21st March: TRENDS & FORWARD PROSPECTS FOR SCOTTISH COD, HADDOCK, WHITING, SAITHE

Fishing & Uptake

Uptake Summary: As at: 21st March 2018	2017		**2018**		**2018 Change (+/- tonnes)**	**2018 Change (+/- % Uptake)**
	UK Landings (tonnes)	% Uptake UK Quota	**UK Landings (tonnes)**	**% Uptake UK Quota**		
Cod (NS)	3,617	22.9	**3,332**	**17.5**	- 285	- 5.4
Haddock (NS, WoS, Rockall)	6,515	19.1	**5,583**	**14.3**	- 932	- 4.8
Saithe (NS/WoS)	3,133	28.0	**3,174**	**22.5**	+ 41	- 5.5
Whiting (NS)	2,201	22.3	**2,623**	**17.5**	+ 422	- 4.8

Fishing: (Cod/Haddock/Whiting/Saithe)

The fleet has seen generally steady fishing over the start of 2018. There has been some interruption with gales / weather impacting on a sustained period of fishing but not as bad as previous years.

Overall catches to date are slightly below levels seen over the same period last year. Whiting however; has seen a particularly good start to fishing over the first 11 weeks of the year with catches up over the period.

Lower rates of fishing have in part, been due to some significant whitefish boats having periods of non-fishing time impacting the year to date. Some inactivity being planned, others having unscheduled breakdowns which led to lengthy repair times.

Earlier in year, some boats had a good inshore fishing on smaller haddock locally to Peterhead, with a number of short trips. Fishing for haddock; has been and continues to be difficult – fish not being seen on grounds in any quantity. Haddock now showing thin post spawning.

On the West Coast, there have been a number of boats getting megrim and monks. In January there were also some very strong landings of squid caught West.

Most cod are noted to be of poor quality and thin after spawning. Some boats have moved west in order to try and avoid cod which is plentiful in North Sea but now in poor condition.

Observations and comments made in these pages are conjecture, opinion and observation from the NEWFF and do not present a definitive analysis or projection of current or future trends.

Landings

(Cod/Haddock/Whiting/Saithe)

A steady start toyear, which still appears to be quite constant. As usual; landings in January were tempered by weather from time to time.

The third week in January saw a period of much heavier landings for a few days which quickly saw prices falling in market.

Cod, haddock have seen consistent landings though Jan/Feb. Landings from the West Coast have majored in monk and saithe. Landings of whiting have been good so far this year, and saithe has seen consistent good landings.

February into March again saw stable landings into Peterhead.
There were good landings of roe from spawning cod, these have tailed off now as fish are spent.

Trading Markets and Prices

- Fish prices started the year strongly across all species, and remained so for most of January. This has likely been due to a lack of fish elsewhere in the UK rather than down to any high demand. Overall trading in the supply chain has been weak post-Christmas as is usual for this time of year.
- These strong fish prices remained through till 3rd week Jan. when a period of high landings saw prices weaken.
- Overall fish price has not been so strong in February, prices for cod in particular have been less due to thin fish post spawning.
- Recently good landings of Faroese/Icelandic selected haddock in the Humber have impacted these prices locally in NE.
- Prices for hake remains high but landings are poor as is normal this time of year.
- Trade has shown some sign of improvement in lead to Easter.
- Some concerns that higher volume will result in general market prices falling.
- Frozen at sea markets for cod are seeing a continued rise in value with 1-2Kg H/G Cod making $4000/tonne; and similarly H/G haddock also increasing now around $3200/tonne. Recent reports that prices of frozen Alaskan pollock fillets are rising, there is currently shortage of raw material to meet global market demand.

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Looking ahead

Leasing costs are not yet having an impact on fishing, but usual access to species like saithe will start to impact going forward into the year.

Some concern over cuts in Nephrops quota for the West of Scotland, as this can have effort / sector displacement impacts on the fleet going forward.

Hake fishing has been particularly light and is not expected to improve till April.

Other Observations

As is usual for this time of year, West Coast inshore fishing has been badly impacted by weather particularly Nephrops.

Nephrops in the North Sea have been poor / patchy at best all year, there are reportedly a number if prawn boats who have moved onto whitefish for the time being.

