

Seafish analysis 2016;TACs compared with ICES scientific advice

Total Allowable Catches (TACs) are set in order to limit catches to levels consistent with long term goals for fisheries management. They are set by management stock, that is fish from a given sea area (see map below) and species or group of species. Stocks are assessed by biological stock, which are defined as self-reproducing populations of fish, and the advice is given on the basis of a population assessment of the stock. Management stocks and biological stocks do not always coincide; see below. Quotas are shares of the Total Allowable Catch which pertain to a country, vessel or other entity.

Agreeing management measures

In Europe TACs and other management measures for stocks within the European Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) are agreed annually at the council of ministers every December; the 'December Council'. For stocks subject to international agreements setting the TAC is by agreement between the 'Coastal States' that exploit the stock. In international waters of the North East Atlantic the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) is the legally competent international body recommending measures to Contracting Parties to promote the rational exploitation of fisheries in the NEAFC area; that is areas which are outside national jurisdiction. For highly migratory stocks such as mackerel, herring and blue whiting, which migrate through different national EEZs this is the appropriate level for agreements to be made concerning management measures for these stocks. There are also a number of stocks in the North Sea which are the subject to agreements between the EU and Norway and the annual TAC is set under these agreements.

EU Landing Obligation

In fisheries where a mixture of species is caught there is a risk that fishermen may run out of quota for one species whilst still having quota available for other species in the catch. This can lead to over quota discarding; that is discarding of fish because the vessel has insufficient quota to land it. Other causes of discarding due to management measures are where the landing of fish below a certain size, the Minimum Conservation Reference Size (MCRS); previously known as the Minimum Landing Size (MLS), is prohibited. Fish may also be discarded due to market forces; where the fish are not perceived as marketable or a specific size, or discarding could occur due to a combination of market forces and management measures. In some circumstances fish are discarded in order to retain quota for other more valuable fish; this is known as high grading.

The European Union has resolved to eliminate discarding of stocks with a Total Allowable Catch by 2019. This 'landing obligation' will be phased in between 2005 and 2019. In order to enable the scientific advice to be applicable, ICES advice is now given as a 'Total Catch'. Additionally ICES advises what that would imply in terms of a landed catch; defined as 'wanted catch' in the Advice; this assumes discarding practices remain the same over the coming year as they have been over (usually though not always) the previous three years.

Where a management plan exists, the headline advisory catch given relates to the management plan for the stock, or catches corresponding with Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). For some stocks with data limited assessments the advice is aimed at maintaining a stable stock. For some stocks a range of options are given, as 'maximum sustainable yield ranges' which would deliver a long term yield of no more than a 5% reduction in long term yields compared with MSY. It is expected that these ranges will be used to resolve mixed fisheries issues; that is one stock may be exploited at a higher rate than MSY, but still sustainably within a mixed fishery.

The aim of this analysis is to show how the advised catch both as total catch and landed catch, relates to the agreed TAC for the main North East Atlantic stocks and discuss some of the implications of the agreed catch.

Seafish summary 2016 TACs (as agreed in December 2015) compared with ICES scientific advice for 2016; FS 89_03_15

The stocks are colour coded as follows;

Green stocks	Stocks where the TAC is either within +5% or below ICES advice for landings where there is no significant discarding
Yellow stocks	Stocks where the TAC is within the ICES advice for total catch, that is the catch including discards, but above the estimated wanted (landed) catch if discarding had remained at the same rate as previously. This does not necessarily mean that those fish previously discarded will be landed; they may be below the minimum conservation reference size or discarded for other reasons. There is a risk that discarding practices will continue as before and therefore the overall catch will exceed the advised TAC. Other regulations such as minimum conservation reference sizes as a minimum landing size will be in force.
Blue stocks	Stocks where some of the fisheries on the stock are under the landing obligation and so the TAC has been increased to cover this increase, or extra quota is available to cover fully documented fisheries where there is an obligation to land and document, using closed circuit TV, all the catch of specific species ¹
Purple stocks	Stocks where the TAC covers two or more stocks with separate advice so the TAC may be not be able to control the exploitation of individual biological stocks
Orange stocks	Stocks where the overall TAC has not been agreed for 2016. This may be because the agreement has not yet been made, or there are no plans to make an agreement. Where the quota already agreed exceeds the advised catch by more than 5% the stock is allocated red as below
Red stocks	Stocks where the TAC exceeds ICES advice by 5% or more

Definitions (all quantities in kilotonnes (kt) 1 kt = 1000 tonnes)

Advised TAC 2016 = the headline scientific advice by ICES; in the table below this is divided into Total catch for total catch, and 'Wanted catch' which corresponds to the predicted landings based on the assumption of discarding practices continuing as previously (see above)

Agreed TAC 2016 = The TAC as agreed at the Council of Ministers or by agreement between the Coastal States.

