Common Fisheries Policy 2020

A Discarded Opportunity

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The EU has failed to fully implement the Common Fisheries Policy. However, the positive environmental and socio-economic benefits of sustainable fisheries management remain within reach. Decisive action must now be taken by EU and Irish leaders to ensure that the promise of the Common Fisheries Policy is fulfilled without further delay. To help decision makers address the remaining challenges, BirdWatch Ireland present our own assessment and recommendations.

The Promise of Sustainable Fisheries

The reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) that came into force in 2014 was adopted under an Irish EU presidency. This new phase in EU fisheries policy was underpinned by overwhelming evidence and wide consensus that overfishing must end and that the failure to do so would have grave consequences for the fishing industry, the environment, and the food supply chain. A legally binding deadline to end overfishing was set for "2015 where possible and, on a progressive, incremental basis at the latest by 2020 for all stocks."

By limiting Total Annual Catches (TACs) to levels advised by scientists; this would provide fishermen with the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY – the largest catch that can be taken from a fish stock over an indefinite period without harming it¹). It was understood that fish stocks would recover, delivering a healthier and more resilient marine environment and positive socio-economic benefits for the fishing and seafood industries. The second major legal deadline adopted within the reform was the commitment to end the practice of discarding unwanted bycatch at sea – known as the Landing Obligation (LO); a wasteful practice that contributes to overfishing. Landing all catches incentivises fishing practices that reduce bycatch through increased selectivity and improves the quality of fisheries data, improving fisheries management.

The LO became official EU policy following the reform of the CFP in 2013 and it was gradually phased in from 1st January 2016, up to the 1st January 2019 in order to give fishers and fisheries' managers time to adjust and implement.

¹ EPRS (2014) Hearings of European Commissioners-designate Karmenu Vella, Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries https://bit.ly/2YceJN5

MSY Obligation – To progressively restore and maintain populations of fish stocks above biomass levels capable of producing the maximum sustainable yield (SSB≥BMSY), the maximum sustainable yield exploitation rate (F≤Fmsy) shall be achieved at the latest by 2020 for all stocks.

Landing Obligation – All catches of species which are subject to catch limits and caught in EU waters or by EU vessels shall be brought and retained on board the fishing vessels, recorded, landed and counted against the quotas where applicable. Except for some limited exemptions the implementation of this Landing Obligation shall apply to all species across all ICES Areas on the 1st January 2019 at the latest.

Cover photos: Gannets, C.Timmins; Fish shoal, L.Anderson.

The Irish Government has repeatedly committed to meeting the CFP's 2020 legal deadlines^{2,3}, which is further underpinned by its international legal commitments to end overfishing under the United Nations Law of the Sea Convention⁴, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals⁵ and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive⁶. The objectives of setting fishing limits not exceeding the Maximum Sustainable Yield by 2020 and ending discarding by 2019 are complementary measures designed to restore the EU's marine environment, improving the

Ending Overfishing in 2020

On 18th December 2019, fisheries ministers of the EU AGRIFISH Council agreed catch limits in the North East Atlantic for 2020. Despite the CFP's legal deadline to end overfishing, many of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) limits exceed the best available scientific advice, facilitating overfishing in 2020. According to an analysis by The Pew Charitable Trusts, fisheries ministers set 46 percent (51 of 110) of the TACs analysed exceeding scientific advice⁸.

Ireland's role in the EU's failure to end overfishing is supported by BirdWatch Ireland's own analysis of the subset of TACs of which Ireland has a share. We calculate that 51 percent (23 out of 45) exceeded scientific advice for 2020. When just the subset of TACs which Ireland has a share of greater than 40 percent is taken into consideration the number exceeding scientific advice increases to 62 percent (8 out of 13).

Ireland has a role in managing a high proportion of the most overfished stocks in the North East Atlantic. For example, there are eight stocks which Ireland has a share of that scientists have advised no fishing for in 2020⁹.

BirdWatch Ireland's analysis of the EC General Secretariat's records¹⁰ of Member States positions going into the 2019 EU fisheries negotiations found that of the 20 TACs which Ireland made a comment on, 65 percent (13) were set exceeding scientific advice. There was a pattern of Ireland arguing against following the scientific advice for stocks with low or zero catch advice (11 out of 20).

