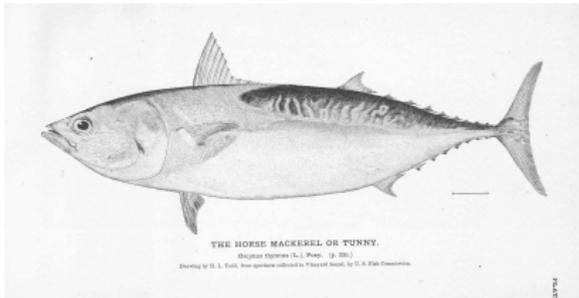


Monitoring the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (STECF)

Seminar "State of Fish Stocks and the Economics of Fishing Fleets"
Brussels, 26 September 2017



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Background

- ▶ Article 50 of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP; Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013) stipulates that the *European Commission (EC) shall report annually to the European Parliament and to the Council on the progress on achieving maximum sustainable yield and on the situation of fish stocks[...]*
- ▶ The European Commission asked STECF to provide the quantitative basis, in the form of a set of indicators.

Area and data sources

- ▶ EU waters in FAO areas 27 (Northeast Atlantic): ICES subareas III, IV (excluding Norwegian waters of division IVa), VI, VII, VIII, IX and X.

Information downloaded from ICES (<http://standardgraphs.ices.dk>)

- ▶ EU waters in FAO areas 37 (Mediterranean): GSAs 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 25 and 29.

Information downloaded from STECF

(<https://stecf.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports/medbs>) and GFCM

(<http://www.fao.org/gfcm/data/safs/en>).

Selection of stocks

- ▶ Northeast Atlantic: stocks subject to a TAC limit assessed by ICES since 2014.
- ▶ Mediterranean and Black Seas: top 10 stocks in value or weight by GSA, and assessed by STECF and/or GFCM since 2014.

Indicators

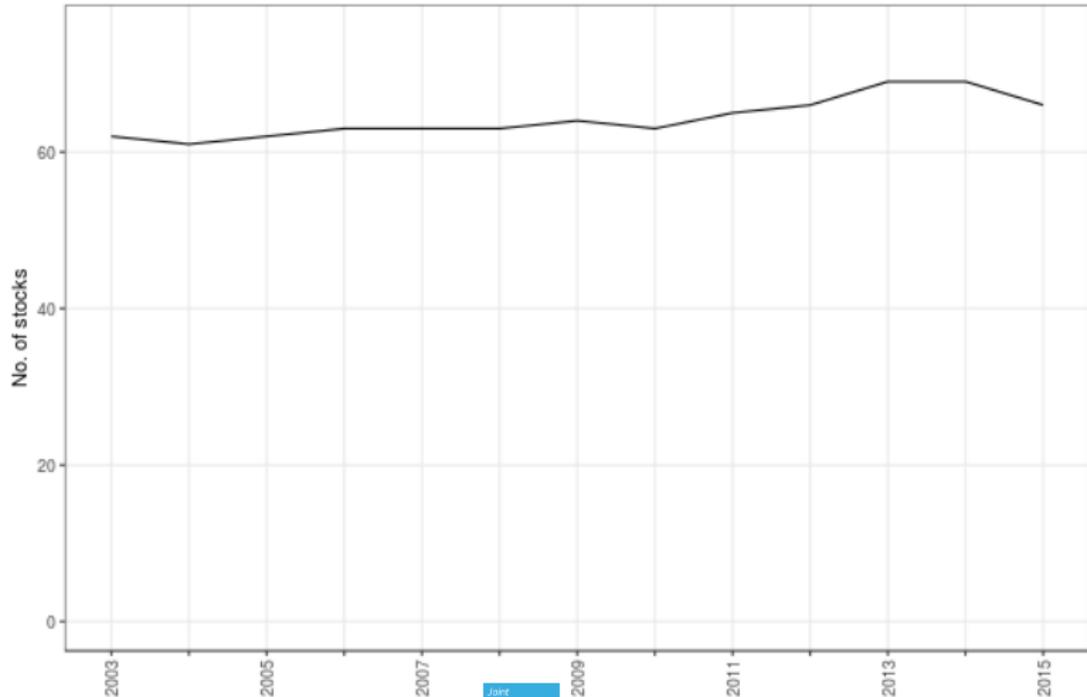
- ▶ Progress on achieving maximum sustainable yield (MSY)¹
 - ▶ Number of stocks where fishing mortality **exceeds** F_{MSY} .
 - ▶ Number of stocks where fishing mortality **is equal to or less than** F_{MSY} .
 - ▶ Annual value of F/F_{MSY}
 - ▶ Annual value of F/F_{MSY} for stocks outside the EU waters
- ▶ Situation of fish stocks
 - ▶ Number of stocks **outside** safe biological limits.
 - ▶ Number of stocks **inside** safe biological limits.
 - ▶ Number of stocks **outside** CFP requirements².
 - ▶ Number of stocks **inside** CFP requirements.
 - ▶ Annual value of SSB/SSB_{2003}

