

SUMMARY of June and October 2011 ICES ADVICE FOR PELAGIC SPECIES

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Blue whiting	Estimates of SSB have varied greatly in recent years but the perception that the stock is declining has remained unchanged for the last several assessments. 10 fold increase in TAC advice for 2012 from 40,000 t to 391,000 t.	2
Capelin	Stock status for both the Barents Sea (October advice) and Icelandic (June advice) stocks is good..	3
Herring	Main Norwegian spring spawning stock is at MSY but expected to decline. Status of North Sea stock has improved - full reproductive capacity and harvested sustainably. Icelandic spawning stock has been declining.	4
Norway pout	The directed fishery for Norway pout was closed in 2005, the first half of 2006, and in 2007, as well as in 2011. No fishery is advised for 2012.	6
Sandeel FEB	Main North Sea stock (Dogger Bank) expected to be at full reproductive capacity at the beginning of 2011 due to large recruitment in 2009. Fishing mortality decreased in 2005 from a high level and has since fluctuated.	7
Sprat	Baltic - Spawning stock biomass has declined from a historic high level in the late 1990s. 2010 estimated around long term average. North Sea - Available information is inadequate to evaluate stock status.	9

Key - *Fishing mortality/Spawning Stock Biomass

1. **MSY – Maximum Sustainable Yield** MSY - fishing at levels that catch the maximum proportion of a fish stock, that can safely be removed on a continuous basis,
2. **PA – Precautionary Approach** – to avoid stock depletion.
3. **Mg'ment Plan – Management Plan** – agreed by all parties to maintain/rebuild stocks.

In the following tables a very simple statement has been included on the status of the spawning stock biomass in 2011 in comparison with 2010. This is an estimate based on ICES stock status information and is not necessarily definitive.

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BLUE WHITING

Stock	TAC for 2011 Tonnes	Status of stock in October 2011	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	ICES advice in October 2011 and TAC advice for 2012	*SSB Status in comparison to 2010 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
<p>Blue whiting combined stock Sub-areas I-IX, XII and XIV</p>	<p>40,100</p>	<p>All year classes from 2005 onward are estimated to be poor. Spawning stock biomass has declined from a peak of 7.0 million tonnes in 2003 to 2.4 mt (just above precautionary limits) at the beginning of 2011. Fishing mortality has declined. Compared to last year, the SSB for 2010 is estimated to be more than twice the estimate of the 2010 assessment and fishing mortality in 2009 to be almost half. The quality of the 2011 survey data is considered to be much better. Although the estimates of SSB have varied greatly in recent years, the perception that the stock is declining has remained unchanged for the last several assessments.</p>	<p>1. At target 2. Harvested sustainably 3. At target</p>	<p>Following the management plan agreed by Norway, EU, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, and NEAFC in November 2008 implies a TAC of 391,000 tonnes in 2012, which is a substantial increase on the TAC of 40,100 for 2011 (in itself a 93% reduction compared to the TAC in 2010).</p>	<p>IMPROVED Spawning stock biomass 1. Above trigger 2. Full reproductive capacity 3. Above trigger</p>

