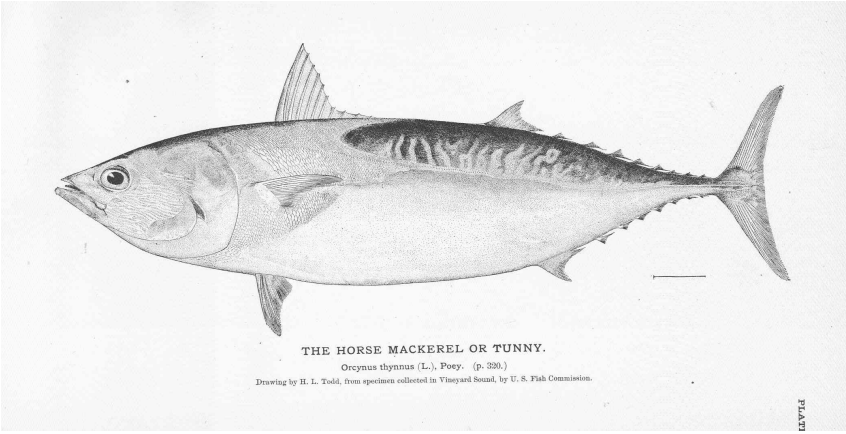
Monitoring the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (STECF)

Seminar "State of Fish Stocks and the Economics of Fishing Fleets"
Brussels, 15 July 2016



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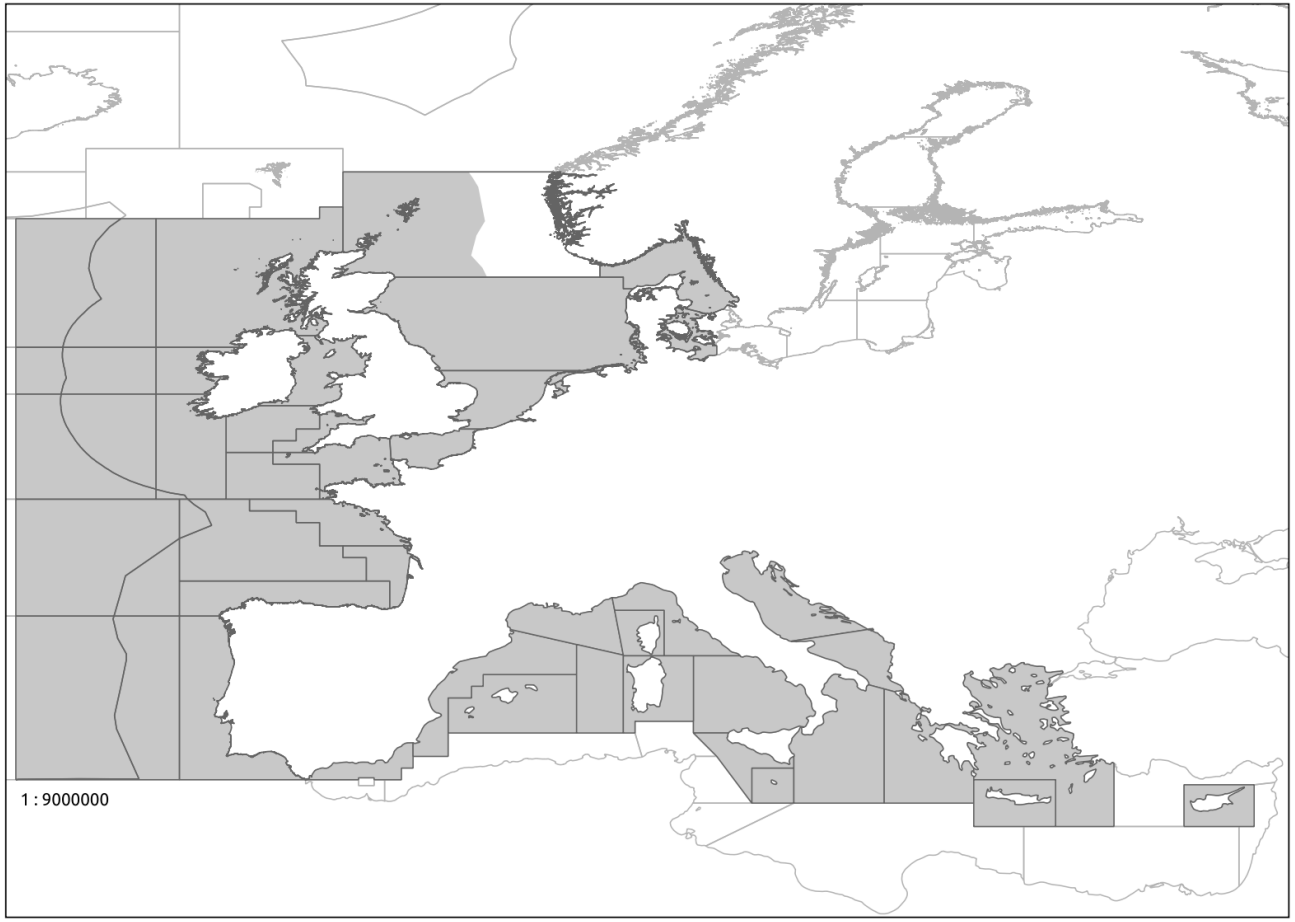
[1] Joint Research Centre, IPSC/Maritime Affairs, European Commission

[2] Marine Institute, Gallway, Ireland

Background

- Article 50 of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP; Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013) stipulates that the *European Commission (EC) shall report annually to the European Parliament and to the Council on the progress on achieving maximum sustainable yield and on the situation of fish stocks[...]*
- The European Commission asked STECF to provide the quantitative basis, in the form of a set of indicators.

Area



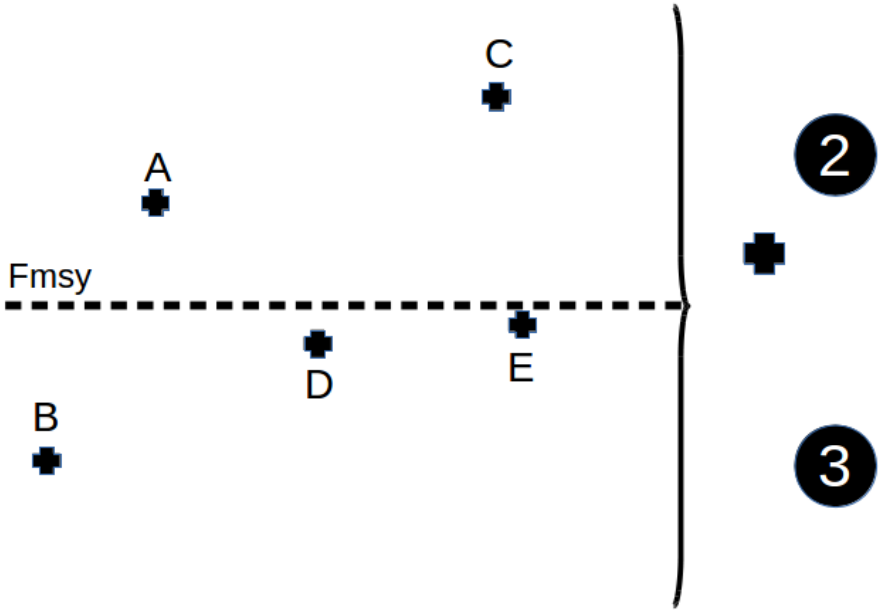
Selection of stocks

- Northeast Atlantic: stocks subject to a TAC assessed by ICES since 2013.
- Mediterranean and Black Seas: stocks assessed by STECF[1] since 2013.

