

ACOM
DCF National Correspondents

International Council for the
Exploration of the Sea

Conseil International pour
l'Exploration de la Mer

General Secretary:
Anne Christine Brusendorff

Our Ref: G.10/CM/hgj

18 October 2016

Subject: Catches NEAFC Regulatory Area

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Dear ACOM and DCF National Correspondents,

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For relevant stocks, ICES provides to NEAFC annual estimates of catches taken inside and outside of the NEAFC regulatory area (RA). To address this, the data call for stocks included in WGWIDE this year included a request for information about whether catches were taken inside or outside of the NEAFC RA. See item 7 of the data call (http://www.ices.dk/marine-data/Documents/Data_calls/20160216_Fisheries_Data_Call_2016.pdf):

"7. NEAFC Areas

For stocks with catches inside and outside the NEAFC regulatory area catches taken inside or outside the NEAFC area should be identified by using the correct NEAFC area (e.g. specifying VIIk1, VIIk2 vs. VIIk only, or specifying VIb1, VIb2, vs. VIb only). This is particularly relevant for deep water and widely distributed stocks."

Unfortunately at WGWIDE this year the data coordinators reported that they did not have complete information for the following stocks:

1. Mac-nea: Mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic (combined Southern, Western, and North Sea spawning components);
2. Whb-comb: Blue whiting in the Northeast Atlantic;
3. Her-noss: Herring in Subareas I, II, V and Divisions IVa and XIVa (Norwegian spring-spawning herring).

There are difficulties in assigning catches in/out of the NEAFC regulatory area using data for statistical rectangles alone. Therefore it is necessary to request this information again in order to respond to the NEAFC request in time for their annual general meeting in November. Therefore the deadline for these data will be **Monday 31 October 2016**.

Sincerely,

Cristina Morgado

Cristina Morgado
Head of Advisory Support