

Seafish summary 2015 TACs (as agreed in December 2014) compared with ICES scientific advice

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For comparison purposes the ICES advised TAC for landings in 2015 has been used. It should be noted that the ICES advice issued in 2014 for 2015 was either for total catches (including discards), total landings, or both (and this varied).

Green – either below or comply exactly with ICES advice;

Yellow – within 10% of ICES advice;

Red – more than 10% above ICES advice;

No colour - not all the information is available.

Species Latin name	Species English name	Sea area and ICES fishing zone	ICES ¹ advisory TAC for 2015 (tonnes)	Agreed COUNCIL L ² TAC 2015	% diff ICES/ agreed TAC	Agreed COUNCIL TAC 2014	% diff 2015/ 2014 TAC	Commentary
<i>Engraulis encrasicolus</i>	Anchovy	Iberia; IX, X; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (ANE/9/3411)	N/A	9,656	-	8,778	0	ICES cannot give catch advice for 2015. This is due to the lack of available data on year classes that constitute the bulk of the biomass and catches.
<i>Lophiidae</i>	Anglerfish	Norwegian waters of IV (ANF/04-N)		1,500		1,500	0	ICES has used a data limited assessment to assess this stock, aimed at keeping the stock at equilibrium. Landed catches in 2012 were circa 12,000 tonnes, which undershot the TAC of 15,127 (including EU catch in Norwegian waters). Discards are known to occur but have not been fully quantified; for the trawl fishery they are estimated at 7% of the catch which accounts for 82% of the landings.
<i>Lophiidae</i>	Anglerfish	West of Scotland; VI, EU & internat. waters of Vb, int. waters of XII & XIV		5,313		4,432	+20	
<i>Lophiidae</i>	Anglerfish	North Sea EU waters of IIa and IV (ANF/2AC4-C)		9,390		7,833	+20	
Anglerfish; North Sea and West of Scotland; Norwegian waters of IV, West of Scotland; VI, EU & internat. waters of Vb, int. waters of XII & XIV, North Sea EU waters of IIa and IV; Total			14,702 (catches assumed landed)	16,203	+10%	13,765		

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<i>Lophiidae</i> <i>Lophius piscatorius and budgassa</i>	Anglerfish	West of Britain and Ireland, VII (ANF/07)		33,516		33,516	0	There is known to be a discarding problem and the stock assessed by data limited methods is increasing. A decrease in TAC would probably result in higher discarding. Overall effort in the fisheries on this stock is decreasing, so effort is likely to become closer to catching opportunities.
<i>Lophiidae</i> <i>Lophius piscatorius and budgassa</i>	Anglerfish	VIIIa,b,d,e (ANF/8ABDE)		8,980		8,980	0	
Anglerfish; West of Britain and Ireland and Biscay; Sub area VII and Divisions VIIIa,b,d,e; Total			37,448 Landings	42,496	+13%			
<i>Lophiidae</i>	Anglerfish	Iberia; VIIIc, IX, X, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (ANF/8C3411)	2,987 Landings	2,987³		2,629	+14	
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	West of Scotland; VIa, EU & internat. waters of Vb east of 12°00'W	0	0	0	0	0	Recruitment has been estimated to be low since 2001 and is considered impaired.

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<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Irish Sea; VIIa (COD/07A)	0	182	+∞	228	-20	All available evidence points to a severely depleted stock with low recruitment and little or no response to the various management actions that have been initiated so far in an attempt to recover the stock.
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	North Sea, Skagerrak (west) and English Channel; Sub Area IV, EU waters of IIa, Division VIII the western part of Division IIIa.	26,713 Landings 35,486 Catches including discards	35,061	+31%	33,400	+5	The advised landings TAC is based on the management plan and the agreed TAC is close to the estimated total catch including discards. Therefore, this measure has the potential to reduce discarding whilst maintaining the level of mortality on the stock envisaged in the management plan. However it depends on how the quotas and size limits are managed. Currently there are many measures aimed at reducing discarding of cod in these fisheries. An increase in Spawning Stock Biomass is predicted for this stock with this level of catch.
<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Skagerrak IIIa; eastern part (Kattegat stock for ICES)	No directed fishery	100	NA	100	0	

