

EU request for a Technical Service to provide the data outputs of ICES 2021 advice on the deep-sea access regulation (ref. (EU)2016/2336) as coordinates for the EU waters area only

Service summary

This Technical Service replaces the previous Service released in December 2021.

ICES provides as a technical service the data outputs of its 2021 advice on the deep-sea access regulation (ref. (EU)2016/2336) as coordinates for the EU waters only in the Northeast Atlantic (i.e. areas between 400 and 800 m in the EEZs of France, Spain, Portugal, and Ireland).

The data outputs include 1) an interactive map showing the updated VME scenarios and options and the existing deep-sea fishing areas, 2) the coordinates of the updated scenario and options as PDF and CSV as well as XLSX and SHP files and 3) the coordinates of three fishing footprints, the combined static and mobile bottom-contacting gear (MBCG) footprint, the static gear only footprint, and the MBCG only footprint, as PDF and CSV as well as XLSX and SHP files. All coordinates are in decimal form according to the WGS84 coordinate system¹.

The electronic data outputs of this February 2022 technical service can be accessed at <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.data.10041>

This technical service is based on ICES (2021a) advice on the list of areas where VMEs are known to occur or are likely to occur and on the existing deep-sea fishing areas (ref. (EU)2016/2336) and the references within.

Request

EU requests ICES to provide revised data output for the existing deep-sea fishing areas (footprint) and the VMEs location based on the ICES 2021 advice on the deep-sea access regulation (ref. (EU)2016/2336) as coordinates for EU waters of the North-East Atlantic area only.

In January of 2021 ICES delivered advice to the EU on the list of areas where VMEs are known to occur or are likely to occur and on the existing deep-sea fishing areas (ref. (EU)2016/2336). This included electronic data outputs.

- *ICES Advice: ICES. 2021. EU Request to advise on the list of areas where VMEs are known to occur or are likely to occur and on the existing deep-sea fishing areas (ref. (EU)2016/2336.). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2021. ICES Advice 2021, sr.2021.01. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7507>.*
- *The electronic data outputs can be accessed at <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.data.7506>.*

In December 2021, ICES delivered a technical advice presenting the coordinates for the location of VMEs in the EU EEZs of the North-East Atlantic (ICES areas subareas 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10), in all 4 scenarios and options.

EU requests ICES to:

- *Update the technical advice of 15 Dec. by including the **descriptions** “VME_Csquare”, “VME_Habitat”, “VME_Indicator” and “VME_Elements” in the cvs, .xlsx and .shp files for “all scenario and all options -updated”. ICES is requested to **explain, in the service summary document, the rationale behind the removal and the addition of a number of coordinates** compared to the January 2021 advice, as linked to the UK EEZ for the former and to the shift from ICES ecoregions to EU waters for the latter. This will allow stakeholders to have a clear understanding of the differences in the coordinates listed in the Jan.2021 advice and of the ones listed in this technical advice for implementation purposes within EU waters.*
- *Provide data output for the “**existing deep-sea fishing areas**”, i.e. **the footprint, for static, for mobile-contacting gears and for their combination**, based on the ICES 2021 advice on the deep-sea access regulation (ref. (EU)2016/2336) as coordinates for EU waters only. This will require the removal of all coordinates outside the EEZs*

¹ Version 2: Addition that all coordinates are in decimal form according to the WGS84 coordinate system

of France, Spain, Portugal and Ireland as mapped by the Flanders Marine Institute in the 2020 Union of the ESRI Country shapefile and the Exclusive Economic Zones (version 3), available at <https://doi.org/10.14284/403>

Based on the above, the following outputs are requested:

1. Update all cvs, .xlsx and .shp files delivered in the technical advice of 15 Dec. by including the **descriptions** "VME_Csquare", "VME_Habitat", "VME_Indicator" and "VME_Elements" for "all scenario and all options - updated".
2. Update the service summary document with explanations on the rationale behind the removal and the addition of a number of coordinates and the differences between the Jan 2021 advice and this technical advice.
3. Update the interactive map delivered in ICES technical service of 15 December 2021 showing; a) the footprint for static gears, for mobile-contacting gears and combined in "the EEZs of France, Spain, Portugal and Ireland" and, b) applied to "all scenario and all options -updated"
4. Update the pdf maps representing the VMEs in EU waters in the 4 scenario and 4 options, as provided in ICES technical service of 16 December 2021, by adding the "footprint_all" pattern as background.
5. Deliver the **coordinates of the footprint** "Footprint_all", "Footprint_mobile", "Footprint_static" in EU waters (EEZs of France, Ireland, Spain and Portugal) in .csv, .xlsx and .shp files, also produced as maps in pdf.

Outputs

Outputs provided are 1) an interactive map showing the updated VME scenarios and options and the existing deep-sea fishing areas, 2) the coordinates of the updated scenario and options as PDF and CSV as well as XLSX and SHP files and 3) the coordinates of three fishing footprints, the combined static and mobile bottom-contacting gear (MBCG) footprint, the static gear only footprint, and the MBCG only footprint, as PDF and CSV as well as XLSX and SHP files. All coordinates are in decimal form according to the WGS84 coordinate system.

Rationale for change in VME closure coordinates and the main differences between this technical advice and ICES (2021) advice on the list of areas where VMEs are known to occur or are likely to occur can be found in Annex 1 to 4².

The data product is [available for download from ICES website](#).

Basis of the technical service

This technical service is based on ICES (2021a) advice on the list of areas where VMEs are known to occur or are likely to occur and on the existing deep-sea fishing areas (ref. (EU)2016/2336) and the references within. It also builds on the technical service published 16 December 2021 (ICES, 2021b).

The technical service includes only EU waters in the Northeast Atlantic as defined and requested by DGMARE to be the EEZs of France, Spain, Portugal, and Ireland (see request and Figure 1). The original advice (ICES, 2021a) was provided using two ICES ecoregions: 1) the Celtic Seas and 2) the Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast. Coordinates of the proposed VME closures and fisheries footprint have been updated to accommodate the change in geographic region. VME closures and fisheries footprint data in both ecoregions have not been reanalysed.

