



**ICES**

International Council for  
the Exploration of the Sea

**CIEM**

Conseil International pour  
l'Exploration de la Mer

## PRESS RELEASE

4 June 2007

### **GOOD NEWS FOR SAITHE AND HADDOCK BUT FEW YOUNG WHITING AND HERRING IN THE NORTH SEA**

The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) will release a report on the status and perspectives of North East Atlantic fish stocks in the Barents Sea, around Iceland and the Faroe Islands, in the North Sea and in the Baltic Sea.

The ICES advice will be available at 12:00 on Friday 8 June at:  
<http://www.ices.dk/committe/acfm/comwork/report/asp/advice.asp>

The 21 international scientists of the Advisory Committee on Fisheries Management (ACFM) have analysed the status of these commercial fish stocks at their May advisory meeting in Copenhagen. The expert group, which for the first time this year included a scientist from the new ICES member state Lithuania, came to the conclusion that the overall status of the fish stocks has not changed much since last year's assessment. The biomass of cod in the North Sea, Kattegat, and the Eastern Baltic is still very low and ICES advises no directed fishing.

Some positive developments can be reported. Saithe and haddock seem to be abundant across the Northeast Atlantic, so too is sole in Skagerrak and Kattegat.

Martin Pastoors, ACFM Chair, said today: *"Several saithe and haddock stocks are in good condition and can be the continued basis for sustainable fisheries. Other important stocks like cod, whiting and herring are suffering from reduced reproduction in recent years. This is seen in several areas, and will have to be reflected in the fisheries management."*

After a long period of very low stock size, there are now signs of slight improved abundance of cod around Greenland, however, still well below the historical levels and the distribution area is limited. ICES advises to abstain from fishing so that a spawning stock can be re-established.

In the North Sea, both whiting and herring have produced few young fish over the past five years. This means that catching possibilities will be considerably lower in the future, and ICES therefore recommends substantial reductions in the TACs.

Redfish fisheries in the Norwegian and Barents Sea are rapidly expanding into international waters. Because the stock size of this long-lived fish is low and few young fish have been observed. ICES advises that there should be no directed trawl fishery and this should also apply to the international waters.

Baltic salmon is expected to produce fewer adult fishes returning to the rivers in the future because the survival of young salmon in the sea is decreasing. A similar observation of low survival in the sea was made for North Atlantic salmon.

**ENDS**

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<http://www.ices.dk/aboutus/pressroom.asp>

Additional information on the **Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM)**

The Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM) provides scientific information and advice on living resources and their harvesting. In formulating its annual advice on the management of ca. 135 stocks of fish and shellfish, ACFM uses information prepared by numerous ICES stock assessment Working Groups. ACFM consists of one scientist from each of the 20 ICES member countries along with chairs of relevant ICES science committees and observers from the European Commission, Faroe Islands/Greenland, NGO's and industry representatives from non-EU countries, and the Regional Advisory Committees (RAC).

ACFM meets twice a year (spring and late autumn) to prepare its advice, which is published annually in the ICES Advice Report series. The advice is also available in pdf format on the ICES Website at [www.ices.dk](http://www.ices.dk)

**International Council for the Exploration of the Sea**

ICES is the organisation that coordinates and promotes marine research in the North Atlantic. This includes adjacent seas such as the Baltic Sea and North Sea. ICES acts as a meeting point for a community of more than 1600 marine scientists from 20 countries around the North Atlantic.

Scientists working through ICES gather information about the marine ecosystem. As well as filling gaps in existing knowledge, this information is also developed into unbiased, non-political advice. The advice is then used by the 20 member countries, which fund and support ICES, to help them manage the North Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas. The annual budget is 30 mill dkk/4 mill. €

ICES plans and coordinates marine research through a system of committees, more than 100 working groups, symposia, and an Annual Science Conference. Most meetings take place either at the ICES Headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark, or in the member countries.

ICES has been based in Copenhagen, Denmark, since 1902. Today, we have a Secretariat of 40 staff who provide scientific, administrative and secretarial support to the ICES Community

## Summary of the ICES advice for a number of stocks

Area	Stock	Advice for 2007	TAC 2007	Advice for 2008
North Sea	Herring <sup>1</sup>	~ 240 000	341 000	~ 175 000
	Cod <sup>1</sup>	zero	20 000	zero
	Haddock <sup>1</sup>	55 400	55 000	46 400
	Whiting <sup>2</sup>	15 100	23 800	5 000
	Plaice	32 000	50 261	26 000
	Sole	10 800	15 000	13 900
	Norway Pout <sup>3</sup>	zero	zero	--
Baltic Sea	Sprat <sup>3</sup>	195 000	170 000	--
	Herring <sup>4</sup>	164 000	133 000	194 000
	Eastern cod	0	44 300	0
	Western cod	20 500	26 700 <sup>5</sup>	13 500
	Sprat <sup>6</sup>	477 000	454 000	432 000
Barents Sea and Norwegian Sea	Salmon	No increase	324 000 <sup>7</sup>	Decrease
	North East Arctic Cod	309 000	424 000	409 000
	Norwegian Coastal Cod	zero	21 000	zero
	Haddock	130 000	150 000	130 000
	Saithe	247 000	222 525	247 000
	Redfish	zero	--	zero
Faroe Islands	Greenland halibut	13 000	2 500 <sup>8</sup>	13 000
	Cod	reduce effort	--	no fishing
	Haddock	16 000	--	14 000
Iceland and Greenland	Saithe	40 000	--	no increase effort
	Cod (Iceland)	187 000	193 000	152 000
	Cod (Greenland())	zero	5 000	zero
	Haddock	112 000	105 000	120 000
Celtic Seas and West of Scotland	Greenland halibut	15 000	30 000 <sup>9</sup>	15 000
	Herring Celtic Sea and VIIj	Rebuilding plan	9 300	Rebuilding plan
	Herring West of Scotland	34 000	34 000	15 000
	Herring Irish Sea	4 800	4 800	4 400
	Herring West of Ireland	Rebuilding plan	13 800	Rebuilding plan

<sup>1</sup> Only applies to human consumption fishery in the North Sea

<sup>2</sup> Advice applies to North Sea and Eastern Channel (VIIId); TAC to North Sea only

<sup>3</sup> Only in-year advice

<sup>4</sup> Applies to the Central Baltic (Subdivisions 25–29 and 32, excluding Gulf of Riga herring)

<sup>5</sup> If no management plan is adopted before 30 June 2007 the EU TAC will be further reduced by 9%

<sup>6</sup> refers to EU TAC only

<sup>7</sup> refers to number of fish, not weight

<sup>8</sup> Only TAC set by Norwegian authorities for non-trawl fishery; allowable by-catch in the trawl fishery is additional to this

<sup>9</sup> Combination of Greenland and Iceland TACs.