



CONSEIL CONSULTATIF POUR
LES EAUX OCCIDENTALES
SEPTENTRIONALES

NORTH WESTERN
WATERS
ADVISORY COUNCIL

CONSEJO CONSULTIVO PARA
LAS AGUAS
NOROCCIDENTALES

WORKING GROUP 1 – IRISH SEA

—
29 October 2025



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Agenda

09:30 – 09:35 IE	1. Welcome and introductions • Welcome from the Chair (John Lynch) • Apologies • Adoption of the agenda • Action points from the last meeting (02 July 2025)
09:35 – 10:00 IE	2. Review and discussion of the ICES advice for 2026 TACs in the Irish Sea, with consideration of implications for each stock – WG Chair
10:00 – 10:25 IE	3. Update on the development of ORE in the Irish sea and discussion on the request to have the NWWAC join the Seafood/ ORE WG as an observer member – WG Chair
10:25 – 10:50 IE	4. Discussion on growing concerns regarding cable installations across the Irish Sea and the need for further analysis of their interactions with the fishing industry – WG Chair
10:50 – 10:55 IE	5. AOB • The Irish Ocean Knowledge Strategy 2030 – Proposal for a presentation by the Marine Institute at the next WG1 meeting
10:55 – 11:00 IE	6. Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted by the Chair

Action points from the last meeting (02 July 2025, Vigo)

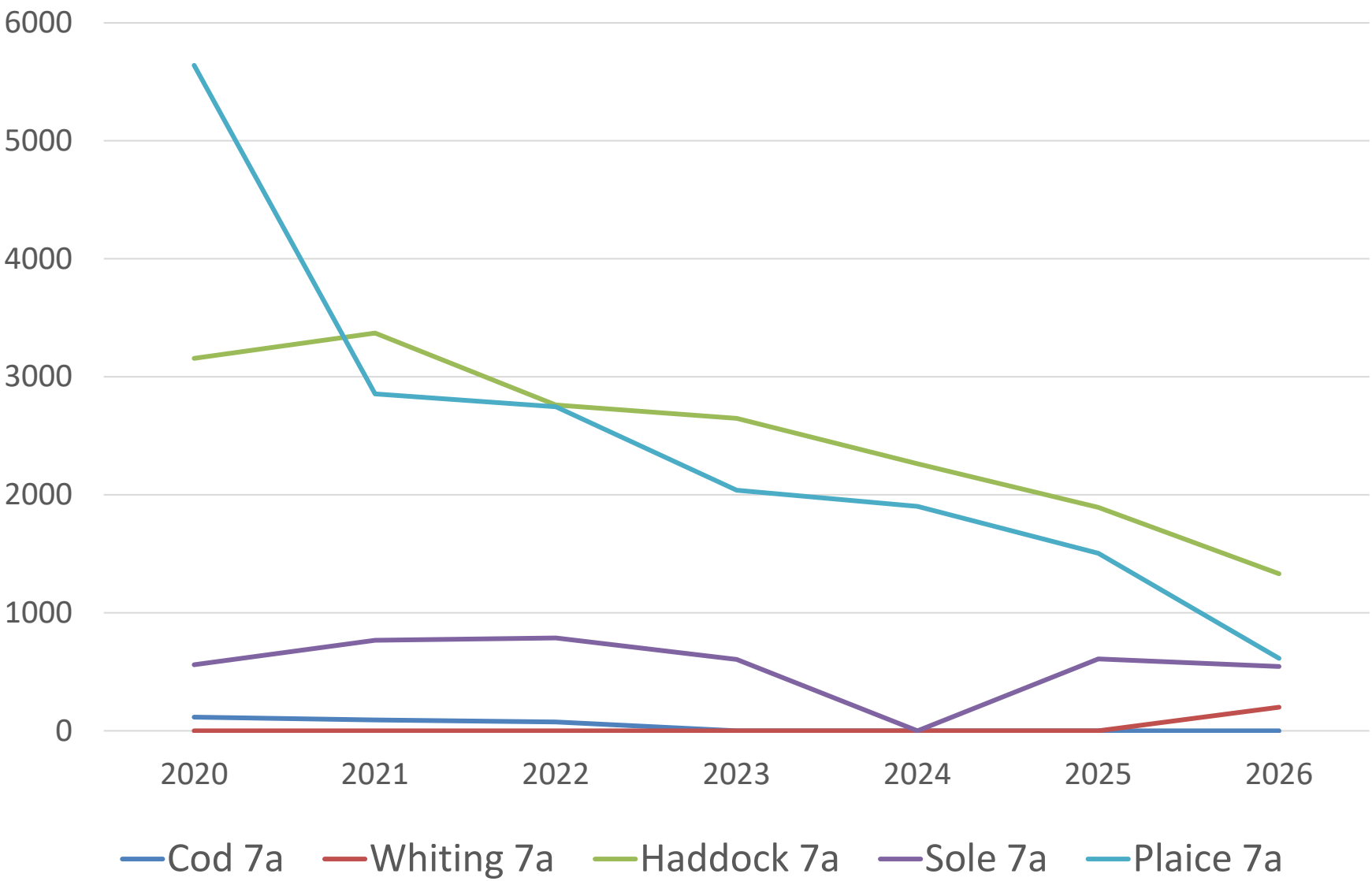
1	Members to send written queries for Joanne Morgan following her presentation to the Secretariat
	Email request sent to members 04 July
2	Members to send feedback on the fishing opportunities advice as well as the climate change impacts to the Secretariat.
	Email request sent to members 04 July
3	Working Group to follow up on BIM trials at October meeting.
	Updates will be available at the beginning of 2026, invite BIM for March meeting. Email from BIM: <i>We do not have any trial updates for the Irish sea this time. We are planning an Irish sea whitefish trial that will be completed before the end of this year, most likely in November. The trial will focus on selectivity and reduction of unwanted catches and will compare the current legislated gear (120 mm diamond mesh codend with a 100 mm diamond mesh extension) against a 100 mm square mesh codend and extension. We hope to have a completed report on this early in 2026 and could present something at the next meeting in 2026.</i>

