

Business of Fishing, May 2019:

Glossary of Terms and Acronyms



SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES
EDUCATION PROGRAMME

TERM / ACRONYM	Definition
Abundance	The degree of plentifulness of a species.
Advisory Councils	The collective representatives within a given fishing area brought together to assist with, advise on and build the management and policy underpinning a fishery, providing advice and input to the European Commission.
Algal bloom	An explosion of tiny floating plants and plant-like organisms mainly phytoplankton.
Biological cycle	The annual cycle of reproduction, growth and death.
Biological Reference Points	Various Biological Reference Points are used to assess the state of fish stocks for management purposes.
Biomass	Biomass is biological material derived from living, or recently living organisms. The weight of live 'stuff', in this case the size of a fish stock.
Blim	Biomass Limit: Stock size below which the stock is in serious danger of collapse.
Bmsy	Biomass Maximum Sustainable Yield: A biological reference point that shows the size of a stock that is estimated to support maximum sustainable harvest while still maintaining the stock at a healthy level. Bmsy is also often referred to as the rebuilding target in a Fisheries Management Plan (FMP).
BRD	Bycatch Reduction Device.
Bycatch	Is a fish or other marine species that is caught unintentionally while catching certain target species and target sizes of fish, crabs etc. Bycatch is either a different species, the wrong sex, or is undersized or juvenile individuals of the target species.
CFP	The Common Fisheries Policy: A policy agreed by the EU that details conservation of marine resources and the management of fisheries and fishing fleets.
Cohort	Fish that share the same characteristics being born in the same year
CPUE	Catch Per Unit Effort – The quantity of fish caught (in number or in weight) with one standard unit of fishing effort; e.g. number of fish taken per 1,000 hooks per day or weight of fish, in tons, taken

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	per hour of trawling. CPUE is often considered an index of fish biomass (or abundance). Sometimes referred to as catch rate.
December Council	A meeting where EU politicians decide on the next years total catches, which then get divided up into national quotas. A lot of bargaining takes place between countries. The science advice is not always followed.
DCF	Data Collection Framework. An EU regulation which requires member states to submit annual data on stocks, the fishing industry, aquaculture the fish processing industry. Seafish submits the economic and social data for fishing and processing. Cefas and Marine Scotland Science are involved in the other required elements.
De Minimis Exemption	An exemption applied where scientific evidence indicates that selectivity is very difficult to achieve or where the costs of handling unwanted catch are disproportionate.
Discards	Fish thrown back into the sea after they are caught, which are usually dead. They are typically discarded because they are non-target species, below minimum landing size, above or below the ideal market size (high grading) or because the quota for that species has been exhausted.
EBM	Ecosystem Based Management. An approach that takes the whole ecosystem into account in managing fisheries. It values habitat, considers impacts to all species and is committed to understanding ecosystem processes. Its goal is to rebuild and sustain populations, species, biological communities, and marine ecosystems at high levels of productivity and biological diversity while providing food, revenue, and recreation for humans.
Ecosystem	An ecosystem is a community of living organisms together with the non-living components of their environment, interacting as a system.
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone – The area that extends from the seaward boundaries of the coastal states (3 nautical miles (nm) in most cases) to 200 nm off the UK coast. Within this area the United Kingdom claims and exercises sovereign rights and exclusive fishery management authority over all fish and all continental shelf fishery resources.