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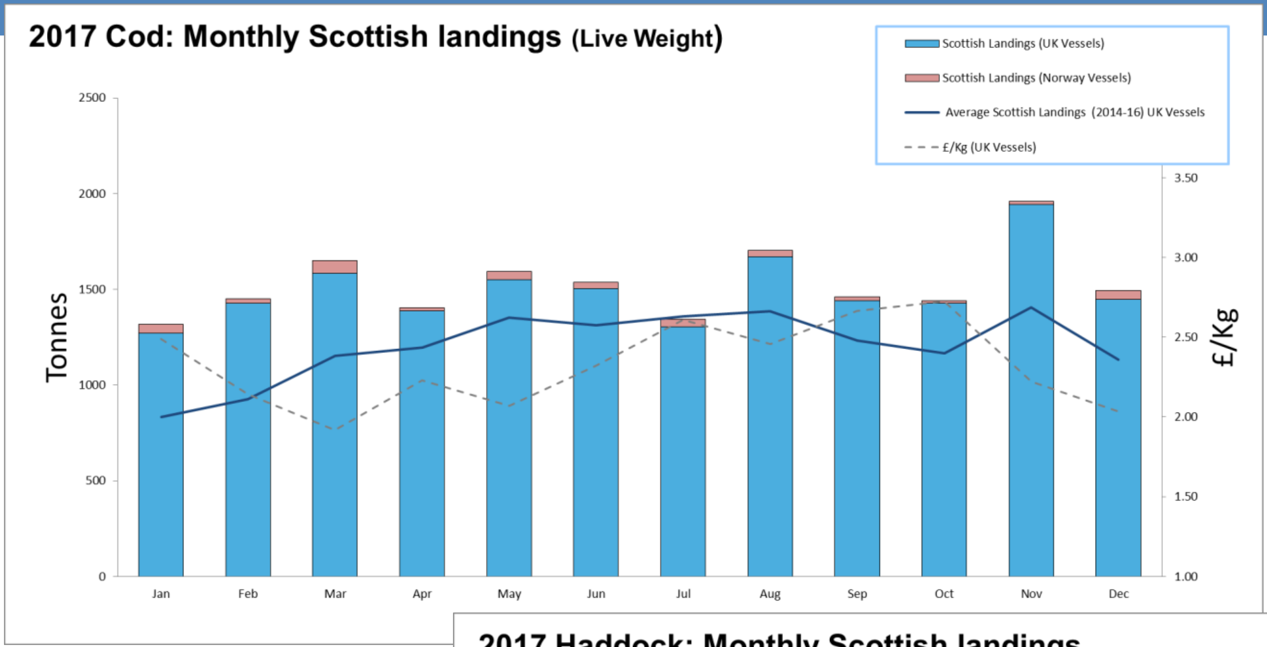
2017 Cod: Monthly Scottish landings (Live Weight)
Scottish Landings (UK Vessels)
Scottish Landings (Norway Vessels)
Average Scottish Landings (2014-16) UK Vessels
£/Kg (UK Vessels)
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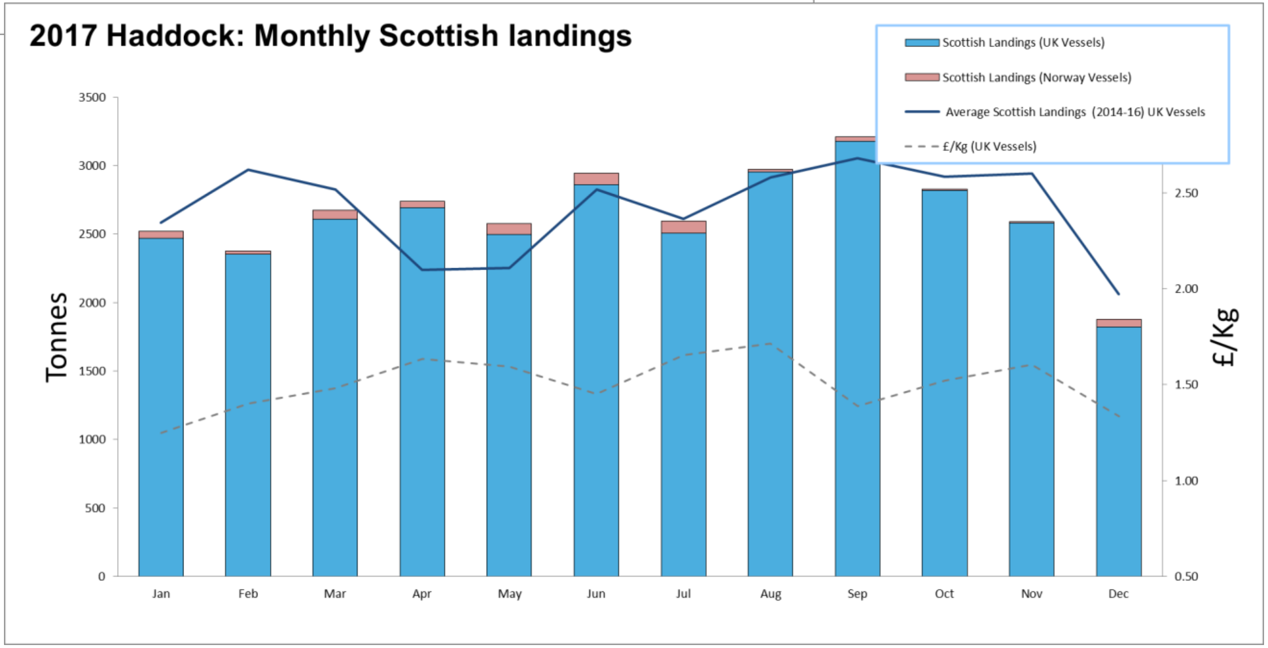
