

Memorandum of Understanding between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea

In Force from 1st of January 2026

RECOGNISING that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ("the UK")

- a) is an ICES member country defined as a contracting party to the Convention for the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea of 12 September 1964;
- b) in accordance with international law, the UK is a coastal state with sovereign rights for the conservation, management and exploitation of living marine resources in waters under its jurisdiction and with rights and duties with respect to the management of fish stocks in the North Atlantic; performs its functions in the interests of the conservation and optimum utilisation of the fisheries resources under its jurisdiction; and will take into account the best scientific evidence available whilst doing so;
- c) has enacted the Fisheries Act 2020, and shall pursue its objectives;
- d) in the context of the Fisheries Act 2020, shall ensure that the exploitation of marine stocks restores and maintains populations of harvested species above biomass levels capable of producing the maximum sustainable yield ("MSY");
- e) has published a UK Marine Strategy and UK Marine Policy Statement setting out its responsibility for securing a clean, healthy, productive and biologically diverse marine environment, to protect the marine environment, prevent its deterioration and restore it where practical, by applying an ecosystem approach to the sustainable use and development of marine resources;
- f) has in place a UK arrangement for the collection and management of fisheries data (see Annex 4 and 5);
- g) may adopt rules for the protection and recovery of anadromous and catadromous species (such as eels or salmon), including for the non-marine part of their lifecycle;
- h) seeks services and scientific advisory deliverables from ICES for scientific advice and information on conservation, protection and sustainable use of the marine environment, fisheries, sustainable aquaculture and marine data and issues regarding marine science, and marine research.

RECOGNISING that the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea ("ICES")

- a) has the mission to advance and share scientific understanding of marine ecosystems and the services they provide and to use this knowledge to generate state-of-the-art advice for meeting conservation, management, and sustainability goals;
- b) is a science community that is able to address issues of relevance to the exploitation of living marine resources;
- c) exists to promote and encourage research and investigations for the study of the sea, to advance the scientific understanding of marine ecosystems, including its living resources;
- d) draws up the necessary programmes and organises such research and investigations as may appear necessary and publishes and disseminates the results of this work;
- e) provides scientific information and advice to ICES Member Countries and the regulatory commissions with which cooperative relationships have been established;

- f) seeks to establish and maintain working arrangements with other international organisations and arrangements having related objectives;
- g) adopts an approach to delivering advice on fishing opportunities which aims to integrate ecosystem-based management with the precautionary approach and the objective of achieving the maximum sustainable yield. This aim is, in accordance with international guidelines, to inform policies for high long-term yields while maintaining productive fish stocks within healthy marine ecosystems;
- h) does not engage in the collection of primary data, and only conducts scientific research through an associated network of data providers. ICES has no authority to manage or direct the work of the data providing entities. ICES advice is based on data inputs from relevant data providers, these data inputs are provided through a data call process or agreed published data provision timetable and made available through the ICES databases.

The UK and ICES (“the Participants”) have therefore reached the following understanding:

Provision of Scientific Information and Advice

- 1) ICES, in accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding (“MoU”), will provide the UK with scientific information and advice relating to the North Atlantic and its adjacent seas, which is independent and free from political influence and subject to international scientific standards for research and evidence-based advice. The technical basis for the advice will be subject to an open and transparent process that includes independent peer review.
- 2) The Participants will consult on ways in which cooperation between them can be further improved and extended. To this end they may exchange documents and reports of mutual interest. Further improvements may include joint activities, e.g. seminars, symposia, or other meetings.
- 3) The UK will provide ICES with all relevant data for the scientific analysis required for ICES to provide the UK with advice deliverables as listed in paragraph 4 and detailed in Annex 4 and 5. Data will be treated in accordance with the ICES Data Policy (as set out on the ICES Data Policy web page¹ and in specific ICES licenses^{2,3,4}) and the Participants further note that:
 - a) Data provided to ICES are generally made publicly available but exclusions to unrestricted public access are listed on the ICES Data Policy web page and in specific ICES licences (as per footnotes 1 and 2). In consideration of these exclusions and ICES specific policies, the UK may specify access restrictions to their data submissions that it wishes ICES to uphold.
 - b) The ICES Data Policy states that the quality assurance of data is the responsibility of the data provider. ICES may perform additional quality control of the aggregated data used in assessments and will decide which data are considered a useful basis for advice.
 - c) In the background documentation for the advice, ICES will describe which data were used and qualitatively describe sources of uncertainty affecting the assessment. ICES will also explain both the internal and external quality control procedures used for all advice.
- 4) ICES will provide the UK with:
 - a) annual advice on fishing opportunities including information on the state of marine ecosystems and human impacts as outlined in Annex 1 and in accordance with the schedule outlined in Annex 2 paragraph 2.1 (“recurring advice”);
 - b) advice on an ad hoc basis as decided separately between the UK and ICES in response to requests from the UK and in accordance with the schedule outlined in Annex 2 paragraph 2.2 (“non-recurring advice”); and

¹ <https://www.ices.dk/data/guidelines-and-policy/Pages/ICES-data-policy.aspx>

² <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.22188157>

³ <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.10058>

⁴ <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.9302>

- c) the information on which the advice is based (*inter alia*, Expert Group Reports including peer review reports). This information will be publicly available following the ICES review process.
- 5) If requested by the UK, the Chair or designate of the ICES Advisory Committee will present the annual "recurring" advice as detailed in Annex 1 to the UK. An ICES professional officer can also be invited to the meetings.
- 6) ICES will notify the UK when the advice is released on the ICES website.
- 7) In the event that ICES is unable to share advice on the ICES website or access is blocked, ICES will work with the UK to ensure that new communication routes are put in place to ensure the UK can continue to receive scientific information and advice until the issue is resolved.
- 8) In the event that scientific work necessary for ICES to fulfil its commitments under this MoU is delayed, not completed or altered significantly, ICES will inform the UK of the nature, detail, and consequences of these deviations as soon as possible.