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<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Cod	Celtic Sea VIIb-c, VIIe-k, VIII, IX & X; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1	4,024 Landings	5,072	+26%	6,848	-25	The agreed TAC is predicted to maintain Fishing mortality close to what is was in 2014, and spawning stock biomass is likely to be stable
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	Skagerrak; IIIa; EU waters of Sub div 22-32	205 Catches (assumed landed)	205	0	353	-42%	
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	North West Scotland; VI; EU and internat. waters of Vb; internat. waters of XII, XIV	N/A	57	-	57	0%	
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	VIIa (SOL/07A)	No directed fishery	90	+∞	95	-5%	Steady reduction in TAC. SSB is still predicted to increase 17% with 95t catch.
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	VIIb-c (SOL/7BC)	30 Catches	42	+31%	42	0%	Catches in this area are too low to support the collection of the necessary information for an assessment of the stock status. Advisory catches are based on precautionary considerations
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	VIIId (SOL/07D)	1,931 Catches (assumed landed)	3,483	+80%	4,838	-28%	There is a 28% reduction in TAC, however this is insufficient to bring the projected fishing mortality to inside safe biological limits. Stock currently above the biomass action level (MSYBtrigger) but is expected to be close to this level in 2016.

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<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	VIIe (SOL/07E)	851 Catches (assumed landed)	851	0	832	+2%	Corresponds to MSY and the management plan on this stock.
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	VIIIf, g (SOL/7FG)	652 Catches (assumed landed)	851	+31%	1,001	-15%	Catch will likely to lead to a small reduction in SSB.
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	Western Approches VIIh, j, k (SOL/7HJK)	225 Catches (assumed landed)	382	+70%	382	0%	The assessment is based on the data limited approach. The stock is considered stable and advised catches are based on landings average landings for the past 3 years corresponding to 225 tonnes
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	Biscay; VIIIA, b (SOL/8AB)	2,407 Catches (assumed landed)	3,800	+58%	3,800	0%	The advised catch corresponds to Maximum Sustained Yield. The agreed catch corresponds to precautionary levels and corresponds to a risk of 5-10% that the stock will be outside Safe Biological Limits
<i>Solea solea</i>	Common sole	North Sea; EU waters of IIa and IV (SOL/24)	11,365 Landings	11,890	+5%	11,890	0%	

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<i>Limanda limanda and Platichthys flesus</i>	Dab and Flounder	North Sea; EU waters of IIa and IV (D/F/2AC4-C)	10,955 Landings	18,434	+68%	18,434	0%	Qualitative evaluation suggests the dab stock is stable and flounder stock is increasing, thus indicating that the catch for these species should be stable; the TAC is set as stable. The advisory landed catch is based on the landings data, which is known to be an unreliable indicator of total catch as much of the catch of these species is discarded.
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Haddock	VIIa (HAD/07A)	425 Landings 893 Catches	1,181	+178%	1,181	0%	Agreed TAC not fully utilized in recent years.
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Haddock	Celtic Sea; VIIb-k, VIII, IX, X; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (HAD/7X7A34)	5,605 Landings 10,434 Catches	8,342	+49%	9,479	-12%	Advisory catch corresponds to Maximum Sustained Yield. For this mixed fishery discards are a serious problem at present, and implementation of this level of catch would result in high levels of discarding. Stock is above biomass action level (MSYBtrigger) and is likely to remain above this level with the agreed catch this year. Selectivity measures have been implemented.

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<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Haddock	EU and internat. waters of Vb, VIa (HAD/5BC6A)		4,536		3,988	+14%	
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Haddock	Skagerrak IIIa, EU waters of Subdivisions 22-32 (HAD/3A/BCD.		2,399		2,256	+52%	
<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Haddock	North Sea IV; EU waters of IIa (HAD/2AC4.)		33,947		20,635	+52%	
Haddock North Sea, Skagerrak and West of Scotland; Sub Area IV plus EU waters of IIa, Div IIIa and Sub div 22-32 and EU and internat. waters of Vb, VIa Total			50,163 Landings Total	40,882	-19%	26,879		

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<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Hake	1. Northern hake; IIIa; EU waters of subdivisions 22-32 (HKE/3A/BCD)		2,738		2,466		In recent years assessing accurate growth rates, high levels of discarding and under-reporting have hampered assessment. The agreed catch is above that corresponding to Maximum Sustained Yield. However, the Spawning Stock Biomass is at a relatively high level, inside safe biological limits and likely to be stable or increase with the agreed level of catches during this year.
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Hake	2. EU waters of IIa and IV (HKE/2AC4-C)		3,190	-	2,874	+11%	
	Hake	3. VI, VII; EU and internat. waters of Vb; internat. waters of XII, XIV (HKE/571214)		50,945	-	45,896	+11%	
<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Hake	4. VIIIa-b, VIId-e (HKE/8ABDE)		33,977	-	30,610	+11%	
Northern hake; Skagerrak, North Sea, West of Scotland, Ireland, Celtic Sea and Biscay; ICES Division IIIa; EU waters of subdivisions 22-32. EU waters of Division IIa and Sub areas IV; VI, VII; EU and internat. waters of Divisions Vb; internat. waters of Sub areas XII, XIV and Divisions VII a-b and VIId-e; Total			78,457	90,850	+16%	81,846	+11%	