2017 Haddock: Monthly Scottish landings
Scottish Landings (UK Vessels)
Scottish Landings (Norway Vessels)
Average Scottish Landings (2014-16) UK Vessels
£/Kg (UK Vessels)
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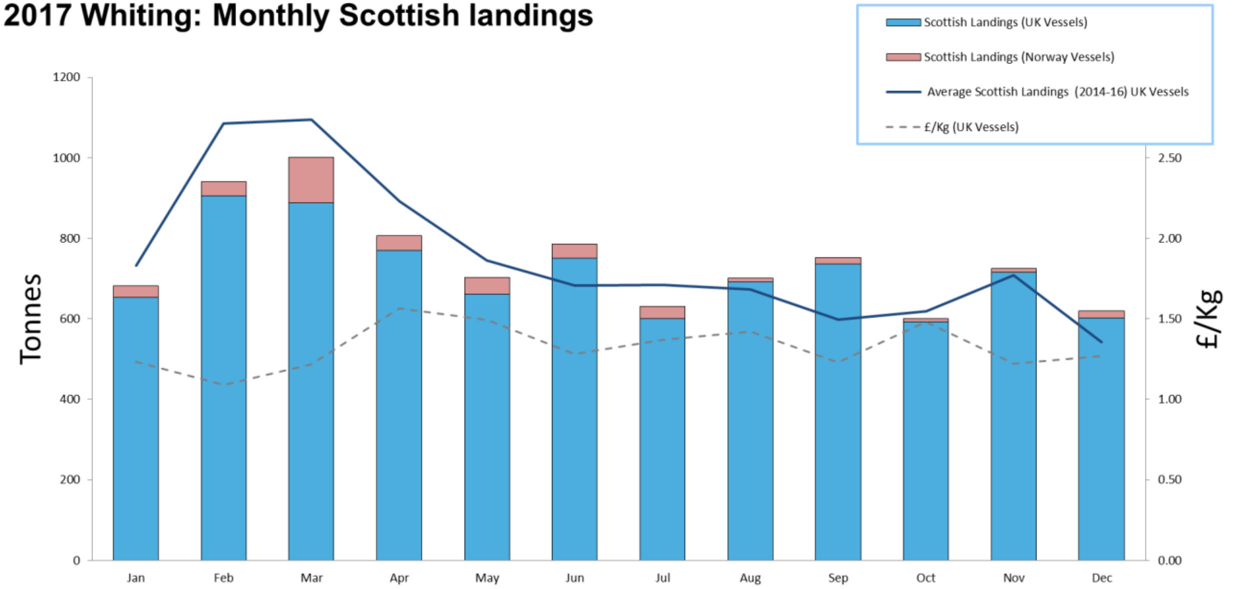
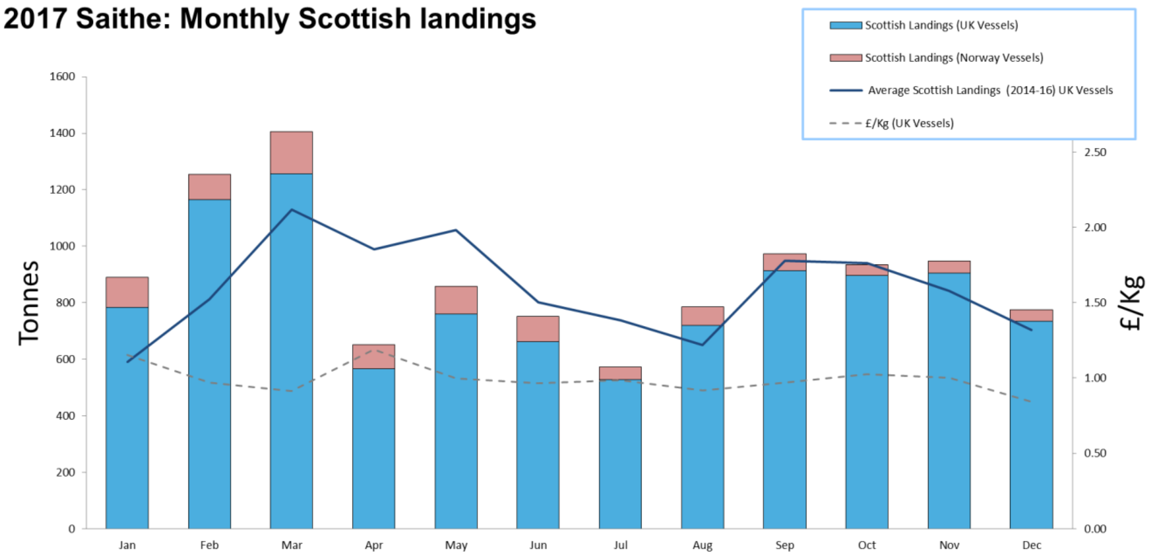
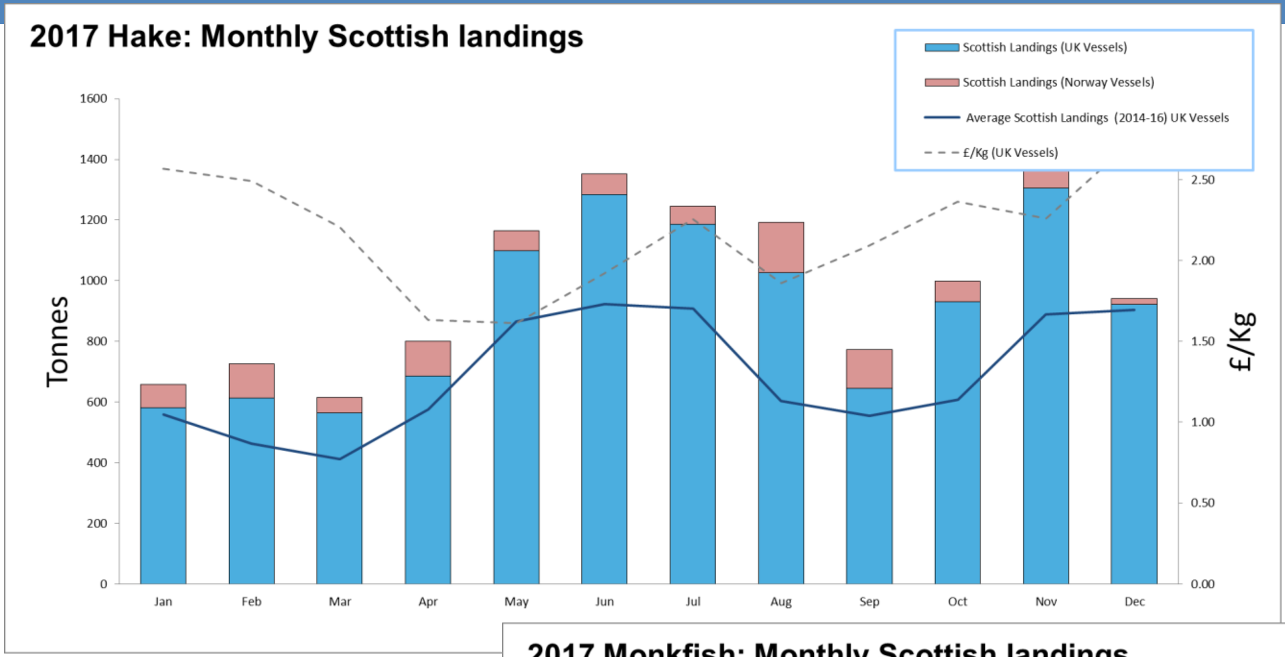
2017 Whiting: Monthly Scottish landings



