

Dear Barrie,

There are three STECF WG meetings scheduled to look at L-T management plans including those for cod. John Simmonds will chair the WGs.

The 1st is scheduled for 28 Feb- 4 March. Venue may be Copenhagen but it isn't yet confirmed.

The 2nd is scheduled for 20-24th June, venue to be confirmed

The 3rd, if required is scheduled for 10-14 October, venue to be confirmed.

1st meeting

The purpose of the first meeting is a scoping exercise to plan how to address the following to be undertaken in the two subsequent WG meetings:

Scoping for Impact assessment (i.e. forward look at likely consequences of plan proposals) for Baltic cod MP.

Scoping for Evaluations (i.e. backward look) for Kattegat, Skag and Nsea, W Scot, VIIa and VIId cod MPs

Scoping for Impact assessment of BoBiscay sole

Deepwater – to discuss draft ToRs for a meeting to carry out an impact assessment of some deepwater fisheries where effort management is proposed.

It is from my point of view extremely important that stakeholders including RACs are involved at the scoping stage so I hope that will be possible.

There are also plans by the Commission to include a scoping exercise for an impact assessment for Southern hake Nep and Anglerfish, although it will not be done in this 1st meeting unless the Commission decides to drop the Baltic or other cod plans from the agenda. We are awaiting information on the Commission's priorities and should know soon.

The scoping exercises are to decide what needs to be done, what data and information are required, who should participate, what modelling approaches are needed etc and agree who will do the work including anything required ahead of the assessment/evaluation meeting.

2nd meeting

This is when the modelling work will be completed and the report(s) written:

Impact assessment for Baltic cod MP

Evaluation of existing MPs for the other cod stocks

It is also planned to carry out scoping exercises for the impact assessment for the Southern hake, Nephrops and Anglerfish MP and

A scoping exercise for the Evaluation of the Northern hake MP.

3rd meeting

The intention will be that this will pick up anything leftover from the 1st two meetings.

This is what I am aware of at present but we still need firm confirmation of the Commission's priorities as to the agendas for the meetings.

We will hopefully be able to publish the calendar of STECF WG's for 2011 in the next couple of days. I'll arrange for the Secretariats of the RACs to be alerted when it is ready. Hope this helps. If you wish to discuss please give me a call. I expect John Simmonds will be actively seeking participation from RACs and others in the near future.

Regards

John

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