¹Refer to Art.4 for a detailed explanation of the concepts of MSY, F , F_{MSY} and SBL

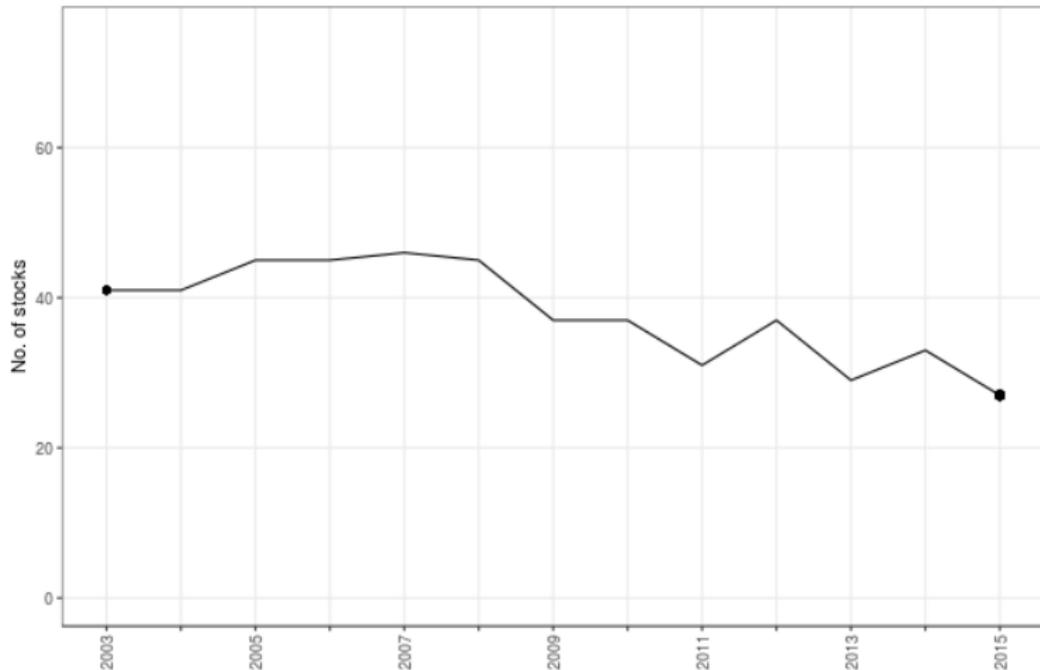
² $F < F_{MSY}$ and $SSB > B_{pa}$

Northeast Atlantic (NEA)

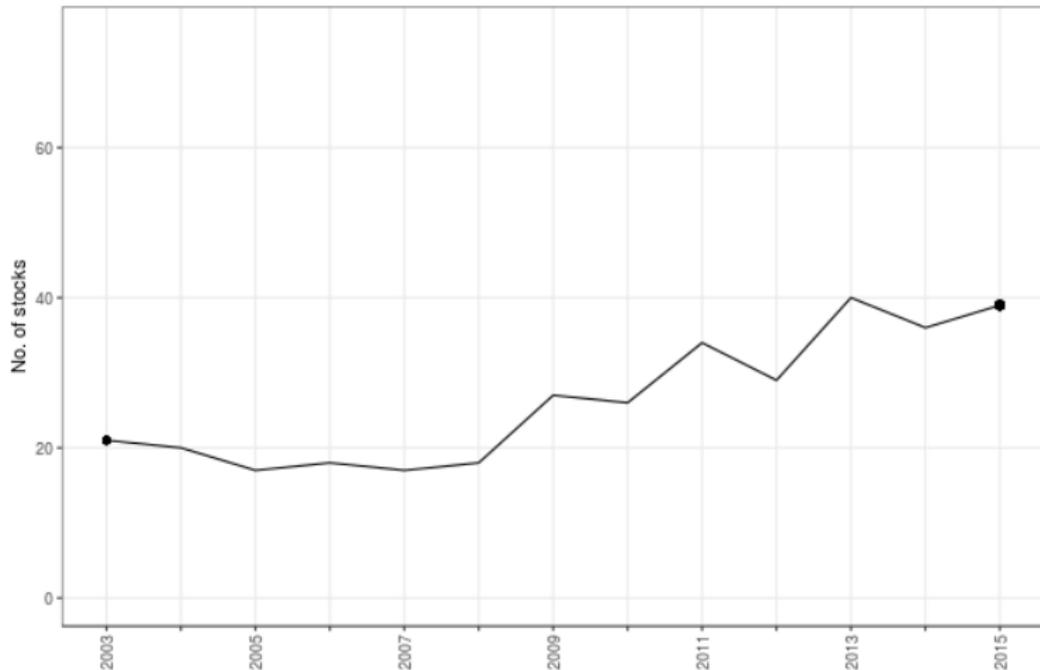
Number of stocks included in the analysis