Finance

- 9) The UK accepts ICES policy of achieving 100% cost recovery from Member Countries and international client commissions that request ICES to provide information, advice, and services. The components upon which the ICES costs are calculated are stated in Annex 3. When assessing the contributions to be paid by the UK for costs incurred in respect of recurring and non-recurring advice, due account will be taken of contributions made by ICES Member Countries or international client commissions of ICES with interests in the same issues and in the same geographical area, as outlined in Annex 3. Against this background, the Participants will consult and decide:
 - a) on an annual price for the recurring advice for the period this MoU is in operation;
 - b) to revise Annex 1 when appropriate;
 - c) to determine the cost for evaluation of stocks that the UK shares with other ICES Member Countries or other international client commissions of ICES; and
 - d) the costs for non-recurring advice decided in accordance with the procedure established in Annex 2 paragraph 2.2.
- 10) The UK will pay, following the schedule in Annex 2 and after receiving a valid invoice from ICES, an amount per year as decided upon with ICES for the "recurring" advice outlined in Annex 1, and in accordance with paragraph 8 above. In 2026, the advance payment will be calculated based on the budget for recurrent advice 2026 (██████████). The final amount payable will be regulated in accordance with paragraph 13 and cost sharing agreements between the UK and other ICES Advice Requesters in accordance with paragraph 19 below.
- 11) For non-recurring advice provided in accordance with Annex 2 the UK will pay an amount as decided upon with ICES following the procedures set out in Annex 2 and on receipt of a valid invoice.
- 12) ICES will provide the UK with ICES annual audited final accounts in June signed by ICES external auditor, ICES General Secretary and ICES Finance Committee members from where all advice costs will be specified. ICES will send the document to the UK as per the schedule set out in Annex 2.1, to enable the UK to verify the costs incurred by ICES in connection with this MoU.
- 13) ICES will keep and maintain until 6 years after the end of the MoU, or as long a period as may be agreed between the Participants, full and accurate financial records of the MoU, as outlined in paragraph 11 above, including of the advice supplied under it as outlined in paragraph 4 above, and all payments made by the UK. ICES will on request afford the UK or the UK's representatives such access to those records as may be reasonably requested by the UK in connection with the MoU, including to enable the UK to verify that the provisions of this MoU are properly implemented and if information is required in accordance with the UK's transparency obligations.

- 14) If any sum of money is recoverable from or payable by ICES under this MoU (including without limitation if the UK pays for advice in advance which is not delivered or costs incurred by ICES for such advice are less than calculated when agreeing budgets), that sum may be deducted unilaterally by the UK from any sum then due, or which may become due, to ICES under the MoU. The UK may also require ICES to re-pay overpaid sums.
- 15) In the instance that the cost incurred by ICES in producing the advice received by the UK proves to exceed the advance payments made by the UK for the year in question, the UK will pay the difference upon invoice issued by ICES based on ICES Audited Final Accounts no later than June the following year.
- 16) ICES will notify the UK in writing within 10 working days from the date that ICES becomes aware of:
 - a) an expected increase in costs incurred by the UK for recurring advice as stipulated in paragraph 8 and the calculation of those cost components as stipulated in Annex 3⁵; or
 - b) any change in circumstances within ICES or any relevant Advice Requestor that may give rise to a 10% or greater increase in the overall cost to the UK for its national contribution and any requested non-recurring advice products.
- 17) In its written notification under paragraph 15, ICES will provide the UK with:
 - a) a detailed analysis of the expected cost increase;
 - b) a cost comparison breakdown detailing the expected cost increase against costs incurred in the previous 2 years;
 - c) an opportunity for the UK to agree or refute the expected cost increase.⁶

General Administrative Arrangements

- 18) This MoU will come into operation on the 1st of January 2026.
- 19) Either Participant may propose amendments to this MoU at any time. Any amendments will be mutually agreed by the Participants and made in writing.
- 20) The Participants will meet annually, in January/February, to consult on the deliverables, review the current provisions of this MoU, and discuss other issues of relevance to the MoU. This will include any changes applicable to the MoU as a result of third-party agreements between the UK and other ICES clients regarding cost sharing arrangements, which may reflect a change in cost to the UK for recurring advice received from ICES. ICES will be responsible for arranging this annual meeting.
- 21) Every third year after coming into operation the MoU will be reviewed by the Participants and revised if necessary. The Participants will meet well in advance prior to the end of the relevant year to carry out a full review of its provisions and operation, and to decide on any necessary amendments.
- 22) If any dispute should arise between the Participants on the interpretation or application of this MoU, both sides will use their best endeavours to resolve it, if necessary, by the involvement of a mutually agreeable arbiter acting in an advisory capacity only.
- 23) This MoU may be terminated by either Participant with a notification in writing of one year, unless a Participant does not deliver the specifications outlined in this MoU, in which case this MoU may be terminated by the other Participant with a notification of 2 months.

⁵ Not including any increase associated with variability in the Danish consumer price index as stipulated in paragraph 9.

⁶ The UK will respond within 10 working days either to agree or refute the cost increase or with an indication of the further time that will be required to consider the proposal.

This MoU is a declaration of intent and reasonable endeavours by both Participants and is not intended to be legally binding on the Participants.

24) All the correspondence concerning this MoU will be in written form and will be forwarded to the following addresses:

- a) For the UK:
Marine and Fisheries Directorate
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Seacole Building, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF
UK

- b) For ICES:
International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
H.C. Andersens Boulevard 44-46
DK-1553 Copenhagen V
Denmark

The foregoing record represents the understandings reached between the Participants upon the matters referred to therein.

Signed on behalf of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

For ICES,

For the UK,

Alan Haynie
General Secretary

Gareth Baynham-Hughes
Director of Marine and Fisheries

Signature: Alan Haynie

Signature: GJ Baynham-Hughes

Done electronically,, in duplicate in English

Annex 1: Recurring advice required from ICES

Recurring advice will be given in relation to:

- a) Ecosystems;
- b) Fisheries;
- c) Aquaculture
- d) Fishing opportunities, catch, and effort.

With respect to the policy context of the advisory deliverables ICES will in accordance with the ICES introduction to advice⁷ take into account the legal management framework adopted by the UK. In addition to the context of international agreements and guidelines which the UK has signed and ratified.

1.1 Ecosystem, Fisheries and Aquaculture advice

ICES will to the extent possible:

- a) Assess the extent to which fishing disturbs marine ecosystems and, where reference levels have been established, compare the impact to the reference level chosen;
- b) Provide any new information regarding the impact of fisheries on other components of the ecosystem including marine mammals, sea birds, and sensitive habitats;
- c) Inform the UK of any notable impact of other existing or emerging factors on and imbalances in ecosystem structure that may prejudice the stocks of commercially valuable species and their long-term exploitation;
- d) Provide the evidentiary background for the application of ecosystem based fisheries management through fisheries and ecosystem overviews;
- e) Propose reference points as guidance for management purposes in an ecosystem context;
- f) Give warnings of any serious and/or potential environmental impacts from fishing activities alone or in conjunction with any other relevant activity to local ecosystems or species as soon as they are detected; and
- g) Provide the evidentiary background of aquaculture activities through aquaculture overviews.

The advice will be based on an ecosystem approach. This will be implemented incrementally so that any information on interactions between fisheries, fish stocks, and marine ecosystem is considered and incorporated in the advice as it becomes available. This incremental progress will be documented and reported annually.

When providing its advice, ICES will take account of all available information and the context of fisheries management including information from the fishing industry, ecosystem considerations, environment and hydrographical conditions, regulations in force that affect fisheries, factors affecting fishing operations and information about the fisheries, development of fisheries technology and relevant performance changes and other relevant factors that affect fishing or fish stocks.