[1] Stocks assessed by GFCM were not included due to difficulties in getting time series of estimates

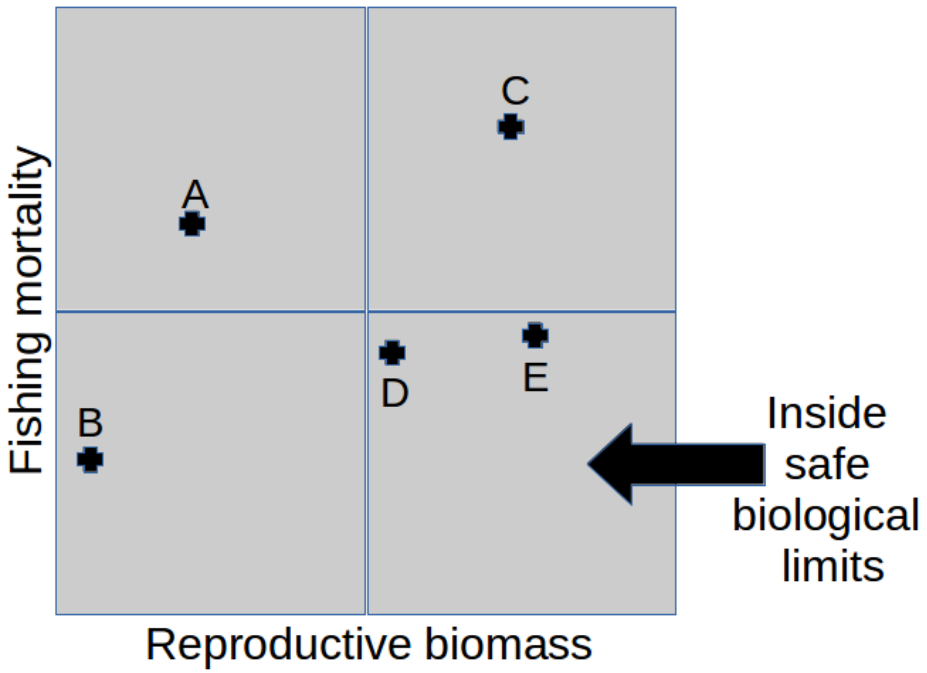
Progress on achieving Maximum Sustainable Yield

- Compare yearly fishing mortality rates (F) with the reference fishing mortality (F_{MSY}).



Situation of fish stocks

- Compute stocks exploited safely in each year, within safe biological limits (SBL).



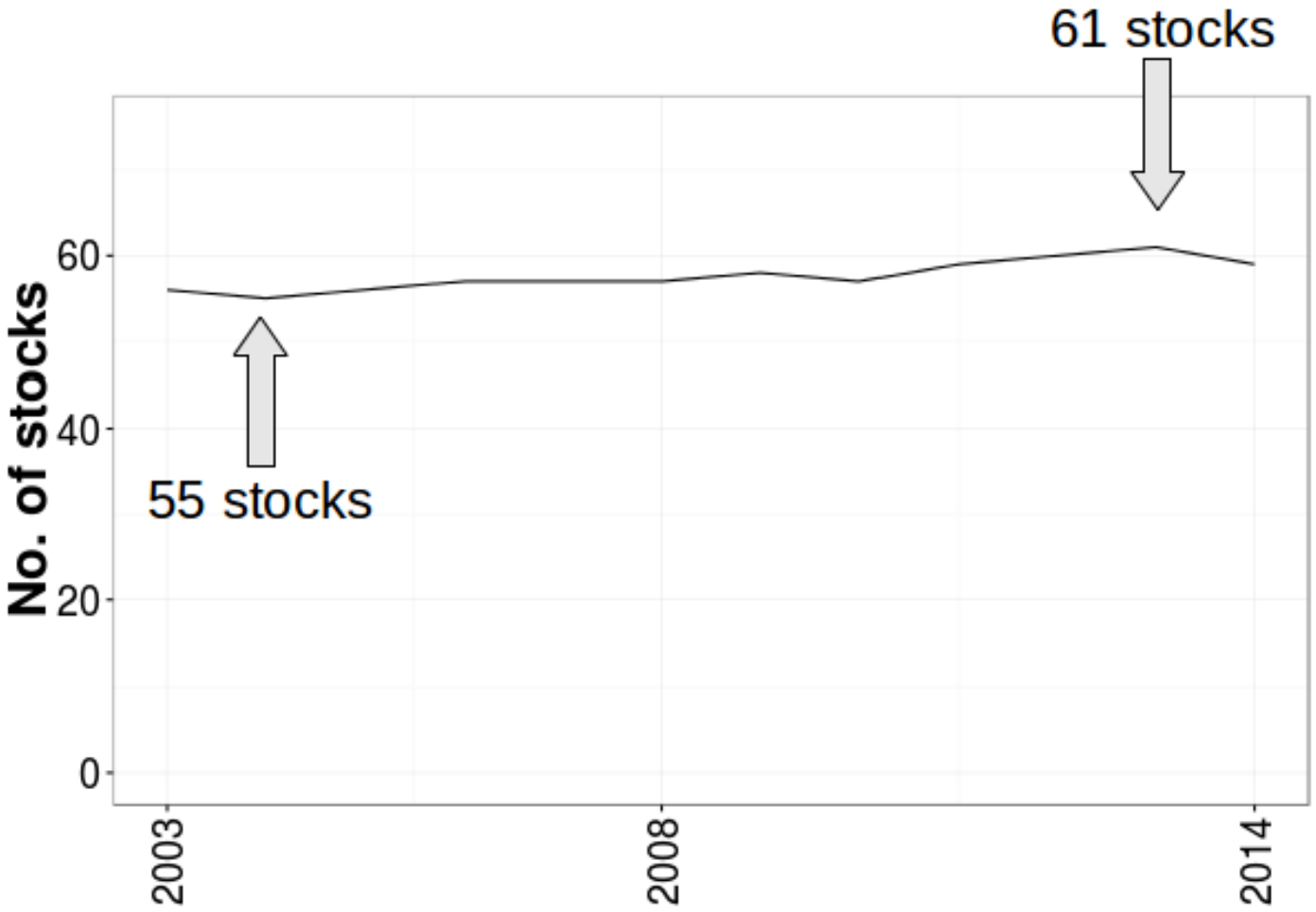
Indicators

- "the progress on achieving maximum sustainable yield" (MSY)[2]
  - Number of stocks where fishing mortality **exceeds** F_{MSY}.
  - Number of stocks where fishing mortality **is equal to or less than** F_{MSY}.
  - Average exploitation level (yearly mean of F/F_{MSY})
- "situation of fish stocks"
  - Number of stocks **outside** safe biological limits.
  - Number of stocks **inside** safe biological limits.

