

Celtic Sea								
Species	Member States Impacted	Level of Risk Advice 2017 for TAC 2018	Level of Risk Advice 2018 for TAC 2019	ICES Advice 2019 <sup>1</sup>	Possibility for inter-species flexibility according to Reg EU 1380/2013 Art 15.8	Proposed exemptions contained in NWW draft Delegated Act for 2020 and existing exemptions in place	Predicted choke risk 2020	Proposed additional measures for 2020
Haddock 7b-k	BE, ES, FR, IE, NL, UK	High	High	TAC advice = 16671 (+100%)	Yes	De minimis exemption for haddock up to a maximum of 5% for 2020 for vessels using bottom trawls, seines and beam trawls (OTB, OTT, OT, PTB, PT, SSC, SDN, SPR, SX, SV, TBB, TBN, TBS, TB, TX) with mesh size of greater than or equal to 80mm in ICES areas 7b-c and 7e-k; Specific technical measures introduced into the Celtic Sea in July 2019.	High	Choke risk is dependent on level of TAC set for 2020. Based on the full catch advice being applied, the level of choke risk is reduced to moderate from high as in previous years, noting that several MS (IE, UK) are likely to have significant deficits between catch and available quota. NL & ES, as in 2019, will be reliant of the quota pool arrangement to cover bycatch in their respective fisheries. Haddock are associated with cod and whiting where the advice is negative. It is unlikely that the full catch advice will be applied to the haddock TAC. Taking the Fmsy lower this would equate to a TAC is 11418 tonnes which is well below the catches for 2018. In this scenario, the choke risk would be high with multiple fisheries with bycatch of haddock potentially being choked. Regardless of the TAC level, improving selectivity for haddock in fisheries where unwanted catches are highest should remain a priority. The effectiveness of the selectivity

								measures introduced in 2019 should be monitored during 2020.
<b>Skates and Rays 6 &amp; 7</b>	BE, ES, FR, IE, UK	High	Low	Advice due Autumn	No reference points defined all all species covered by TAC	High survivability exemption until 2021 for skates and rays species caught with any gear in the North Western Waters.	Low	In line with NWW Roadmap for skates and rays, the programme of data collection, further high survivability experiments and improvements in selectivity should continue.
<b>Whiting 7b-k</b>	BE, ES, FR, IE, NL, UK	High	Moderate	TAC Advice = 10799 (-44%)	No	Continuation of de minimis up to a maximum of 5% of the total annual catches of this species by vessels using bottom trawls and seines with mesh size equal to or greater than 80mm (OTB, OTT, OT, PTB, PT, SSC, SDN, SPR, SX, SV, TBN, TBS, TB, TX), pelagic trawls (OTM, PTM) and beam trawls (TBB) with mesh size of 80-119mm (BT2) Specific technical measures introduced into the Celtic Sea in July 2019	Moderate	Improving selectivity for whiting in fisheries where unwanted catches are highest should remain a priority. The effectiveness of the selectivity measures introduced in 2019 should be monitored during 2020.
<b>Plaice 7f,g</b>	BE, ES, FR, IE, UK	High	Low	TAC Advice ≤ 2295 (+38%)	Yes	Continuation of the high survivability exemption for Plaice caught with trammel nets (GTR, GTN, GEN, GN) and with otter trawls (OTT, OTB, TBS, TBN, TB, PTB, OT, PT, TX) in ICES divisions 7f,g. Continuation from 2020 onwards of the temporary high survivability exemption for plaice caught with beam trawls (TBB) in ICES subarea 7.	Low	No additional measures are likely with existing high survivability exemptions. Further survivability work should be prioritised to confirm survival rates in line with the NWW MS roadmap for plaice.
<b>Sole 7f,g</b>	BE, ES, FR, IE	High	High	TAC Advice = 1731 (+106%)	Yes	Continuation of the de minimis exemption up to a maximum of 3% of the total annual catches of that species by vessels using trammel and gill nets (GN, GNS, GND, GNC, GTN, GTR, GEN, GNF), and by those using TBB gear with mesh size of 80-119mm (BT2) with increased selectivity, such as a large mesh extension (Flemish panel), in ICES divisions 7f,g.	Moderate	Prioritise high survivability work in fisheries in 7f,g; Consider inter area flexibility or merging of TACs with 7h,j,k Monitor effectiveness of selectivity measures introduced

