

PROCESS: Approval of North Sea advice June 19, 2015

Draft advice made available to ACOM members: June 12, 2015, 1656h (CPH time)

Participants

Alain Biseau, Anne Cooper, Carl O'Brien, Carmen Fernandez, Ciaran Kelly, Cristina Morgado, David Miller, Eskild , Ghislain, Joanne Morgan, Larry Alade, Morten Vinther, Ruth Fernandez, Sigbjorn, Chris Zimmerman, Kelle Moreau, Max Cardinale

The following table is organized with some cells highlighted in grey. These comments are considered to be relatively straight forward and the changes have been proposed. In the webex these changes can be requested for discussion by any participant but will not be discussed unless specifically requested. This approach is intended to speed up the process not to stop discussion, so feel free to raise issues on the 'grey' items. We will check for each stock if all comments have been dealt with.

Comment and/or Issue raised (ACOM member)	Explanation and/or resolution
General	
ACOM leadership Stock status table ACOM leadership suggests not to use the words "target" or "limit" for any of the reference points (including those in management plans). The reason for this is the ongoing discussion in Europe on whether the reference points are to be considered as targets or limits. It is, therefore, preferred just to state whether the stock/F is below, at or above the reference point. The text in Stock status tables is being ammended, for the stocks where it is needed, to follow this. All changes to the stock status tables are being done with track changes and noted in the minutes below.	
Bll-nsea	
Max / Sweden Quality of the Assessment: "... The increased use of pulse trawls and other adaptations like fuel-saving wings will likely affect catchability and selectivity of North Sea brill. Though this effect has not yet been quantified, it will increase assessment uncertainty."	

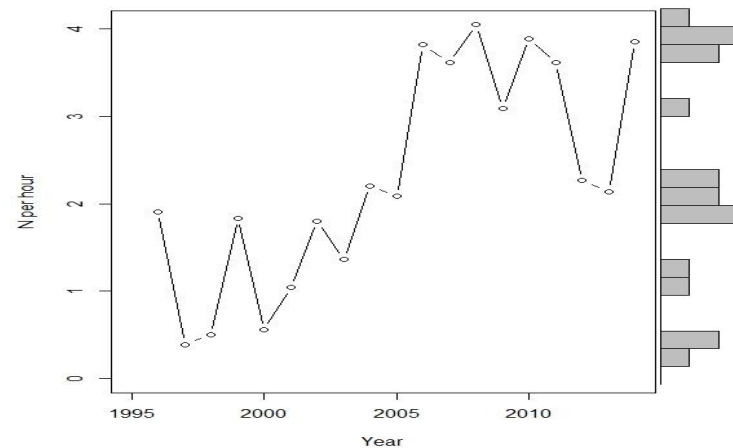
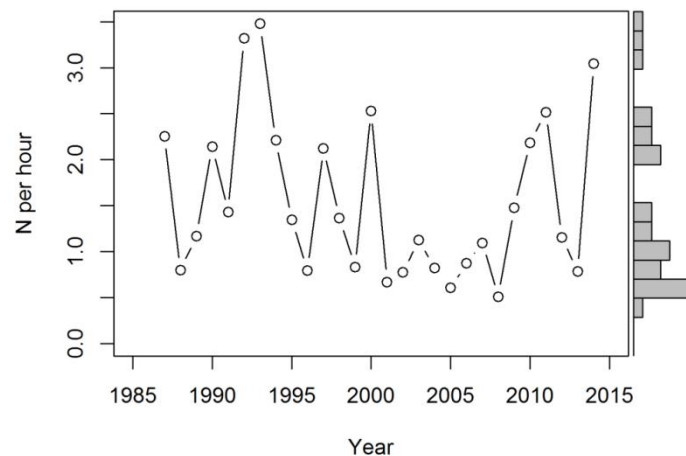
I doubt that catchability has decreased moving towards pulse trawls. However, if we doubt about the direction of the change in catchability in the last 5 years where we see a decline in CPUE, should we not apply the PA buffer? It seems to me a typical case where the PA buffer should be applied, also because it has never been applied although we do not have an estimate of F or/and FMSY.

Carmen:

I have checked with WGNSSK and Dutch experts if there is any documented information on the direction in which the catchability may change, but they don't think this information exists. Note that Nathalie is proposing to change the wording "will likely affect catchability" to "may affect catchability" (see her comment below)

The reason why the ADG considered a PA buffer was not needed for this stock is the same reason that has been used for dab, flounder and lemon sole, namely: "Brill is mainly a bycatch species in the North Sea demersal fisheries. In recent years large effort reduction took place in these fisheries of about 60% in beam-trawl and otter-trawl fisheries in the period 2000-2012 (STECF-14-03). A similar argument for not applying the PA buffer has been used in previous advice for these stocks. But it is, of course, ultimately an ACOM decision.

Two other pieces of information, which were not brought to the ADG this year but were in the advice sheet 2 years ago and are available in the WGNSSK 2015 report, are the survey indices (number per hour) of BTS-ISIS-Q3 (noisy but constant overall level; left panel below) and BITS-HAV-Q1&Q4 (noisy but overall increasing trend; right panel below).



