

STECF EXPERT WORKING GROUP EWG12-07

Management Plans part II

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Edinburgh, UK**

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Background

Multi-stock plans

According to the CFP reform proposal current single-species management shall be replaced with multi-stock management plans where species and/or fisheries are linked with each other either through the food web (multi-species) or through technical interactions in the associated fishery (mixed fisheries).

The general policy objective would be to provide long-term sustainable environmental, economic and social conditions and contribute to the availability of food supplies. Based on the general objective, multi-stock plans would have the following objectives:

- Adapting fishing mortality to ensure management of all stocks concerned according to MSY by 2015.
- Implementation of an ecosystem –based approach to fisheries and facilitating the implementation of the MSFD in particular with regards to descriptors and targets related directly or indirectly to fisheries (descriptor 3, 4 and 6). In particular, the plans should deliver low risk of depletion of individual stocks, low impact on non-target species and low impact on sensitive habitats.
- Elimination of discards and minimisation of bycatches

Given the management areas used by ICES, the RAC areas, and the stock areas used in existing management plans for the NE Atlantic, it is foreseen to develop area based management plans as follows:

Baltic Sea
Celtic Sea
Irish Sea
West of Scotland

Western Channel
North Sea
Bay of Biscay
Iberian Atlantic Coast

Eastern Channel would either be combined with the Western Channel or the North Sea

Kattegat would either be combined with the Skagerrak or the North Sea

As regards stocks crossing multiple areas (e.g. Hake and Horse Mackerel) two options have preliminary be identified:

- a) area based plans will include management measures for stocks crossing through areas
- b) single stock plans will be established or maintained for these stocks

In order to ensure future multi-stock plans will correspond in a sensible way to existing relations between stocks and fisheries and their preparation timing will correspond to availability of respective scientific advice, STECF is requested to provide advice for the preparation and planning for multi-stock plans for the North Sea, West of Scotland, Celtic Sea, Irish Sea, Western Channel according to the TORs as follows.

Bay of Biscay and Iberian Atlantic Coast will be addressed at a subsequent EWG meeting according to the same TORs.

Amendment of the cod plan

Next to preparing for the development of multi-stock plans, the Commission is considering proposing possible improvements of the cod plan¹ with regards to the implementation problems identified by STECF².

STECF is therefore requested to advice on possible options for amending the cod plan built on the advice already provided in the spring plenary report³.

Terms of Reference

Multi-stock plans

1. Identify cases where stocks cross multiple geographical areas or fishing activities are strongly economically linked between areas.

Advise on potential implementation problems of the area based approach specified above. For each case discuss how this might be addressed taking account of the two identified options on how to deal with stocks crossing multiple areas.

For the Eastern Channel discuss pros and cons of combining it either with the Western Channel in one plan or including it into a plan for the North Sea.

¹ Council Regulation (EC) No 1342/2008 establishing a long-term plan for cod stocks and the fisheries exploiting those stocks

² EWG report on the "Evaluation of multi-annual plans for cod in Irish Sea, Kattegat, North Sea, and West of Scotland (STECF-11-07)"

³ 39th Plenary meeting report of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (PLEN-12-01), 16-20 April 2012

2. For each area outline the steps required, and give an indicative timeline for the development of the scientific basis including tools for the evaluation of different options for a multi-stock plan as regards each of the objectives specified above. This should take account of any work planned by ICES on this topic. Specify any further research or preparatory analysis needed.
3. For each area outline which kinds of economic analysis can be provided based on tools existing or under preparation and advice on which additional tools would be needed

Amendment of the cod plan

4. Review the draft Commission proposal as regards amendments for Article 9, 11 and 13 of the cod plan (see supporting document) and the alternative option provided by Member States (**tbc end of May**).

Suggest alternative proposals, or ways in which the proposals could be improved or simplified as appropriate

Discuss the pro and cons for each option proposed compared to existing fishing effort management methods