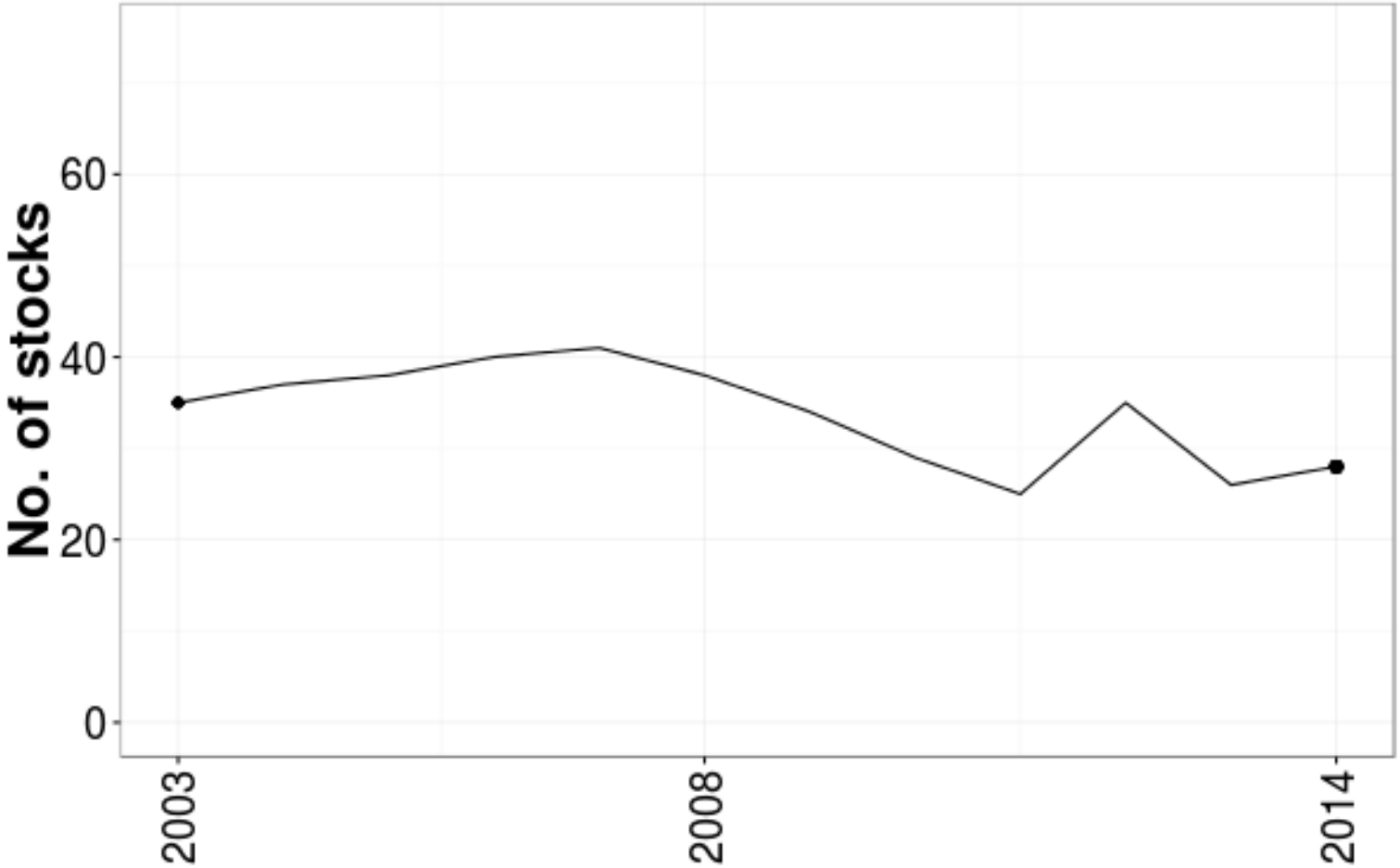
[2] Refer to Art.4 for a detailed explanation of the concepts of MSY, F, F_{MSY} and SBL

Northeast Atlantic (NEA)

