

Annex V: Historical changes to the TAC analysis¹

TAC codes are based on the relevant TAC Regulations, advice codes are based on the pdf-file names of the ICES advice.

Throughout the update of the analysis for the 2023 edition of the Taking stock report a number of small errors in the historical time series were discovered and corrected (including some TAC/advice comparisons that were previously excluded for certain years now being included), resulting in changed values for some of the metrics in some of the years. Moreover, the categorisation into “target” and “bycatch” stocks for the analysis in section 4.4 was reviewed and partially updated in order to reflect for example that some stocks previously listed as “target” in one of the multi-annual plans (MAPs) are effectively now bycatch stocks and subject to bycatch TACs. However, the overall trends and conclusions remain unaffected by these corrections.

The main changes made for the present report compared to previous editions of this report are listed in this Annex. None of the corrections were applied to previous editions of this report.

Corrections regarding TAC or advice figures

- **Undulate ray (RJU/8-C. and RJU/9-C.):** while the sum of the Union (33 tonnes and 50 tonnes, respectively) and UK (both 0 tonnes) shares of the RJU/8-C. and RJU/9-C. TACs was only 33 tonnes and 50 tonnes, respectively, the official initial TACs specified were 66 tonnes and 100 tonnes, respectively. These are the values used in last year’s TAC analysis. However, the Council later clarified in paragraph 51 and footnote 49 of its response to ClientEarth’s request for internal review of the first amendment to the TAC and Quota Regulation for 2022, that this was “an error” and that for RJU/8-C. it “should read 33 tonnes” and for RJU/9-C. the “overall TAC should read 50 tonnes, equal to the Union TAC”.² Since this correction has now been formally adopted through a corrigendum,³ these values were now updated in the present analysis, whereas in the previous version of this report the initial TAC values of 66 and 100 tonnes were used.
- **Stocks with bycatch TACs (COD/5BE6A, COD/7XAD34, PLE/7HJK., WHG/07A. and WHG/56-14):** for some stocks the Commission proposed two TACs each, including one explicit bycatch TAC (with the extension “-BC”) per stock for 2019 and 2020, whereas in the end only one bycatch TAC under the original TAC codes was adopted for each of these stocks. In previous editions of the report, the number of TACs for each of these stocks for 2019 had been specified as “2”, but for the present analysis it was decided to revert to the final number of TACs per stock, which is “1”, since the Commission’s proposal is no longer analysed. As a result, the total number of TACs included in the analysis for 2019 (overall and for EU/UK shared stocks) went down by 5, slightly affecting some of the metrics.
- **Megrim (LEZ/07. + LEZ/8ABDE. vs. meg.27.7b-k8abd + ldb.27.7b-k8abd):** for 2020, a typo in the number of stocks was corrected to “1”.
- **Celtic Sea whiting (WHG/7X7A-C):** some advice entries were corrected for 2019 and 2020.

¹ Full report available on: <https://www.clientearth.org/latest/documents/taking-stock-2023-are-tacs-set-to-achieve-msy/>.

² Council’s reply 10616/2/22 REV 2 of 14 July 2022, to ClientEarth’s Request for internal review of Council Regulation (EU) 2022/515 of 31 March 2022 amending Council Regulation (EU) 2022/109 fixing for 2022 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks applicable in certain non-Union waters. <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-10616-2022-REV-2/en/pdf>.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/515/corrigendum/2022-09-01/oj/eng>, Corrigendum C2 from 1 September 2022.

- **Some changes without impact on metrics:** a number of small changes were made for TAC/advice comparisons that are not included in the core analysis and therefore will not affect the metrics. For example, the advice and TAC figures for the sandeel stocks were added and some previous entries for 5000 tonnes (for monitoring TACs) were adjusted to 0 for consistency to reflect the official ICES headline advice across the board.

