



PROPOSAL FOR A EUROPEAN COMMISSION REQUEST FOR ADVICE TO ICES ON STATUS OF DEEPWATER STOCKS IN EU & NEAFC REGULATORY AREA

Status: Subject to Approval by Ex.Com.

Reference: R-02-17/WG2

Date: 16 May 2017

Background:

This is an outstanding action of the LDAC presented at the Annual Coordination meeting between ICES and the ACs (MIACO) held in Copenhagen in January 2017 in relation to the implementation of the Landing Obligation (LO) for fisheries outside EU waters.

The LDAC is currently working in an opinion on effects of the LO for stocks fished in NEAFC regulatory area but this requires to improve existing knowledge on state of deep-water species (including deep-sea sharks) as there might be conflicts of discard/retention rules between EU waters and international waters in relation to those species subject to catch limits, which is the scope of article 15 of CFP Regulation.

The LDAC is waiting for the adoption of a specific EC Delegated Regulation setting derogations to LO and *de minimis* rules for such species subject to the LO in NEAFC, due to the inaction by MS to set up a dedicated Regional MS Group and produce joint recommendations regarding this subject matter.

A first draft version of this document was presented and made available to all members at the Working Group 2 meeting (North Atlantic fisheries) held in Brussels on 4 April 2017, and was subsequently circulated with the view of its adoption at the LDAC Executive Committee meeting on 30 May 2017.

Request for Advice to ICES for 2017:

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the European Commission and ICES for 2017, which provides the possibility for the Commission to channel requests for advice, the LDAC would like to ask the Commission to submit a formal request for advice as follows:

ICES is requested to provide a description of deep-water fisheries in NEAFC & adjacent EU waters on the stocks described in Annex I by compiling data on catch/landings and discards at the finest spatial resolution possible. Give the rather limited data available on discards due to current regulatory mechanisms, ICES is requested as part of the work to facilitate a workshop, in collaboration with LDAC, with the aim to increase the data background for assessing the deep-water stocks in Annex I.

ICES is asked to report on the state-of-the-art biological information available for deep-water species in ICES subdivisions VIb, XII and XIVb. The list of relevant deep-water species mentioned is annexed to this request. The report should include an overview of the stock category, assessment method and stock status for each of the stocks. Furthermore, the report should indicate the availability and quality of the discard data for the stocks in Annex I. The report is aimed at providing the relevant background for discussing the potential effects and impacts of the LO on these stocks for EU vessels fishing in NEAFC Regulatory Area.

ANNEX I. Catch limits for Deep-sea Stocks

International Waters, ICES VIb, XII, XIVb

Summary description:

- Most of the TACs for this species in EU waters were set on a biannual basis (2017-2018), as a result of the agreement reached by the Council in November 2016, and as such they have been accordingly reflected in the Council Regulation on TAC and Quota 2017.
- Annex IB NEAFC FO includes 49 species: 12 are subjected to TACs by the EU; 17 are deep-water sharks (coinciding with the EU Deep-sea Regulation); and the remaining 20 not subjected to catch limits (quotas).
- NEAFC Rec. 7/13 forbids direct fishery and retention on board of deep-water sharks.
- Unknown Stocks of wide distribution, without reference points.
- Limited data: only exploitation and stock trends (Increasing/Stable/ Decreasing)
- Recommendation made on catches, by-catches and discards.
- Little quota or quota cero in several cases ("Choke Species")
- Catch and discard data insufficient, although improving in the last years.

Table of deep-water species subject to catch limits in EU waters and NEAFC

Note: Many of the species stated below as mentioned on the NEAFC and EU Regulations on Fishing Opportunities for Deep-sea Species are considered as one single stock in ICES advice. In view of this, the split in management areas does not necessarily correspond with ICES assessments.

* Regulation (CE) 2016/2285 of 12.12.2016

** EU Regulation 2017/127, published on 28.1.2017

Species Name	Code	ICES / NEAFC RA	2017		2018		TAC
			EU	ESP	EU	ESP	
Sable negro / Black Scabbardfish	BSF	I-IV y AAll	9	0	9	0	Precautionary
	BSF	V-VII and XII y AAll	2.9 54	168	2.600	148	Analytical
	BSF	VIII, IX y X y AAll	3.3 30	10	2.997	9	Analytical
	BSF	34.1.2 y AAll	2.4 88	0	2.189	0	Precautionary
Argentina / Greater Silver Smelt	ARU	I, II y AAll	90	0			
	ARU	III, IV y AAll	1.0 28	0			
	ARU	V-VII y AAll	3.8 84	0			
Alfonsino	ALF	III-X, XII, XIV y AAll	280	63	280	63	Analytical
Brosmio / Tusk	USK	I-II, XIV y AAll	21	0			Precautionary

	USK	V-VII y AAIL	3.8 60	46			Precautionary
			2017		2018		
Nombre especie / Species Name	Cod./ Code	Areas CIEM / Cpaco	EU	ESP	EU	ESP	TAC
Grenadiers	RNG/RH G	I, II, IV y AAIL	10	0	10	0	
	RNG/RH G	III y AAIL	278	0	223	0	
	RNG/RH G	Vb - VII	3.0 52	49	3.120	50	
	RNG/RH G	VIII-X, XII, XIV y AAIL	2.6 23	1.88 3	2.099	1.508	
Reloj Anaranjado / Orange Roughy	ORY	VII	0	0	0	0	
	ORY	I-V and VIII-XIV	0	0	0	0	
Maruca Azul / Blue Ling	BLI	Vb -VI - VII	11. 314	365			
	BLI	AAIL XII	357	341			Not defined / Precautionary
Maruca / Ling	LIN	I,II y AAIL	36	0			
	LIN	V y AAIL	33	0			
	LIN	VI-XIV	13. 696	3.74 4			Precautionary
Besugo / Red Seabream	SBR	VI-VIII y AAIL	144	116	130	104	
	SBR	IX, y AAIL	174	137	165	130	
	SBR	X y AAIL	517	5	517	5	Analytical
Brótola de fango / Greater Forkbeard	GFB	I-IV y AAIL	243 4	706	2434	706	Analytical
	GFB	V-VII, y AAIL	243 4	706	2434	706	Analytical
	GFB	VIII-IX y AAIL	285	258	254	230	Analytical
	GFB	X-XII y AAIL	58	0	52	0	Analytical
Tiburones profundas / Deepwater Sharks	15 Species	V-IX y AAIL	10	--	10	--	Precautionary
		X y AAIL	10	--	10	--	Precautionary
		34.1.1 aguas UE	10	--	10	--	Precautionary
Deanias (Bird Beak Dogfish)	2 Species	XII AAIL	0	0	0	0	Precautionary