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EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment is the assessment of the environmental consequences (positive and negative) of a plan, policy, program, or actual projects prior to the decision to move forward with the proposed action.
Fisheries Dependent	Data collected that requires the input and involvement of the fishing industry.
Fisheries Independent	Data collection that does not require the involvement of the fishing industry.
Fishing mortality	The rate at which fish are taken out of the sea by fishing activity.
Flim	The fishing mortality which on average will reduce the population to Blim.
FMSY	The highest yield which can be continuously taken from the stock under average conditions without significantly affecting the ability of that stock to reproduce.
Fpa	Is the fishing mortality below which there is an increased risk of the population falling to Blim
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Seas. An independent scientific advisory body which provides annual advice on fish stocks. Not part of any government; coordinates fisheries science and scientists in the North Atlantic area
IFQ	Individual Fishing Quota – quota allocated specifically to an individual person or vessel.
ISF	Interspecies Flexibility: Using quota of one stock to cover the catch of another stock
ITQ	Individual Transferable Quota – an IFQ that can be sold in private sale.
Juvenile	An individual fish that has yet to reach sexual maturity.
Larvae	The immature stage of animals living in the sea - often very different from the adults and living as zooplankton.
Marine Scotland	The Division of the Scottish Government that manages Scottish seas
Maturation rate	the rate at which a species reaches sexual maturity and is therefore able to reproduce.
MEY	Maximum Economic Yield.

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MOU	Memorandum of Understanding – an agreement (often between government agencies) that clarifies the scope of authority, jurisdiction, and sharing of duties between parties with common interests and/or overlapping authority (e.g., between National Marine Fisheries Service and National Ocean Service).
MPA	Marine Protected Area – any area of ocean defined to receive special consideration in management planning.
MS Compliance	Used to be called SPFA. The Compliance part of Marine Scotland runs the fishery protection vessels, the spotter plane and the Coastal Offices. They prosecute infringements.
MSS	Marine Scotland Science: the science part of Marine Scotland – used to be called FRS, and before that DAFS. Sometimes referred to as “the Marine Lab”.
MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield: – the maximum catch, averaged over time, that can be removed from a fish stock while still maintaining stock biomass at healthy levels.
MSYB trigger	The reference point below which there is a risk of stock depletion.
MAPs	Multi-Annual Plans: Almost all-important stocks and fisheries are managed by means of a multiannual plan. The plans contain the goal for fish stock management, expressed in terms of fishing mortality and/or targeted stock size.
Natural Mortality	Natural mortality is used in fisheries population dynamics to account for the loss of fish in a fish stock through natural causes such as disease, predation and old age.
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations – private institutions that work in the public sphere (e.g., environmental groups, private lenders, private colleges, etc.).
Nutrients	Sources of food and nourishment for living organisms.
Oceanography	The study of oceans, their processes and chemistry.
Otolith	Calcareous 'ear bones' in fish.
Phytoplankton	Microscopic plants and plant-like organisms living in the water column.
Population decline	Population decline can refer to the decline in population of any organism.

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Recruitment	The increase in a natural population as individuals grow and new members arrive.
Relative Abundance	Other than pulling the plug out, it's impossible to count how many fish there are in the sea, so surveys are used to provide information on the distribution and 'relative' abundance of fish populations. Relative abundance just means an indicator of the true abundance (sometimes called absolute abundance).
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage.
Social Justice	Justice in terms of the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society.
SSB	Spawning Stock Biomass – the portion of a fish stock population that is sexually mature.
Stakeholder	An individual or group or sector who can either affect or be affected by operations within a given system.
STECF	Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries. A Committee that belongs to the European Commission and provides official scientific, economic and technical advice to the Commission. The Commission sets the terms of reference for the Committee. The Commission is legally obliged to take account of advice from STECF but not legally obliged to follow the advice.
Sustainability	Sustainability is the property of biological systems to remain diverse and productive indefinitely. It means "Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." <i>Bruntland Report for the World Commission on Environment and Development (1992)</i>
Swept Area Surveys	The area which is swept by a trawl as a well-defined path; = length of trawl x width. Surveys deploy this calculation as a means of estimating the abundance of a fish population.
TAC	Total Allowable Catch. The annual recommended or specified regulated catch for a species or species group. The regional fishery management council sets the TAC from the range of acceptable biological catch (ABC).
Total Abundance	Abundance = density x survey area.
TQR	Total Quota Regulation.

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VMS	Vessel Monitoring System – electronic reporting of vessel location, usually through a satellite uplink.
Yield	To give forth or produce by natural means and in return for harvesting.
Zooplankton	Microscopic animal or animal-like organisms living mainly made up of small crustaceans and fish larvae.