

# ICES Advice

DAC

19 April 2016

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DACOM Chair



Science for sustainable seas



ICES



International Organization for  
scientific Cooperation in the  
North Atlantic and the Arctic  
since 1902;  
20 Member States;  
1964 Convention,  
2002 Copenhagen Declaration  
ICES Strategic Plan, 2014-2018



# ICES Vision and Mission



**Vision:** leading scientific organisation for marine ecosystems and knowledge for sustainable use of the seas

**Mission:** advance scientific understanding of marine ecosystems and provide information, knowledge and advice on sustainable management of human activities affecting/affected by marine ecosystems



# Science regarding the ocean, requires international cooperation



## *ICES five main responsibilities*

- 1. Scientific research of marine systems*
- 2. Politically independent integrated, ecosystem, and fisheries advice*
- 3. Monitoring, data, and information products*
- 4. Training programme*
- 5. Dissemination, communication and outreach*



# Examples of ICES Activities



1. Making ecosystem approach operational
2. Standards for data collection, quality assurance and accessibility of data, operational data products
3. Process, criteria, and methods for developing non-political scientific advice
4. Strategic areas; aquaculture and Arctic
5. Training
6. Publication and communication



# Quality – process to deliver scientific advice



**Best available knowledge (data and science)**

**Quality assured - peer reviewed advice**

**Transparent process: documented and open to observers**

**Unbiased and non-political: considered legitimate by governments and stakeholders**

**Relevant – meets the needs of the client**

**Timely**

# ICES Advisory Activities 2015



Meetings	Experts Attendances	Expert Work Days
<b>106</b>	<b>2,490</b>	<b>17,404</b>

# Advice deliverables



**Fishing opportunities:** advice on single stock fishing opportunities (225 stocks in 2015)

**Fisheries overviews:** overview by ecoregion of fishing activities and impact of fishing in the ecosystem (to be issued in 2016)

**Ecosystem Overviews:** overview of Ecoregions with information on major regional pressures, human activities and state of the ecosystem (4 released in 2016, 3 to be released late 2016)

**Special requests:** 25 special requests in 2015 on impact of fisheries, evaluation of fisheries management strategies, MSFD, eutrophication guidelines and plastic particles in fish stomachs

