



Acoura
Marine



CAB joint statement 10 April 2018 – NSSH / ASH stock.

Following the changes in the perception of NSSH stock status¹ and the management response to these changes, the three Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) for the four MSC-certified Atlanto-Scandian / Norwegian Spring Spawning herring fisheries met to discuss a harmonised scoring approach on 10th April 2018. This meeting was convened following the announcement of the expedited audits for Principle 1 for all four certificates on the 15th February 2018.

However, since the expedited audit announcements there have been two important developments in relation to the stock.

Firstly, ICES announced that there would be a workshop on the determination of reference points for Norwegian Spring Spawning Herring (WKNSSHREF) on the 10th – 11th April with the release of the advice and workshop report on the 25th April 2018.

Secondly, in response to WKNSSHREF the Coastal States will meet on the 14th May 2018 to produce new HCRs and send them to ICES for evaluation.

Based on these developments, the CABs concluded that scoring the fishery based on the information available to date (10th April) would result in scores which could likely change by the time of the expedited audit report publication (15th May at the latest), and therefore resolved to reconvene the scoring meeting after the release of the ICES report. This aligns with MSC FCR 2.0 7.23.22.1b and guidance G7.23.22.1 regarding the avoidance of unnecessary expedited audits for temporary changes in status and when stock models are not fully validated. The CABs note that as this is an autumn winter fishery this delay has no implications on the 2018 – 2019 fishing season.

Should the advice from ICES released on 25th April 2018 not result in any meaningful change in stock reference points against current stock status, the fishery will be scored by the CABs at a meeting on the 27th April 2018. If there is a significant change in the reference points resultant from the workshop, then the CABs may be required to consider whether there is a need to wait on the outcome of the Coastal States agreement on 14th May before scoring. If this second option is taken a further joint statement will be provided by the CABs as well as a request for a short extension to the May 15th 2018 deadline.

The CABs agreed that the outcome of the Coastal States meeting on 14th May 2018 would be considered the cut off point for this expedited audit and no new information for scoring would be included beyond this time.

¹ ICES. 2017. Herring (*Clupea harengus*) in subareas 1, 2, and 5, and in divisions 4.a and 14.a, Norwegian spring-spawning herring (the Northeast Atlantic and the Arctic Ocean). Pages 1–9. ICES, Copenhagen.
<http://ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2017/2017/her.27.1-24a514a.pdf>.