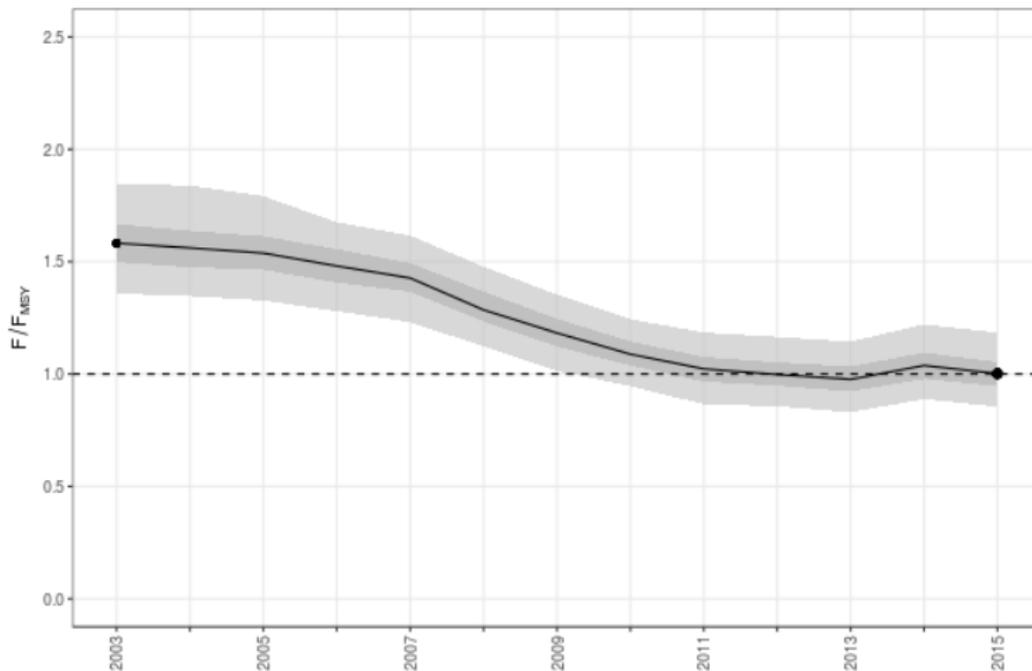
No. of stocks where fishing mortality rates are ABOVE the reference fishing mortality



