



Blue Whiting sub-group

17 October 2024

Agenda

- Blue whiting governance structure – Aoife
- Review of Actions – Fi
- ICES advice for 2025 – Rob
- Coastal States meetings update – Rob
- FIPs: Extension recap & and latest 6 monthly report – Aoife/Fi
- Comms and advocacy update – MWC
- Sourcing statements – Aoife
- Next Steps – Dave
- AOB – Aoife
 - Membership



Observance of Competition Law

You are reminded that you will at all times refrain from discussing any information which is confidential to your company and/or which is likely to affect the commercial strategy or activities of your company.

You are in the best position to judge what is, and what is not, commercially sensitive or confidential and so responsibility lies with you in the first place.



Blue whiting governance structure

Aoife

Blue whiting governance structure



Dave Robb
CARGILL
BLUE WHITING CHAIR



Aoife Martin
BLUE WHITING
DEPUTY-CHAIR



Fiona Birch-Green
BLUE WHITING
POLICY SUPPORT

Review of actions

Fi

Actions

From BW sub-group meetings on 18 June and 6 August:

- MWC Team to amend the comms proposal for blue whiting in line with feedback from NAPA partners and recirculate it for review. – **Complete.**
- Seek a meeting with the Faroese catching sector representatives, as a first step to engaging with the Faroes. – **Ongoing. Faroese industry contacted multiple times but without a response. Liaison with European Fishmeal and Fish Oil Producers (EFFOP) to progress engagement with Faroese catching sector.**
- Seek a meeting with the Icelandic negotiators, following successful engagement with Norway in August. – **Ongoing.**



ICES advice for 2025

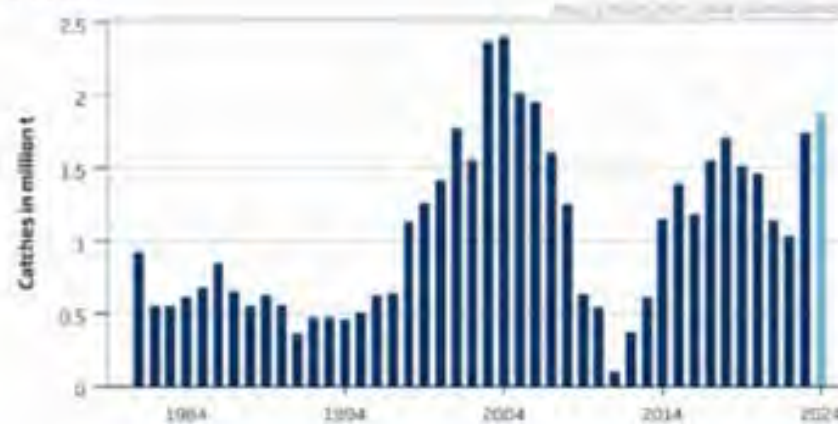
Rob

Blue whiting

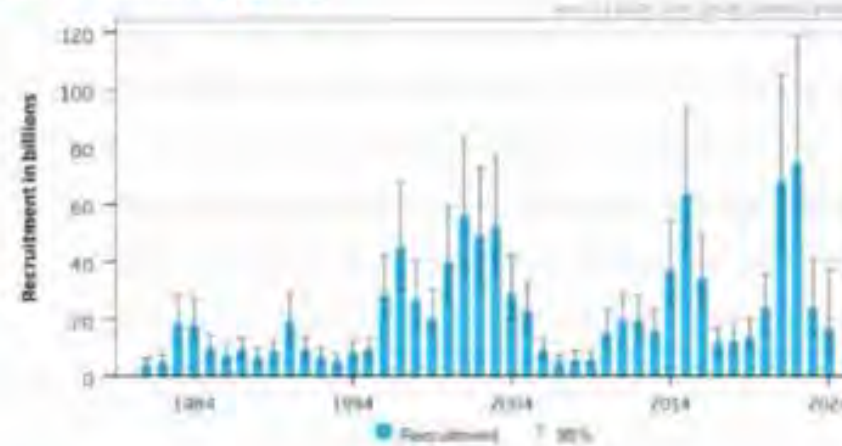
Blue whiting in subareas 1-9, 12, & 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)

ICES advises that when the long-term management strategy agreed by Norway, the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, and the UK is applied, catches in 2025 should be no more than 1 447 054 tonnes.

