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Date: 9 October 2017
Our reference: 1718/PAC 08
Subject: Long-term management strategy for southern horse mackerel

Dear Mr Machado,

It is my pleasure to submit to you in annex I a proposal for a long-term management strategy for southern horse mackerel. This strategy has been developed by the Pelagic AC in close collaboration with scientists from IPMA and IEO, as well as members of the South Western Waters AC.

I kindly ask the Commission to submit this proposal to ICES for evaluation and, subject to a positive evaluation by ICES, to use this strategy in the future to set the TAC for this stock.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jesper Raakjær'.

Jesper Raakjær
Chairman



Annex I

PELAC proposal for a long-term management strategy for the Southern horse mackerel stock

Background

A long-term management strategy (LTMS) was developed for this stock by initiative of the Pelagic Advisory Council (PELAC) in a collaborative work between scientists from IPMA and IEO and stakeholders from Portugal and Spain, with collaboration/knowledge of the South Western Waters Advisory Council (SWWAC).

Objectives

The Parties agree to propose a LTMS for the fisheries on the southern horse mackerel stock, which is consistent with the precautionary approach and the MSY objective (article 2.2) of the Common Fisheries Policy¹.

Criteria and definitions

Article 1 - Subject matter

This management strategy pertains to the Southern horse mackerel stock.

Article 2 - Geographical definitions of stocks

ICES Division 9.a (The Iberian coast from the Strait of Gibraltar to Cape Finisterre in Galician waters).

Article 3 - Definitions

For the purpose of this management strategy, in addition to the definitions laid down in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1380/2013, the following definitions shall apply:

- i) “ $F_{\text{by-catch}}$ ” refers to the level of fishing mortality which shall be applied when the Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) is equal to or below B_{lim} to account for horse mackerel by-catches.

Article 4 - Reference points

- i) The minimum spawning biomass level and the precautionary spawning biomass level for the combined shall be as follows: $B_{\text{lim}} = 103\ 000$ tonnes, B_{pa} or MSY $B_{\text{trigger}} = 181\ 000$ tonnes (ICES, 2017a,b).

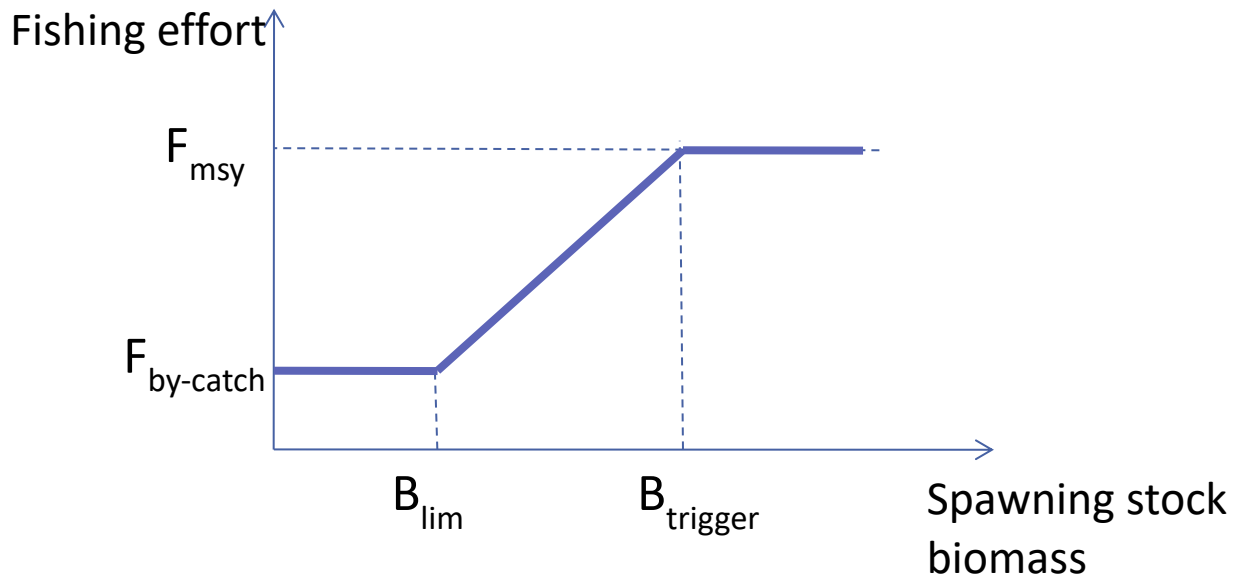
¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2013:354:0022:0061:EN:PDF>

- ii) The maximum fishing mortality associated with Maximum Sustainable Yield (F_{msy}) for the southern horse mackerel stock shall be as follows: $F_{msy} = 0.11$ (ICES, 2017a,b).

Article 5 - TAC setting procedures

1. In the case that the spawning stock biomass is forecast to be above or equal to $MSY B_{trigger}$ (equivalent to B_{pa}) at mid-January* of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC shall be fixed to a catch estimated based on an gradual increase of fishing mortality towards F_{msy} in 2025.
2. In the case that the spawning stock biomass of the stock is forecast to be less than $MSY B_{trigger}$ and larger than B_{lim} at mid-January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC shall be fixed that is consistent with a fishing mortality (F) given by the harvest control rule:

$$F = F_{by-catch} + [(F_{MSY} - F_{by-catch}) / (B_{trigger} - B_{lim}) / (SSB - B_{lim})]$$
3. In accordance with the objectives of the plan detailed in article 1 above, where the rules in paragraph 1 and 2 would lead to a fishing mortality higher than F_{MSY} , this fishing mortality shall be set in line with article 2.2 of the CFP.
4. Where the rules in paragraph 1, 2 and 3 would lead to a TAC which deviates by more than 15% from the TAC of the preceding year a TAC shall be set that is no more than 15% greater or 15% less than the TAC of the preceding year.
5. In the case that the spawning biomass is forecast to be equal to or less than B_{lim} in mid-January of the year for which the TAC is to be set, the TAC will be fixed corresponding to a fishing mortality $F_{by-catch} = 0.01$.



*For this stock, the spawning stock biomass is determined at spawning time (assumed to be mid-January)

Article 6 - Conditions of the monitoring fishery

Vessels participating in the fishery, if requested, shall take on-board scientific fisheries observers under the Data Collection Framework (DFC) to improve knowledge of the state of the stock. Those vessels upon request shall provide samples for the same scientific purpose.

Article 7 - End of the management strategy

The Parties, on the basis of ICES advice, shall review the biological reference points and this long-term management strategy at intervals not exceeding five years.

References

ICES, 2017a. Report of the Benchmark Workshop on Pelagic Stocks (WKPELA), 6–10 February 2017, Lisbon, Portugal. ICES CM 2017/ACOM:35. 294 pp.

ICES, 2017b. Working Group on Southern Horse Mackerel, Anchovy and Sardine (WGHANSA), 24–29 June 2017, Bilbao, Spain. ICES CM 2017/ACOM:17.