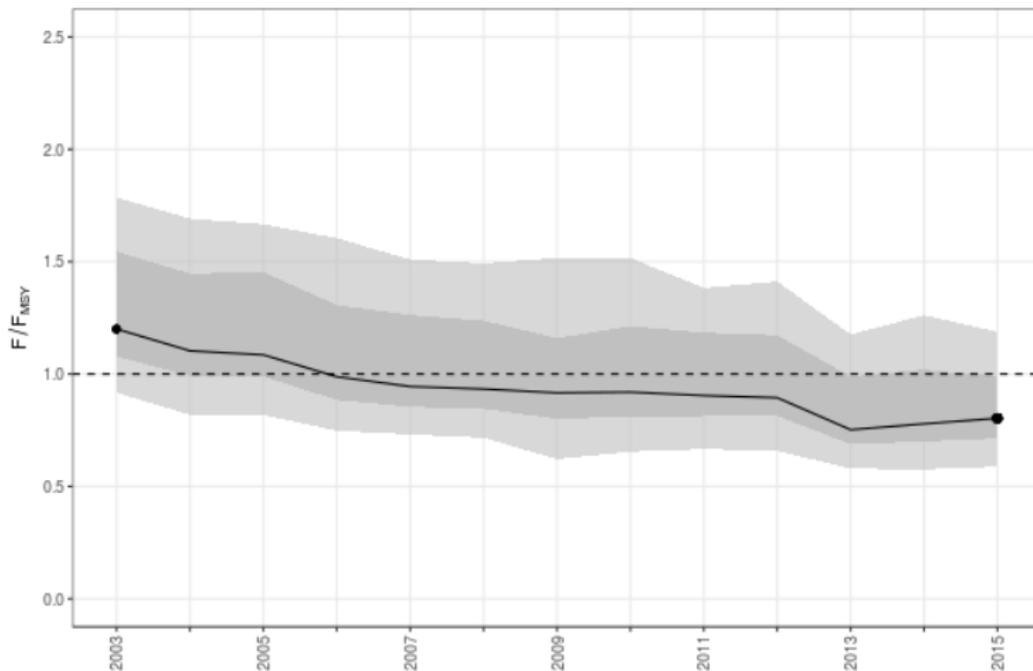
No. of stocks where fishing mortality rates are **BELOW** the reference fishing mortality