Variance: 2016 Agreed vis Advised TAC (%) between ICES= (Agreed TAC – Advised TAC)/Advised TAC. For yellow stocks (see above) this is calculated for the Advised Total Catch.

Agreed TAC 2015 = Agreed Landed TAC in 2015

Agreed TAC Change between 2015-16 (%) = (Agreed TAC 2016-Agreed TAC in 2015)/Agreed TAC in 2015.

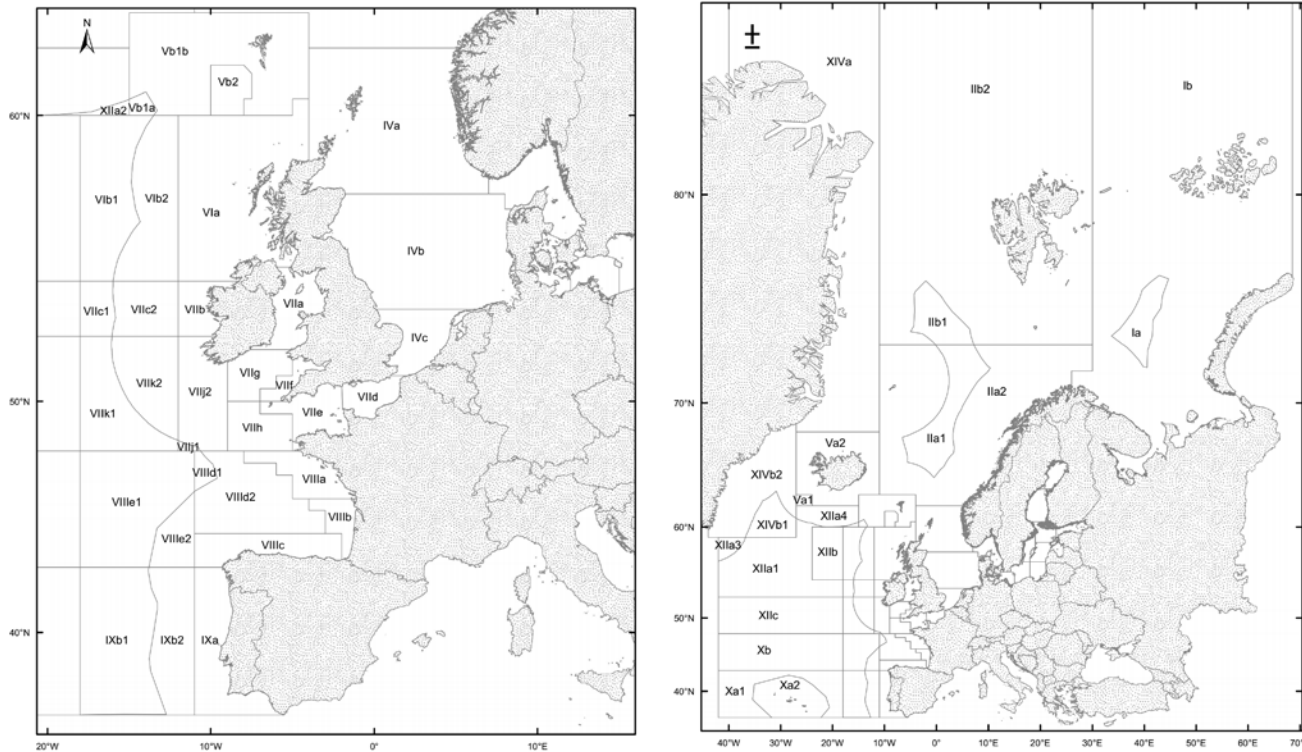
Catch 2014 = catch during 2014 the total catch estimated by ICES in 2014 including discards where available

¹ See <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/demersal-landing-obligation-guidance> or <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pelagic-landing-obligation>

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ICES Sub Areas are defined as in Roman Numerals on the maps below for example Sub Area IV which is divided into three ICES Divisions are defined as IVa, IVb and IVc. **Management Stocks** are made up of fish of a given species or combinations of species caught in a combination of Sub Areas and Divisions. For example Cod (*Gadus morhua*) in Subarea IV and Divisions VIIId and IIIa West (North Sea, Eastern English Channel, Skagerrak), is the management stock for North Sea cod.