# Integrated Ecosystem Understanding and IEAs of ICES regional seas – a regional process



Constructed to reflect local issues & factors that respond to local management



ICES regional assessment groups

# Structure

- Setting the context
- Key trends
- Priority pressure
- Ecosystem state

ICES Ecosystem Overviews  
Greater North Sea Ecoregion

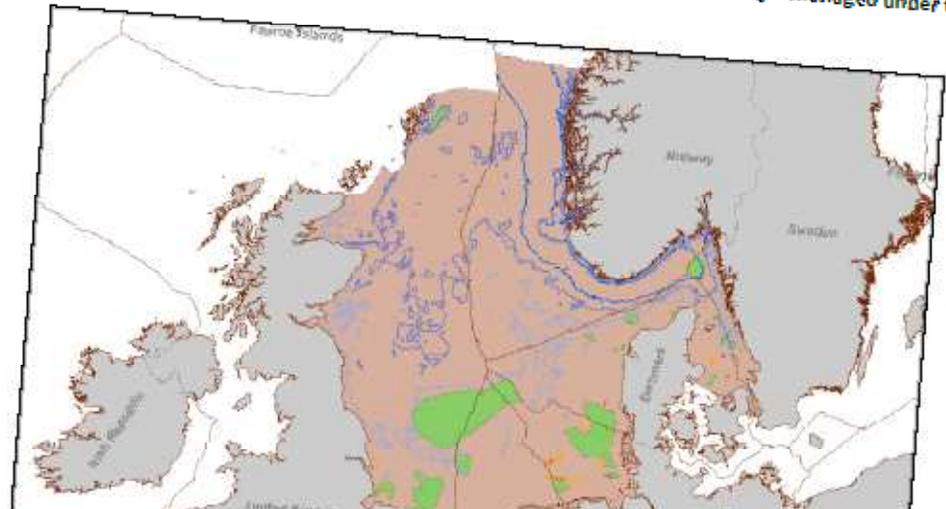
Published 04 March 2016

## 6.1.1 Greater North Sea Ecoregion – Ecosystem overview

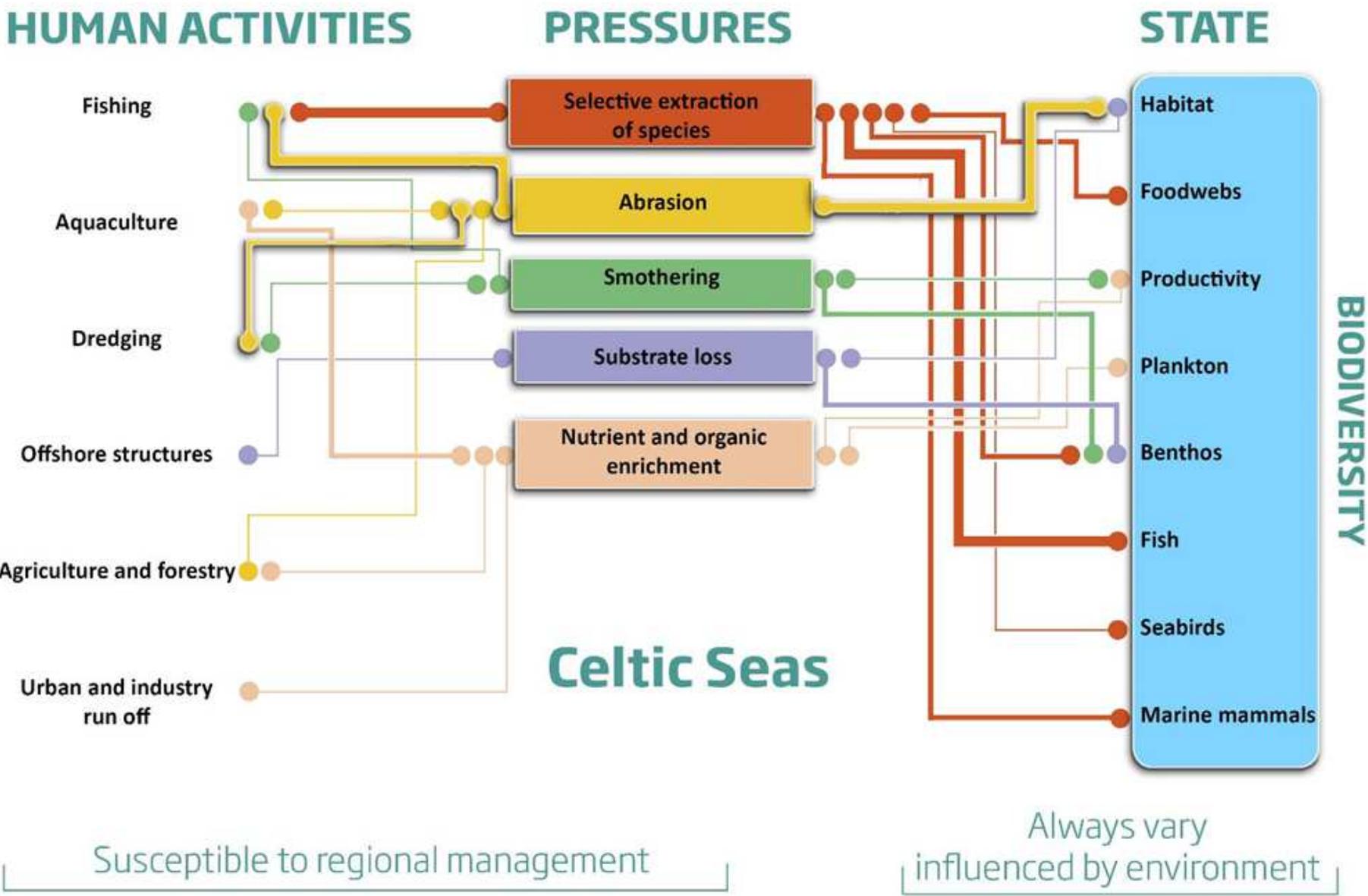
### Ecoregion description

The Greater North Sea ecoregion includes the North Sea, English Channel, Skagerrak, and Kattegat. It is a temperate coastal shelf sea with a deep channel in the northwest, a permanently thermally mixed water column in the south and east, and seasonal stratification in the north.

Fisheries management in the Greater North Sea ecoregion is conducted in accordance with the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), by Norway, and by coastal state agreements. Managerial responsibility for salmon is taken by the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) and for large pelagic fish by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Collective fisheries advice is provided by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the European Commission's Scientific Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), and the North Sea and Pelagic ACs. Environmental policy is managed by national governments and agencies and OSPAR, with advice being provided by national agencies, OSPAR, the European Environment Agency (EEA), and ICES. International shipping is managed under the International Maritime Organization (IMO).



# Prioritizing pressures in the system



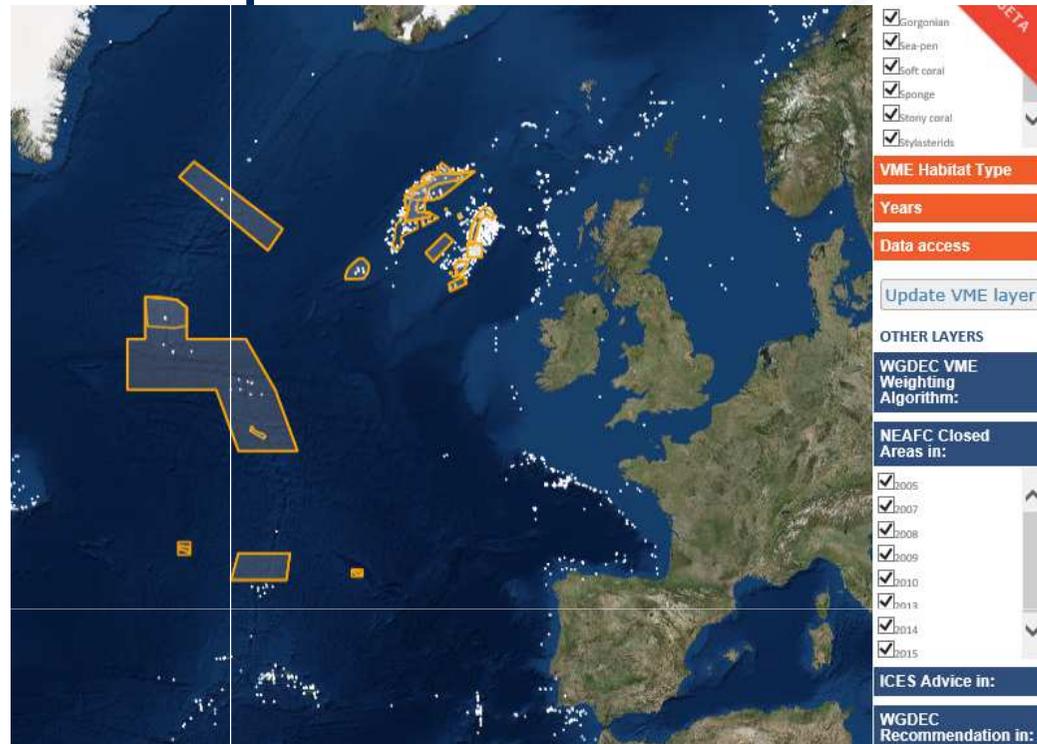
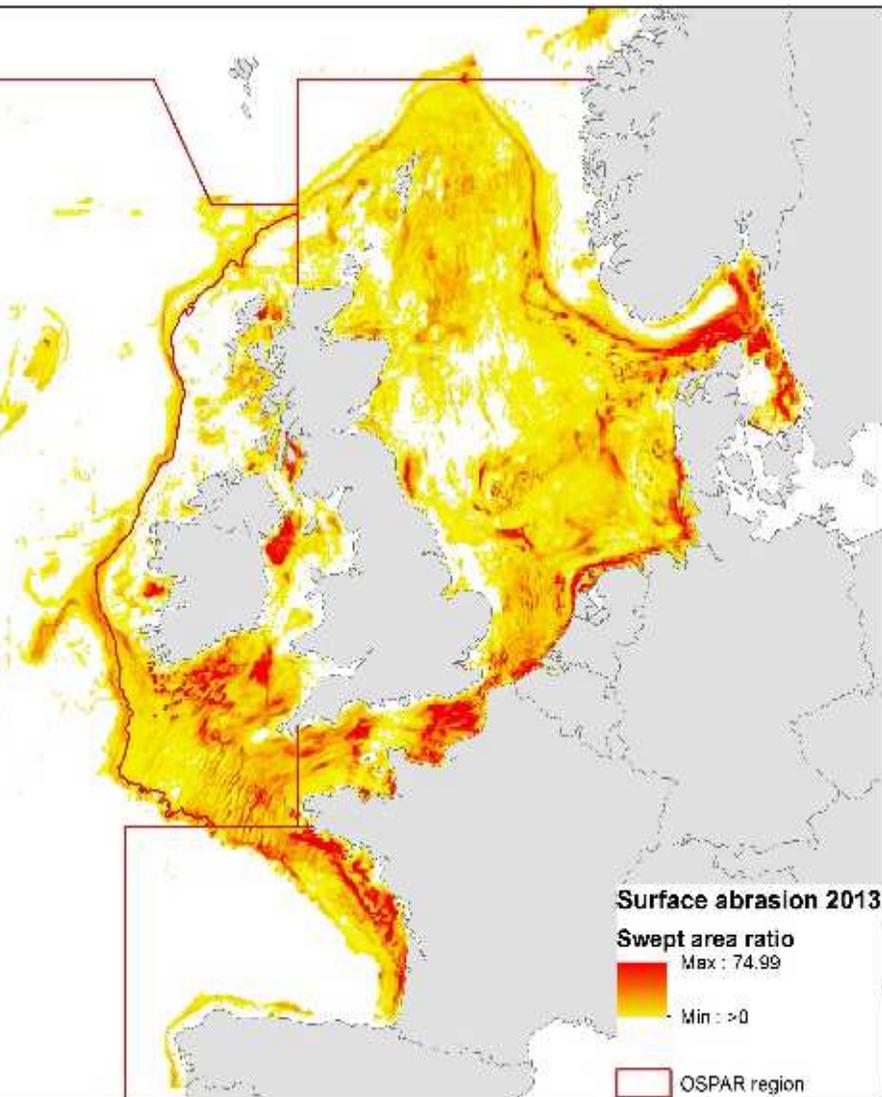
**BIODIVERSITY**