1.2 Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort

ICES will for each stock listed in the table below in addition to the advice on fishing opportunities provide information on:

- a) The historical developments in spawning stock biomass, total stock biomass, fishing mortality, and catches;
- b) The state of the stocks and fisheries relative to mutually decided reference points;

In support of its advice ICES will provide the UK with:

⁷ <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.30885011>

- a) A full methodological description of the assessment and advisory procedure for each stock, updated whenever a significant change is made;
- b) Estimates of catches, landings, and discards (where possible), fishing mortality, recruitment and spawning stock together with information or estimates of the uncertainty with which these parameters are estimated. These data will be provided electronically;
- c) Illustrative scenarios for mixed fisheries, where possible, for all relevant species and areas for which appropriate models are available, consisting of sets of catch scenarios consistent with the objectives of the Fisheries Act 2020. ICES will provide such scenarios where possible with priority to the following fisheries and areas: North Sea (for flat and round fish stocks separately if possible), the Irish Sea and the Celtic Sea;
- d) Estimates of relevant reference points for management; and
- e) On request, complete records of data used for assessment purposes will be provided. These data will be provided electronically.

Such information will be provided whenever significant changes are made or can be detected, but not normally more frequently than implied by the schedule in Annex 2. However, the UK will be informed immediately of any new information indicating a previously unforeseen biological emergency.

The recurring advice regarding fishing opportunities will be based on:

- i. Management plans, if they are considered precautionary by ICES and all authorities with competence regarding fisheries on the stocks concerned decide that the management plan should be the basis for advice;
- ii. The ICES MSY approach, if the management plans / strategies do not fulfil both requirements listed above;
- iii. The precautionary approach, in the lack of defined MSY reference points applied in the lack of defined MSY reference points and as defined within Annex 2 of the United Nations Fish Stocks agreement.⁸

When possible, ICES will present a set of catch options based on the result of assessment, including the highest level of fishing that may be considered precautionary, upper and lower boundary of the MSY fishing mortality ranges. If requested, ICES will also present catch options resulting from applying unilateral UK management plans.

Any changes to the format of the advice or changes in the stock composition/area definition in Annex 1 should be discussed with and preferably approved by the UK.

Advice from ICES will in all cases take account of the accuracy and precision of the available assessments and forecasts. Information about the accuracy and precision of assessments and forecasts will be presented and considered in the advice.

If ICES is aware of implementation problems regarding approved management plans/strategies the advice should highlight this and consider these issues in its advice on short term implications of these management plans and seek to inform the UK at the earliest convenience.

ICES will present short term implications of variable management options, when adequate data are available, expressed as quantified consequences of the management measures currently implemented for that stock or fishery. For the management year (or years in the case of multi-annual

⁸ United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, July 24–Aug. 4, 1995, Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December Relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, U.N. DOCA/Conf. 164/37

management regimes), the short-term consequences of relevant management measures should be given for relevant intervals of action while reflecting the uncertainties regarding expected outcomes. In those cases where the uncertainties in the evaluation of outcomes are such that a quantitative distinction between management measures is not possible ICES will provide quantitative or qualitative information regarding expected outcomes of relevant management measures over intervals of action that reflect the uncertainty in the evaluation.

For stocks with no analytical assessment, ICES will use the available data, together with the basic fisheries population dynamics principles, information from comparable cases and best available science in order to provide the best possible advice on fishing opportunities, corresponding to approved management objectives.

In cases where data are insufficient to provide the basis for quantitative advice ICES will provide information on the reasons for this deficiency and advice on management measures which, given the uncertainties, are considered consistent with the Precautionary Approach.

ICES will provide advice on fishing opportunities and information as outlined above for the stocks listed in Table 1 below. In the case of the stocks for which a Client Commission, to which the UK is a participant, has specific responsibility, the primary request to ICES will be made through that Client Commission.

If a Client Commission of ICES to which the UK is not a participant, makes requests or demands that may influence the content or format of presentation of the recurrent advice for stocks in Table 1, ICES will inform and consult with the UK.

Advice will normally be provided for each calendar year. However, for stocks where measurement uncertainty is low compared to the expected magnitude of changes in stock size advice may be provided at intervals greater than each year as set out in the table below. For short-lived species and highly seasonal fisheries, the timing of the advice shall be adapted as appropriate.

In-year re-assessments for stocks and fisheries will be carried out following procedures adopted by ICES, including updates when ICES will consider that new data becoming available will significantly change conclusions of the stock size according to criteria defined by ICES. Table 1 below shows the gross list of stocks for which ICES provides advice to the UK.⁹ The list of species for which the UK request recurrent advice will be decided on an annual basis - either by a written procedure or at the annual consultations with ICES referred to in paragraph 11.

⁹ This list is of no consequence with respect to the UK's present or future claims to any of the stocks mentioned.

Table 1. List of stocks for which ICES will provide advice on fishing opportunities, and when this advice will be released.
ICES will inform the UK on any revisions of the stock definitions before the release of its advice

Stock name	Stock code	Advice release (Month)	Advice release (Year)	Frequency of advice
Alfonosinos (<i>Beryx</i> spp.) in subareas 1-10, 12 and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	alf.27.nea	Jun	2026	2
Angel shark (<i>Squatina squatina</i>) in subareas 1-10, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	agn.27.nea	Oct	2027	4
Anglerfish (<i>Lophius budegassa</i> , <i>Lophius piscatorius</i>) in subareas 4 and 6 and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak, Kattegat)	anf.27.3a46	Jun	2026	1
Basking shark (<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>) in subareas 1-10, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	bsk.27.nea	Oct	2027	4
Beaked redfish (<i>Sebastes mentella</i>) in Division 14.b; demersal (Southeast Greenland)	reb.27.14b	Jun	2026	1
Beaked redfish (<i>Sebastes mentella</i>) in Subarea 14 and in Division 5.a; Icelandic slope stock (East of Greenland, Iceland grounds)	reb.27.5a14	Jun	2026	1
Black-bellied anglerfish (<i>Lophius budegassa</i>) in Subarea 7 and in divisions 8.a, 8.b, and 8.d (Celtic Seas, Bay of Biscay)	ank.27.78abd	Jun	2026	1
Black-mouth dogfish (<i>Galeus melastomus</i>) in subareas 6 and 7 (West of Scotland, southern Celtic Seas, English Channel)	sho.27.67	Oct	2027	4
Blackspot seabream (<i>Pagellus bogaraveo</i>) in subareas 6-8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, Bay of Biscay)	sbr.27.6-8	Jun	2026	2
Blonde ray (<i>Raja brachyura</i>) in Division 7.e (western English Channel)	rjh.27.7e	Oct	2028	4
Blonde ray (<i>Raja brachyura</i>) in divisions 4.c and 7.d (southern North Sea, eastern English Channel)	rjh.27.4bc7d	Oct	2027	2
Blonde ray (<i>Raja brachyura</i>) in divisions 7.a, 7.f, and 7.g (Irish Sea, Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea North)	rjh.27.7afg	Oct	2028	4
Blonde ray (<i>Raja brachyura</i>) in Subarea 6 and in Division 4.a (North Sea, West of Scotland)	rjh.27.4a6	Oct	2027	4
Blue ling (<i>Molva dypterygia</i>) in subareas 6, 7, and 12 and in Division 5.b (Celtic Seas, western Hatton Bank, and Faroes grounds)	bli.27.5b6712	Jun	2026	2