2. Review and discussion of the ICES advice for 2026 TACs in the Irish Sea, with consideration of implications for each stock

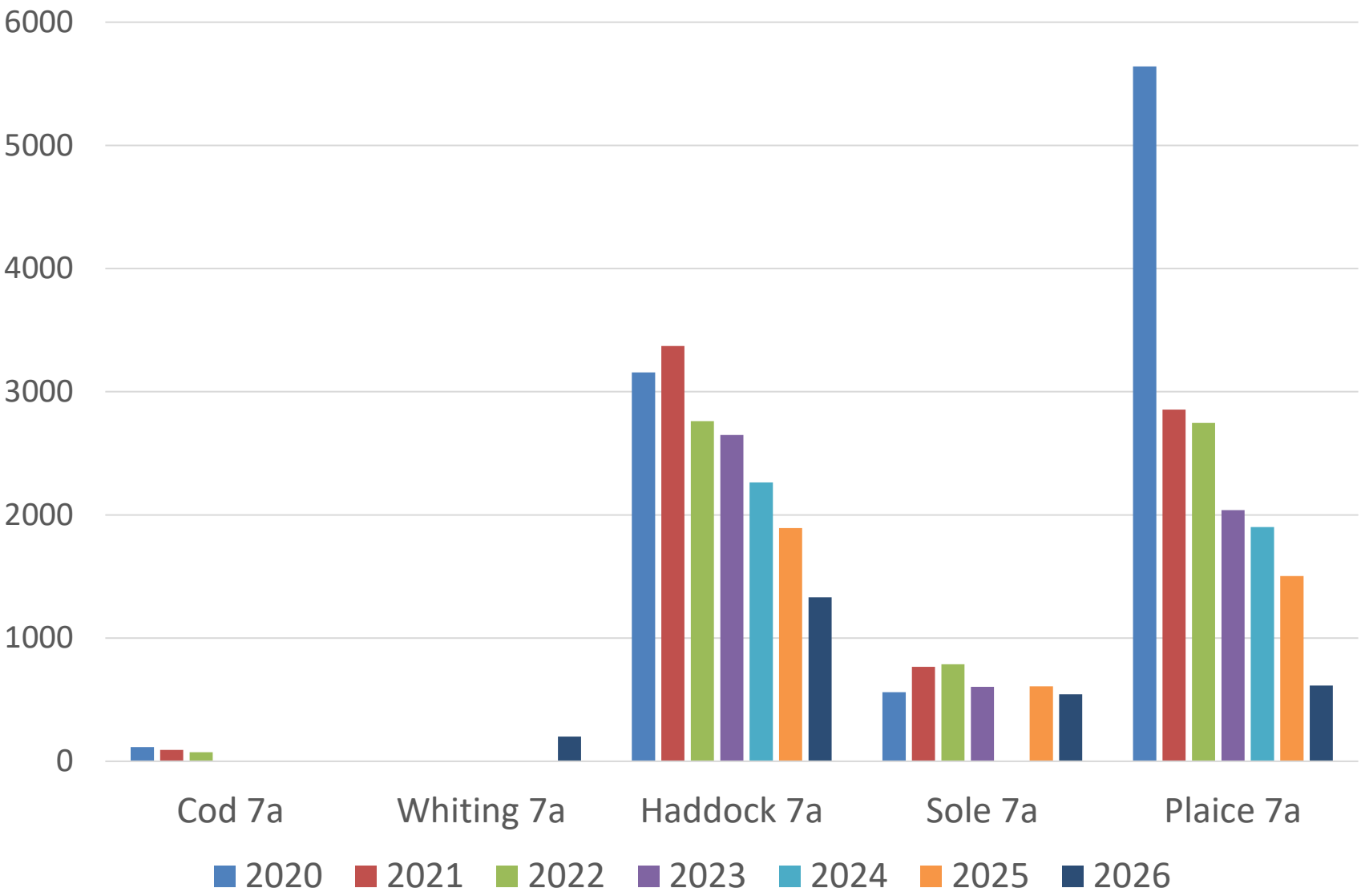


ICES TACs Advice - Irish Sea							
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Cod 7a	116	93	74	0	0	0	0
Whiting 7a	0	0	0	0	0	0	200
Haddock 7a	3156	3371	2761	2648	2263	1893	1331 (-30%)
Sole 7a	561	768	787	605	0	609	545 (-10.5%)
Plaice 7a	5640	2856	2747	2039	1902	1504	614 (-59%)

