



Shared fish stocks in Icelandic and adjacent waters – current situation and future challenges

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Theme of the day

- Fish stocks that Iceland shares and manages with other states
- Relevant RFMOs that are used for the management of these resources
- Status of the most important stocks and the level of success

Stocks and organisational arrangements



NEAFC (Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission)

- Redfish (Irminger Sea)
- Redfish (ICES I+II, Norwegian sea)
- Atlanto-Scandian herring (NSSH)
- Blue whiting
- Mackerel
- Deep sea species

Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries agreement

- Negotiated during 2015-2018
- Closure of the last northern loophole

NAFO (Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation)

- Pandalus (coldwater shrimp) 3L Grand Bank
- Pandalus 3M Flemish Cap

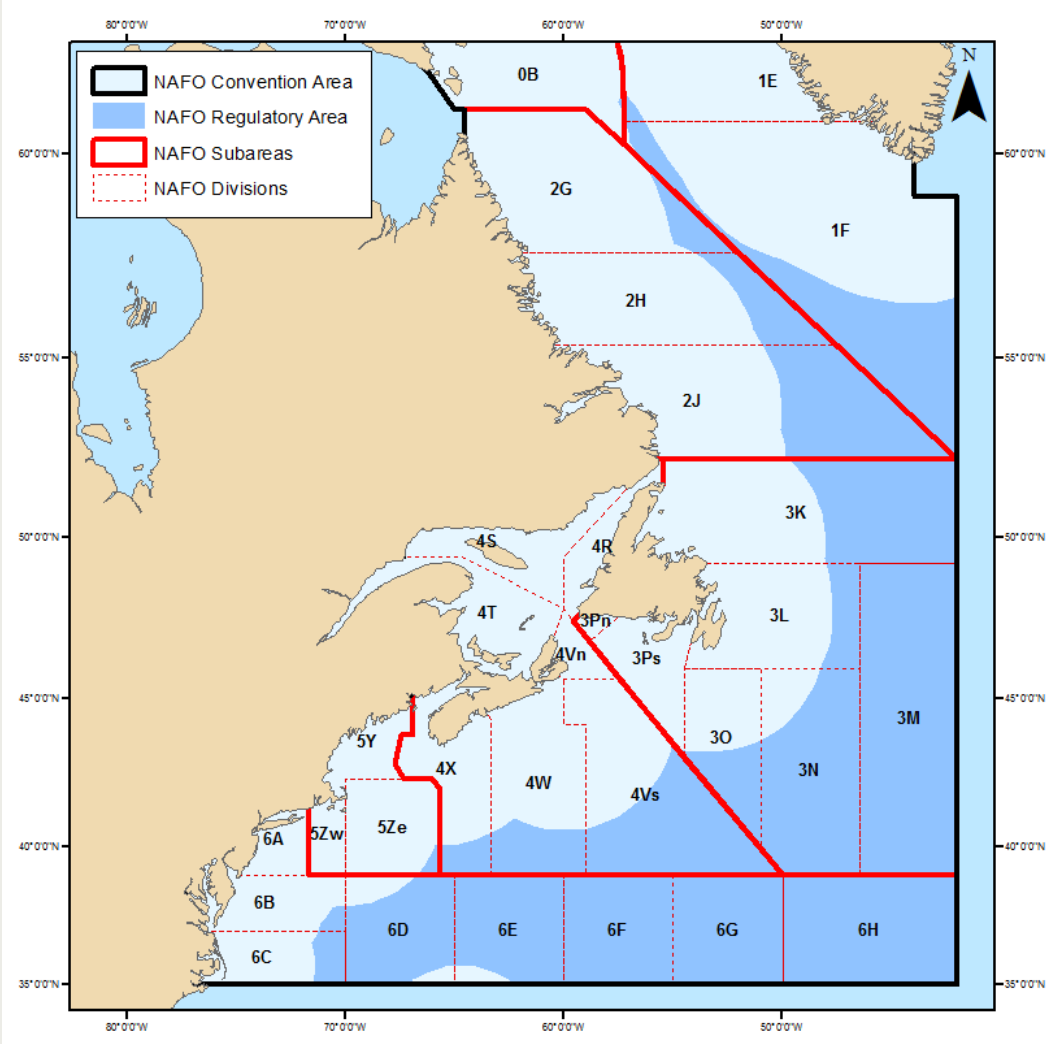
Bi-/Trilateral arrangements

- Capelin Greenland/Iceland/Jan Mayen
- Barents Sea Loophole (groundfish)
- Greenland halibut (Iceland-Greenland)
- Golden redfish
- Pandalus Dohrnbank

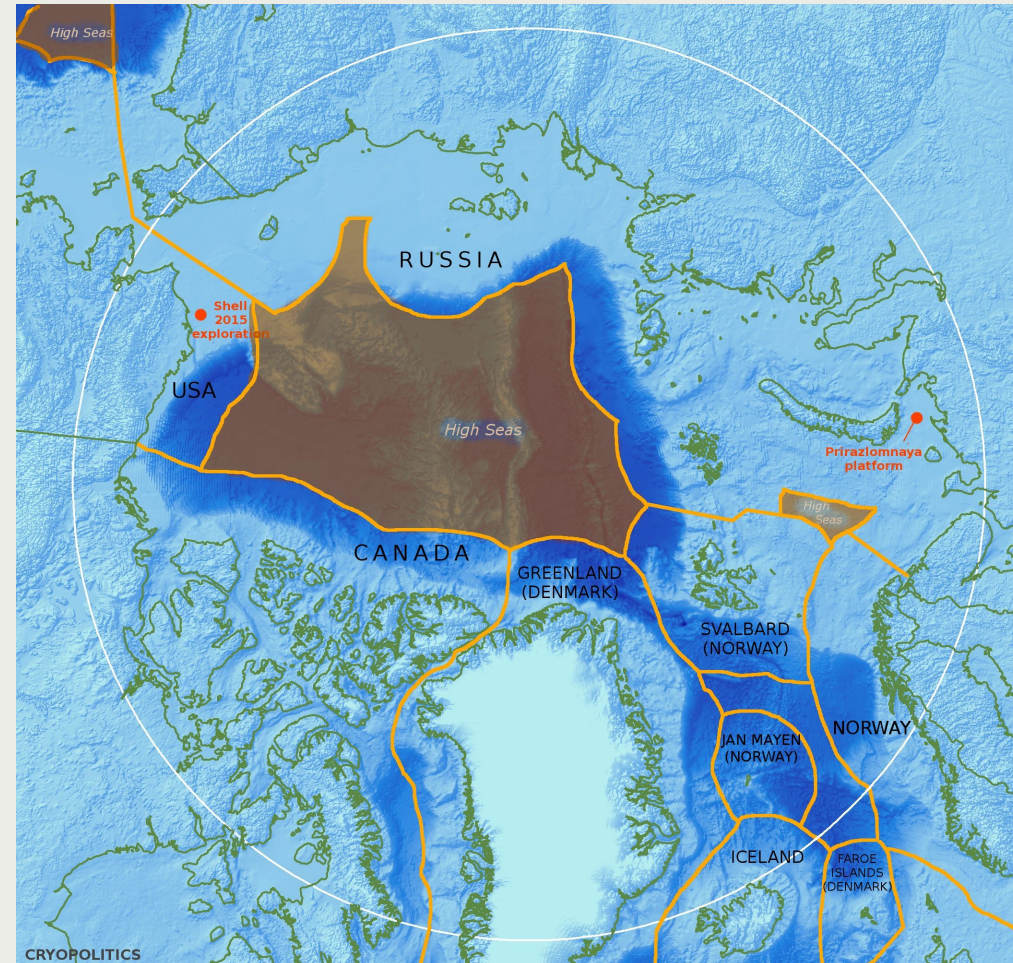
EEZs in the NE Atlantic and the NEAFC Convention/Regulatory Area