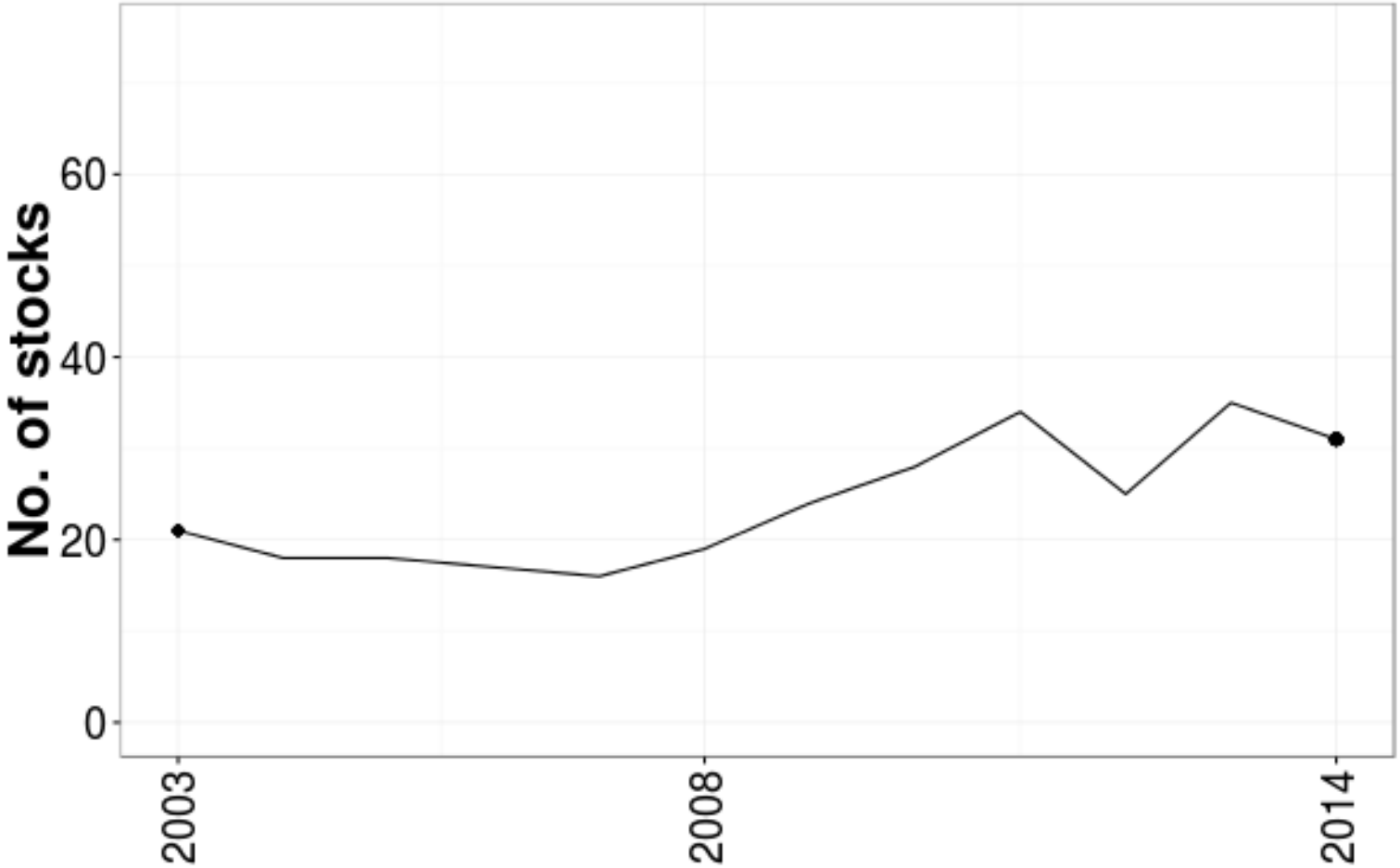
Number of stocks included in the analysis



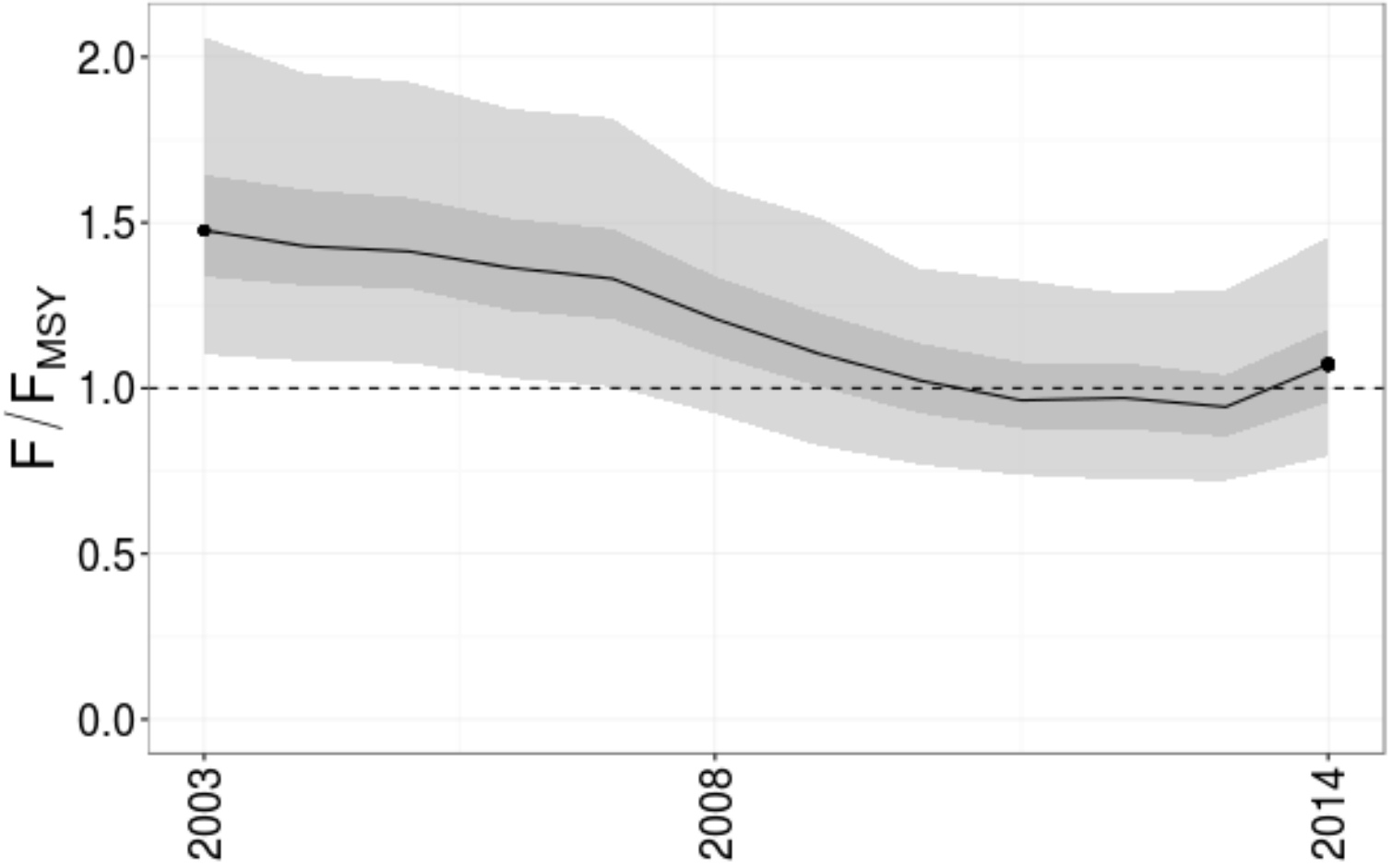
No of stocks where fishing mortality rates are ABOVE the reference fishing mortality



