ICES advice for North Western Waters stocks

NWWAC meeting, July 2025

ADVICE INTRODUCTION

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Image Dirk Vonten, Fotolia

North Western Waters stocks

West of Scotland & Rockall (6.ab)
- Cod (4,6.a7d 20)
- Haddock (4,6.a,sub 20; 6.b)
- Whiting (6.a; 6.b)
- Anglerfish (3.a,4,6)
- Megrim (4.a-6.a; 6.b)
- Saithe 3.a 4, 6
- *Nephrops* (FUs11-12-13)

Deep-sea stocks

Irish Sea (7.a)
- Cod
- Haddock
- Whiting
- Plaice
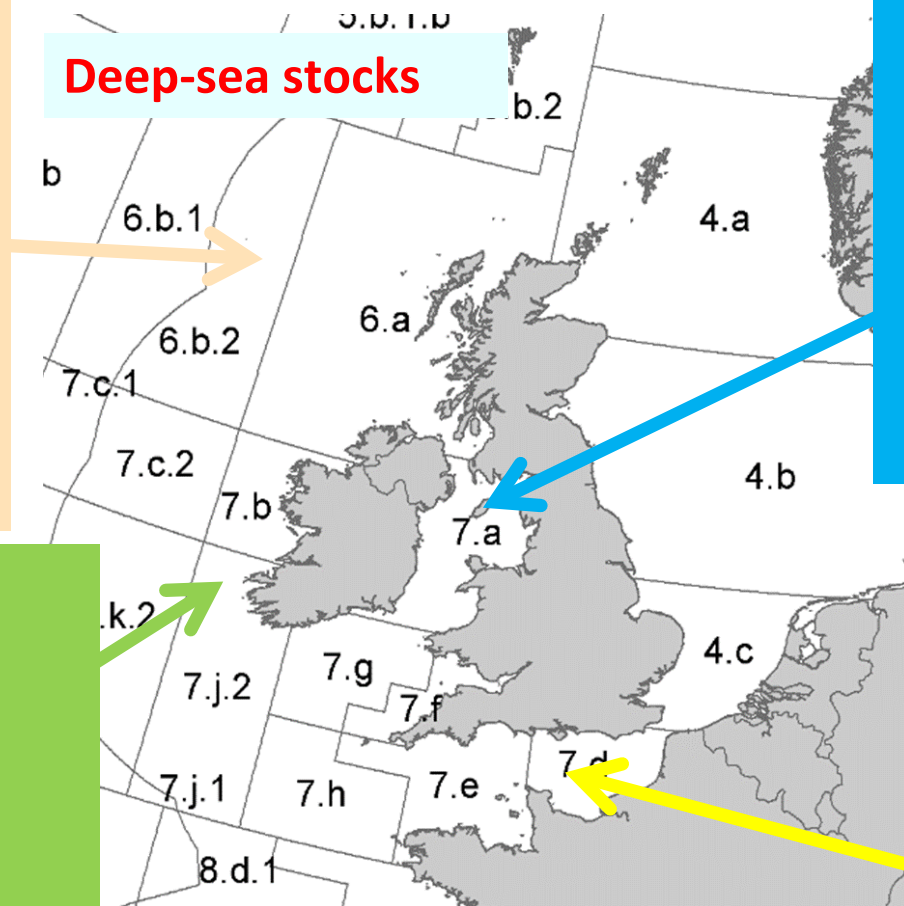- Sole
- Sea bass (4bc,7ad–h)
- nephrops

Celtic Sea & West, Southwest Ireland
- Cod (7.e-k)
- Haddock (7.b-k)
- Plaice (CS; 7.h-k; 7.bc)
- Sole (CS; 7.b-c;7.h-k; 7.bc)
- Northern hake
- Anglerfish (7.b-k, 8.abd)
- Megrim (6.b,7.b-k, 8.abd)
- Pollack (6,7)
- *Nephrops* (FUs 16-17-20-22)

