

Skagerrak and Kattegat WG, NSRAC

Basic facts and composition

The WG have had three meetings since the General Assembly 2010. Carl-Jesper Hermansen have been chairing the group and rapporteur has been Fredrik Lindberg. The meetings held have been well-visited by representatives from the Danish Fishermen's Association and the Swedish Fishermen's Federation. Also representatives from the Danish Directorate of Fisheries, the Swedish National Board of Fisheries (now replaced by the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water management) and DTU Aqua as well as from the Norwegian fisheries organization Fiskerlaget Sør have followed the meetings closely.

April 7, 2011, Copenhagen

The meeting discussed thoroughly the reasons behind the poor status of the cod in the Kattegat. The consequence thereof, constant effort reductions, was concluded not acceptable. As to the closed areas it was the fear of the meeting that if it is a success then it will be prolonged, and if it is not it will be prolonged anyway so that it can be a success! DTU Aqua held a presentation "Assessment and Management for Plaice in Skagerrak and Kattegat". Initial discussions took place thereafter leading to a proposal for a management plan for plaice. Also the proposal for a management plan for nephrops in the North Sea was in detail discussed. Those discussions have led to the current proposal from the WG as to the Skagerrak and Kattegat in this perspective, *i.a.* no change in MLS.

July 1, 2011, Copenhagen

The meeting analyzed and discussed the relevant advices from ICES. The work leading to the current proposal for a management plan for plaice continued as well as discussions as to the management plan for nephrops as to the Skagerrak and Kattegat. DTU Aqua gave an interesting talk "Sustainable prawn fisheries in the Skagerrak".

September 23, 2011, Skagen

The meeting in detail again discussed the reasons behind the poor cod status in the Kattegat. It was agreed to produce a paper explaining the WG's view upon this and that this paper shall be given to the evaluation of the closed areas taking place in the beginning of 2012. It was decided to propose a management plan for plaice in the Skagerrak based upon a HCR to the ExCom in October. It was also decided to continue work as to nephrops and the proposed management plan and that the result thereof shall be presented to ExCom in October.