Graph 1. Annual Variation in TACs recommended by ICES



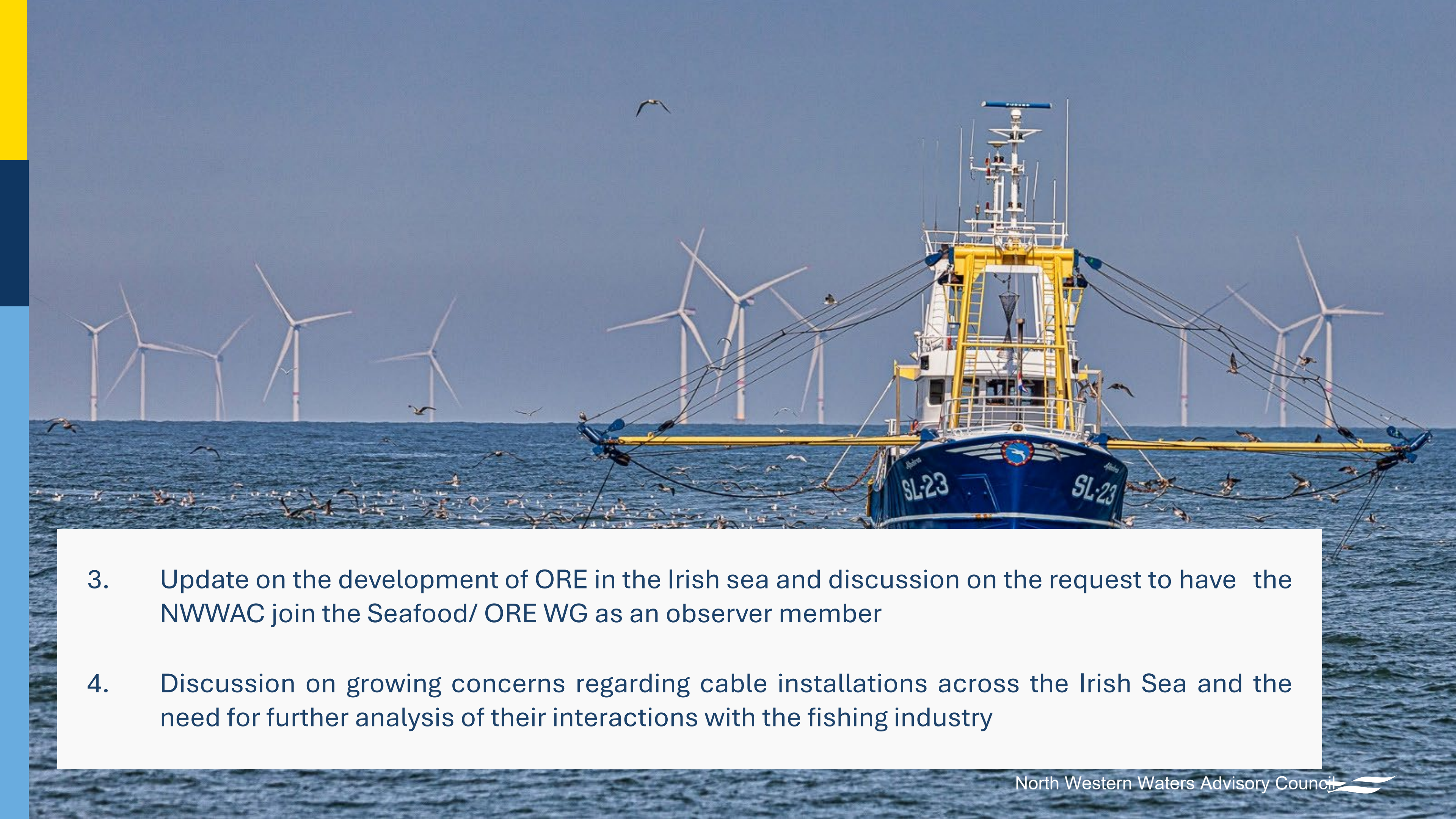
Graph 2. Annual Variation in TACs per stock, as recommended by ICES



NWWAC Advice on Fishing Opportunities for 2026 (submitted on 29.08.25)

IRISH SEA

<u>Plaice 7a</u>	As it is perceived that a TAC reduction will only lead to increased discarding (particularly with an excessive -59%) and plaice 7a in many cases is a bycatch in other fisheries, the NWWAC recommends considering other than headline advice and negotiate a TAC closer to the F_{MSY} upper outcome.
<u>Sole 7a</u>	The NWWAC notes retrospective issues in the assessment, concerning recruitment estimates. Given the stock status perception by fishers, it is regrettable that because of this the advice is -11%, despite F being below and B above the reference points. The NWWAC recommends having a discussion on this at the bilateral consultation with the UK.
<u>Whiting 7a</u>	The NWWAC welcomes the benchmark carried out in the Irish Sea and notes the increase from zero TAC to 200 tonnes for 2026. However, it should be noted that the following catch advice would mean that the TAC 2026 would be 72% lower than the bycatch TAC agreed in the previous years when ICES gave zero catch advice. The NWWAC recommends having a discussion on this at the bilateral consultation with the UK.

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3. Update on the development of ORE in the Irish sea and discussion on the request to have the NWWAC join the Seafood/ ORE WG as an observer member
 4. Discussion on growing concerns regarding cable installations across the Irish Sea and the need for further analysis of their interactions with the fishing industry

5. AOB

- *The Irish Ocean Knowledge Strategy 2030 – Proposal for a presentation by the Marine Institute at the next WG1 meeting*
- ## 6. Summary of actions agreed and decisions adopted by the Chair