



Communication “Towards more sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2021”

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Context – the aim of the Communication:

- *to report on the state of play of the CFP on the basis of several performance indicators:*
 - **progress made towards achieving the Fmsy objective (legal obligation);**
 - **changes in the state of stocks (legal obligation);**
 - **the state of the EU fleet (legal obligation);**
 - **the implementation of the landing obligation (legal obligation);**
- *launch a public consultation ahead of Commission proposals for fishing opportunities scheduled for later this year – end date of the public consultation 31 August 2020:*
https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/fishing-opportunities-2021-under-common-fisheries-policy_en

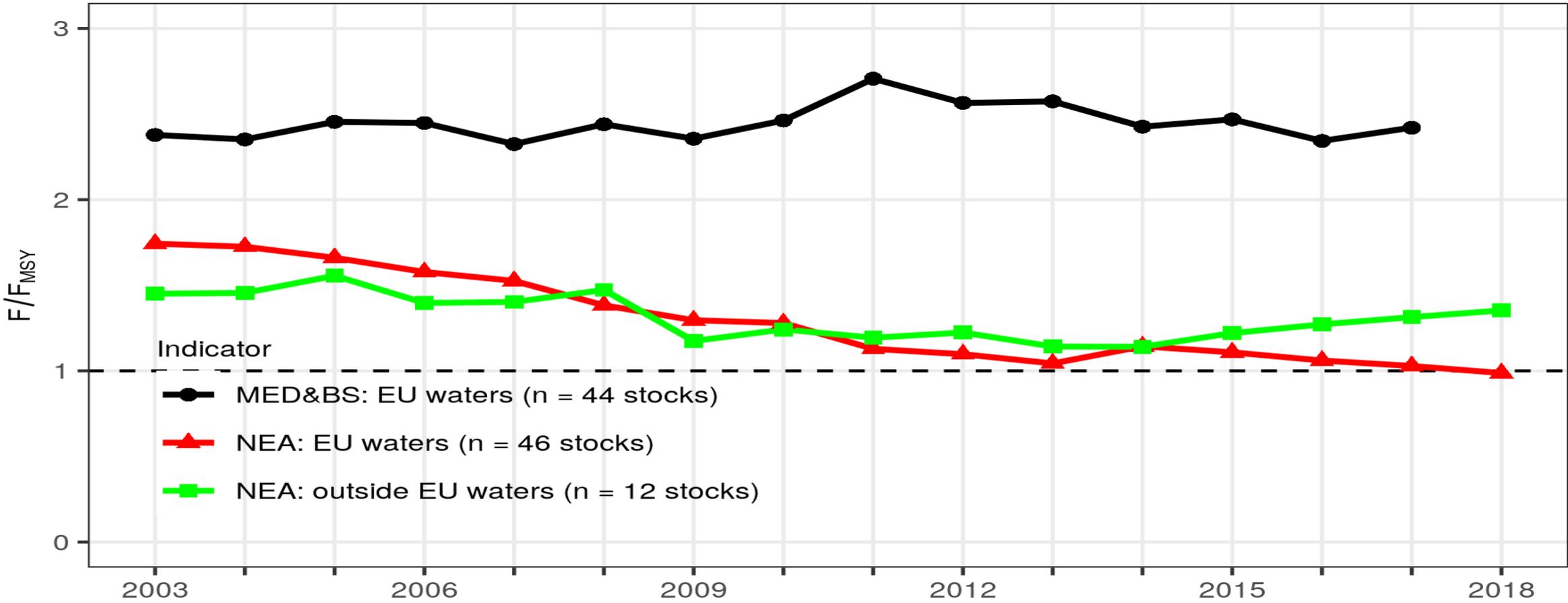
Progress made towards achieving the Fmsy objective and the state of the stocks – northeast Atlantic:

- **Progress continues in the northeast Atlantic**
 - Median fishing mortality (F/Fmsy) stabilised at 1 (compared to 1.5 in the early 2000s)
 - Commission proposed TACs for 2020 in line with or below a sustainable level for all 78 TACs for which Fmsy advice was available, except in 6 cases with ICES 0 catch advice.
 - Council set 62 out of 78 TACs in line with Fmsy for 2020.
 - It is expected that in 2020 more than 99% of landings in Baltic, North Sea and the Atlantic managed by EU only will come from sustainably managed fisheries.
 - In 2018 overall biomass volume was 48% higher than in 2003.