NW Atlantic: NAFO Convention and Regulatory Area



Central Arctic Ocean Fisheries Agreement



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Irminger Sea Redfish (deep and shallow stock)

Long-lived species, both stocks seriously depleted

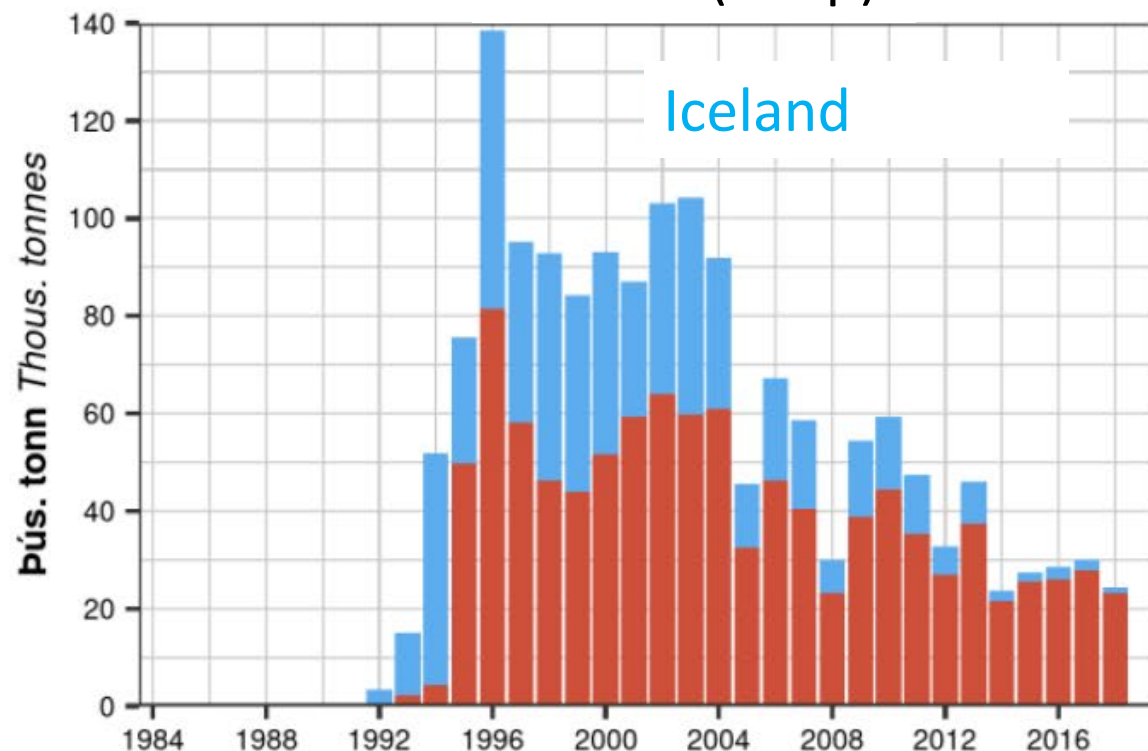
Overharvested for many years, **NEAFC (excl. Russia) agreement reached in 2014**

Coastal states 60%, Dist. fleets 40% - Iceland 31%

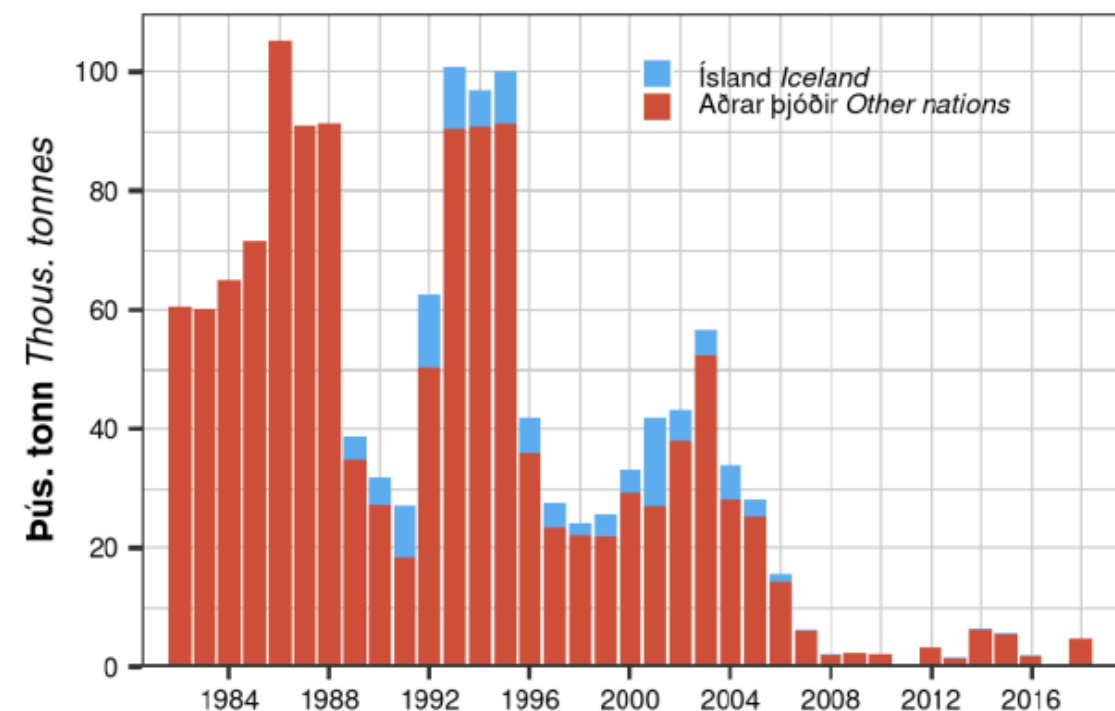
ICES advice for 2020 0-catch upper and deeper, harvest continued in 2019: 25.444 tns !!



Catches (deep)



Catches (shallow)





EU News 28 October 2019:

The North Atlantic Pelagic Complex – 2-4 Billion Euros to share annually ?

North-East Atlantic coastal states reach agreement on mackerel, blue whiting and Atlanto-Scandian herring quotas for 2020

„Meeting in London over the past two weeks, delegations of the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Norway, Iceland, Greenland and the Russian Federation, reached an agreement on the management measures for mackerel, blue whiting and Atlanto-Scandian herring for 2020. All three stocks have a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) set at the recommended scientific advice.“