Changes regarding in-/exclusion in analysis

- **Inclusion of TAC/advice comparisons without Commission proposal:** in previous editions of the report, certain TAC/advice comparisons were excluded from the analysis because originally only cases with a TAC proposal from the Commission were included. As part of the 2023 update of the analysis it was decided that – since the Commission’s proposal is no longer analysed for this report – such cases should now be included in the analysis. Changes regarding the in-/exclusion were made for the following TACs and years:
 - **ANE/08.:** the entries for 2015-2021 are now included, based on the initial TAC agreed at December Council.
 - **HAD/6B1214:** the 2022 entry is now included.
 - **PRA/2AC4-C:** the entries for 2015, 2016, 2020 and 2021 are now included.
 - **WHG/7X7A-C:** the entries for 2015, 2017 and 2020 are now included.
- **Exclusion of provisional TACs set at 0 in the absence of scientific advice:** the TAC analysis generally focuses on the initial TACs as agreed at December Council or as part of the EU/UK bilateral negotiations. However, in some cases the ICES advice only comes out after these processes have been concluded, and provisional TACs are set at 0, later to be replaced by the final TACs through an amendment once the relevant ICES advice has been released. As part of the 2023 update of the TAC analysis, a consistency check was conducted, and all TAC/advice comparisons involving such provisional TACs set at 0 were excluded from the analysis. This primarily affects the in-/exclusion of anchovy (ANE/08. and ANE/9/3411) in some year as well as sandeel which however was already excluded from previous analyses. Changes regarding the in-/exclusion were made for the following TACs and years:
 - **ANE/08.:** while the entries for 2015-2021 are now included (see above), the entries for 2022 and 2023 were still excluded because it seems like the ICES advice in those cases was released after December Council and therefore not reflected in the TACs included in the initial TAC and Quota Regulations for those years.
 - **ANE/9/3411:** the 2022 TAC/advice comparison was now excluded, because the relevant TAC for that year was adopted through the 1st amendment of the TAC and Quota Regulation, rather than being included in the initial TAC and Quota Regulation. As a result, this TAC continues to be excluded from the analysis throughout the time series.

Other changes

- **RJU/8-C.:** in the part of the analysis regarding TAC/advice alignment depending on whether the advice was for a “cut”, “rollover” or “increase”, the categorisation for 2019-2020 as “cut” was corrected to “rollover” in terms of the “Agreed TAC change”. This changed the corresponding conclusion for this TAC to “cut instead of increase” to “rollover instead of increase”.

Changed target/bycatch stock categorisation

Some changes were made to the approach to categorising stocks into “target” and “bycatch” for the analysis presented in section 4.4. of the report. Like in previous editions of the report, stocks explicitly referred to in Art. 1(1) as falling under the scope of the respective multi-annual plan (MAP) and being subject to the use of F_{MSY} ranges were in principle considered “target” for the purpose of this analysis. Other stocks occurring in the area covered by the MAP in question, but not specifically mentioned in Art. 1(1) were considered to fall under Art. 1(4) on bycatches in the fisheries for the stocks listed under Art. 1(1), and thus categorised as “bycatch”.

Note that indeed some stocks listed in Art. 1(1) and therefore treated as “target” in the current analysis are currently effectively taken as bycatch and subject to bycatch TACs, such as Irish Sea and Celtic Sea cod, which fall under Art. 1(1)(6) and 1(1)(7) of the Western Waters MAP (Regulation (EU) 2019/472 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019). In previous iterations of this report, this aspect was not explicitly incorporated in the analysis. For the current report, the categorisation into “target” and “bycatch” stocks was done separately for each year (rather than per stock across the entire time series), with stocks explicitly subject to a “bycatch TAC” now considered as “bycatch”, even if they were formally classified as “target” in the relevant MAP. For stocks where the categorisation was unclear, a judgement call was made based on available indications in the ICES advice or underlying ICES Working Group reports regarding whether the catches in a given year were primarily targeted or taken as bycatch.

The change in categorisation approach resulted in some changes to the results, but the overall trends and patterns remain the same or appear more prominent.

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