



# Road from science to Fisheries management

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# The road from science to fisheries management



How is the Commission asking for **scientific advice**



How is the Commission preparing **fisheries management measures** based on the scientific advice

# How is the COM asking for scientific advice?

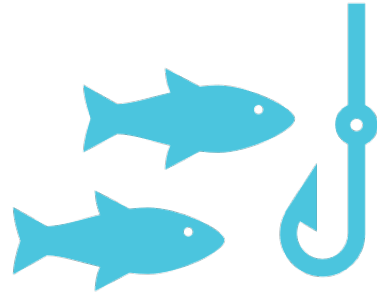
Commission's two key **scientific advisory bodies**:

- **ICES** (International Council for the Exploration of the Sea)
- **STECF** (Scientific Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries)

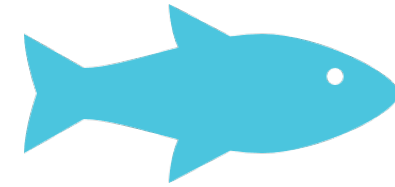


# Formulation of advice requests to the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

## How does the Commission work with ICES?



**Annual agreement with recurring advice requests necessary for the operation of the Common Fisheries Policy: stock-related advice in the North Atlantic, North Sea, and Baltic, ecosystem considerations etc.;**



**In addition, special requests may emerge during the year preparing or following negotiations on fisheries management measures (non-recurrent advice).**

# Scientific advice for **special requests**

When questions arise beyond the normal annual stock advice, Commission ask ICES for such "special advice" - **non-recurrent**.

ICES then asks national institutes for expertise and support to reply. They are not always able to provide such special advice, either entirely or in parts (due to e.g. lack of data, scientific knowledge, human resources, etc.)

Was e.g. the case for

- geographical management of Baltic sprat fisheries (2019)
- additional measures to address the issue of the age-size structure of Bothnian and central Baltic herring (2023)



# Formulation of advice requests to the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF)





# Stakeholder involvement

- **Meeting with Advisory Councils to discuss scientific needs early in the year (before agreeing on the ICES and STECF workplans)**
- **Involvement in preparation of the advice through dedicated workshops organised by ICES and STECF**



# Commission proposals: bringing science into management

# When and where

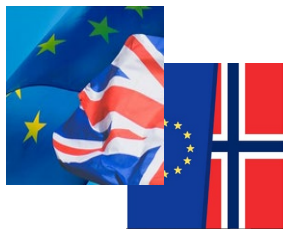
## EU- only TACs

October Council – TACs for the Baltic Sea  
December Council – TACs for the Atlantic, Kattegat and Skagerrak, deep-sea

