

SUMMARY OF JUNE AND OCTOBER 2012 ICES ADVICE FOR PELAGIC SPECIES

		Page
Blue whiting	Estimates of spawning stock biomass (SSB) have varied greatly in recent years. Historical low landings and fishing mortality in 2011, in combination with an increase in recruitment since 2010, has stopped the steep decline in SSB (increased by 1 million tones in the last year). 50% increase in TAC for 2013.	2
Capelin	Stock status for Barents Sea is steady but a TAC reduction is recommended for 2013. There are some concerns about Icelandic stocks with abundance of young capelin very low.	3
Herring	Main Norwegian spring spawning stock is exploited at target. All year classes from 2005 have been small. SSB is declining but still above precautionary levels in 2012. North Sea stock is performing well in relation to the management plan and MSY. <i>Ichthyophonus</i> infection in Icelandic herring is abating and strong new year classes are entering fishable stock.	4
Norway pout	The directed fishery for Norway pout was closed in 2005, the first half of 2006, and in 2007, as well as in the first half of 2011 and 2012. A TAC for 2013 has been recommended based on 2012 catches.	6
Sandeel	Main North Sea stock (Dogger Bank) expected to be at full reproductive capacity at the beginning of 2012 due to large recruitment in 2009. Low recruitment in 2010 and 2011.	7
Sprat	Baltic - Spawning stock biomass has declined from a historic high level in the late 1990s. 2011 estimated around long term average. North Sea - stock appears to have increased and is able to sustain recent catches.	9

Key - *Fishing mortality/Spawning Stock Biomass (total weight of all sexually mature fish in the stock)

- 1. MSY – Maximum Sustainable Yield. FMSY** – fishing at levels that catch the maximum proportion of a fish stock, that can safely be removed on a continuous basis. **BMSY** – spawning stock biomass that results from fishing at FMSY for a long time.
 - 2. PA – Precautionary Approach. FPA** – precautionary reference point for fishing mortality. **BPA** – precautionary reference point for spawning stock biomass.
 - 3. Mg'ment Plan – Management Plan** – agreed by all parties to maintain/rebuild stocks.
- Btrigger** – Value of spawning stock biomass that triggers a specific management action.

In the following tables a very simple statement has been included on the status of the spawning stock biomass in 2012 in comparison with 2011. This is an estimate based on ICES stock status information and is not necessarily definitive.

Compiled by Seafish - For further information contact: Karen Green, T: 07515 993499 E: k_green@seafish.co.uk

BLUE WHITING

Stock	TAC for 2012 Tonnes	Status of stock in October 2012	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	ICES advice in October 2012 and TAC advice for 2013	*SSB Status in comparison to 2011 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Blue whiting combined stock Sub-areas I-IX, XII and XIV	391,100	Historical low landings and fishing mortality in 2011, in combination with an increase in recruitment since 2010, have stopped the steep decline in spawning stock biomass (SSB) since 2004 (all year classes from 2005 onward are estimated to be poor). SSB has increased by 1 mt from 2011 to 2012 (3.8 mt) and is above precautionary levels at the beginning of 2012. An increase in recruitment has been observed in the last two years. Recruitment (age 1) is estimated significantly higher in 2011 than in 2007–2009 (historically low recruitments). Industry has observed an increase in the abundance of juvenile blue whiting over the past 12 months, and an increase in the abundance of adult fish.	1. At target 2. Undefined 3. At target	Following the management plan agreed by Norway, EU, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, and NEAFC in November 2008 implies a TAC of 643,000 tonnes in 2013. This is expected to lead to an increase in spawning stock biomass in 2014 to 5.67 million tonnes, which is above the spawning stock and MSY trigger points.	IMPROVED Spawning stock biomass 1. Above trigger 2. Full reproductive capacity 3. Above trigger

