

**Subject:** RE: GIS16/PSA433 EU in UK 6-12nm best estimates delivery

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**Sent:** 06 February 2025 15:12

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**Subject:** GIS16/PSA433 EU in UK 6-12nm best estimates delivery

Hi all,

I have attached our EU in UK 6-12nm best estimate figures within the response document. This is delayed from what I proposed (COP 30th January) which is primarily due to need to reproduce the DP9 input EU landings dataset (a dependency of this new method) after fixing issues causing duplication which also led to necessity for a more in-depth review on the input datasets than initially planned. There were also technical issues around developing and iterating the new method to produce best estimates.

#### Key findings

- On average between 2021 and 2023 EU 12 metre and over vessels landed an estimated 4,000 tonnes (range: 0 to 47,800 tonnes) of fish from UK 6-12nm waters, valued at £12.4 million (range: £0 to 99.1 million).
- French vessels accounted for most of these landings (74% by volume, 64% by value) with the remainder landed by Belgian vessels. No other member states had access to the UK 6-12 during the period 2021-23.
- Whiting, Squid and Herring made up approximately 40 per cent of total estimated EU-27 live weight landings from the UK 6-12 during the period 2021-23. Squid was the most important species by estimated landed value.
- EU under 12m vessels landed an estimated 110 tonnes (£400,000) per annum from the UK 6-12 during the period 2021-23 accounting for approximately 3 per cent by volume and value of the EU total landings from the zone.
- Although they landed less fish overall from the zone the smaller Belgian fleet appears to be more reliant on access to the 6-12nm section of UK waters compared to the French fleet. An estimated 12 per cent by volume and 11 per cent by value of Belgium total estimated landings from UK waters during this period was from the UK 6-12 zone compared to 2 per cent by volume and 5 per cent by value for the French fleet.
- In the context of the EU under 12m fleet an estimated 8 per cent by volume and 11 percent by value of the total estimated landings from UK waters was caught within the UK 6-12 zone during the period 2021 to 2023 suggesting a similar level of reliance on the zone to the Belgian 12m+ fleet.

#### Important caveats

- A mixture of VMS and ICES rectangle apportioning have been applied to these figures meaning all supplied figures are estimates not reported figures. A large assumption in place

for the EU 12m+ figures is time spent in area is directly related to how much fish was caught; this is a necessary assumption but is not particularly robust leaving a high uncertainty of the figures we can produce.

- Table 3.2.2 and Table 3.2.3 demonstrate the large uncertainty range in producing the ‘headline’ figures presented in Table 3.2.1
- The VMS data required logic to determine what is more likely a fishing position as a prerequisite to apportion landings data. This includes a broad assumption that all VMS positions that are not at speeds of >0 to 6 knots speed are non-fishing (alongside use of other criteria outline in the method summary within the report p12/13). A better solution would be gear specific speed ranges (as been developed for the UK method).
- The central/best estimate provided here is lower than previous max possible and ICES rectangle apportioned estimates. The primary reason is these figures are driven by VMS positional presence at fishing speeds. In 2023 for example 5.7 per cent of all EU-27 in UK waters fishing speed positions fell within the UK 6-12 zone. We narrowed this further applying rules of authorisation, access rights etc. to invalidate/class additional positions within UK 6-12 as non-fishing to 5.3 per cent (for 2022 this was 5.6% reduce to 5.1%, for 2021 this was 4% reduced to 3.7%). Our landings estimates with therefore roughly be inline with this scale of VMS presence balance within and outside UK 6-12 waters. However, UK 6-12 activity compared to UK EEZ is smaller again proportionally (around 1% by weight and 5% by value) when compared to VMS presence which is likely a result of lower presence of the very large vessels within the inshore zone (in particular large pelagic trawlers).
- This method used the most recent published UKHO UK 6-12 limits as of January 2025. The limits are ambulatory and change slightly each year.
- The method used STECF FDI24 data. Each year STECF complete minor revisions on previous years meaning 2023 data in the STECF FDI25 report is likely to change slightly.
- The method used to respond to this request was developed specifically for this request at pace. Figures presented here are our current best estimates but could be subject to change if improvement/refinement to the method are applied in future

For method information please see p12 and 13 of the report. If more detail is required, we can provide it from our internal desk notes/method.

#### Key tables

Table 3.2.1 – Estimated EU 12m+ landings from UK 6-12nm based on VMS apportioning method, by year.

| Year        | Live weight (tonnes) | Value (£)  |
|-------------|----------------------|------------|
| 2021        | 2,700                | 7,500,000  |
| 2022        | 5,200                | 16,500,000 |
| 2023        | 4,100                | 13,200,000 |
| Grand Total | 11,900               | 37,200,000 |

**Source:** STECF FDI24 EU published spatial landings data call. MMO internal analysis. VMS apportioning applied to produce best estimates.

Table 3.2.2 – Minimum EU 12m+ landings from UK 6-12nm, by year

| Year | Live weight (tonnes) | Value (£) |
|------|----------------------|-----------|
| 2021 | 0                    | 0         |

|             |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|
| 2022        | 0 | 0 |
| 2023        | 0 | 0 |
| Grand Total | 0 | 0 |

**Footnote:** No EU landings are definitively reported from the UK 6-12 so the theoretically minimum will always be zero.

Table 3.2.3 – Maximum EU 12m+ landings from UK 6-12nm based on landings reported from area 4c or 7d-g from those ICES rectangles that contain at least some UK 6-12 waters, by year.

| Year        | Live weight (tonnes) | Value (£)   |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------|
| 2021        | 53,300               | 95,800,000  |
| 2022        | 54,700               | 105,100,000 |
| 2023        | 35,300               | 96,200,000  |
| Grand Total | 143,300              | 297,200,000 |

**Source:** STECF FDI24 EU published spatial landings data call. MMO internal analysis. Based on reported figures meaning figures hold a higher confidence than VMS apportioning based estimates.

#### Next steps

If required I can also share the spreadsheet which contains the output 12m+ and <12m datasets from the EU in UK 6-12 method. It also includes the pivots used to produce the summary tables within the above response document. If other breakdowns are required that are in line with the detail/information we have available, we can add them to the report. If more detail on method is required, we can provide it from our internal desk notes/method.

Thanks,

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