A small area of EU waters south of the Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast ecoregion was not part of the original ICES (2021) advice. This EU waters area is now included in all data products to integrate the existing deep-sea fishing areas (footprint) and VME closure locations.

Along the boundary between the Celtic Seas ecoregion and Bay of Biscay and Iberian Coast ecoregion one grid cell (resolution 0.05°× 0.05°) band of bottom fishing data contributing to the overall fishing footprint was omitted from the ICES (2021) advice. This previously missing information is now included.

² Version 2: All coordinates are now provided with four decimal places

It should be noted that the most up to date footprint identification numbers (in SHP, XLSX, PDF, and CSV file) are in this technical service, and thus differ from the identification numbers in ICES (2021) advice. This change in numbering is due to the updates in the fishing footprint and the changes in geographic boundaries.

The VME closure identification numbers (in SHP, XLSX, PDF, and CSV file) in this technical service match the identification numbers of ICES (2021) advice.

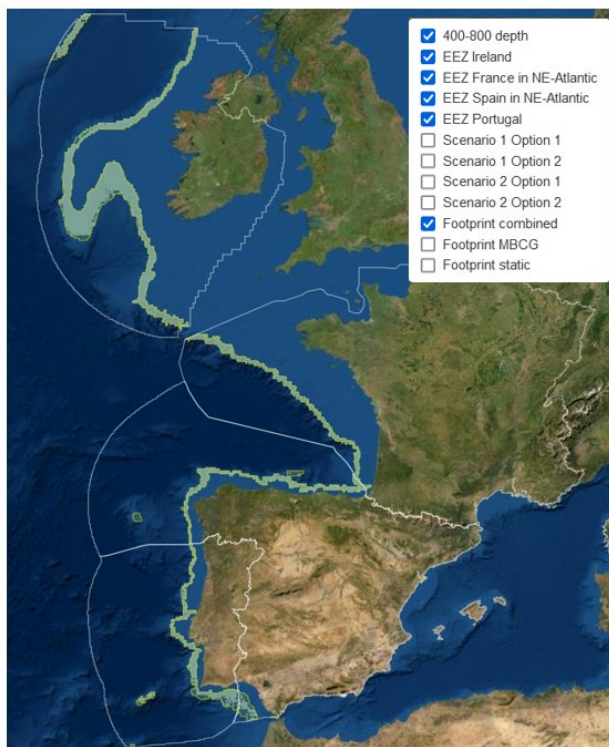


Figure 1 Illustration of the combined fishing footprint (MBCG and static) for the EU waters area only in the Northeast Atlantic.

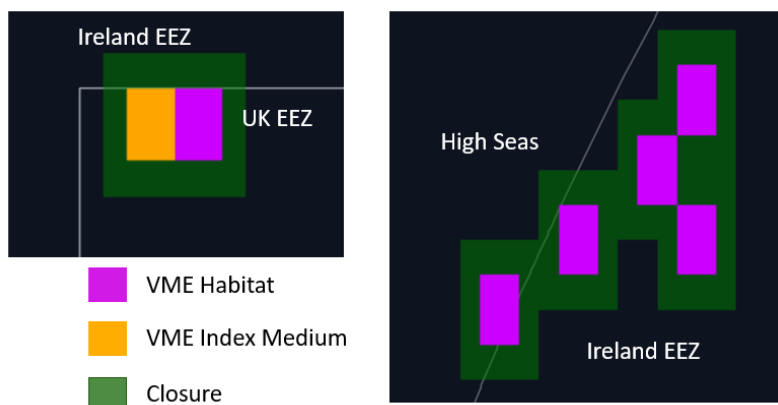
Table 1 compares the number of VME habitat and index C-squares within 400–800 m depth under each closure scenario and option for both ICES (2021) advice and this technical service.

Table 1. Comparison of the number of VME habitat and index C-squares within 400–800 m depth within each closure scenario and option for ICES (2021) advice and the EU waters area only (Northeast Atlantic).

Scenario/option	ICES (2021) advice	EU waters area only
Scenario 1 Option 1	103 VME Habitat 41 VME Index High 48 VME Index Medium 33 VME Index Low	60 VME Habitat 10 VME Index High 36 VME Index Medium 16 VME Index Low
Scenario 1 Option 2	103 VME Habitat 41 VME Index High 48 VME Index Medium 33 VME Index Low	60 VME Habitat 10 VME Index High 36 VME Index Medium 16 VME Index Low
Scenario 2 Option 1	103 VME Habitat 41 VME Index High 48 VME Index Medium 101 VME Index Low	60 VME Habitat 10 VME Index High 36 VME Index Medium 68 VME Index Low
Scenario 2 Option 2	90 VME Habitat 36 VME Index High 35 VME Index Medium 74 VME Index Low	53 VME Habitat 7 VME Index High 28 VME Index Medium 46 VME Index Low

Some EU water VME closures polygons in this technical service have also been updated, due to part of its closure polygon area spilling over into either the High Seas or UK waters areas (Figure 2). Annex 5 describes for each of these updated polygons in EU waters what VME habitat and index cells are present within the 400–800 m depth.

Figure 2 Illustration of two VME closures with updated boundaries as part of the closure polygon is in UK waters and High Seas. The green closure area shows the area as presented in ICES (2021) advice. The technical service only includes that part of the closure that is within EU waters.



Sources and references

ICES. 2021a. EU Request to advise on the list of areas where VMEs are known to occur or are likely to occur and on the existing deep-sea fishing areas (ref. (EU)2016/2336). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2021. ICES Advice 2021, sr.2021.01. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7507>. The electronic data outputs can be accessed at <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.data.7506>.

ICES. 2021b. EU request for a Technical Service to provide data output of the ICES 2021 advice on the deep-sea access regulation (ref. (EU)2016/2336) as coordinates for EU waters area only. In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2021. ICES Advice 2021, sr. 2021.18. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.9457>. The electronic data outputs can be accessed at <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.data.9458>.