Channel
- Cod (4, 6a 7d 20)
- Plaice (7.d; 7.e)
- Sole (7.d; 7.e)
- Whiting (4,7d)
- Brill (3.a, 4, 7.de)
- Lemon sole (3.a, 4, 7.d)
- Sea bass (4bc,7ad–h)
- Striped red mullet (3.a, 4, 7.d)

Rays and skates

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ADVICE IN AUTUMN FOR:
Nephrops (all areas)
Elasmobranchs

Governed by
10 principles of advice

1. Document openly
2. Formulate request iteratively
3. Clarify objectives & risks
4. Deliver timely knowledge
5. Use best available science
6. Apply FAIR data principles
7. Undergo peer review
8. Develop clear & consistent advice
9. Agree by consensus
10. Explain without advocacy

ADVICE PRINCIPLES

Release
Request
Production

Advice Process

Need
Use

Learning
Independence and credibility
Best available science
Production
ADVICE PROCESS
Request
Release
Dialogue and partnership
Openness and transparency
Feedback

No other fisheries body has these specifically stated

https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7648

Basis of advice
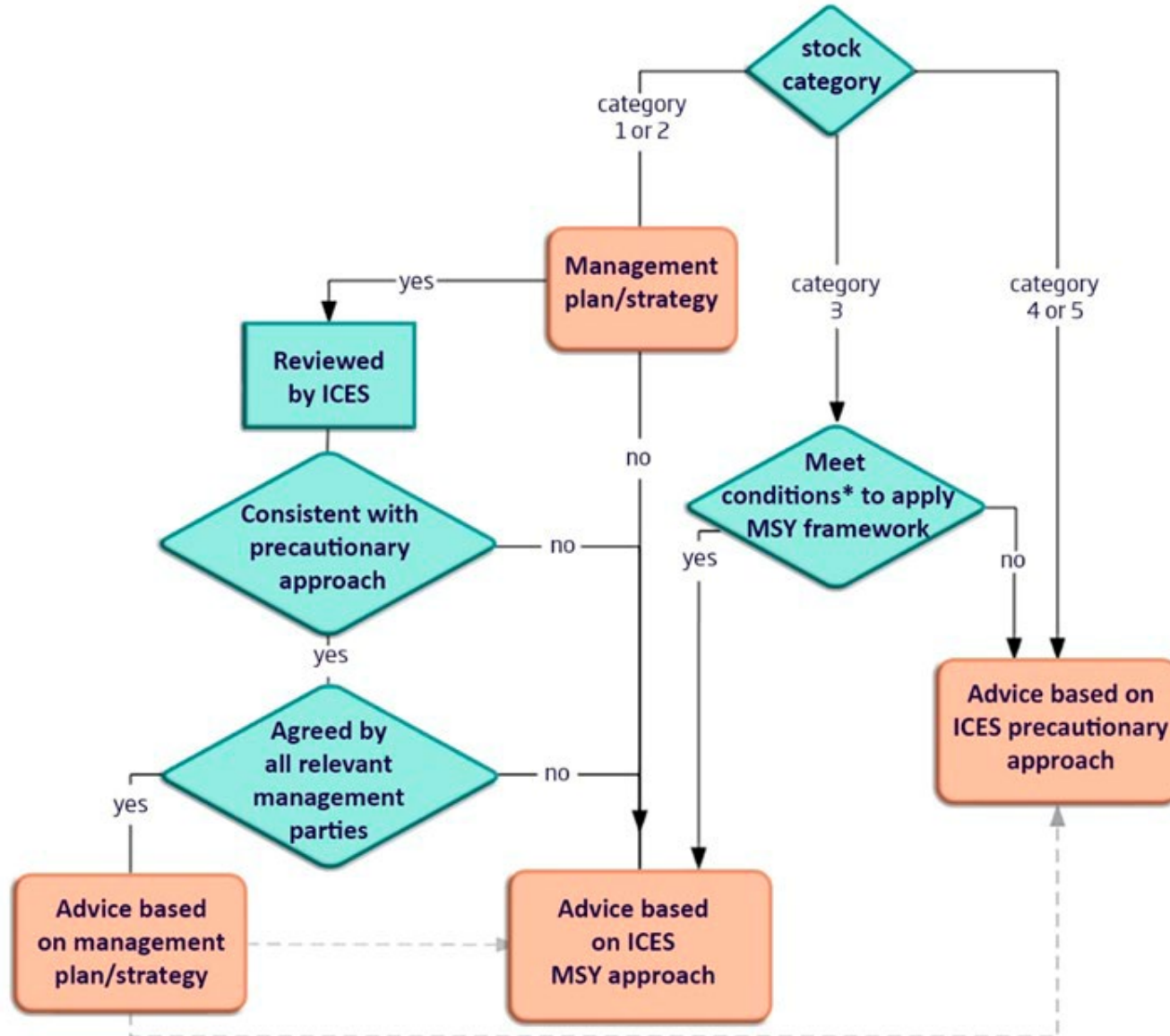
- Advice is based on clients requests and is consistent with their policy objectives and frameworks. e.g. EU MAP
- Must be evaluated to be precautionary
- Type of assessment based on data available

