

STECF EWG 22-04: Assessment and advice for non-quota stocks, to support the development of multi-annual strategies in the context EU-UK (STECF-22-04)

Ralf Döring

Overview

- Background
- STECF rules of procedure and the request on NQS from DG MARE
- EWG 22-04 – Some reflections on the first EWG meeting on NQS
- Outlook

Background

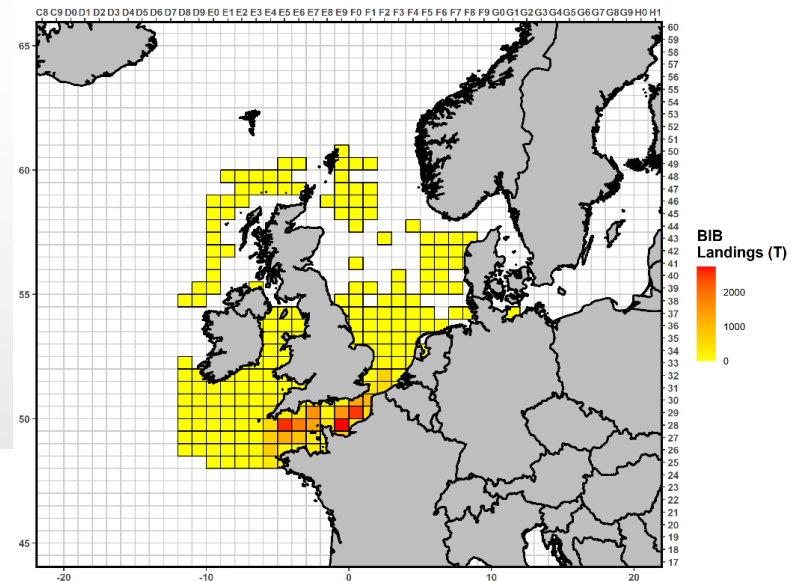
- DG MARE requested STECF to give advice regarding long-term management strategies for NQS
- STECF organised an Expert Working Group (EWG) in May 2022 to address the terms of reference
- Report is not published yet – STECF delivered the report to DG MARE

STECF rules of procedure and the request on NQS from DG MARE

- STECF organises EWG in cases where the request cannot be answered by the plenary itself (e.g. a lot of data to analyse)
- Typical long standing EWG are on the exemptions from the Landing obligation (LO) or the Annual Economic Report group (AER)
- Observers are generally allowed in the EWG but DG MARE and the chair(s) can decide in which form observer participation is possible
- In many meetings observers ,just‘ observe without any active role, in some meetings the role can be more active

STECF rules of procedure and the request on NQS from DG MARE

- The NQS EWG was somewhat special as the topic is sensitive
- The request from DG MARE included especially
 - Analyses on the state of knowledge regarding NQS for six areas (North Sea, Eastern English Channel, Western English Channel, Celtic Sea, Irish Sea and West of Scotland) and a number of species



STECF rules of procedure and the request on NQS from DG MARE

- Overview on available management approaches for NQS with Pros and Cons
- Here the observer input was especially valuable

Table 1: Pros and Cons of Gear based TCM

Pro	Contra
Easy controllable	Some measures problematic in mixed fisheries (e.g. mesh sizes when there are different sizes of catch)
May reduce the choke risk if unwanted catches in mixed fisheries can be reduced.	Strict rules can be costly with high losses of marketable catch
Minimum size can limit mortality if discard survival is high.	
Minimum size can be an incentive for size selection or changes in fishing ground	

EWG 22-04 – Some reflections on the first EWG meeting on NQS

- New topic for STECF which is especially interesting because of the input in ongoing discussions
- Information basis weak for many stocks as NQS are usually not in the focus of fisheries management decisions within the EU
- Nevertheless, important for many fleets of EU member states and especially small-scale fisheries
- Long-term strategies can be an interesting approach to give NQS more priority and in times of climate change some species may become more important in the future (e.g. gurnards in the NS)

EWG 22-04 – Some reflections on the first EWG meeting on NQS

- STECF will work to improve knowledge base (via data compilation) and will most likely work on proposals for long-term strategies
- STECF expects concentration on certain areas and species in the next EWG meetings – this time first overview on available information
- Overview on management approaches (including pros and cons of measures) good starting point for management discussions on long-term strategies

EWG 22-04 – Some reflections on the first EWG meeting on NQS

- STECF sees input of the NWWAC regarding specific management approaches in specific areas as most valuable (even proposals of NWWAC on management approaches may be a possibility)
- Expert coverage needs to be strengthened as many management measures are solely national regulations in coastal waters

Outlook

- Next EWG probably in the beginning of 2023
- Will inform NWWAC when dates are set and will most likely again limit observer interaction to maximum two sessions
- NWWAC should discuss with DG MARE whether proposals for long-term strategies or specific management measures for some NQS in certain areas can be an input from the AC