Map showing western European ICES areas (left) and North East Atlantic areas (right)



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Management stock	Advised TAC 2016 (kt)	Agreed TAC 2016 (kt)	Variance : 2016 Agreed vis Advised TAC (%)	Agreed TAC 2015 (kt)	Agreed TAC Change between 2015-16 (%)	Catch 2014 (kt)	Comment
Anchovy (<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>) in Subarea VIII (Bay of Biscay)	25.000	15.442	-38.2%	25	-38.2%	25.100	
Anglerfish (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i> & <i>Lophius budegassa</i>) in Divisions VIIIc and IXa (Cantabrian Sea. Atlantic Iberian Waters)	2.413	2.569	+6.5%	2.987	-14.0%	3.000	Advice covers two separate species so the TAC not able to control exploitation of the two species independently.
Anglerfish (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i> and <i>L. budegassa</i>) in Subareas IV and VI and Division IIIa (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat)	18.435	19.142	+3.8%	12.265	56.1%	13.300	This is a data limited assessment based on indices of abundance. Advice covers two separate species so the TAC not able to control exploitation of the two species independently.

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Anglerfish (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i> and <i>L. budegassa</i>) in Subareas IV and VI and Division IIIa (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat)	18.435	19.142	+3.8%	12.265	56.1%	13.300	This is a data limited assessment based on indices of abundance. Advice covers two separate species so the TAC not able to control exploitation of the two species independently.
Anglerfish (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i> and <i>Lophius budegassa</i>) in Divisions VIIb–k and VIIIa,b,d (Southern Celtic Seas, Bay of Biscay)	Total catch not determined 37.448	42.496	+13.5%	42.5	0.0%	36.200	This is a data limited assessment based on survey indices of abundance. Both stocks are described as stable with a possible decreasing trend in 2014. Agreed TACs have been stable since 2014. Discards are known to occur, but have not been quantified. Constraining catches is likely to lead to discarding.
Blue whiting in Subareas I-IX, XII and XIV	766.393	237.571	Not relevant	1250	Not relevant	1155.000	Only European quota agreed

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Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in Division IIIa East (Kattegat)	Total catch =0.536; Wanted catch= 0.130	0.370	-31.0%; advised Total catch vis agreed TAC	0.1	270.0%	0.470	This TAC is intended as a bycatch TAC only from the Nephrops fishery Most of the catch (76%) in 2014 was discarded.
Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in Division Va (Iceland grounds)	239.000	239.000	0.0%	218	9.6%	218.000	
Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in Division VIa (West of Scotland)	0.000	0.000	0%	0	0.0%	1.670	Most of the catch (78%) in 2014 was discarded
Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in Divisions VIIe-k (Western English Channel and Southern Celtic Seas)	Total catch not determined; Wanted catch= 3.569	4.565	+27.9% Wanted catch vis TAC	5.072	-10.0%	3.569	Although agreed catch is higher than estimated MSY the agreed catch is predicted to result in an increase in spawning stock biomass in 2016.

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Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in Subarea IV and Divisions VIId and IIIa West (North Sea, Eastern English Channel, Skagerrak)	Total catch = 49.259; Wanted catch= 40.419 landed	40.624	+0.5%	26.713	52.1%	36.400	There is an additional allocation of 12% for fully documented fisheries. These are fisheries which are using cameras to monitor all catches on the condition of zero discards of cod. Not all the vessels participate.
Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in Subareas I and II (Northeast Arctic)	805.000	783.480	-2.7%	986	-12.4%	986.000	The TAC includes 21kt each for Norwegian and Russian coastal cod respectively. If this is taken into account the TAC is 741 kt from the Arctic cod stock. The status of the Norwegian coastal cod stock is uncertain with a rebuilding plan in place, and the status of the stock of Russian coastal cod is unpublished.

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Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in Subdivision Vb1 (Faroe Plateau)	Lowest possible level and a mixed fishery management plan applied		Not relevant	Not relevant	Not relevant	6.300	Faroe management system uses fishing effort management to control fishing mortality and does not control catch through TACs. However, available effort is currently above that which would be consistent with the catches advised, although currently the fleet does not use all the days available to it. A preliminary management plan, including a recovery plan, was formulated in 2011, but has not been implemented.
Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in Subdivisions 22-24 (Western Baltic Sea)	7.797	12.700	+62.9%	15.9	-20.1%	11.442	ICES has a new approach to advice on this stock so a step-wise approach to reducing fishing opportunities has been adopted.