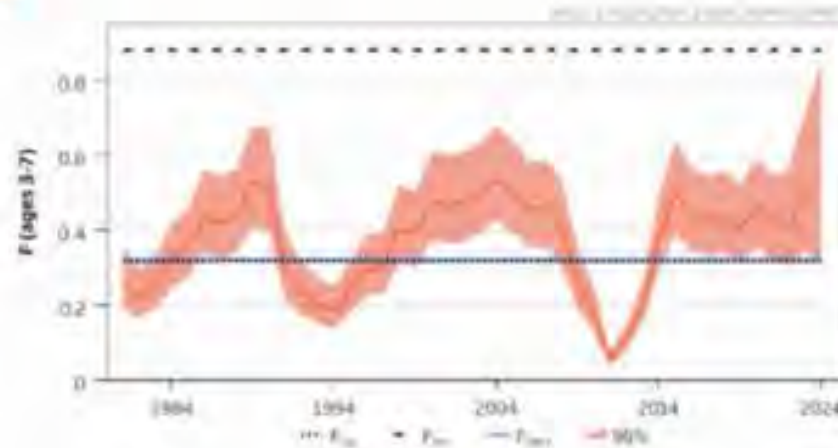
Catches



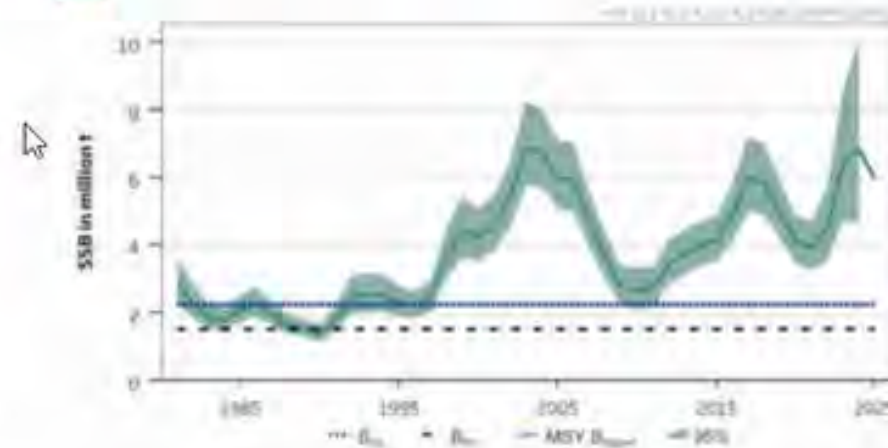
Recruitment (age 1)



F



SSB



| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Advice basis | MSY approach |
| Management plan | A long-term management strategy was agreed by the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, and Norway (Anon., 2016) and subsequently by UK in 2021 (Anon., 2021). ICES has evaluated the strategy, including clause 6.b, and found it to be precautionary (ICES, 2016a, 2017). |

| Variable | Notes |
|--------------------------------|---|
| $F_{\text{ages 3-7}}$ (2024) | From the assessment (based on assumed 2024 catches) |
| SSB (2025) | From the forecast; in tonnes |
| $R_{\text{age 1}}$ (2024) | From the assessment; in thousands |
| $R_{\text{age 1}}$ (2025–2026) | GM (1996–2023); in thousands |
| Total catch (2024) | An estimate by ICES; tonnes |

| Basis | Total catch (t) | % SSB change | % Advice change | % Catch change |
|--|------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| F_{2024} | 2 154 655 | -14.9 | 41 | 14.5 |
| Catch ₂₀₂₅ =catch ₂₀₂₄ | 1 881 076 | -10.5 | 23 | 0 |
| F_{MSY} | 1 447 054 | -3.4 | -5.4 | -23 |
| LTMS | 1 447 054 | -3.4 | -5.4 | -23 |

Blue whiting

Blue whiting in subareas 1-9, 12, & 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)

ICES advice
strategy and
Faroe Island
in 2025 should

NEA blue whiting

- Headline advice: 1 447 054 t (LTMS which is equivalent of F_{MSY})
- Compared to 2024:
 - 5.4% reduction in advice
 - 23% reduction in catches

