



**REPORT OF DISCUSSION IN THE COUNCIL WORKING PARTY REGARDING THE PROPOSAL FOR  
FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CERTAIN FISH STOCKS AND GROUPS OF FISH STOCKS  
(ATLANTIC) FOR 2017**

**Meeting on 17 November 2016**

Brussels,  
18/11/2016  
C.2

**KEY OUTCOMES**

- **COM presented the non-papers on skates and rays, late advice and CCAMLR.**
- **MS were generally supportive of the innovative approach took by the COM regarding the setting of sub-TACs for skates and rays. FR wanted to assess the impact of sub-TACs on their fisheries.**
- **MS welcomed that the Commission is proactively looking for solutions for choke species.**

**1. Examination of the 1<sup>st</sup> non-paper on skates and rays**

COM presented the approach used for the TAC and sub-TACs calculations for skates and rays.

- **General comments**

**FR SE UK** welcomed the effort made by the COM for those stocks.

**UK** asked why certain TACs included sub-TACS and some others not. **UK** wondered if creating sub-TACs might shift the pressure on other species. **COM** explained that advice for certain areas was allowed maintaining the same approach and for other area a new approach with sub-TACs had to be developed.

**NL** asked why there were some differences in the approach on stocks that have lack of data. **COM** explained that it took into account, as much as possible, the reality of the stock's situation. The approaches allow increasing the TAC of the valuable species that are in a good state and protect the species that are vulnerable.

**FR** would verify the impact of sub-TACs on their fisheries.

- **TACs examination**

Common name	TAC Unit	Code	TAC 2017 (proposal)	TAC change: 2016-2017 (proposal)	MS comment
Skates and rays	Union waters of IIa and IV	SRX/2AC4-C	1378	5.0%	<b>DE</b> asked the COM to check for their quota (12t instead of 11t) <b>UK</b> asked to explain the approach took by the <b>COM</b> for this stock.
Skates and rays	Union waters of VIa, VIb, VIIa-c and VIIe-k	SRX/67AK XD	7461	-7.1%	<b>ES</b> and <b>FR</b> disagree with a TAC cut for this stock. <b>BE</b> pointed out that blonde ray is already subject to many restrictions. On sub-TACs for undulate ray in VIIe, <b>FR</b> expressed that an increase of 20% of the TAC is negligible in regards to the high investments that <b>FR</b> has done for this species. <b>FR</b> underlined that the stock has more than tripled and asked to either increase the TAC, either create an autonomous TAC for this species. <b>FR</b> will check the deletion of the 5% inter-area flexibility footnote.
Skates and rays	Union waters of VIIId	SRX/07D	966	0.0%	<b>FR</b> asked for an in-year amendment (10% increase of their TAC) and wanted to have some update on that request. <b>COM</b> answered that ICES is reviewing this request and an answer should be given on 9 December. <b>FR</b> asked for, at least, a 20% increase of TAC.
Skates and rays	Union waters of VIII and IX	SRX/89-C	3591	5.0%	<b>PT</b> and <b>FR</b> asked for a slightly larger increase. On sub-TACs for undulate ray in VIII, <b>FR</b> asked for an increase instead of a rollover.

## 2. **Examination of the 2<sup>nd</sup> non-paper**

- **General comments**

ES, DE, BE, EI, FR and UK placed a scrutiny reservation on the non-paper.

- **On Annex IA**

The comments made by each member state are provided in the table below.

Common name	TAC Unit	Code	TAC 2017 (proposal)	TAC change: 2016-2017 (proposal)	MS comment
Haddock	VIIa	HAD/07A	1558	-5.8%	<b>UK</b> asked for an in-year amendment as ICES advice estimates show a high increase of the biomass. <b>UK</b> and <b>IE</b> welcomed the increase (after the top-up is added). <b>IE</b> was expecting a slightly higher increase.

Common name	TAC Unit	Code	TAC 2017 (proposal)	TAC change: 2016-2017 (proposal)	MS comment
Anglerfish	Union waters of IIa and IV	ANF/2AC4-C	13521	20.0%	<b>BE</b> asked for a higher increase.
Anglerfish	VI, Union and international waters of Vb; international waters of XII and XIV	ANF/56-14	7650	20.0%	<b>BE</b> asked for a higher increase.
Norway lobster	VII	NEP/07	19241	-17.6%	<b>UK</b> and <b>FR</b> asked for an increase in the TAC instead of a decrease.
Picked dogfish	Union waters of IIIa	DGS/03A-C	0	0.0%	<b>UK</b> welcomed the footnotes for by-catches. <b>DK, NL, FR</b> and <b>DE</b> pointed out that a 0 TAC would be problematic in regard to the landing obligation. <b>FR</b> asked <b>COM</b> about possible solutions. <b>DK</b> expressed that a monitoring exercise, as UK did, could be interesting to be carried out for this species.
Picked dogfish	Union waters of IIa and IV	DGS/2AC4-C	0	0.0%	
Picked dogfish	Union and international waters of I, V, VI, VII, VIII, XII and XIV	DGS/15X14	0	0.0%	
Horse Mackerel	VIIIc	JAX/08C	9456	-45.1%	<b>ES</b> asked for less of a cut and to moderate the differences in TACs from a year to another as this situation is deadly for the fishing market. <b>ES</b> asked for an increase of 15% for the special condition in IX.