Susceptible to regional management

Always vary influenced by environment

**Celtic Seas**

# Ecosystem Overview – Examples of Standard Products



Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems

New resource

**Figure 1.6.6.3.2** Surface abrasion pressure expressed as the swept area ratio from VMS data between 2009 and 2013 in the part of the OSPAR region with most data. \*

<http://www.ices.dk/marine-data/data-portals/Pages/vulnerable-marine-ecosystems.aspx>

# 4 published

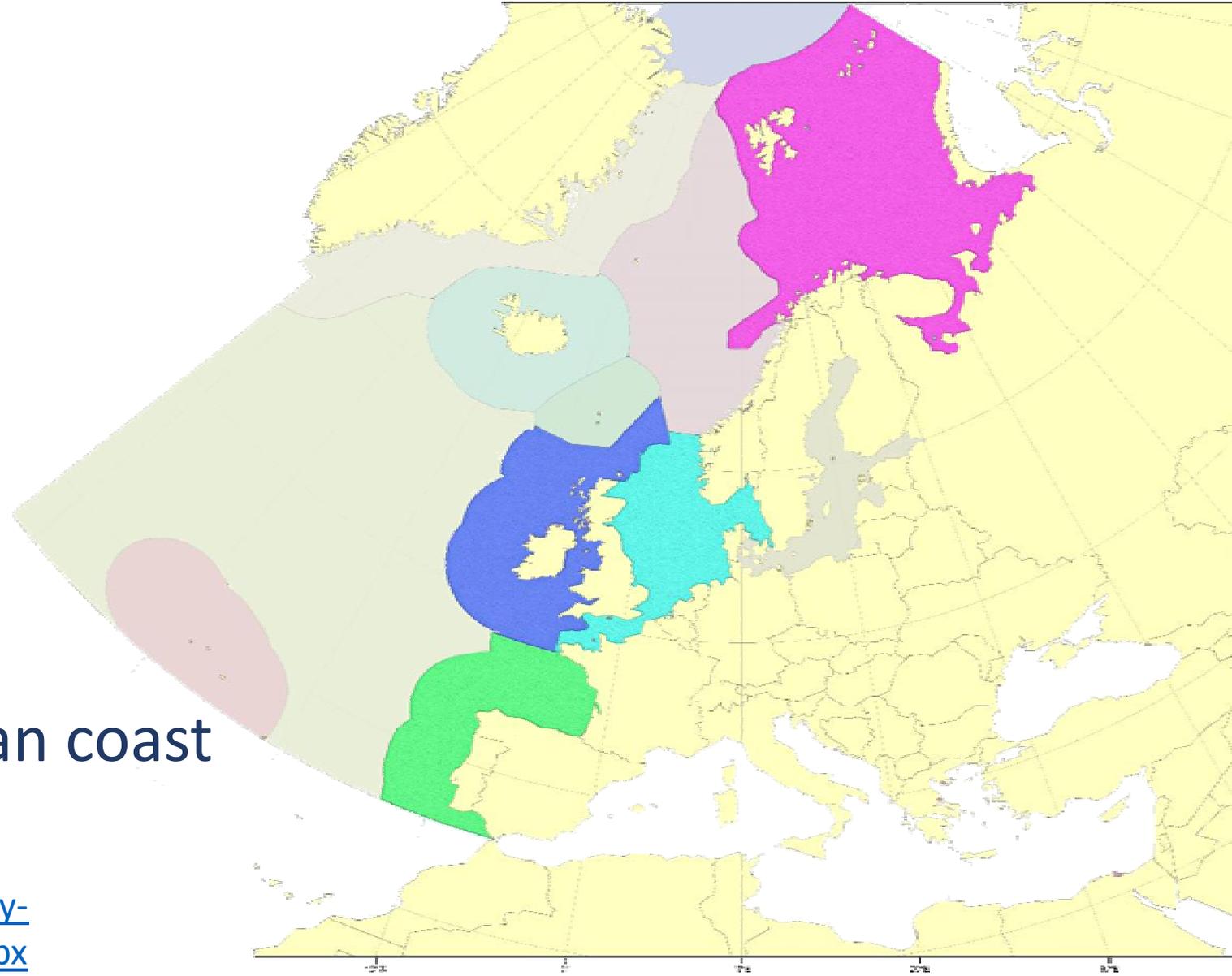
Barents Sea

Great North Sea

Celtic Seas

Bay of Biscay & Iberian coast