CAPELIN

Stock	TAC for 2011 Tonnes	Status of stock	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	ICES advice and TAC advice	*SSB Status in comparison to 2010 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Reference points not fully defined					
Advice in October 2011					
Barents Sea capelin Subareas I and II, excluding Division IIa west of 5°W	380,000	The maturing component in autumn 2011 was estimated to be 2.1 million t. The spawning stock in 2012 will consist of fish from 2008 and 2009 year classes. Survey estimates of 2010 year class is above long-term average, while 0-group observations during the Russian-Norwegian survey in Aug-Sept 2011 also indicated 2011 year class is above to long-term average.	1. Not relevant 2. Not relevant	In 2002, the Joint Norwegian–Russian Fisheries Commission (JNRFC) adopted a management strategy. The fishery is managed according to a target escapement strategy - takes predation by cod into account/catches are pre-spawning capelin. ICES advises on the basis of the management plan) that catches in 2012 should be no more than 320,000 tonnes.	SAME Spawning stock biomass 1. Undefined 2. Above limit reference point
Advice in June 2011					
Capelin in the Iceland East Greenland Jan Mayen area Subareas V and XIV and Division IIa west of 5°W	Prelim TAC NIL then for 2010/2011 390,000	It is estimated that 411,000 t was left for spawning in spring 2010, which is just above the management target. In autumn 2010, the index of abundance of one-year-old capelin was much higher. The index has not been this high since 2001 and is well above average.	1. Undefined 2. Undefined	Management plan agreed between Iceland, Greenland, and Norway, which aims at a spawning-stock biomass at minimum 400,000 t by the end of the fishing season. ICES advises on the basis of precautionary considerations that the initial quota be set at 50% of the predicted quota, implying an initial quota of 366,000 t for <u>2011/2012</u> .	SAME Spawning stock biomass 1. Undefined 2. Undefined

HERRING

Stock	TAC for 2011 Tonnes	Status of stock in	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	ICES advice and TAC advice	*SSB Status in comparison with 2010 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Inside safe biological limits					
Advice in October 2011					
<p>Herring Norwegian spring Spawners (Atlanto- Scandian). ICES sub area I, divisions IIa,Va,Vb</p>	<p>988,000</p>	<p>SSB in 2011 is well above precautionary levels. The stock is composed of a number of good year classes: in the last 13 years, five large year classes have recruited into the stock (1998, 1999, 2002, 2003, and 2004). However, all cohorts from 2005 onward have been small. Fishing mortality during 2008–2010 has been at MSY. The SSB in 2009 was the highest in the last 20 years. However, recruitment has been poor since 2004 and SSB consequently declined in 2010 and 2011 and is expected to decline further in the near future, even when fishing according to the management plan.</p>	<p>1. At target 2. Harvested sustainably 3. Above target</p>	<p>ICES advises on the basis of the EU, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway, and Russia management plan that landings in 2012 should be no more than 833,000 t.</p> <p>The short-term prognoses indicate a decline of SSB from 7.9 million tonnes in 2011 to 6.9 and 5.9 million tonnes in 2012 and 2013, respectively, assuming exploitation in 2011 and 2012 is according to the management plan. SSB is expected to decline further and may reach precautionary levels in 2014 or 2015. Catches in recent years have been consistent with ICES advice according to the management plan.</p>	<p>WORSE</p> <p>Spawning stock biomass</p> <p>1. Above trigger 2. Full reproductive capacity 3. Above trigger</p>

Stock	TAC for 2011 Tonnes	Status of stock in	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	ICES advice in June 2011 and TAC advice for 2012	*SSB Status in comparison with 2010 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Inside safe biological limits					
Advice in June 2011					
Herring in IV and VIId North Sea, Eastern English channel autumn spawners	200,000	Full reproductive capacity, harvested sustainably and below management plan and MSY targets. Year classes 2002 to 2007 estimated to be among the weakest since the late 1970s. Year classes 2008/9 est'd to be above the long-term geometric mean. ICES considers stock is still in a low productivity phase.	1. Below target 2. Harvested sustainably 3. Below target	A management plan was agreed by EU and Norway in 2008. ICES advises on the basis of the agreed plan that catches in <u>2012</u> should be no more than 248,000 t, including 230,000 t for the A-fleet. EU-Norway agreement calls for a review of the current plan no later than December 2011.	IMPROVED Spawning stock biomass 1. Undefined 2. Full reproductive capacity 3. Between lower and upper trigger
Stocks at risk of being outside safe biological limits and below biomass action point <small>B_{MSY-trigger}</small>					
Herring Icelandic summer spawners Va	40,000 (Sept 2010 to Sept 2011)	Spawning stock biomass has been declining over past 3 to 4 years and is now close to precautionary levels. A high <i>Ichthyophonus</i> infection was observed in the stock in the winter 2008/2009 and again in 2009/2010 causing additional natural mortality. Fishing mortality currently well below MSY. Recruitment in last decade has been at or above long-term average. Strong year classes - 1999, 2000, 2002.	1. Below trigger 2. Undefined	In early autumn 2011 new information on the <i>Ichthyophonus</i> infection will be available. Estimated prevalence of the <i>Ichthyophonus</i> infection was 32% in the winter 2008/09, 43% in 2009/10, and 34% in 2010/11. Indications are infection might be abating. ICES recommends that no TAC be set until this information is available.	SAME Spawning stock biomass 1. Below trigger 2. Increased risk