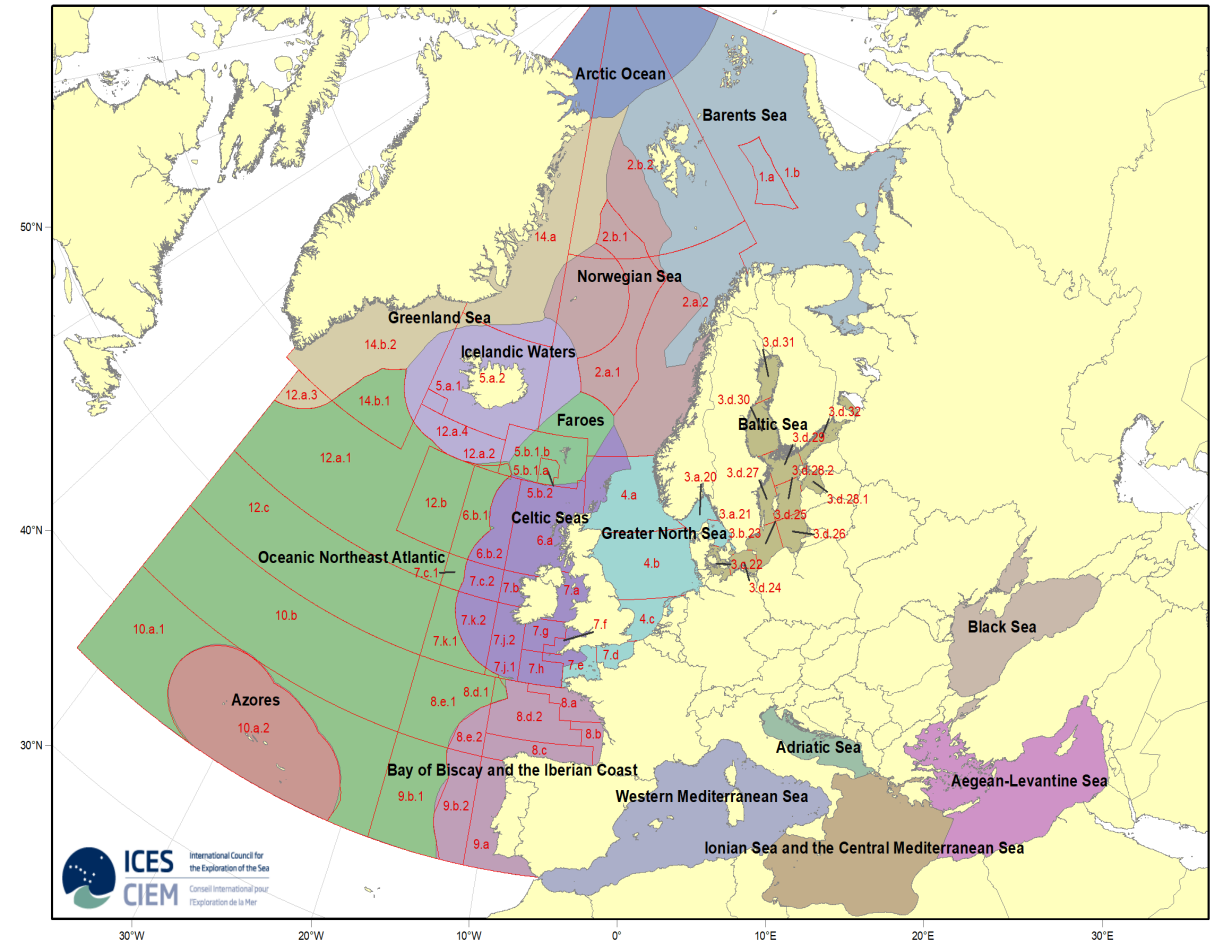


## Shared TACs

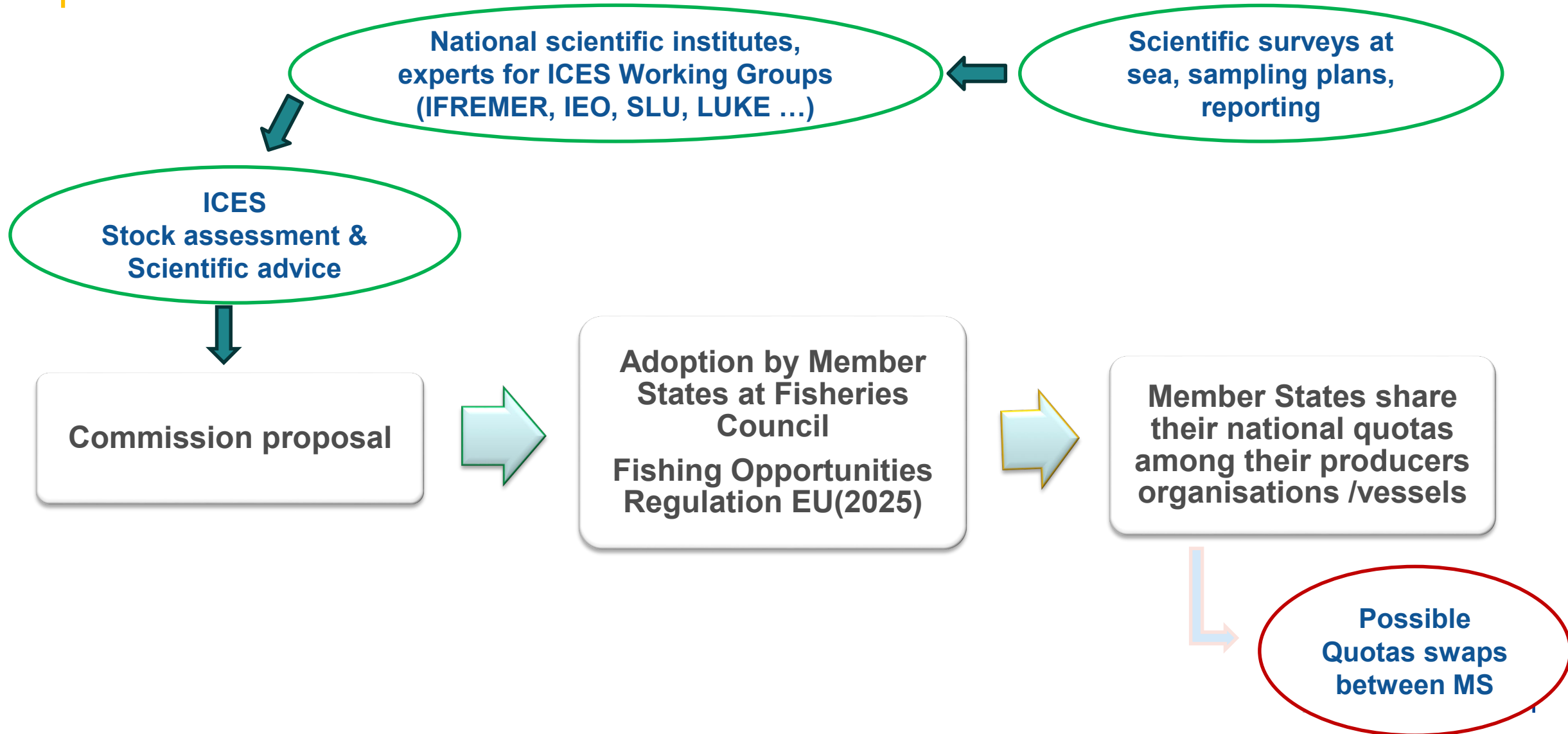
All-year around - Coastal States Negotiations with the United Kingdom, Norway, Faroe Islands, Iceland and coastal states