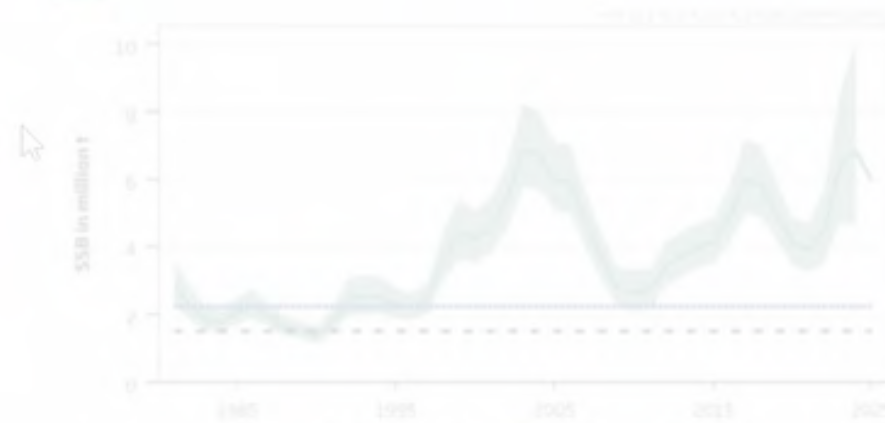
Catches



F



SSB



| | | | Advice change | % Catch change |
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Blue whiting highlights

- Stock doing OK, but recruitment in 2023 and 2024 was down (but not as low as 2017-19).
- The fishery for the next two years will be largely dependent on the 2020 and 2021 year classes (that show up in the data in 2021 and 2022).
- F has been above F_{MSY} and is even slightly up against last year.
- SSB is beginning to decline.
- ICES was asked if they saw anything of note in the assessment and stock distribution or fishery this year and it was commented that they did not.
- Benchmark being considered for late 2025-early 2026.



Mackerel and herring

NEA Mackerel

- Headline advice: 576 958 t in 2025 (MSY approach)
- Compared to 2024:
 - 22% reduction in advice
 - 40% reduction in catches

Atlanto-Scandian herring

- Headline advice: 401 794 t in 2025 (LTMS)
- Compared to 2024:
 - 3% increase in advice
 - 10% reduction in catches