According to the Marine Institute¹¹, under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (which mirrors the CFP's 2020 MSY obligation), only 20 percent (18 of 92) of commercial fish stocks analysed in 2019 met the criteria for achieving Good Environmental Status (GES).

In addition, the New Economics Foundation¹² analysis of all TACs adopted at the EU AGRIFISH

status of fish stocks as well as ensuring a sustainable and profitable fishing sector moving forward⁷.

⁴ United Nations (1982) United Nations Law of the Sea Convention https://bit.ly/303AX5V ⁵ United Nations (2015) Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development https://bit.ly/2U4kTNk

⁶ Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive) https://bit.ly/3gQnbJO

 7 Joint NGO Position (2018) Recovering fish stocks and fully implementing the Landing Obligation https://bit.ly/2WCOrTM



Council between 2001 and 2020, ranked Ireland second worst behind Spain when it comes to the average percentage by which TACs were set above scientific advice. From 2001 to 2020 Ireland set TACs 24 percent above advice, or 765,000 tonnes of fish. These findings suggest that the stocks over which Ireland has a greater influence are managed less sustainably than the average across the region.

The EU has failed to meet the CFP's legal obligation to achieve the maximum sustainable yield exploitation rate for all stocks by 2020 at the latest and the Irish Government has played a significant role in that outcome through the positions they have taken in negotiations.

² Irish Government (2020) Programme for Government – Our Shared Future https://bit.ly/3j6s2rk ³ Irish Government (2012) Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth – An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland https://bit.ly/2rBHFAM

⁸ The Pew Trusts (2020) Analysis of Fisheries Council agreement on fishing opportunities in the north-east Atlantic for 2020 https://bit.ly/3g8weVK

 $^{^9}$ Herring 5b, 6b & 6aN; Herring 7bc, 6aS; Herring 7h-k; Cod 6a, 5b; Cod 7b-c, e-k, 8, 9 & 10 & 34.1.1; Whiting 7a; Blue Ling 2 & 4; Plaice 7hjk

¹⁰ This document produced by the General Secretariat of the Council is a comprehensive account of the stock specific positions expressed by Member State delegations in the lead-up to the December AGRIFSIH Council negotiations.

¹¹ Irish government (2020) Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC_Article 17 update to Ireland's Marine Strategy Part 1: Assessment (Article 8), Determination of Good Environmental Status (Article 9) and Environmental Targets (Article 10) https://bit.ly/2P5aG09

¹² NEF (2020) Landing the Blame: Overfishing in the Northeast Atlantic 2020 https://bit.ly/3hKVh1y



Ending Discarding in 2020

Despite the gradual implementation period provided by the CFP to allow the fishing industry and Member States time to adapt, there is widescale non-compliance with the Landing Obligation¹³. The European Commission launched an audit series in 2020 to evaluate the measures adopted by a number of Member States, including Ireland, to ensure control, enforcement and inspection of activities relevant to the Landing Obligation and to ensure the full documentation of all fishing trips and relevant data. The preliminary findings of these audits indicate extensive unreported illegal discarding.

This is supported by the European Fisheries Control Agency's (EFCA) compliance evaluation reports on the implementation of the Landing Obligation, which found that non-compliance was widespread in specific fisheries during recent evaluation periods in the North Sea and North Western Waters¹⁴. Observer data from the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES), and last-haul analysis by the EFCA, indicate large discrepancies between what is reported and what is observed. In fact, ICES continues to produce advice based on the assumption that discarding continues¹⁵. In the absence of effective control measures, fishers are incentivised to continue discarding to avoid exhausting guota on low-valued fish which would result in direct economic trade-offs. This may also lead to the early closures of a fishery once a limiting quota is used up, the so-called "choke" effect¹⁶.

According to the Commission, these ongoing failures pose a significant risk to the long-term sustainability

objectives of the CFP, especially when the capacity of the Member States' fleets and the biological status of certain stocks are taken into consideration. Ireland's failure to ensure the control and monitoring of the Landing Obligation must also be viewed in the context of broader failings in fisheries control. A recent Commission audit¹⁷ highlighted "severe and significant weaknesses in the Irish control system" including "the lack of effective enforcement and sanctioning of noncompliance." Separately, the Commission have indicated their intention to take Ireland to the Court of Justice of the EU¹⁸, unless it addresses the ongoing failure to implement a penalty point system for fisheries-related serious infringements. The final deadline for doing so was the 1st January 2012.