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<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>	Hake	Southern hake VIIIc, IX, X, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (HKE/8C3411)	8,417 Landings	13,826	+64%	16,266	15%	Agreed TAC is aligned with the EU recovery plan, and likely to result in a stable or increasing spawning stock biomass next year
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	West of Scotland and Ireland; VIaS, VIIb-c (HER/6AS7BC)	0	0	0	3,676	-∞%	Stock is declining and outside safe biological limits
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Clyde; VIa	N/A	-	-	-	-	To be established.
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Irish Sea VIIa (HER/07A/MM)	4,854 Catches (assumed landed)	4,854	0	5,251	-8%	
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Western English and Bristol Channels VIIe-f (HER/7EF)	N/A	930	-	930	0%	
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	Celtic Sea and South of Ireland; VIIg, h, j, k (HER/7G-K)	15,140 Catches (assumed landed)	15,652	+3%	22,360	-30%	
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	West of Scotland; EU and internat. waters of Vb, VIb and VIaN (HER/5B6ANB)	22,690 Landings	22,690	0	28,067	-19%	
<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Herring	North Sea autumn spawners; Subarea IV and Divisions IIIa and VIId	461,644 Landings (incl by catch in small mesh fisheries)	461,073 Main fleet; include s bycatch	0	478,000	-4%	

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<i>Microstomus kitt</i> & <i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>	Lemon sole and Witch	North Sea; EU waters of IIa and IV (LW/2AC4-C)	5,924 Landings	6,391	+8%	6,391	0%	Both stocks are assessed using data limited methods and are considered stable although at a low level for witch.
<i>Molva molva</i>	Ling	North Sea; EU waters of IV (LIN/04)	1,942	2,428	+20%	2,428	0%	Using the ICES data limited methodology the advice valid for 2013-2015 is a precautionary reduction of 20% in catch, because although the index of abundance is stable, there are uncertainties. This precautionary buffer has not been implemented in the agreed TAC.
<i>Molva molva</i>	Ling	Northeast Atlantic; EU waters and international waters of VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII, XIV (LIN/6X14)	7,300	8,464	+16%	8,464	0%	Using the ICES data limited methodology the advice valid for 2013-2015 is a precautionary reduction of 20% in catch, because although the index of abundance is stable, there are uncertainties. This precautionary buffer has not been implemented in the agreed TAC.

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<i>Scomber scombrus</i>	Mackerel	North East Atlantic (combined Southern, Western, and North Sea spawning components) ICES Division and Sub-areas IIa & Vb; III & IV,V, VI, VII, VIIIa, b, d, e; VIIIc, IXa & X	For PA approach = 1,054,000 For MSY = 1,017,000	Projected catch; 1,056,177t (Incl 15.6% as a reserve See commentary)	For PA =+0.2% For MSY =+4%	Estimated catch (ICES) = 1,396,238	-24%	The projected catch reflects the new arrangement between the Faroes, Norway, and the EU expected to last 5 years ³ plus a 15.6% as provision for other states (eg Iceland and Greenland) which are not party to the catch arrangement. Projected catches are consistent with the Precautionary Approach (PA), just above Maximum Sustained Yield (MSY).
<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>	Megrim	Southern Iberia; VIIIc, IX & X; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (LEZ/8C3411)	1,010 Landings	1,377	+36%	2,257	-39%	
<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>	Megrim	North Sea EU waters of IIa & IV (LEZ/2AC4-C)	5,950 Landings 7,000 catches	2,083	+4%	2,083	0%	Same advice as for 2014.