- **On Annex IE: CCAMLR Convention Area**

**ES** pointed out certain modifications to be made to in table B of Annex V.

### **3. COM presentation on 'dab and flounder'**

**COM** pointed out that setting TACs in the past for dab and flounder did not show to help the stock management of these species and, with the landing obligation coming into force, this stock is a potential choke species. Also, dab and flounder do not have a big value for human consumption. Therefore, **COM** asked to the member state what would be their opinion for future decision for the management of this stock: keep setting a TAC or put in place some management measures.

**SE** asked whether the **COM** was considering taking out TACs for this stock before management measures are decided. **COM** explained that before taking a concrete decision for this stock, **COM** wanted to know the view of the member states.

**NL** and **BE** were pleased to hear that the **COM** is working on solutions for choke species.

**FR** has no particular objection for this stock, as the TAC had limited added value. **FR** underlined that we would need a case-by-case approach and should be careful with suppressing TAC, but this could be done with the agreement of all Member States concerned.

**PT** has no direct interest for those species and supports **FR**.

#### **4. Proposal re-examination**

- **Articles examination**

On Art. 10 – Measures on Sea bass fisheries, in 2. (b), **NL** asked to widened the period that is now set from 1 April to 31 December 2017.

**NL** asked to explain what measures applied to sea bass by-catches in pelagic fisheries. **NL** expressed that a 1% per day limit and a limit of 10 fishes per fisherman for recreational fisheries would be hard to control. **NL** underlined a lack of continuity in the management of sea bass fisheries and the need for a multiannual plan for this species. **NL** will be sending a note in this subject.

**UK** would like to know what the **COM** has in mind in term of wanted catch for 2017, by sector and by metier. **UK** wondered about the impact of the measures in 2016 – catch figures were reported monthly by member states.

- **Annex IA examination**

**ES** placed a reservation for all the species and will be sending their written comments to the **COM**.

The comments made by each member state are provided in the table below.

Common name	TAC Unit	Code	TAC 2017 (Proposal)	TAC change: 2016 - 2017 (Proposal)	MS comments
Greater silver smelt	Union and int. waters of V, VI and VII	ARU/567	3453	-20.0%	<b>NL</b> expressed that a reduction in TAC is not justified and asked for a rollover.
Megrim	VII	LEZ/07	13099	-28.2%	<b>UK</b> and <b>PT</b> asked for a written note on how the TAC was established for this stock.
Anglerfish	VII	ANF/07.	29534	-11.9%	<b>UK</b> asked for a rollover.
Haddock	VIIb-k, VIII, IX and X; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1	HAD/7X7A 34	7751	6.8%	<b>UK</b> placed a reservation as this is a mixed fishery. <b>COM</b> underlined that ICES advice is for a single species.
Hake	VIIIc, IX and X; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1	HKE/8C341 1	6838	-35.9%	<b>PT</b> asked for a rollover.
Lemon sole and witch	IIa (EC), North Sea (EC)	L/W/2AC4-C	6391	0.0%	<b>NL</b> asked for an increase.
Norway lobster	Union waters of IIa and IV	NEP/2AC4-C	13686	-0.1%	<b>UK</b> expressed that it sent its notes to the <b>COM</b> on this stock.
Plaice	IV; Union waters of IIa; that part of IIIa not covered by the Skagerrak and the Kattegat	PLE/2A3A X4	<b>pm</b>	/	<b>NL</b> and <b>BE</b> expressed the need for a multiannual plan for this stock in the North Sea - shared with <b>NO</b> . <b>NL</b> and <b>BE</b> expressed that a decrease in the TAC would send a bad signal to the sector. <b>NL</b> asked for an increase of 15% of the TAC.
Plaice	VIIIfg	PLE/7FG	405	-3.6%	<b>UK</b> asked for a rollover.
Pollack	VII	POL/07	10796	-20.0%	<b>UK</b> asked for a rollover.

Common name	TAC Unit	Code	TAC 2017 (Proposal)	TAC change: 2016 - 2017 (Proposal)	MS comments
Common sole	Union waters of IIa and IV	SOL/24-C	pm		<b>DK</b> it is within safe biological limits.
Common sole	VIIa	SOL/07A	0	-100.0%	<b>UK</b> asked to allow for by-catches.
Sprat and associated by-catches	IIIa	SPR/03A	pm		<b>DK</b> asked to add haddock in the footnote for by-catches as it is no longer within safe biological limit
Sprat and associated by-catches	Union waters of IIa and IV	SPR/2AC4-C	pm		<b>DK</b> whiting could be deleted from the footnote as it is within SBL.
Horse Mackerel and associated by-catches	Union waters of IIa, IVa; VI, VIIa-c, VIIe-k, VIIIa, VIIIb, VIIIc and VIIIe; Union and int. waters of Vb; int. waters of XII and XIV	JAX/2A-14	pm		<b>NL</b> and <b>ES</b> expressed that hake is a by-catch of horse mackerel fisheries, so hake should be included in the footnote n°3. <b>DK</b> – haddock not in safe biological limit should be added <b>DK</b> – whiting for the North Sea could be deleted.
Norway pout and associated by-catches	IIIa; Union waters of IIa and IV	NOP/2A3A4	pm		<b>DK</b> asked to add haddock to the footnote n°1.

- **On GFCM Agreement Area**

**ES** placed a reservation on the inclusion of TACs.

- **Annex IIA examination**

**DK** asked whether the text included in the annex will be updated. **COM** answered that the whole annex will be updated when the cod recovery plan is voted at the Parliament.

- **Annex IIB examination**

On chapter III, point 5 – Maximum number of days: On lobster, **PT** placed a reservation on the limitation of the number of days at sea and would prefer to eliminate this from the annex.