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Annex 1 Scenario 1 Option 1

Table A1.1 Closure updates in the technical service as compared to ICES (2021) advice. The numbers correspond to Poly_No in CSV and PDF file in that advice. All updated boundaries are shown in Table A1.2.

Affected closures (partly) outside the EEZs of France, Spain, Portugal, and Ireland	
New closures	None
Closures outside EU waters	42, 76, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113
Updated boundaries	41, 43, 77, 80, 82
Affected closures (partly) south of ICES Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast ecoregion	
New closures	none
Closures outside EU waters	None
Updated boundaries	None

Table A1.2 Closures with updated boundaries. The “Coordinates excluded” column shows all coordinates that are in ICES (2021) advice, but not in this technical service. The column “Coordinates included” shows all coordinates that are in the technical service, but not in ICES (2021) advice.

Poly_No	Coordinates excluded	Coordinates included
41	-9.3250 48.2000; -9.3250 48.2250; -9.3250 48.2500; -9.3250 48.2750; -9.3000 48.2750; -9.2750 48.2750; -9.2500 48.2750; -9.2250 48.2750; -9.2000 48.2750; -9.1750 48.2750; -9.1500 48.2750; -9.1250 48.2750; -9.1250 48.2500	-9.3250 48.1790; -9.1250 48.2352
43	-9.7750 48.4250; -9.7750 48.4500; -9.7750 48.4750; -9.6250 48.4750; -9.6250 48.4500; -9.6250 48.4250; -9.6500 48.4250; -9.6750 48.4250; -9.7000 48.4250; -9.7250 48.4250; -9.7500 48.4250; -9.7750 48.4250	n/a
77	-15.5500 55.4750; -15.5750 55.4750; -15.5750 55.5000; -15.5750 55.5250; -15.5750 55.5500; -15.5750 55.5750; -15.5500 55.5750; -15.5250 55.5750; -15.5000 55.5750; -15.4750 55.5750; -15.4750 55.6000; -15.4750 55.6250; -15.4500 55.6250	-15.5448 55.4754; -15.5407 55.4809; -15.5396 55.4823; -15.5376 55.4851; -15.5365 55.4865; -15.5283 55.4974; -15.5272 55.4988; -15.5252 55.5015; -15.5241 55.5029; -15.5199 55.5084; -15.5189 55.5097; -15.5168 55.5125; -15.5157 55.5138; -15.5073 55.5248; -15.5062 55.5261; -15.5041 55.5288; -15.5030 55.5302; -15.4988 55.5357; -15.4977 55.5370; -15.4955 55.5397; -15.4945 55.5411; -15.4858 55.5520; -15.4847 55.5533; -15.4826 55.5561; -15.4815 55.5574; -15.4771 55.5628; -15.4760 55.5642; -15.4738 55.5669; -15.4727 55.5683; -15.4639 55.5791; -15.4628 55.5804; -15.4606 55.5832; -15.4595 55.5845; -15.4550 55.5899; -15.4539 55.5913; -15.4517 55.5940; -15.4505 55.5953; -15.4415 55.6061; -15.4403 55.6076; -15.4378 55.6106; -15.4365 55.6121; -15.4315 55.6180; -15.4302 55.6195; -15.4277 55.6225; -15.4264 55.6240; -15.4255 55.6250; -15.5451 55.4750; -15.5448 55.4754