ICES Assessment Categories

Category 1 – Stocks with quantitative assessments; includes stocks with full analytical assessments and forecasts that are either age-/length-structured or based on production models.

Category 2 – Stocks with analytical assessments and forecasts that are only treated qualitatively as well as stocks with surplus production models, e.g. SPiCT, JABBA, without an MSE;
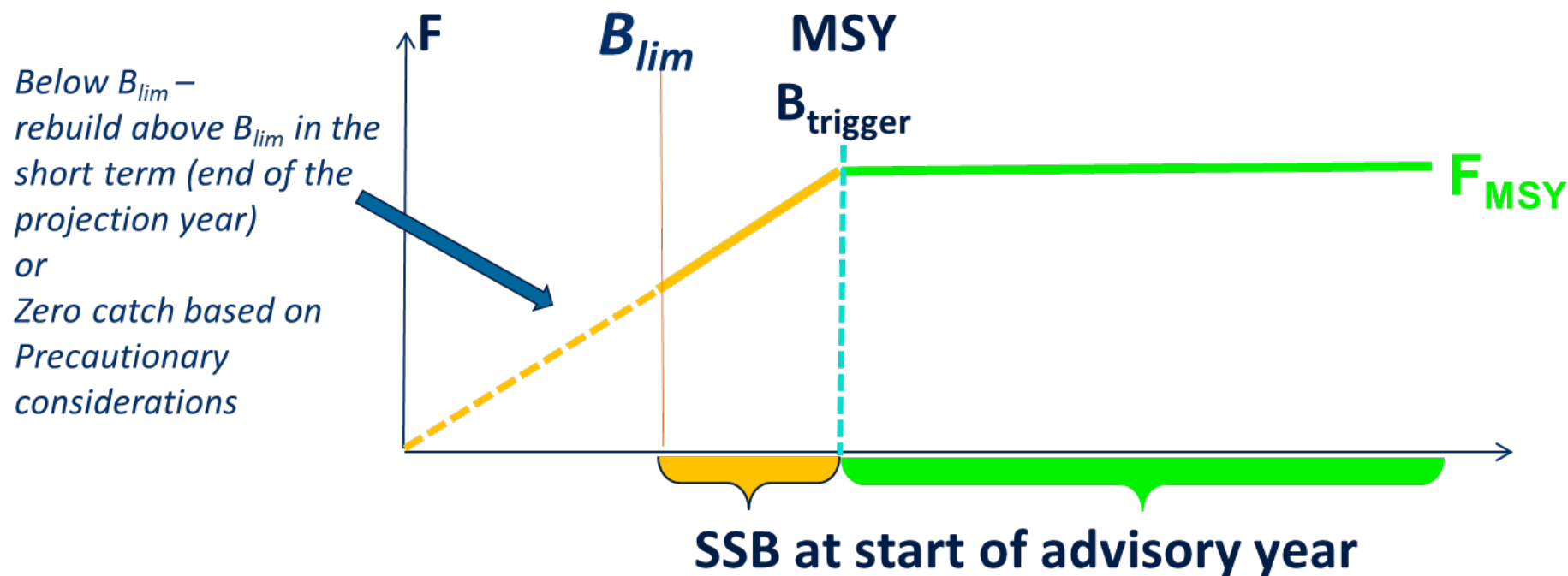
Category 3 – Stocks for which survey-based assessments or exploratory assessments indicate trends; includes stocks for which survey, trends-based assessment, or other indices and life history information are available