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<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>	Megrim	West of Scotland; VI, EU and internat. waters of Vb; intern. Waters of XII & XIV (LEZ/56-14)		4,129	+4%	4,074	+1%	
<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>	Megrim	West of UK and Ireland: VII (LEZ/07)	15,180 Landings	17,385	+26%	17,385	0%	The stock is assessed on a biannual basis using data limited methods; currently considered to be stable or increasing. Landings and TAC have been at around 12,000 and 20,000 t pa respectively for past 5 years. Both catches and TAC are stable, TAC is not limiting.
<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>	Megrim	Bay of Biscay; VIIIa, VIIIb, VIIIc, VIIIe (LEZ/8ABDE)		1,716		1,716	0%	
		Total		19,101				
<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>	Megrim	Southern Iberia; VIIIc, IX & X; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (LEZ/8C3411)	1,013 Landings	1,377	+36%	2,257	-39%	
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norway lobster	North Sea; EU waters of IIa and all of IV	18,468 Landings	18,843	+2%	15,499	+15%	Management areas and assessment areas (Functional Units; FUs) do not coincide. Therefore TACs do not limit catches within each FU. Although TACs have decreased over the years they may not protect individual FUs from overfishing.
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norway lobster	West of Scotland; VI, EU and int'l waters of Vb (NEP/5BC6)	14,190 Landings	14,190	0	15,287	-7%	
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norway lobster	West of UK and Ireland; VII (NEP/07)	18,118 Landings	21,619	+19%	20,989	+3%	
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norway lobster	Bay of Biscay; VIII a, b, d, e (NEP/8ABDE)	4,224 Landings	3,899	-8%	3,899	0%	

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<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norway lobster	VIIIc (NEP/08C)	N/A	60	-	67	-10%	
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norway lobster	West of Iberia; IX, X, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (NEP/9/3411)	321 Catches	254	-21%	221	+15%	
<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norway lobster	IIIa; EU waters of IIIb-c and Subdivisions 22-32 (NEP/3A/BCD)	5,318 Landings 10,290 Catches	5,318	0	5,019	+6%	
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	North Sea; VI; EU and internat. waters of Vb, internat. waters of XII and XIV (PLE/56-14)	N/A	658	-	658	0%	
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Irish Sea; VIIa (PLE/07A)	392 Landings 1,242 Catches	1,098	+180%	1,220	-10%	The assessment using data limited methods indicates a stable stock inside safe biological limits. A very high proportion of the catch is discarded; the advised 392 tonnes for landed catch is assuming discarding is similar to the past.
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	West of Ireland; VII b, c (PLE/07BC)	30 Catches	74	+147%	74	0%	Catches in this area are too low to support the collection of the necessary information for an assessment of the stock status.
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	English Channel; VII d, e (PLE/07DE)	5,015 Landings	4,787³	-5%	4,787	0%	
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Bristol Channel; VII f, g (PLE/7FG)	420 Landings 1,500 Catches	461	+10%	461	0%	

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<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Celtic Sea; VII h, j, k (PLE/7HJK)	135 Landings	135	0	135	0%	
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	Bay of Biscay; VIII, IX, X, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (PLE/8/3411)	N/A	395	-	395	0%	
<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Plaice	North Sea; IV; EU waters of IIa; part of IIIa (PLE/2A3AX4)	128,376 Landings 185,798 Catches	128,376	0	104,117	+19%	
<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>	Pollack	Sub area VI, EU and internat. waters of Vb, internat. waters of XII, XIV (POL/56-14)		397		397	0%	Although the agreed TAC is much higher than the advised TAC, catches for the past 5 years have been around 4-4,500 tonnes, The advisory TAC is based on precautionary considerations; no increase on 2012
<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>	Pollack	West of Britain and Ireland; VII (POL/07)		13,495		13,495	0%	
Pollack; West of Scotland Britain and Ireland Sub areas VI, VII, XII, XIV internat. waters of EU and internat. waters of Division Vb, Total			4,200 Catches	13,892	+231%			

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<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>	Pollack	Biscay; VIII a, b, d, e (POL/8ABDE)		1,482		1,482	0%	There is insufficient information to make a reliable assessment and the advised reduction in catches of 20% is precautionary.
<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>	Pollack	South Biscay VIIIc (POL/08C)		231		231	0%	
<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>	Pollack	Southern Iberia; IX, X, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (POL/9/3411)		282		282	0%	
Pollack; south Biscay and Iberia; ICES Divisions VIII a, b,c, d, e and Sub areas IX and X; Total			1,316 Catches Total	1995	+53%			
<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>	Pollack	North Sea and Skagerrak IV and IIIa	1,300 Catches	-		1,300		
<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Saithe	West of Britain and Biscay VII, VIII, IX, X, EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (POK/7/3411)	N/A	3,176	-	3,176	0%	
<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Saithe	North Sea and West of Scotland; IIIa and IV; EU waters of IIa,b,c,d (POK/2A34)	Landings= 72,854 Total catch= 80,097	66,006	0	36,917		
<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Saithe	VI; EU and internat. waters of Vb, XII and XIV (POK/561214)	Landings= 72,854	6,848	0 -	7,545		