<p>-14.6750 57.7750; -14.6750 57.8000; -14.6750 57.8250; -14.6750 57.8500; -14.6750 57.8750; -14.6500 57.8750; -14.6250 57.8750; -14.6000 57.8750; -14.5750 57.8750; -14.5750 57.8500; -14.5750 57.8250; -14.5500 57.8250; -14.5250 57.8250; -14.5000 57.8250; -14.4750 57.8250; -14.4750 57.8000; -14.4750 57.7750; -14.4500 57.7750; -14.4250 57.7750; -14.4000 57.7750; -14.3750 57.7750; -14.3500 57.7750; -14.3250 57.7750; -14.3250 57.7500; -14.3250 57.7250; -14.3250 57.7000; -14.3250 57.6750; -14.3500 57.6750; -14.3750 57.6750; -14.3750 57.6500; -14.3750 57.6250; -14.4000 57.6250; -14.4250 57.6250; -14.4250 57.6000; -14.4250 57.5750; -14.4500 57.5750; -14.4750 57.5750; -14.4750 57.5500; -14.4750 57.5250; -14.4750 57.5000; -14.4750 57.4750; -14.5000 57.4750; -14.5250 57.4750; -14.5250 57.4500; -14.5250 57.4250; -14.5500 57.4250; -14.5750 57.4250; -14.5750 57.4000; -14.5750 57.3750; -14.5750 57.3500; -14.5750 57.3250; -14.6000 57.3250; -14.6250 57.3250; -14.6250 57.3000; -14.6250 57.2750; -14.6250 57.2500; -14.6250 57.2250; -14.6250 57.2000; -14.6250 57.1750; -14.6500 57.1750; -14.6750 57.1750; -14.6750 57.1500; -14.6750 57.1250; -14.6750 57.1000; -14.6750 57.0750; -14.6500 57.0750; -14.6250 57.0750; -14.6250 57.1000; -14.5250 57.1250; -14.6000 57.1250; -14.5750 57.1250; -14.5500 57.1250; -14.5250 57.1250; -14.5250 57.1000; -14.5250 57.0750; -14.5250 57.0500; -14.5250 57.0250; -14.5500 57.0250; -14.5750 57.0250; -14.5750 57.0000; -14.5750 56.9750; -14.5500 56.9750; -14.5250 56.9750; -14.5250 56.9500; -14.5250 56.9250; -14.5250 56.9000; -14.5250 56.8750; -14.5250 56.8500; -14.5250 56.8250; -14.5000 56.8250; -14.4750 56.8250; -14.4750 56.8500; -14.4750 56.8750; -14.4750 56.9000; -14.4750 56.9250; -14.4750 56.9500; -14.4750 56.9750; -14.4750 57.0000; -14.4750 57.0250; -14.4500 57.0250; -14.4250 57.0250; -14.4000 57.0250; -14.3750 57.0250; -14.3750 57.0000; -14.3750 56.9750; -14.3500 56.9750; -14.3250 56.9750; -14.3000 56.9750; -14.2750 56.9750; -14.2750 57.0000; -14.2750 57.0250; -14.2500 57.0250; -14.2250 57.0250; -14.2000 57.0250; -14.1750 57.0250; -14.1500 57.0250; -14.1250 57.0250; -14.1000 57.0250; -14.0750 57.0250; -14.0750 57.0000; -14.0750 56.9750; -14.0750 56.9500; -14.0750 56.9250; -14.0500 56.9250; -14.0250 56.9250; -14.0250 56.9000; -14.0250 56.8750; -14.0250 56.8500; -14.0250 56.8250; -14.0250 56.8000; -14.0250 56.7750; -14.0000 56.7750; -13.9750 56.7750; -13.9500 56.7750; -13.9250 56.7750; -13.9250 56.8000; -13.9250 56.8250; -13.9000 56.8250; -13.8750 56.8250; -13.8500 56.8250; -13.8250 56.8250; -13.8250 56.8000; -13.8250 56.7750; -13.8250 56.7500; -13.8250 56.7250; -13.8500 56.7250; -13.8750 56.7250; -14.0250 56.6750; -14.1750 56.6250; -14.1750 56.6000; -14.6750 56.3500; -14.6750 56.3750; -14.6750 56.4000; -14.6750 56.4250; -14.7000 56.4250; -14.7250 56.4250; -14.7250 56.4500; -14.7250 56.4750; -14.7250 56.5000; -14.7250 56.5250; -14.7500 56.5250; -14.7750 56.5250; -14.8000 56.5250; -14.8250 56.5250; -14.8500 56.5250; -14.8750 56.5250; -14.8750 56.5000; -14.8750 56.4750; -14.8500 56.4750; -14.8250 56.4750; -14.8250 56.4500; -14.8250 56.4250; -14.8250 56.4000; -14.8250 56.3750; -14.8500 56.3750; -14.8750 56.3750; -14.8750 56.3500; -14.8750 56.3250; -14.8750 56.3000; -14.8750 56.2750; -14.8750 56.2500; -14.8750 56.2250; -14.9000 56.2250; -14.9250 56.2250; -14.9500 56.2250; -14.9750 56.2250; -14.9750 56.2000; -14.9750 56.1750; -14.9750 56.1500; -14.9750 56.1250; -15.0000 56.1250; -15.0250 56.1250; -15.0250 56.1000; -15.0250 56.0750; -15.0750 56.0250; -15.0750 56.0500; -15.0750 56.0750; -15.1000 56.0750; -15.1250 56.0750; -15.1250 56.0500; -15.1250 56.0250; -15.1250 56.0000; -15.1250 55.9750; -15.1500 55.9250; -15.1750 55.9250; -15.1750 55.9000; -15.2750 55.8000; -15.2750 55.8250; -15.3000 55.8250; -15.3250 55.8250; -15.3500 55.8250; -15.3750 55.8250; -15.4000 55.8250; -15.4250 55.8250; -15.4500 55.8250; -15.4750 55.8250; -15.5000 55.8250; -15.5250 55.8250; -15.5500 55.8250; -15.5750 55.8250; -15.6000 55.8250; -15.6250 55.8250; -15.6500 55.8250; -15.6750 55.8250; 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82	-13.7750 56.7250; -13.7750 56.7500; -13.7750 56.7750; -13.7500 56.7750; -13.7250 56.7750; -13.7000 56.7750; -13.6750 56.7750; -13.6500 56.7750; -13.6250 56.7750; -13.6250 56.7500; -13.6250 56.7250	n/a

Annex 2 Scenario 1 Option 2

Table A2.1 Closure updates in the technical service as compared to ICES (2021) Advice. The numbers correspond to Poly_No in CSV and PDF file in that advice. All updated boundaries are shown in Table A2.2.

Affected closures (partly) outside the EEZs of France, Spain, Portugal, and Ireland	
New closures	None
Closures outside EU waters	40, 74, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105
Updated boundaries	39, 41, 76, 79, 81
Affected closures (partly) south of ICES Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast Ecoregion	
New closures	None
Closures outside EU waters	None
Updated boundaries	None

Table A2.2 Closures with updated boundaries. The “Coordinates excluded” column shows all coordinates that are in ICES (2021) advice but not in this technical service. The “Coordinates included” column shows all coordinates that are in the technical service, but not in ICES (2021) advice.

Poly_No	Coordinates excluded	Coordinates included
39	-9.3250 48.2000; -9.3250 48.2250; -9.3250 48.2500; -9.3250 48.2750; -9.3000 48.2750; -9.2750 48.2750; -9.2500 48.2750; -9.2250 48.2750; -9.2000 48.2750; -9.1750 48.2750; -9.1500 48.2750; -9.1250 48.2750; -9.1250 48.2500	-9.3250 48.1790; -9.1250 48.2352
41	-9.6250 48.4500; -9.6250 48.4250; -9.6500 48.4250; -9.6750 48.4250; -9.7000 48.4250; -9.7250 48.4250; -9.7500 48.4250; -9.7750 48.4250; -9.7750 48.4500; -9.7750 48.4750; -9.6250 48.4750; -9.6250 48.4500	n/a
76	-15.5750 55.4750; -15.5750 55.5000; -15.5750 55.5250; -15.5750 55.5500; -15.5750 55.5750; -15.5500 55.5750; -15.5250 55.5750; -15.5000 55.5750; -15.4750 55.5750; -15.4750 55.6000; -15.4750 55.6250; -15.4500 55.6250; -15.5500 55.4750; -15.5750 55.4750	-15.5448 55.4754; -15.5407 55.4809; -15.5396 55.4823; -15.5376 55.4851; -15.5365 55.4865; -15.5283 55.4974; -15.5272 55.4988; -15.5252 55.5015; -15.5241 55.5029; -15.5199 55.5084; -15.5189 55.5097; -15.5168 55.5125; -15.5157 55.5138; -15.5073 55.5248; -15.5062 55.5261; -15.5041 55.5288; -15.5030 55.5302; -15.4988 55.5357; -15.4977 55.5370; -15.4955 55.5397; -15.4945 55.5411; -15.4858 55.5520; -15.4847 55.5533; -15.4826 55.5561; -15.4815 55.5574; -15.4771 55.5628; -15.4760 55.5642; -15.4738 55.5669; -15.4727 55.5683; -15.4639 55.5791; -15.4628 55.5804; -15.4606 55.5832; -15.4595 55.5845; -15.4550 55.5899; -15.4539 55.5913; -15.4517 55.5940; -15.4505 55.5953; -15.4415 55.6061; -15.4403 55.6076; -15.4378 55.6106; -15.4365 55.6121; -15.4315 55.6180; -15.4302 55.6195; -15.4277 55.6225; -15.4264 55.6240; -15.4255 55.6250; -15.5451 55.4750; -15.5448 55.4754