Stock name	Stock code	Advice release (Month)	Advice release (Year)	Frequency of advice
Blue ling (<i>Molva dypterygia</i>) in subareas 1, 2, and 4 and in Division 3.a (Northeast Arctic, North Sea, Skagerrak, and Kattegat)	bli.27.123a4	Jun	2028	4
Blue ling (<i>Molva dypterygia</i>) in subareas 6 and 7 and in Division 5.b (Celtic Seas and Faroes grounds)	bli.27.5b67	Jun	2026	2
Blue whiting (<i>Micromesistius poutassou</i>) in subareas 1–9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	whb.27.1-91214	Sept	2026	1
Boarfish (<i>Capros aper</i>) in subareas 6–8 (Celtic Seas, English Channel, Bay of Biscay)	boc.27.6-8	Sept	2026	1
Brill (<i>Scophthalmus rhombus</i>) in Subarea 4 and in divisions 3.a, 7.d, and 7.e (North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat, English Channel)	bll.27.3a47de	Jun	2026	1
Capelin (<i>Mallotus villosus</i>) in subareas 5 and 14 and in Division 2.a west of 05°00'W (Iceland and Faroes grounds, East Greenland, Jan Mayen area)	cap.27.2a514	Jun	2026	1
Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in Division 6.b (Rockall)	cod.27.6b	Jun	2026	3
Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in Division 7.a (Irish Sea)	cod.27.7a	Jun	2026	1
Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in divisions 7.e–k (eastern English Channel and southern Celtic Seas)	cod.27.7e-k	Jun	2026	1
Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in NAFO Subarea 1 and ICES Subarea 14 (East Greenland-Iceland offshore spawning cod)	cod.21.27.1.14	Jun	2026	3
Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in Subdivision 5.b.1 (Faroe Plateau)	cod.27.5b1	Jun	2026	1
Cod (<i>Gadus morhua</i>) in Subarea 4, in divisions 6.a and 7.d, and in Subdivision 20 (North Sea, West of Scotland, eastern English Channel, Skagerrak)	cod.27.46a7d20	Jun	2026	1
Common skate complex (Blue skate [<i>Dipturus batis</i>] and flapper skate [<i>Dipturus intermedius</i>]) in Subarea 4 and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat)	rjb.27.3a4	Oct	2027	4
Common skate complex (Blue skate [<i>Dipturus batis</i>] and flapper skate [<i>Dipturus intermedius</i>]) in Subarea 6 and in divisions 7.a–c and 7.e–k (Celtic Seas and western English Channel)	rjb.27.67a-ce-k	Oct	2028	4
Cuckoo ray (<i>Leucoraja naevus</i>) in Subarea 4 and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat)	rjn.27.3a4	Oct	2027	2
Cuckoo ray (<i>Leucoraja naevus</i>) in subareas 6 and 7 and in divisions 8.a, 8.b, and 8.d (West of Scotland, southern Celtic Seas, western English Channel, Bay of Biscay)	rjn.27.678abd	Oct	2026	2

Stock name	Stock code	Advice release (Month)	Advice release (Year)	Frequency of advice
Dab (<i>Limanda limanda</i>) in Subarea 4 and Division 3.a (North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat)	dab.27.3a4	Jun	2028	3
European eel (<i>Anguilla anguilla</i>) throughout its natural range	ele.2737.nea	Nov	2026	1
Flounder (<i>Platichthys flesus</i>) in Subarea 4 and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat)	fle.27.3a4	Jun	2027	2
Four-spot megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus bosci</i>) in divisions 7.b-k, 8.a, 8.b, and 8.d (west and southwest of Ireland, Bay of Biscay)	ldb.27.7b-k8abd	Jun	2028	3
Golden redfish (<i>Sebastes norvegicus</i>) in subareas 5, 6, 12, and 14 (Iceland and Faroes grounds, West of Scotland, North of Azores, East of Greenland)	reg.27.561214	Jun	2026	1
Greater forkbear (<i>Phycis blennoides</i>) in subareas 1-10, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	gfb.27.nea	Jun	2026	2
Greater silver smelt (<i>Argentina silus</i>) in divisions 5.b and 6.a (Faroes grounds and west of Scotland)	aru.27.5b6a	Jun	2026	1
Greater silver smelt (<i>Argentina silus</i>) in subareas 1, 2, and 4 and in Division 3.a (Northeast Arctic, North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat)	aru.27.123a4	Jun	2026	2
Greater silver smelt (<i>Argentina silus</i>) in subareas 7-10 and 12 and in Division 6.b (other areas)	aru.27.6b7-1012	Jun	2027	2
Greater-spotted dogfish (<i>Scyliorhinus stellaris</i>) in subareas 6 and 7 (West of Scotland, southern Celtic Sea, English Channel)	syt.27.67	Oct	2027	2
Greenland halibut (<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>) in subareas 5, 6, 12, and 14 (Iceland and Faroes grounds, West of Scotland, North of Azores, East of Greenland)	ghl.27.561214	Jun	2026	1
Grey gurnard (<i>Eutrigla gurnardus</i>) in Subarea 4 and in divisions 7.d and 3.a (North Sea, eastern English Channel, Skagerrak, Kattegat)	gug.27.3a47d	Jun	2026	2
Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>) in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds)	had.27.5b	Nov	2026	1
Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>) in Division 6.b (Rockall)	had.27.6b	Jun	2026	1
Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>) in Division 7.a (Irish Sea)	had.27.7a	Jun	2026	1
Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>) in divisions 7.b-k (southern Celtic Seas and English Channel)	had.27.7b-k	Jun	2026	1
Haddock (<i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i>) in Subarea 4, in Division 6.a, and in Subdivision 20 (North Sea, West of Scotland, Skagerrak)	had.27.46a20	Jun	2026	1