The following text is from the WGNSSK 2015 report:

Because the landings in 2013-2014 were well below the ICES advice for those years (ICES advice for 2013-14 was 2.8 kt, landings about 2 kt), and the 6% drop in commercial CPUE is accompanied by increasing survey abundances in 2014, brill in the Greater North Sea is not expected to be overexploited so the PA buffer was not

applied.

⇒ For ACOM decision. Keep what is in advice sheet, but will add additional information to supplement.

CARMEN: I have done this (included in brill advice sheet with track changes). Scott please check it and see what you think. The graphs should be improved (e.g. remove histogram on right-hand-side), the data are available in the WGNSSK 2015 report, so if you could produce better looking graphs that'd be great
DONE

Carmen

Quality of the Assessment, last paragraph:

“The age-structured fishery-independent indices used in the trends-based assessment are of poor quality. A fishery-independent index covering the entire distribution area of the stock would improve the assessment. The commercial index used is derived from catch and effort data for the Dutch beam-trawl fleet. Since 2011, the use of pulse trawls by Dutch fishermen has increased sharply to 74 vessels and only six traditional beam trawlers are now left. The increased use of pulse trawls and other adaptations like fuel-saving wings will likely affect catchability and selectivity of North Sea brill. Though this effect has not yet been quantified, it will increase assessment uncertainty.”

I suggest removing sentence in red (was taken from NS turbot, it's not applicable to brill).

⇒ Agree: DONE

Nathalie

Quality of the Assessment:

Proposed text amendments strikethrough and in bold text:

The age-structured fisheries independent indices used in the trends based assessment are of poor quality. A fisheries independent index covering the entire distribution area of the stock would improve the assessment. The commercial index used is derived from catch and effort data for the Dutch beam trawl fleet >221kW. Since 2011, the use of pulse trawls by Dutch fishermen has increased sharply to 74 vessels (**of which 65 >221 kW**) and only **8** traditional beam trawls are now left. The increased use of pulse trawls and other adaptations like fuel-saving wings ~~will likely~~ may affect catchability and selectivity of North Sea brill. Though this effect has not yet been quantified, it will increase assessment uncertainty.

⇒ Agree DONE

⇒ in the Dutch fishery: SCOTT ADD DONE

<p>Carmen Table 6.3.2.2: In “Discard rate” line , insert “(average of 2012-2014)”</p>	<p>Scott, could you do this? DONE</p>
<p>Carmen Table 6.3.2.5: (1) 2016 advice line should be “Precautionary approach (decrease catches by 6%)” (2) Add a footnote to the value 2756 saying: “the advised catch takes into account new discard information that became available in 2015”</p>	<p>Scott, please, implement this. DONE Concerning (1): check all other Category 3-6 stocks. The same mistake has occurred in several other of these stocks DONE DONE</p>
<p>cod-347</p>	
<p>Canada: Front page graphs Minor – the fishing mortality plot is a little confusing since the Fmsy label is so close to the time series line..can the label be moved a bit?</p>	<p>Scott: can you check if this is possible? If possible, please implement it DONE</p>
<p>ACOM leadership Stock status table Fmgt line text should be: “At F_{upper}” (instead of “At target”; note that F_{upper} is part of the of the EU-Norway management strategy reference points noted in the Reference Points table for NS cod) SSBmgt line text suggestion: “Just below SSB_{upper}” (instead of “Below upper trigger”; note that SSB_{upper} is part of the of the EU-Norway management strategy reference points noted in the Reference Points table for NS cod)</p>	<p>Terminology for reference points table: $F_{MS-upper}$ $F_{MS-lower}$ $SSB_{MS-upper}$ $SSB_{MS-lower}$ Text in stock status table CARMEN (written after WebEx): Given the subsequent discussion in the WebEx under saithe, I understand now that my proposal for text for SSBmgt line was incorrect. Instead of “Just below $SSB_{MS-upper}$”, we should say “Below $SSB_{MS-upper}$” DONE (At $F_{MS-upper}$ and Below $SSB_{MS-upper}$)</p>
<p>ACOM leadership The following feedback was received from the European Commission in January 2015: “ICES should provide advice in relation to adjustments in both TAC and effort for each of the cod stocks under the long term plan (amended Council Regulation (EC) No 1342/2008).” Until 2012, we had a sentence giving the corresponding % reduction in effort</p>	<p>Insert as 3rd paragraph in “issues relevant for the advice” section: “The EU cod management plan (EC 1342/2008) has the same aims as the EU-Norway management strategy and additionally complements the TAC with an effort regime. Following Article 12 of the plan, the maximum allowable effort for the relevant effort groups would be adjusted by the same percentage as the fishing mortality. The adjustment in F according to the EU cod management plan catch</p>