ICES Ecoregions including ICES Statistical Areas, ices.dk, Dec 2017



# How are EU TACs adopted?



# Scientific advice is the basis

ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort  
 Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast ecoregion  
 Published 30 June 2021  
 Version 2: 03 November 2021



2021 → TAC 2022

## Sole (*Solea solea*) in divisions 8.a–b (northern and central Bay of Biscay)

### ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the EU multiannual plan (MAP) for the Western waters and adjacent waters is applied, catches in 2022 that correspond to the F ranges in the plan are between 1265 tonnes and 3097 tonnes.

### Stock development over time

Fishing pressure on the stock is above  $F_{MSY}$  but below  $F_{pa}$ ; spawning-stock size is below  $MSY B_{trigger}$  and between  $B_{pa}$  and  $B_{lim}$ .

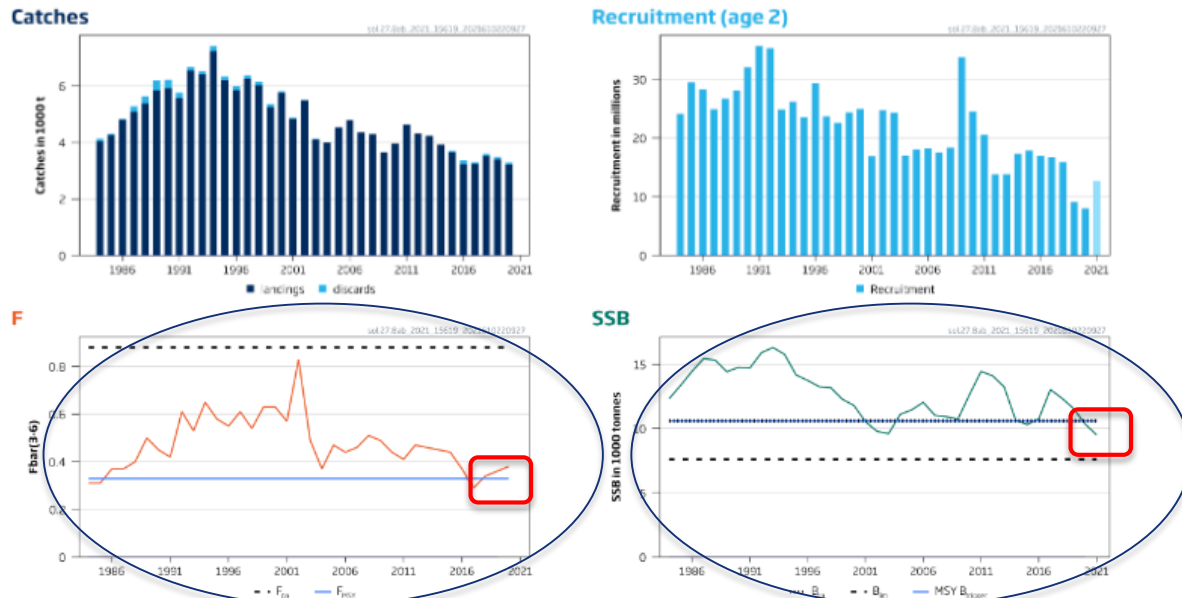


Figure 1 Sole in divisions 8.a–b. Summary of the stock assessment. Catches include discard estimates (no estimates between 2004 and 2015) and the assumed recruitment value for 2021 is shaded in a lighter colour.