	-14.6750 57.7750; -14.6750 57.8000; -14.6750 57.8250; -14.6750 57.8500; -14.6750 57.8750; -14.6500 57.8750; -14.6250 57.8750; -14.6000 57.8750; -14.5750 57.8750; -14.5750 57.8500; -14.5750 57.8250; -14.5500 57.8250; -14.5250 57.8250; -14.5000 57.8250; -14.4750 57.8250; -14.4750 57.8000; -14.4750 57.7750; -14.4500 57.7750; -14.4250 57.7750; -14.4000 57.7750; -14.3750 57.7750; -14.3500 57.7750; -14.3250 57.7750; -14.3250 57.7500; -14.3250 57.7250; -14.3250 57.7000; -14.3250 57.6750; -14.3500 57.6750; -14.3750 57.6750; -14.3750 57.6500; -14.3750 57.6250; -14.4000 57.6250; -14.4250 57.6250; -14.4250 57.6000; -14.4250 57.5750; -14.4500 57.5750; -14.4750 57.5750; -14.4750 57.5500; -14.4750 57.5250; -14.4750 57.5000; -14.4750 57.4750; -14.5000 57.4750; -14.5250 57.4750; -14.5250 57.4500; -14.5250 57.4250; -14.5500 57.4250; -14.5750 57.4250; -14.5750 57.4000; -14.5750 57.3750; -14.5750 57.3500; -14.5750 57.3250; -14.6000 57.3250; -14.6250 57.3250; -14.6250 57.3000; -14.6250 57.2750; -14.6250 57.2500; 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81	-13.7750 56.7250; -13.7750 56.7500; -13.7750 56.7750; -13.7500 56.7750; -13.7250 56.7750; -13.7000 56.7750; -13.6750 56.7750; -13.6500 56.7750; -13.6250 56.7750; -13.6250 56.7500; -13.6250 56.7250	n/a

Annex 3 Scenario 2 Option 1

Table A3.1 Closure updates in the technical service as compared to ICES (2021) advice. The numbers correspond to Poly_No in CSV and PDF file in that advice All updated boundaries are shown in Table A3.2.

Affected closures (partly) outside the EEZs of France, Spain, Portugal, and Ireland	
New closures	None
Closures outside EU waters	50, 87, 93, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135
Updated boundaries	49, 51, 88, 91, 94
Affected closures (partly) south of ICES Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast ecoregion	
New closures	None
Closures outside EU waters	None
Updated boundaries	None

Table A3.2 Closures with updated boundaries. The “Coordinates excluded” column shows all coordinates threat a in ICES (2021) advice, but not in this technical service. The “Coordinates included” column shows all coordinates that are in the technical service, but not in ICES (2021) advice.

Poly_No	Coordinates excluded	Coordinates included
49	-9.3250 48.2000; -9.3250 48.2250; -9.3250 48.2500; -9.3250 48.2750; -9.3000 48.2750; -9.2750 48.2750; -9.2500 48.2750; -9.2250 48.2750; -9.2000 48.2750; -9.1750 48.2750; -9.1500 48.2750; -9.1250 48.2750; -9.1250 48.2500	-9.3250 48.1790; -9.1250 48.2352
51	-9.6250 48.4500; -9.6250 48.4250; -9.6500 48.4250; -9.6750 48.4250; -9.7000 48.4250; -9.7250 48.4250; -9.7500 48.4250; -9.7750 48.4250; -9.7750 48.4500; -9.7750 48.4750; -9.6250 48.4750; -9.6250 48.4500	n/a
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-14.4951 56.4776; - 14.4784 56.4888; -14.4763 56.4902; -14.4750 56.4911; -14.4989 56.4750; -14.4972 56.4762; - 14.0000 56.7000; -14.0000 56.7000</p>
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	<p>-15.3750 56.1750; -15.3750 56.1500; -15.3750 56.1250; -15.4000 56.1250; -15.4250 56.1250; -15.4500 56.1250; -15.4750 56.1250; -15.4750 56.1500; -15.4750 56.1750; -15.5000 56.1750; -15.5250 56.1750; -15.5500 56.1750; -15.5750 56.1750; -15.5750 56.1500; -15.5750 56.1250; -15.6000 56.1250; -15.6250 56.1250; -15.6500 56.1250; -15.6750 56.1250; -14.8750 57.3750; -14.8750 57.3500; -14.8750 57.3250; -14.8750 57.3000; -14.8750 57.2750; -14.8750 57.2500; -14.8750 57.2250; -14.8750 57.2000; -14.8750 57.1750; -14.8750 57.1500; -14.8750 57.1250; -14.8500 57.1250; -14.8250 57.1250; -14.8250 57.1500; -14.8250 57.1750; -14.8250 57.2000; -14.8250 57.2250; -14.8000 57.2250; -14.7750 57.2250; -14.7750 57.2500; -14.7750 57.2750; -14.7500 57.2750; -14.7250 57.2750; -14.7250 57.3000; -14.7250 57.3250; -14.7500 57.3250; -14.7750 57.3250; -14.7750 57.3500; -14.7750 57.3750; -14.8000 57.3750; -14.8250 57.3750; -14.8500 57.3750; -14.8750 57.3750; -14.6750 56.7750; -14.6750 56.7500; -14.6750 56.7250; -14.6750 56.7000; -14.6750 56.6750; -14.6500 56.6750; -14.6250 56.6750; -14.6250 56.6500; -14.6250 56.6250; -14.6250 56.6000; -14.6250 56.5750; -14.6000 56.5750; -14.5750 56.5750; -14.5750 56.6000; -14.5750 56.6250; -14.5750 56.6500; -14.5750 56.6750; -14.5750 56.7000; -14.5750 56.7250; -14.6000 56.7250; -14.6250 56.7250; -14.6250 56.7500; -14.6250 56.7750; -14.6500 56.7750; -14.6750 56.7750; -14.4250 56.5250; -14.4500 56.5250; -14.4750 56.5250; -14.4750 56.5000; -14.5000 56.4750; -14.5250 56.4750</p>	
94	<p>-13.7750 56.7250; -13.7750 56.7500; -13.7750 56.7750; -13.7500 56.7750; -13.7250 56.7750; -13.7000 56.7750; -13.6750 56.7750; -13.6500 56.7750; -13.6250 56.7750; -13.6250 56.7500; -13.6250 56.7250</p>	n/a