2017 Saithe: Monthly Scottish landings




2017 Hake: Monthly Scottish landings
Scottish Landings (UK Vessels)
Scottish Landings (Norway Vessels)
Average Scottish Landings (2014-16) UK Vessels
£/Kg (UK Vessels)
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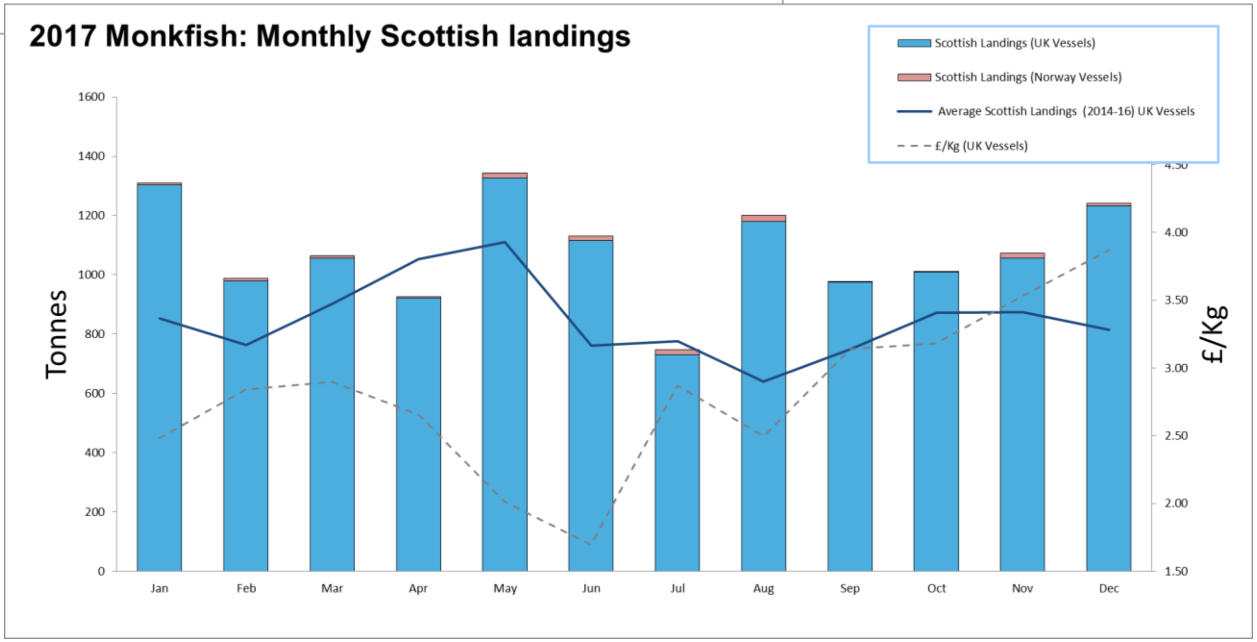
2017 Monkfish: Monthly Scottish landings
Scottish Landings (UK Vessels)
Scottish Landings (Norway Vessels)
Average Scottish Landings (2014-16) UK Vessels
£/Kg (UK Vessels)
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2018: Scottish Whitefish Landings Profiles

Notes:

The format of these landings charts has been revised.

