



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MARITIME AFFAIRS AND FISHERIES
ATLANTIC, OUTERMOST REGIONS AND ARCTIC
FISHERIES CONSERVATION AND CONTROL ATLANTIC AND OUTERMOST REGIONS

**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 2017

1. Examination of the 1st non-paper on European seabass

COM presented the approach used for the TAC for European seabass. MS affected by this stock expressed their disappointment regarding COM proposal.

- **General comments**

FR, UK, NL, DK placed a scrutiny reservation on the non-paper

FR underlined that the COM proposal will lead to an increase on discards from trawlers. Moreover, **FR and UK** expressed concerns about the use of hook and lines as the only fishing gear to be permitted (claimed it as "unbalanced"). FR asked for a rollover of the current yearly limit for hooks and lines.

Regarding recreational fishing, FR pointed out 2017 recreational fishing data was not taken into consideration for this non-paper. Regarding Southern Sea Bass, FR asked COM to clarify the basis for a reduction of the bag limit from three to five. In the same vein, UK added whether COM discussed the measures adopted with stakeholders. NL rejected a ban for recreational fishing ("hard to enforce"). NL also asked for a "level playing field", meaning that the catch limits for all metiers should be reduced by the same proportion.

2. Examination of the 2nd non-paper on stocks with updates

- **On Annex IA (TACs examination)**

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

Common name	TAC Unit	Code	TAC 2018 (proposal)	TAC change: 2017-2018 (proposal)	MS comment
Megrim	Union and international waters of Vb; 6; international waters of 12 and 14	LEZ/56-14	5134	-2%	
Anglerfish	Union waters of 2a and 4	ANF/2AC4-C	16225	+20%	UK: asked about methodology used to propose the TAC and ask for more area flexibility through the footnote.
Anglerfish	6, Union and international waters of 5b; international waters of 12 and 14	ANF/56-14	9180	+20%	
Norway lobster	6, Union and international waters of 5b	NEP/5BC6	11264	-31%	UK: questioned the correctness of the COM proposal.
Norway lobster	7	NEP/07	25238	+10%	UK, IE: suggested to follow scientific advice percentage change for this TAC. FR, UK, ES, IE claimed that including a footnote for technical measures is not legal (FR consulted council legal service, reply tbc at next WP). IE: technical measure would only have negligible impact on decreasing discards, but high impact on losing catches
	Subarea 7 Functional unit 16	NEP/*07U16	2734	-12%	ES: asked the reason why top-ups were not considered
Norway lobster	8a, 8b, 8d and 8e	NEP/8ABDE	3614	-13%	FR: stated some stock assessments was improved thanks to co-operation from fishermen. Now result is negative – this is discouraging for fishermen, small cut to be considered
Norway lobster	9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1	NEP/9/3411	381	+13%	ES and PT: pleased about this increase. ES: Emphasized need of a small sentinel TAC in area 8c.
Northern prawn	Union waters of 2a and 4	PRA/2AC4-C	1957	-20%	

Common name	TAC Unit	Code	TAC 2018 (proposal)	TAC change: 2017-2018 (proposal)	MS comment
Whiting	7a	WHG/07A.	0	-100%	<p>UK and IE: suggested keep this stock as a statement stock</p> <p>IE: Asked for a small TAC.</p> <p>BE: pointed problem in regard to the landing obligation (choke situation).</p>
Cod	7b, 7c, 7e-k, 8, 9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1	COD/7XAD34	2830	0%	<p><u>Mixed fishery on Celtic Sea</u></p> <p>UK and BE: placed a reservation on footnote. Moreover, claimed some confusion regarding the term "when gadoids are targeted"</p> <p>FR: showed concerns about approach COM used for this mixed fishery. Furthermore, FR and ES claimed there are more than 15 fish species and not just 3 (more complex scenario).</p> <p>IE: showed disappointment about COM proposal</p> <p>BE: pointed out a decrease on haddock would turn into a problematic situation.</p>
Haddock	7b-k, 8, 9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1	HAD/7X7A34	5116	-34%	
Whiting	7b, 7c, 7d, 7e, 7f, 7g, 7h, 7j and 7k	WHG/7X7A-C	11216	-51%	

ANNEX III

Latvia asked for information concerning snow crab and possible date to be stated.