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Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in Subdivisions 25-32 (Eastern Baltic Sea)	29.220	EU quota = 41.143 Russian quota not determined	+40% for EU quota only	55.8	Not determined	45.657	The agreed EU quota exceeds the advised catch even without Russian catches. There is uncertainty concerning the status of this stock because it is subject to a data limited assessment.
Cod in Division VIIa (Irish Sea)	No targeted fishery, minimise bycatch	0.146	+∞	0.182	-19.8%	0.342	
Haddock in Division Va (Icelandic haddock)	36.400	36.400	0.0%	30.4	19.7%	39.600	Note Icelandic fishing year September - August.

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Haddock in Division Vb	No directed fishery and bycatch minimised	Not relevant	Not relevant		Not relevant	No directed fishery and bycatch minimised	Faroe management system uses fishing effort management to control fishing mortality and does not control catch through TACs. However, effort is currently above that which would be consistent with the catches advised. A preliminary management plan, including a recovery plan, was formulated in 2011, but has not been implemented.
Haddock in Division VIb (Rockall)	Total catch = 3.932; Wanted catch= 3.225	3.225	0.0% vis landed catch	2.58	25.0%	2.000	

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Haddock in Division VIIa (Irish Sea)	Total catch = 1.072; Wanted catch= 0.481	1.654	+54.3% advised Total catch vis agreed TAC	1.181	40.1%	1.000	
Haddock in Divisions VIIb,c,e-k	Total catch= 8.590 ; Wanted catch= 6.078	7.258	-15.5% advised Total catch vis agreed TAC	8.342	-13.0%	8.590	Catch option chosen predicted to result in a stable spawning stock biomass in 2016.
Haddock in Subarea IV and Divisions IIIa West and VIa (North Sea, Skagerrak and West of Scotland)	Total catch = 74.854; Wanted catch= 61.390	72.863	-2.7% Agreed TAC vis advised total catch	40.882	78.2%	39.000	Haddock in North Sea and Skagerrak subject to the landing obligation in some fisheries, and an agreed top up of 20% and 15% respectively of European quota.

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Haddock in Subareas I and II (Northeast Arctic)	244.000	244.000	0.0%	223	9.4%	178.000	
Hake in Division IIIa. Subareas IV. VI and VII and Divisions VIIIa.b.d (Northern stock)	Total catch = 109.592; Wanted catch = 96.651	108.784	+12.6%	90.85	19.7%	100.600	Northern hake subject to landing obligation for certain gears with a with top up of 11% in Celtic Sea and west of Scotland and a top up of 8.6% in Bay of Biscay.
Hake in Division VIIIc and IXa (Southern stock)	Total catch = 6.078; Wanted catch = 5.292	10.735	+76.6% advised Total catch vis agreed TAC	13.826	-22.4%	14.614	Southern hake subject to landing obligation for certain gears; subject to a 3.5% top up.

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Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>) in Divisions VIa and VIIb.c (West of Scotland and West of Ireland)	Zero catch	0.000	0.0%	31.667 in 2014	-100% compared with 2014	27.00; catches of VIaN and VIaS/VIIbc in 2013	New stock designation; A combined assessment of VIaN and of VIaS/VIIbc The stocks are combined because it is not possible to segregate them in commercial catches or surveys. ICES still considers that separate stocks exist.
Herring in Division IIIa and Subdivisions 22 - 24 (Western Baltic spring spawners)	52.547	50.050	-4.8%	45.8	9.3%	37.000	
Herring in Division Va (Icelandic summer-spawners)	71.000	71.000	0.0%	83	-14.5%	95.000	Note Icelandic fishing year Sept-August.
Herring in Division VIIa North of 52° 30' N (Irish Sea)	4.575	4.575	0.0%	5.251 (2014)	-12.8% compared with 2014	5.200	