There is sufficient evidence to suggest that the Landing Obligation has not been fully implemented in Irish waters and illegal discarding continues despite the CFP's 1st January 2019 legal deadline. Illegal discarding will contribute to ongoing declines in overfished stocks, preventing or delaying the positive environmental and socio-economic benefits that will accrue as stocks recover.

¹³ European Commission (2020) Commission Staff Working Document - Accompanying the document Communication from the Commission of the European Parliament and the Council - Towards more sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2021 (COM(2020) 248 final) https://bitly/393gK2A

¹⁴ EFCA (2020) Evaluation suggests non-compliance with the Landing Obligations in certain fisheries in the North Sea and North Western Waters https://bit.ly/3eAqdzr

¹⁵ ICES (2019) Celtic Seas ecoregion – Fisheries overview, including mixed-fisheries considerations

¹⁶ Van Helmond *et al.*, (2019) Electronic monitoring in fisheries: Lessons from global experiences and future opportunities

¹⁷ Audit reference number: IE-D4-2018-01-A

¹⁸ European Commission (2020) July infringements package: key decisions https://bit.ly/3h8wFiP

Recommendations

The annual monitoring reports carried out by the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) on the performance of the CFP¹⁹ highlight that sustainable fisheries management works. The reform of the CFP has in general delivered decreasing trends in fishing pressure, resulting in healthier stocks, with increasing fishing and socioeconomic opportunities across the North East Atlantic. These positive environmental and economic benefits²⁰ will continue to accrue as stocks recover. STECF has also highlighted the shortcomings in the speed and scope of CFP implementation¹⁷. Progress has been too slow and inconsistent. In three out of five regions the decreasing trend in exploitation has been reversed (Baltic Sea and Celtic Sea) or stalled (NE Atlantic widely distributed stocks) in the recent years. 32 percent (14

of 44) of fully assessed stocks within the NE Atlantic ecoregions remain outside of safe biological limits, while 38 percent are overfished (26 of 68).

Decisive action must now to be taken by EU and Irish leaders to deliver the positive environmental and socio-economic benefits of the Common Fisheries Policy. To help decision makers redouble efforts to address the remaining challenges, BirdWatch Ireland makes stock specific recommendations in the appendix and the following general recommendations:

¹⁹ Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) – Monitoring the performance of the Common Fisheries Policy (STECF-Adhoc-20-01). Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2020, ISBN 978-92-76-18115-6, doi:10.2760/230469, JRC120481

²⁰ Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF): The 2019 Annual Economic Report on the EU Fishing Fleet (STECF 19-06), Carvalho, N., Keatinge, M. and Guillen Garcia, J. editor(s), EUR 28359 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2019, ISBN 978-92-76-09517-0, doi:10.2760/911768, JRC117567



1. Set sustainable fishing limits

The scientific advice of ICES identifies the upper limits within which Total Allowable Catches (TACs) should be set to ensure compliance with the environmental and socio-economic objectives of the CFP. Stocks for which enough data is available on their status and their exploitation, are subject to the highest category of advice which is based on the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) approach.

For data-limited stocks ICES provide advice based on the Precautionary Approach (PA). The PA is based on the best available peer-reviewed science and is a comprehensive framework that manages the risk of overfishing taking into consideration the uncertainty associated with data limited stocks. Managing uncertainty in TAC setting by following ICES PA advice is consistent with the CFPs requirement to follow the Precautionary Approach to fisheries management, as defined in the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement

(UNFSA)²¹.

The CFP's 2020 deadline applies to all stocks. Despite this, stocks which are not subject to MSY advice have consistently been treated with a lower level of ambition by decision makers and are more likely to be overfished. Out of the stocks that have an Irish share and are only subject to PA advice 82 percent (9 out of 11) have 2020 fishing limits set in excess of the ICES precautionary advice.

Fishing with MSY as a target will only result in a stocks biomass being at the level that will deliver the maximum sustainable yield (BMSY) on average due to natural fluctuations in abundance. To prevent stocks becoming depleted MSY should be treated as an upper limit rather than a target²².