Stock name	Stock code	Advice release (Month)	Advice release (Year)	Frequency of advice
Hake (<i>Merluccius merluccius</i>) in subareas 4, 6, and 7 and in divisions 3.a, 8.a, 8.b, and 8.d; Northern stock (Greater North Sea, Celtic Seas, northern Bay of Biscay)	hke.27.3a46-8abd	Jun	2026	1
Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>) in Division 6.a North (North of 56°00'N and East of 07°00'W); autumn spawners (West of Scotland)	her.27.6aN	Apr	2026	1
Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>) in Division 7.a North of 52°30'N (Irish Sea)	her.27.nirs	Apr	2026	1
Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>) in divisions 6.a South (south of 56°00'N and west of 07°00'W), 7.b, and 7.c (northwest and west of Ireland)	her.27.6aS7bc	Apr	2026	1
Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>) in divisions 7.a (south of 52°30'N), 7.g, 7.h, 7.j, and 7.k (Irish Sea, Celtic Sea, and southwest of Ireland)	her.27.irls	Apr	2026	1
Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>) in Subarea 4 and in divisions 3.a and 7.d; autumn spawners (North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat, eastern English Channel)	her.27.3a47d	Apr	2026	1
Herring (<i>Clupea harengus</i>) in subareas 1, 2, and 5 and in divisions 4.a and 14.a; Norwegian spring spawners (the Northeast Atlantic and Arctic Ocean)	her.27.1-24a514a	Sept	2026	1
Horse mackerel (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>) in divisions 4.b, 4.c, and 7.d (southern and central North Sea, eastern English Channel)	hom.27.4bc7d	Sept	2026	1
Horse mackerel (<i>Trachurus trachurus</i>) in Subarea 8 and divisions 2.a, 3.a, 4.a, 5.b, 6.a, 7.a-c, and 7.e-k (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	hom.27.2a3a4a5b6a 7a-ce-k8	Sept	2026	1
Kitefin shark (<i>Dalatias licha</i>) in subareas 1-10, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	sck.27.nea	Oct	2027	4
Leafscale gulper shark (<i>Centrophorus squamosus</i>) in subareas 1-10, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	guq.27.nea	Oct	2027	4
Lemon sole (<i>Microstomus kitt</i>) in Subarea 4 and in divisions 3.a and 7.d (North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat, eastern English Channel)	lem.27.3a47d	Jun	2026	1
Lesser spotted dogfish (<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i>) in Subarea 4 and in divisions 3.a and 7.d (North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat, eastern English Channel)	syc.27.3a47d	Oct	2027	2
Lesser spotted dogfish (<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i>) in Subarea 6 and in divisions 7.a-c and 7.e-j (West of Scotland, Irish Sea, southern Celtic Seas)	syc.27.67a-ce-j	Oct	2027	2
Ling (<i>Molva molva</i>) in Division 5.a (Iceland grounds)	lin.27.5a	Jun	2026	1
Ling (<i>Molva molva</i>) in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds)	lin.27.5b	Jun	2026	1

Stock name	Stock code	Advice release (Month)	Advice release (Year)	Frequency of advice
Ling (<i>Molva molva</i>) in subareas 1 and 2 (Northeast Arctic)	lin.27.1-2	Jun	2027	2
Ling (<i>Molva molva</i>) in subareas 3,4, 6-9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and Arctic Ocean)	lin.27.346-91214	Jun	2027	2
Mackerel (<i>Scomber scombrus</i>) in subareas 1-8 and 14 and in Division 9.a (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	mac.27.nea	Sept	2026	1
Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>) in Division 6.b (Rockall)	lez.27.6b	Jun	2026	1
Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus spp.</i>) in divisions 4.a and 6.a (northern North Sea, West of Scotland)	lez.27.4a6a	Jun	2026	1
Megrim (<i>Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis</i>) in divisions 7.b-k, 8.a, 8.b, and 8.d (west and southwest of Ireland, Bay of Biscay)	meg.27.7b-k8abd	Jun	2026	1
Northern shrimp (<i>Pandalus borealis</i>) in divisions 3.a and 4.a East (Skagerrak, Kattegat, northern North Sea in the Norwegian Deep)	pra.27.3a4a	Jun	2026	1
Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) in Division 4.a, Functional Unit 10 (northern North Sea, Noup)	nep.fu.10	Oct	2026	2
Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) in Division 4.a, Functional Unit 32 (northern North Sea, Norway Deep)	nep.fu.32	Oct	2026	1
Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) in Division 4.a, Functional Unit 7 (northern North Sea, Fladen Ground)	nep.fu.7	Oct	2026	1
Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) in Division 4.a, Functional Unit 9 (central North Sea, Moray Firth)	nep.fu.9	Oct	2026	1
Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) in Division 4.b, Functional Unit 33 (central North Sea, Horn's Reef)	nep.fu.33	Oct	2026	2
Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) in Division 4.b, Functional Unit 34 (central North Sea, Devil's Hole)	nep.fu.34	Oct	2026	2
Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) in Division 4.b, Functional Unit 6 (central North Sea, Farn Deeps)	nep.fu.6	Oct	2026	1
Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) in Division 4.b, Functional Unit 8 (central North Sea, Firth of Forth)	nep.fu.8	Oct	2026	1

Stock name	Stock code	Advice release (Month)	Advice release (Year)	Frequency of advice
Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) in Division 6.a, Functional Unit 11 (West of Scotland, North Minch)	nep.fu.11	Oct	2026	1
Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) in Division 6.a, Functional Unit 12 (West of Scotland, South Minch)	nep.fu.12	Oct	2026	1
Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) in Division 6.a, Functional Unit 13 (West of Scotland, Firth of Clyde, Sound of Jura)	nep.fu.13	Oct	2026	1
Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) in Division 6.a, outside the functional units (West of Scotland)	nep.27.6aoutFU	Oct	2026	3
Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) in Division 7.a, Functional Unit 14 (Irish Sea, East)	nep.fu.14	Oct	2026	1
Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) in Division 7.a, Functional Unit 15 (Irish Sea, West)	nep.fu.15	Oct	2026	1
Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) in divisions 4.b and 4.c, Functional Unit 5 (central and southern North Sea, Botney Cut-Silver Pit)	nep.fu.5	Oct	2026	2
Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) in divisions 7.a, 7.g, and 7.j, Functional Unit 19 (Irish Sea, Celtic Sea, eastern part of southwest of Ireland)	nep.fu.19	Oct	2026	1
Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) in divisions 7.b, 7.c, 7.j, and 7.k, Functional Unit 16 (west and southwest of Ireland, Porcupine Bank)	nep.fu.16	Oct	2026	1
Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) in divisions 7.f and 7.g, Functional Unit 22 (Celtic Sea, Bristol Channel)	nep.fu.22	Oct	2026	1
Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) in divisions 7.g and 7.h, functional units 20 and 21 (Celtic Sea)	nep.fu.2021	Oct	2026	1
Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) in Subarea 4, outside the functional units (North Sea)	nep.27.4outFU	Oct	2026	2
Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>) in Subarea 7, outside the functional units (southern Celtic Seas, southwest of Ireland)	nep.27.7outFU	Oct	2026	3
Norway pout (<i>Trisopterus esmarkii</i>) in Division 6.a	nop.27.6a	Jun	2027	3
Norway pout (<i>Trisopterus esmarkii</i>) in Subarea 4 and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat)	nop.27.3a4	Oct	2026	1