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Herring in Division VIIa North of 52° 30' N (Irish Sea)	4.575	4.575	0.0%	5.251 (2014)	-12.8% compared with 2014	5.200	
Herring in Division VIIa South of 52° 30'N and VIIg.h.j.k (Celtic Sea and South of Ireland)	17.228	15.442	-10.4%	15.7	-1.6%	19.600	
Herring in Subarea IV and Divisions IIIa and VIId (North Sea autumn spawners)	555.086	526.131	-5.2%	445	18.2%	517.000	Includes bycatches in fisheries not targeting herring.
Herring in Subareas I. II. V and Divisions IVa and XIVa (Norwegian spring-spawning herring)	316.876	No agreed TAC for 2016	Not relevant	328.000 sum of autonomous national quotas	Not relevant	461.000	A long-term management plan was agreed by the EU, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway, and Russia in 1999 which aims to constrain harvesting within safe biological limits. There has been no agreed TAC since 2012. The individual nations have set autonomous quotas

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							since then resulting in catches exceeding ICES' advice under the plan by 10% in 2013, 9% in 2014 and the sum of individual quotas for 2015 was 14% above ICES advice.
Lemon sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>) and Witch flounder (<i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>) in Subarea IV and Divisions IIIa and VIId (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, Eastern English Channel)	Lemon sole Total catch = 5.655; Wanted catch= 3.959 Witch Total catch = 2.212; Wanted catch= 1.889	6.391	9.3% Advised landed vis agreed TAC	6.391	0.0%	5.754	Management of lemon sole and witch under a combined species TAC prevents effective control of the single-species exploitation rates and could potentially lead to overexploitation of either species.

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Mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic (combined Southern, Western and North Sea spawning components)	667.385	429.746	Not relevant	1235	-187.4%	1393.000	No overall TAC agreed.
Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus boscii</i> and <i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>) in Divisions VIIIc and IXa	Total catch = 1.259; Wanted catch= 1.013	1.802	+43.0% Advised total catch vis agreed TAC	1.377	30.9%	1.940	
Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus spp</i>) in Divisions IVa and VIa	Total catch = 8.567; Wanted catch= 7.539	7.853	-8.3% Advised total catch vis agreed TAC	6.212	26.4%	5.649	
Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i> and <i>L. boscii</i>) in Divisions VIIb-k and VIIIa.b.d	18.216	20.056	+10.1%	19.101	5.0%	15.500	The assessment is based on trends which indicate an increasing spawning stock.

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Nephrops in Division IIIa (Skagerrak Kattegat. FU 3.4)	Total catch = 11.739; Wanted catch= 7.827	11.001	-6.3% Advised total vis agreed TAC	5.318	106.9%	6.004	TAC would allow landing of discarded catches.

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Nephrops in Division IV (North Sea)		14.700	Not relevant	18.43	-20.2%		The advice for Nephrops is given by Functional Unit (FU) that is an area of sandy mud which contain what are considered to be self-contained populations of Nephrops of which there are several within this management area designated for the TAC. To prevent overexploitation of the individual FUs, TACs for Nephrops stocks should be by FU, so comparison between advised and agreed TACs are of limited usefulness
Nephrops in Division VIa and International waters of Vb(West of Scotland)		16.524	Not relevant	14.19	16.4%		
Nephrops in Sub area VII		23.348	Not relevant	21.619	8.0%		
Nephrops in Sub area VIII	3.214	3.899	+21.3%	3.9000	0.0%	3.900	

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Northern shrimp (<i>Pandalus borealis</i>) in Divisions IIIa West and IVa East (Skagerrak and Norwegian Deeps)	Total catch = 21.500 Wanted catch= 18.598 landings	15.183E uropean quota only				12.300	TAC not established, Norwegian quota to be added.
Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) in Division VIIa (Irish Sea)	Total catch = 1.244; Wanted catch= 7.827 0.343	1.098	-11.7% Advised Total catch vis agreed TAC	1.098	0.0%	1.196	Agreed TAC close to advised total catch. However the catch is widely discarded (72% of the catch) because much of it is below the Minimum conservation reference size
Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) in Divisions VIIf,g (Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea)	Total catch = 1.5; Wanted catch= 0.420	0.420	0.0% Advised wanted catch vis agreed TAC	0.461	-8.9%	1.160	The catch is widely discarded.