<b>Hake 6 &amp; 7</b>	ES, IE, NL	Moderate	Moderate	TAC Advice ≤ 104763 (-26%)(including subarea 4 and divisions 3.a, 8.a–b, and 8.d)	Yes	Specific technical measures introduced into the Celtic Sea in July 2019	Moderate	Prioritise improving selectivity in gadoid and Nephrops fisheries where unwanted catches are highest. Monitor effectiveness of existing measures and consider extending these measures to areas not covered currently.
<b>Anglerfish 7 and 8</b>	ES, IE, UK	Moderate	Moderate	TAC Advice = 31798 (+8%)	Yes	None existing or proposed	Moderate	No additional measures proposed
<b>Cod 7e-k</b>	ES, IE, UK	Moderate	High	TAC Advice = 0 (-100%)	No	Specific technical measures introduced into the Celtic Sea in July 2020	High	Improving selectivity for cod in fisheries where unwanted catches are highest should remain a priority. The effectiveness of the selectivity measures introduced in 2019 should be monitored during 2020. Review the effectiveness for the existing cod closures in the Celtic Sea and explore additional spatial/temporal measures. Prioritise measures that are geared towards stock recovery, i.e. avoid capture in the first place and maximise survival of any escaping cod; Use mixed fisheries advice (once available) to inform TAC-setting.
<b>Sole 7h,j,k</b>	BE, ES, FR	Moderate	Moderate	TAC Advice ≤ 213 (-44%)	No	De minimis exemption for common sole up to a maximum of 3% of the total annual catches of that species by vessels using beam trawls (TBB) with mesh size of 80-119mm (BT2) with increased selectivity, such as a large mesh extension (Flemish panel), in ICES divisions 7j and 7k. Continuation of the de minimis exemption up to a maximum of 3% of the total annual catches of that species by vessels using	High	Request ICES to analyse if Sole 7h,j,k and Sole 7f,g can be considered one stock; Prioritise survivability experiments in trawl fisheries in 7h,j,k.

						trammel and gill nets (GN, GNS, GND, GNC, GTN, GTR, GEN, GNF).		
<b>Plaice 7h,j,k</b>	BE, ES, FR	Moderate	High	TAC Advice = 0 (-100%)	No	Continuation from 2020 onwards of the temporary high survivability exemption for plaice caught with beam trawls (TBB) in ICES subarea 7. The derogation for plaice 7h is limited to 2020 based on the status of the stock.	High	Address data limitations which impact the quality of the ICES advice Request ICES to analyse if Plaice 7h,j,k and Plaice 7f,g can be considered one stock Consider possible improvements in selectivity in fisheries where bycatches are highest; Further survivability studies in fisheries other than beam trawls should be prioritized, and special effort will be made to collect vitality estimates, obtained by observers on-board, and the collation of existing data sources (previous vitality, observer and REM data) for plaice in 7h. Prioritise measures that are geared towards stock recovery, i.e. avoid capture in the first place and maximise survival of any escaping plaice; Improve the documentation of catches to address the data issues for this stock.
<b>Megrim 7</b>	ES, UK	Moderate	Low	TAC Advice = 19982 (+5%) (includes divisions 7.b-k, 8.a-b, and 8.d.)	Yes	Introduction of de minimis exemption for megrims below MCRS up to a maximum of 5% in 2020 of the total annual catches of those species by vessels using bottom trawls (OTT, OTB, TBS, TBN, TB, PTB, OT, PT, TX) with a mesh size of 70-99mm (TR2) and beam	Low	Prioritise improvements in selectivity proposed in fisheries where unwanted catches of megrim below mcrs are highest. Update information on disproportionate costs.