<http://www.ices.dk/community/advisory-process/Pages/Ecosystem-overviews.aspx>

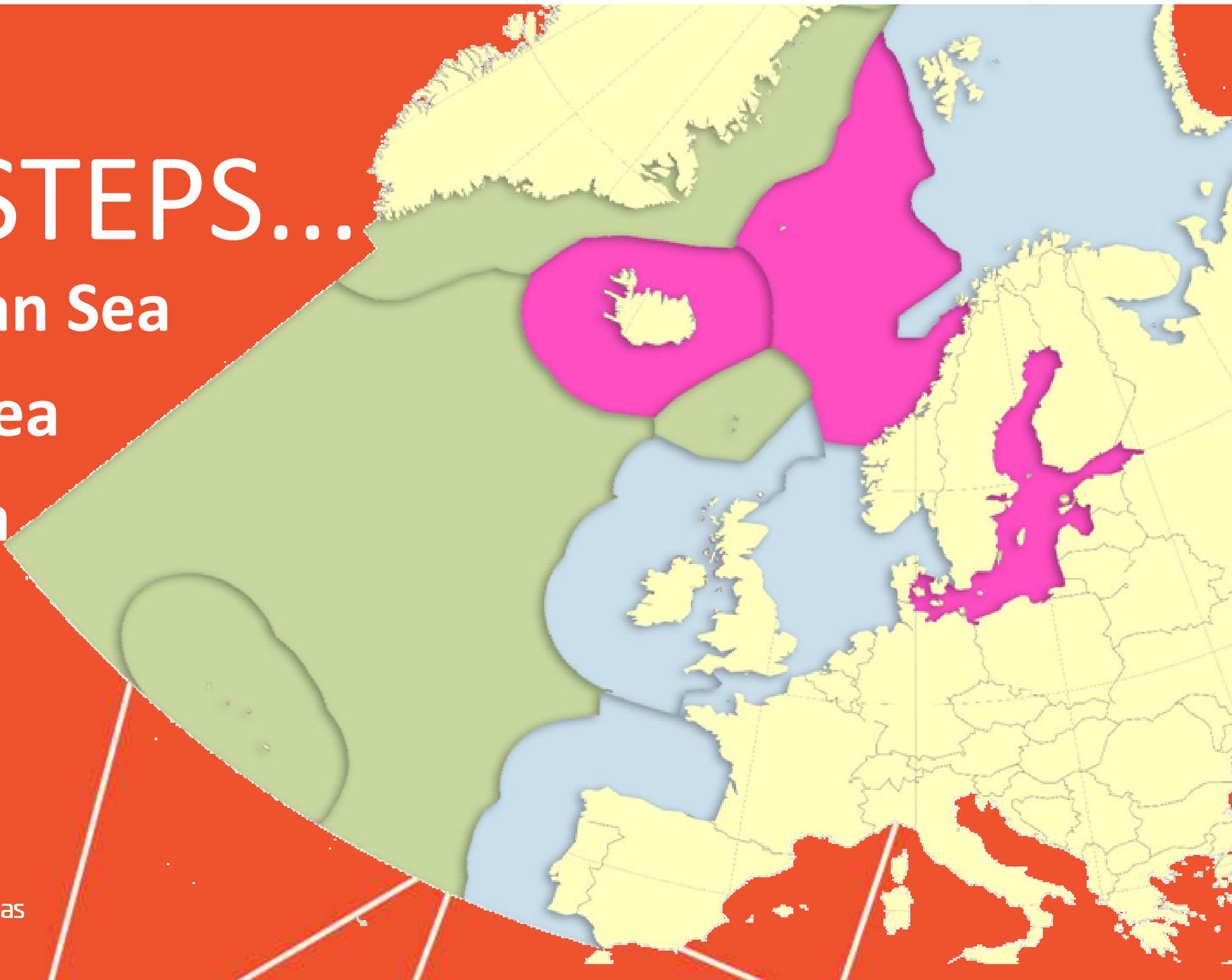


# NEXT STEPS...

Norwegian Sea

Iceland Sea

Baltic Sea



Science for sustainable seas

# Fisheries overviews - rationale



A standard product

Regularly updated/automated

Overview of the fisheries in each of the ICES ecoregions

- who, where, when, how and what

status of the resource (over time)

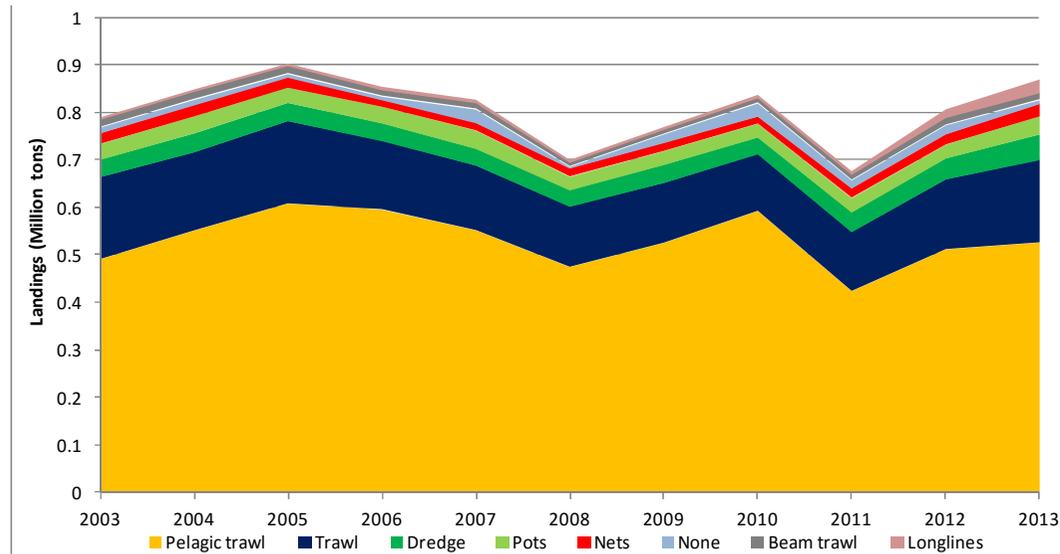
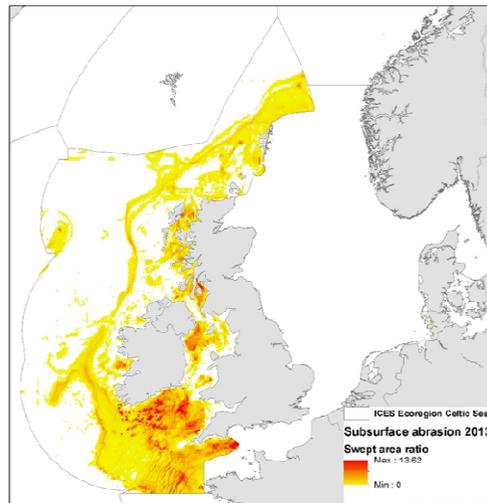
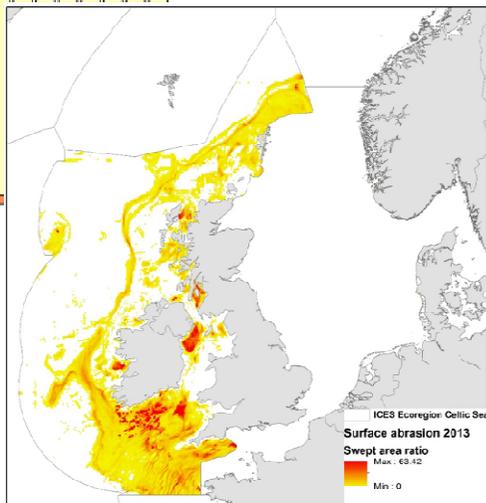
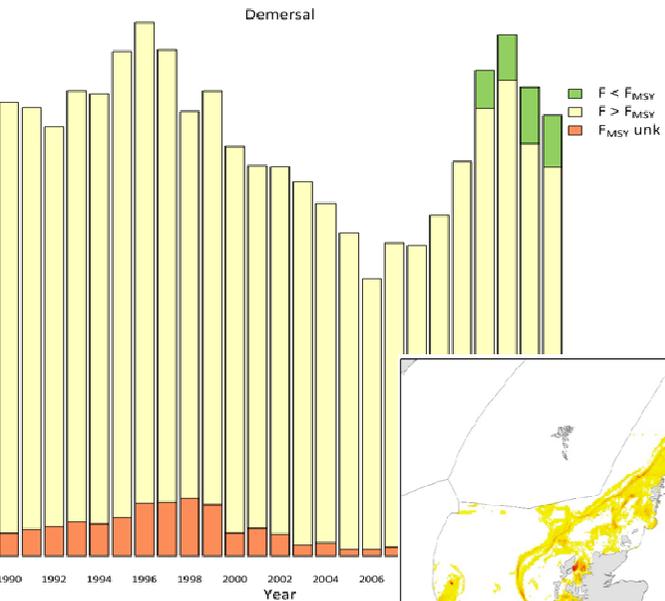
impacts of fisheries