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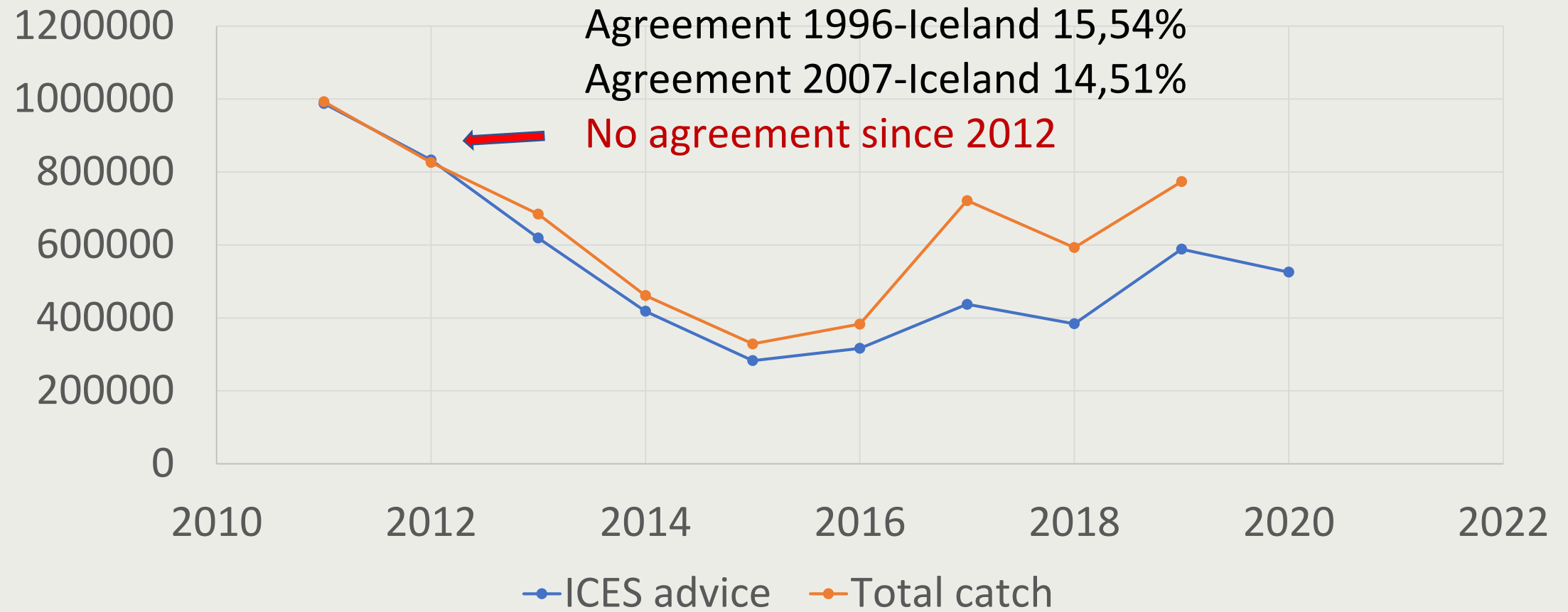
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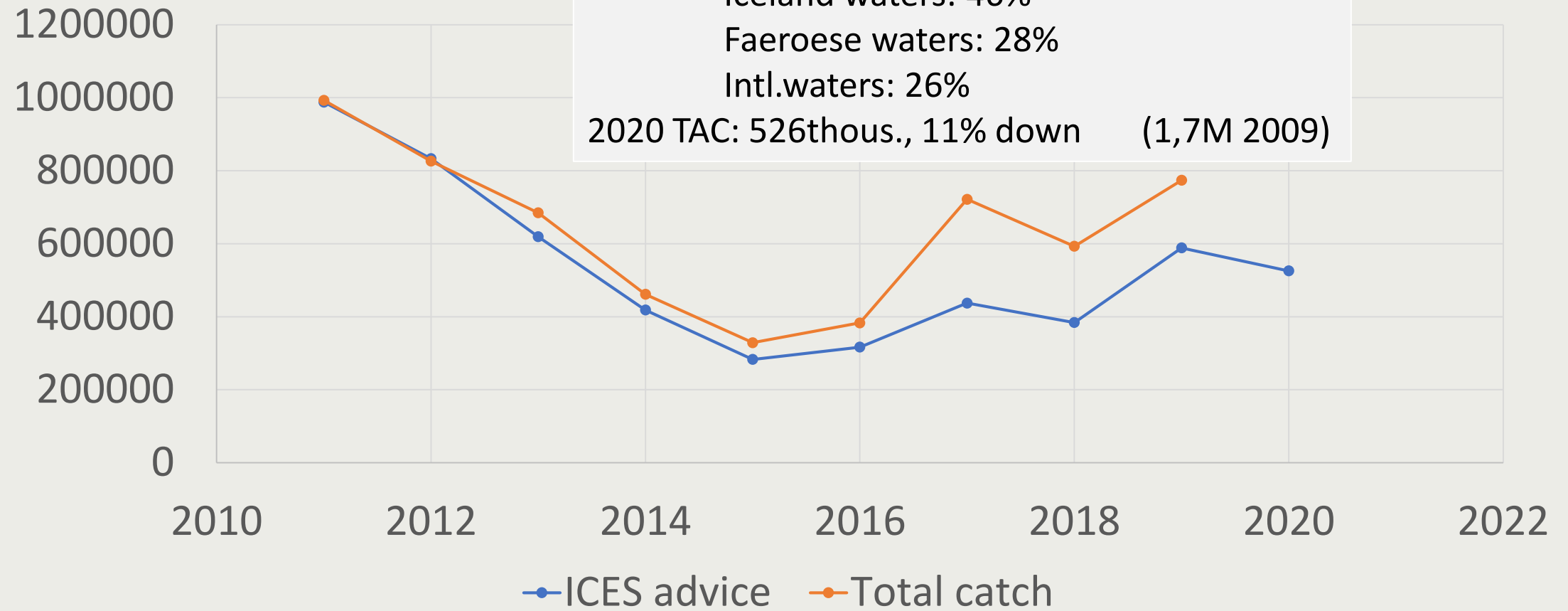
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Unfortunately, only agreed on TAC, but not how to share !