<p>ceilings in the North Sea cod advice sheet (in “Management plan” section, below catch options table); in the last 2 years we’ve had a sentence but without actually specifying the % reduction value. The ACOM leadership considers that an appropriate sentence should be included this year, to address this feedback from the European Commission.</p> <p>Suggestion: insert the following sentences, either as the third paragraph in the “Quality of the assessment” section, as a footnote to the EU-Norway management strategy catch option in the catch options table, or in the Management plan box of the “Basis of the advice” table (Table 6.3.4.4):</p> <p>“The EU cod management plan (EC 1342/2008) has the same aims as the EU-Norway management strategy and additionally complements the TAC with an effort regime. According to Article 12 of the plan, the maximum allowable effort for the relevant effort groups should be adjusted by the same percentage as the fishing mortality. The adjustment in F from 2015 to 2016 is a 15% reduction. No reduction in effort ceilings has been applied after 2012.”</p>	<p>option from 2015 to 2016 is a 15% reduction.” AGREED DONE</p>
<p>Carl</p> <p>Quality of the assessment: I have read the draft advice for NS cod and the review of SAM. Under point 2 of the review, it mentions the change in selection pattern which is too technical for our advice but does state ‘... (e.g. some evidence that larger cod inhabit less accessible rocky areas); however, this remained largely speculative’. Should we be commenting on this in a general sense under quality; i.e. it is not possible to truly validate the domed selection even though it improves mode-fit? I would hate it for our advice and model to come back and ‘bite us’ next year if the changes this year are not subsequently confirmed in the future assessment.</p>	<p>Proposed text (to be added at the end of the 2nd paragraph of “Quality of the assessment” section):</p> <p>The settings of the new model have been changed to allow a change in the exploitation pattern of the oldest ages; this also contributes to the change in the stock perception. AGREED DONE</p>
<p>Carmen</p> <p>Quality of the assessment, third paragraph: The basis for calculating B_{pa} now follows the ICES standard procedure ($1.4 \times B_{lim}$), leading to a smaller difference between B_{lim} and B_{pa} compared to the previous reference</p>	<p>AGREED DONE</p>

points. I suggest not referring to this as “ICES standard procedure” and replacing current sentence by: “Bpa has been calculated as 1.4xBlim.”	
Carmen Reference points table, Technical basis for MSY Btrigger: I suggest replacing the current “The default option of Bpa.(=1.4xBlim)” by “Bpa”	AGREED DONE
Carmen Information from stakeholders: We only have the figure, without any text at all. I think this is unclear (I checked with the ADG and there was an intention to include some text, but was forgotten in the hurry of things). ⇒ Suggestion for text: Comparison between the stock trends as recorded by the fishers’ North Sea stock survey (Napier 2014; Figure 6.3.4.4) and the IBTS survey data has shown, as in previous years, that the time-series are broadly in agreement in recording a stable overall stock abundance during 2001–2005, followed by a more recent strong increase. The latest fishers’ survey reports continued strong increases in stock abundance in all areas apart from the south, in which an increase occurred until 2011 followed by a levelling off and in some areas a slight decline.	AGREED DONE
cod-kat	
Carmen Stock status table, management plan line: I think symbols should be ? instead of -, as we don’t know where the stock is in relation to the ref points of the management plan (but we have ref points in the management plan)	AGREED DONE
Carmen Reference points table, management plan line: I think instead of a single SSBmgt, it should show: SSBlower=6 400 t, SSBupper=10 500 t (similar to how NS cod is presented and according to the contents of the plan EC 1342/2008)	SSB _{MS-upper} SSB _{MS-lower} AGREED DONE
ACOM leadership	Insert after the 2 nd paragraph under Issues relevant to the advice. AGREED DONE

The following feedback was received from the European Commission in January 2015: “ICES should provide advice in relation to adjustments in both TAC and effort for each of the cod stocks under the long term plan (amended Council Regulation (EC) No 1342/2008).”

For Kattegat cod, a sentence along these lines was included in the advice sheet in 2012 (in “Management plan” section). The last 2 years the advice for the stock was a simple SALY sheet and this information was not included. The ACOM leadership considers that an appropriate sentence should be included this year, to address this feedback from the European Commission.

Suggestion: insert the following sentences as the second paragraph in the “Quality of the assessment” section or in the Management plan box of the “Basis of the advice table” (Table 6.3.3.4):

“The EU cod management plan (EC 1342/2008) is based on setting TACs complemented with an effort regime. Given the lack of a short-term forecast for this stock, application of the plan would correspond to a 15% decrease in the TAC and a 15% reduction in the maximum allowable fishing effort for the relevant effort groups (Articles 9 and 12 of the management plan).”

dab-nsea

Canada:

Quality of the assessment

Did something change in 2012 to lead to this massive discarding? If not then I suggest that the uncertainty introduced by the raising of the discards is minor compared to the uncertainty of not including any discards. If high levels of discards are thought to have taken place prior to 2012 then this should probably be included as a source of uncertainty.

Carmen:

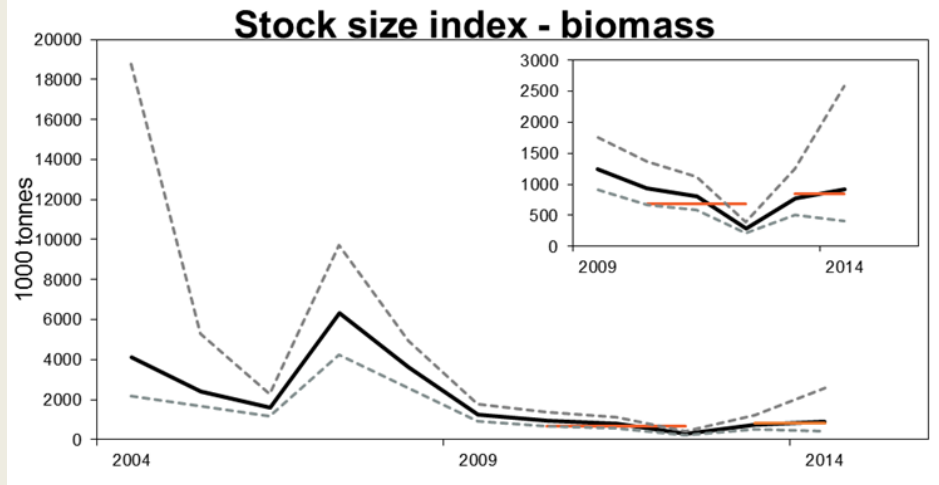
I do not think anything special occurred since 2012. In previous advice sheets for the stock we already indicated that discards were considered to be high / very high, but there was no sufficient information to calculate discard estimates. So previous advice for the stock referred only to landings and noted that total catch could not be quantified.

This year we had discard estimates for the first time (the 3 most recent years) and they could be used to provide catch advice for the stock.

This year in the data call issued by ICES, the last three years of discards data were requested, in order to be able to provide catch advice for all stocks. Together with

	<p>the discard data, the data call also asked for additional quality-control information such as number of trips, etc.</p> <p>Note that the advice method for the stock is based on the survey index and only the 3 last years of catch data. Thus, the lack of discard information in earlier years does not have a numerical impact on the present catch advice for this stock.</p> <p>⇒ Joanne and Carmen work offline for a suitable sentence for quality of the assessment. CARMEN: Joanne and I have discussed this offline and we have reached the conclusion that no sentence is needed</p> <p>All stocks Front page graphs: “discards data only included since 20XX (the years included in the 2015 ICES data call)” in place of “Discards not available since XXXX”. Quality of the assessment: Check for similar statement.</p> <p>In the 2015 ICES data call the last 3 years of discards data were requested (i.e. 2012-2014). So, since we haven’t asked for more than the last 3 years of discards data, we should be careful with our texts, to avoid potentially giving the impression that we asked for data that were not received.</p> <p>After the WebEx, Carmen, Cristina, and Eskild clarified the sentence to: “discards data only included since 20XX.” With no parenthetical mention of the ICES data call. DONE (BII-nsea, dab-nsea, Lem-nsea, tur-nsea, tur-kask, wit-nsea)</p>
<p>Carmen Table 6.3.7.6 I don’t think we need to use the words “Commercial” in front of landings and discards. I assume this is only needed for the very few stocks where we explicitly refer to recreational catches, but not needed otherwise.</p>	<p>Scott, could you please check this with Cristina and see what her understanding is? This comment would affect MANY stocks. Please only implement if it is clear what we need to do on this.</p> <p>Scott Checked with Cristina and Commercial should only be used when we also, explicitly, refer to recreational catches. DONE</p>
<p>fle-nsea</p>	

had-346a	
Carmen Stock status table Fpa,Flim row text should be “Below possible reference points” as these reference points are not defined for the stock	To be done DONE
lem-nsea	
Carmen ICES stock advice Sentence “All catch are assumed to be landed.” should be removed; it’s just a typo.	Scott, please implement DONE
Carmen Table 6.3.14.7 Column labels should refer to landings and discards, not wanted and unwanted catch. This stock is not under the landing obligation, so landings and discards is the wording to be used.	Scott, please implement DONE
mix-nsea	
	Will be addressed in WCBBI – Scott, find out when they can release info DONE
mur-347d	
Max / Sweden ICES stock advice: Figure 6.3.51.1 <i>There is a red line in the SSB figure, what it does represent? It is not indicated in the caption figure.</i>	Carmen: These are two horizontal lines indicating the averages of the last 2 years and the 3 previous years. They are the index values used in the catch advice calculation and they are standard in Category 3 stocks plots. Because of the very wide confidence intervals for the initial year of SSB, these lines cannot be properly distinguished in the plot. Scott has worked to improve the graph in order to make it more readable. The following version has now been included in the advice sheet:



with the updated caption:

Top right: Spawning stock biomass estimates in thousand tonnes (the insert shows the last 6 years; the orange lines are the averages of the last 2 years and the 3 previous years, which are used in the catch advice calculation). **DONE**

nep-32

Carmen:

Stock status table:

Qualitative evaluation for stock size is missing: I assume it should be ? symbols and "Unknown" wording

AGREED
DONE

nep-3-4

Canada:

Stock status table and text below front page graphs:

There seems to be some inconsistency between stating that there are estimates of absolute abundance and then calling it a proxy and having the stock status relative to the Biomass reference points unknown. Other

Carmen

The comment in the front page figure legend that "... harvest rate (red dashed line = F_{MSY} harvest rate), and UWTV abundance (used as F and SSB proxies..." is standard and has also been included in the other FUs with UWTV surveys.