CAPELIN

Stock	TAC for 2012 Tonnes	Status of stock	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	ICES advice and recommended TAC for 2013	*SSB Status in comparison to 2011 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Reference points not fully defined					
Advice in October 2012					
Barents Sea capelin Subareas I and II, excluding Division IIa west of 5°W	320,000	The maturing component in autumn 2012 was estimated to be 2.0 million t. Spawning stock in 2013 will consist of fish from 2009 and 2010 year classes. Survey estimates of 2011 year class at age 1 is slightly below long-term average. 0-group observations during the Russian-Norwegian survey in Aug-Sept 2012 indicate 2012 year class is well above long-term average.	1. Not relevant 2. Not relevant	In 2002, the Joint Norwegian–Russian Fisheries Commission (JNRFC) adopted a management strategy. The fishery is managed according to a target escapement strategy - takes predation by cod into account/catches are pre-spawning capelin. ICES advises on the basis of the management plan that catches in 2013 should be no more than 200,000 tonnes.	SAME Spawning stock biomass 1. Undefined 2. Above limit reference point
Advice in June 2012					
Capelin in the Iceland East Greenland Jan Mayen area Subareas V and XIV and Division IIa west of 5°W	2011/2012 765,000 366,000 advised for July – Dec 2011	It is estimated that 418,000 t was left for spawning in spring 2012 (just above the management target). The autumn 2011 annual survey on young capelin was not conducted. Surveys in Nov 2011 and Feb 2012 only covered part of potential distribution area but showed abundance of young capelin was very low.	1. Undefined 2. Undefined	Management plan agreed between Iceland, Greenland, and Norway, which aims at a spawning-stock biomass of 400,000 t by the end of the fishing season. ICES advises on the basis of precautionary considerations that there should be no fishery until new information on stock size proves SSB to be above the escapement threshold.	SAME Spawning stock biomass 1. Undefined 2. Undefined

HERRING

Stock	TAC for 2012 Tonnes	Status of stock in	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	ICES advice and recommended TAC for 2013	*SSB Status in comparison with 2010 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Inside safe biological limits					
Advice in October 2012					
Herring Norwegian spring Spawners (Atlanto- Scandian). ICES sub area I, divisions IIa, Va, Vb	833,000	SSB Is declining but still above precautionary levels in 2012. Three large year classes (2002, 2003, 2004) dominate the stock. All year classes from 2005 have been small. Fishing mortality is below MSY and PA. SSB in 2009 was highest in the last 20 years, but recruitment poor since 2004 and SSB declined since and is expected to decline further. Decline of year classes is faster decline in the catches.	1. At target 2. At target 3. Above target	ICES advises on the basis of the EU, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway, and Russia management plan that landings in 2012 should be no more than 619,000 t. Short-term prognoses indicates a decline in SSB from 6.1 mill t in 2012 to 5.1 and 4.3 mill t in 2013 and 2014, respectively, assuming exploitation in 2012 and 2013 is according to the management plan.	WORSE Spawning stock biomass 1. Above trigger 2. Full reproductive capacity 3. Above trigger
Advice in June 2012					
Herring in IV and VIId North Sea, Eastern English channel autumn spawners	200,000	Full reproductive capacity, harvested sustainably and below management plan and MSY targets. Year classes 2002 to 2007 estimated to be among weakest since the late 1970s. Year classes 2008/9 estimated to be above long-term geometric mean. ICES considers stock still in low productivity phase.	1. Below target 2. Harvested sustainably 3. Below target	A management plan was agreed by EU and Norway in 2008. ICES advises a revision of the EU–Norway management plan. ICES advises on the basis of the current agreed plan that catches in 2013 should be no more than 480,200 t, including 465,750 t for the A-fleet (massive increase).	SAME Spawning stock biomass 1. Undefined 2. Full reproductive capacity 3. Above trigger

Stock	TAC for 2012 Tonnes	Status of stock in	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	ICES advice in June 2012 and recommended TAC for 2013	*SSB Status in comparison with 2011 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Stocks at risk of being outside safe biological limits and below biomass action point $B_{MSY-trigger}$					
Herring Icelandic summer spawners Va	45,000 (Sept 2011 to Sept 2012)	Spawning stock biomass has been declining, likely related to the <i>Ichthyophonus</i> infection, but the decline seems to have stopped and the SSB is above reference points. Strong year classes, which show no signs of infection, are entering the fishable stock. Fishing mortality is currently below MSY. Indications are <i>Ichthyophonus</i> infection is likely abating and hardly observed in herring at age 3.	1. Appropriate 2. Harvested sustainably	There is no formal management plan for this stock. ICES advises on the basis of the MSY approach that catches in 2012/2013 should be no more than 67,000 t. A high <i>Ichthyophonus</i> infection was observed in the stock in 2008. Infection rate for age 4+ was estimated to be 32% winter 2008/09, 43% in 2009/10, 34% in 2010/11 and 27% in 2011/12.	IMPROVED Spawning stock biomass 1. Above trigger 2. Full reproductive capacity