The charts now illustrate landings of key whitefish species into Scotland by all UK and Norwegian vessels

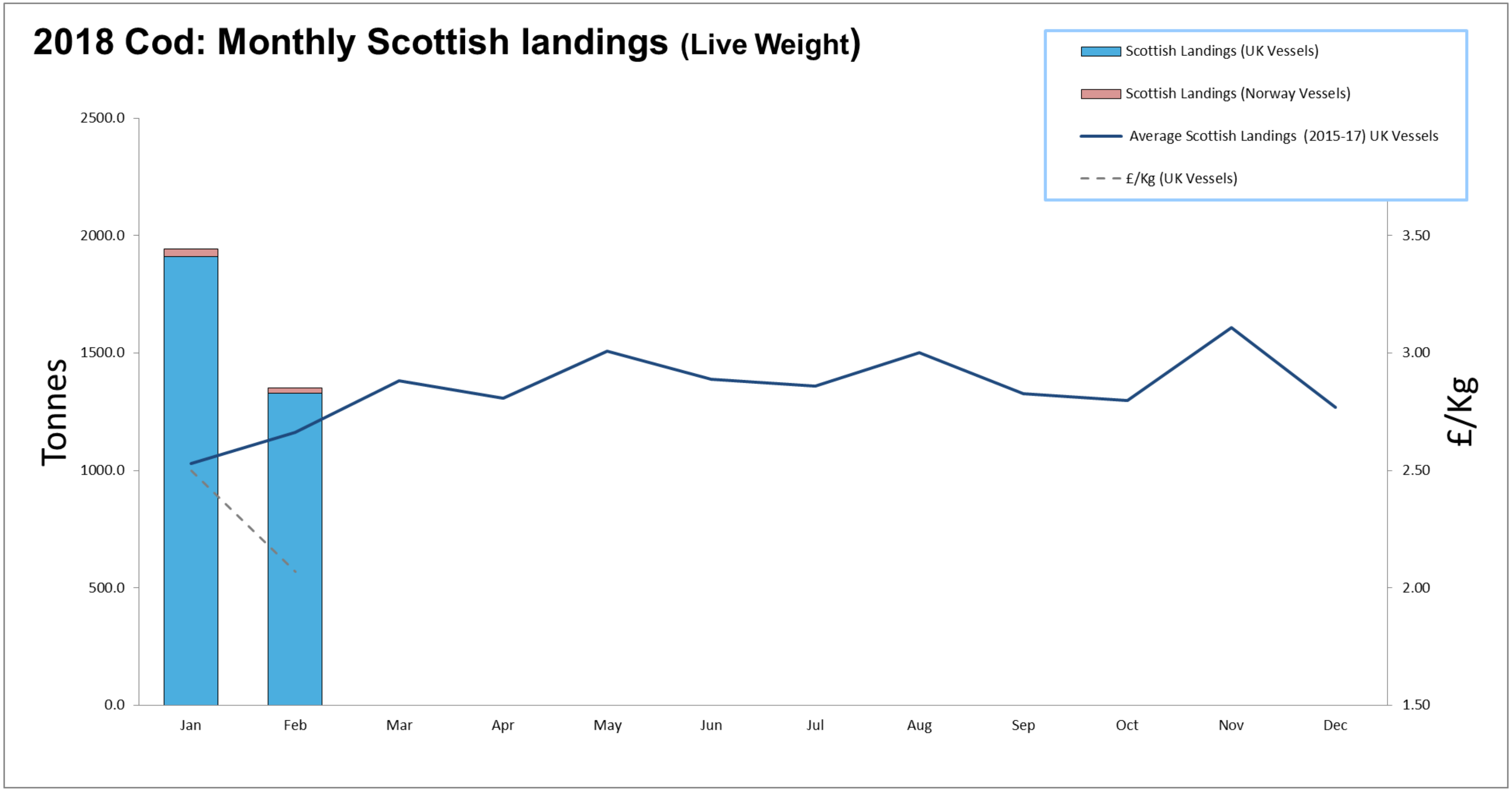
An average of historical landings for the last three years from all UK vessels is also illustrated.

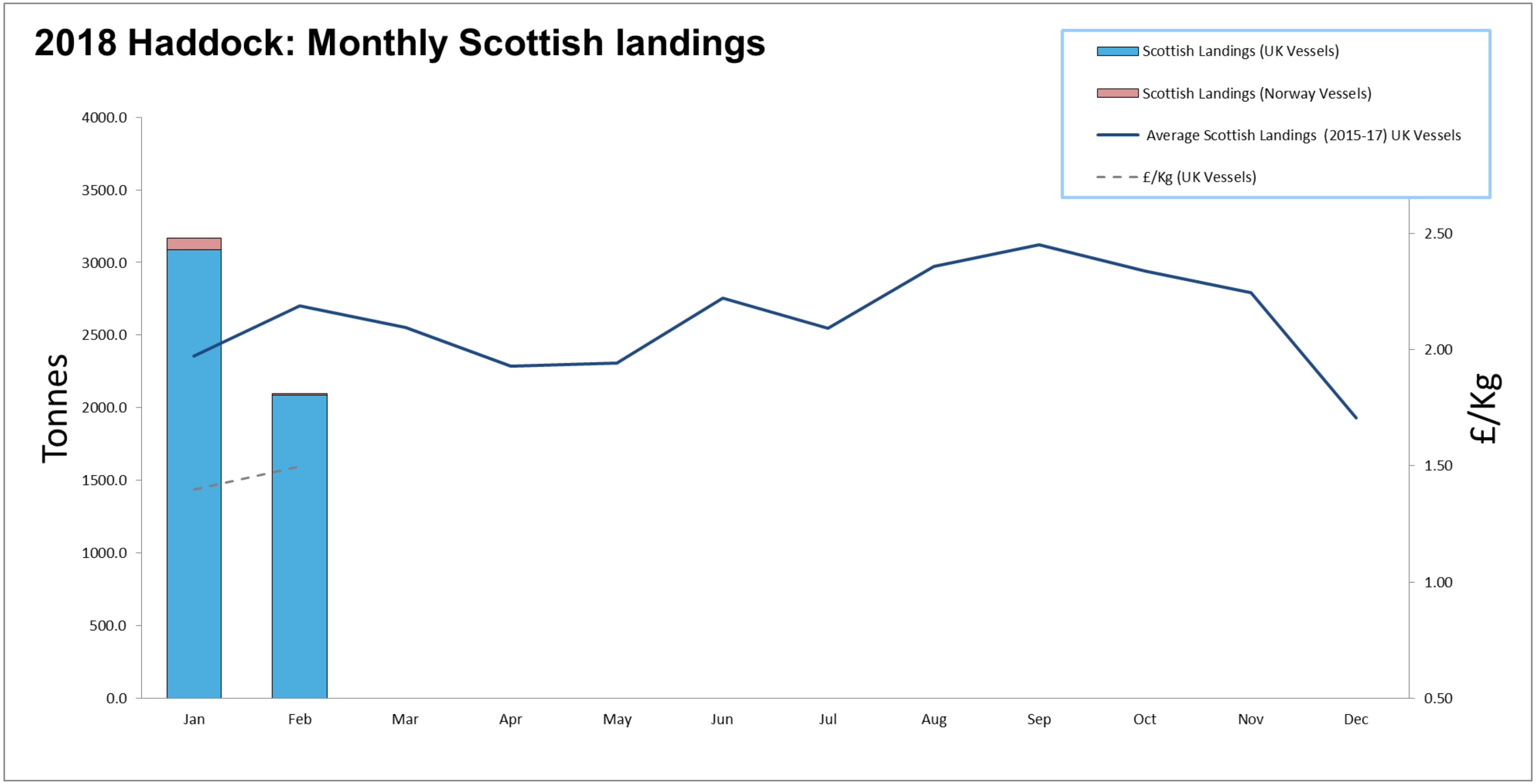
Currently these graphs do not include other foreign vessel landings into Scotland.