²¹ 1995 United Nations Fish Stock Agreement https://bit.ly/2EtAp0r
²² Victor R. Restrepo (2008), "Red, Green and Yellow: Thoughts on Stock Status and the ICCAT Convention Objectives," ICCAT Collective Volume of Scientific Papers 64 (2009): 2663–73

In 2020 TACs should be set not exceeding ICES advice on the basis of the ICES MSY approach or, in the absence of defined FMSY reference points, not exceeding the ICES Precautionary Approach advice.

 ICES catch advice for stocks subject to the MSY and precautionary approaches should be treated as an upper limit for fishing mortality.





2. Improve Data Collection

According to STECF¹⁷, sufficient data is only available to determine the compliance with the CFP for 24 stocks across the whole NE Atlantic in 2018. In addition, Ireland's Marine Institute²³ found that the fishing mortality status of 28 percent (23 of 81) of stocks was unknown in 2019, and the biomass of 40 percent (32 of 81) of stocks was also unknown. According to the authors, this may be due to a short time series of biological data, low catches and/or insufficient sampling data, or missing catch information (e.g. angling catches or discards). This large subset of stocks is omitted from the government's annual sustainability assessment, distorting the perception of the sustainability of fisheries management in Ireland. However, the fact that a stock does not have sufficient data to allow for a full analytical assessment of their state and exploitation does not free Member States from the obligation to meet the MSY objective for all stocks.

Improved data collection and the development of MSY proxy reference points²⁴, in tandem with a Precautionary Approach¹⁹ to fisheries management, would help ensure that stocks which are not currently subject to MSY assessments meet the CFP's objectives. Improved data collection would also improve our understanding of the health of stocks and marine ecosystems, informing sustainable fisheries management.

²³ Marine Institute (2019) The Stock Book 2018: Annual Review of Fish Stocks in 2019 with Management Advice for 2020 https://bit.ly/35m83x3

²⁴ ICES (2018) ICES reference points for stocks in categories 3 and 4 https://bit.ly/2WZoJJb

Managers should improve data collection to inform the science, fisheries management, and ensure compliance with the CFP.

Member States should support ICES in the development of MSY proxy reference points for data deficient stocks.

3. Rebuild Depleted Stocks

Another area where progress in CFP implementation has failed is in the case where fisheries managers have not taken the necessary steps to reduce fishing mortality and proactively rebuild stocks. Both the EU Commission and Council have in many cases failed to accept the short-term socio-economic impacts of reducing fishing pressure to realise longer term benefits. Predictably this has resulted in the collapse of numerous stocks and fisheries closures. This is the case for all three herring stocks in which Ireland has the largest share in, all of which have zero catch advice in 2021²⁵.

In other cases, the EU Commission and Council have similarly failed to take the necessary steps to reduce fishing pressure to protect stocks which are a bycatch



of a targeted fishery or a mixed fishery. Due to differences in the abundance, productivity, catchability and mortality of different stocks in a mixed fishery, trade-offs are needed in TAC setting and management to ensure that all stocks are healthy. Reducing the fishing mortality of certain bycatch stocks in a mixed fishery may involve novel management approaches, including spatial and temporal closures, new technical measures / fishing gear, and in some cases balancing short and long-term socio-economic trade-offs. In several notable cases the EU Commission and Council have failed to accept trade-offs to ensure the recovery of overfished bycatch stocks and instead have created a series of measures to maintain the status quo. For example, the use of TACs to cover bycatch of stocks with zero catch advice (bycatch TAC)²⁶, using Multi Annual Plans to allow fishing mortality above MSY (F ranges) and TAC adjustments to account for the LO have all been used to maintain the fishing mortality of bycatch stocks at levels that do not impact on the landings of target species.

Approaches that entrench overfishing are incompatible with the CFP's objective of restoring the biomass of bycatch stocks to levels capable of producing MSY. Not only has the failures of the EU Commission and Council prevented the recovery of these stocks, but in the case of Celtic Sea Cod²⁷, the stocks have gone from an advised TAC of 10,200 tonnes in 2013, to zero TAC advice in 2020. In the case of West of Scotland Cod, despite having zero catch advice, fishing mortality has been increasing since 2016, with a significant increase in fishing mortality in 2019.This is in part due to the use of a bycatch TAC in combination with illegal discarding²⁸.