<p>nephrops have these categories filled in.</p>	<p>The wording in the “MSY Btrigger” and “Bpa,Blim” rows of the Stock status table should be “Undefined”, not “Unknown”. “Undefined” is what we use to describe a situation where the reference point is not defined. ==> to be changed AGREED DONE</p> <p>For this stock, MSY Btrigger is not defined. We had the following explanation in the advice sheet in previous years, but this was removed in the shorter format this year:</p> <p>“MSY Btrigger is undefined. For other <i>Nephrops</i> stocks which have a longer time-series, the UWTV survey is used to define a proxy for MSY Btrigger, either at the low point in the time-series or the point at which the stock showed signs of stress. As the survey is relatively new and the survey design has only recently been settled, it would be inappropriate to determine MSY Btrigger at this point.”</p> <p>⇒ Suggested solution: Include the as technical basis for the MSY Btrigger line in the reference points table, Not defined: “It is not possible to determine an appropriate MSY Btrigger at this time because of the short survey series.” AGREED DONE</p>
<p>Canada Stock development over time Consider changing ‘Estimates of absolute abundance, available for 2011 to 2014 from an underwater TV (UWTV) survey for the whole area are considered to be stable’ to ‘Stock size is considered to be stable’. This type of statement would also be consistent with the other nephrops advice sheets.</p>	<p>Carmen</p> <p>⇒ Agree to the change DONE</p>
<p>Canada Quality of the assessment Further on ‘The absolute abundance estimate for this ground is therefore likely to be underestimated by the current methodology.’ It either is or isn’t an estimate of absolute abundance. See comment on FU7</p>	<p>Carmen</p> <p>It is in principle an absolute abundance estimate (as I tried to explain above), but it is considered that it may underestimate the total abundance on the ground because of some areas not covered by the survey.</p> <p>⇒ Suggestion (also for FU7): replace current sentence by “The abundance for the total ground is likely to be higher than currently</p>

	estimated.” AGREED DONE
Carmen Stock status table Fpa, Flim line wording should be: “Below possible reference points” SSBmgt line should be – symbol and wording “Not applicable” Table 6.3.18.4: column 95% CI is empty. We’re checking if these values are available...	Scott please implement DONE Scott Values are not available and column removed DONE
nep-6	
Carmen: New survey information indicates a decrease (i.e., lower advice). Incorporate now or reopen in autumn? Implications with mixed fisheries advice.	-leave it as announcement with more information to follow.
nep-7	
Canada: Quality of the assessment Same phrase as in FU3-4 ‘The absolute abundance estimate for this ground is therefore likely to be underestimated by the current methodology.’ Perhaps a change to something like ‘The absolute abundance estimate for the total ground is likely to be higher’.	Has been addressed under nep 3-4 (apply same solution to both cases) DONE
Carmen: Issues relevant for the advice “Over 99% of the landings are taken by Scottish vessels. Most vessels landings fishing <i>Nephrops</i> use a 80–99 mm mesh (TR2) although there is increasing use of meshes larger than 100 mm (TR1).” Second sentence is unclear.	⇒ Rephrase 2nd sentence as follows: “Most landings are from vessels fishing for <i>Nephrops</i> using a 80–99 mm mesh (TR2), although there is increasing use of meshes larger than 100 mm (TR1).” DONE
nep-8	
Carmen: Stock status table	Scott please implement for nep-8 DONE and nep-9 DONE

<p>Wording in Fmsy line should be "Above" Wording in Bpa, Blim line should be "Above possible reference points" Same comments for nep-9</p>	
nep-9	
nep-oth	
ple-eche	
<p>Cristina ICES stock advice:</p> <p>At the moment, the section presents:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Catch advice for the VIId plaice stock 2. Corresponding catches of plaice in VIId (including also from NS and 7e stocks) 3. Corresponding landings of plaice in VIId (if no EU landing obligation) <p>The section does NOT present:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Corresponding landings of the VIId plaice stock (if no EU landing obligation) <p>It could be clearer to present also 4.</p>	<p>Carmen Following Cristina's suggestion, the ICES stock advice section would read as follows:</p> <p>"ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches of the VIId plaice stock in 2016 should be no more than 17 250 tonnes. If this stock is not under the EU landing obligation in 2016 and discard rates do not change from the average (2012-2014), this implies landings of the VIId plaice stock of no more than 11 096 tonnes.</p> <p>Assuming the same proportion of the Division VIIe and Subarea IV plaice stocks is taken in Division VIId as during 2003–2014, this will correspond to catches of plaice in Division VIId in 2016 of no more than 19 883 tonnes. If this stock is not under the EU landing obligation in 2016 and discard rates do not change from the average (2012-2014), this implies landings of plaice in Division VIId of no more than 12 789 tonnes."</p> <p>⇒ For ACOM decision: move to new version. AGREED DONE</p>
<p>Carmen Front page graphs: Horizontal line for MSY Btrigger missing</p> <p>Stock status table MSY Btrigger line should be filled with green ticks and text "Above trigger"</p> <p>Table 6.3.32.2 Rec(2015) missing from table</p>	<p>To be done DONE</p> <p>DONE</p> <p>DONE</p>
<p>Catch options table (Table 6.3.32.3)</p>	<p>Carmen, for ACOM information:</p>
<p>Alain</p>	<p>There were many unclear technical aspects around this catch options table. Alex,</p>