All landings data are supplied by Marine Scotland and updated monthly. Landings & price data are provisional at this time and should be interpreted as such and treated accordingly

As this is provisional data - adjustments may be made before publication of final fishery statistics.

Cod: - 2018 Landings To Date




2018 Haddock: Monthly Scottish landings
Scottish Landings (UK Vessels)
Scottish Landings (Norway Vessels)
Average Scottish Landings (2015-17) UK Vessels
£/Kg (UK Vessels)
Tonnes
£/Kg
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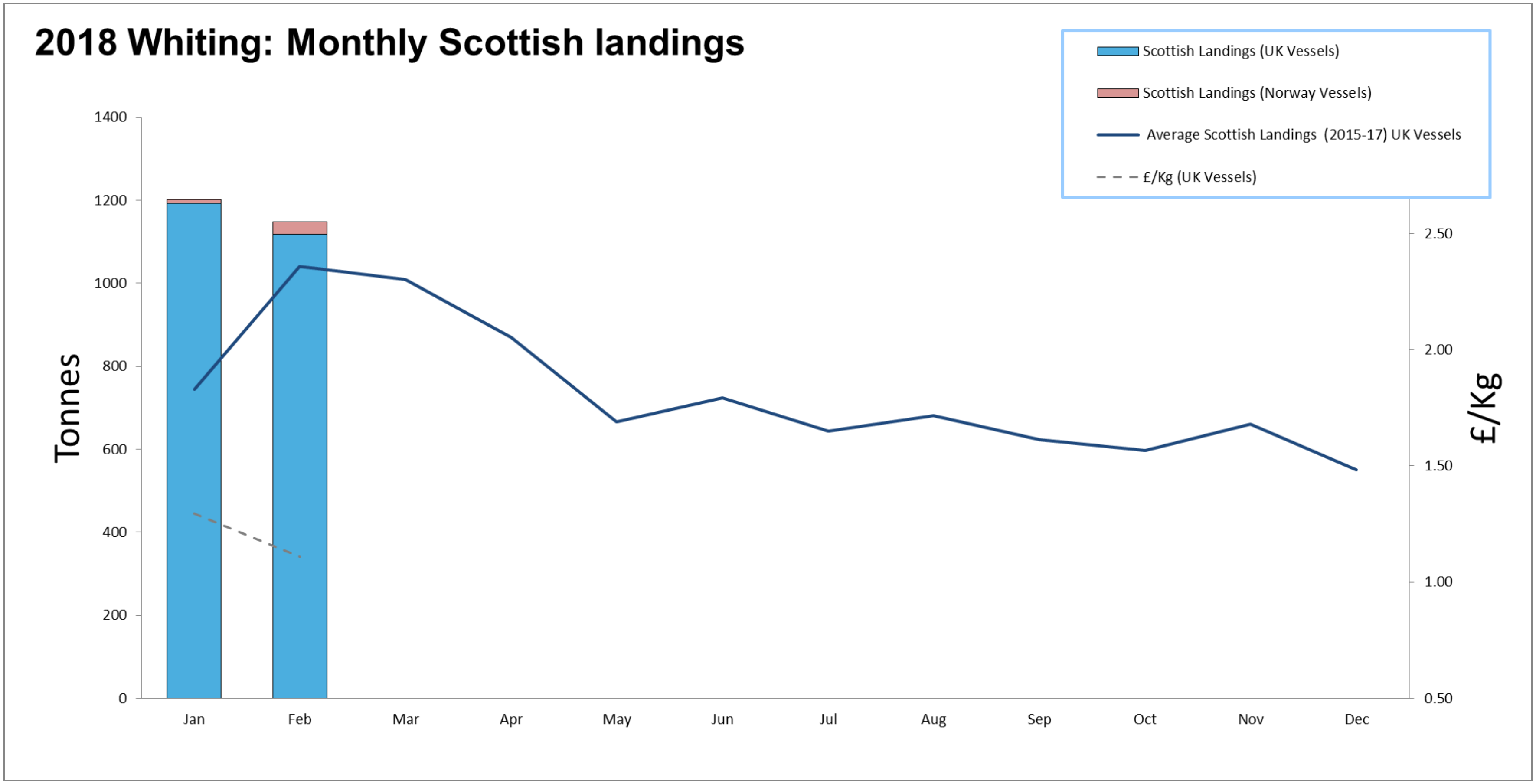
2018 Whiting: Monthly Scottish landings
Scottish Landings (UK Vessels)
Scottish Landings (Norway Vessels)
Average Scottish Landings (2015-17) UK Vessels
£/Kg (UK Vessels)
Tonnes
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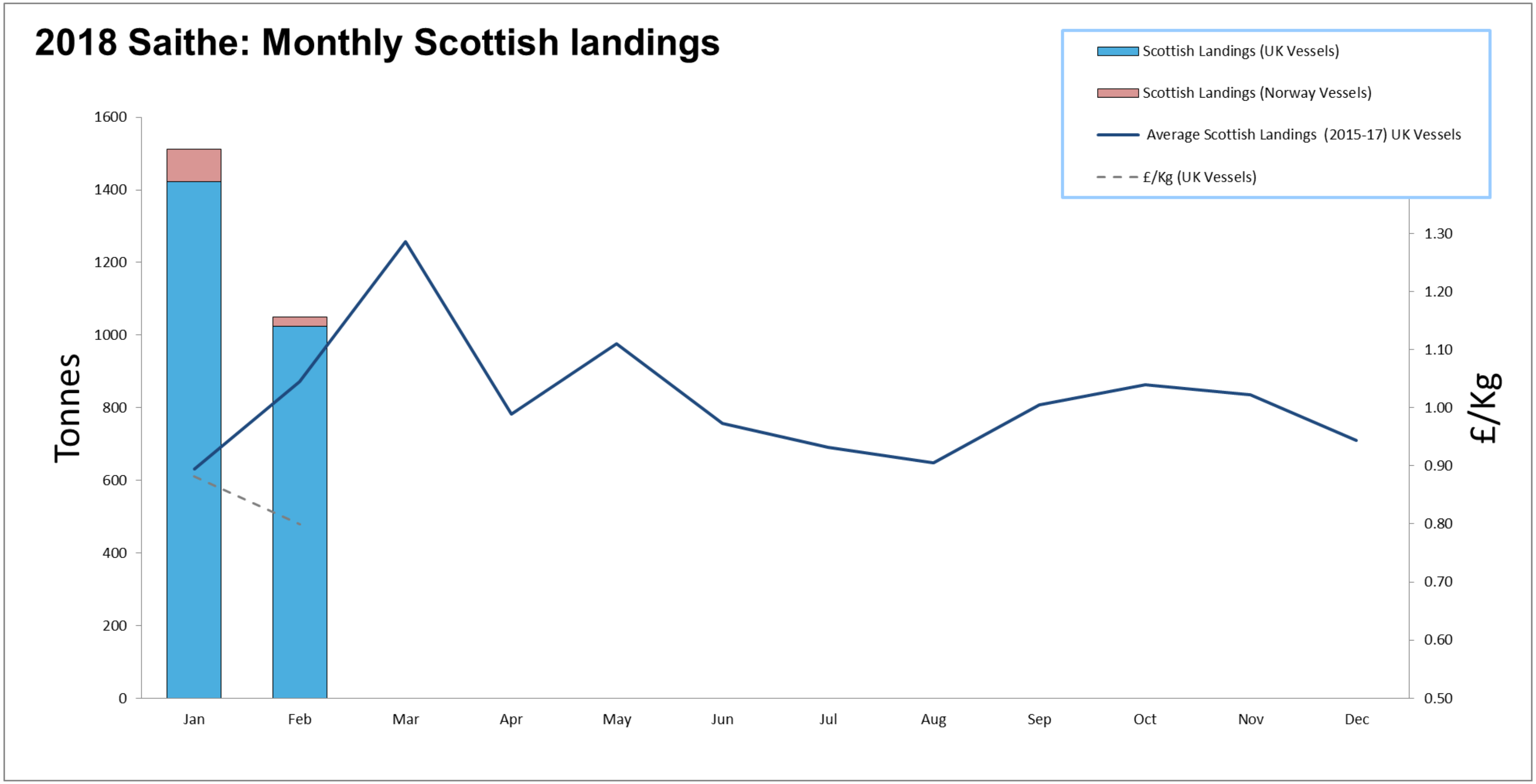
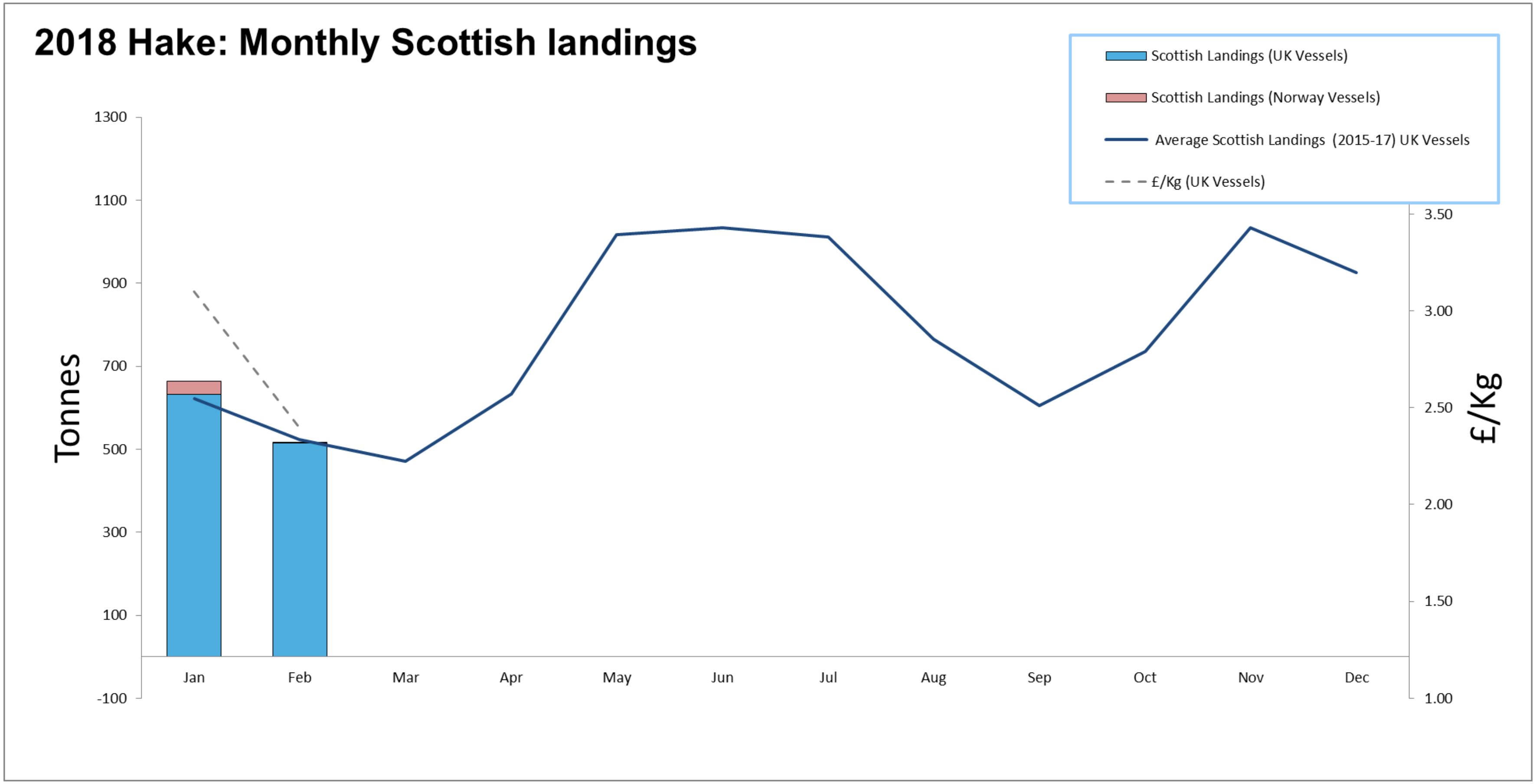
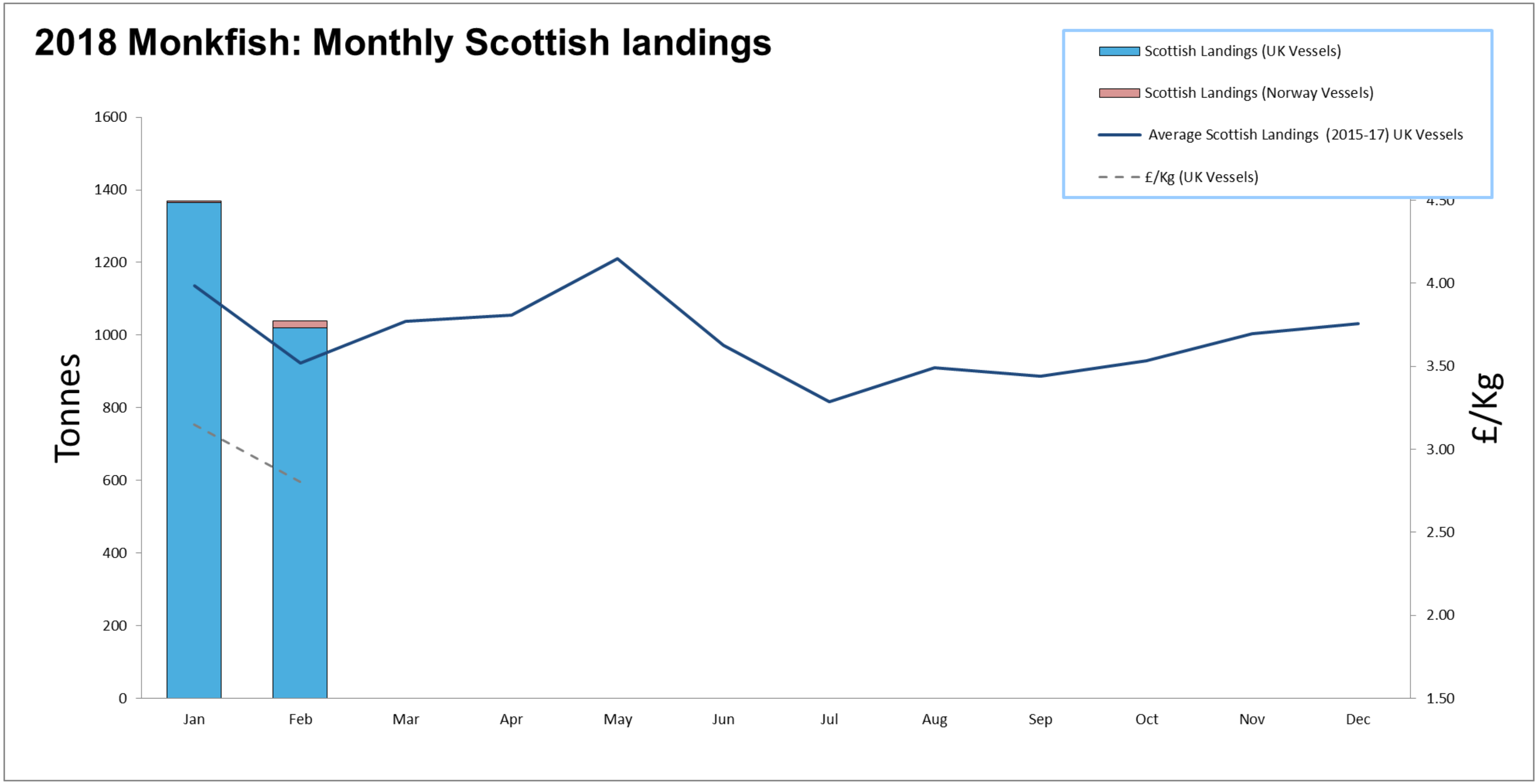
Saithe: - 2018 Landings To Date