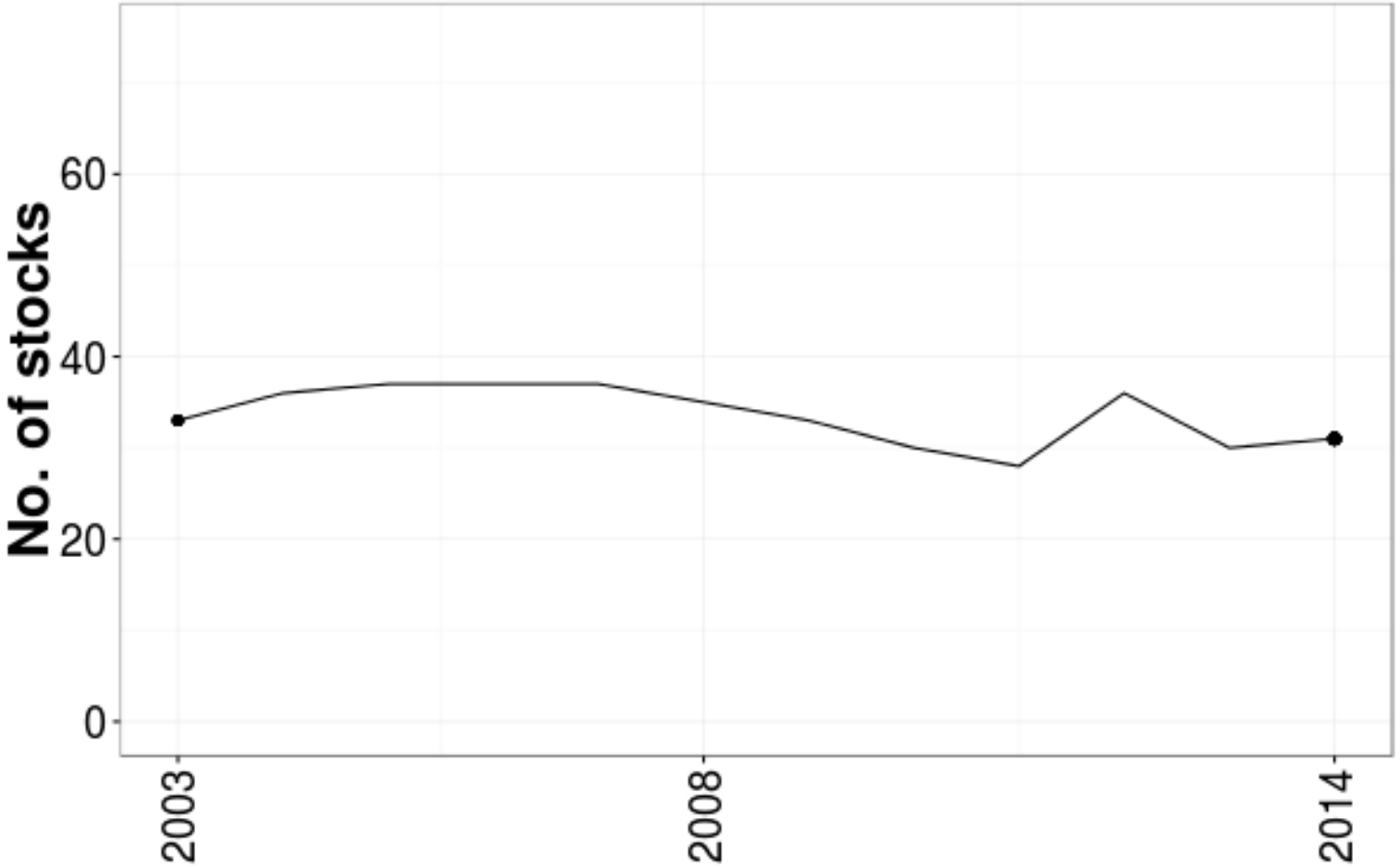
No of stocks where fishing mortality rates are BELOW the reference fishing mortality