Category 4 – Nephrops stocks where information on possible abundance can be inferred and stocks for which a reliable time-series of catch can be used to approximate MSY.

Category 5 – Stocks for which either only data on landings or a short time-series of catch are available

Category 6 –Stocks for which there are negligible landings and stocks caught in minor amounts as bycatch

ICES MSY approach for category 1 & 2 stocks

Below B_{lim} – rebuild above B_{lim} in the short term (end of the projection year) or Zero catch based on Precautionary considerations

SSB at start of advisory year

For more details, see ' Advice on fishing opportunities 2023'

EU MAPs and F ranges

- The F ranges in the MAPs are consistent with the ranges provided by ICES in 2015 ($F_{MSYlower}$ and $F_{MSYupper}$).
- F ranges evaluated to result in no more than 5% reduction in long-term yield compared with MSY.
- The ranges are considered precautionary: <5% probability that the stock size will fall below Blim.

Some changes this year

Mixed catch of stocks of the same species

- Revised Guidelines

- In some cases, ICES advice is for reproductively isolated populations that mix spatially for part of the year and are caught in the same fisheries during that time. Hence, these fisheries impact multiple stocks of the same species at the same time.
- Advice should be consistent with ICES advisory framework

- Advice should be precautionary for all stocks in the fishery; that is, advice for a stock below B_{lim} should be for zero catch where there is no F that will recover thestock to above B_{lim} with > 50% probability in the year after the year for which the advice applies

Mixed catch of stocks of the same species
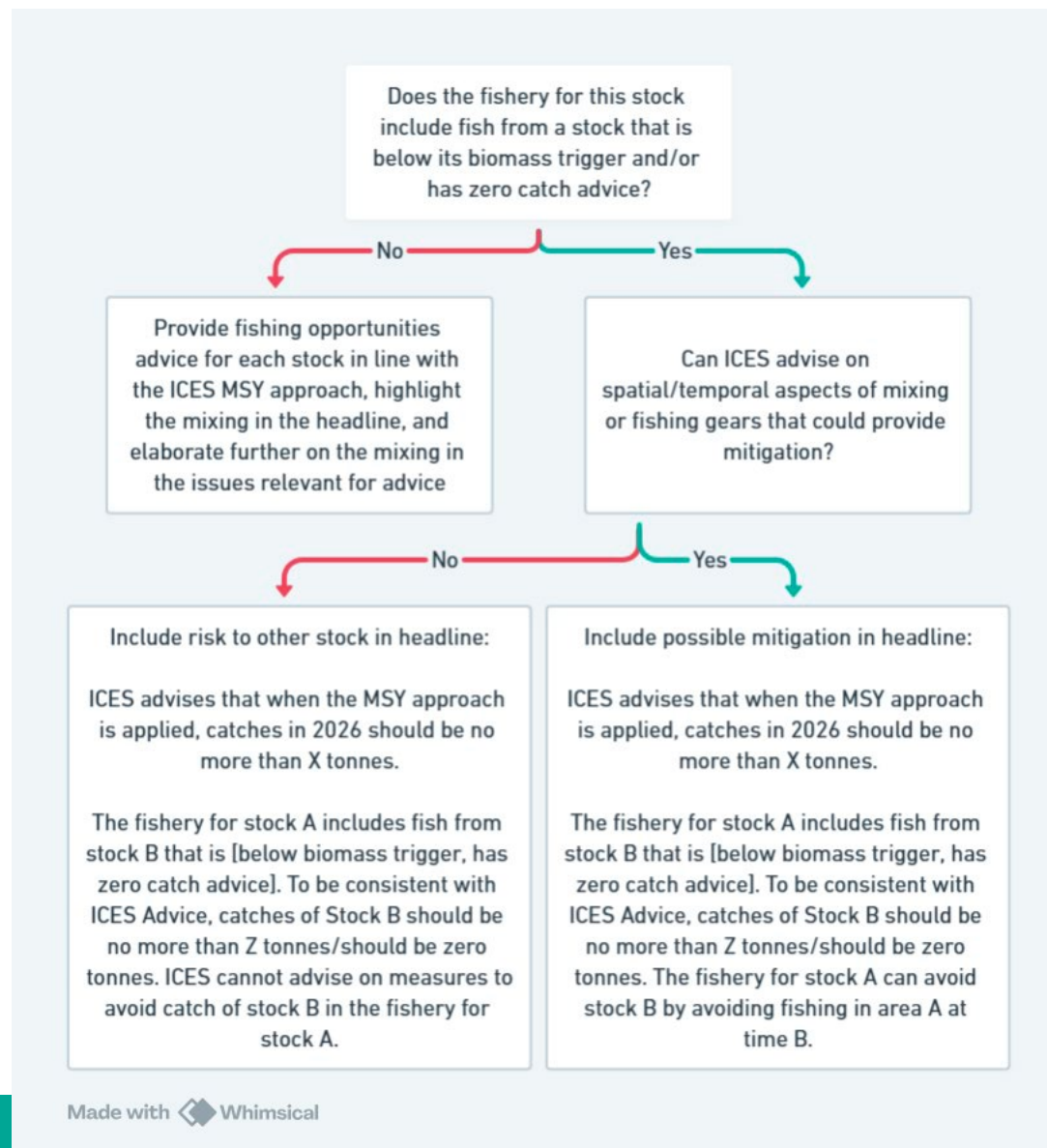
Category 1