last column, delete 'TAC'	Alain, Scott and I have worked on it, and a clearer version has now been included in the advice sheet. The table still contains the same information as before, but it is now better organised and easier to understand.
Alain Reference points table - Reference points: suggest to round Blim and Bpa (18500 and 25800 t respectively). Put the value for MSY-Btrigger, and 'Bpa' in the technical basis	Agreed. Inform WG that the rounded values are the proper reference points. DONE DONE
Alain History of ICES advice, the agreed TAC, and ICES estimates of landings table - Table 6.3.32.7: last two rows: figures should be in kt	Thank you! To be done DONE
Carmen Table 6.3.32.8 Replace "Official landings" by "Landings" and the value should be 4320 t Replace "Commercial discards" by "Discards"	To be done DONE
ple-nsea	
Carmen Replace wording (3 times in the advice sheet) "EU management strategy (Council Regulation No. 676/2007)" by "EU management plan (Council Regulation No. 676/2007)" This is not an agreed EU-Norway management strategy, so we should continue to refer to it as "management plan".	AGREED DONE
ACOM leadership Stock status table Fmgt text should be "Below" (instead of "Below target") SSBmgt text should be "Above" (instead of "Above target")	AGREED DONE
Alain	

<p>minor things:</p> <p>(1) The TAC value for 2015 in Table 6.3.31.7 is missing: 128.376</p> <p>(2) The TAC values for NS et SK in Table 6.3.31.9 do not match with the ones in the previous tables. Should be corrected (the ones in table 6.3.31.7 seem to be OK), or deleted.</p>	<p>(1) Agree, to be inserted DONE</p> <p>(2) To be removed from Table 6.3.31.9 (they are not needed there, given that they are included in Table 6.3.31.7) DONE (Deleted columns)</p>
<p>sai-3a46</p>	
<p>Max / Sweden</p> <p>Stock and exploitation status: Table 6.3.34.1 <i>Why we have MSY Btrigger indicated as below trigger and then the same value indicated as at trigger? I suggest they should be both at trigger and the colour changed accordingly.</i></p> <p>Canada Is the stock size really below the trigger?</p>	<p>Carmen SSB(2015) is 199 270, whereas MSY Btrigger = Bpa = 200 000.</p> <p>so nearly identical. ADG debated what to do, but ended up thinking that the most consistent with the ICES rules was to put a red cross instead of a green tick for MSY Btrigger and for the SSBmgt, and an orange circle instead of a green tick for Bpa</p> <p>It is obviously not an ideal solution, but there does not seem to be an ideal solution for this extremely borderline case. My feeling is that the most consistent with the general ICES rules/guidelines is to keep the symbols used by the ADG but use as wording “below trigger” for both MSY Btrigger and SSBmgt lines</p> <p>⇒ For ACOM decision: AGREED DONE</p>
<p>ACOM leadership</p> <p>Reference points table: The EU-Norway management strategy for saithe is very similar to that for cod, i.e. there is an $F_{upper}=0.3$, $F_{lower}=0.1$, $SSB_{upper}=200\ 000$ (Bpa) and $SSB_{lower}=106\ 000$ (Blim).</p> <p>⇒ Proposal: Present EU-Norway management strategy for saithe in the same way as done for North Sea cod in the Reference points table</p> <p>Stock status table: Fmgt line: text should be “At F_{upper}” (instead of “At limit”)</p>	<p>Rewrite reference points table EU-Norway Management strategy with same notation as for NS cod. AGREED DONE</p> <p>State of the stock : AGREED DONE Fmgt – red cross, “Above” SSBmgt – red cross, below $SSB_{MS-upper}$</p>

<p>SSBmgt line: text could be “Slightly below SSB_{upper}” (but depends on decision on comment from Max and Joanne)</p>	
<p>Carmen Quality of the assessment, 2nd paragraph: Sentence “Unaccounted removals are no longer estimated for 2006 onwards.” seems incorrect for saithe and should be removed</p> <p>Quality of the assessment, 3rd paragraph: Catches from older age classes in the surveys are not representative and commercial cpue indices are also used for tuning and are highly influential on assessment results. Therefore, the assessment is dependent on commercial cpue indices, which may not fully reflect changes in stock size for a schooling species like saithe. ⇒ change first “cpue” by “lpue” and remove second “cpue”</p>	<p>Agree, To be done DONE</p> <p>DONE</p>
<p>sol-eche</p>	
<p>sol-kask</p>	
<p>sol-nsea</p>	
<p>Carmen Replace wording (4 times in the advice sheet) “EU management strategy (Council Regulation No. 676/2007)” by “EU management plan (Council Regulation No. 676/2007)” as this is a purely EU management plan, so we continue referring to it as “plan”</p>	<p>AGREED DONE</p>
<p>ACOM leadership Stock status table Fmgt line text should be “Above” (instead of “Above target”) SSBmgt line should be “Above” (instead of “At target”)</p>	<p>AGREED DONE</p>
<p>Nathalie</p>	

Issues relevant for the advice

A substantial part of the text under this heading is more appropriate for the ecosystem or fisheries advice and not for the stock advice sheet. The text was added after the main discussions on the sheet were completed. The ADG did not review added the text but comments were made and there seemed to be consensus that the paragraph should reflect issues for stock advice only.