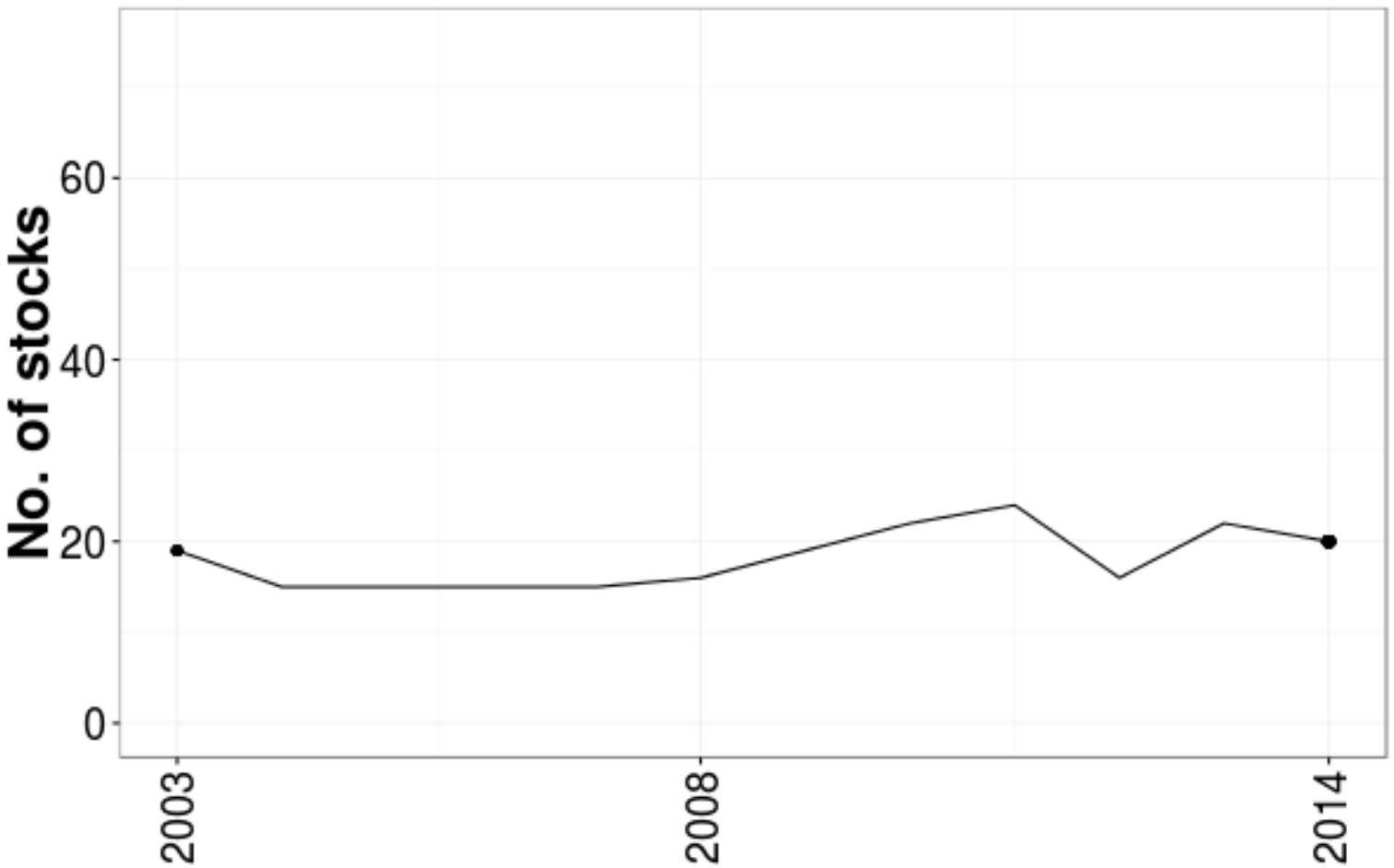
Average exploitation levels



No of stocks OUTSIDE safe biological limits

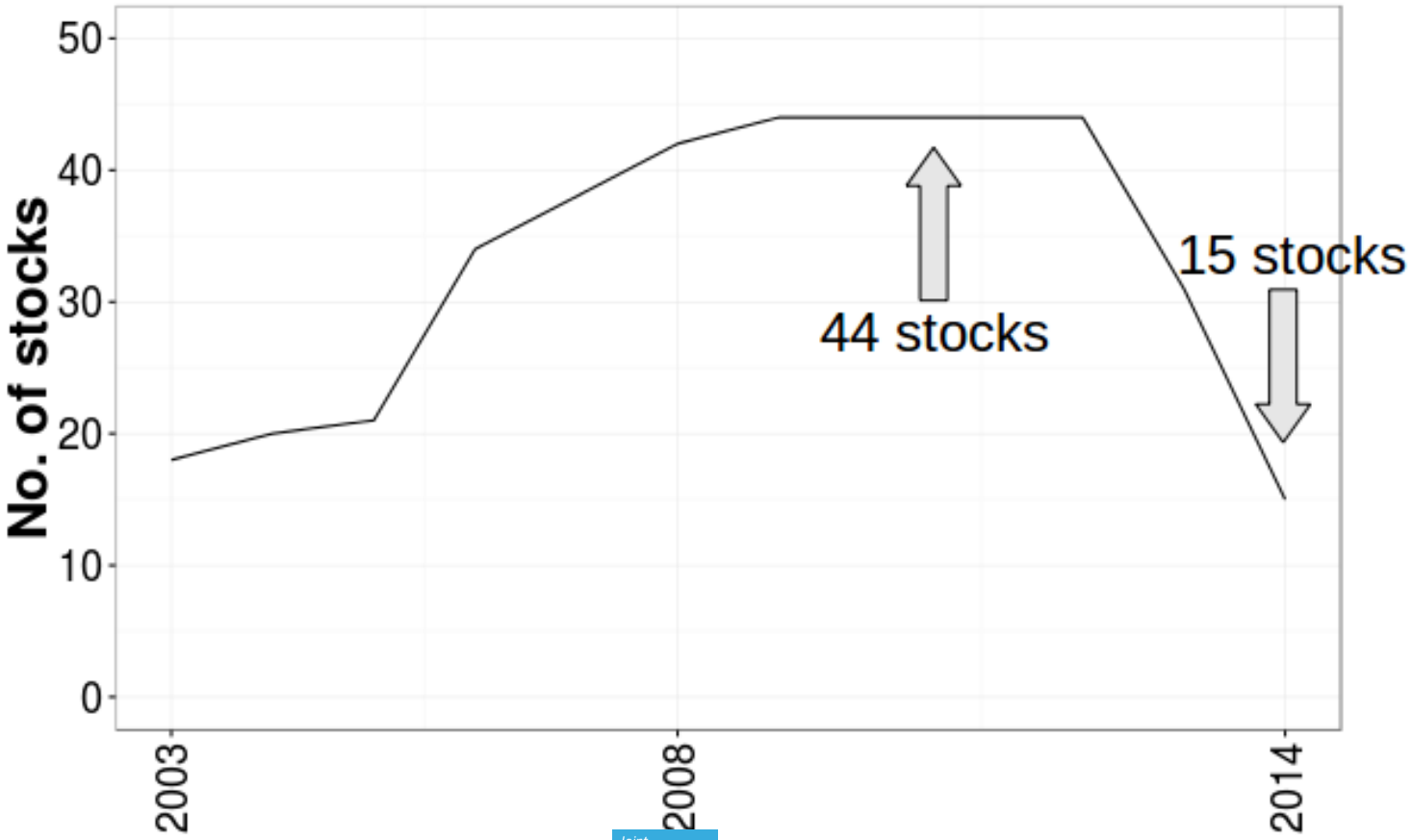


No of stocks INSIDE safe biological limits

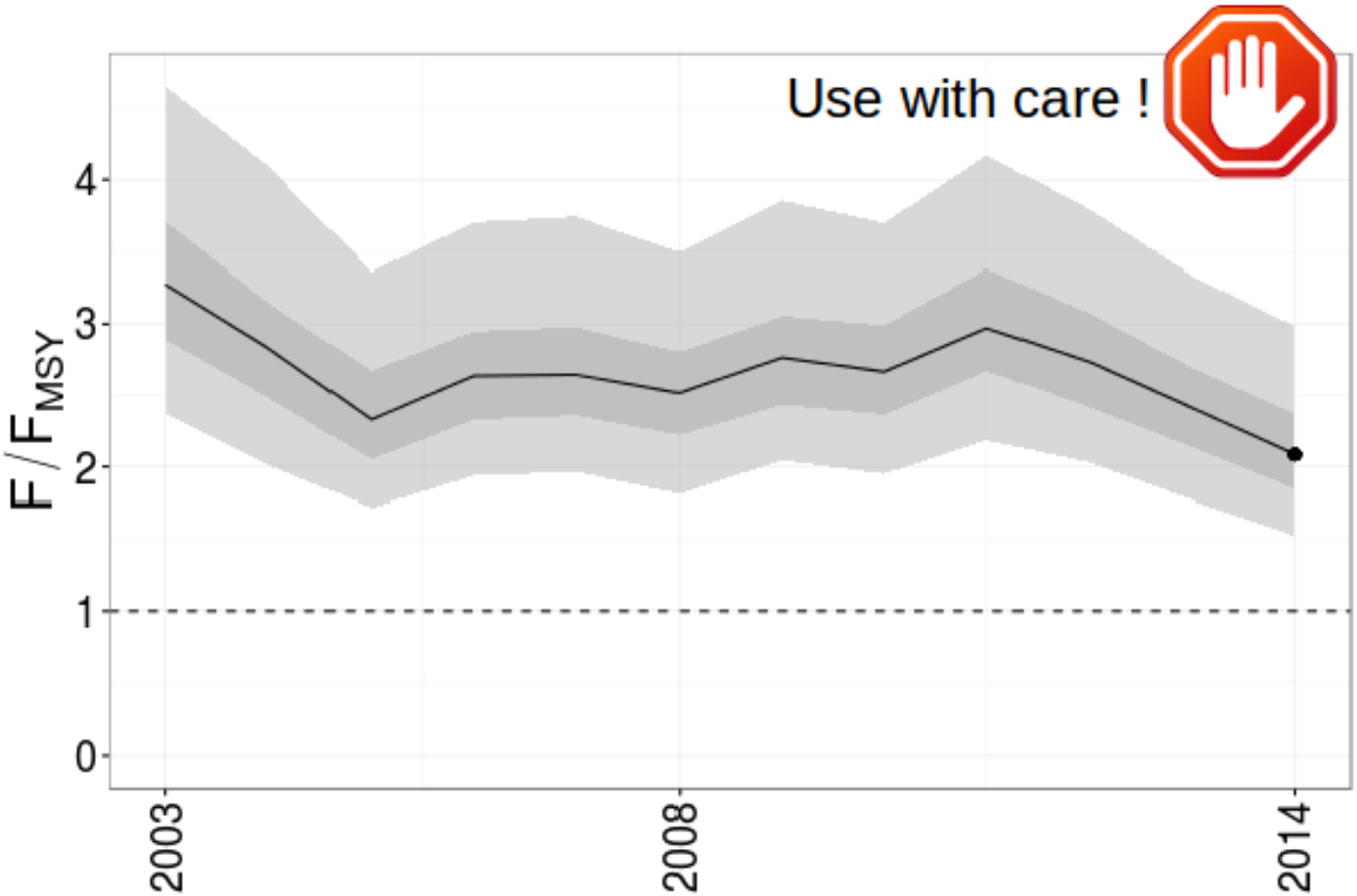


Mediterranean (Med)

Number of stocks included in the analysis



Average exploitation levels



STECF comments (Northeast Atlantic)

- For the stocks included in the analysis:
  - General reduction in exploitation rates along the period for the stocks studied.
  - In 2014 the exploitation levels increased approximately by 9% compared to 2013.
  - Number of stocks for which fishing mortality exceeds the reference is about 50%.