management measures

Ocean literacy - synthesis



# Fisheries overviews – standard products



crustacean	Norway lobster ( <i>Nephrops norvegicus</i> ) in Division VIIb,VIIc,VIIj,VIIk, FU 16 (West and Southwest of Ireland, Porcupine Bank )							
	Norway lobster ( <i>Nephrops norvegicus</i> ) in Division VIIb, FU 17 (West of Ireland, Aran Grounds)							
	Norway lobster ( <i>Nephrops norvegicus</i> ) in Division VIIg,VIIh, FU 20 and FU 21 (Celtic Sea)							
demersal benthivore	Sole ( <i>Solea solea</i> ) in Division VIIe (Western English Channel)							
	Sole ( <i>Solea solea</i> ) in Divisions VIIf,g (Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea)							
	Sole ( <i>Solea solea</i> ) in Division VIIa (Irish Sea)							
demersal piscivore	Megrim ( <i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i> ) in Divisions IVa and VIa (Northern North Sea, West of Scotland)							
	Whiting ( <i>Merlangius merlangus</i> ) in Divisions VIIb,c,e-k (Southern Celtic seas and Eastern English Channel)							
	Haddock ( <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i> ) in Division VIb (Rockall)							
	Seabass ( <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> ) in Divisions IVb and c, VIIa, and VIId-h (Central and South North Sea, Irish Sea, English Channel, Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea)							
	Cod ( <i>Gadus morhua</i> ) in Divisions VIIe-k (Eastern English Channel and Southern Celtic Seas)							
pelagic planktivore	Herring ( <i>Clupea harengus</i> ) in Division VIIa South of 52° 30' N and VIIg,h,j,k (Irish Sea, Celtic Sea and Southwest of Ireland)							
	Herring ( <i>Clupea harengus</i> ) in Divisions VIa and VIIb,c (West of Scotland, West of Ireland)							

# The enabler Benchmarks: Relevant biological interactions in fish stock advice – reflecting ecosystem dynamics



## Forage Fish

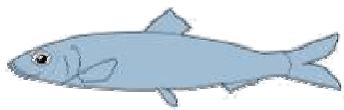
mackerel



prat



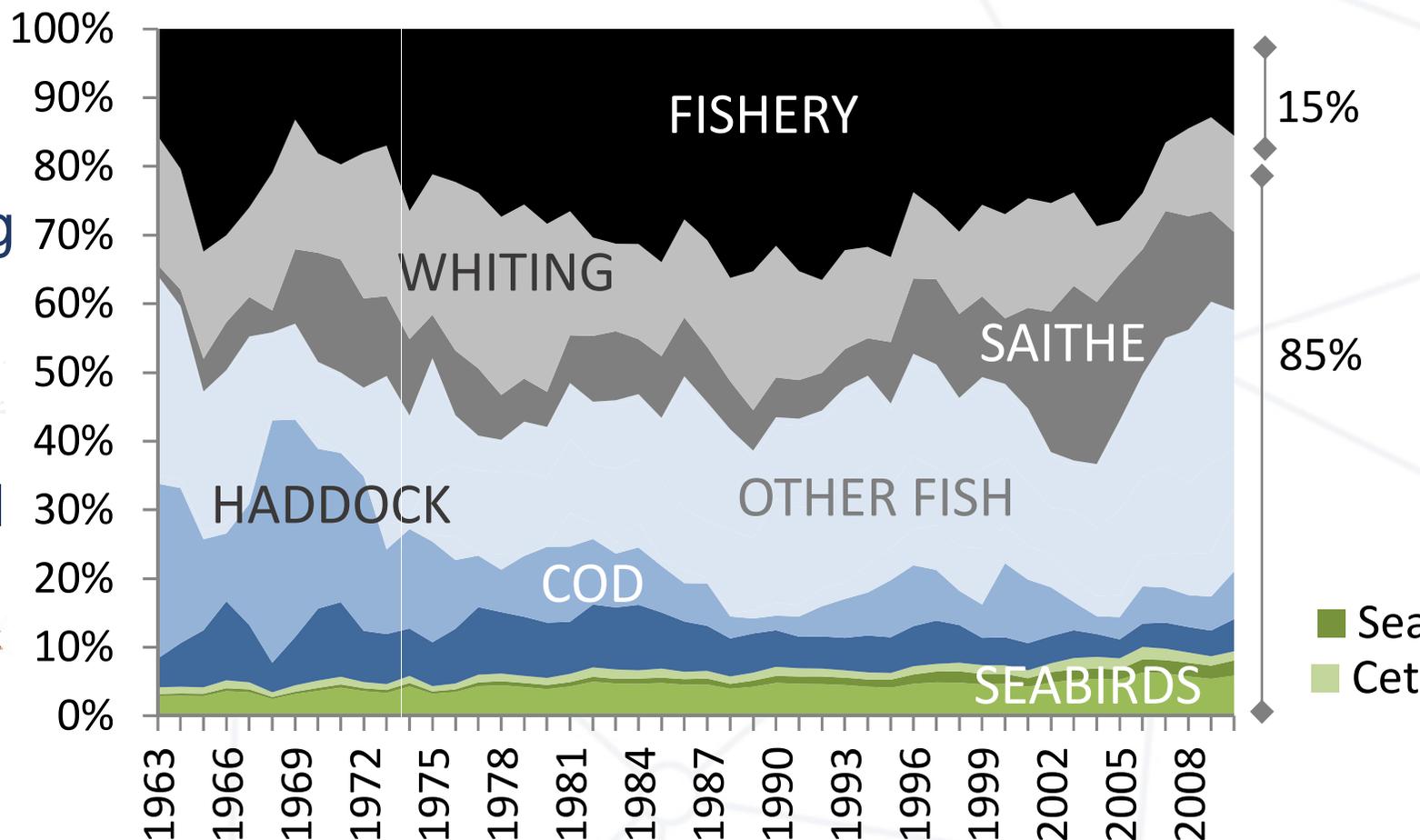
herring



sandeel



Removals North Sea



Single stock advice on fishing opportunities  
 How much can you take out of the stock next year?

### 8.3.10 Herring (*Clupea harengus*) in Subdivision 30 (Bothnian Sea)

#### ICES stock advice

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2016 should be no more than 96 613 tonnes.

#### Stock development over time

The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) increased until the beginning of the 1990s; then the stock decreased, but showed an increase from the end of the 1990s and has been above MSY  $B_{trigger}$  since 1986. Fishing mortality has been below  $F_{MSY}$  from the very beginning of the time-series, and just above since 2012. Recruitment is variable and increasing over time.