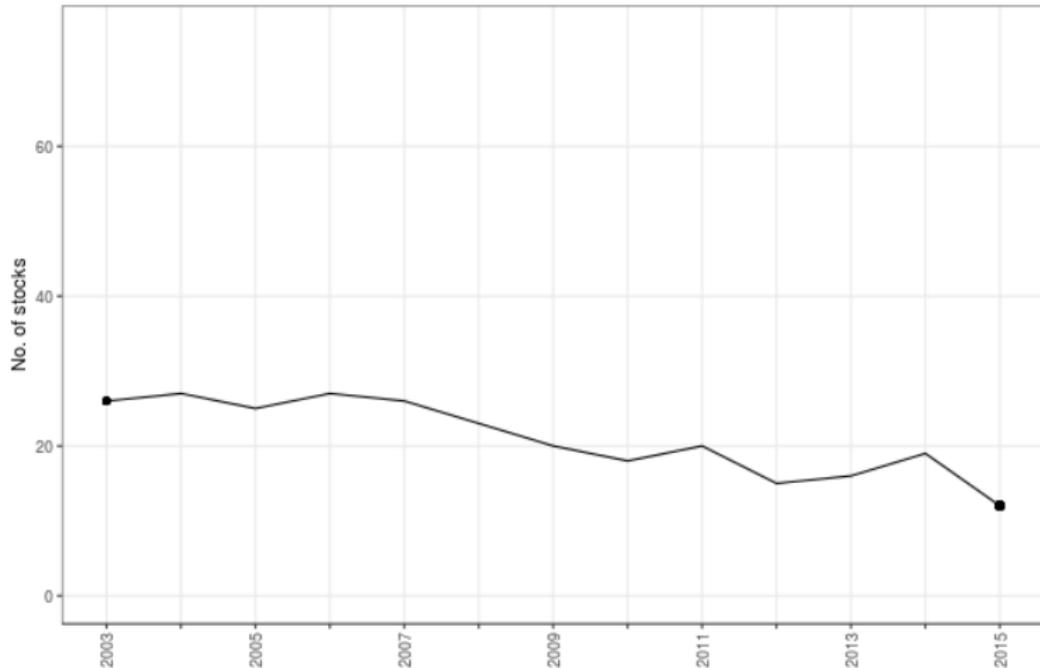
Annual value of F/F_{MSY}



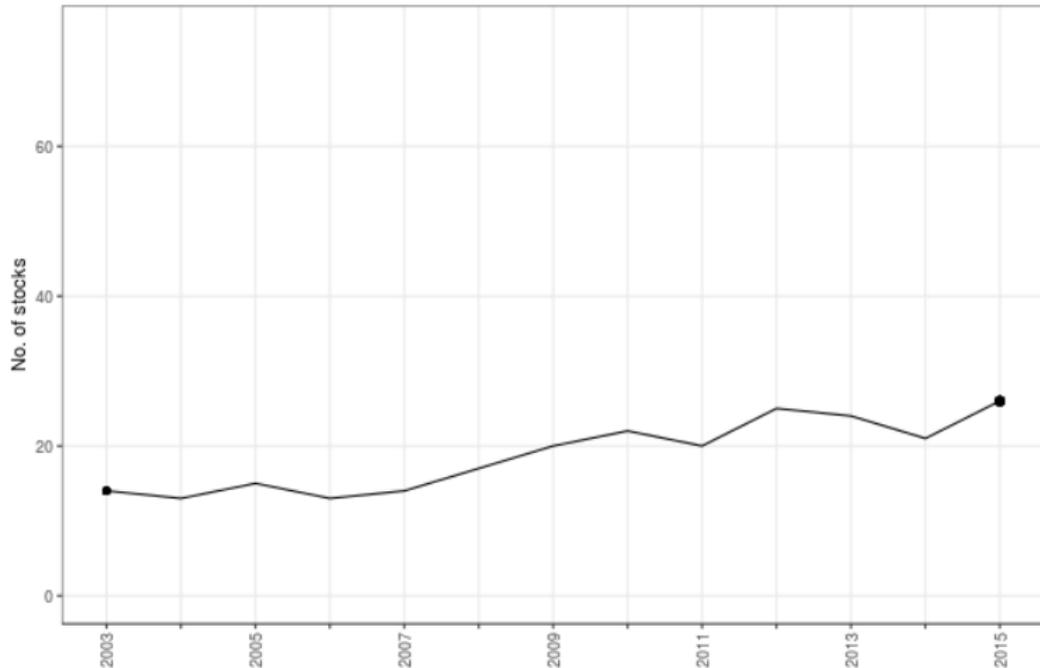
Annual value of F/F_{MSY} (outside EU)



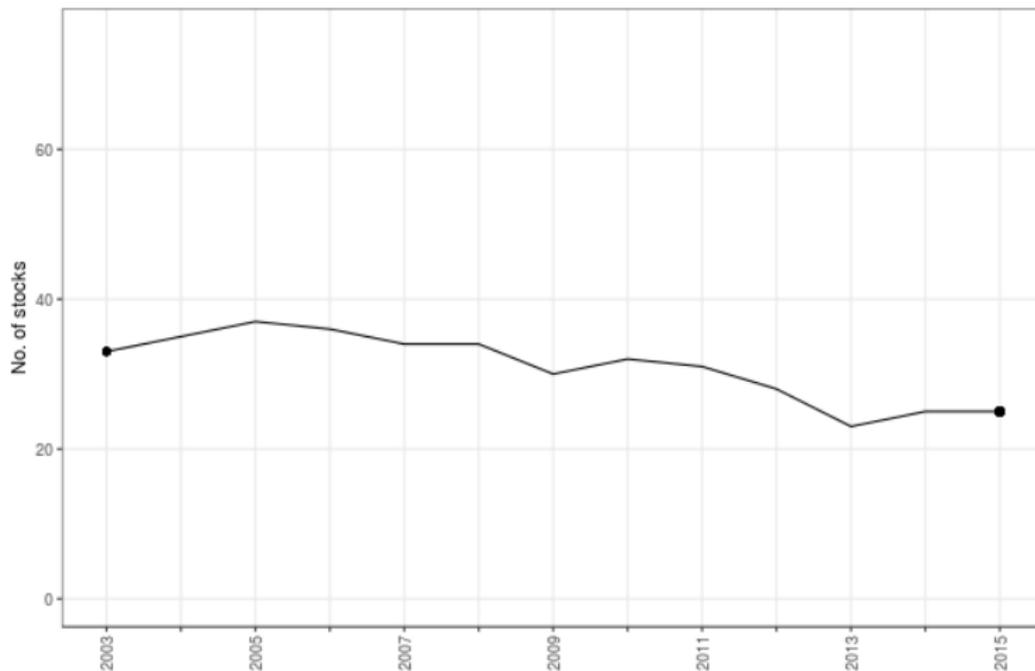
No. of stocks OUTSIDE safe biological limits