NORWAY POUT

Stock	TAC for 2011 Tonnes	Status of stock	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	ICES advice and TAC advice	*SSB Status in comparison with 2010 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Inside safe biological limits					
Advice in October 2011					
<p>Norway pout in the North Sea and Skagerrak & Kattegat Subarea IV and Division IIIa</p>	<p>In year advice in Oct 2010 162,000</p>	<p>Stock size has increased since 2004 and is above MSY escapement. Recruitment was well above average in 2009, but very low in 2010 and 2011 and this is expected to bring SSB below the MSY escapement in 2012. Fishing mortality has been lower than the natural mortality for this stock and has decreased in recent years to well below the long-term average. The status of the stock is mainly determined by natural processes and recruitment. The directed fishery for Norway pout was closed in 2005, the first half of 2006, and in 2007, as well as in 2011. Fishing effort and catches have been low in 2008 and 2009, but increased in 2010. A benchmark assessment is planned for 2012.</p>	<p>1. Undefined 2. Undefined</p>	<p>No specific management objectives are known to ICES for this stock. Due to the short-lived nature of this species a preliminary TAC is set every year, which is updated on the basis of advice in the first half of the year (using the escapement management strategy approach). The TAC has not been taken in 2008, 2009, and 2010 because of high fishing (fuel) costs in these years, as well as bycatch regulations in 2009 and 2010 (mainly in relation to whiting bycatch).</p> <p>ICES advises on the basis of the MSY approach that there should be no catches of Norway pout in 2012 according to the escapement strategy.</p>	<p>SAME</p> <p>Spawning stock biomass</p> <p>1. Above trigger 2. Full reproductive capacity</p>

SANDEEL

Stock	TAC for 2011 Tonnes	Status of stock in February 2011	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	ICES advice in February 2011 and TAC advice for 2011 Stock is assessed in October and updated in February	*SSB Status in comparison with 2010 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Sandeel in North Sea IV and IIIa –divided into sub areas SA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Overall TAC in 2010 400,000 t. No new October advice.					
Reference points not fully defined					
SA 1 Dogger Bank (71% of landings)	<320,000	SA 1 - Stock at start of 2011 expected to be at full reproductive capacity due to large recruitment in 2009. Fishing mortality decreased in 2005 from a high level and has since fluctuated.	SA 1 1. Undefined 2. Undefined	SA 1 - ICES advises on basis of MSY that catch in 2011 should be <320,000 t to maintain SSB in 2012 above MSY Bescapement.	IMPROVED SA 1 1. Above trigger 2. Full reproductive capacity
SA 2 South East North Sea (8% of landings)	<34,000	SA 2 - Strong 2009 year class means SSB in 2011 is estimated at more than twice precautionary levels.	SA 2 1. Undefined 2. Undefined	SA 2 - ICES advises on the basis of MSY that catch in 2011 should be <34,000 t to maintain SSB in 2012 above MSY Bescapement.	SAME SA 2 1. Above trigger 2. Full reproductive capacity
SA 3 Central Eastern North Sea (19% of landings)	Zero	SA 3 - Stock increased from record low SSB in 2004 to above precautionary biomass in 2010, and just above in 2011. Very low recruitment in 2010.	SA 3 1. Undefined 2. Undefined	SA 3 - ICES advises on the basis of MSY that there can be no fishery in 2011.	SAME SA 3 1. Above trigger 2. Full reproductive capacity
SA 4 Central Western North Sea (<1% of landings)	5,000 – 10,000	SA 4 - Landing data insufficient for a traditional age-based assessment. Dredge survey indicates high in 2009/ low in 2010. Very low fishing mortality.	SA 4 1. Unknown 2. Unknown	SA 4 - For 2011, ICES advises that a catch between 5,000 and 10,000 tonnes is likely to impose a low risk to the sandeel stock in SA 4.	IMPROVED SA 4 1. Unknown 2. Unknown Increasing SSB