- If stock < Blim [forecasts at low stock size shown to be optimistic]
  - When SSB is close to or below Blim and the retrospective pattern is outside acceptable bounds (-15%, 20%), the advice should be zero and a benchmark should be recommended.
  - If retrospective pattern within acceptable bounds forecasts should be run assuming the lowest plausible productivity scenario (low recruitment, current exploitation, current growth and selectivity). If, there is no F that will bring the stock above Blim at the end of the projection year ICES will advise zero catch based on precautionary considerations

Category 1

- Not Changing – No Transition Rules
- Advice based on best available science
    - All changes peer reviewed
    - A transition rule that limits change suggests that ICES is not confident in the new/revised assessment
    - Violates the principle of using best available science
    - Comparison sometimes made with category 3 – require more caution and stability clause part of HCR
    - Many possible rules – choice management decision

Category 1

- Not Changing – No Transition Rules
- ACOM agreed communication is very important
  - Continue early warning
  - Continue to efforts to make requesters and stakeholders more aware of benchmarks
  - Improve section of advice sheet on reason for changes in advice

Category 3

- Zero catch advice
    - rules cannot technically produce zero catch advice. If the biomass index is very low, below any reasonable Blim, then zero catch advice should be given

- Rfb and rb
    - when zero advice has been given previously and the biomass index has shown a clear increasing trend, particularly if it has increased above Itrigger use recent catches in place of recent advice in calculation of the advice