## Sole in the Bay of Biscay



## TAC at MSY (Maximum sustainable Yield)

Fishing pressure is above  $F_{MSY}$  and Biomass is below  $B_{trigger}$



-36% (2233 tonnes)

Council followed Commission proposal



# Scientific advice is the basis

ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort  
Baltic Sea ecoregion  
Published 31 May 2024



2024 → TAC 2025

## Herring (*Clupea harengus*) in subdivisions 25–29 and 32, excluding the Gulf of Riga (central Baltic Sea)

### ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the EU multiannual plan (MAP) for the Baltic Sea is applied, catches in 2025 that correspond to the F ranges in the plan are between **95 340** (corresponding to  $F_{MSY\ lower} \times SSB_{2025}/MSY\ B_{trigger}$ ) and **125 344** tonnes (corresponding to  $F_{MSY} \times SSB_{2025}/MSY\ B_{trigger}$ ).

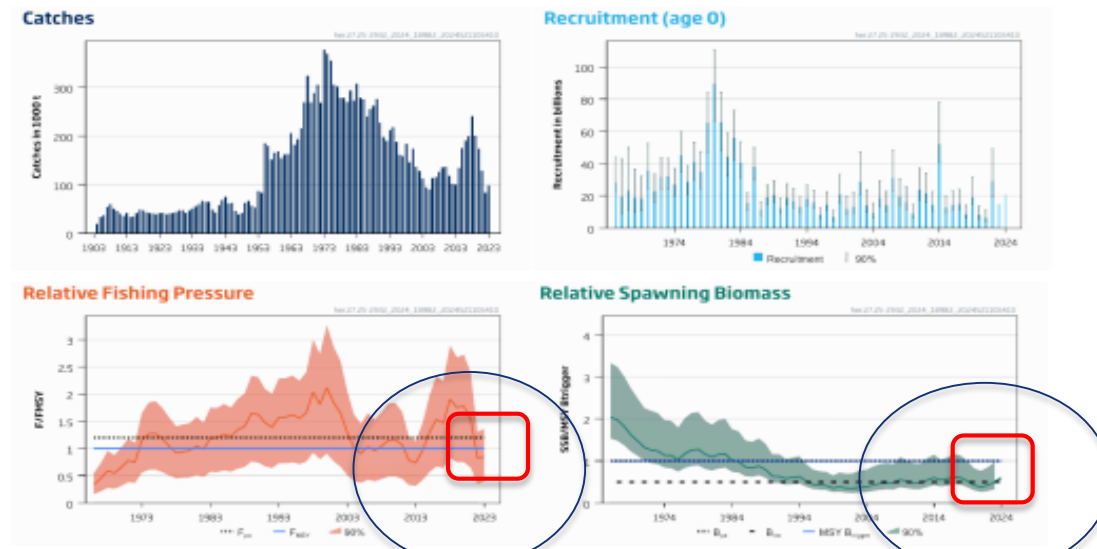
Central Baltic herring stock is caught in a fishery with the Gulf of Riga herring stock. This advice applies to all catches from the central Baltic herring stock in all areas where it occurs.

### Non-fisheries conservation considerations

The herring stock in the management area consists of several different spawning components that have been shown to be genetically distinct. Differences in genetics and migration routes between spawning components and spatial differences in growth and maturity, make the central Baltic herring stock complex vulnerable to loss in both genetic diversity and overall productivity. For the time being, ICES has not identified any further conservation actions.

### Stock development over time

Fishing pressure on the stock is **below  $F_{MSY}$** , and spawning-stock size is **below  $MSY\ B_{trigger}$**  and between  $B_{pa}$  and  $B_{lim}$ .