						trawls (TBB) with a mesh size of 80-119mm (BT2) in ICES subarea 7.	
<b><i>Nephrops 7</i></b>	ES, IE, BE	Low	Low	Advice due Autumn	Advice Autumn	Continuation of the high survivability exemption for <i>Nephrops</i> caught in ICES subarea 7: with pots, traps or creels (FPO, FIX, FYK); with bottom trawls (OTT, OTB, TBS, TBN, TB, PTB, OT, PT, TX) with a mesh size equal to or larger than 100mm; with bottom trawls (OTT, OTB, TBS, TBN, TB, PTB, OT, PT, TX) with a mesh size of 70-99mm in combination with highly selective gears	Low No additional measures proposed
<b>Pollack 7</b>	ES, IE, NL	Low	Low	TAC Advice ≤ 3360 (-73%)(also including subarea 6)	No reference points defined	None existing or proposed	Low No additional measures proposed
<b>Boarfish 7b-c and f-k</b>				TAC = 21830 tonnes	No reference points defined	Introduction of de minimis for boarfish (Caproidae) caught by vessels using bottom trawls (OTT, OTB, TBS, TBN, TB, PTB, OT, PT, TX) in ICES divisions 7b-c and 7f-k, up to 0.5% of the total annual catches of that species in all fisheries in 7b-c and 7f-k. Updated information on disproportionate costs will be submitted by 1 May 2020 to support the renewal of the exemption for 2021.	Implement Boarfish closures according to the management strategy for this species as proposed by the Pelagic AC.

**West of Scotland**

Species	Member States Impacted	Level of Risk Advice 2017 for TAC 2018	Level of Risk Advice 2018 for TAC 2019	ICES Advice 2019 for TAC 2020	Possibility for inter-species flexibility according to Reg EU 1380/2013 Art 15.8	Proposed exemptions contained in NWW draft Delegated Act for 2020 and existing exemptions in place	Predicted Choke Risk 2020	Proposed additional measures for 2020
<b>Cod 6a</b>	ES, FR, IE, UK	High	High	TAC Advice = 0 (-100%)	No	Specific technical measures to be introduced into the West of Scotland Nephrops fishery from 1 July 2020	High	Accelerate introduction of technical measures and monitor effectiveness of the measures introduced. Bycatch TAC linked to requirements for full catch documentation but note OIG concern re. bycatch TACs and bycatch reduction plans as stated on page 4 of the NWWAC advice. Explore stock identity issue. Explore spatial/temporal closures (including real-time closures to protect juvenile cod). Prioritise measures that are geared towards stock recovery, i.e. avoid capture in the first place and maximise survival of any escaping cod.
<b>Saithe 6a</b>	ES, FR, NL, UK	High	Moderate	TAC Advice ≤ 88093 (-35%) (including subareas 4 and 6, and in division 3.a)	Yes	None proposed or existing	Moderate	No additional measures proposed

<b>Whiting 6a</b>	ES, IE, NL, UK	High	High	TAC Advice = 0 (-100%)	No	Specific technical measures to be introduced into the West of Scotland Nephrops fishery from 1 July 2020	High	Accelerate introduction of technical measures and monitor effectiveness of the measures introduced. Bycatch TAC linked to requirements for full catch documentation but note OIG concern re. bycatch TACs and bycatch reduction plans as stated on page 4 of the NWWAC advice. Explore spatial/temporal closures. Prioritise measures that are geared towards stock recovery, i.e. avoid capture in the first place and maximise survival of any escaping whiting.
<b>Anglerfish 6</b>	ES, IE, UK	Moderate	Moderate	Autumn	No reference points defined	None proposed or existing	Moderate	No additional measures proposed
<b>Haddock 6a</b>	ES, IE, NL, UK	Moderate	Moderate	TAC advice = 30228 (-8%) (covers ICES 6a, 4 and subarea 20)	Yes	Introduction of de minimis exemption for haddock below MCRS up to a maximum of 3% of the total annual catches of that species by vessels using bottom trawls (OTB, TBN, TB, OTT, OT) with a mesh size up to 119mm in the West of Scotland Nephrops fishery (ICES division 6a). Specific technical measures to be introduced into the West of Scotland Nephrops fishery from 1 July 2020	High	Accelerate introduction of technical measures and monitor effectiveness of the measures introduced. Bycatch TAC linked to requirements for full catch documentation but note OIG concern re. bycatch TACs and bycatch reduction plans as stated on page 4 of the NWWAC advice. Explore spatial/temporal closures.
<b>Haddock 6b</b>	ES, IE, UK	Low	Low	Autumn	Advice autumn but was in 2018/2019	None existing or proposed	Low	No additional measures proposed
<b>Blue Ling 5b, 6 &amp; 7</b>	ES, IE			TAC Advice ≤ 11150 (+1.5%)	Yes	None existing or proposed	Low	No additional measures proposed
<b>Cod 6b</b>	ES, IE	Low	Low	TAC Advice ≤ 14 (-81%)	No reference points defined	None existing or proposed	High	Enhanced data collection to improve knowledge of the stock.