Atlanto-Scandian Herring (NSSH): ICES Advice and Total Catch

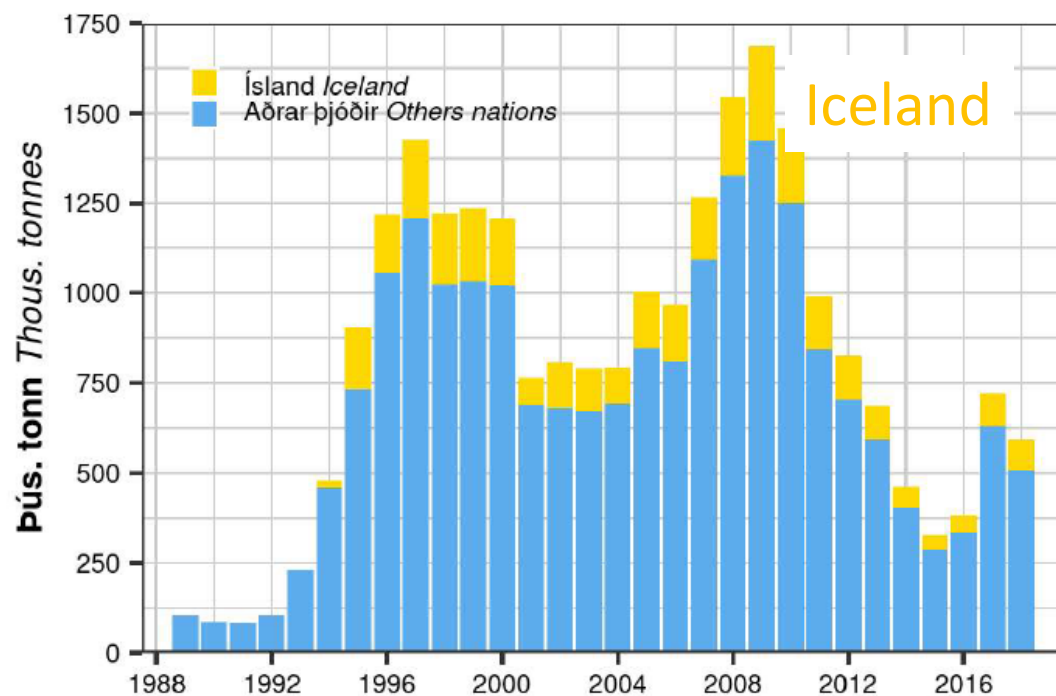


Atlanto-Scandian Herring (NSSH): ICES Advice and Total Catch

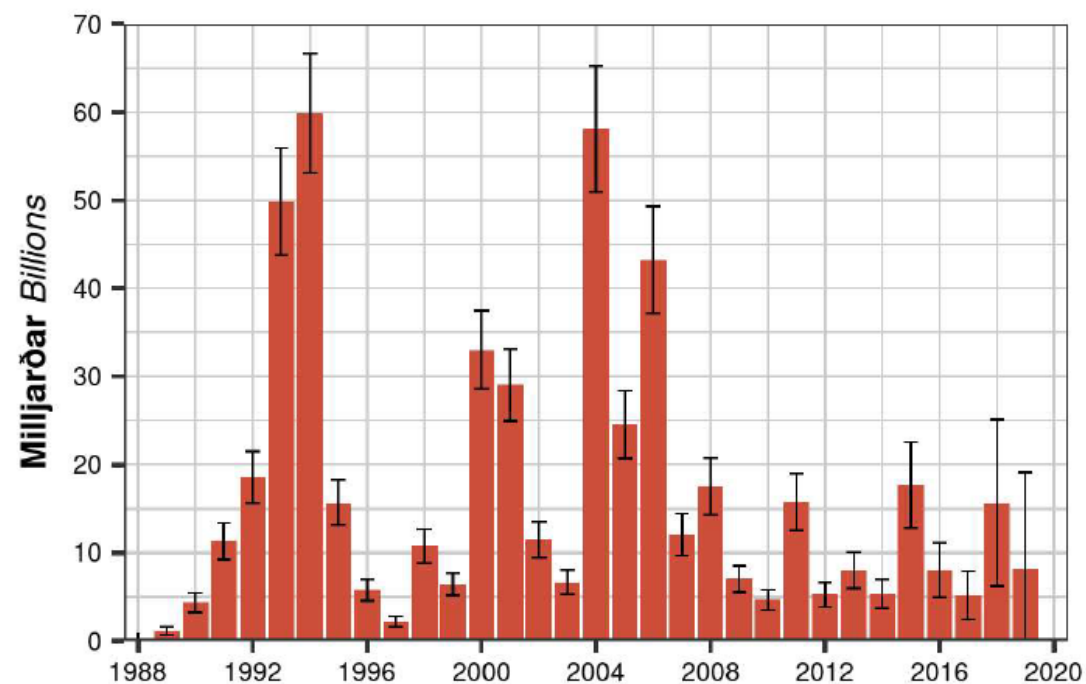


Herring – Catches and recruitment

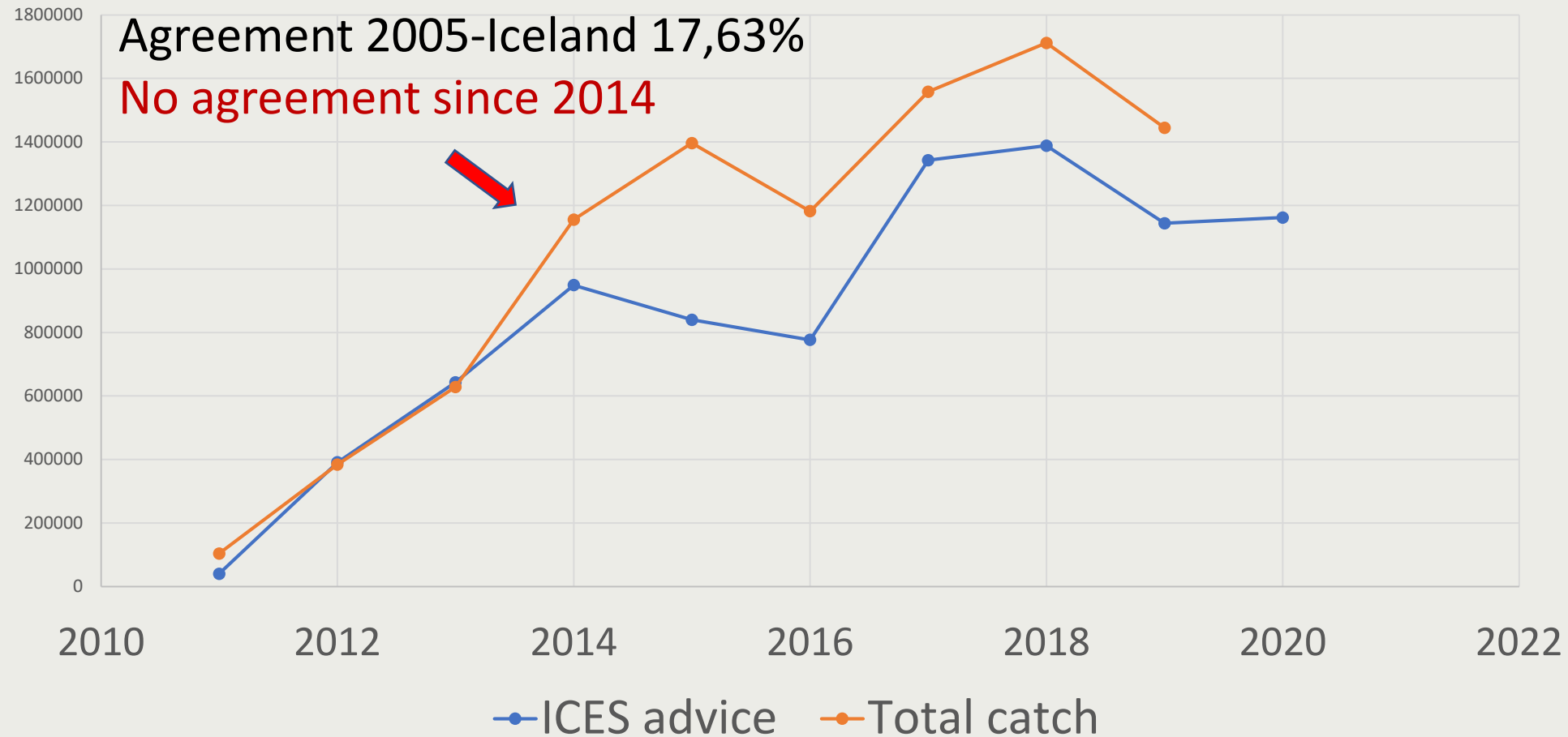
Catches



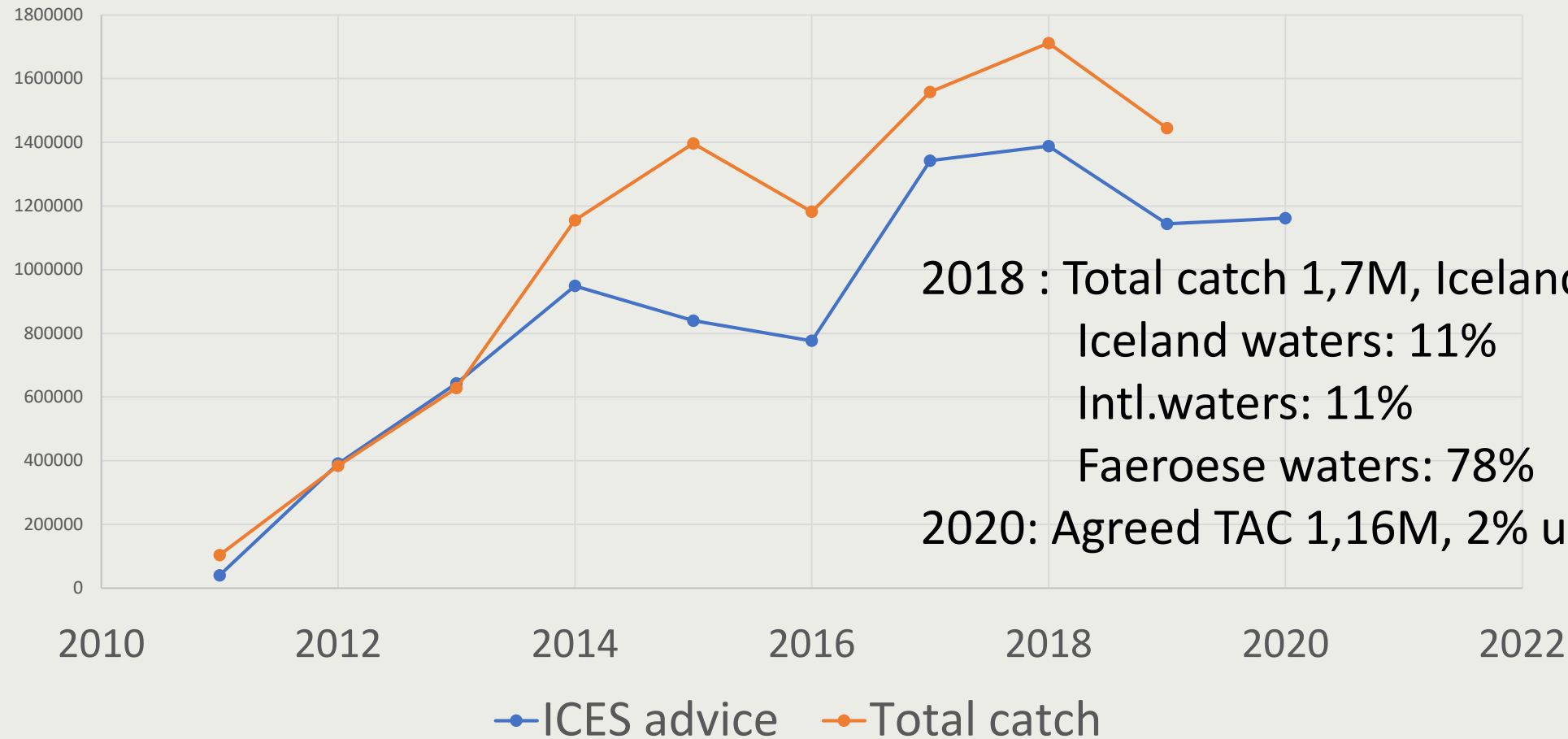