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<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Saithe	Norwegian waters south of 62° N (POK/04-N)	Total catch= 80,097 N/A	880		880	-	
<i>Rajidae</i>	Skates and rays	Biscay EU waters of VIII and IX (SRX/89-C)	N/A	3,420	-	3,420	0%	ICES advice on skates and rays given by species by area, using data limited assessment methods. The assessments indicate different percentage changes in catches by species. However, the TAC is set for the whole species group so will not limit individual species' catches within each areas so is not limiting for the individual species. There are some prohibited species which are discarded, but are considered good survivors
<i>Rajidae</i>	Skates and rays	West of Britain and Ireland; EU waters of VIa-b, VIIa-c and VIIe-k (SRX/67AKXD)	N/A	8,032	-	8,032	0%	
<i>Rajidae</i>	Skates and rays	Eastern English Channel; EU waters of VIId (SRX/07D)	N/A	798	-	798	0%	

Seafish summary 2015 TACs (as agreed in December 2014) compared with ICES scientific advice

<i>Species Latin name</i>	Species English name	Sea area and ICES fishing zone	ICES¹ advisory TAC for 2015 (tonnes)	Agreed COUNCIL² TAC 2015	% diff ICES/ agreed TAC	Agreed COUNCIL TAC 2014	% diff 2015/ 2014 TAC	Commentary
<i>Rajidae</i>	Skates and rays	North Sea EU waters of IIa and IV (SRX/2AC4-C)	N/A 2,406	1,256	-	1,256	0%	
<i>Rajidae</i>	Skates and rays	Skagerrak; EU waters of IIIa (SRX/03A-C)		47	-	47	0%	
					-10%	4,642	0%	
<i>Psetta maxima</i>	Turbot	North Sea; EU waters of IIa and IV (T/B/2AC4-C) Advisory Catch for turbot includes North Sea Sub area IV and Skagerrak Div IIIa	Turbot <2,406	4,642	NA	4,642	0%	Both assessments are carried out under the data limited stocks methodology. The assessment of turbot has indicated an increase in spawning stock biomass and a decrease in fishing mortality, although there are no reference points. For brill the trend in biomass only is used which is increasing. Because the TAC is a combined TAC and the stock areas of the two species are not congruent, and the species are bycatch species (although very little discards) TAC does not limit catch of either species
<i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i>	Brill	Advisory catch for brill includes North Sea (Sub Area IV) Skagerak-Kattegat (Div IIIa) and English Channel (VIIId,e)	Brill 2,727 (assumed all landed)					
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting	West of Scotland; VI, EU and internat. waters of Vb; internat. waters of XII and XIV(WHG/56-14)	Low as possible	263		292	-10%	

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<i>Species Latin name</i>	Species English name	Sea area and ICES fishing zone	ICES¹ advisory TAC for 2015 (tonnes)	Agreed COUNCIL² TAC 2015	% diff ICES/ agreed TAC	Agreed COUNCIL TAC 2014	% diff 2015/ 2014 TAC	Commentary
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting	Irish Sea VIIa (WHG/07A)	Low as possible	80	-	80	0%	
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting	West of Ireland VIIb-h, and VIIj-k (WHG/7X7A-C)	14,230 Landings	17,742	+25%	20,668	-14%	Spawning stock biomass (SSB) inside safe biological limits and at a high level. Agreed TAC would result in a 5% decrease in the SSB, but catch is unlikely to be achieved, given landed catches have been much lower than the TAC at 10,000 t pa in recent years. Discards are unquantified but considered to be high.
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting	Biscay VIII (WHG/08)	N/A	3,175	-	3,175	0%	The advice for 2015 is the same catch advised for 2013 and for 2014 (even though its value cannot be quantified), not that a further 20% reduction in catch be implemented.
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting	Skagerrak IIIa (WHG/03A)	212 Landings 500 Catches	1,031	+486%	1,031	0%	Landing statistics do not represent catches as discard rates are high. If discard rates do not change from the average of 2009-2011 (same basis as the catch advice), this implies landings of no more than 212 tonnes.
<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	Whiting	North Sea IV; EU waters of IIa (WHG/2AC4)	13,678 Landings	13,060³	-5%	15,233	-14%	

Seafish summary 2015 TACs (as agreed in December 2014) compared with ICES scientific advice

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