Stock name	Stock code	Advice release (Month)	Advice release (Year)	Frequency of advice
Orange roughy (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>) in subareas 1–10, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	ory.27.nea	Jun	2028	4
Other rays and skates (<i>Rajidae</i>) in Subarea 4 and in divisions 3.a and 7.d (North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat, eastern English Channel)	raj.27.3a47d	Oct	2027	4
Other rays and skates (<i>Rajiformes</i>) in Subarea 6 and in divisions 7.a–c and 7.e–k (Rockall, West of Scotland, Celtic Sea, western English Channel)	raj.27.67a-ce-k	Oct	2028	4
Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) in Division 7.a (Irish Sea)	ple.27.7a	Jun	2026	1
Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) in Division 7.d (eastern English Channel)	ple.27.7d	Jun	2026	1
Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) in Division 7.e (western English Channel)	ple.27.7e	Jun	2026	2
Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) in divisions 7.b and 7.c (West of Ireland)	ple.27.7bc	Jun	2026	3
Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) in divisions 7.f and 7.g (Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea)	ple.27.7fg	Jun	2026	2
Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) in divisions 7.h–k (Celtic Sea South, southwest of Ireland)	ple.27.7h-k	Jun	2026	2
Plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>) in Subarea 4 (North Sea) and in Subdivision 20 (Skagerrak)	ple.27.420	Jun	2026	1
Pollack (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>) in Subarea 4 and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat)	pol.27.3a4	Jun	2027	3
Pollack (<i>Pollachius pollachius</i>) in subareas 6 and 7 (Celtic Seas, English Channel)	pol.27.67	Jun	2026	1
Porbeagle (<i>Lamna nasus</i>) in subareas 1–10, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	por.27.nea	Oct	2026	2
Portuguese dogfish (<i>Centroscymnus coelolepis</i> , <i>Centrophorus squamosus</i>) in subareas 1–10, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	cyo.27.nea	Oct	2027	4
Red gurnard (<i>Chelidonichthys cuculus</i>) in subareas 3–8 (Northeast Atlantic)	gur.27.3-8	Sept	2027	2
Roughsnout grenadier (<i>Trachyrincus scabrus</i>) in subareas 1, 2, 4–8, 10, 12, and 14 and in Division 3a (Northeast Atlantic, Arctic Ocean)	tsu.27.nea	Jun	2030	5
Roundnose grenadier (<i>Coryphaenoides rupestris</i>) in subareas 1, 2, 4, 8, and 9; in Division 14.a; and in subdivisions 14.b.2 and 5.a.2 (Northeast Atlantic, Arctic Ocean)	rng.27.1245a8914ab	Jun	2027	4

Stock name	Stock code	Advice release (Month)	Advice release (Year)	Frequency of advice
Roundnose grenadier (<i>Coryphaenoides rupestris</i>) in subareas 6 and 7 and in divisions 5.b and 12.b (Celtic Seas and the English Channel, Faroes grounds, western Hatton Bank)	rng.27.5b6712b	Jun	2026	2
Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>) in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds)	pok.27.5b	Nov	2026	1
Saithe (<i>Pollachius virens</i>) in subareas 4 and 6 and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak, Kattegat)	pok.27.3a46	Jun	2026	1
Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) in Northeast Atlantic and Arctic Ocean	sal.neac.all	May	2027	3
Sandeel (<i>Ammodytes spp.</i>) in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 5r (northern North Sea, Viking and Bergen banks)	san.sa.5r	Feb	2027	2
Sandeel (<i>Ammodytes spp.</i>) in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r (northern North Sea, Shetland)	san.sa.7r	Feb	2027	2
Sandeel (<i>Ammodytes spp.</i>) in Division 6.a (West of Scotland)	san.27.6a	Feb	2027	3
Sandeel (<i>Ammodytes spp.</i>) in divisions 4.a and 4.b and in Subdivision 20, Sandeel Area 3r (Skagerrak, northern and central North Sea)	san.sa.3r	Feb	2026	1
Sandeel (<i>Ammodytes spp.</i>) in divisions 4.a and 4.b, Sandeel Area 4 (northern and central North Sea)	san.sa.4	Feb	2026	1
Sandeel (<i>Ammodytes spp.</i>) in divisions 4.b and 4.c and in Subdivision 20, Sandeel Area 2r (Skagerrak, central and southern North Sea)	san.sa.2r	Feb	2026	1
Sandeel (<i>Ammodytes spp.</i>) in Divisions 4.b and 4.c, Sandeel Area 1r (central and southern North Sea, Dogger Bank)	san.sa.1r	Feb	2026	1
Sandy ray (<i>Leucoraja circularis</i>) in subareas 6 and 7 (West of Scotland, southern Celtic Seas, English Channel)	rji.27.67	Oct	2028	4
Sardine (<i>Sardina pilchardus</i>) in Subarea 7 (Southern Celtic Seas, English Channel)	pil.27.7	Dec	2026	1
Seabass (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>) in divisions 4.b, 4.c, 7.a, and 7.d-h (central and southern North Sea, Irish Sea, English Channel, Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea)	bss.27.4bc7ad-h	Jun	2026	1
Seabass (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>) in divisions 6.a, 7.b, and 7.j (West of Scotland, West of Ireland, eastern part of southwest of Ireland)	bss.27.6a7bj	Jun	2026	3
Shagreen ray (<i>Leucoraja fullonica</i>) in subareas 6 and 7 (West of Scotland, southern Celtic Seas, English Channel)	rjf.27.67	Oct	2028	4

Stock name	Stock code	Advice release (Month)	Advice release (Year)	Frequency of advice
Small-eyed ray (<i>Raja microocellata</i>) in divisions 7.d and 7.e (English Channel)	rje.27.7de	Oct	2028	4
Small-eyed ray (<i>Raja microocellata</i>) in divisions 7.f and 7.g (Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea North)	rje.27.7fg	Oct	2026	2
Smooth-hound (<i>Mustelus spp.</i>) in subareas 1–10, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	sdv.27.nea	Oct	2027	2
Sole (<i>Solea solea</i>) in Division 7.a (Irish Sea)	sol.27.7a	Jun	2026	1
Sole (<i>Solea solea</i>) in Division 7.d (eastern English Channel)	sol.27.7d	Jun	2026	1
Sole (<i>Solea solea</i>) in Division 7.e (western English Channel)	sol.27.7e	Jun	2026	1
Sole (<i>Solea solea</i>) in divisions 7.b and 7.c (West of Ireland)	sol.27.7bc	Jun	2026	3
Sole (<i>Solea solea</i>) in divisions 7.f and 7.g (Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea)	sol.27.7fg	Jun	2026	1
Sole (<i>Solea solea</i>) in divisions 7.h–k (Celtic Sea South, southwest of Ireland)	sol.27.7h-k	Jun	2026	3
Sole (<i>Solea solea</i>) in Subarea 4 (North Sea)	sol.27.4	Jun	2026	1
Spotted ray (<i>Raja montagui</i>) in divisions 7.a and 7.e–h (southern Celtic Seas, western English Channel)	rjm.27.7ae-h	Oct	2026	2
Spotted ray (<i>Raja montagui</i>) in Subarea 4 and in divisions 3.a and 7.d (North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat, eastern English Channel)	rjm.27.3a47d	Oct	2027	2
Spotted ray (<i>Raja montagui</i>) in Subarea 6 and in divisions 7.b and 7.j (West of Scotland, west and southwest of Ireland)	rjm.27.67bj	Oct	2026	2
Sprat (<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>) in Division 3.a and Subarea 4 (Skagerrak, Kattegat, North Sea)	spr.27.3a4	Apr	2026	1
Sprat (<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>) in divisions 7.d and 7.e (English Channel)	spr.27.7de	Apr	2026	1
Sprat (<i>Sprattus sprattus</i>) in Subarea 6 and in divisions 7.a–c and 7.f–k (West of Scotland, southern Celtic Seas)	spr.27.67a-cf-k	Apr	2027	2
Spurdog (<i>Squalus acanthias</i>) in subareas 1–10, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	dgs.27.nea	Oct	2026	2
Starry ray (<i>Amblyraja radiata</i>) in subareas 2 and 4 and in Division 3.a (Norwegian Sea, North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat)	rjr.27.23a4	Oct	2027	4
Striped red mullet (<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>) in Subarea 4 and in divisions 7.d and 3.a (North Sea, eastern English Channel, Skagerrak, Kattegat)	mur.27.3a47d	Jun	2027	2

