

FISHERIES



Long-term Management Plans for Cod; Context and Directions.



**European
Commission**
Maritime Affairs
and Fisheries

Overview

- **Multi-annual management plans in EU fisheries**
- **Conclusions from evaluation of multi-annual plans for cod**
- **CFP reform and multi-annual management plans**
- **Next steps**

Rationale for long-term management plans

- **Define:**
 - What we are trying to achieve (objectives)
 - How we are trying to achieve it (management actions)
- **Objectives cannot always be achieved within a single year**
 - Need for longer-term planning
- **Offers stability to fishing industry**
 - Limits annual changes in fishing opportunities
- **Limits scope for political influence on TACs**
 - More effective as a conservation measure

Elements of EU Long-term management plans

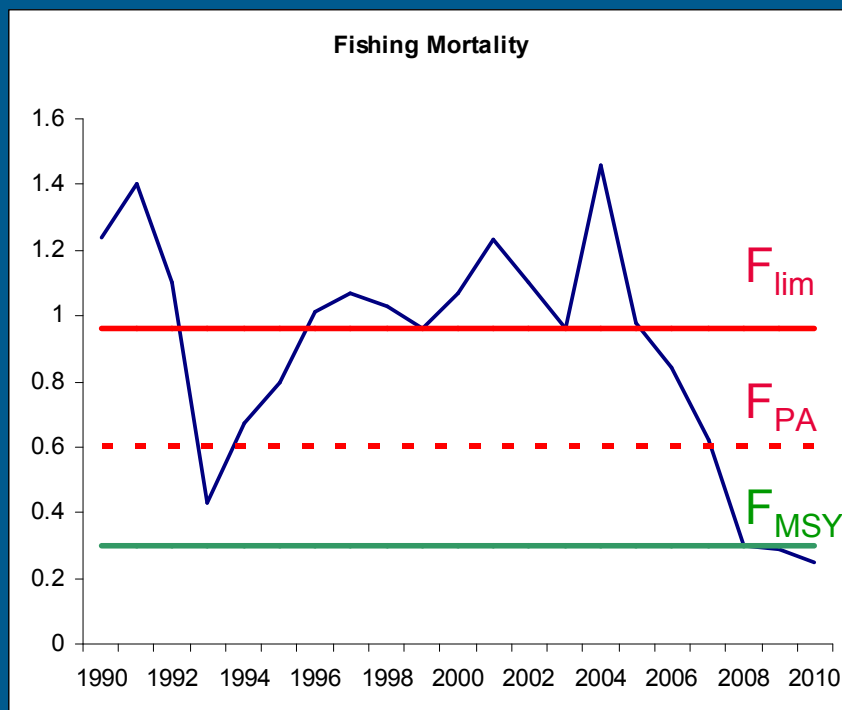
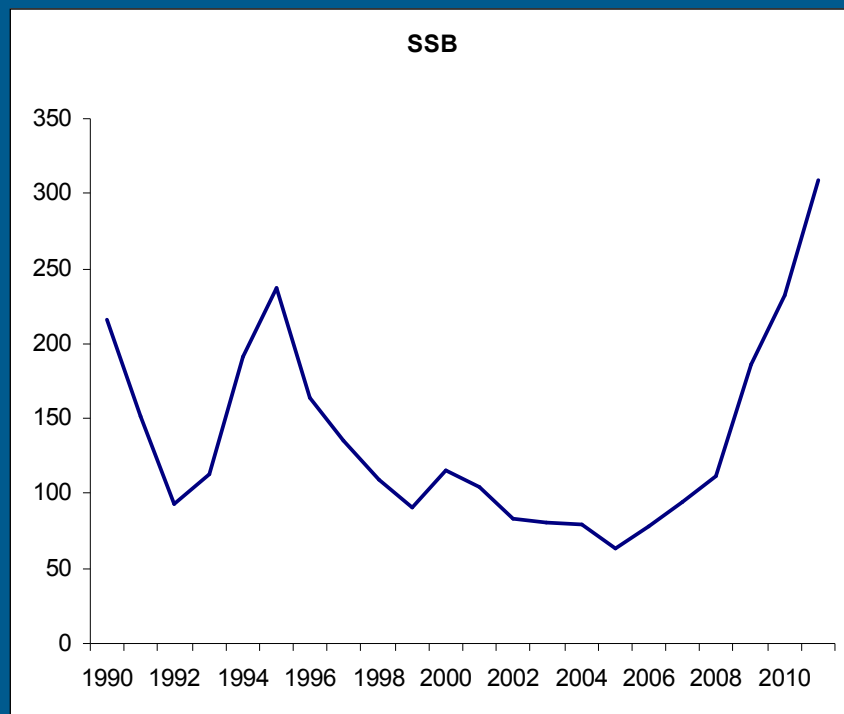
- **Specified objectives**
 - E.g. “The plan [...] shall ensure the sustainable exploitation of the cod stocks on the basis of maximum sustainable yield.”
- **Harvest rule**
 - Rule specifies intended F based on stock status and reference points
 - TAC set corresponding to this F
 - Also constraints on how much TAC may change in a given year, e.g. $\pm 15\%$
- **Other management measures**
 - Effort management
 - Gear measures
 - Industry developed
- **Regular review & consultation**