 25 Herring EU and international waters of Vb, Vlb and VlaN(1); Herring VlaS(1), Vllb, Vllc; Herring Vllg(1), Vllh(1), Vllj(1) and Vllk(1)

 26 Herring EU and international waters of Vb, Vlb and VlaN(1); Herring VlaS(1), Vllb, Vllc; Herring Vllg(1), Vllh(1), Vllj(1) and Vllk(1)

²⁷ Cod (Gadus morhua) in divisions 7.e–k (western English Channel and southern Celtic Seas) https://bit.ly/3jiT3rT VIIg(1), VIIh(1), VIIj(1) and VIIk(1)

²⁸ ICES (2020) Cod (Gadus morhua) in Division 6.a (West of Scotland) https://bit.ly/3hoZrvXhttps://bit.ly/3jiT3rT VIIg(1), VIIh(1), VIIj(1) and VIIk(1)

Stock recovery plans should be developed to effectively reduce fishing mortality, putting overfished stocks on a pathway to recovery above levels capable of producing MSY.

Managers should follow the best available advice from ICES and STECF on fisheries management. This should include following mixed fisheries advice scenarios that ensure the sustainable management of all stocks in a mixed fishery.

Managers should implement measures aimed at minimizing the misalignment between fishing activity and stock shares for the fleets, such as changes in gear selectivity, spatio-temporal management measures, or reallocation of stock shares, should also be implemented.

4. Fully Implement the Landing Obligation

The EU is not the first to establish a discard ban with similar initiatives having been taken place in Norway, Iceland, Chile and New Zealand^{29, 30}. Internationally, discard bans have been most beneficial when they support the effective implementation of fishing limits, reduce fish mortality and increase stock biomass^{27, 28}. Implementation has been most effective when unwanted catch is pre-emptively avoided using methods such as real time closures³¹ and selective fishing gear³². An effective system of measures to ensure monitoring and control are essential to the implementation of a discards ban³⁰. Given the "severe and significant weaknesses in the Irish control system" including "the lack of effective enforcement and sanctioning of noncompliance^{"16} the deficiencies in Irish control and enforcement clearly go beyond the discards ban.

According to the Commission, Member States still rely on conventional controls such as inspections at sea, inspections at the landing site, and aerial surveillance, which are "ineffective at ensuring control and enforcement of the landing obligation at sea and are limited in promoting a culture of compliance among all operators and fishermen¹³." The ongoing deficiencies in traditional control measures pose a serious risk to the objectives of the CFP. In its proposal for a revised Fisheries Control System³³, the Commission has supported the use of the Remote Electronic Monitoring (REM) tools, such as closed-circuit television and sensor data, and has called on Member States and the industry to take part in trails of REM tools. The use of REM has already been proven to be superior to conventional controls in terms of its cost–effectiveness, its potential coverage, and enhanced registration of fishing activity and location³⁴.

³¹ Rihan *et al.*, 2017 North Western Waters Choke Species Analysis NWW Member States & NWW Advisory Council

³² Gullestad, P., Blom, G., Bakke, G., & Bogstad, B. 2015. The "Discard Ban Package": Experiences in efforts to improve the exploitation patterns in Norwegian fisheries. Marine Policy, 54, 1-9.

³³ COM (2018)368 final

³⁴ Van Helmond, A. T., Mortensen, L. O., Plet-Hansen, K. S., Ulrich, C., Needle, C. L., Oesterwind, D., ... & Olesen, H. J. 2020. Electronic monitoring in fisheries: Lessons from global experiences and future opportunities. Fish and Fisheries, 21(1), 162-189

Managers should invest in cost-effective at-sea monitoring and control systems such as REM, to ensure the full implementation of the Landing Obligation, delivering benefits such as transparency, improved data collection and enhanced compliance.

All fisheries which are deemed to be at high risk of discarding should be subject to robust monitoring and control, including full catch documentation in 2020.