NORWAY POUT

Stock	TAC for 2012 Tonnes	Status of stock	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	ICES June 2012 advice and TAC recommendation for 2013	*SSB Status in comparison with 2011 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Inside safe biological limits					
Advice in October 2012					
<p>Norway pout in the North Sea and Skagerrak & Kattegat Subarea IV and Division IIIa</p>	<p>Two options If 2012 <10,000 then in 2013 <393,000 If 2012 NIL then in 2013 <458,000</p>	<p>The stock size is above MSY trigger points. Recruitment was low in 2010 and 2011, but very high in 2012. This is expected to maintain Spawning Stock Biomass above MSY trigger points in 2013. Fishing mortality has been lower than the natural mortality for this stock and has decreased in recent years to well below the long-term average. The status of the stock is mainly determined by natural processes and recruitment. The directed fishery for Norway pout was closed in 2005, the first half of 2006, and in 2007 as well as in the first half of 2011 and 2012. Low catch has been taken in the second half of 2011. Fishing effort and catches have been low in 2008 and 2009, but increased in 2010, and very low again in 2011</p>	<p>1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Below average</p>	<p>Due to the short-lived nature of this species a preliminary TAC is set every year, which is updated on the basis of advice in the first half of the year. TAC was not taken in 2008, 2009, and 2010 due to high fishing (fuel) costs and bycatch regulations in 2009 and 2010 (mainly in relation to whiting bycatch). The TAC of 6 kt in 2011 has been taken. There is no agreed management plan. Two outlook options have been put forward for 2013. ICES advises on the basis of the MSY approach according to the escapement strategy that catches in 2012 should not exceed 10,000 t. With this catch in 2012, catches in 2013 should not exceed 393,000 t. If no catch is taken in 2012, then catches in 2013 should not exceed 458,000 t.</p>	<p>SAME Spawning stock biomass 1. Above trigger 2. Full reproductive capacity</p>

SANDEEL

Stock	TAC for 2012 Tonnes	Status of stock in March 2012	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	ICES advice in March 2012 and TAC advice for 2012 Stock is generally assessed in October and updated in Feb/Mar	*SSB Status in comparison with 2010 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Sandeel in North Sea IV and IIIa –divided into sub areas SA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Overall TAC in 2010 400,000 t.					
Reference points not fully defined					
SA 1 Dogger Bank (71% of landings)	<197,000 prelim	SA 1 - Stock at start of 2012 expected to be at full reproductive capacity due to large recruitment in 2009. Fishing mortality decreased in 2005 from a high level and has since fluctuated. Recruitment was very low in both 2010 and 2011.	SA 1 1. Undefined 2. Undefined	SA 1 - ICES advises on basis of MSY that catch in 2012 should be <23,000 t to maintain SSB in 2013 above MSY Bescapement. In-year assessment.	SAME 1. Above trigger 2. Full reproductive capacity
SA 2 South East North Sea (8% of landings)	<34,000	SA 2 - Due to low fishing mortality during 2007–2010 and the strong 2009 year class, spawning stock in increased in 2011 has dropped below precautionary levels again in 2012. Recruitment is very low in both 2010 and 2011.	SA 2 1. Undefined 2. Undefined	SA 2 - ICES advises on basis of MSY that fishery should only be allowed in 2012 if analysis of real-time monitoring is available and indicates stock can be rebuilt to precautionary levels by 2013. Catches for monitoring purposes should < 5,000 t.	WORSE 1. Below escapement level 2. Increased risk
SA 3 Central Eastern North Sea (19% of landings)	Zero	SA 3 - Stock increased from record low SSB in 2004 to above precautionary biomass in 2010, and just below in 2012. Very low recruitment in 2010 & 2011.	SA 3 1. Undefined 2. Undefined	SA 3 – ICES advice is the same as for SA 2.	WORSE 1. Below escapement level 2. Increased risk