Coastal States meetings update

Rob

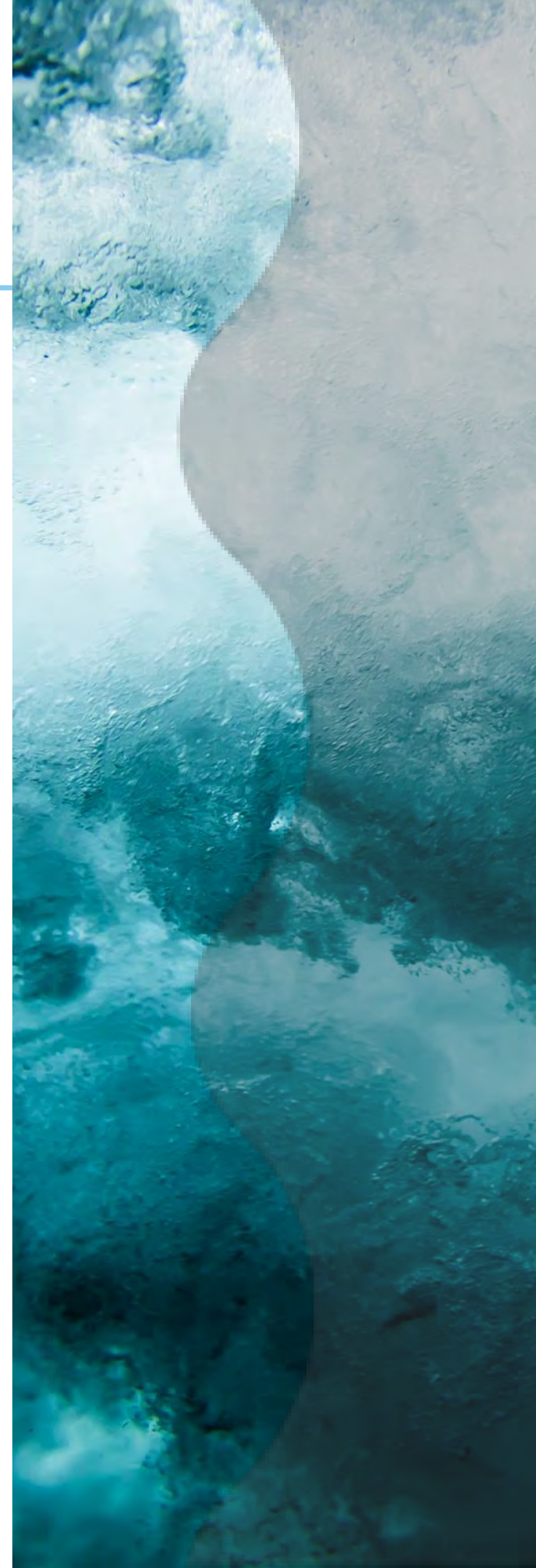
Highlights – the good

- Support for the 2025 TAC being set to follow the advice (from UK, Norway, Iceland, EU, Faroes). Several noted it would require a cut in catch.
- All CS who spoke highlighted the need to establish a comprehensive sharing agreement.
- Iceland commented that the fishery is taking BW early, too young, so losing the growth potential – suggested there could be a more sustainable fishery if advice was followed.



Highlights – the good

- Pew had secured an opportunity to make a statement. We were asked if we wanted to add NAPA's name – we agreed given it closely matched our position.
- It was noted that the Chair would develop and then circulate the management measures proposal to go to NEAFC, but has not finalised them yet. Reported they will circulate in good time.
- Mackerel status (and maybe the decline in BW this year) does seem to have focused minds.



Highlights – the not so good

- Positions still appear very entrenched and defensive.
- EU noted *“We find ourselves in a position that the stock is doing relatively well, no thanks to the way we fish it. That won’t last – it is subject to fluctuations, and we will see it happening as a result of lower recruitment. Current fishing is not sustainable.”*
- Norway mentioned they had presented a proposal to stop overfishing by dividing quotas 13 months ago – 50% on the old arrangement, and 50% on what people believe is their rightful share *“but progress hasn’t been made”*.



Highlights – the not so good

- The Chair noted there had been requests made for a schedule of future meetings, but also noted there have been comments made asking if holding meetings is useful if no movement is achieved.



FIP: Update

Aoife/Fi

FIP Extension recap

JULY

- NAPA submitted application for 2-year FIP extension on 26 July.

AUGUST

- Peer review of FIP extension completed by MarinTrust and submitted to the Improver Programme Application Committee (IPAC) for review and decision, along with extension application.



FIP Extension recap

SEPTEMBER

- NAPA attended IPAC meeting (online) on 24 September to present its case for extension.
- Thank you to Anne Mette Bæk, Tor Eirik Homme and Dave Robb for attending.
- NAPA successfully granted FIP extension until October 2026.
- NAPA [press statement](#) announced extension.

OCTOBER

- Annual FIP progress report due **18 October** – review of activities across the past year, including work started under the new action plan. **Please supply evidence of activities!**



Comms and advocacy update

MWC

Sourcing Statements

Aoife

Sourcing statements

- Sourcing statements are a condition of NAPA membership.
- The FIP action plan requires NAPA partners to publicly publish clear positions on sourcing pelagic fish, including consequences of FIP failure.
- Statements are unique to each individual business.
- Positions range from “review sourcing” to “cease sourcing”.
- **As we enter the next phase of NAPA, please review your sourcing statements and refresh them as necessary.**



Next Steps

Dave Robb

Next Steps

- **Submission of Blue Whiting FIP progress report (18 Oct)**
- **Coastal States negotiations**
 - 15-18 Oct - Blue whiting and herring
 - 21-25 Oct - Mackerel
- **NEAFC meeting**
 - 12-15 Nov - NEAFC annual meeting
- **NAPA response to Coastal States / NEAFC outcomes**



Next Steps

- **Full NAPA in-person meeting, London**
 - [Doodle poll](#) circulated: 28 Nov / 2 Dec / 5 Dec
- **Shift in focus to Iceland and the Faroes**
 - What levers can we pull?
 - Who else can we engage with to amplify our message?
- **Continued catching sector engagement**



AOB

Aoife



AOB

- NAPA membership
- Payment of fees





Thank you

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NORTH
ATLANTIC
PELAGIC
ADVOCACY
GROUP