EU stocks with LTMPs

Colour codes indicate
current status w.r.t.
reference points

	Precautionary		MSY
	SSB	F	F
Cod, Kattegat		?	?
Cod, North Sea			
Cod , West of Scotland		?	?
Cod , Irish Sea			
Cod, Western Baltic			
Cod, Eastern Baltic			
Haddock, North Sea			
Saithe, North Sea/W of Scotland			
Northern Hake	?	?	
Southern Hake & Iberian <i>Nephrops</i>	?	?	
Sole and Plaice (North Sea)			
Sole, Western Channel	?		
Sole Biscay			
Herring, North Sea			
Herring, Norwegian spring-spawners			
Blue Whiting, NE Atlantic			

Eastern Baltic Cod



Cod plan management measures

- **Primary management measure:**
 - TACs
 - F-reductions intended to step down towards F_{MSY}
- **Secondary management measures:**
 - Effort reductions focused on those gears accounting for the highest catches of cod
 - Scope for vessels with very low catches of cod (<1.5%) to be removed from the scheme (Article 11)
 - Incentives for the development of cod avoidance measures (Article 13)
 - “New mechanisms should be introduced to encourage fishermen to engage in cod-avoidance programmes. Any such cod-avoidance or discard reduction programmes are more likely to succeed if they are developed in cooperation with the fishing industry.”
 - **NB, a mixed-fishery management measure.**

TACs

Kattegat	Recent landings below TAC, but total removals apparently high.
North Sea	Some over-quota discarding/high-grading in recent years.
West of Scotland	Some over-quota discarding/high-grading in recent years.
Irish Sea	Recent landings below TAC, but total removals apparently high.

Fishing effort limits (days at sea)

Kattegat	Small reductions in effort since start of plan, some Article 11 exclusions
North Sea	Small reductions in effort since start of plan
West of Scotland	Small reductions in effort since start of plan, some Article 11 exclusions
Irish Sea	Small reductions in effort since start of plan, some Article 11 exclusions

Cod avoidance measures (Article 13)

Kattegat	Spatial and gear measures in use
North Sea	Spatial, and to a lesser extent, gear measures in use
West of Scotland	Spatial measures in use. Apparently less effective than in North sea
Irish Sea	?

Cod plan management measures

- **TACs**
 - Have not constrained catches (North Sea and VIa at least)
- **Fishing effort limits**
 - Too soon to say
- **Cod avoidance measures**
 - Have contributed to a reduction in over-quota discards in the North Sea. Apparently less effective in VIa

CFP reform and the cod plan

- **Discard ban**
- **Regionalisation**
- **Ecosystem approach and LTMPs**
- **Transferrable Fishing Concessions**
- **Increased stakeholder involvement**
- ...

CFP reform and multi-annual management plans

- “The Commission proposes decentralization that may authorize Member States to adopt the conservation and technical measures necessary to achieve the objectives and targets using a toolbox of measures under the conservation policy”
- “Multi-annual plans should where possible cover multiple stocks where those stocks are jointly exploited. The multiannual plans should establish the basis for fixing fishing opportunities and quantifiable targets for the sustainable exploitation of stocks and marine ecosystems concerned, defining clear timeframes and safeguard mechanisms for unforeseen developments”

CFP reform and the development of the cod plan

- Catches rather than landings
 - Discard ban on cod from 2015
- Mixed fisheries explicitly addressed
 - Mixed-fishery plans where possible.
- Objectives and default management measures stated in plan
 - Extensive scope for MS to implement alternative approaches

Next steps

- **Possible options:**
 - Minimum option:
 - continue with existing plan
 - Maximum option:
 - Complete replacement with mixed-fishery plans
- **STECF scoping meeting**
 - Draft Terms of Reference
 - How best to address mixed-fishery links

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Thank you



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