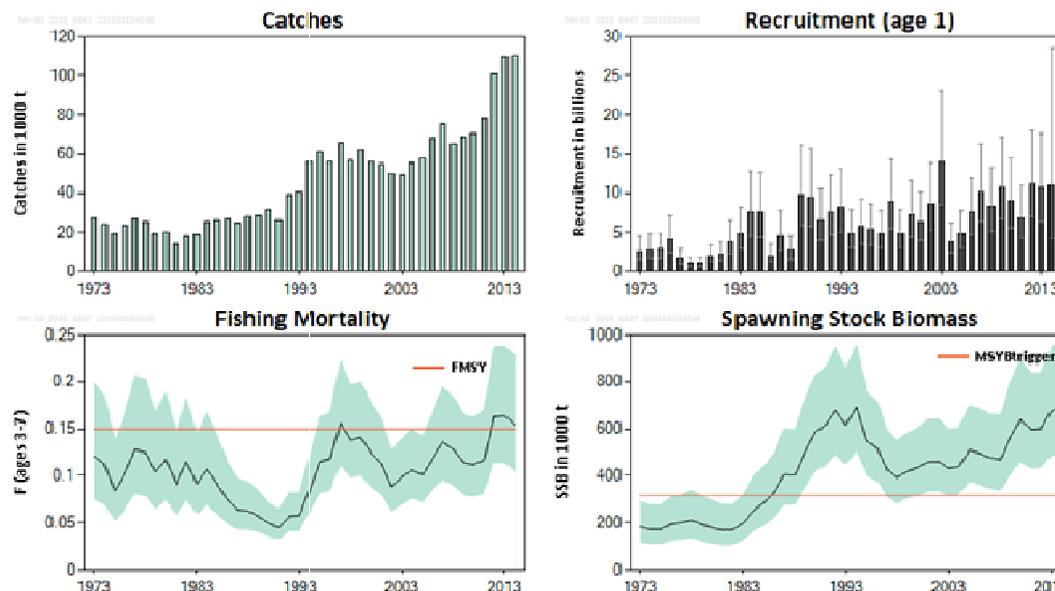


Figure 8.3.10.1 Herring in Subdivision 30. Summary of stock assessment (weights in thousand tonnes). Recruitment and SSB in 2015 are predicted. Recruitment, F, and SSB have confidence intervals (95%) in the plot.

#### Stock and exploitation status

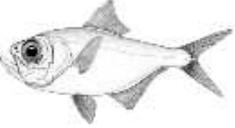
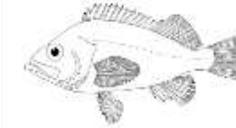
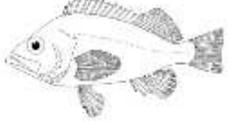
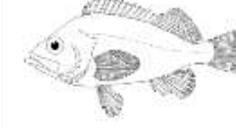
Table 8.3.10.1 Herring in Subdivision 30. State of the stock and fishery, relative to reference points.

		Fishing pressure			Stock size					
		2012	2013	2014	2013	2014	2015			
Maximum Sustainable Yield	$F_{MSY}$	✗	✗	✗	Above	MSY $B_{trigger}$	✓	✓	✓	Above trigger
Precautionary approach	$F_{pa}$ , $F_{lim}$	?	?	?	Undefined	$B_{pa}$ , $B_{lim}$	✓	✓	✓	Above potential candidate reference points
Management Plan	$F_{MGT}$	-	-	-	Not applicable	$SSB_{MGT}$	-	-	-	Not applicable

# Advisory products: Fishing opportunities advice



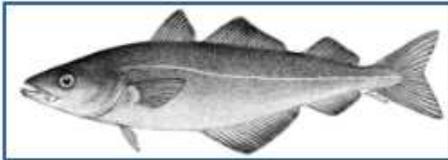
All Ecoregions | **Baltic Sea** | Barents Sea | Celtic Seas | Faroes | Greenland and Iceland Seas | North Sea | Norwegian Sea | Oceanic Northeast Atlantic | South European | Zoom ▾

 <p>Alfonsinos in the northeast Atlantic</p>	 <p>Anchovy in Iberian waters</p>	 <p>Anchovy in the Bay of Biscay</p>
 <p>Anglerfish in the West of Scotland and North Sea</p>	 <p>Atlantic Salmon in the Baltic Sea and Gulf of Bothnia</p>	 <p>Atlantic Salmon in the Gulf of Finland</p>
 <p>Atlantic salmon in the northeast Atlantic</p>	 <p>Atlantic salmon on the east coast of North America</p>	 <p>Beaked redfish (deep water) in the northeast Atlantic</p>
 <p>Beaked redfish (shallow-water) in the</p>	 <p>Beaked redfish in the northeast Arctic</p>	 <p>Beaked redfish on the east Greenland shelf</p>

Map interface showing fishing opportunities in the North Sea, Skagerrak, and waters West of Scotland. A search bar and navigation controls are visible.

**Saithe in the North Sea, Skagerrak, the waters West of Scotland, and the Rockall**

A large cod-like fish, it schools close to the bottom and in the water column. Small individuals are often found close to shore, particularly in rocky and reef areas. Young saithe feed primarily on krill, while young haddock, Norway pout, and herring are the most important foods for larger saithe.



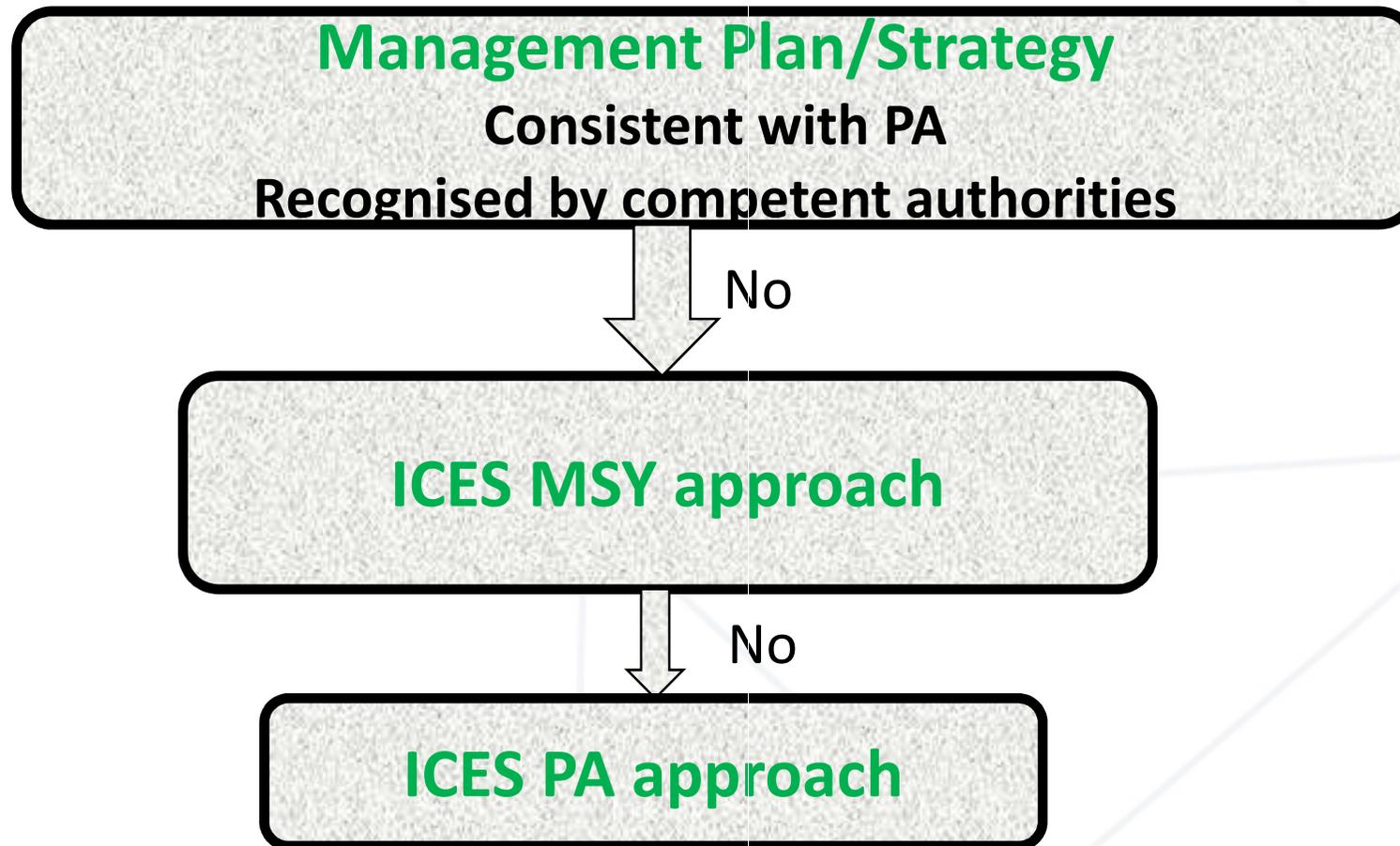
[Read about stock status and more](#)