Stock	TAC for 2012 Tonnes	Status of stock in March 2012	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	ICES advice in March 2012 and TAC advice for 2012 Stock is generally assessed in October and updated in Feb/Mar	*SSB Status in comparison with 2010 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Sandeel in North Sea IV and IIIa –divided into sub areas SA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Overall TAC in 2010 400,000 t. 2011 advice <320,000 t.					
Reference points not fully defined					
SA 4 Central Western North Sea (<1% of landings)	5,000 – 10,000	SA 4 - Survey data indicates strong 2009 year class has been followed by low recruitment in 2010 and 2011. The very limited effort applied in the area suggests a very low fishing mortality.	SA 4 1. Unknown 2. Unknown	SA 4 – For 2012 ICES advises on the basis of precautionary considerations that catches for monitoring purposes should < 5,000 t.	SAME 1. Unknown 2. Unknown Increasing SSB
SA 5 Viking and Bergen Bank in North Sea	No advice No increase	SA 5 - Catch statistics and acoustic data are available for this stock. The available information is inadequate to evaluate stock status or trends. The state of the stock is therefore unknown.	SA 5 1. Unknown 2. Unknown	SA 5 - ICES advises on the basis of precautionary considerations that no increase in the fisheries should take place unless there is evidence that this will be sustainable.	SAME 1. Unknown 2. Unknown
SA 6 Skagerrak and Kattegat Division IIIA	No advice No increase	SA 6 - Only catch statistics are available - inadequate to evaluate stock status or trends. The state of the stock is therefore unknown.	SA 6 1. Unknown 2. Unknown	SA 6 - ICES advises on the basis of precautionary considerations that no increase in the fisheries should take place unless there is evidence that this will be sustainable.	SAME 1. Unknown 2. Unknown
Sandeel Shetland area (SA 7)	No advice No increase	SA 7 - Catch statistics and trawl survey data is available - inadequate to evaluate stock status or trends. The state of the stock is therefore unknown.	SA 7 1. Unknown 2. Unknown	SA 7 - ICES advises on the basis of precautionary considerations that no increase in the fisheries should take place unless there is evidence that this will be sustainable.	SAME SA 7 1. Unknown 2. Unknown

SPRAT

Stock	TAC for 2012 Tonnes	Status of stock in June 2012	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	ICES advice in June 2012 and recommended TAC for 2013	*SSB Status in comparison to 2011 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Sprat in the Baltic Subdivisions 22 - 32	<242,000	Spawning stock biomass has declined from a historic high level in the late 1990s. 2011 estimated around long term average. Fishing mortality declined in 2011. None of the recent three year classes (2009–2011) are strong with 2009 weak, others average.	1. Below target 2. Harvested unsustainably	ICES advises that catches should be no more than 278,000 tonnes in 2013 and a spatial management plan should be developed.	IMPROVING 1. Undefined 2. Undefined Stable at average level
Sprat in the North Sea Subarea IV	<134,000	Surveys and exploratory assessment appears to show stock has increased and is able to sustain recent catches.	Unknown	ICES advises that catches should be no more than 134,000 tonnes in 2013.	IMPROVING Increasing
Sprat in Skagerrak & Kattegat Division IIIa First year ICES is providing quantitative advice for data-limited stocks	5,200	The available information is inadequate to evaluate stock status. Survey results are not reliable indicators of sprat abundance.	Insufficient information	Based on the ICES approach for data limited stocks, ICES advises that catches should be no more than 8,200 tonnes.	SAME Insufficient information
Sprat in Subarea VI and Divisions VIIa-c and f-k (Celtic Sea and West of Scotland) First year ICES is providing quantitative advice for data-limited stocks	No TAC	The information available is insufficient to evaluate stock trends and exploitation. Stock identity for this species in this area is not defined.	Insufficient information	No TAC for this species in this area. Not clear whether there should be one or several management units. Based on the ICES approach for data limited stocks, ICES advises that catches should be <3,500 tonnes.	NEW Insufficient information