**Figure 1** Herring in subdivisions 25–29 and 32, excluding the Gulf of Riga. Summary of the stock assessment. The full time-series of recruitment, fishing pressure and spawning-stock biomass are available in the Baltic Fisheries Assessment Working Group (WGBFAS) report (Table 4.2.11 in ICES [2024a])

## Central herring



## TAC at MSY (Maximum sustainable Yield) lowest point

Fishing pressure is below  $F_{MSY}$  and biomass is below  $B_{trigger}$




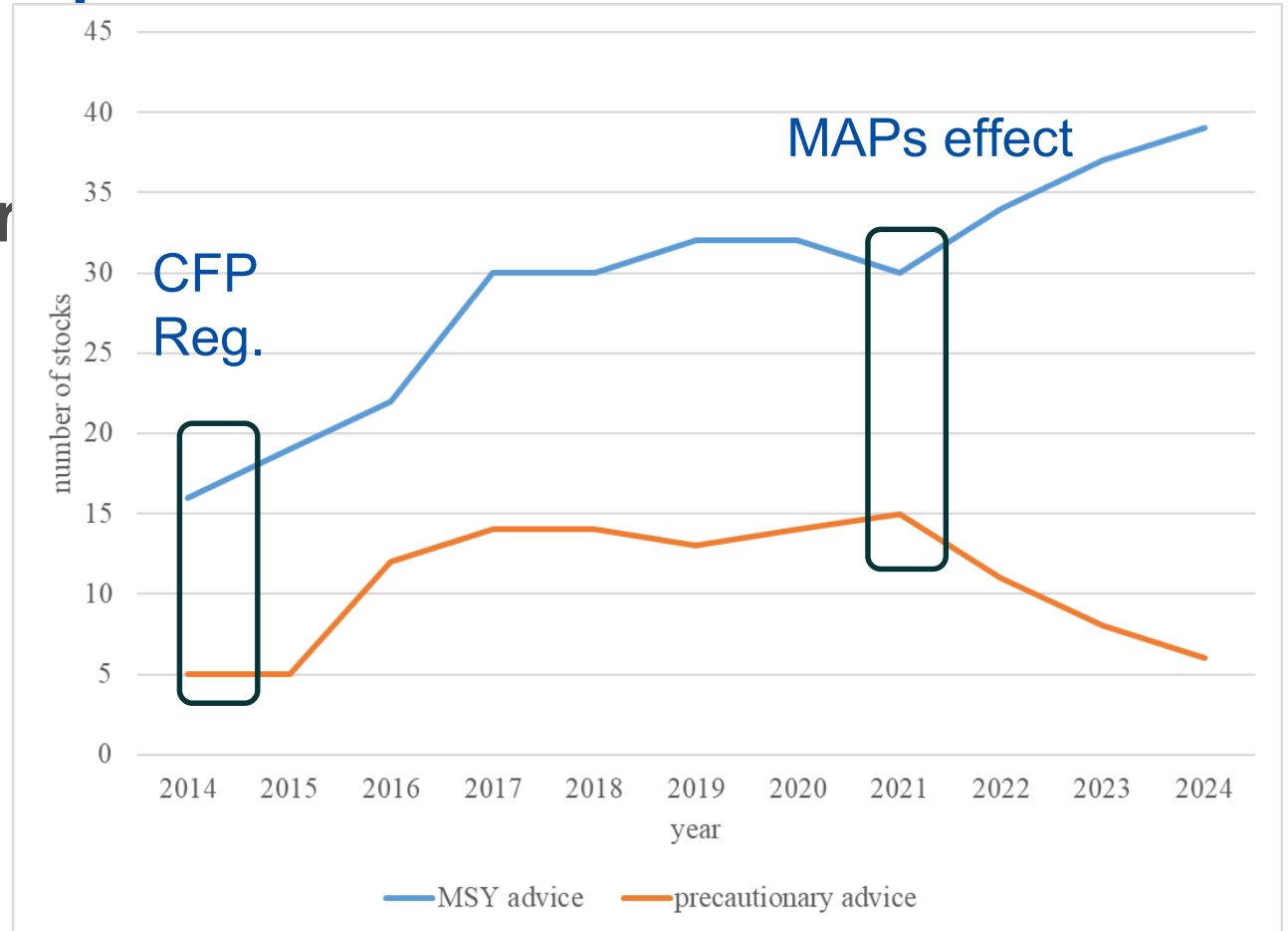
83.881 tonnes (95.340 tonnes minus normal deductions)