# Advisory products in 2015: Fishing opportunities



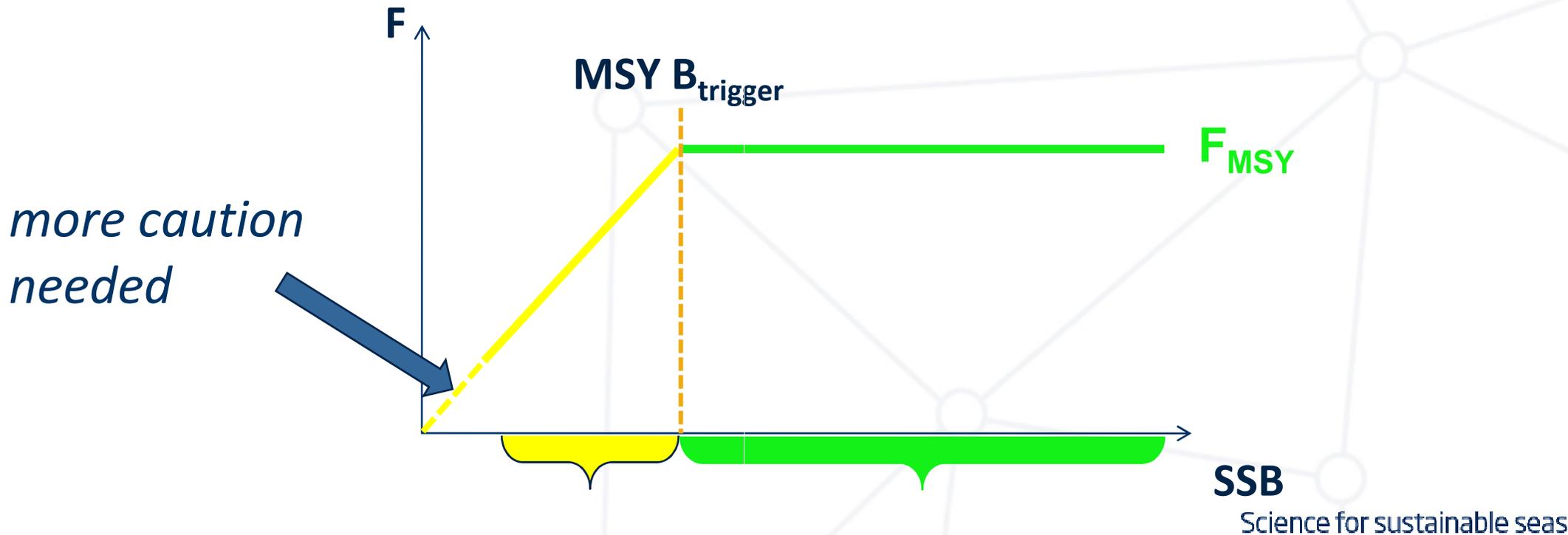
Area	Number of stocks for which advice was provided in 2015
Greenland and East Greenland	14
Arctic Sea	7
Arctic Plateau	4
Baltic Sea and West of Scotland	69
North Sea, Eastern Channel, Skagerrak and Kattegat	50
Bay of Biscay and Atlantic Iberian Waters	22
Baltic Sea	19
Widely distributed and migratory stocks	40

