****

**EU Transparency Register Id. No: 8900132344-29**

**ADVICE DRAFTING GUIDELINES**

**Response to the Communication from the European Commission**

**Consultation on the Fishing Opportunities for 2017 (**[**COM/2016/396**](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1466056863647&uri=COM:2016:396:FIN)**)[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**July 2016**

***Note on the process for the drafting of advice***

*In previous years, the NWWAC replied to both to the ‘policy paper’ (i.e. The consultation from the EC on the TACs) in autumn, and then again to the TAC proposal itself, in December[[2]](#footnote-2). The suggestion from the Executive Committee at the meeting in Paris (2nd February 2016) was for the AC to be efficient and proactive and provide input to the TAC proposal as it is being drafted, making use of the EC Consultation and the ICES advice in this process. For those stocks, for which ICES advice is released in autumn, the AC will draft its response in November.*

*In this context, the Executive Committee do not anticipate that specific advice will be drafted on the TAC proposal itself, unless there are specific regional issues that need to be addressed.*

*The Working Groups are asked to reflect on specific issues concerning species and management for their specific sub-region at the WG meetings in July.*

*The NWWAC aims to finalise the reply to the consultation by 1st September, 2016.*

**General comments**

The NWWAC intends that this advice will be its major contribution to the development of the thinking of the EC and relevant Member States on the fishing opportunities in the North Western Waters.

*To be finalised by ExCom.*

**Consultation document**

Multi-Annual plan – the use of F ranges

* Mixed fisheries advice for the Celtic Sea

*Comments on the application of this approach for the NWW*

Development of the State of Stocks

*Comments based on WG input (see below)*

2017 Proposals for TACs

1. Stocks with MSY assessment;
2. Other stocks:
   1. Stocks with data available to determine MSY proxies,
   2. Stocks with survey-assessed trends or with catch time series,
   3. Stocks with a presumption of stability,
   4. Stocks with biological advice;
3. TACs and the obligation to land all catches.

*Comments on the methodology proposed – based on WG input (see below)*

Report on the implementation of the landing obligation

*General comments based on WG input (see below)*

**Specific comments by region**

1. **West of Scotland; ICES areas Vb (EC) VIa, VIb and Western Approaches**

[WG 1]

Development of the State of Stocks

West of Scotland

Deep-sea species

2017 Proposals for TACs

*Comments on the methodology proposed relevant to the WG sub-region*

Report on the implementation of the landing obligation

*Provide information on specific changes in fisheries practices relevant to the setting of TACs.*

*NB: Please restrict comments to specific, sub-regional issues*

TACs in VI:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Stocks** | **Areas** | **Specific comments?** |
| Alfonsinos | III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII  and XIV |  |
| Anglerfish | Vb, VI, XII and XIV |  |
| Black scabbardfish | V, VI, VII, XII |  |
| Blue ling | Vb, VI and VII |  |
| Cod | VIa |  |
| Cod | VIb |  |
| Deep-sea sharks | V, VI, VII, VIII and IX |  |
| Greater forkbeard | V, VI and VII |  |
| Greater silver smelt | V, VI and VII |  |
| Haddock | VIb, XII and XIV |  |
| Haddock | Vb and VIa | ICES advice in Autumn |
| Hake | VI and VII, Vb, XII and XIV |  |
| Ling | VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII and XIV |  |
| Megrims | Vb, VI, XII and XIV | ICES advice in Autumn |
| Nephrops | VI, VIb | ICES advice in Autumn |
| Orange roughy | VI |  |
| Plaice | VI |  |
| Pollack | VI |  |
| Red seabream | VI, VII and VIII |  |
| Roundnose and roughhead grenadier | Vb, VI and VII |  |
| Saithe | VI, Vb, XII and XIV |  |
| Skates and rays | VIa, VIb, VIIa-c and e-k | ICES advice in Autumn |
| Sole | VI, Vb, XII and XIV |  |
| Spurdog | I, V, VI, VII, VIII, XII and XIV | ICES advice in Autumn |
| Tusk | V, VI and VII |  |
| Whiting | VI, Vb, XII and XIV |  |

1. **West of Ireland and Celtic Sea; ICES area VII (except VIIa, VIId and VIIe)**

[WG 2]

*Note; The process for providing NWWAC advice on Nephrops in FU16 needs to be discussed.*