Recruitment (age 2)



Blue whiting: ICES Advice and Total Catch



Blue whiting: ICES Advice and Total Catch

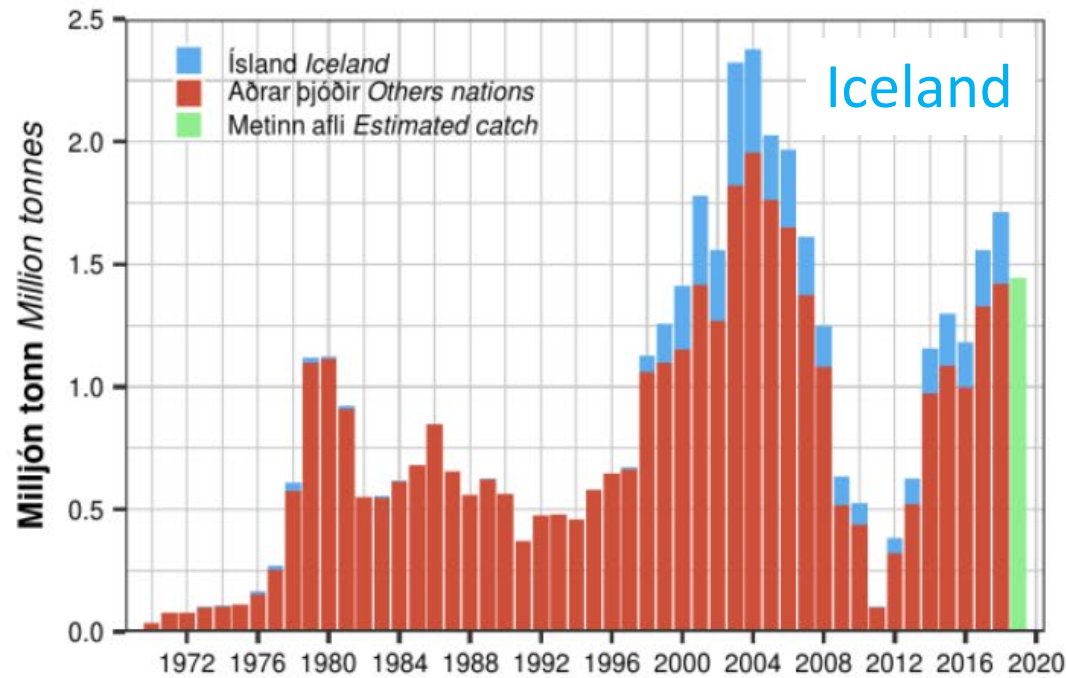


2018 : Total catch 1,7M, Iceland 293thous.
Iceland waters: 11%
Intl.waters: 11%
Faeroese waters: 78%

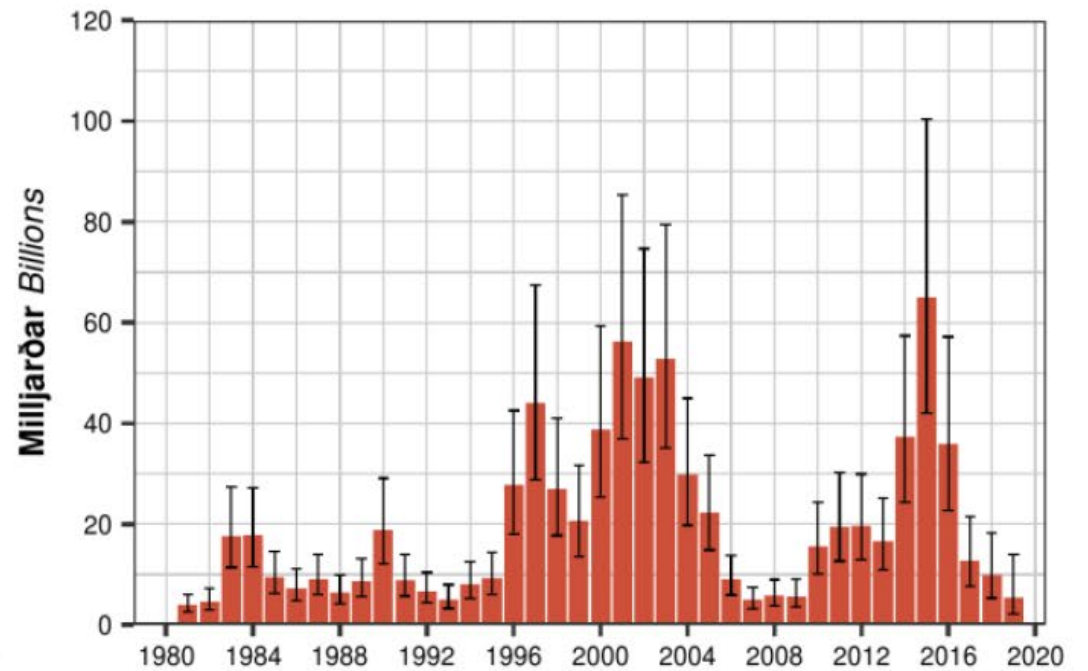
2020: Agreed TAC 1,16M, 2% up (2,4M 2004)