# Basis for ICES advice



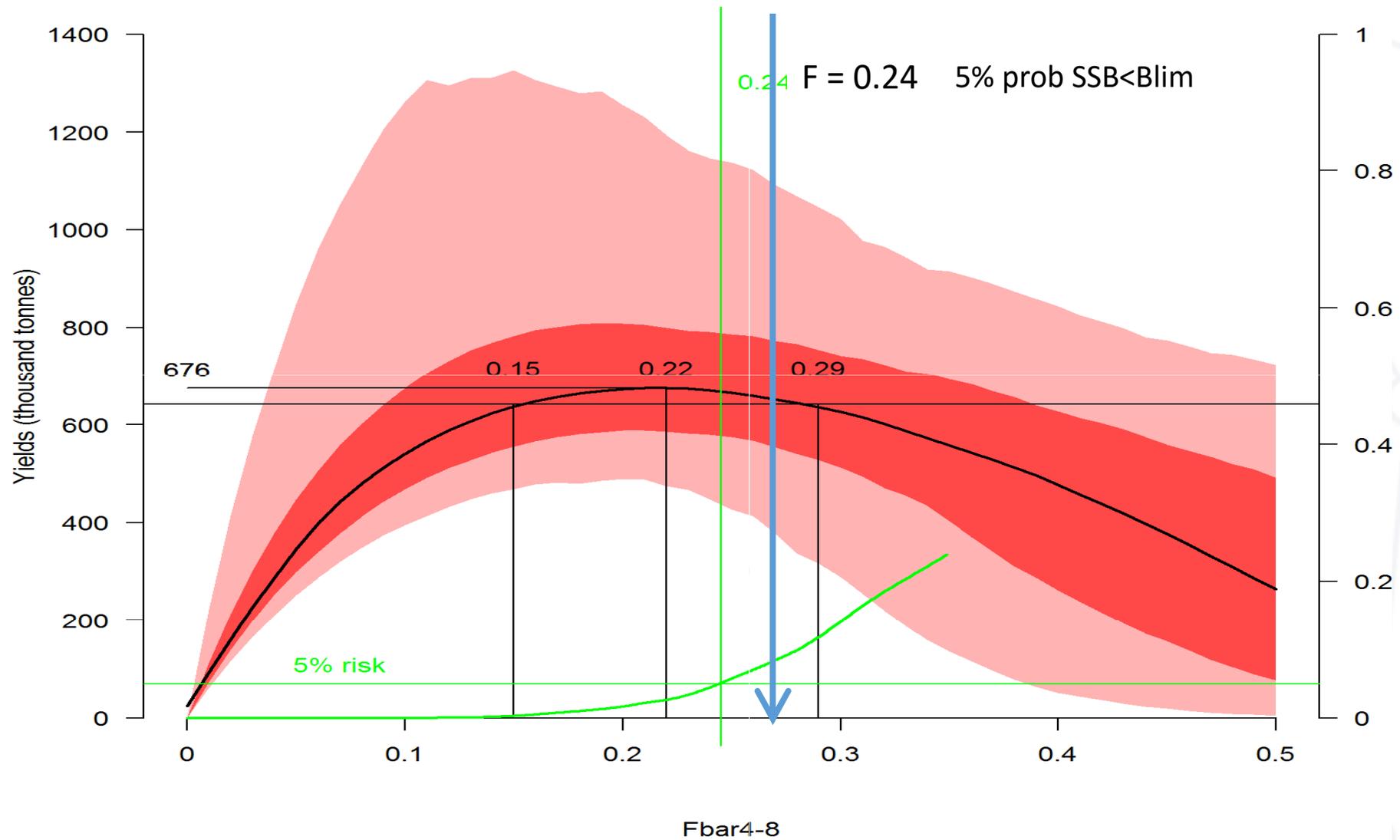
# ICES MSY approach

- ✓ Maximize long term average yield
- ✓ Safeguard against low SSB
- ✓ Stay within precautionary boundaries



# Mackerel: F ranges that gives >95% of MSY

equilibrium Yields and Risk(SSB<Blim)



# Integrated Ecosystem Observation and Monitoring (> 25 expert working groups)



## Survey planning & operation

- Acoustic + bird + mammal
- Otter & beam trawl + litter
- Ichthyoplankton
- TV for Nephrops
- Redfish

## Survey development

- Survey design
- Integrated sampling
- Survey efficiency/rationalisation

## Monitoring data provision

- Marine litter
- Bycatch
- Noise
- Trawl & acoustic survey information

## Integrated monitoring

- Meteorological products
- Satellite products
- Oceanographic monitoring



## Linked to fishing/survey technology

/GFAST- Working group on fisheries acoustics, science and technology

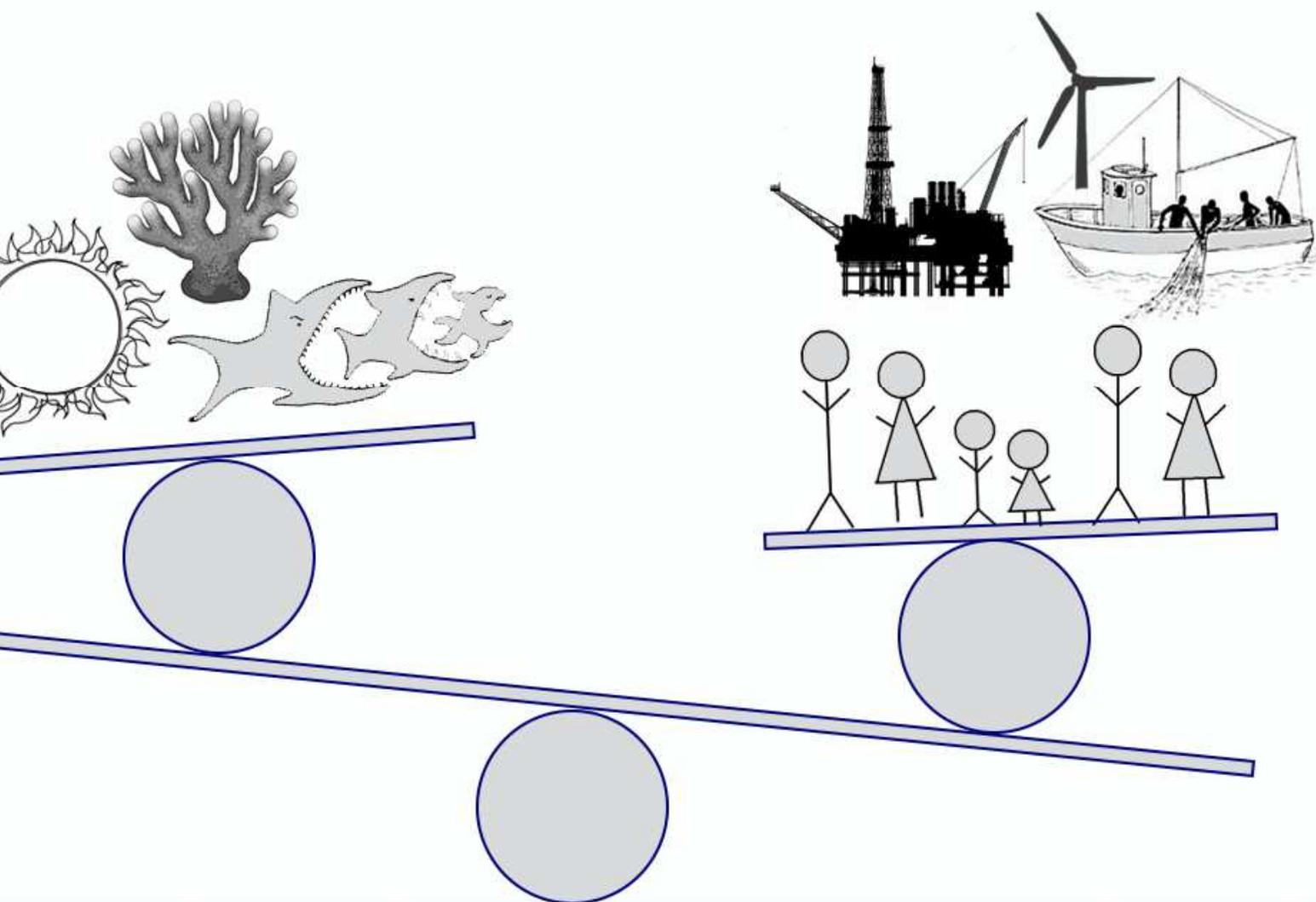
/GFTFB - ICES -FAO Working Group on Fishing Technology and Fish Behavior

Recent workshops:

- ▶ Electric fishing/pulse trawls
- ▶ Survivability post catch
- ▶ Cod end/trawl design
- ▶ Mackerel surveys with industry



# Pragmatic Ecosystem Based Management



Balancing  
human activities &  
environmental  
stewardship in a  
multiple use context