Development of the State of Stocks

West of Ireland and Celtic Sea

Deep-sea species

2017 Proposals for TACs

*Comments on the methodology proposed relevant to the WG sub-region*

Report on the implementation of the landing obligation

*Provide information on specific changes in fisheries practices relevant to the setting of TACs.*

*NB: Please restrict comments to specific, sub-regional issues*

TACs in VIIb,c,e-k

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Stocks** | **Areas** | **Specific comments?** |
| Alfonsinos | III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII  and XIV |  |
| Anglerfish | VII |  |
| Black scabbardfish | V, VI, VII, XII |  |
| Blue ling | Vb, VI and VII |  |
| Cod | VIIb, c, e-k, VIII, IX and X |  |
| Deep-sea sharks | V, VI, VII, VIII and IX |  |
| Greater forkbeard | V, VI and VII |  |
| Greater silver smelt | V, VI and VII |  |
| Haddock | VIIb-k, VIII, IX and X |  |
| Hake | VI and VII, Vb, XII and XIV |  |
| Ling | VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII and XIV |  |
| Megrims | VII |  |
| Nephrops | VII | ICES advice in Autumn |
| Orange roughy | VII |  |
| Plaice | VIIb,c |  |
| Plaice | VIIf,g |  |
| Plaice | VIIh,j,k |  |
| Pollack | VII |  |
| Red seabream | VI, VII and VIII |  |
| Roundnose and roughhead grenadier | Vb, VI and VII |  |
| Saithe | VII, VIII, IX and X |  |
| Skates and rays | VIa, VIb, VIIa-c and e-k | ICES advice in Autumn |
| Sole | VIIb,c |  |
| Sole | VIIf,g |  |
| Sole | VIIhjk |  |
| Spurdog | I, V, VI, VII, VIII, XII and XIV | ICES advice in Autumn |
| Tusk | V, VI and VII |  |
| Whiting | VIIb-k |  |

1. **English Channel; ICES areas VIId and VIIe**

[WG 3]

Development of the State of Stocks

Channel

Deep-sea species

2017 Proposals for TACs

*Comments on the methodology proposed relevant to the WG sub-region*

Report on the implementation of the landing obligation

*Provide Information on specific changes in fisheries practices relevant to the setting of TACs.*

*NB: Please restrict comments to specific, sub-regional issues*

TACs in VIId and VIIe:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Stocks** | **Areas** | **Specific comments?** |
| Alfonsinos | III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII  and XIV |  |
| Anglerfish | VII |  |
| Black scabbardfish | V, VI, VII, XII |  |
| Blue ling | Vb, VI and VII |  |
| Cod | VIId |  |
| Deep-sea sharks | V, VI, VII, VIII and IX |  |
| Greater forkbeard | V, VI and VII |  |
| Greater silver smelt | V, VI and VII |  |
| Haddock | VIIb-k, VIII, IX and X |  |
| Hake | VI and VII, Vb, XII and XIV |  |
| Ling | VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII and XIV |  |
| Megrims | VII |  |
| Nephrops | VII | ICES advice in Autumn |
| Orange roughy | VII |  |
| Plaice | VIId,e |  |
| Pollack | VII |  |
| Red seabream | VI, VII and VIII |  |
| Roundnose and roughhead grenadier | Vb, VI and VII |  |
| Saithe | VII, VIII, IX and X |  |
| Skates and rays | VIa, VIb, VIIa-c and e-k | ICES advice in Autumn |
| Skates and rays | VIId | ICES advice in Autumn |
| Sole | VIId |  |
| Sole | VIIe |  |
| Spurdog | I, V, VI, VII, VIII, XII and XIV | ICES advice in Autumn |
| Tusk | V, VI and VII |  |
| Whiting | VIIb-k |  |

1. **Irish Sea; ICES area VIIa**

[WG 4]

Development of the State of Stocks

Irish Sea

Deep-sea species

2017 Proposals for TACs

*Comments on the methodology proposed relevant to the WG sub-region*

Report on the implementation of the landing obligation

*Provide information on specific changes in fisheries practices relevant the setting of TACs.*

