# **Acronyms List / glossary of terms**

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| **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 plants and plant-like organisms mainly phytoplankton and other seaweeds. |
| **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. |
| **Blim** | The biomass below which there is an increased risk of recruitment impairment in a fish population. |
| **Bmsy** | Biomass that produces Maximum Sustainable Yield – a biological reference point required under the SFA, it is 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 an 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. |
| **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 per hour of trawling. CPUE is oftenconsidered an index of fish biomass (or abundance). Sometimes referred to as catch rate. |
| **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. |
| **December Council** |  |
| **Discards** | Discards are the portion of a catch of fish which is not retained on board during commercial fishing operations and is returned, often dead or dying, to the sea. The practice of discarding is driven by economic and political factors; fish which are discarded are often unmarketable species, individuals which are below minimum landing sizes and catches of species which fishermen are not allowed to land, for instance due to quota restrictions. |
| **EBM** | Ecosystem Based Management. An approach that takes major ecosystem components and services—both structural and functional—into account in managing fisheries. It values habitat, embraces a multispecies perspective, 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 so as not to jeopardize a wide range of goods and services from marine ecosystems 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 (n.mi.) in most cases) to 200 n.mi. 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. |
| **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** | Fishing mortality is a term used in fisheries population dynamics to express the proportion of stock which dies through fishing. It is expressed on a log scale which is not intuitive to anybody who has not studies maths. Its analogue in the “real world” is harvest rate; which is the proportion of the fish stock which dies due to fishing. |
| **Flim** | The fishing mortality which on average will reduce the population to Blim. |
| **FMSY** | Fishing mortality rate that produces the maximum sustainable yield. |
| **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. |
| **IFQ** | Individual Fishing Quota – quota allocated specifically to an individual person or vessel. |
| **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. |
| **Maturation rate** | the rate at which a species reaches sexual maturity and is therefore able to reproduce. |
| **MEY** | Maximum Economic Yield. |
| **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. |
| **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. |
| **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. |
| **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 Organizations – private institutions that work in the public sphere (e.g., environmental groups, private lenders, private colleges, etc.). |
| **Nodal point (tides)** | A location where the size of tides are always smallest (sometimes 0). |
| **Nutrients** | Sources of food and nourishment for living organisms. |
| **Oceanography** | The study of oceans, their processes and chemistry. |
| **Otolith** | Calcarious 'ear bones' in fish. |
| **Phytoplankton** | Microscopic plants and plant-like oraganisms living in the water column. |
| **Population decline** | Population decline can refer to the decline in population of any organism. |
| **Recruitment** | The increase in a natural population as individuals grow and new members arrive. |
| **SNH** | Scottish Natural Heritage. |
| **SOAFD** | Scottish Office Agriculture and Fisheries Department. |
| **Social Justice** | Justice in terms of the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society. |
| **Spawning stock biomass (SSB)** | Definition of Term. spawning stock biomass (english) The total weight of the fish in a stock that are old enough to spawn; the biomass of all fish beyond the age or size class in which 50% of the individuals are mature. May be used instead of measuring egg production. |
| **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** | In ecology, sustainability is the property of biological systems to remain diverse and productive indefinitely. Long-lived and healthy wetlands and forests are examples of sustainable biological systems. In more general terms, sustainability is the endurance of systems and processes. The organizing principle for sustainability is sustainable development, which includes the four interconnected domains: ecology, economics, politics and culture. Sustainability science is the study of sustainable development and environmental science. |
| **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. |
| **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. |
| **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. |