Stock	TAC for 2011 Tonnes	Status of stock in February 2011	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	ICES advice in February 2011 and TAC advice for 2011 Stock is assessed in October and updated in February	*SSB Status in comparison with 2010 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Sandeel in North Sea IV and IIIa –divided into sub areas SA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Overall TAC in 2010 400,000 t. 2011 advice <320,000 t.					
Reference points not fully defined					
SA 5 Viking and Bergen Bank in North Sea	No advice No increase	SA 5 - Catch statistics and acoustic data are available for this stock. The available information is inadequate to evaluate stock status or trends. The state of the stock is therefore unknown.	SA 5 1. Unknown 2. Unknown	SA 5 - There is no basis for an advice. Therefore no increase of the fisheries should take place unless there is evidence that this will be sustainable.	SAME SA 5 1. Unknown 2. Unknown
SA 6 Skagerrak and Kattegat Division IIIA	No advice No increase	SA 6 - Only catch statistics are available - inadequate to evaluate stock status or trends. The state of the stock is therefore unknown.	SA 6 1. Unknown 2. Unknown	SA 6 - There is no basis for advice. No increase in fishing effort should take place unless there is evidence that this will be sustainable.	SAME SA 6 1. Unknown 2. Unknown
Sandeel Shetland area (SA 7)	No advice No increase	SA 7 - Catch statistics and trawl survey data is available - inadequate to evaluate stock status or trends. The state of the stock is therefore unknown.	SA 7 1. Unknown 2. Unknown	SA 7 - There is no basis for advice. No increase in fishing effort should take place unless there is evidence that this will be sustainable.	SAME SA 7 1. Unknown 2. Unknown

SPRAT

Stock	TAC for 2011 Tonnes	Status of stock in June 2011	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	ICES advice in June 2011 and TAC advice for 2012	*SSB Status in comparison to 2010 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Sprat in the Baltic Subdivisions 22 - 32	289,00	Spawning stock biomass has declined from a historic high level in the late 1990s. 2010 estimated around long term average. Fishing mortality declined in 2010. 2008 year class estimated to be strong. 2009 and 2010 year classes slightly below average.	1. Above target 2. Harvested unsustainably	ICES advises on the basis of the transition to the MSY approach that catches in 2012 should be no more than 242,000 t.	SAME 1. Undefined 2. Undefined Declining but above possible reference points
Sprat in the North Sea Subarea IV	170,000	Available information is inadequate to evaluate stock status, therefore state of the stock is unknown. No in-year information for 2011 is available.	Insufficient information	ICES advises on the basis of precautionary considerations that catches should be reduced in 2011 and 2012.	SAME Insufficient information
Sprat in Skagerrak & Kattegat Division IIIa	5,200	The available information is inadequate to evaluate stock status. Survey results are not reliable indicators of sprat abundance.	Insufficient information	ICES advises on the basis of precautionary considerations that catches should be reduced.	SAME Insufficient information
Sprat in Subarea VI and Divisions VIIa-c and f-k (Celtic Sea and West of Scotland)	No TAC	First time that ICES analyses data for sprat in the Celtic Sea and West of Scotland. There is insufficient information to evaluate the status of sprat in this area.	Insufficient information	No TAC for this species in this area. Not clear whether there should be one or several management units. Based on precautionary consideration, ICES advises that catches should not be allowed to increase in 2012.	NEW Insufficient information