Stock name	Stock code	Advice release (Month)	Advice release (Year)	Frequency of advice
Striped red mullet (<i>Mullus surmuletus</i>) in subareas 6 and 8 and in divisions 7.a-c, 7.e-k, and 9.a (North Sea, Bay of Biscay, southern Celtic Seas, Atlantic Iberian waters)	mur.27.67a-ce-k89a	Sept	2026	3
Thornback ray (<i>Raja clavata</i>) in Division 7.e (western English Channel)	rjc.27.7e	Oct	2028	4
Thornback ray (<i>Raja clavata</i>) in divisions 7.a, 7.f, and 7.g (Irish Sea, Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea North)	rjc.27.7afg	Oct	2026	2
Thornback ray (<i>Raja clavata</i>) in Subarea 4 and in divisions 3.a and 7.d (North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat, and eastern English Channel)	rjc.27.3a47d	Oct	2027	2
Thornback ray (<i>Raja clavata</i>) in Subarea 6 (West of Scotland)	rjc.27.6	Oct	2026	2
Thresher sharks (<i>Alopias spp.</i>) in subareas 10 and 12; in divisions 7.c-k, 8.d, and 8.e; and in subdivisions 5.b.1, 9.b.1, and 14.b.1 (Northeast Atlantic)	thr.27.nea	Oct	2027	4
Tope (<i>Galeorhinus galeus</i>) in subareas 1-10, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	gag.27.nea	Oct	2027	4
Turbot (<i>Scophthalmus maximus</i>) in Division 3.a (Skagerrak, Kattegat)	tur.27.3a	Jun	2026	1
Turbot (<i>Scophthalmus maximus</i>) in Subarea 4 (North Sea)	tur.27.4	Jun	2026	1
Tusk (<i>Brosme brosme</i>) in Division 6.b (Rockall)	usk.27.6b	Jun	2026	2
Tusk (<i>Brosme brosme</i>) in Subarea 14 and in Division 5.a (East Greenland, Iceland grounds)	usk.27.5a14	Jun	2026	1
Tusk (<i>Brosme brosme</i>) in subareas 1 and 2 (Northeast Arctic)	usk.27.1-2	Jun	2027	2
Tusk (<i>Brosme brosme</i>) in subareas 4 and 7-9 and in divisions 3.a, 5.b, 6.a, and 12.b (Northeast Atlantic)	usk.27.3a45b6a7-912b	Jun	2027	2
Undulate ray (<i>Raja undulata</i>) in divisions 7.b and 7.j (west and southwest of Ireland)	rju.27.7bj	Oct	2028	4
Undulate ray (<i>Raja undulata</i>) in divisions 7.d and 7.e (English Channel)	rju.27.7de	Oct	2026	2
White anglerfish (<i>Lophius piscatorius</i>) in Subarea 7 and in divisions 8.a, 8.b, and 8.d (Celtic Seas, Bay of Biscay)	mon.27.78abd	Jun	2026	1
White skate (<i>Rostrotraja alba</i>) in subareas 1-10, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)	rja.27.nea	Oct	2027	4
Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>) in Division 3.a (Skagerrak, Kattegat)	whg.27.3a	Jun	2026	2
Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>) in Division 6.a (West of Scotland)	whg.27.6a	Jun	2026	1
Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>) in Division 6.b (Rockall)	whg.27.6b	Jun	2027	3

Stock name	Stock code	Advice release (Month)	Advice release (Year)	Frequency of advice
Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>) in Division 7.a (Irish Sea)	whg.27.7a	Jun	2027	2
Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>) in divisions 7.b, 7.c, and 7.e-k (southern Celtic Seas, eastern English Channel)	whg.27.7b-ce-k	Jun	2026	1
Whiting (<i>Merlangius merlangus</i>) in Subarea 4 and in Division 7.d (North Sea, eastern English Channel)	whg.27.47d	Jun	2026	1
Witch (<i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i>) in Subarea 4 and in divisions 3.a and 7.d (North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat, eastern English Channel)	wit.27.3a47d	Jun	2026	1

Annex 2: Schedule of key annual administrative procedures for the UK and ICES

2.1 *Schedule for advice planning, budgeting and payment for recurring advice*

February: Payment of 50% of the budgeted annual cost to ICES from the UK for recurrent advice in current calendar year.

July: Payment of 50% of the budgeted annual cost to ICES from the UK for recurrent advice in current calendar year.

September: Brief interim meeting during the Annual Science Conference to evaluate on the first half of the year.

November: the UK formally communicates to ICES an update of its views and priorities with respect to the contents and timing of recurrent advice concerning the next calendar year to ICES.

Mid December: ICES informs UK of the budget for the delivery of recurrent advice for the next calendar year to be used for prepayments for next year in February and July.

January/February: Annual clients meeting (MIRIA). ICES and UK to meet in order to review this MoU as per the obligations under paragraph 19 of the MoU.

June: ICES to provide the UK with ICES annual audited financial accounts for the previous year.

2.2 *Schedule for the Provision of non-recurring Advice*

Non-recurring advice may be provided in the context of marine policy and management issues related to the impacts of human activities on marine ecosystems and the sustainable use of living marine resources.

ICES will notify the UK in the case of other ICES Advice Requesters submit to ICES a request for non-recurring advice that pertains to any stocks listed in Table 1 and the UK is not a joint requestor.

The table specifies the procedures to be carried out by both Participants when arranging the provision of non-recurring advice.

UK	ICES
<p>Requests for advice to be sent by letter or e-mail to ICES specifying the desired advice and the timescale within which advice is desired. In case of e-mail correspondence the address should be advice@ices.dk</p>	<p>ICES will respond as soon as possible and within 21 working days specifying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature and extent of the work that can be completed within the specified timeframe; • The extent to which the questions posed can be answered; • The extent to which the work is of mutual interest and in such case proposal for cost sharing; • The additional costs to be recovered from the UK.