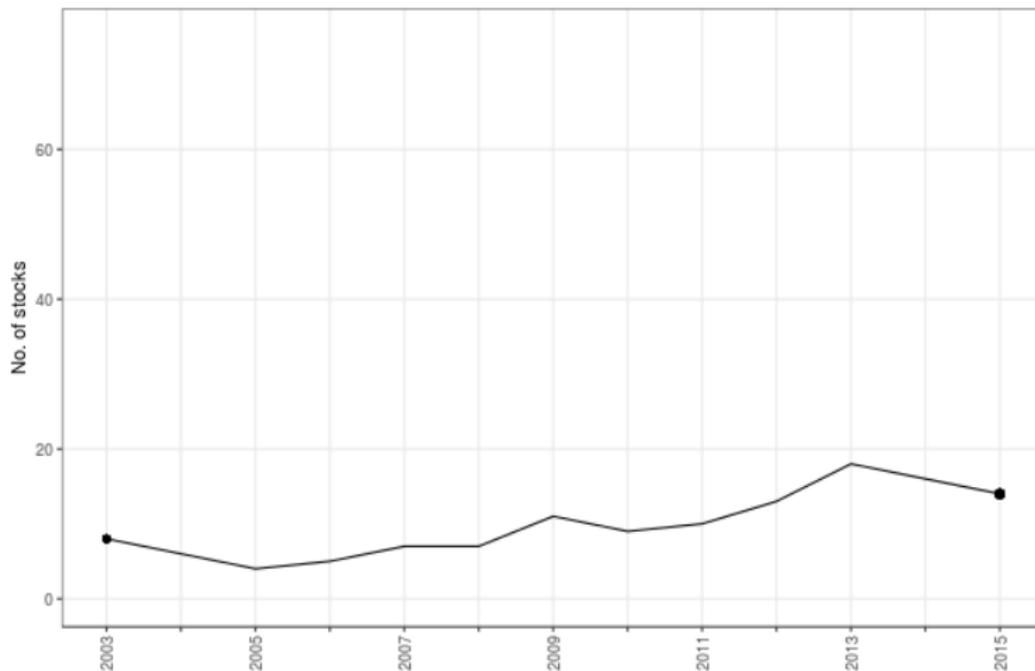
No. of stocks INSIDE safe biological limits