Blue whiting – Catches and Recruitment

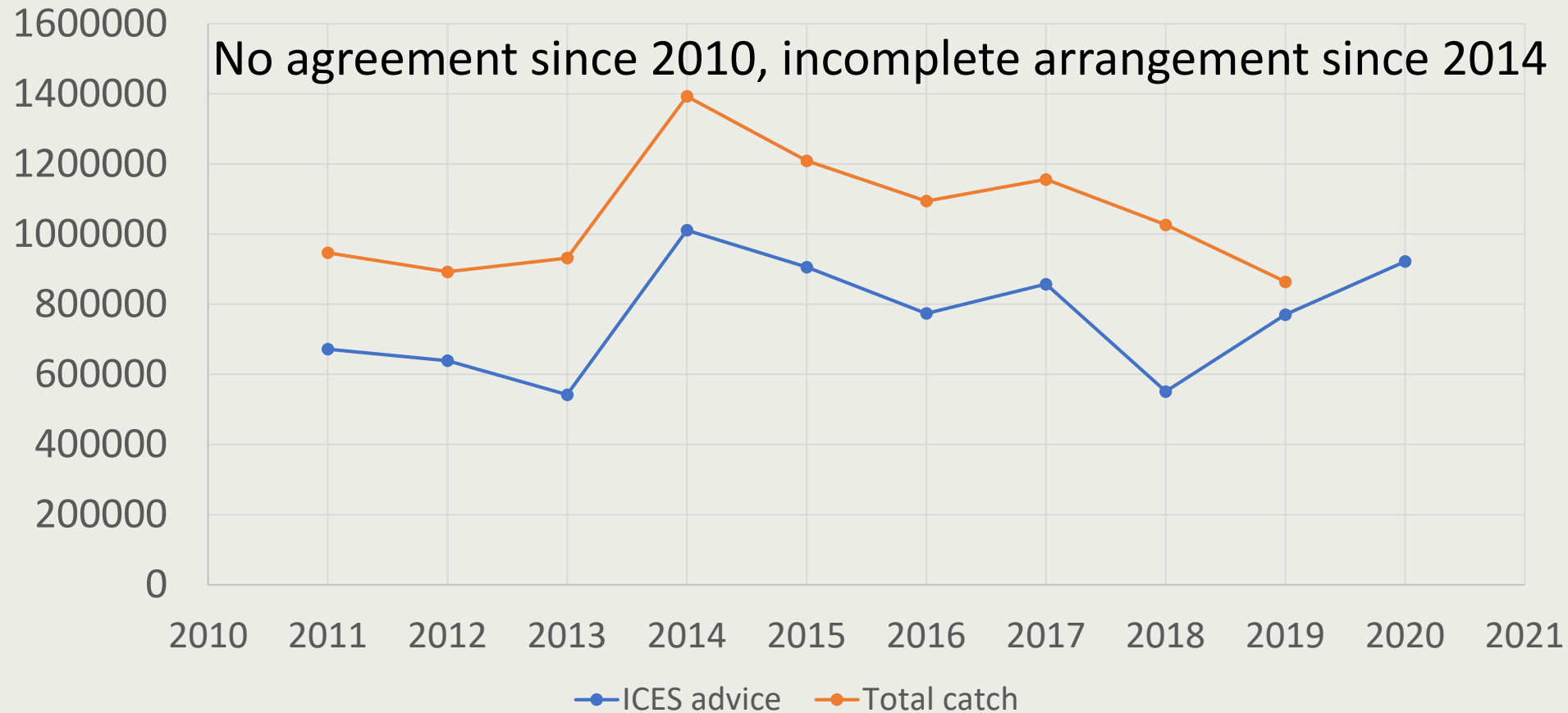
Catches



Recruitment (age 1)