Proposal to change the text as follows (text marked bold is added):

Currently the mixed sole and plaice fishery is dominated by bottom trawls, with substantial bycatch of both commercial and non-commercial species and a physical impact on the seabed. Technical measures applicable to the mixed flatfish beam trawl fishery in the southern North Sea, affect both sole and plaice. The minimum mesh size of 80 mm generates high discards of plaice which have a larger minimum landing size than sole. The use of larger mesh sizes would reduce the catch of undersized plaice and sole, but would also result in loss of marketable sole in the short term (Cardinale and Hjelm, 2012). The introduction of the Omega (mesh size) meter in 2010 has led to a slight increase in the effective mesh size in the fishery.

The combination of days-at-sea regulations, low prices for plaice and the relatively stable TAC for sole have led to a fishing pattern in the more southern part of the North Sea, where sole has become relatively more abundant. This concentration of fishing effort in the southern North Sea has resulted in increased discarding of juvenile plaice that are mainly distributed in those areas. This process could be aggravated by the movement in recent years of juvenile plaice to deeper waters where they become more susceptible to the fishery.

The increased use of "SumWing" and electric "pulse trawls" will increasingly affect catchability and selectivity of North Sea sole. The introduction of innovative gears may lead to changes in how the ecosystem is impacted by the plaice and sole targeting fleet. Because of the lighter gear and lower towing speed, pulse vessels generate a lower swept-area per hour and reduced bycatch of benthic organisms. The new gears may change fishing patterns as well. ICES responded to a request by France on the use of pulse trawl (ICES, 2012a) and concluded that the introduction of electric pulse systems could significantly reduce fishing mortality of target and non-target species, including benthic organisms, assuming there is no corresponding increase in unaccounted (avoidance) mortality. However, not all relevant issues (such as delayed mortality and long-term population effects) have been fully studied and ICES therefore considers that the available data are insufficient to recommend the large-scale use of electric pulse trawl in fisheries.

Carmen:

I agree. My recollection is that the ADG was intending to note just a few relevant issues here, but it ended up being a very lengthy text that the ADG had agreed to shorten by correspondence.

However, I remember that one of the issues the ADG agreed on was to indicate that the BT mixed fishery generates high discards of plaice below the MLS. So I think we should keep that part.


⇒ Suggestion for text: **AGREED DONE**
(the first paragraph is very similar to the one we have for sole-7d and I think ADG was intending to have this; the 2nd paragraph corresponds to Nathalie's proposal):


"Technical measures applicable to the mixed flatfish beam trawl fishery in the southern North Sea affect both sole and plaice. The minimum mesh size of 80 mm generates high discards of plaice which have a larger minimum landing size than sole. The use of larger mesh sizes would reduce the catch of undersized plaice and sole, but would also result in loss of marketable sole in the short term (Cardinale and Hjelm, 2012).

Since 2011, the use of pulse trawls by Dutch fishermen in the Dutch fishery has increased sharply to 74 vessels (of which 65 >221 kW) and only 8 traditional beam trawls are now left. The increased use of pulse trawls and other adaptations like fuel-saving wings will likely affect catchability and selectivity of North Sea sole. Though this effect has not yet been quantified, it will increase assessment uncertainty."

<p>Since 2011, the use of pulse trawls by Dutch fishermen has increased sharply to 74 vessels (of which 65 >221kW) and only 8 traditional beam trawls >300HP are now left. The increased use of pulse trawls and other adaptations like fuel-saving wings will increasingly affect catchability and selectivity of North Sea sole. The new gears may change fishing patterns as well.</p>	
<p>spr-kask</p>	
<p>Max / Sweden</p> <p>Table 6.3.48.2 <i>Having the PA buffer on is a bit confusing as it gives the impression that it was applied this year as well. I suggest to either change to not applied or make it clear in the caption table that this advice is the same as in 2013 and that the PA buffer was only applied in 2013 and not in 2015.</i></p>	<p>Carmen</p> <p>Comment no longer applicable, after the rewrite of this advice sheet by the ADG</p>
<p>spr-nsea</p>	
<p>tur-kask</p>	
<p>tur-nsea</p>	
<p>Alain</p> <p>why not using the advice catches (actually landings) advised last year as the basis for the advice: $2406 * 1 * .8 / (1 - 0.35) = 1995t$?</p>	<p>Carmen</p> <p>This was discussed by the ADG. My recollection of this is that the ADG considered that because a benchmark had occurred since the last advice (with the end result that the stock went from Category 2 to Category 3), it was more appropriate to start “anew” (i.e. taking the 2012-2014 landings as the starting reference) instead of taking the previous advice as the starting reference.</p> <p>However, I also note that red mullet also went through a benchmark this year and the ADG took the previous advice as the starting reference.</p> <p>Personally, I tend to support Alain’s point of view. For most Category 3-6 stocks, our advice this year takes the previous advice as the starting point, and this is what the ADG did for most stocks. The ICES advice for this stock last year was for a 20% decrease (based on a Categ 2 assessment), and the trends-based assessment this</p>

