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Opinion 101: Long-term management of anchovies in the Bay of Biscay

- * Considering the results of STECF working groups 13-24 and 14-05, and the reports of STECF plenary sessions of November 2013 and March 2014,
- * Considering SWWAC opinion 84 of June 2014 on long-term management of anchovies in the Bay of Biscay,
- * Considering the opinion of the ICES issued in 2015,

Whereas:

- at the time opinion 84 was adopted, the SWWAC members focused their attention on the change of the period of management for this stock, and took account of the relatively low or average supposed biomass values, with respect to the biological situation of this stock during the period 2005 -2013,
- the ICES considers that the anchovy biomass in 2015 reached its highest historical level, and that this level should be maintained in 2016,
- the importance of long-term management for this stock, given its biological specificities

The members of SWWAC recommend:

- That the management framework currently in place should be modified (rule G4 with a rate of 0.45), as it now appears to be inappropriate to the high biomass levels that prevail at the present time. Particularly, for 2016, the application of this rule would result in a clear under operation of this stock.
- That, so as to balance the management of the resource for all possible biomass bands, and to comply with the probability of risk of 5%, rule G3 with a rate of exploitation of 0.4 should be applied immediately for the management of this stock,
- That the 2016 fishing opportunities for this Stock should be revised as quickly as possible, from 25,000 tonnes, up to 33,000 tonnes.
- That this exploitation rule should also be applied in 2017 and 2018

