

# Role of ICES advice in European fisheries management

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ICES ACOM Chair



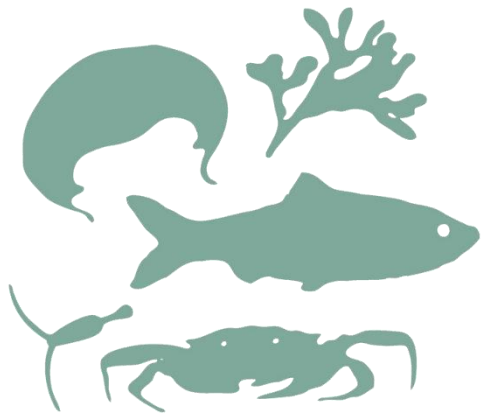
Science for sustainable seas



# International Council for the Exploration of the Sea



Our mission is to advance scientific understanding of marine ecosystems and provide knowledge for the sustainable management of our seas.



## Geographic scope

- 20 member countries
- Strategic partnerships globally



## A global scientific community

- **5000** scientists from nearly **60** countries
- **1600** active experts annually in over **100** Expert Groups



## Expert Groups





# WORK AREAS

- **SCIENCE**  
Facilitating cooperation and research in marine science
- **ADVICE**  
Providing impartial, evidence based scientific advice on environmental issues and fisheries management
- **DATA & INFORMATION**  
Custodian and provider of fisheries and environmental data
- **TRAINING**  
Building capacity to support scientific advice
- **COMMUNICATION**  
Communicating science, data and advice

# **ICES as provider of scientific advice on fisheries management**

**Copenhagen Declaration – ICES Contracting Parties reaffirm their commitment to maintain ICES as a strong and independent scientific organisation in order to improve its capacity to give unbiased, sound, reliable, and credible scientific advice on human activities affecting, and affected by, marine ecosystems.**

# ICES provides scientific advice on request to:



EU



**Helsinki Commission**

Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission



**OSPAR  
COMMISSION**

*Protecting and conserving the  
North-East Atlantic and its resources*



**ICES Member Countries**

# Advice in 2017



- **Recurrent Advice:**
  - ✓ Advice on fishing opportunities for 194 stocks;
  - ✓ 3 advice on ecosystem impacts of fishing activities;
  - ✓ 2 ecosystem and 2 fisheries overviews
- **Special Requests:**
  - ✓ 24 special requests on impact of fisheries, in-year advice of fishing opportunities, Fmsy ranges, MSFD guidance, pressures and impact on seafloor, evaluation of fisheries management strategies, impacts of climate change on salmon;
- **Advisory Services:**
  - ✓ 2 technical services.

# Advice Quality – Fitness for purposes



**Best available knowledge (data and science)**

**Quality assured**

**Transparent process: documented and open to observers**

**Unbiased and non-political: considered legitimate by governments and stakeholders**

**Relevant – meets the needs of the Client**

**Timely**



# EU - Administrative Agreement between European Commission and ICES.



Advice provided by ICES to support the implementation of policies adopted by the EU and its Member States with respect to management of activities that affect marine ecosystems.

Common Fisheries Policy, EU multiannual plan, Eel regulation, Water Framework Directive, Habitat Directive, Birds Directive, MSFD, Integrated Maritime Policy, Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation.

UN Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks Agreement, World Summit on Sustainable Development, FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing.