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Plaice in Division VIIb.c (West of Ireland)	0.030	0.074	146.7%	0.074	0.0%	0.023	Data limited assessment increases uncertainty; catch in 2014 much lower than TAC.
Plaice in Division VIIde (Eastern and Western Channel)	Combined both E & W Channel Total catch = 21.768; Wanted catch= 14.209	12.446	-42.8% Total catch vis agreed TAC	4.787	160.0%	7.211	There is a combined TAC on plaice in ICES Divisions VII d and e, Eastern and Western English Channel. Therefore two assessed stocks are regulated with one TAC which means the TAC cannot fully control exploitation of these stocks. However, there is mixing between the stocks and trends are similar in both stocks at the present time. There is widespread discarding probably mostly for size reasons.
Plaice in Divisions VIIh-k (Southwest of Ireland)	0.135	0.135	0.0%	0.135	0.0%	0.169	Data limited assessment increases uncertainty; catch in 2014 much lower than TAC.

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Plaice Subarea IV (North Sea) and Division IIIa (Skagerrak)	Total catch = 216.345; Wanted catch= 155.197	143.480	-7.5% Advised wanted catch vis agreed TAC	128.375	11.8%	123.000	Plaice is subject to the landing obligation for certain fisheries in the Skagerrak and North Sea with a 40.5% and a 19.8% top up in these areas respectively. There is widespread discarding.
Pollack (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>) in Subareas VI-VII (Celtic Seas and the English Channel)	4.200	13.892	+230.8%	13.892	0%	5.255	Catches in 2014 above precautionary levels based on data limited assessment method. Recreational catch unknown but may be substantial.
Saithe in Division Va (Icelandic saithe)	55.000	55.000	0.0%	58	-5.5%	54.000	
Saithe in Division Vb (Faroe Saithe)	36.000	0.000	Not relevant	Not relevant	Not relevant	24.000	Faroe management system uses fishing effort management to control fishing mortality and does not control catch through TACs. However, available effort is currently above that which

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							would be consistent with the catches advised although currently the fleet does not use all the days available to it. A plan to bring effort in line with catches is required.
Saithe in Subarea IV (North Sea) Division IIIa West (Skagerrak) and Subarea VI (West of Scotland and Rockall)	Total catch = 75.049 Wanted catch= 68.061	72.524	+6.6% Advised landings vis agreed TAC	73.734	-1.6%	74.338	Saithe is subject to the landing obligation in certain North Sea fisheries with a 5.7% top up
Saithe in Subareas I and II (Northeast Arctic)	140.000	0.000	TAC not known	122		130.000	Russian quota not determined.
Sea bass (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>) in Divisions IVb and c. VIIa. and VIId,h (Central	Total catch not determin	Not set	Not relevant		Not relevant	2.7	There is no agreed TAC for this stock. A series of management measures have

Seafish summary 2016 TACs (as agreed in December 2015) compared with ICES scientific advice for 2016; FS 89_03_15

Management stock	Advised TAC 2016 (kt)	Agreed TAC 2016 (kt)	Variance : 2016 Agreed vis Advised TAC (%)	Agreed TAC 2015 (kt)	Agreed TAC Change between 2015-16 (%)	Catch 2014 (kt)	Comment
and South North Sea Irish Sea. English Channel Bristol Channel. Celtic Sea)	ed; <0.541 landings						been introduced details at https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fishing-restrictions-for-bass-in-2016
Skates and rays in North Sea, and Eastern English Channel ICES Sub Area IV, and division VIIId		2.279	Not relevant	2.054	9.9%	2.603	These TACs covers multiple species so cannot be expected to control exploitation on specific species.
Skates and rays West of Britain and Ireland; EU waters of VIa-b, VIIa-c and VIIe-k (SRX/67AKXD)		8.032	Not relevant	8.032	0.0%	5.579	
Sole in Division IIIa and Subdivisions 22-24 (Skagerrak. Kattegat. and the Belts)	Total catch = 0.394; Wanted catch= 0.379	0.391	+3.2%	0.205	47.6%	0.362	

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Management stock	Advised TAC 2016 (kt)	Agreed TAC 2016 (kt)	Variance : 2016 Agreed vis Advised TAC (%)	Agreed TAC 2015 (kt)	Agreed TAC Change between 2015-16 (%)	Catch 2014 (kt)	Comment
Sole in Division VIIa (Irish Sea)	0.000	0.040	∞	0.09	-55.6%	0.099	
Sole in Division VIId (Eastern Channel)	Total catch = 2.658 Wanted catch= 2.376	3.258	+22.6% Total catch vis agreed TAC	3.483	-6.9%	5.300	Sole in the Eastern Channel is subject to the landing obligation for certain fisheries
Sole in Division VIIE (Western Channel)	1.226	0.979	-20.1%	0.851	13.1%	0.880	Sole in the Western Channel is subject to the landing obligation for certain fisheries.