	<p>year indicates a poor stock status. By referring our advice to the 2012-2014 landings (instead of to last year's advice) we end up giving a higher catch advice than last year (also because this year 3.5% discarding is accounted for, whereas last year all catch was assumed to be landed), which concerns me a bit.</p> <p>However, ACOM needs to consider and decide about this. Use recent advice as basis (no explanation needed). AGREED. DONE, and correct values inserted for catch and landings advice in ICES stock advice section.</p>
<p>Alain ICES stock advice Remove the sentence 'All catches are assumed to be landed'.</p>	<p>Agree, to be done DONE</p>
<p>Carmen ICES stock advice Replace sentence "If this stock is not under the EU landing obligation in 2016 and discard rates do not change from 2014, this implies landings of no more than 2355 tonnes.", by "If discard rates do not change from 2014, this implies landings of no more than 2355 tonnes." as the stock is not scheduled to be under the LO in 2016 (so same sentence should be used as for dab, flounder, lemon sole...)</p>	<p>Agree, to be done DONE (checked for: dab, brill, flounder, lemon sole, turbot, witch)</p>
<p>Nathalie Quality of the assessment Proposed text amendments strikethrough and in bold text: The age-structured fisheries independent indices used in the trends based assessment are of poor quality. A fisheries independent index covering the entire distribution area of the stock would improve the assessment. The commercial index used is derived from catch and effort data for the Dutch beam trawl fleet >221kW. Since 2011, the use of pulse trawls by Dutch fishermen has increased sharply to 74 vessels (of which 65 >221 kW) and only 8 traditional beam trawls are now left. The increased use of pulse trawls and other adaptations like fuel-saving wings will likely may affect catchability and</p>	<p>⇒ Agree to the proposed changes DONE in the Dutch fishery</p>

<p>selectivity of North Sea turbot. Though this effect has not yet been quantified, it will increase assessment uncertainty.</p>	
<p>Alain</p> <p>Table 6.3.54.8: commercial discards' should be 'Discards'</p> <p>Table 6.3.54.9: Delete 'commercial catch and' in the caption</p> <p>Table 6.3.54.10: Replace 'Total Catch' by 'Landings'</p>	<p>Agree, to be done DONE</p>
<p>Alain</p> <p>Landings values in different tables do not match: for instance, Table 6.3.54.7 gives 3008t (ICES estimate) and 2872t for 2013 and 2014. These values should have been used in the assessment, but the final table gives 2982t and 2834t respectively, while the official landings table gives 3084t for 2013...</p>	<p>Carmen</p> <p>I have checked with experts. Table 6.3.54.10 has been amended and now shows the official landings data (same series as shown in Table 6.3.54.7) as this is the longer data series we have for the stock (ICES estimates only available for the last 2 years and differ from official landings by only 2% and 1%).</p>
<p>Alain</p> <p>Table 6.3.54.7, ICES advice should be 'precautionary approach (decrease catches by 20%)</p> <p>Max / Sweden</p> <p>History of advice, catch and management</p> <p>Table 6.3.54.7</p> <p><i>It should be decrease catches of at least 20%.</i></p>	<p>Carmen</p> <p>I agree. This type of error has occurred in several advice sheets for Category 3-6 stocks. Scott is checking all these sheets and correcting where necessary</p> <p>DONE</p>
<p>whg-47d</p>	
<p>Alain</p> <p>Stock status table</p> <p>For whiting in North Sea, instead of the yellow marks for Bpa,Blim, I suggest we go for "? ? ?" and text="above Blim"</p>	<p>Carmen</p> <p>There is Blim but no Bpa for this stock. The reason for the ADG choice was the following statement in the "State of the stock table template" document:</p> <p>"If there is no Bpa, and SSB is above Blim: a) insert a yellow symbol, , if</p>

	<p>SSB/Blim<1.5; b) insert a green symbol, , if SSB/Blim>1.5”</p> <p>However, I personally agree with Alain. I have no recollection of ever having using this idea for any of the stocks with Blim but no Bpa I have seen in WebExes (and I think the use of 1.5 factor could confuse people). In the cases I have dealt with, the stocks were handled as suggested by Alain, and this is also what we have done in the ADGCS (at least for sea bass, the example I remember).</p> <p>⇒ For ACOM decision Question marks (Above B_{lim}) – guidance document should also be corrected. AGREED DONE</p>
<p>ACOM leadership Stock status table The Fmgt text should be “Above” (instead of “Above target”)</p>	<p>AGREED DONE</p>
<p>whg-kask</p>	
<p>wit-nsea</p>	
<p>Max / Sweden</p> <p>Catch options <i>There is no mention on why the PA buffer was not applied.</i></p>	<p>Carmen: Explaining this was forgotten.</p> <p>⇒ Suggestion: add the following sentence at the end of the first paragraph of the “Catch options” section. AGREED DONE</p> <p>“The precautionary buffer was applied in 2013 (for the 2014 advice) because of uncertainty on the exploitation status; therefore, no additional precautionary buffer was applied this year.”</p>
<p>Canada Stock development over time ‘Abundance index from IBTS Q1 survey shows a declining trend since 2000 and a strong increase in 2014-2015’ The graph appears to show a strong decrease from 2014 to 2015. If the message is that stock size in 2014 and 2015 are higher than in 2013 then</p>	<p>Carmen: Yes, you understood the message correctly. AGREED DONE</p> <p>⇒ Suggestion: rephrase as follows: “The abundance index from the IBTS Q1 survey shows a declining trend after 2000, but the index is much higher in 2014-2015.”</p>

perhaps 'Abundance index from IBTS Q1 survey shows a declining trend from 2000-2013, but abundance is much higher in 2014-2015'	
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