²⁹ Guillen, J., Holmes, S. J., Carvalho, N., Casey, J., Dörner, H., Gibin, M., ... & Zanzi, A., 2018. A Review of the European Union Landing Obligation Focusing on Its Implications for Fisheries and the Environment. Sustainability, 10(4), 900

³⁰ Joint NGO Position, 2018. Recovering fish stocks and fully implementing the Landing Obligation Managing fishing mortality to meet CFP objectives https://bit.ly/3fPDgOU

5. Brexit – a race to the top on sustainable fisheries management

Together, the EU and the UK have laid the foundation for sustainable fisheries management and marine conservation through decades of collaboration on initiatives like the CFP, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), the Birds and Habitats Directives, and international agreements such as the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and in the UN Fish Stocks Agreement. The EU-UK fisheries partnership remains a critical element of the Brexit negotiations and will help to shape the nature of our future relationship with the ocean for generations to come. There are 100 fish stocks shared between the EU and the UK³⁵. A proportion of all of Ireland's main commercial quotas (over 40 stocks) and an average of 34 percent of the landings are caught in UK waters³⁶. The EU and the UK must learn from the mistakes of the past, respect our shared obligations to coastal communities and the environment. The objectives of the CFP and existing international agreements must

6. Covid 19 – a sustainable recovery

The fishing industry has been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis and we recognize the hardship this has caused for some segments of the national fleet and the broader seafood industry. To help those affected, and to avoid future over-exploitation as a means to compensate for lost earnings, we urge be the starting line for a race to the top on sustainable fisheries management.

Any new management framework must be driven by the best available scientific advice and deliver precautionary, sustainable long-term management of fisheries based on transparency, robust monitoring and control, stable sharing arrangements, ambitious multi-annual management plans and automatic harvest control strategies.



³⁵ PEW (2020) A Path to a New Fisheries Management Agreement Between the EU and the UK https://bit.ly/2Fx9nFO
³⁶ DAFM (2018) BREXIT and the Fishing industry Factsheet https://bit.ly/2CK8LvC

governments to focus on the implementation of fiscal policies to support industry through this difficult time. Such measures require the use of public funds to support an industry reliant upon a commonly owned resource. Civil society must also be given equal access to the stakeholder process to ensure fair, equitable and transparent decisions are made.

Financial support should focus on measures such as temporary tie-up schemes which have the potential to provide environmental co-benefits, while also not undermining the ongoing recovery of seafood markets.

Any use of inter-annual flexibility should be made on the basis of the best available scientific advice and should be consistent with the existing legal framework and compatible with the objectives of the CFP.

The Irish Government has repeatedly committed to the full implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy. The positive environmental and socio-economic benefits of sustainable fisheries management remain within reach. Decisive action must now to be taken to ensure that the promise of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy is fulfilled without further delay. As an island nation we have an unprecedented opportunity to grow our blue economy, creating more jobs in coastal communities while delivering a healthy marine environment that is resilient to the mounting pressures of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution. This is an opportunity we cannot afford to ignore any longer.

APPENDIX

Deep Sea								
Common name	Species	Catch area	ICES Advice	Recommendation / Action				
Alfonsinos	Beryx spp	Northeast Atlantic [1-7, 9, 10, 12 & 14]	PA	Follow ICES data-limited PA approach. Improve data collection.				
Roundnose Grenadier	Coryphaenoides rupestris	Cantabrian Sea & Atlantic Iberian waters [8-10 & 12]	PA	Follow ICES data-limited PA approach. Improve data collection. Develop a bycatch reduction plan				
Red Seabream	Pagellus bogaraveo	Celtic Seas, English Channel, and Bay of Biscay [6-8]	PA	Follow ICES data-limited PA approach. Improve data collection.				
North East Atlantic								
Common name	Species	Catch area	ICES Advice	Recommendation / Action				
Herring	Clupea harengus	West of Scotland (North) [5b, 6b & 6a(N)]	PA	Recovery plan required. Enhanced at-sea monitoring and data collection. Ensure a monitoring TAC is consistent with the short-term rebuilding of the stock.				
Herring	Clupea harengus	West of Scotland (South) & West of Ireland [6a(S) & 7bc]	PA	Recovery plan required. Enhanced at-sea monitoring and data collection. Ensure a monitoring TAC is consistent with the short-term rebuilding of the stock.				
Cod	Gadus morhua	Rockall [5b(W), 6b, 12 & 14]	PA	Follow ICES PA approach (ICES Cat-6). Improve data collection. Recovery plan required to reduce bycatch and boost recruitment. Implement full catch documentation / REM. Relevant TACs in the mixed fisheries should be precautionary				
Cod	Gadus morhua	Irish Sea [7a]	PA	Follow ICES PA approach (ICES Cat-3). Improve data collection. Recovery plan required to reduce bycatch and boost recruitment. Implement full catch documentation / REM. Relevant TACs in the mixed fisheries should be precautionary				
Megrim	Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis, Lepidorhombus boscii	Celtic Seas (ICES area 7)	MP [None]	Two separate stocks which should be managed using single-species TACs. Follow the UNFSA Precautionary Approach to fisheries management. Improve data collection				
Plaice	Pleuronectes platessa	West of Ireland [7bc]	ΡΑ	Follow ICES PA approach (ICES Cat-6). Follow the UNFSA Precautionary Approach to fisheries management. Improve data collection. Relevant TACs in the mixed fisheries should be precautionary.				
Common Sole	Solea solea	West of Ireland [7bc]	PA	Follow ICES PA approach (ICES Cat-6). Improve data collection.				
Whiting	Merlangius merlangus	West of Scotland [5b, 6, 12 & 14]	MSY & PA	Follow ICES PA approach (ICES Cat-5). Recovery plan required to reduce bycatch and boost recruitment. Implement full catch documentation / REM. Improve data collection. Relevant TACs in the mixed fisheries should be precautionary.				

