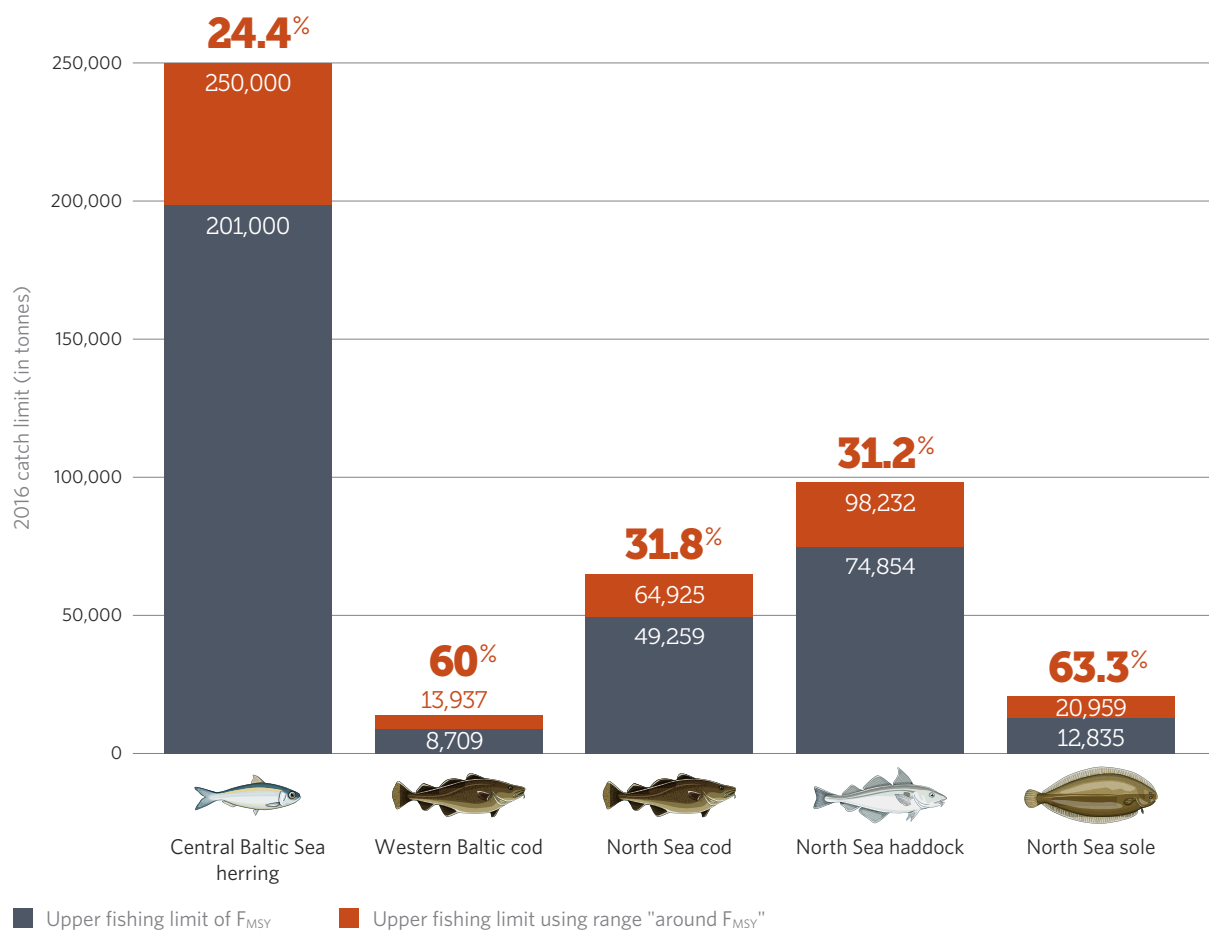


Watering Down the Common Fisheries Policy

Setting ranges for fishing limits too high could result in legalised overfishing

To inform proposals for multiannual fishing plans, the European Commission asked the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea to develop ranges “around” the upper fishing limit specified in the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). As a result, these ranges include fishing limits that are higher than those set in the CFP. Comparing the ranges against the scientific advice on 2016 fishing limits shows how much this approach could allow fishing beyond CFP limits. To restore fish stocks and maintain them above levels capable of producing maximum sustainable yield, fishing mortality rates must be set below the upper limit specified in the CFP.



Note: F_{MSY} is the fishing mortality consistent with achieving maximum sustainable yield.

Sources: Baltic: Cod, <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/cod-2224.pdf>; herring, <http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/2015/her-2532-gor.pdf>. North Sea: Preliminary estimates calculated based on International Council for the Exploration of the Sea catch options. F_{msy} ranges for selected North Sea and Baltic stocks, http://www.ices.dk/sites/pub/Publication%20Reports/Advice/2015/Special_Requests/EU_FMSY_ranges_for_selected_NS_and_BS_stocks.pdf