Council followed the Commission proposal



# Multiannual Plans: Impacts

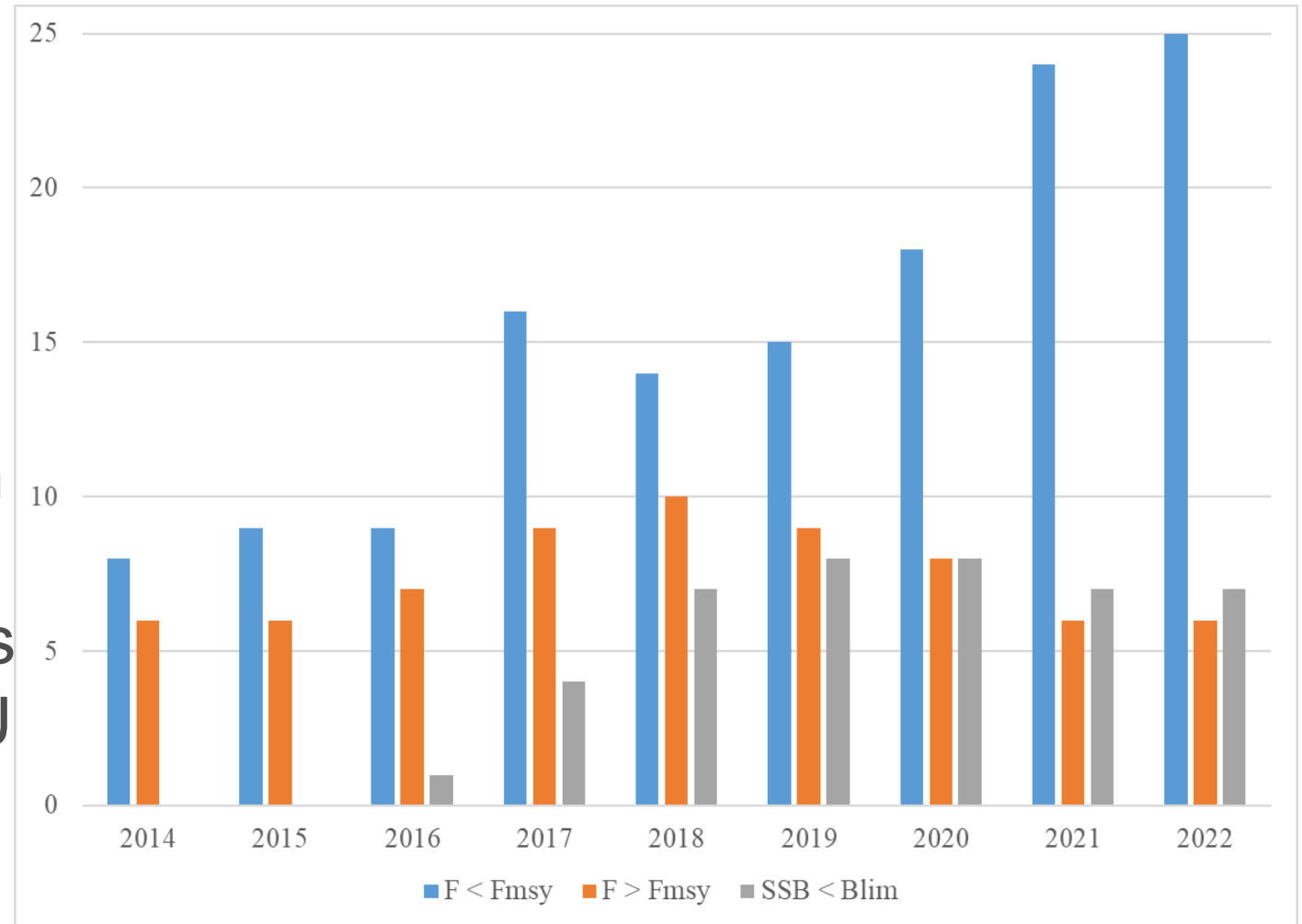
- Increase in MSY advice for target stocks 
- Higher TACs for certain stocks/area (2019-2024): whiting North Sea+346%, haddock North Sea+250%



Target stocks in  
NS and WW Plans

# MAP Impacts

- **Decrease in fishing pressure: 91% of TACs (in tonnage) set at MSY in the North Sea and Western Waters for stocks solely managed by the EU (data 2020)**



Biomass evolution of the target stocks in NS and WW Plans



# Thank you



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