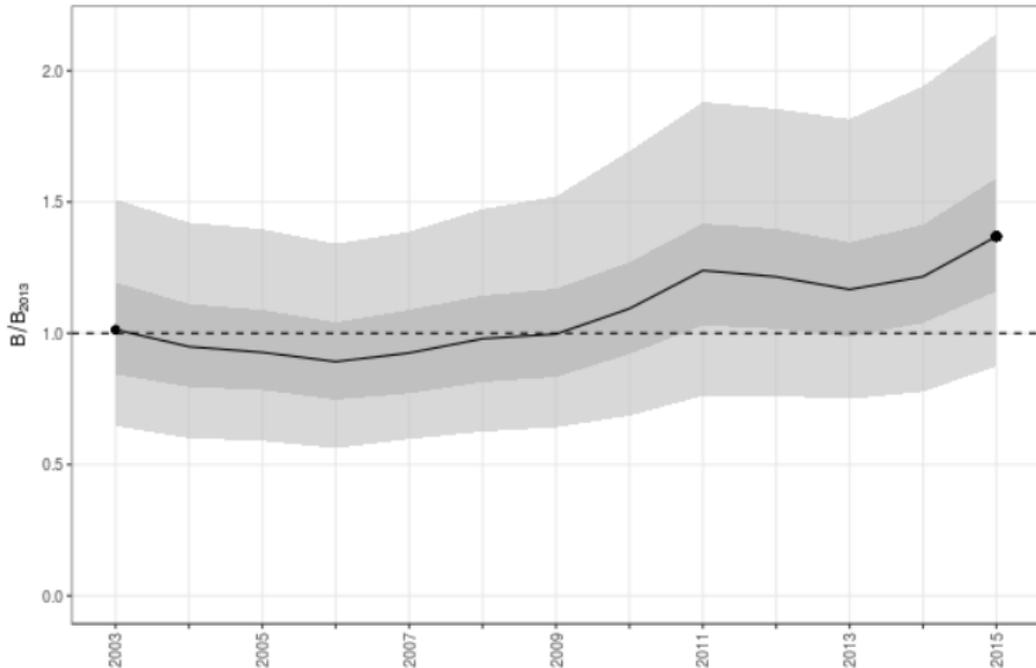
No. of stocks OUTSIDE CFP requirements



No. of stocks INSIDE CFP requirements

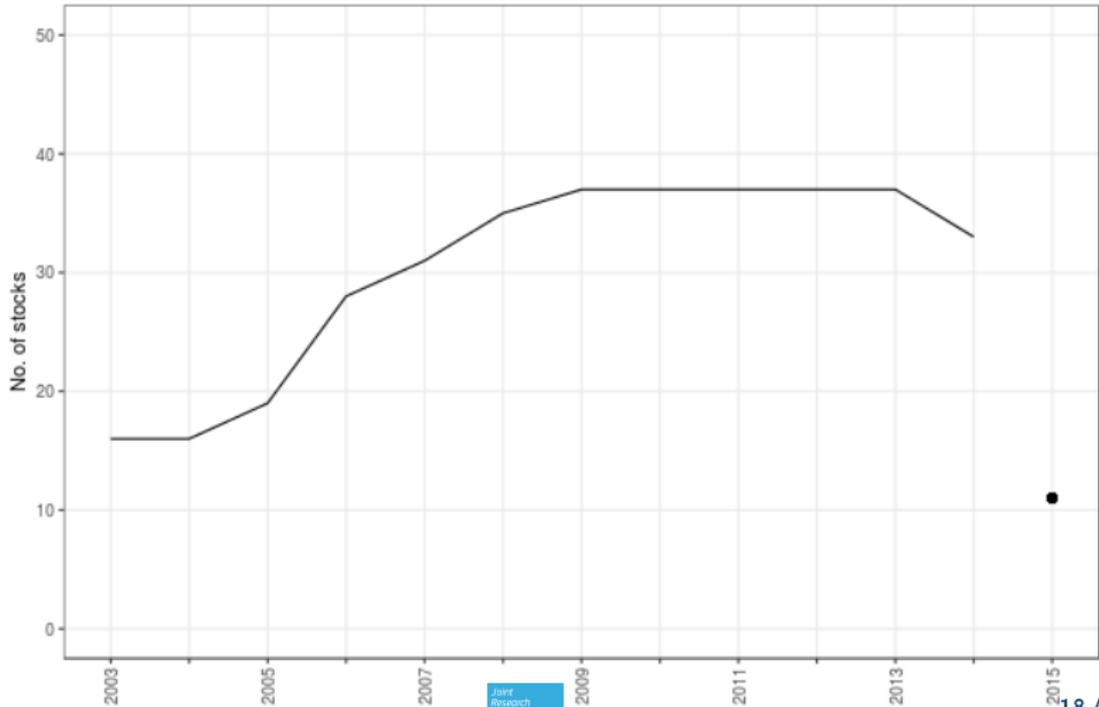


Annual value of SSB (relative to 2003)

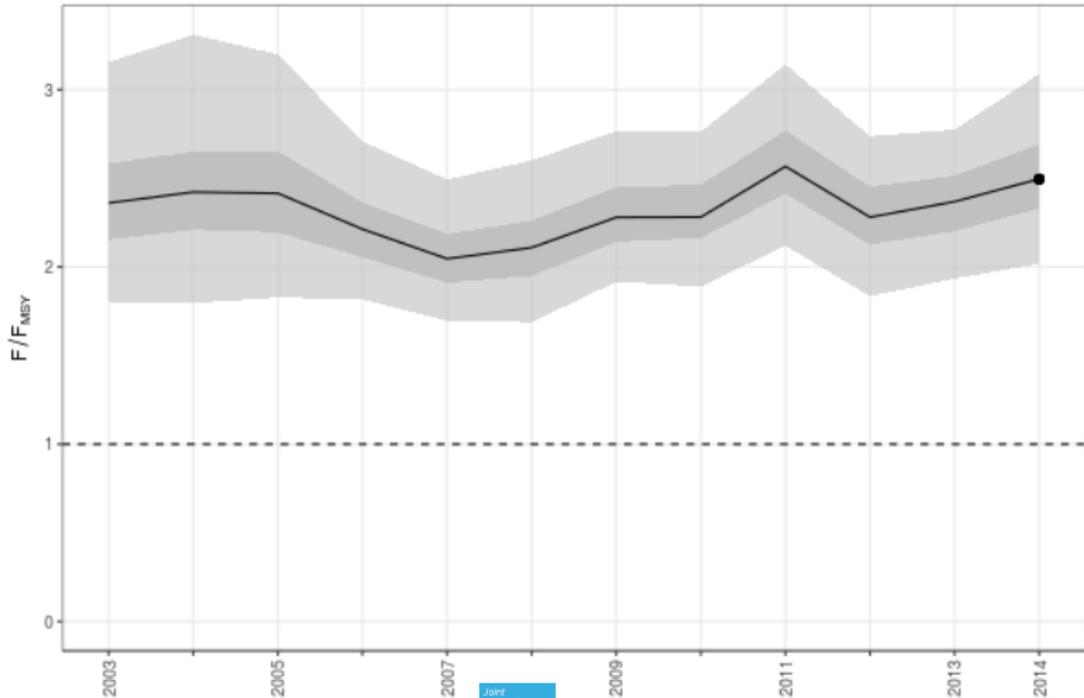


Mediterranean (Med)