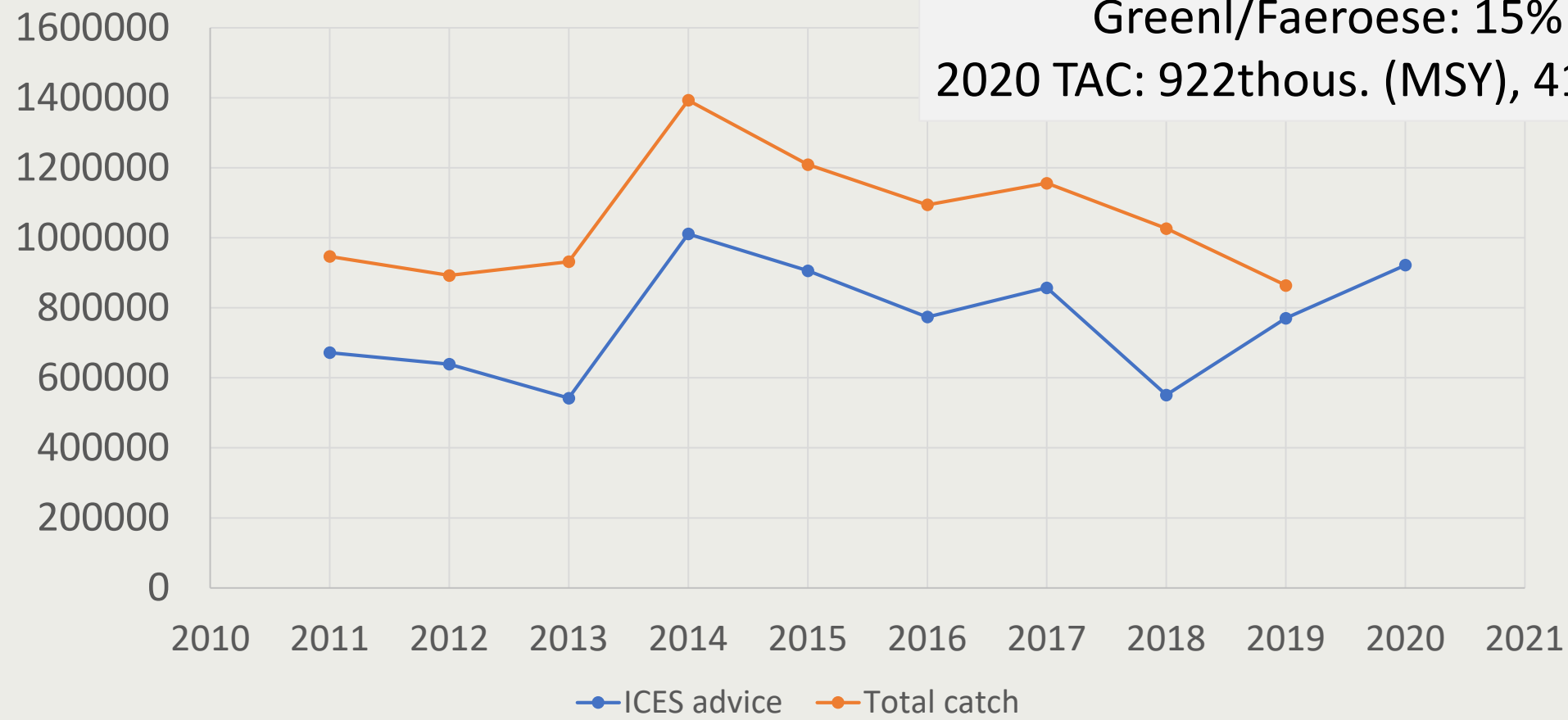


Mackerel: ICES Advice and Total Catch



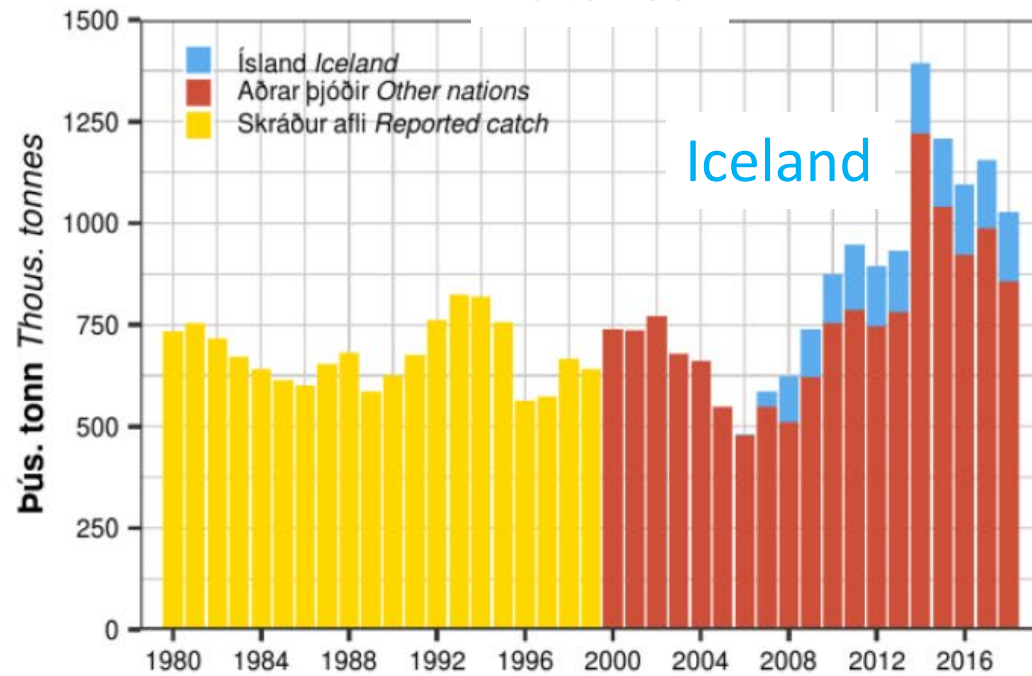
Mackerel: ICES Advice and Catch

2018 : Total 1,03M, Iceland 168thous.
Iceland waters: 37%
Intl.waters: 49%
Greenl/Faeroese: 15%
2020 TAC: 922thous. (MSY), 41% up (1,4M 2014)

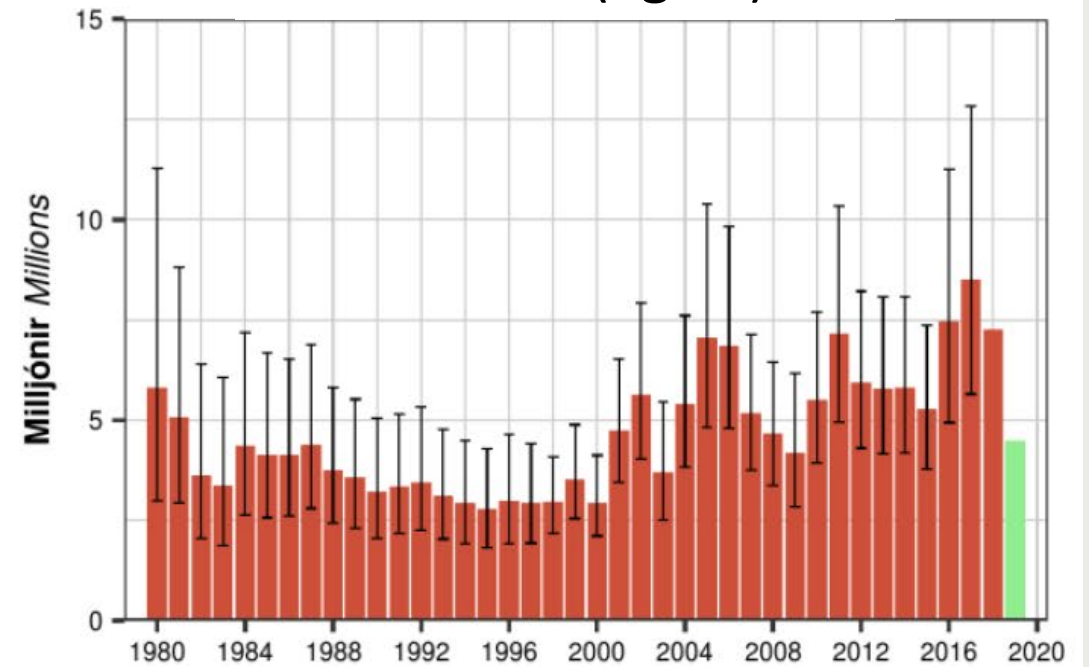


Mackerel – Catches and Recruitment

Catches



Recruitment (age 0)



