvement Decision making process
- ◆ Types of RACs species/geographical areas, combination or new
- ◆ Formal inter RAC or not
- ◆ Functions
- ◆ Funding
- ◆ Research involvement

Herring Recommendation VIa(South), VIIbc

To request the Commission to ask ICES to advise on:

1. Possible harvest control rules for the VIaS, VIIbc stock, that are robust to data poor situations and in particular to the absence of a recruit index.

2. The development of a management plan based on these harvest control rules.

Socio-economic Focus Group

- Draft Terms of Reference

To access the possibility of integrating economic & stock assessment analyses in conjunction with scientific and economic experts.