<p>The UK will respond as soon as possible and within 10 working days confirming whether the work is to be carried out.</p>	<p>If so decided, ICES will deliver the advice according to the decided timescale and invoice according to the decided budget following delivery of the advice.</p> <p>ICES will notify and agree with the UK any planned stakeholder engagement pertaining to a non-recurring request.</p>
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Annex 3: Components upon which ICES costs are calculated

The Participants agree that the payment to ICES is calculated based on ICES recovering the following costs:

- i. the costs of development and maintenance of databases and analyses that are needed in order to prepare advice, but generally would not occur otherwise,
- ii. the preparation, quality assurance and delivery of the advice,
- iii. salary costs incurred for the leadership of the Advisory Committee,
- iv. salary costs incurred for the ICES Secretariat Advisory programme,
- v. other direct costs associated with the provision of advisory services

On the basis of this recognition, the following cost components are relevant;

1. Costs incurred by ICES (i.e. travel and per diem) related to meetings of its Advisory groups in proportion to the time of these meetings spent on advice related to the UK;
2. Secretariat staff salaries, including superannuating, regarding preparation for, work during and follow-up after:
 - 2.1. the ICES Advisory Committee Meetings(*), in proportion to the decided UK share;
 - 2.2. and other recurring needs associated with ICES Experts Group Meetings, in proportion to the decided UK share;
3. Travel and per diem costs for the Chair of the Advisory Committee (or a designate) or other scientifically-qualified personnel in attending meetings with the UK, as stipulated in paragraph 5 of the MoU. The number of these meetings at which ICES will be represented will be mutually decided in advance of the meetings.
4. Databases, web portal systems and data processing software relevant to the collection, processing and dissemination of data and information products that will be used in the provision of scientific information and advice(*)
5. Computing costs(*);
6. the cost of any work where ICES proposes to employ a consultant or contractor(*);
7. other current expenditure(*);
8. A stipend for the chair and vice chairs of the ICES Advisory Committee, in proportion to the decided UK share;
9. A contribution to the Advisory Programme including the use of external reviewers, in proportion to the decided UK share
10. Overheads (**). The overhead costs will be calculated by means of a fixed overhead percentage of 7 % which is applied to the total costs of each different activity mentioned in the ICES Work Programme. Overheads are based on the documented annual costs (e.g. invoices and payments) of running ICES headquarters so that the Secretariat staff may carry out their duties.

(*) In proportion to the costs allocated to the total delivery of advice

(**) The overhead percentage covers the following types of indirect costs, and the share of these that cannot be allocated directly to specific tasks, such as:

- a. capital cost of computing and other capital equipment;
- b. central financial and personnel administration;
- c. computer system support and maintenance;

- d. rent of premises (excluding ICES headquarters);
- e. office expenses including electricity, heating, watchmen, safety and security, cleaning costs, maintenance costs (e.g. photocopier), consumables, postage, telephone and fax, office equipment, insurance, general office maintenance (e.g. painting) and staff education and training.

Cost calculations shared with all ICES' advice requesters in October 2020, constituting the basis for the calculations that ICES has made to cost the advice under recently concluded MoUs.

ICES has listed all stocks for which advice is provided and have indicated the advice requesters for each stock. In cases where a stock is shared (being requested by several advice requesters), we have shared the stock equally between the clients e.g. in case of three advice requesters being interested in a stock, the costs are shared between them in the magnitude of 0.33.

The total costs of the advisory services is then divided with the total number of stocks, and multiplied this with the weighted number of stocks for each of the advice requester, to find the costs applicable to them.

Annex 4: UK framework for fisheries management

Responsibility for fisheries policy in the UK is divided between the Secretary of State (in relation to England) and the three devolved Fisheries Administrations, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland.

In relation to this MoU, this means that:

- The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (“DEFRA”) in coordination with the Fisheries Administrations, will be the primary point of contact for ICES for matters relating to the administration of this MoU.
- DEFRA will be the recipient of data calls originating from ICES and will ensure each administration within the UK is informed.
- Each Fisheries Administration is responsible for its data submission to ICES.

Annex 5: Data Collection Agreement

As a member country of ICES, the UK has made a commitment under Article 1(b) of the Convention for the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea¹⁰ to draw up and organise programmes required for research and investigation into the sea and its living resources as may appear necessary. Under paragraph 3 of this MoU, the UK will provide ICES with all relevant data for scientific analysis that is necessary for ICES to provide the UK with advice deliverables as listed in paragraph 4 of this MoU.

For all stocks specified in table 1 of Annex 1, and for any additional non-recurrent advice, as well any data collection that are coordinated at the regional level, the scope of relevant data includes:

1. Fisheries independent survey data, details of which are specified in annual data calls. Research surveys at sea are an important method for collecting biological data. In view of their importance in marine regions where stocks are shared, it is appropriate for a sufficient number of research surveys at sea to be carried out. The UK will determine the appropriate level of survey effort in consultation with ICES.
2. Fisheries dependent data, details of which are specified in annual data calls. Including:
 - a. biological data on all stocks caught or by-caught in commercial and, where appropriate, recreational fisheries including eels and salmon in relevant inland waters, as well as other diadromous fish;
 - b. data to assess the impact of fisheries on the marine ecosystem including by-catch of non-target species, in particular species protected under international law, data on impacts of fisheries on marine habitats, including vulnerable marine areas, and data on impacts of fisheries on food webs;
 - c. data on the activity of fishing vessels in and outside UK waters, including levels of fishing, and on effort and capacity of the fleet;
 - d. socioeconomic data on fisheries;
 - e. socioeconomic data and sustainability data on marine aquaculture, including its environmental impact;
3. Other data that supports the Ecosystem Approach and the Fisheries and Ecosystem overviews that are part of the ICES advice deliverables to the UK.

¹⁰ ICES Convention <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.7533>









ICES-UK Memorandum of Understanding 2026

Final Audit Report

2026-02-23

Created:	2026-02-19
By:	Alia Raja (alia.raja@ices.dk)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAOSeh_CMbA6NUN70X3R7LhXsyRH1t7NPH

"ICES-UK Memorandum of Understanding 2026" History

-  Document created by Alia Raja (alia.raja@ices.dk)
2026-02-19 - 2:58:13 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Alan Haynie (alan.haynie@ices.dk) for signature
2026-02-19 - 2:58:21 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Alan Haynie (alan.haynie@ices.dk)
2026-02-20 - 8:18:25 AM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Alan Haynie (alan.haynie@ices.dk)
Signature Date: 2026-02-20 - 8:18:44 AM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Document emailed to Gareth Baynham-Hughes ([REDACTED]) for signature
2026-02-20 - 8:18:46 AM GMT
-  Email viewed by Gareth Baynham-Hughes ([REDACTED])
2026-02-23 - 11:31:36 AM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Gareth Baynham-Hughes ([REDACTED])
Signature Date: 2026-02-23 - 11:32:07 AM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2026-02-23 - 11:32:07 AM GMT



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