Hake: - 2018 Landings To Date



Monkfish: - 2018 Landings To Date



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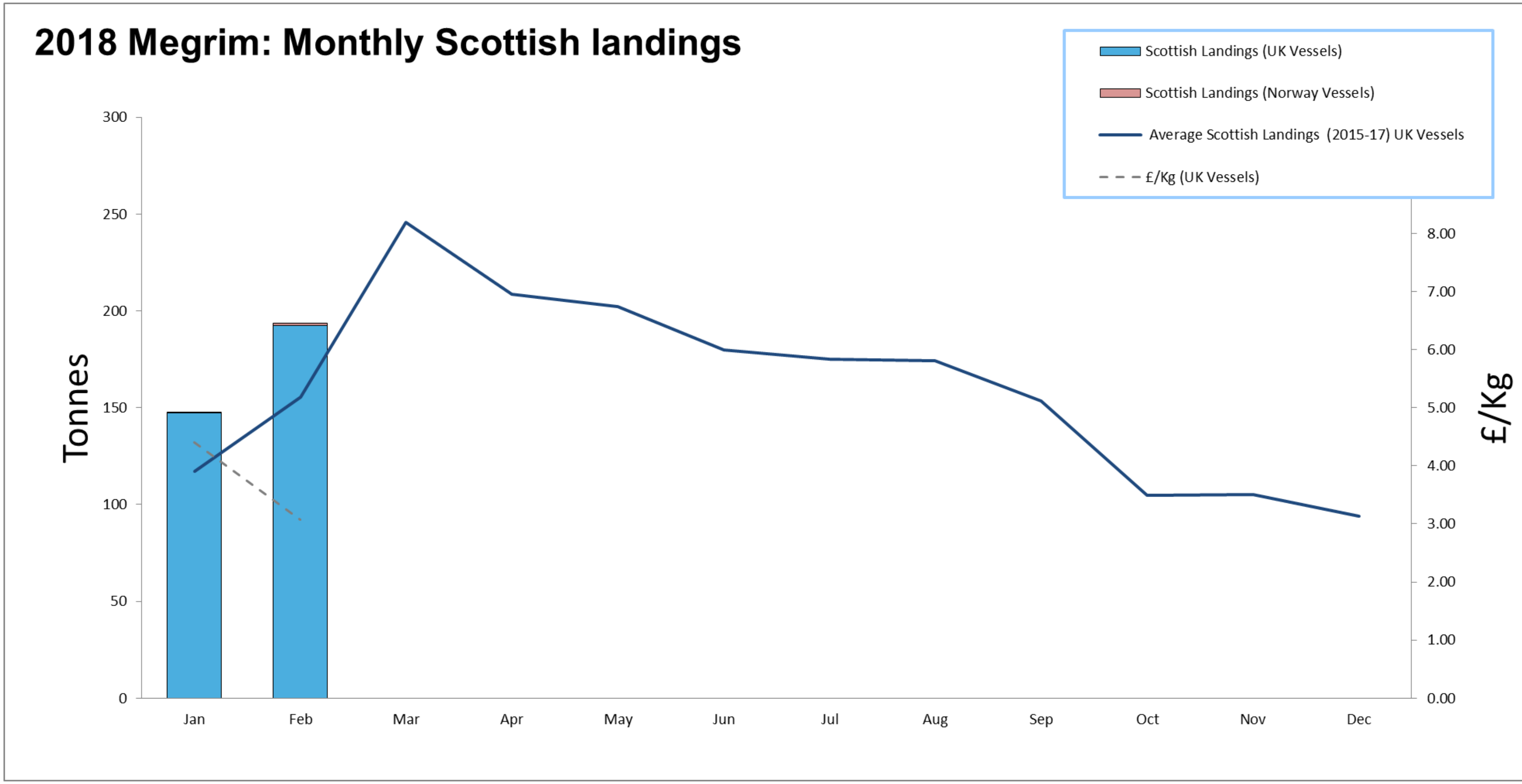
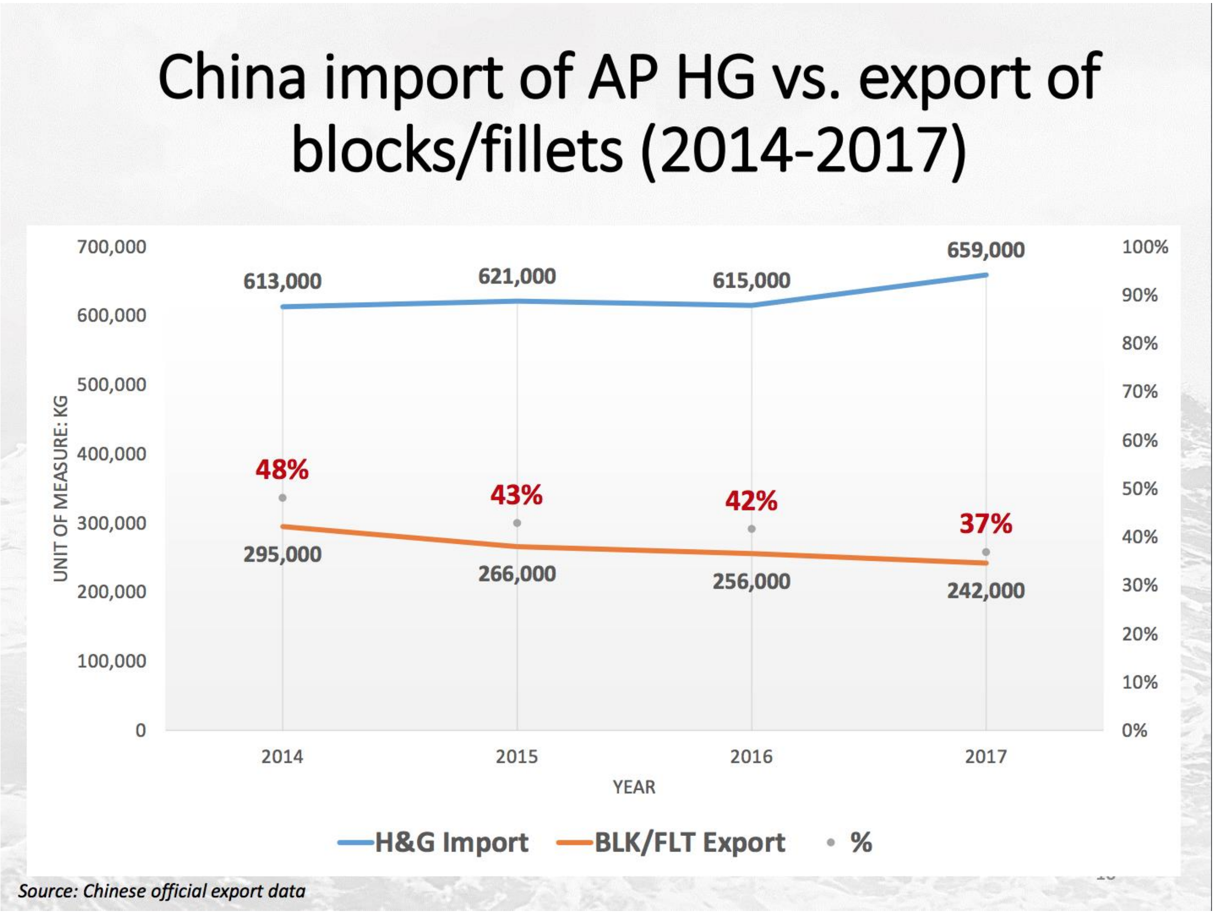
Megrim: - 2018 Landings To Date



Summary of UK Landings by UK vessels. January - December 2017.

January to December inclusive

	Quantity (tonnes)			Value (£'000s)			Price (£/tonne)		
	2016	2017	Change	2016	2017	Change	2016	2017	Change
Cod	20,748	19,433	- 6%	38,048	44,189	+ 16%	1,834	2,274	+ 24%
Haddock	33,134	33,294	+ 0%	43,919	50,369	+ 15%	1,326	1,513	+ 14%
Hake	11,405	12,529	+ 10%	26,911	27,231	+ 1%	2,360	2,173	- 8%
Monks or Anglers	16,390	16,185	- 1%	46,832	45,933	- 2%	2,857	2,874	+ 1%
Plaice	4,709	4,723	+ 0%	5,341	6,312	+ 18%	1,134	1,336	+ 18%
Pollack (Lythe)	1,918	1,509	- 21%	4,336	3,888	- 10%	2,260	2,577	+ 14%
Saithe	9,963	9,913	- 1%	10,325	9,797	- 5%	1,036	988	- 5%
Skates and Rays	2,441	2,380	- 2%	3,033	3,061	+ 1%	1,245	1,308	+ 5%
Sole	1,484	1,497	+ 1%	13,314	13,911	+ 4%	8,982	9,300	+ 4%
Whiting	10,294	9,686	- 6%	10,782	12,146	+ 13%	1,047	1,254	+ 20%
Other Demersal	19,663	18,820	- 4%	48,281	45,812	- 5%	2,460	2,447	- 1%
Demersal	**132,149**	**129,969**	**- 2%**	**251,121**	**262,647**	**+ 5%**	**1,901**	**2,026**	**+ 7%**



Global catch of Alaskan pollock less this year – TAC significant reduction

Strong demand frozen pollock fillets. Reports shortfall in global availability

Increasing price for frozen blocks and H&G fish

Export output from China falling – more retained in domestic market.

Source: *Undercurrent News*.