  - Number of stocks inside safe biological limits increased slightly.
  - The number of stocks inside safe biological limits in 2014 is about 40% of the total number of stocks.

STECF comments (Mediterranean)

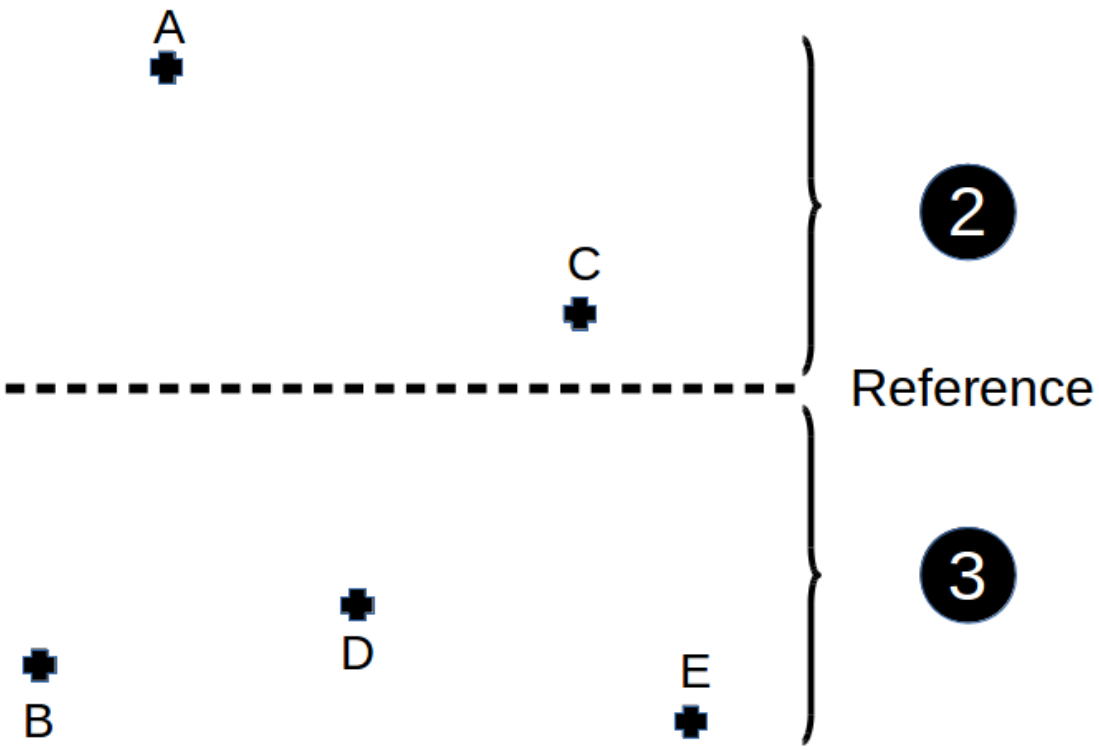
- For the stocks included in the analysis:
  - Instability in number of stocks per year with assessments didn't allow the computation of most indicators.
  - The trend in exploitation levels must be assessed with care due to instability in number of stocks per year with assessments.
  - High exploitation levels along the period.

Thank you !