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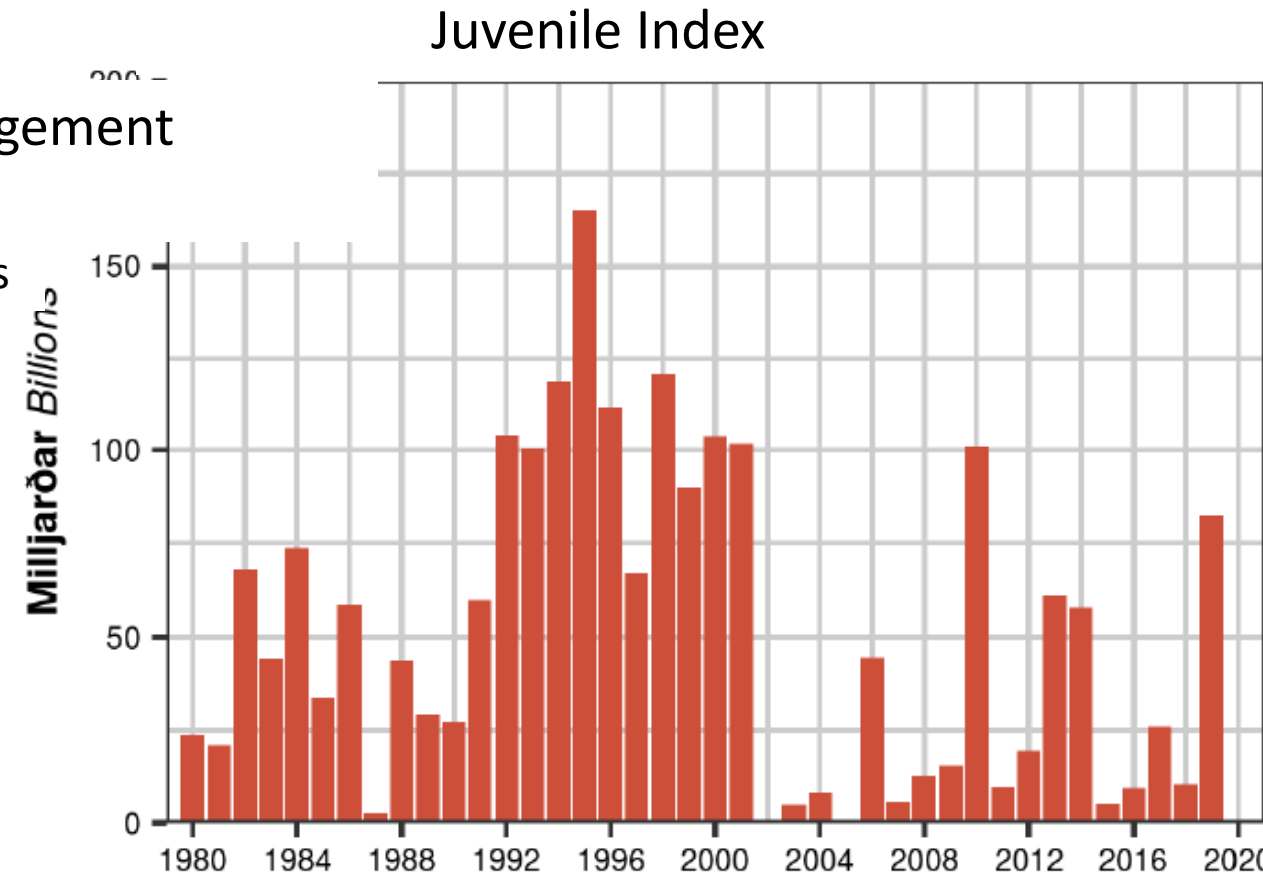
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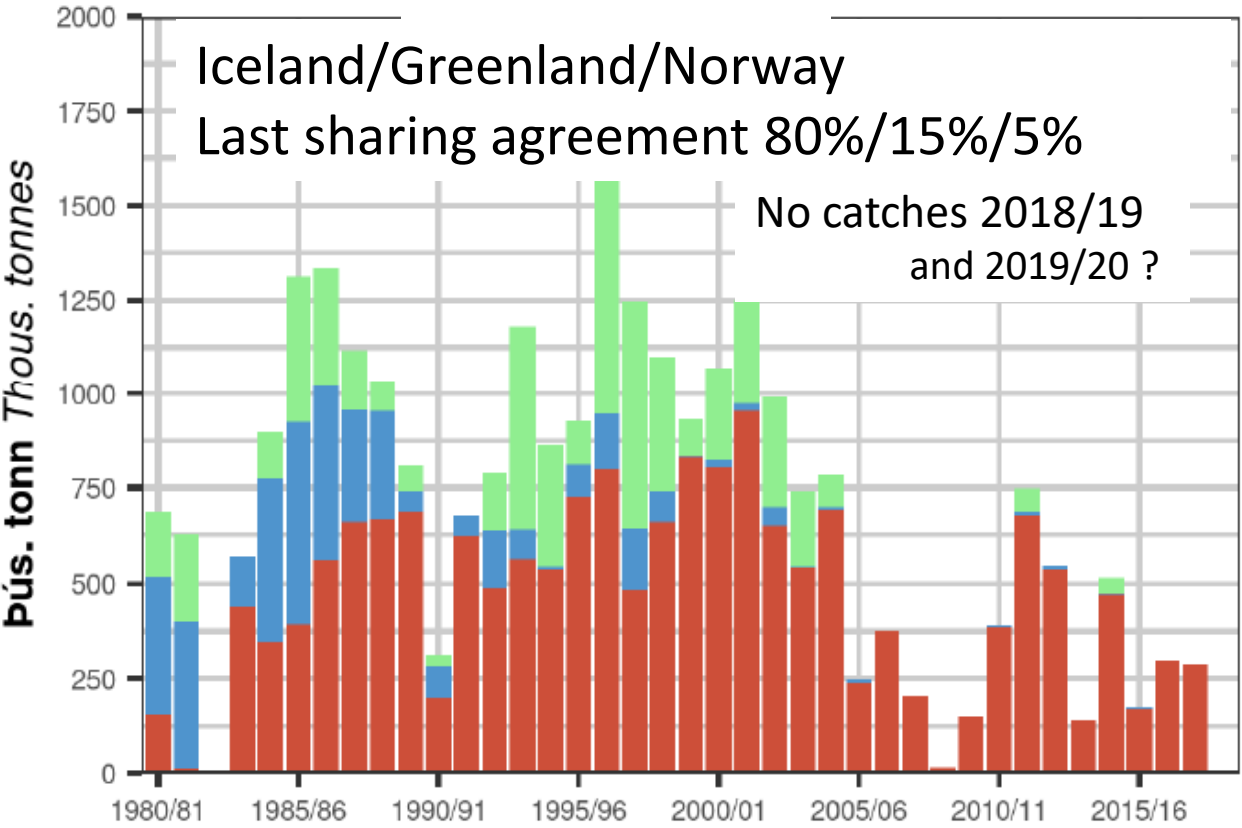
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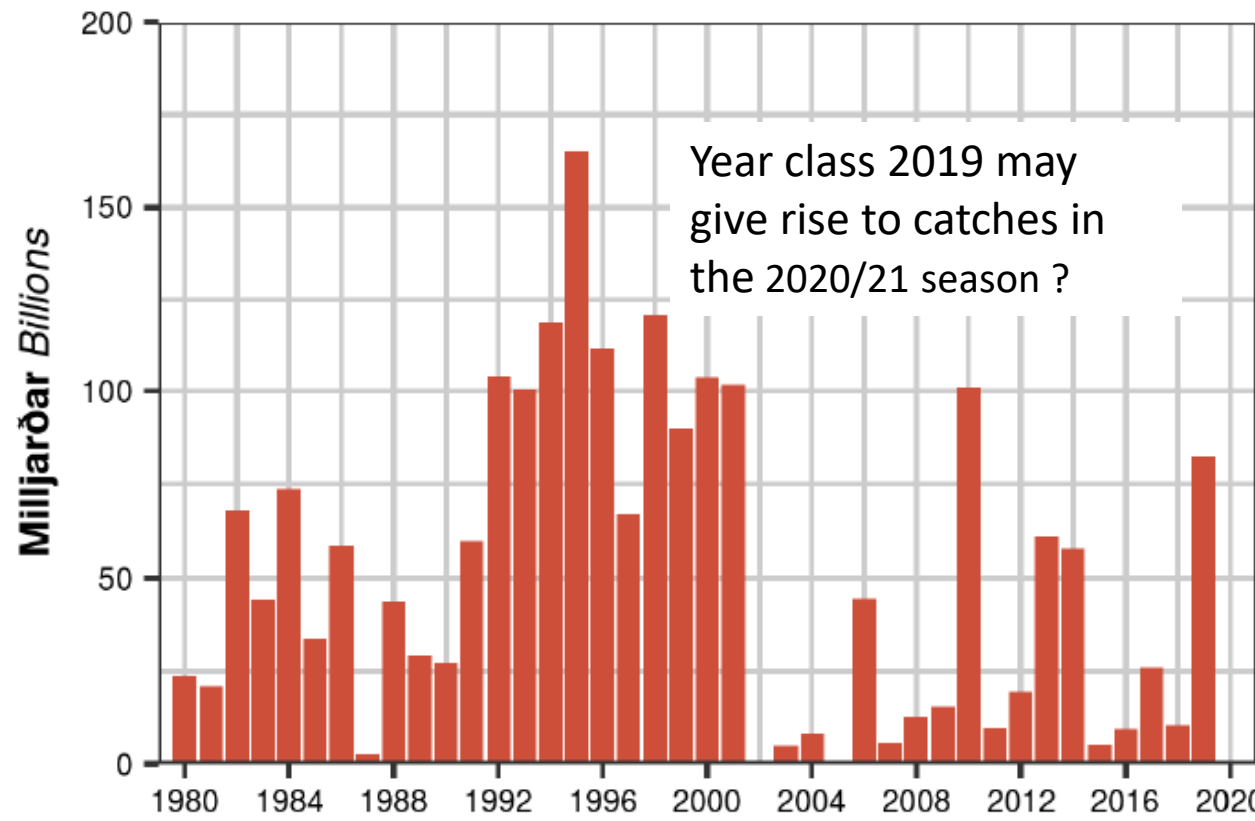


Iceland/Greenland/Jan Mayen Capelin

Catches



Juvenile Index



In Conclusion

- There is in place organisational framework for management of all shared stocks in Icelandic and adjacent waters.
- Several Bilateral/Trilateral arrangements have relevant stocks under control in most recent years, including capelin, Greenland halibut, and Golden redfish.
- Irminger Sea redfish has seriously suffered poor management of the last 20 years or so. Despite NEAFC agreement on conservation measures, Russia is not joining it and unilaterally continues harvest of a depleted stock.
- Management of the three valuable pelagic stocks mackerel, blue whiting and Atlanto-Scandian herring (the Pelagic Complex) has been total failure for years, due to lack of a comprehensive management scheme.
- The Pelagic complex now under threat, while the lack of cooperation in recent years has coincided with favourable environmental conditions and thus relatively strong year classes have saved the situation.
- The exclusive mackerel arrangement of EU, Norway and Faroe islands is probably not in compliance with international rules ?