

Working Group 2 Pelagic RAC

Recommendations and Decisions TACs & quotas 2008

Amsterdam 12th Feb. 2008

Blue Whiting Combined Stock

TAC 2007: 170,000 t

TAC 2008: 1,266,282 t

RAC no TAC advice due to timing
Coastal States meeting

Blue Whiting Combined Stock

RAC Other Recommendations 2008:

- ◆ The timing of the Coastal State meeting changed to allow RAC time to comment on the scientific advice & make recommendations.
- ◆ Must have ad-hoc arrangements in place for 2008

Blue Whiting Combined Stock

Other RAC Recommendations 2008:

- ◆ Measures should be adopted to protect juvenile blue whiting.
- ◆ Pelagic RAC research issues such; investigation into different blue whiting stock components pursued.
- ◆ Alternative management models should be developed under the Coastal States arrangement.
- ◆ A TAC constraint of +/- 15% and a year-to-year flexibility of +/-10% with a maximum of 2 years.

North Sea Horse Mackerel (IIa and IV)

TAC 2008: 39,309 t

RAC 2008: 42,727 t

RAC Other Recommendations 2008:

- ◆ The 2007 TAC (42,727 t) rolled over until management, assessment & data issues resolved.
- ◆ A Focus Group established to:
 - ◆ Develop management options
 - ◆ consider how to improve the research.
 - ◆ Consider by-catch issues horse mackerel fishery.
 - ◆ Examine alignment between scientific assessment areas & management areas.
 - ◆ Review egg survey coverage North Sea

Western Horse Mackerel

zone Vb (EC waters), VI, VII, VIIIa,b,d,e, XII, XIV

TAC 2008: 170,000 t

RAC 2008: 170,000 t

RAC Other Recommendations 2008:

- ◆ Implement new ICES approved three year management plan & review 2009
- ◆ Set three year TAC commencing 2008 170,000 t per year zone Vb (EC waters), VI, VII, VIIIa,b,d,e, XII, XIV (Area VIIIc covered Southern area)

Western Horse Mackerel
zone Vb (EC waters), VI, VII, VIIIa,b,d,e, XII, XIV

RAC Other Recommendations 2008:

- ◆ The Commission ensure Member States should fulfil obligations data directive regarding provision of catch-at-age data.
- ◆ RAC Focus Group work on alignment management areas with scientific assessment areas including North Sea & Southern areas

Southern Horse Mackerel (VIIIc and IX)

TAC 2008: 57750
RAC 2008: 65000

RAC other Recommendation 2008:

- ◆ The TAC 2008, 65,000 tonnes including 10,000 tonnes Western horse mackerel take into account that area VIIIc

Southern Horse Mackerel (VIIIc and IX)

RAC Other Recommendations 2008:

- ◆ The Horse Mackerel Focus Group established
 - Develop management options for area;
 - Consider how to improve the data collection, particularly resolving the issue of apparent inconsistency between survey and catch at age data;
 - Examine alignment between scientific assessment areas and management areas focussing on the Western area.

Sprat EC waters of IIa and IV

TAC 2008: 195,000 t mid year review
RAC 2008: 195,000 t mid year review

Other RAC Recommendations 2008:

- ◆ Concerned about level of by-catch herring fishery
- ◆ Requests monitoring from Commission
- ◆ Fishery restricted to North Sea herring industrial by-catch TAC

Protected Areas Corals South and West Ireland
Exemption Pelagic Vessels & Conditions

- ◆ All Pelagic Vessels issued a special fishing permit
- ◆ Vessels authorised carry on board exclusively pelagic gear.
- ◆ Four hours advance notice
- ◆ Notification entry & quantities Irish FMC.
- ◆ Fully functioning secure VMS
- ◆ VMS reports every hour.
- ◆ Concluded fishing notify departure & quantities Irish FMC.
- ◆ Restricted to nets mesh size 16 to 31 mm or 32 to 54 mm.

END



Blue Whiting Long-Term Management Plan Coastal States Agreement

Blue Whiting Agreed Record Paragraph 5
In accordance with Annex II, Paragraph 7 of the 2005 Agreed Record, the Delegations agreed to establish a working group to advise on long-term consequences of implementing alternative elements in the long-term management of blue whiting in the North-East Atlantic. The working group will base its work on the terms of reference set out in Annex II to this Agreed Record. The Delegations agreed that the Russian Federation would be invited to participate in the working group as observers. The Delegations further agreed to convene a meeting in 2008 with a view to develop a draft management plan for the long-term management of the stock on the basis of the conclusions of the working group, in time for ICES to be able to assess the plan during the third quarter of 2008.

COASTAL STATES WORKING GROUP CONCERNING LONG-TERM
MANAGEMENT OF BLUE WHITING IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC

Working Group terms of reference

➤ To advise, by means of simulation studies, on the long-term consequences in terms of yield stability of yield and conformity with the precautionary approach of implementing the following alternative elements in a long-term plan before 1 May 2008.

➤ a) Choice of fishing mortality target as $F=0.32$ or $F=0.2$, or other relevant levels.

➤ b) Amount by which the fishing mortality shall be adapted towards the target each year as i) 10% per year; ii) 20% per year; iii) 40% per year.

➤ c) Action to take when a spawning biomass trigger level is reached as i) no action, continue decreasing fishing mortality as normal; ii) linear decline in fishing mortality to $F=0.05$ at $SSB \leq B_{lim}$.

COASTAL STATES WORKING GROUP CONCERNING LONG-TERM
MANAGEMENT OF BLUE WHITING IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC

Working Group terms of reference:

➤ d) Choice of spawning biomass trigger level at which to take a more restrictive action as i) 2.25 Mt; ii) 2.6 Mt; iii) 3.0 Mt or other relevant levels.

➤ e) A criterion to improve stability e.g. as a 15% limit on TAC variations, applicable under conditions which do not prejudice the attainment of the target fishing mortality nor the respect of the reference biomass level.

➤ An effective long-term plan should be robust to alternative levels of productivity of the stock. Simulations and advice should be developed to this end. The group may advise on or recommend alternative management models on its own initiative.