*NB: Please restrict comments to specific, sub-regional issues*

TACs in VIIa:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Stocks** | **Areas** | **Specific comments?** |
| Alfonsinos | III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII  and XIV |  |
| Anglerfish | VII |  |
| Black scabbardfish | V, VI, VII, XII |  |
| Blue ling | Vb, VI and VII |  |
| Cod | VIIa |  |
| Deep-sea sharks | V, VI, VII, VIII and IX |  |
| Greater forkbeard | V, VI and VII |  |
| Greater silver smelt | V, VI and VII |  |
| Haddock | VIIa |  |
| Hake | VI and VII, Vb, XII and XIV |  |
| Ling | VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII and XIV |  |
| Megrims | VII |  |
| Nephrops | VII | ICES advice in Autumn |
| Orange roughy | VII |  |
| Plaice | VIIa |  |
| Pollack | VII |  |
| Red seabream | VI, VII and VIII |  |
| Roundnose and roughhead grenadier | Vb, VI and VII |  |
| Saithe | VII, VIII, IX and X |  |
| Skates and rays | VIa, VIb, VIIa-c and e-k | ICES advice in Autumn |
| Sole | VIIa |  |
| Spurdog | I, V, VI, VII, VIII, XII and XIV | ICES advice in Autumn |
| Tusk | V, VI and VII |  |
| Whiting | VIIa |  |

1. **Stocks where scientific advice is provided in Autumn**

The NWWAC will, if necessary, provide further comment on stocks, for which the advice release date from ICES is scheduled after at the end of October 2016:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Had-346a | Haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*) in Subarea 4 and Divisions 6.a and 3.a West (North Sea, West of Scotland, Skagerrak) |
| ang-ivvi | Anglerfish (*Lophius piscatorius* and *L. budegassa*) in Subareas IV, **VI** and Division IIIa (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegatt) |
| meg-rock | Megrim (*Lepidorhombus spp.*) in Division VIb (Rockall) |
| nep-11 | Norway lobster (*Nephrops spp.*) in Division VIa, FU 11 (West of Scotland, North Minch) |
| nep-12 | Norway lobster (*Nephrops spp.*) in Division VIa, FU 12 (West of Scotland, South Minch) |
| nep-13 | Norway lobster (*Nephrops spp.*) in Division VIa, FU 13 (West of Scotland, the Firth of Clyde and Sound of Jura) |
| nep-14 | Norway lobster (*Nephrops spp.*) in Division VIIa, FU 14 (Irish Sea, East) |
| nep-15 | Norway lobster (*Nephrops spp.*) in Division VIIa, FU 15 (Irish Sea, West) |
| nep-16 | Norway lobster (*Nephrops spp.*) in Division VIIb,VIIc,VIIj,VIIk, FU 16 (West and Southwest of Ireland, Porcupine Bank ) |
| nep-17 | Norway lobster (*Nephrops spp*.) in Division VIIb, FU 17 (West of Ireland, Aran Grounds) |
| nep-19 | Norway lobster (*Nephrops spp.*) in Division VIIa,VIIg,VIIj, FU 19 (Irish Sea, Celtic Sea, Eastern Southwest of Ireland) |
| nep-2021 | Norway lobster (*Nephrops spp*.) in Division VIIg,VIIh, FU 20 and FU 21 (Celtic Sea) |
| nep-22 | Norway lobster (*Nephrops spp*.) in Division VIIg,VIIf, FU 22 (Celtic Sea, Bristol Channel) |
| nep-oth-6a | Norway lobster (*Nephrops spp*.) in Division VIa, outside the Functional Units (West of Scotland) |
| nep-oth-7 | Norway lobster (*Nephrops spp*.) in Subarea VII, outside the Functional Units (Southern Celtic Seas, Southwest of Ireland) |

1. **Skates and Rays**

FGRays

Development of the State of Stocks

West of Scotland, Irish Sea and Celtic Sea, the Channel

2017 Proposals for TACs

*Comments on the methodology proposed relevant to the WG sub-region*

Report on the implementation of the landing obligation

*Provide information on specific changes in fisheries practices relevant to the setting of TACs.*

*NB: Please restrict comments to specific issues for skates and rays that WGs have not yet addressed.*

Relevant Skate and Ray TACs:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Stocks** | **Areas** | **Specific comments?** |
| Deep-sea sharks | V, VI, VII, VIII and IX |  |
| Skates and rays | VIa, VIb, VIIa-c and e-k |  |
| Skates and rays | VIId |  |
| Spurdog | I, V, VI, VII, VIII, XII and XIV |  |

