





Comparison of EU Commission's 2015 and 2016 communications on "EU fisheries in the Atlantic, North Sea and Baltic Sea in line with maximum sustainable yield (MSY)"

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Following the decision of the Fisheries Council in December 2014 and in 2015, the European Commission published communications listing which stocks it considers would be harvested "in line with the maximum sustainable yield (MSY)"¹ for the following year (namely 2015 & 2016), provided that the corresponding total allowable catches (TACs) were respected.² The communications reveal that the number of TACs the European Commission considers set in line with MSY does not change from 2015 to 2016 (a total of 36). However, eight TACs listed as in line with MSY in 2015 are not included in 2016.









The communications illustrate that the number of TACs considered by the Commission to be "in line with MSY" was not increased last December. The Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) stipulates that the exploitation rate of stocks at MSY shall be achieved by 2015, and only in exceptional cases be delayed, and no later than 2020. In addition, where there are delays beyond 2015, the CFP requires MSY exploitation rates to be achieved on a progressive, incremental basis. As the 2015 deadline has passed, and the 2020 one nears, the below comparison of the Commission communications illustrates the need for Council to significantly increase its work on ending overfishing in line with the reformed CFP.
























		Common name	Species	Catch areas
1		Herring	<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Irish Sea
2		Herring	<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Celtic Sea North, Celtic Sea South, South-West of Ireland – East, South-West of Ireland – West
3		Herring	<i>Clupea harengus</i>	North Sea, Eastern English Channel and EU waters of Norwegian Sea
4		Herring	<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Southern North Sea, Eastern English Channel (directed fishery)




¹ In its communications the Commission does not clarify what MSY it is referring to (Biomass levels, fishing mortality, yield or others). See also joint [NGO letter](#) suggesting to the Commission how to improve reporting progress on achieving MSY exploitation rates.

² European Commission (2015) "[EU fisheries in the Atlantic, North Sea and Baltic Sea in line with maximum sustainable yield \(MSY\)](#)" and European Commission (2016) "[EU fisheries in the Atlantic, North Sea and Baltic Sea in line with maximum sustainable yield \(MSY\)](#)".

		Common name	Species	Catch areas
5		Herring	<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Baltic Sea: Western (22-24)
6		Herring	<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Baltic Sea: Central (25-29, 32)
		Herring	<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Baltic Sea: Riga (28.1)
		Herring	<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Baltic Sea: Bothnian (30-31)
7		Herring	<i>Clupea harengus</i>	Skagerrak and Kattegat (directed)
		Cod	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	West of Ireland, Porcupine Bank, Western English Channel, Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea North, Celtic Sea South, South-West of Ireland – East, South-West of Ireland – West, Bay of Biscay, Portuguese Waters, Azores Grounds, CECAF 34.1.1 (EU waters)
		Cod	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	North Sea
		Cod	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Eastern English Channel
		Cod	<i>Gadus morhua</i>	Skagerrak
11		Megrims	<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>	Norwegian Sea (EU waters), North Sea (EU waters)
12		Megrims	<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>	Faroes Grounds (EU waters), Rockall, Northwest Coast of Scotland and North Ireland, the Northwest Coast of Scotland and North Ireland also known as the West of Scotland, North of Azores, East Greenland
		Anglerfish	<i>Lophiidae</i>	Bay of Biscay - South, Portuguese Waters, Azores Grounds, CECAF 34.1.1
13		Haddock	<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Faroes Grounds, Northwest Coast of Scotland and North Ireland or West of Scotland
14		Haddock	<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	North Sea, Norwegian Sea (EU waters)
15		Haddock	<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>	Skagerrak and Kattegat

		Common name	Species	Catch areas
16		Whiting	<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>	West of Ireland, Porcupine Bank, Eastern English Channel, Western English Channel, Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea North, Celtic Sea South, South-West of Ireland - East, South-West of Ireland - West
17	 	Hake	<i>Merluccius</i>	Northern stock
18		Blue whiting	<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	Barents Sea, Norwegian Sea, Spitzbergen, Bear Island, Skagerrak, Kattegat, Sound, Belt Sea, and Baltic Sea; the Sound and Belt together known also as the Transition Area; North Sea, Iceland and Faroes Grounds, Rockall, the Northwest Coast of Scotland and North Ireland also known as the West of Scotland, Irish Sea, West of Ireland, Porcupine Bank, Eastern and Western English Channel, Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea North and South, and Southwest of Ireland - East and West, Bay of Biscay (North, Central, Offshore, West), North of Azores, East Greenland (EU and International waters)
19		Blue whiting	<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	EU waters of Norwegian Sea, Spitzbergen, Bear Island, Northern North Sea, Iceland and Faroes Grounds, Rockall, the Northwest Coast of Scotland and North Ireland also known as the West of Scotland north of 56 30'N and Irish Sea, West of Ireland, Porcupine Bank, Eastern and Western English Channel, Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea North and South, and Southwest of Ireland - East and West, west of 12 W
20		Blue whiting	<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>	Bay of Biscay - South, Portuguese Waters, Azores Grounds, CECAF 34.1.1 (EU Waters)
21		Norway lobster	<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Norwegian Sea (EU waters), North Sea (EU waters)
22		Norway lobster	<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Faroes Grounds (EU and international waters), Rockall, Northwest Coast of Scotland and North Ireland also known as the

		Common name	Species	Catch areas
				West of Scotland
23		Norway lobster	<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>	Skagerrak and Kattegat
24		Northern Prawn	<i>Pandalus borealis</i>	Skagerrak and Kattegat
		Northern Prawn	<i>Pandalus borealis</i>	EU waters of Norwegian Sea and North Sea
25		Plaice	<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Eastern English Channel, Western English Channel
		Plaice	<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	North Sea, Norwegian Sea (EU waters), that part of Illa not covered by the Skagerrak and the Kattegat
		Plaice	<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Baltic Sea: 22-32
		Plaice	<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>	Kattegat
28		Saithe	<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Skagerrak and Kattegat, North Sea, EU waters of Norwegian Sea, Sound, Belt Sea
29		Saithe	<i>Pollachius virens</i>	Rockall, Northwest Coast of Scotland and North Ireland also known as the West of Scotland; EU and international waters of Faroes Grounds, North of Azores and East Greenland
30		Common sole	<i>Solea spp.</i>	Western English Channel
31		Common sole	<i>Solea spp.</i>	Skagerrak and Kattegat, Sound, Belt Sea, Baltic Sea (EU waters)
		Common sole	<i>Solea spp.</i>	Irish Sea
		Sprat	<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	North Sea
		Sprat	<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>	Baltic Sea: 22-32
33		Horse Mackerel	<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>	Portuguese waters
34		Horse Mackerel	<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>	Norwegian Sea, Northern North Sea; Rockall, the Northwest Coast of Scotland and North Ireland also known as the West

		Common name	Species	Catch areas
				of Scotland; Irish Sea, West of Ireland, Porcupine Bank, Eastern and Western; English Channel, Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea North and South, and Southwest of Ireland - East and West; Bay of Biscay (North, Central, Offshore, West); EU waters of Faroes Grounds, North of Azores, East Greenland
35		Horse Mackerel	<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>	Bay of Biscay – South
36 		Salmon	<i>Salmo salar</i>	Baltic main basin

Fish images are property of European Commission.



TACs EU Commission considers not in line with MSY in 2015, but in line with MSY in 2016



TACs EU Commission considers in line with MSY in 2015, but not in 2016

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