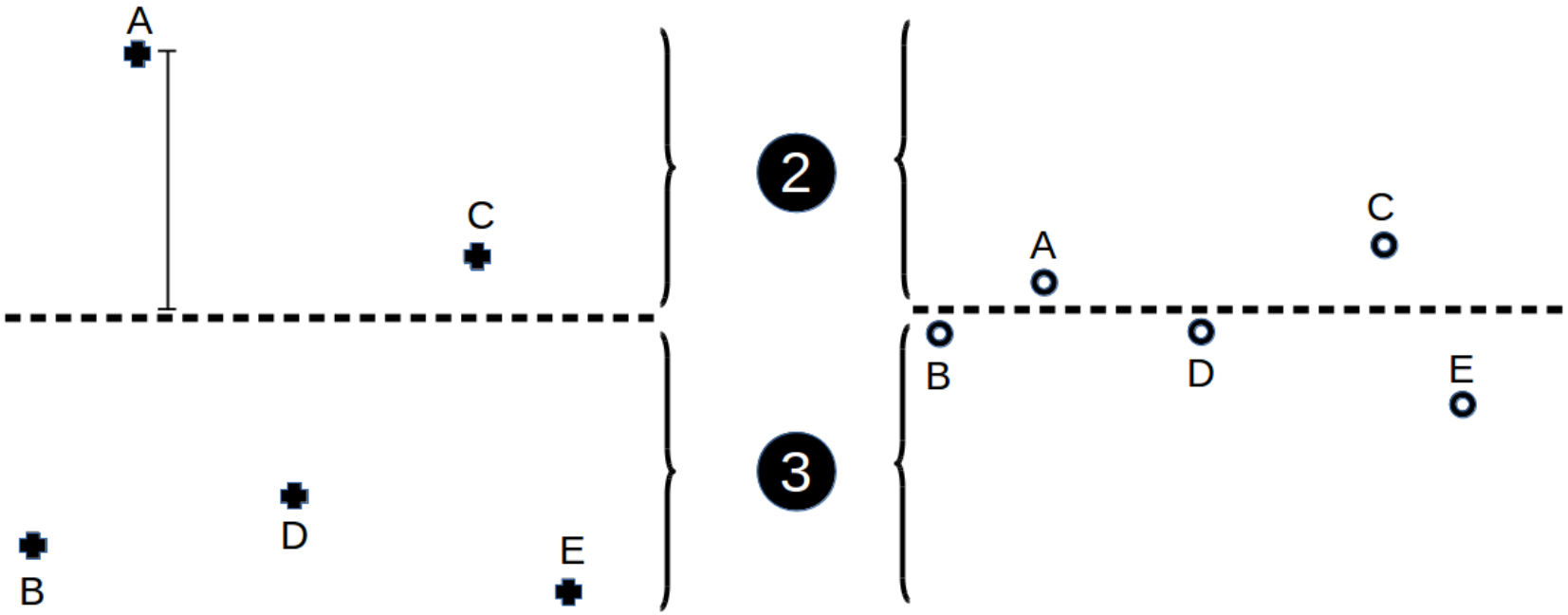
Future work

- Develop a model-based indicator for biomass.
- Develop indicators for advice coverage.
- Fix the stock list in the Mediterranean.
- Include section on stocks distributed in other areas, *e.g.* Norwegian Sea stocks or Bluefin tuna.
- Split western European waters.
- Include GFCM assessments.

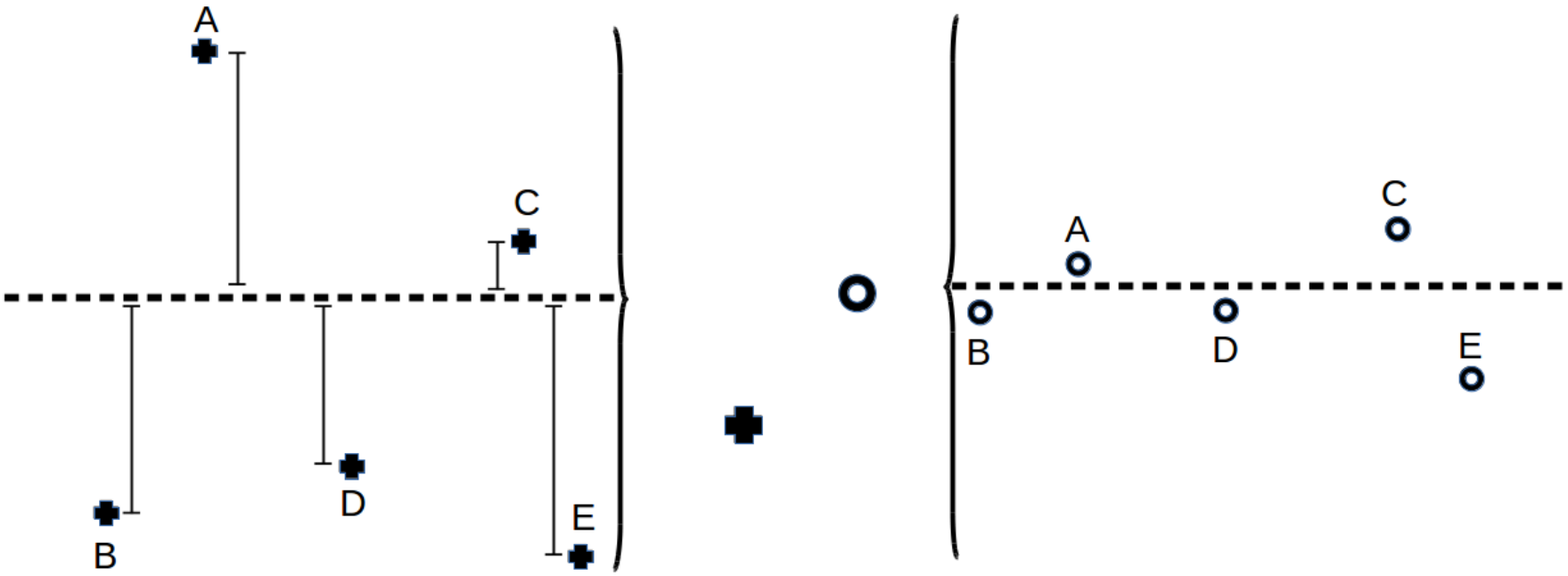
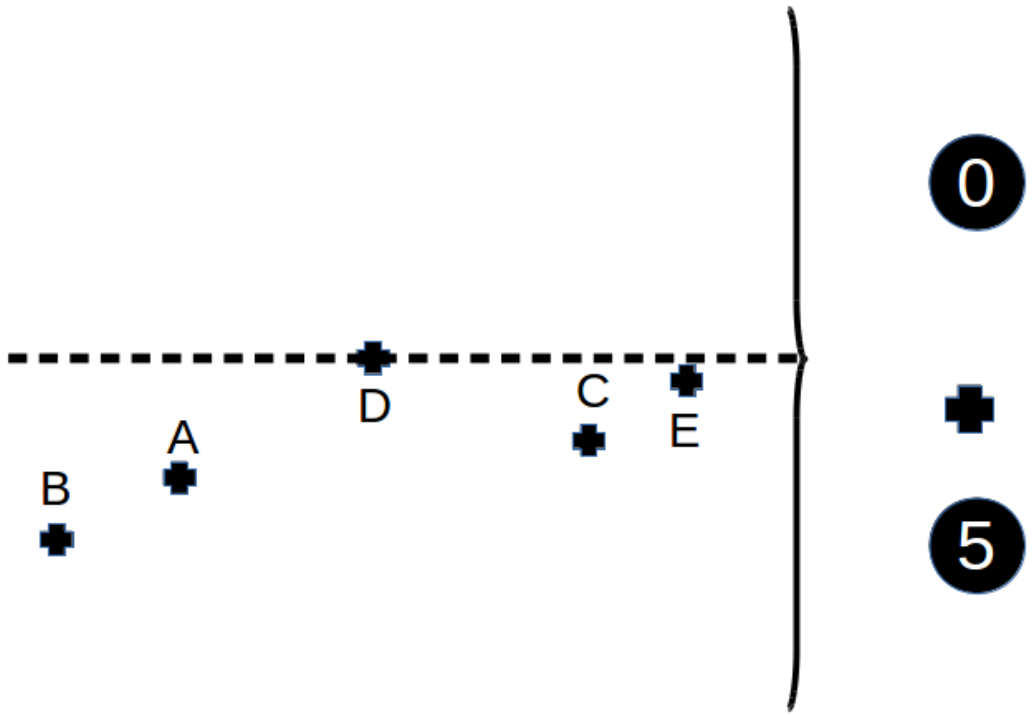
STECF indicators example (number of stocks)



STECF indicators example (number of stocks)



STECF indicators (average)



STECF indicators (objectives achieved)