# NEAFC – North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission



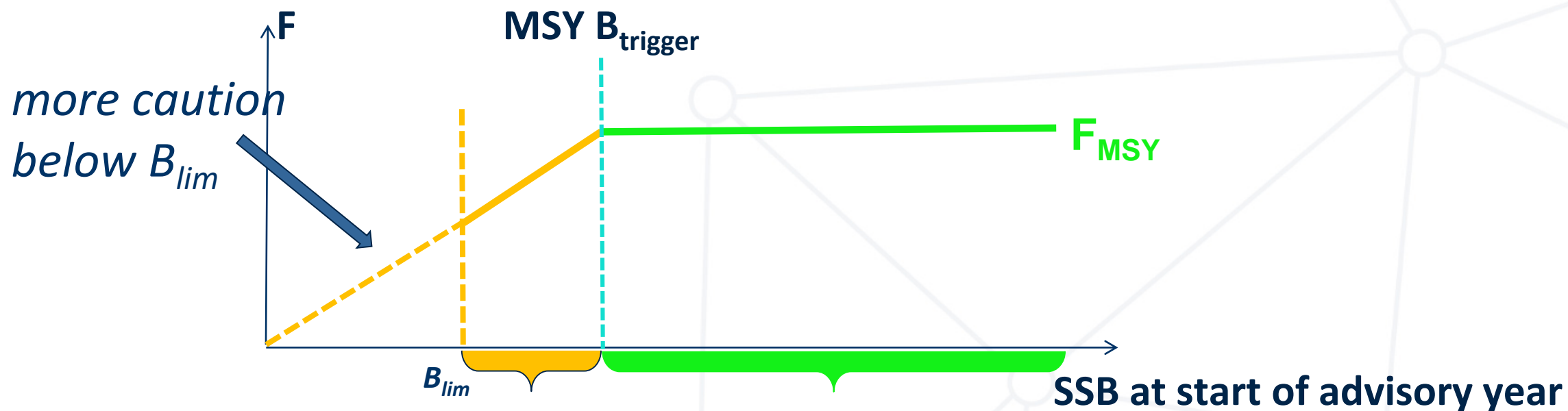
- **ICES is requested to provide advice in accordance with agreed management plans.**
- **If agreed management plans or recovery plans exist which ICES does not consider in accordance with the criteria defined in the NEAFC Convention or if no agreed management plans exist, ICES shall advice on management measures (including options for management plans) which ICES finds in accordance with the NEAFC Convention.**

## Policy Objectives

- **Precautionary approach (PA)**
- **Maximum sustainable yield (MSY)**
- **Ecosystem-based approach**

# ICES MSY framework

- ✓ Maximize long term average yield
- ✓ Safeguard against low SSB
- ✓ Stay within precautionary boundaries



## Mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) in subareas 1–8 and 14, and in Division 9.a (the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)

### ICES stock advice

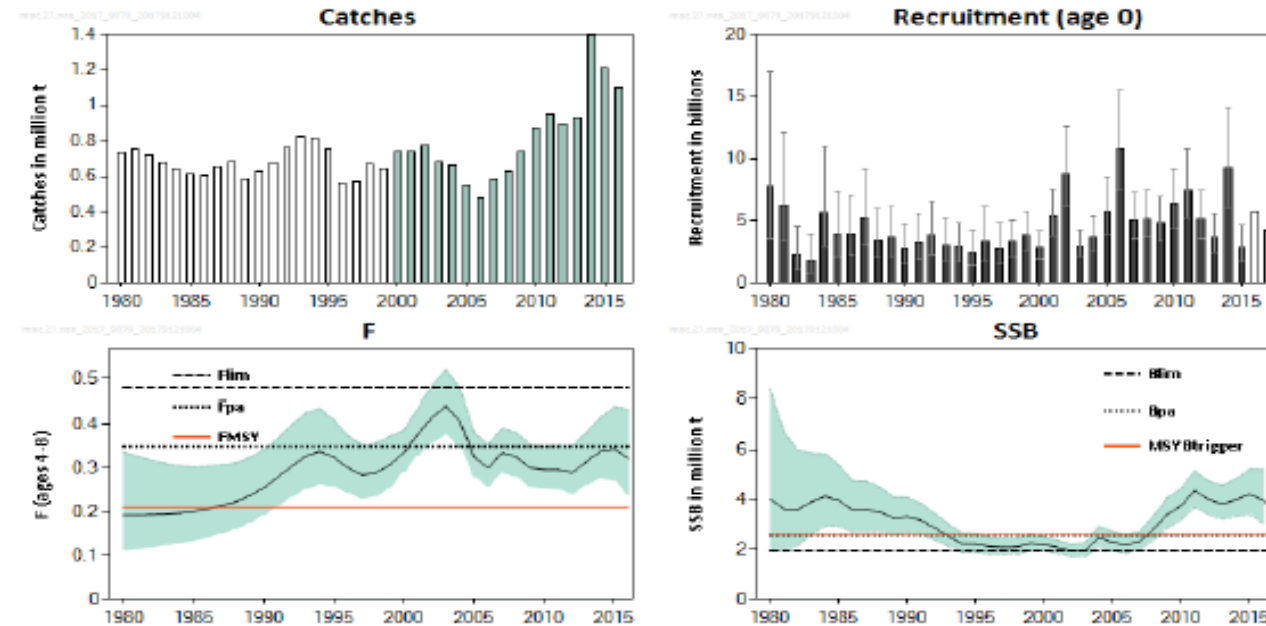
ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2018 should be no more than 550 948 tonnes.