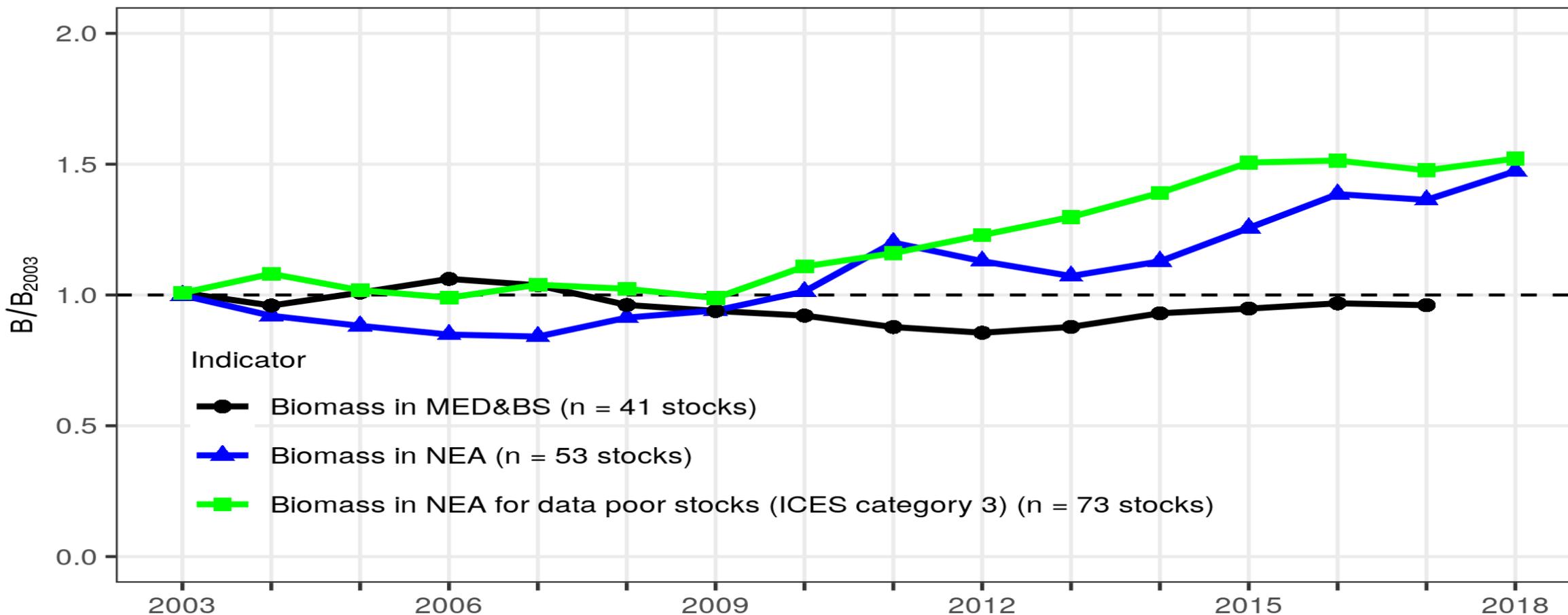
Progress made towards achieving the Fmsy objective and the state of the stocks – Mediterranean & Black Seas:

- **Situation in the Mediterranean remains worrying**
 - F/Fmsy in 2017 was at 2.4
 - Situation essentially unchanged as regards the biomass

Trends in fishing pressure (NEA and Med& BS)



Trends in the indicators of stock biomass – NEA and Med



The state of the EU fleet:

Fleet capacity continued to decrease

- Total number of vessels 81 279 (Dec 2019, ↓ 365 vessels)
- Capacity in terms of GT ↓ by 11 991 GT
- Capacity in terms of kW ↓ by 428 278 kW
- Of the 247 fleet segments assessed, 182 were not in balance according to one of key biological indicators (SHI) in 2017

Socio-economic performance continued to be good

- Net profit of EUR 1.4 billion, average net profit margin of 18% in 2018
- Employment decreasing by 1.2%, but wages increasing by 2.5% annually
- Significant differences across different EU fishing regions – Baltic, Med and BS with lowest profitability
- Similar performance expected for 2019, although prospects for 2020 seems uncertain due to C19

Landing obligation:

- Commission assessment based on the replies of 18 MSs and 5 advisory councils, and other sources
- Compliance in general appears to be low. Lack of accurate reporting of discards under exemptions, low volumes of fish under MCRS landed and difficulties of MSs in monitoring such catches remain major concerns.
- Less focus on selectivity studies and pilots. Instead, attention given more to sampling or economic studies to support exemptions.
- Successful approach to address 'choke' situations – some MSs agreed to swap quotas to set by-catch only TACs accompanied by by-catch reduction measures.
- Control remains a challenge. Audit series launched in Feb 2020 indicate that MSs have not adopted the necessary measures and undocumented discarding is continuing.

Proposals for 2021 fishing opportunities:

- MSY 2020 – main objective of COM proposal for Atlantic, North Sea and Baltic Sea stocks will be to maintain or reach MSY for MSY-assessed stocks.
- COM will fully implement the management plans – proposal for either MSY point value or ranges indicated by ICES where legally possible.
- Where ICES recommends no catches – focus will be on rebuilding these stocks using remedial measures under MAPs.
- COM proposal will continue looking at ways of facilitating the effective implementation of the landing obligation.
- COM proposal for Med and Black Seas will set out further efforts to achieve reductions in light of western Med MAP objective

On the process:

- COM intends to cover as many stocks as possible in its initial proposals. For stocks where scientific advice arrives later in the year and for those shared with third countries, fishing opportunities will be provided *pro memoria*.
- COM will adopt 4 proposals:
 - for the Baltic Sea – August 2020
 - for the Mediterranean and Black Seas – September 2020
 - for the deep sea stocks in the northeast Atlantic – October 2020
 - for the Atlantic and North Sea – October 2020

Main conclusions of this year's Communication:

- Healthy fish stocks continue to help boost the economic performance of the EU fleet.
- Bringing stocks to sustainable levels, by managing them at MSY and eliminating discards, remains a priority. It is equally important for the fisheries sector's recovery and has strong links with F2F and Biodiversity Strategy.
- Despite significant improvements in the northeast Atlantic, challenges remain in all sea basins. Some stocks remain overfished and/or outside safe biological limits, and it is clear that more effort is needed in that respect.
- The situation in the Mediterranean and Black Seas remains a cause for concern, and further concerted efforts are required.

The role of the ACs in 2019

- 10 Advisory Councils submitted 72 recommendations in 2019
- These covered a very large range of subjects from CFP specific issues to environmental or health issues or issues related to the Integrated Maritime Policy.
- ACs' advices were incorporated in MAPs and discard plans adopted in 2019 as well as in the new TM Regulation.
- ACs' advices were also very useful in the context of consultations by the Commission (FO, eels, Horizon Europe,...).
- A case study was published on ACs in 2020 in the context of a broader study on stakeholders.

Thank you



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