

Guidance for updating advice

In 2013, assessment data will be scrutinised for all stocks. As a rule, advice will only be updated if there is a significant change in the assessment outcome. This can be judged on the basis of the indices used as advice basis. A method to evaluate the need to update advice on a quantified basis will be developed for the end of 2013. Until that time, the WKLIFE2 table of stock approaches applies, based on the following rules of thumb:

2012 Advice will generally not be updated in 2013 if:

1. Biennial advice was provided in 2012 (e.g. elasmobranchs, deep sea species and nephrops).
2. Landings are negligible (categories 5 and 6 stocks).
3. The advice in 2012 was for lowest possible landings or zero catch advice (e.g. some elasmobranchs, Irish sea cod) and there are no changes in the perception of the stock.
4. The PA buffer has been applied (e.g. category 3.2.0) in 2012, except *Pandalus* in IIIa and IVa East for which an inter-benchmark process is underway and for anchovy in IXa which is a short-lived species.
5. The DCAC method (category 4.1.2) was applied. This method was applied to Pollack in Subareas VI and VII (Celtic Sea and West of Scotland) and resulted in a 1% increase.
6. The advice has been the same for the last 3 years or more and the stock index(es) has changed by less than 10% (Same Advice as Last Year (SALY) as implemented in 2008).

The assessment and advice may be updated in 2013 if:

1. For Data limited stocks where the PA buffer has not been applied, the stock index(es) has changed by more than 10% compared to that used as the basis of advice in 2012.
2. There are doubts about the method applied last year and a more appropriate method can be put forward
3. There are benchmarks, e.g. two nephrops FUs in category 4.1.4.

Mention stocks identified by WGCSE that will not be updated in 2013. Encourage other EGs to consider stocks that may not need updating in 2013 (e.g. Faroe Bank cod).

In the longer term, the proposal is to update assessments and advice only if the perception of the stock has changed significantly. Before deciding to implement this proposal, ICES needs to confirm in January 2013 with recipient (MIRIA) and users (MIRAC) of ICES advice that they agree with it. If they do, technical work on a stock by stock basis will be required in the autumn of 2013 to choose the stock indicators to use and agree on threshold % change for each stock to trigger a new assessment and possibly new advice.

In implementing the proposal from 2014 onwards, stock indicators will be examined every year and if the change is less than the agreed threshold % change, the advice will be presented as same advice as last year (SALY).