ICES further advises that the existing measures to protect the North Sea spawning component should remain in place.

### Stock development over time

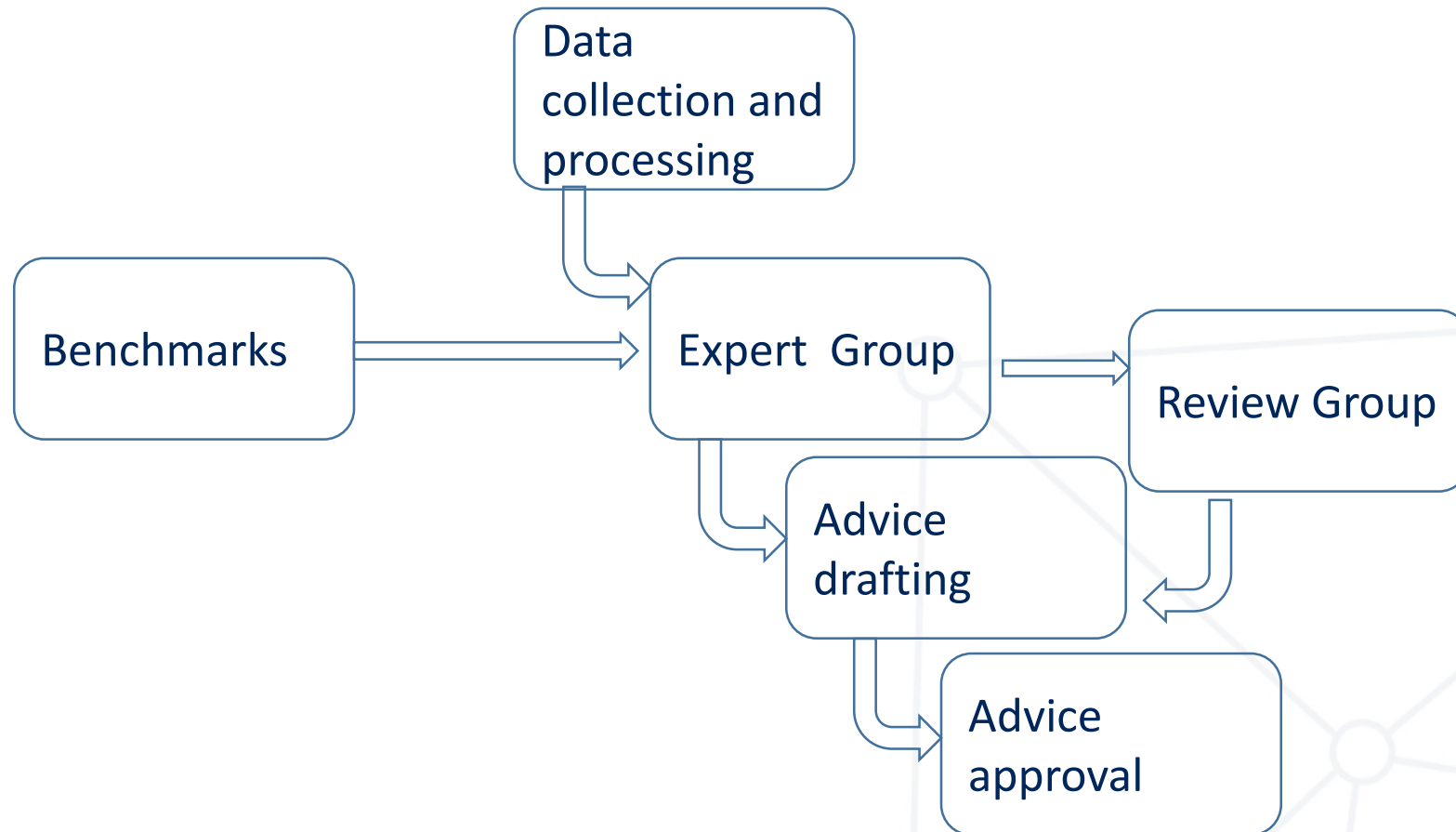
The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) is estimated to have increased in the late 2000s and has remained above  $MSY B_{trigger}$  since 2008. The fishing mortality (F) has declined from high levels in the mid-2000s, but remains above  $F_{MSY}$ . There has been a succession of large year classes since the early 2000s.