<b>Ling 5, 6, 7</b>	BE, ES, IE	Low	Moderate	TAC Advice ≤ 17695 (-20%)	No reference points defined	None existing or proposed	Moderate	No additional measures proposed noting a de minimis is in place the North Sea to cover catches of ling below mcrs in the TR1 fisheries
<b>Megrim 6</b>	ES, IE	Low	Low	TAC Advice = 8350 (covers divisions 4a and 6a)	Yes	None existing or proposed	Low	No additional measures proposed
<b>Nephrops 6</b>	None	Low	Low	Advice due Autumn	Advice due autumn	Continuation of high survivability exemption for Nephrops caught with bottom trawls (OTT, OTB, TBS, TBN, TB, PTB, OT, PT, TX) with a mesh size of 80-110mm in ICES division 6a within twelve nautical miles of the coast	Low	Additional survivability studies to cover fisheries outside 12 nautical miles.
<b>Tusk 6a</b>		Low	Low	TAC Advice ≤ 8627 (covers subareas 4 and 7–9, and divisions 3.a, 5.b, 6.a, and 12.b)	Yes	None proposed	Low	No additional measures proposed
<b>Tusk 6b</b>	BE, ES, NL			TAC Advice ≤ 280	Yes	None proposed	Moderate	No additional measures proposed
<b>Silver smelt 5b, 6a</b>				Precautionary approach, landings no more than 7703 tonnes in each of the years 2020 and 2021	No reference points defined	Introduction of de minimis for greater silver smelt ( <i>Argentina silus</i> ), caught by vessels using bottom trawls (OTT, OTB, TBS, TBN, TB, PTB, OT, PT, TX) with a mesh size greater or equal to 100mm (TR1) in ICES division Vb (EU waters) and subarea 6, up to 0.6% of the total annual catches of that species in all fisheries in 5b and 6. Updated information on disproportionate costs will be submitted by 1 May 2020 to support the renewal of the exemption for 2021.		



Irish Sea								
Species	Member States Impacted	Level of Risk Advice 2017 for TAC 2018	Level of Risk Advice 2018 for TAC 2019	ICES Advice 2019	Possibility for inter-species flexibility according to Reg EU 1380/2013 Art 15.8	Proposed exemptions contained in NWW draft Delegated Act for 2020 and existing exemptions in place	Predicted choke risk 2020	Proposed additional measures for 2020
<b>Cod 7a</b>	BE, IE, UK	Moderate	Moderate	TAC Advice ≤116 (-86%)	No reference points defined	Specific technical measures in the Irish Sea introduced from 1 January 2019	High	Monitor effectiveness of selectivity measures introduced. Consider additional selectivity measures that could be taken in Nephrops fisheries to reduce cod bycatch. Consider additional spatial/temporal measures. Further benchmarking of the stock in 2020 to assess the modelling used. The fact that the model is highly sensitive to the selectivity assumption is a cause for concern. This does not invalidate the ICES assessment but does raise questions about the robustness of the results.
<b>Whiting 7a</b>	BE, IE, UK	High	High	TAC Advice = 0 (-100%)	No	Specific technical measures in the Irish Sea introduced from 1 January 2019 Introduction of de minimis exemption for the demersal mixed fishery by vessels targeting brown shrimp with beam trawls (TBB) of mesh size <31mm in ICES division 7a: a combined quantity of fish species below minimum conservation reference size (MCRS) falling under the landing obligation, which shall not exceed 0.85% of the total annual catches of plaice and 0.15% of the total annual catches of whiting in demersal mixed fisheries in division 7a.	High	Improving selectivity for whiting in fisheries where unwanted catches are highest should remain a priority. The effectiveness of the selectivity measures introduced in 2019 should be monitored during 2020.

