



## **MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR WEST OF SCOTLAND COD AND OTHER MIXED FISHERIES**

**November 2013**

### **Synopsis**

The Cod Mixed Fisheries Focus Group has been given a mandate from NWWWRAC West of Scotland Working Group (WG1) to produce a scoping paper to implement an operational management plan for VIa. This can only be done once necessary information on catch and discard data estimates is available from the scientific community.

### **ACTION COMPLETED FROM PREVIOUS WG1 MEETING:**

#### **Clarification from ICES ACOM (Carmen Fernández) on Catch and Discards Data Estimates for VIa Cod**

**From:** Carmen Fernandez  
**Sent:** 02 August 2013  
**Subject:** cod 6a discards

Dear Alex,

In response to the question raised by Sean O'Donoghue, I have checked with relevant experts in ICES and this is what we can say about the estimates of discards for cod in Division VIa (West of Scotland):

You may have noticed that the estimates of discards we have in the advice sheet this year are different (starting from 2006) from the ones we had in the advice sheet last year, and this is because the estimates have been revised as follows:

At the VIa cod benchmark in 2012, an adjustment for area misreporting of the Scottish landings and discards (under reporting is considered negligible) was made based on the available information. Between the 2012 and 2013 assessments the logic of doing this for discards was questioned, and it is now considered more realistic to adjust only the landings (and not the discards) for misreporting. This change in approach is noted in the advice sheet this year (see "Comparison with previous assessment and advice" section).

The discard estimates provided by ICES in the advice sheet this year are the best we have available.

It should, however, also be noted that ICES and STECF are in the process of jointly examining discrepancies between their respective catch estimates (where the discrepancies are expected to arise mostly for the discard estimates). This process will progress further during an STECF working group in September and it is possible that estimates of catch or discards for some stocks may be revised as a consequence (or in light of any other information that may become available at a later date).

I hope this serves to clarify the situation. Best regards, Carmen