Where to find the advice

- https://ices-library.figshare.com/
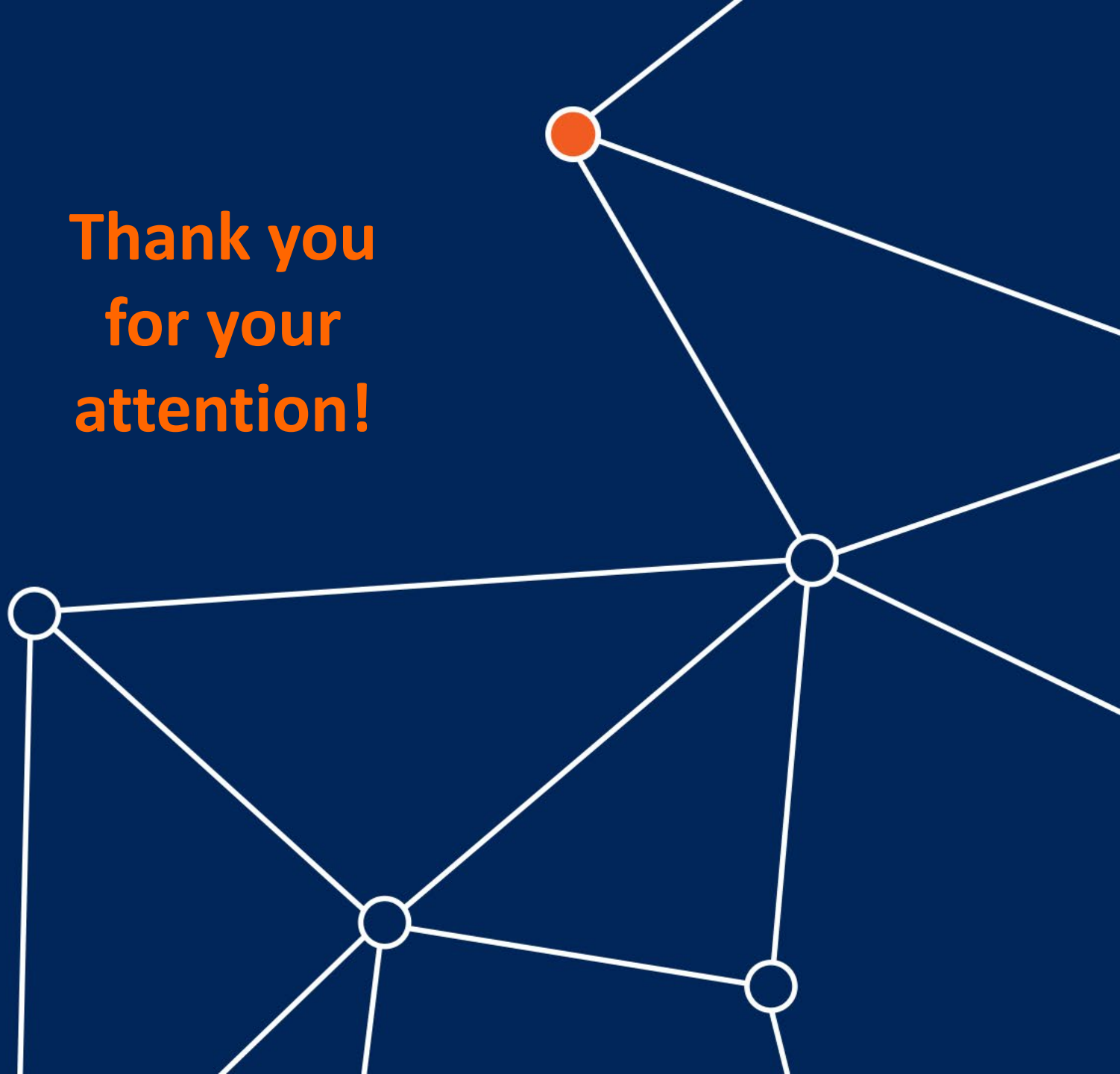

- AdviceXplorer

    - https://ices-taf.shinyapps.io/online-single-stock-advice/

Thank you for your attention!

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Types of assessment methods

- DLS – empirical – apply advice rule (e.g. CHR, rfb) to an index
- Production model – total catch, index(ices), observation and process error, results relative e.g. B/BMSY
- Age structured – XSA, SAM, Stock synthesis, SCAA
    - XSA – CAA and SAA, CAA taken as known, error only in SAA
    Very strong assumptions, only observation error, no probabilities
    - SAM, SS (very flexible), SCAA
    Total catch in weight, CAA, SAA, SR, observation and process error, selectivity can vary over time