North East Atlantic (continued)								
Common name	Species	Catch area	ICES Advice	Recommendation / Action				
Greater Silver Smelt	Argentina silus	Celtic Seas, West of Scotland [5-7]	PA MSYproxy	Follow ICES PA approach (ICES Cat-3). Improve data collection.				
Ling	Molva molva	Northeast Atlantic [7-10, 12 & 14]	PA MSYproxy	Follow ICES PA approach (ICES Cat-3). Improve data collection.				
Pollack	Pollachius pollachius	Celtic Seas west of Scotland [5b, 6, 12 & 14]	PA	Follow ICES PA approach (ICES Cat-4). Improve data collection.				
Pollack	Pollachius pollachius	Celtic Seas & English Channel [7]	PA	Follow ICES PA approach (ICES Cat-4). Improve data collection.				
Common Sole	Solea solea	Celtic Sea & Southwest of Ireland [7hjk]	PA MSYproxy	Follow ICES PA approach (ICES Cat-3). Improve data collection.				
Spurdog/ Dogfish	Squalus acanthias	Northeast Atlantic [1, 5-8, 12 & 14]	PA MSYproxy	A threatened and declining species according to OSPAR. Landing of bycatch should be part of a management plan, including close monitoring of the stock and relevant fisheries. Work with the industry to promote real-time reporting and real-time spatial closures to avoid congregations.				
Herring	Clupea harengus	Celtic Sea & Southwest of Ireland [7ghjk]	MSY	Recovery plan required. Enhanced at-sea monitoring and data collection. Ensure a monitoring TAC is consistent with the short-term rebuilding of the stock.				
Cod	Gadus morhua	West of Scotland [6a]	MSY	Follow ICES MSY approach. Stop using a bycatch TAC which is resulting in an increase in fishing mortality. Recovery plan required to reduce bycatch and boost recruitment. Implement full catch documentation / REM. Relevant TACs in the mixed fisheries should be precautionary.				
Cod	Gadus morhua	Southern Celtic Sea & Western English Channel [7bc, 7e-k, 8-10 & EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1]	MSY	Follow ICES MSY approach. Stop using a bycatch TAC which is resulting in an increase in fishing mortality. Recovery plan required to reduce bycatch and boost recruitment. Implement full catch documentation / REM. Relevant TACs in the mixed fisheries should be precautionary.				
Whiting	Merlangius merlangus	lrish Sea [7a]	MSY	Follow ICES MSY approach. Stop using a bycatch TAC which is resulting in an increase in fishing mortality. Recovery plan required to reduce bycatch and boost recruitment. Implement full catch documentation / REM. Ensure the other target stocks have TACs and management measure that are consistent with the recovery of Whiting 7a.				
Hake	Merluccius merluccius	Celtic Sea [5-7, 12 & 14]	MSY	Follow ICES MSY approach.				
Plaice	Pleuronectes platessa	Celtic Sea & Southwest of Ireland [7hjk]	PA MSY proxy	Follow ICES Precautionary approach. Bycatch reduction plan required. Implement full catch documentation / REM. Relevant TACs in the mixed fisheries should be precautionary.				