Annex 4 Scenario 2 Option 2

Table A4.1 Closure updates in the technical service as compared to ICES (2021) Advice. The numbers correspond to Poly_No in CSV and PDF file in that advice. All updated boundaries are shown in Table A4.2.

Affected closures (partly) outside the EEZs of France, Spain, Portugal, and Ireland	
New closures	None
Closures outside EU waters	84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122
Updated boundaries	48, 79, 83, 123
Affected closures (partly) south of ICES Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Coast ecoregion	
New closures	None
Closures outside EU waters	None
Updated boundaries	None

Table A4.2 Closures with updated boundaries. The “Coordinates excluded” column shows all coordinates that are in ICES (2021) advice, but not in this technical service. The “Coordinates included” column shows all coordinates that are in the technical service, but not in ICES (2021) advice.

Poly_No	Coordinates excluded	Coordinates included
48	-9.7750 48.4250; -9.7750 48.4500; -9.7750 48.4750; -9.6250 48.4750; -9.6250 48.4500; -9.6250 48.4250; -9.6500 48.4250; -9.6750 48.4250; -9.7000 48.4250; -9.7250 48.4250; -9.7500 48.4250; -9.7750 48.4250	NA
79	-15.5500 55.4750; -15.5750 55.4750; -15.5750 55.5000; -15.5750 55.5250; -15.5750 55.5500; -15.5750 55.5750; -15.5500 55.5750; -15.5250 55.5750; -15.5000 55.5750; -15.4750 55.5750; -15.4750 55.6000; -15.4750 55.6250; -15.4500 55.6250	-15.5448 55.4754; -15.5407 55.4809; -15.5396 55.4823; -15.5376 55.4851; -15.5365 55.4865; -15.5283 55.4974; -15.5272 55.4988; -15.5252 55.5015; -15.5241 55.5029; -15.5199 55.5084; -15.5189 55.5097; -15.5168 55.5125; -15.5157 55.5138; -15.5073 55.5248; -15.5062 55.5261; -15.5041 55.5288; -15.5030 55.5302; -15.4988 55.5357; -15.4977 55.5370; -15.4955 55.5397; -15.4945 55.5411; -15.4858 55.5520; -15.4847 55.5533; -15.4826 55.5561; -15.4815 55.5574; -15.4771 55.5628; -15.4760 55.5642; -15.4738 55.5669; -15.4727 55.5683; -15.4639 55.5791; -15.4628 55.5804; -15.4606 55.5832; -15.4595 55.5845; -15.4550 55.5899; -15.4539 55.5913; -15.4517 55.5940; -15.4505 55.5953; -15.4415 55.6061; -15.4403 55.6076; -15.4378 55.6106; -15.4365 55.6121; -15.4315 55.6180; -15.4302 55.6195; -15.4277 55.6225; -15.4264 55.6240; -15.4255 55.6250; -15.5451 55.4750; -15.5448 55.4754
83	-13.7750 56.7250; -13.7750 56.7500; -13.7750 56.7750; -13.7500 56.7750; -13.7250 56.7750; -13.7000 56.7750; -13.6750 56.7750; -13.6500 56.7750; -13.6250 56.7750; -13.6250 56.7500; -13.6250 56.7250	n/a
123	-15.4250 56.6750; -15.4250 56.7000; -15.4250 56.7250; -15.4250 56.7500; -15.4250 56.7750; -15.4000 56.7750; -15.3750 56.7750; -15.3500 56.7750; -15.3250 56.7750; -15.3250 56.8000; -15.3250 56.8250; -15.3000 56.8250; -15.2750 56.8250; -15.2500 56.8250; -15.2250 56.8250; -15.2000 56.8250; -15.1750 56.8250; -15.1750 56.8500; -15.1750 56.8750; -15.1500 56.8750; -15.1250 56.8750; -15.1000 56.8750; -15.0750 56.8750; -15.0750 56.8500; -15.0750 56.8250; -15.0500 56.8250; -15.0250 56.8250; -15.0250 56.8500; -15.0250 56.8750; -15.0000 56.8750; -14.9750 56.8750; -14.9750 56.9000; -14.9750 56.9250; -14.9750 56.9500; -14.9750 56.9750; -14.9500 56.9750; -14.9250 56.9750; -14.9250 57.0000; -14.9250 57.0250; -14.9250 57.0500; -14.9250 57.0750; -14.9000 57.0750; -14.8750 57.0750; -14.8750 57.1000; -14.8750 57.1250; -14.8500 57.1250; -14.8250 57.1250; -14.8250 57.1500; -14.8250 57.1750; -14.8250 57.2000; -14.8250 57.2250; -14.8000 57.2250; -14.7750 57.2250; -14.7750 57.2500; -14.7750 57.2750; -14.7500 57.2750; -14.7250 57.2750; -14.7250 57.3000; -14.7250 57.3250; -14.7500 57.3250; -14.7750 57.3250; -14.7750 57.3500; -14.7750 57.3750; -14.7750 57.4000; -14.7750 57.4250; -14.7750 57.4500; -14.7750 57.4750; -14.7750 57.5000; -14.7750 57.5250; -14.7500 57.5250; -14.7250 57.5250; -14.7000 57.5250; -14.6750 57.5250; -14.6500 57.5250; -14.6250 57.5250; -14.6250 57.5500; -14.6250 57.5750; -14.6000 57.5750; -14.5750 57.5750; -14.5750 57.6000; -14.5750 57.6250; -14.5500 57.6250; -14.5250 57.6250; -14.5250 57.6500;	-15.2750 55.7888; -15.2689 55.7950; -15.2681 55.7958; -15.2673 55.7965; -15.2642 55.7997; -15.2626 55.8013; -15.2563 55.8076; -15.2547 55.8092; -15.2515 55.8124; -15.2499 55.8139; -15.2371 55.8265; -15.2355 55.8281; -15.2323 55.8313; -15.2310 55.8325; -15.2303 55.8334; -15.2289 55.8349; -15.2183 55.8473; -15.2170 55.8488; -15.2144 55.8519; -15.2130 55.8535; -15.2077 55.8596; -15.2063 55.8612; -15.2036 55.8642; -15.2023 55.8658; -15.1919 55.8775; -15.1911 55.8785; -15.1897 55.8800; -15.1888 55.8810; -15.1865 55.8837; -15.1852 55.8851; -15.1826 55.8880; -15.1813 55.8895; -15.1761 55.8952; -15.1750 55.8965; -15.1397 55.9349; -15.1384 55.9363; -15.1357 55.9392; -15.1344 55.9406; -15.1290 55.9464; -15.1276 55.9478; -15.1250 55.9506; -15.1489 55.9250; -15.1397 55.9349; -15.0750 56.0023; -15.0741 56.0032; -15.0727 56.0046; -15.0697 56.0076; -15.0685 56.0088; -15.0572 56.0201; -15.0558 56.0215; -15.0530 56.0243; -15.0515 56.0257; -15.0458 56.0313; -15.0444 56.0327; -15.0416 56.0356; -15.0401 56.0370; -15.0286 56.0482; -15.0279 56.0489; -15.0265 56.0503; -15.0258 56.0510; -15.0229 56.0538; -15.0222 56.0545; -15.0207 56.0559;