Seafish summary 2016 TACs (as agreed in December 2015) compared with ICES scientific advice for 2016; FS 89_03_15

Management stock	Advised TAC 2016 (kt)	Agreed TAC 2016 (kt)	Variance : 2016 Agreed vis Advised TAC (%)	Agreed TAC 2015 (kt)	Agreed TAC Change between 2015-16 (%)	Catch 2014 (kt)	Comment
Sole in divisions VIIf and g	Total catch =<0.760 Wanted catch = <0.745	0.779	+4.6	0.851	-8.5%	1.061	Sole in the Celtic Sea is subject to the landing obligation for certain fisheries.
Sole in Divisions VIIh-k (Southwest of Ireland)	0.205	0.382	+86.3%	0.382	0.0%	0.243	
Sole in Divisions VIIa.b (Bay of Biscay)	2.393	3.420	+42.9%	3.8	-11.1%	3.900	
Sole in Subarea IV (North Sea)	Total catch = 13.031; Wanted catch= 12.066	13.252	+1.7%	11.9	+10.2%	14.700	Sole in the North Sea is subject to the landing obligation for certain fisheries.

Seafish summary 2016 TACs (as agreed in December 2015) compared with ICES scientific advice for 2016; FS 89_03_15

Management stock	Advised TAC 2016 (kt)	Agreed TAC 2016 (kt)	Variance : 2016 Agreed vis Advised TAC (%)	Agreed TAC 2015 (kt)	Agreed TAC Change between 2015-16 (%)	Catch 2014 (kt)	Comment
Sprat (<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>) in Subarea IV (North Sea)	Total catch not determined 506.000	330.000	-34.8%	227	+45.4%	140.000	
Sprat (<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>) in Divisions VII d,e (English Channel)	4.598	5.150	+12.0%	5.15	0.0%	3.700	
Turbot (<i>Psetta maxima</i>) & brill (<i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i>) in Subarea IV	Turbot Total catch = 1.995; Wanted catch= 1.925 Brill Total catch 2.756; Wanted catch= 2.563	4.488	0.0% Advised landings vis agreed TAC	4.642	-3.4%	2.872	This TAC covers two species so that it cannot be expected to control exploitation of either species. The advised catch for brill includes ICES divisions VII d and e (Eastern and Western English Channel), outside the TAC area ICES Sub Area IV (North Sea).

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Management stock	Advised TAC 2016 (kt)	Agreed TAC 2016 (kt)	Variance : 2016 Agreed vis Advised TAC (%)	Agreed TAC 2015 (kt)	Agreed TAC Change between 2015-16 (%)	Catch 2014 (kt)	Comment
Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>) in Division VIIa (Irish Sea)	All catches should be minimised	1.654	∞	0.17	+872.9%	2.000	Agreed TAC would enable landing of most of expected total catch, provided they are larger than Minimum Conservation Reference size.
Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>) in Subarea VIII and Division IXa (Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Iberian Waters)	1.690	2.540	Not relevant	3.175	-20.0%	1.689	Agreed TAC applies to ICES Division VIII Bay of Biscay only.
Whiting in Division VIa (West of Scotland)	all catches should be minimised	0.213	∞	0.263	-19.0%	0.800	
Whiting in Division VIIe-k	Total	22.778	Not	16.92	34.6%	16.700	TAC for whiting in Divisions

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Management stock	Advised TAC 2016 (kt)	Agreed TAC 2016 (kt)	Variance : 2016 Agreed vis Advised TAC (%)	Agreed TAC 2015 (kt)	Agreed TAC Change between 2015-16 (%)	Catch 2014 (kt)	Comment
	catch =19.076; Wanted catch 15.359		relevant				VII d,b,c and included in TAC (see below). Some fisheries are under the landing obligation; 20% increase included
Whiting Subarea IV (North Sea) and Division VII d (Eastern Channel)	Total catch = 30.510; Wanted catch= 14.853	13.678	Not relevant	13.687	-0.1%	25.421	TAC for whiting in Division VII d included TAC for whiting in Divisions VII e-k (see above).

References:

1. Scientific advice

<http://www.ices.dk>

2. For European stocks

COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2016/72 of 22 January 2016 fixing for 2016 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union fishing vessels, in certain non-Union waters, and amending Regulation (EU) 2015/104

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016R0072&from=EN>

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