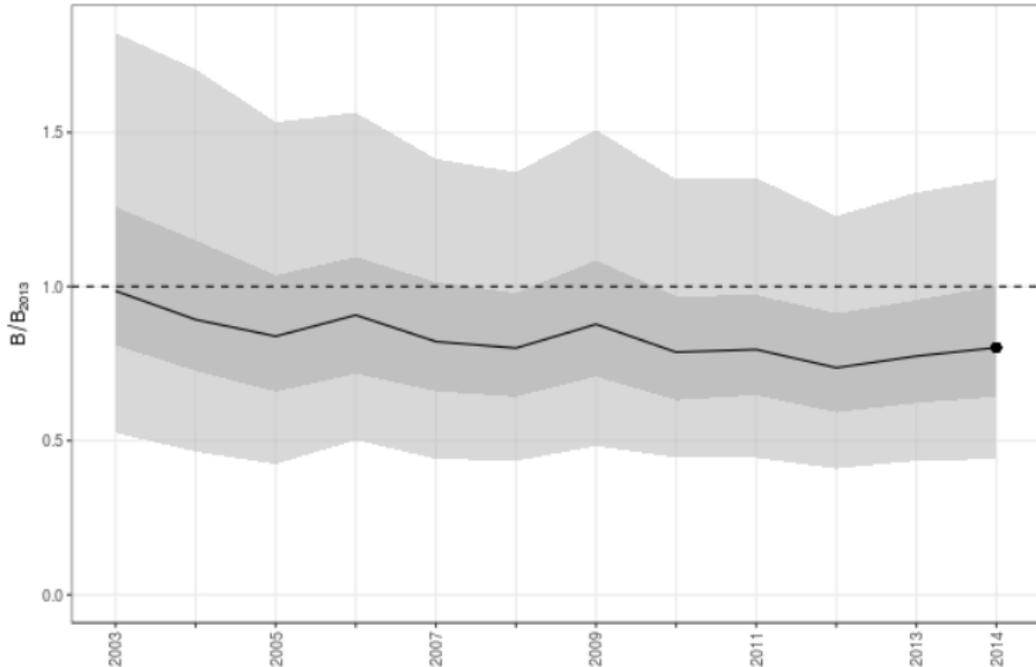
Number of stocks included in the analysis



Annual value of F/F_{MSY}



Annual value of SSB (relative to 2003)



STECF comments: stock status

- ▶ Many stocks are still overexploited in the NE Atlantic but stocks status is significantly improving.
 - ▶ The proportion of overexploited stocks decreased from more than 70% to close to 40%.
 - ▶ The proportion of stocks outside the safe biological limits follows the same decreasing trend, from 65% in 2003 to 38% in 2015.
 - ▶ The proportion of stocks outside the CFP requirements decreased from almost 90% to 60%.
- ▶ These indicators weren't computed for the Mediterranean due to data limitations.

STECF comments: Trends in fishing pressure

- ▶ In 2000s, the median fishing mortality in the NE Atlantic was 1.5 time larger than F_{MSY} and has now stabilised around 1.0 (half of the stocks have reached F_{MSY}). However, F has not decreased since 2011.
- ▶ In the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea F remained at a very high level during the whole 2003-2014 period, with no decreasing trend, around 2.3 times larger than F_{MSY} .

STECF comments: trends in biomass

- ▶ Improvement in the ICES area
 - ▶ SSB in 2015 was around 35% higher than in 2003.
 - ▶ A less pronounced but still improving trend is also observed for data poor stocks (ICES category 3).
- ▶ No improvement in the Mediterranean and Black Sea
 - ▶ SSB decreased about 25% over the period.

STECF comments: conclusions

- ▶ The 2017 results confirm a reduction in the overall exploitation rate for the ICES area.
- ▶ On average the stock biomass is increasing and stock status is improving.
- ▶ Nevertheless, progress achieved until 2015 seems too slow to ensure that all stocks will be rebuilt and managed according to F_{MSY} by 2020.
- ▶ Stocks in the Mediterranean and Black Seas remain in a very poor situation; F has remained high and SSB shows a declining trend over the entire period examined.

Thank you !