

**ECOREGION BOOK 11****SUBJECT EC request for plaice in Divisions VIIId and VIIe****Request**

EC in an email on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010 requested ICES to:

*“Advice provided for plaice in VIIe and for plaice in VIIId for 2010 are substantially different, concomitant with the advice that these two stocks are biologically distinct. At present, these two stocks are managed under a single TAC which makes it impossible to manage each stock towards precautionary criteria or towards maximum sustainable yield. The Commission is considering proposing the separation of the VIIId TAC into two separate TACs in order that separate biological objectives can be reached.*

*When reviewing advice on stocks during its SG-RST meetings, STECF will be requested to advise whether this is an appropriate approach; and if not, to advise (given current knowledge of stock identities and migrations) on an alternative approach to attaining the same goal.*

*STECF will be requested to deliver its advice in July in the course of its review of ICES advice.*

*So DG Mare would like to invite ICES to include relevant elements in its advice for 2011 concerning these stocks.”*

**ICES response**

This a clarification of the basis for the ICES advice on plaice in the Channel.

Plaice in the Channel (VIIId and VIIe) show seasonal migrations between spawning and feeding grounds and plaice catches in one area can consist of a mix of plaice from up to 3 different stocks (North Sea, Eastern and Western Channel populations). This raises problems in identifying the stock assignment of the catches.

The ICES advice for many years has based on two stock units and the 2010 benchmark (ICES, 2010) confirmed that the better approach is to maintain a two-stock approach as the basis for management advice and thereby implying a two-stock management as the better approach. ICES (2010) includes further details.

The ICES advice for plaice in Division VIIe and plaice in Division VIIId for 2011 can be found in the ICES Advisory report 2010, see Sections 5.4.9 and 6.4.8 respectively.

**Sources**

ICES. 2010. Report of the Benchmark Workshop on Flatfish (WKFLAT), 25 February–4 March 2010, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2010/ACOM:37.