# ICES advice on fishing opportunities

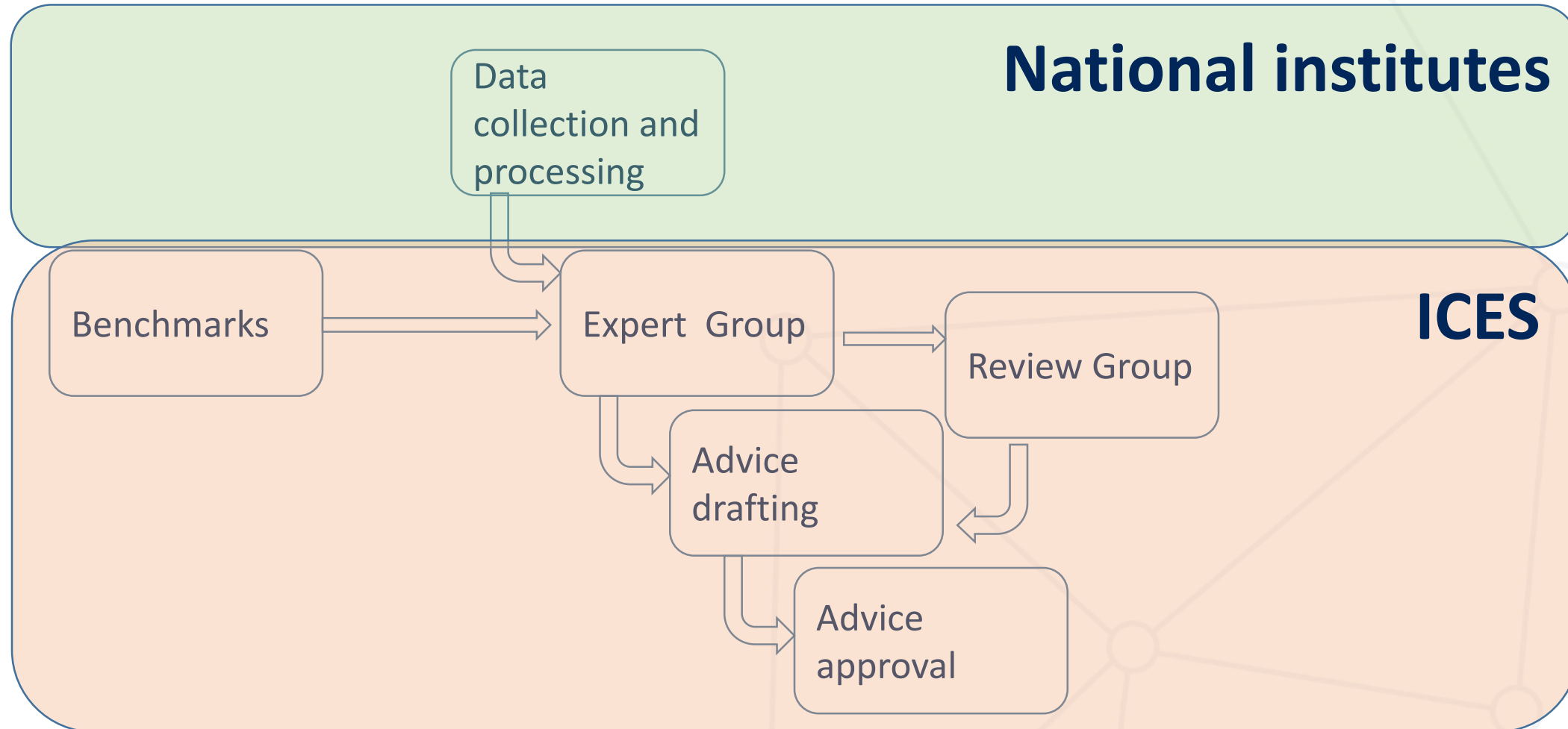


**Figure 1** Mackerel in subareas 1–8 and 14, and in Division 9.a. Summary of the stock assessment. The unshaded catches prior to 2000 are the years that have been down-weighted in the assessment because of the considerable underreporting that is suspected to have taken place. The recruitment value for 2016 is the time-tapered weighted mean of the recruitments from 1990 to 2015 as estimated by the SAM model, and the recruitment value for 2017 is the geometric mean of the recruitments from 1990 to 2015. Confidence intervals (95%) are included in the recruitment, fishing mortality, and spawning-stock biomass plots.