Relevant ICES stocks for which advice will be releast at the beginning of October:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| dgs-nea | Spurdog (*Squalus acanthias*) in the Northeast Atlantic |
| rju-ech | Undulate ray (*Raja undulata*) in Divisions VIId, e (English Channel) |
| raj-celt | Other skates and rays in Subareas VI and VII (excluding VIId) |
| rja-nea | White skate (*Rostroraja alba*) in the Northeast Atlantic |
| rjb-celt | Common skate (*Dipturus batis*) complex (flapper skate (Dipturus cf. flossada) and blue skate (*Dipturus* cf. *intermedia*)) in Subareas VI and VII (excluding VIId) |
| rjc-7afg | Thornback ray (*Raja clavata*) in Divisions VIIa, f, g (Irish and Celtic Sea) |
| rjc-VI | Thornback ray (*Raja clavata*) in Subarea VI (West of Scotland) |
| rje-7fg | Small-eyed ray (*Raja microocellata*) in Divisions VIIf, g (Bristol Channel) |
| rjf-celt | Shagreen ray (*Leucoraja fullonica*) in Subareas VI and VII (Celtic Sea and West of Scotland) |
| rjh-7e | Blonde ray (*Raja brachyura*) in Division VIIe (western English Channel) |
| rjh-7afg | Blonde ray (*Raja brachyura*) in Divisions VIIa, f, g (Irish and Celtic Sea) |
| rji-celt | Sandy ray (*Leucoraja circularis*) in Subareas VI and VII (Celtic Sea and West of Scotland) |
| rjm-7aeh | Spotted ray (*Raja montagui*) in Divisions VIIa and VII e-h (southern Celtic seas) |
| rjm-67bj | Spotted ray (*Raja montagui*) in Subarea VI and Divisions VIIb,j (west of Scotland and Ireland) |
| rjn-celt | Cuckoo ray (*Leucoraja naevus*) in Subareas VI and VII (Celtic Sea and West of Scotland) |
| rju-7j | Undulate ray (*Raja undulata*) in Division VIIj (Great Sole Bank) |
| rju-7bj | Undulate ray (*Raja undulata*) in Division VIIj (south-west Ireland) |
| raj-347d | Other skates and rays in Subarea IV, and Divisions IIIa and VIId (North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat, and Eastern English Channel) |

*Text from previous advice as background[[3]](#footnote-3)*

*For the past number of years, the situation regarding “Data Limited Stocks” stocks such as Skates and Rays has been highlighted. There have been considerable efforts expended, both nationally and at an EU level, to improve the data available in relation to these stocks, with the result, that in its most recent advice for this stock, published in 2014, ICES stated that, in 2013, over 93% of skate and ray landings were reported on an individual species level.*

*In this advice, ICES states that management of skates and rays under a combined TAC is not an effective management method and therefore, ICES does not provide advice for this ‘generic skate assemblage’. Moreover, ICES note the following; “Management measures such as closed areas/seasons or effort restrictions may better protect skate stocks than TAC management. In particular, measures to protect spawning/nursery grounds and larger, mature females would be beneficial”.*

*Notwithstanding this statement, the Commission has proposed a 20% reduction in the TAC quota for skates and rays for 2016, as already proposed in 2015. For the past number of years there have been consistent year-on-year TAC reductions applied to these stocks on the basis of their “data limited” classification. If the proposed quota for 2016 is implemented, the TAC for this stock will have decreased by over 45% since 2011.*

*The industry members of the NWWAC consider that the Commission proposal to implement another routine cut to the TAC is contrary to the advice issued by ICES on how best to manage skates and rays and for this reason, should not be implemented but reviewed as unwarranted.*

*The other interest group members of the NWWAC note that some species in the skates and rays assemblage are in a very poor state. If the assemblage continues to be managed under a grouped TAC then an overall decrease will be necessary to try and recover these species as required by the MSY and precautionary approaches.*

**-- END --**

1. And the accompanying [Commission Staff working document](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=SWD:2016:199:FIN) (available in English only) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For example in 2015 – [Opinion on the EC communication, 30 September 2015](http://www.nwwac.org/_fileupload/Opinions%20and%20Advice/Year%2010/NWWAC_Consultation_Fishing_opportunities_2016_EN.pdf),   
    – and [Advice on the TAC proposal, 8 December 2015](http://www.nwwac.org/publications/nwwac-response-to-the-ec-proposal-on-fishing-opportunities-for-2016.2023.html) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. See section 5 in [Advice on the TAC proposal, 8 December 2015](http://www.nwwac.org/publications/nwwac-response-to-the-ec-proposal-on-fishing-opportunities-for-2016.2023.html) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)