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-14.5750 57.4250; -14.5750 57.4000; -14.5750 57.3750; -14.5750 57.3500; -14.5750 57.3250; -14.6000 57.3250; -14.6250 57.3250; -14.6250 57.3000; -14.6250 57.2750; -14.6250 57.2500; -14.6250 57.2250; -14.6250 57.2000; -14.6250 57.1750; -14.6500 57.1750; -14.6750 57.1750; -14.6750 57.1500; -14.6750 57.1250; -14.6750 57.1000; -14.6750 57.0750; -14.6500 57.0750; -14.6250 57.0750; -14.6250 57.1000; -14.6250 57.1250; -14.6000 57.1250; -14.5750 57.1250; -14.5500 57.1250; -14.5250 57.1250; -14.5250 57.1000; -14.5250 57.0750; -14.5250 57.0500; -14.5250 57.0250; -14.5000 57.0250; -14.4750 57.0250; -14.4500 57.0250; -14.4250 57.0250; -14.4000 57.0250; -14.3750 57.0250; -14.3750 57.0000; -14.3750 56.9750; -14.3500 56.9750; -14.3250 56.9750; -14.3000 56.9750; -14.2750 56.9750; -14.2750 57.0000; -14.2750 57.0250; -14.2500 57.0250; -14.2250 57.0250; -14.2000 57.0250; -14.1750 57.0250; -14.1500 57.0250; -14.1250 57.0250; -14.1000 57.0250; -14.0750 57.0250; -14.0500 57.0250; -14.0250 57.0250; -14.0000 57.0250; 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-15.0113 56.0649; -15.0084 56.0677; -15.0076 56.0684; -15.0062 56.0698; -15.0053 56.0707; -15.0042 56.0717; -15.0023 56.0735; -15.0014 56.0743; -15.0007 56.0750; -14.8842 56.1806; -14.8823 56.1823; -14.8784 56.1857; -14.8764 56.1874; -14.8750 56.1886; -14.8907 56.1750; -14.8842 56.1806; -14.5609 56.4324; -14.5591 56.4336; -14.5556 56.4360; -14.5536 56.4375; -14.5529 56.4380; -14.5446 56.4437; -14.5425 56.4451; -14.5384 56.4480; -14.5364 56.4494; -14.5250 56.4572; -14.5713 56.4250; -14.5609 56.4324; -14.4972 56.4762; -14.4951 56.4776; -14.4784 56.4888; -14.4763 56.4902; -14.4750 56.4911; -14.4989 56.4750; -14.4972 56.4762; -14.4192 56.5276; -14.4171 56.5290; -14.4128 56.5318; -14.4107 56.5331; -14.3935 56.5441; -14.3913 56.5455; -14.3870 56.5482; -14.3849 56.5496; -14.3762 56.5551; -14.3741 56.5564; -14.3697 56.5592; -14.3676 56.5605; -14.3501 56.5714; -14.3480 56.5728; -14.3436 56.5755; -14.3414 56.5768; -14.3341 56.5813; -14.3310 56.5772; -14.1667 56.5772; -14.1667 56.6667; -14.0250 56.6667; -14.4233 56.5250; -14.4192 56.5276; -14.0000 56.7000; -14.0000 56.7000</p>
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<p>-14.9750 56.3000; -14.9750 56.3250; -14.9750 56.3500; -14.9750 56.3750; -15.0000 56.3750; -15.0250 56.3750; -15.0500 56.3750; -15.0750 56.3750; -15.1000 56.3750; -15.1250 56.3750; -15.1500 56.3750; -15.1750 56.3750; -15.2000 56.3750; -15.2250 56.3750; -15.2500 56.3750; -15.2750 56.3750; -15.3000 56.3750; -15.3250 56.3750; -15.3250 56.4000; -15.3250 56.4250; -15.3250 56.4500; -15.3250 56.4750; -15.3000 56.4750; -15.2750 56.4750; -15.2750 56.5000; -15.2750 56.5250; -15.2750 56.5500; -15.2750 56.5750; -15.2500 56.5750; -15.2250 56.5750; -15.2000 56.5750; -15.1750 56.5750; -15.1750 56.6000; -15.1750 56.6250; -15.1750 56.6500; -15.1750 56.6750; -15.1500 56.6750; -15.1250 56.6750; -15.1000 56.6750; -15.0750 56.6750; -15.0500 56.6750; -15.0250 56.6750; -15.0250 56.6500; -15.0250 56.6250; -15.0000 56.6250; -14.9750 56.6250; -14.9500 56.6250; -14.9250 56.6250; -14.9250 56.6500; -14.9250 56.6750; -14.9250 56.7000; -14.9250 56.7250; -14.9500 56.7250; -14.9750 56.7250; -15.0000 56.7250; -15.0250 56.7250; -15.0500 56.7250; -15.0750 56.7250; -15.1000 56.7250; -15.1250 56.7250; -15.1250 56.7500; -15.1250 56.7750; -15.1500 56.7750; -15.1750 56.7750; -15.1750 56.7500; -15.1750 56.7250; -15.2000 56.7250; -15.2250 56.7250; -15.2500 56.7250; -15.2750 56.7250; -15.3000 56.7250; -15.3250 56.7250; -15.3250 56.7000; -15.3250 56.6750; -15.3500 56.6750; -15.3750 56.6750; -15.4000 56.6750; -15.4250 56.6750; -15.6750 56.1250; -15.6750 56.1000; -15.6750 56.0750; -15.6500 56.0750; -15.6250 56.0750; -15.6250 56.0500; -15.6250 56.0250; -15.6250 56.0000; -15.6250 55.9750; -15.6250 55.9500; -15.6250 55.9250; -15.6000 55.9250; -15.5750 55.9250; -15.5500 55.9250; -15.5250 55.9250; -15.5000 55.9250; -15.4750 55.9250; -15.4500 55.9250; -15.4250 55.9250; -15.4000 55.9250; -15.3750 55.9250; -15.3750 55.9500; -15.3750 55.9750; -15.3500 55.9750; -15.3250 55.9750; -15.3000 55.9750; -15.2750 55.9750; -15.2500 55.9750; -15.2250 55.9750; -15.2250 56.0000; -15.2250 56.0250; -15.2250 56.0500; -15.2250 56.0750; -15.2000 56.0750; -15.1750 56.0750; -15.1750 56.1000; -15.1750 56.1250; -15.1750 56.1500; -15.1750 56.1750; -15.1500 56.1750; -15.1250 56.1750; -15.1250 56.2000; -15.1250 56.2250; -15.1500 56.2250; -15.1750 56.2250; -15.2000 56.2250; -15.2250 56.2250; -15.2250 56.2000; -15.2250 56.1750; -15.2500 56.1750; -15.2750 56.1750; -15.3000 56.1750; -15.3250 56.1750; -15.3500 56.1750; -15.3750 56.1750; -15.3750 56.1500; -15.3750 56.1250; -15.4000 56.1250; -15.4250 56.1250; -15.4500 56.1250; -15.4750 56.1250; -15.4750 56.1500; -15.4750 56.1750; -15.5000 56.1750; -15.5250 56.1750; -15.5500 56.1750; -15.5750 56.1750; -15.5750 56.1500; -15.5750 56.1250; -15.6000 56.1250; -15.6250 56.1250; -15.6500 56.1250; -15.6750 56.1250; -14.6250 56.7750; -14.6500 56.7750; -14.6750 56.7750; -14.6750 56.7500; -14.6750 56.7250; -14.6750 56.7000; -14.6750 56.6750; -14.6500 56.6750; -14.6250 56.6750; -14.6250 56.6500; -14.6250 56.6250; -14.6250 56.6000; -14.6250 56.5750; -14.6000 56.5750; -14.5750 56.5750; -14.5750 56.6000; -14.5750 56.6250; -14.5750 56.6500; -14.5750 56.6750; -14.5750 56.7000; -14.5750 56.7250; -14.6000 56.7250; -14.6250 56.7250; -14.6250 56.7500; -14.6250 56.7750</p>
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Annex 5 VME closure updated boundaries