# Advisory process



# Advisory process



# Advisory process: Transparency

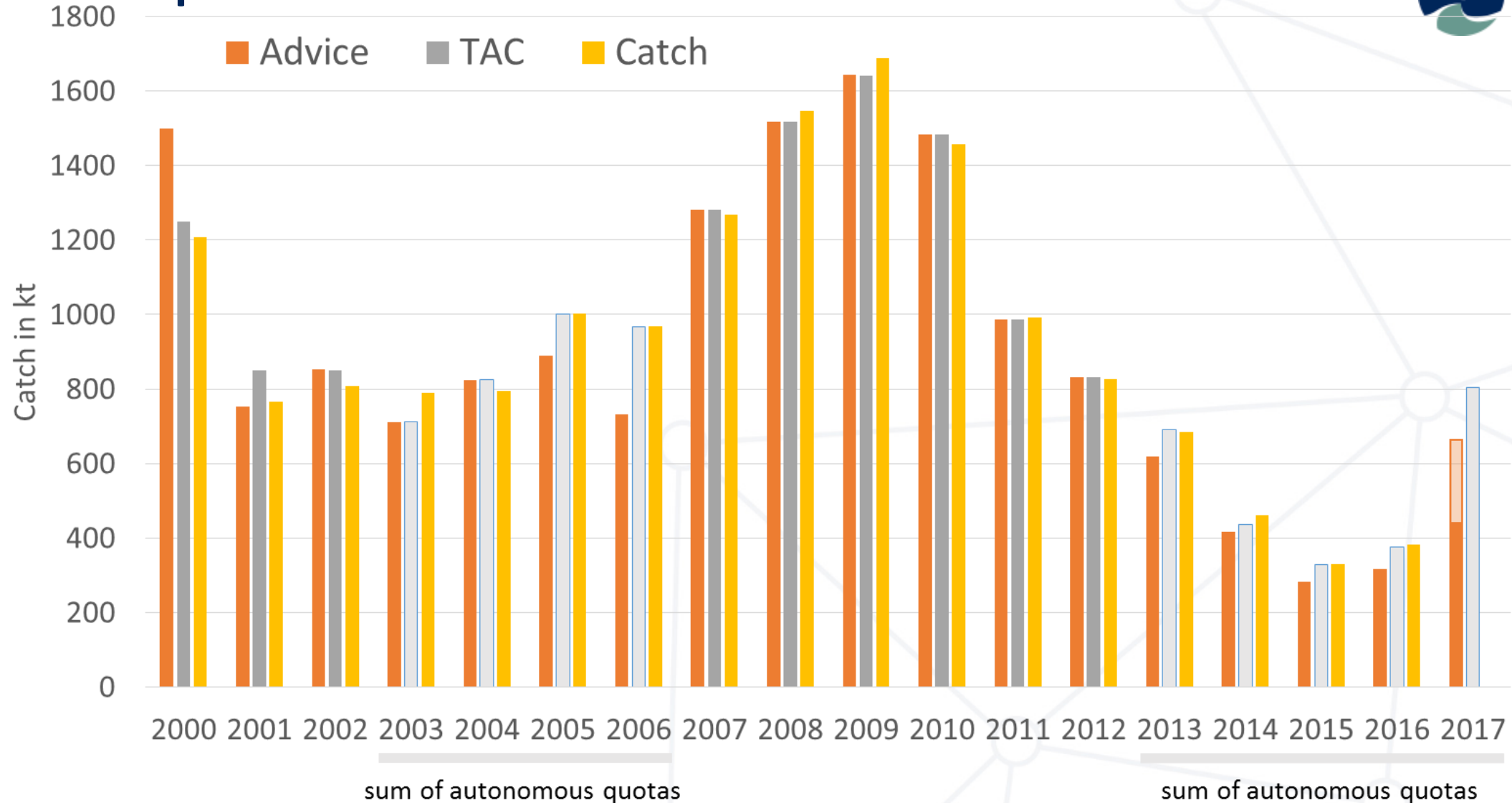




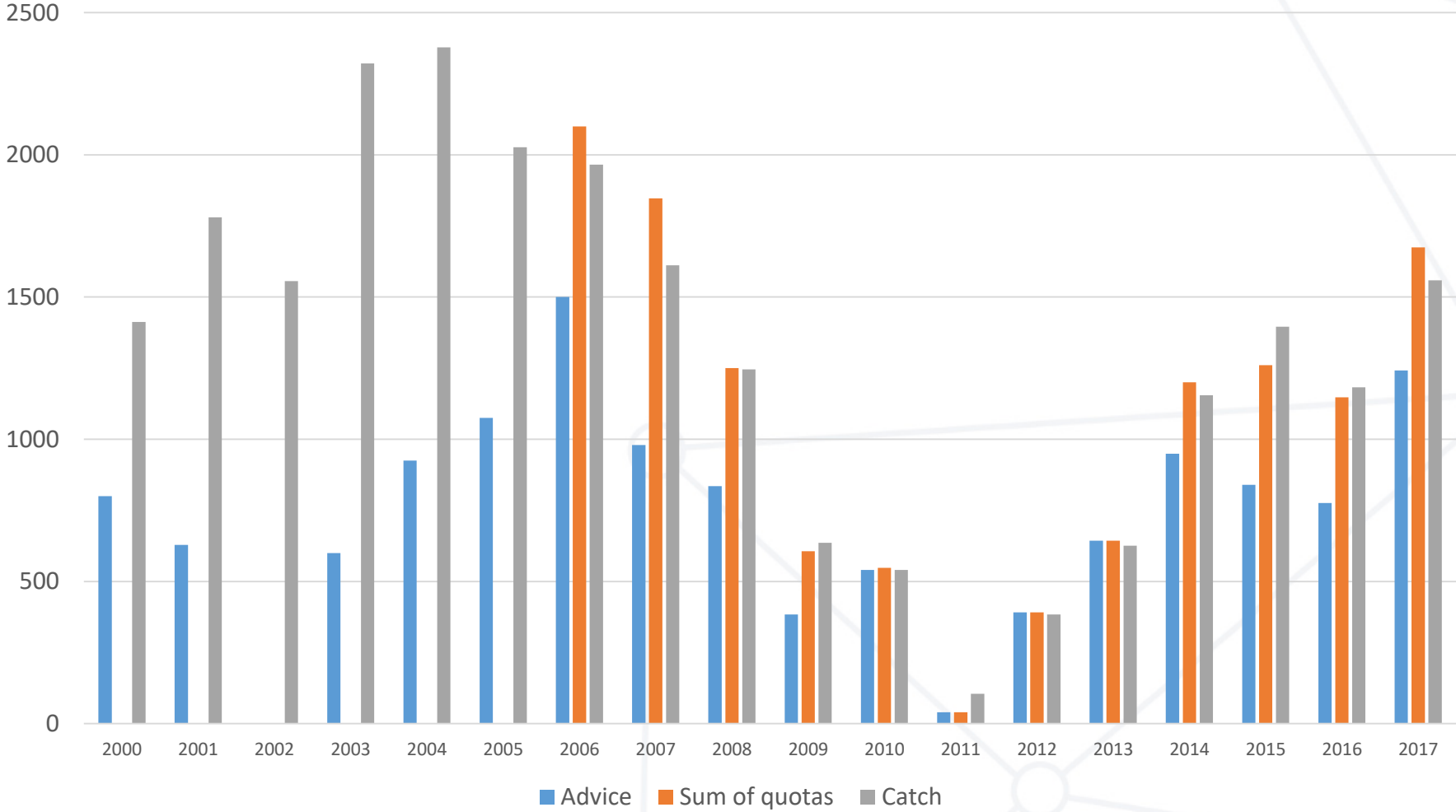
# Meetings/dialogue with Clients and Observers



# Herring – Catch advice, TAC (or sum of declared quotas) and reported catch



# Blue Whiting – Catch advice, quotas and reported catch (in '000 t)



# Thank you

[www.ices.dk](http://www.ices.dk)