<b>Haddock 7a</b>	UK	Low	Low	TAC Advice = 3156 (-16%)	Yes	Specific technical measures in the Irish Sea introduced from 1 January 2019	Low	Monitor effectiveness of selectivity measures introduced.
<b>Sole 7a</b>	BE	Moderate	Low	TAC Advice ≤ 561 (+36%)	Yes	Introduction of de minimis exemption for common sole up to a maximum of 3% of the total annual catches of that species by vessels using beam trawls (TBB) with mesh size of 80-119mm (BT2) with increased selectivity, such as a large mesh extension (Flemish panel), in ICES divisions 7a	Low	Monitor effectiveness of selectivity measures introduced.
<b>Plaice 7a</b>	BE	Low	Low	TAC Advice ≤ 5640 (+83%)	Yes	Introduction of de minimis exemption for the demersal mixed fishery by vessels targeting brown shrimp with beam trawls (TBB) of mesh size <31mm in ICES division 7a: a combined quantity of fish species below minimum conservation reference size (MCRS) falling under the landing obligation, which shall not exceed 0.85% of the total annual catches of plaice and 0.15% of the total annual catches of whiting in demersal mixed fisheries in division VIIa.	Low	No additional measures proposed

**Eastern & Western Channel**

Species	Member States Impacted	Level of Risk Advice 2017 for TAC 2018	Level of Risk Advice 2018 for TAC 2019	ICES Advice 2019	Possibility for inter-species flexibility according to Reg EU 1380/2013 Art 15.8	Proposed exemptions contained in NWW Joint Recommendations for 2020 and existing exemptions in place	Predicted choke risk 2020	Proposed additional measures for 2020
<b>Plaice 7d, e</b>	BE, FR, NL, UK	Moderate	Low	TAC Advice = separate advice for 7d and 7e. 7d: 9073. 7e: ≤ 2721	Yes	Continuation of high survivability exemption for plaice caught with trammel nets (GTR, GTN, GEN, GN), with otter trawls (OTT, OTB, TBS, TBN, TB, PTB, OT, PT, TX) and with beam trawls (TBB) (this one in all ICES subarea 7). High survivability exemption for plaice caught with Danish seines (SDN) in ICES division 7d.	Low	No additional measures are proposed but further survivability work should be prioritised to confirm survival rates.
<b>Skates &amp; Rays 7d</b>	BE, FR, UK	High	Low	Advice due Autumn	No reference points defined all all species covered by TAC	High survivability exemption until 2021 for skates and rays species caught with any gear in the North Western Waters.	Low	In line with NWW Roadmap for skates and rays, the programme of data collection, further high survivability experiments and improvements in selectivity should continue

Sole 7d	FR, BE	Moderate	Moderate	Advice due Autumn	Advice due Autumn	<p>Continuation of the high survivability exemption for sole below MCRS caught with otter trawl gears (OTT, OTB, TBS, TBN, TB, PTB, OT, PT, TX) with mesh size 80-99mm (TR2) in ICES division 7d caught by vessels meeting the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. within 6 nautical miles of coast and outside identified nursery areas;</li> <li>ii. with a maximum length of 10m and a maximum engine power of 221kW;</li> <li>iii. fishing in waters with a depth of 30m or less; and</li> <li>iv. with limited tow duration of no more than ninety minutes.</li> </ul> <p>Continuation of de minimis exemption for sole up to a maximum of 3% of the total annual catches of that species by vessels using trammel and gill nets (GN, GNS, GND, GNC, GTN, GTR, GEN, GNF); up to a maximum of 3% of the total annual catches of that species by vessels using TBB gear with mesh size of 80-119mm (BT2) with increased selectivity, such as a large mesh extension (Flemish panel).</p>	Moderate	Monitor effectiveness of selectivity measures introduced
Sole 7e	BE,UK	Moderate	Moderate	TAC Advice = 1478 (+19%)	Yes	<p>Continuation of de minimis exemption for sole up to a maximum of 3% of the total annual catches of that species by vessels using trammel and gill nets (GN, GNS, GND, GNC, GTN, GTR, GEN, GNF); up to a maximum of 3% of the total annual catches of that species by vessels using TBB gear with mesh size of 80-119mm (BT2) with increased selectivity, such as a large mesh extension (Flemish panel).</p>	Moderate	<p>Monitor effectiveness of selectivity measures introduced.</p> <p>Reconsider similar high survivability exemption as for sole in 7d, once MS provide information on the fishery catch composition and the related survival rate of the species in the relevant fisheries.</p>

Cod 7d	None	Low	Low	TAC Advice ≤ 10 457 (-70%) (covers Subarea 4, Division 7.d, and Subdivision 20)	No	No proposed exemptions	Low	No additional measures proposed based on low abundance. To be reconsidered if an increase of abundance would be noticed.
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