Table A5 Information on the presence of VME Habitat and Index C-squares within the 400–800 m depth range for each polygon with updated boundaries. The table only shows this information for EU and UK waters. No information is provided on the presence of VME Habitat and Index C-squares in the High Seas as this area is beyond the geographic scope of the original request.

Scenario /option	Polygon	C-squares in EU-waters	C-squares in UK-waters
1/1	41	3 Habitat, 1.5 Index Medium	1 Habitat, 0.5 Index Medium
	43	-	1 Habitat, 1 Index Medium
	77	2.5 Habitat	-
	80	2 Habitat, 3 Index High, 3 Index Medium, 1 Index Low	1 Index High, 2 Index Low
	82	-	1 Index Medium, 1 Index Low
1/2	39	3 Habitat, 1.5 Index Medium	1 Habitat, 0.5 Index Medium
	41	-	1 Habitat, 1 Index Medium
	76	0.5 Habitat	-
	79	2 Habitat, 3 Index High, 3 Index Medium, 1 Index Low	1 Index High, 2 Index Low
	81	-	1 Index Medium, 1 Index Low
2/1	49	3 Habitat, 1.5 Index Medium	1 Habitat, 0.5 Index Medium
	51	-	1 Habitat, 1 Index Medium
	88	2.5 Habitat	-
	91	2 Habitat, 3 Index High, 3 Index Medium, 2 Index Low	1 Index High, 2 Index Low
	94	-	1 Index Medium, 1 Index Low
2/2	48	-	1 Habitat, 1 Index Medium
	79	2.5 Habitat	-
	83	-	1 Index Medium, 1 Index Low
	123	2 Habitat, 3 Index High, 2 Index Medium, 2 Index Low	2 Index Low