

Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) in Division 9.a, functional units 26–27 (Atlantic Iberian waters East, western Galicia, and northern Portugal)

ICES stock advice

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, there should be zero catch in each of the years 2020, 2021, and 2022.

To ensure that the stocks in functional units 26–27 are exploited sustainably, management should be implemented at the functional unit level.

Stock development over time

Catches and CPUE have fluctuated along a marked downward trend and are currently very low. Available information indicates that the stock is at a very low abundance.

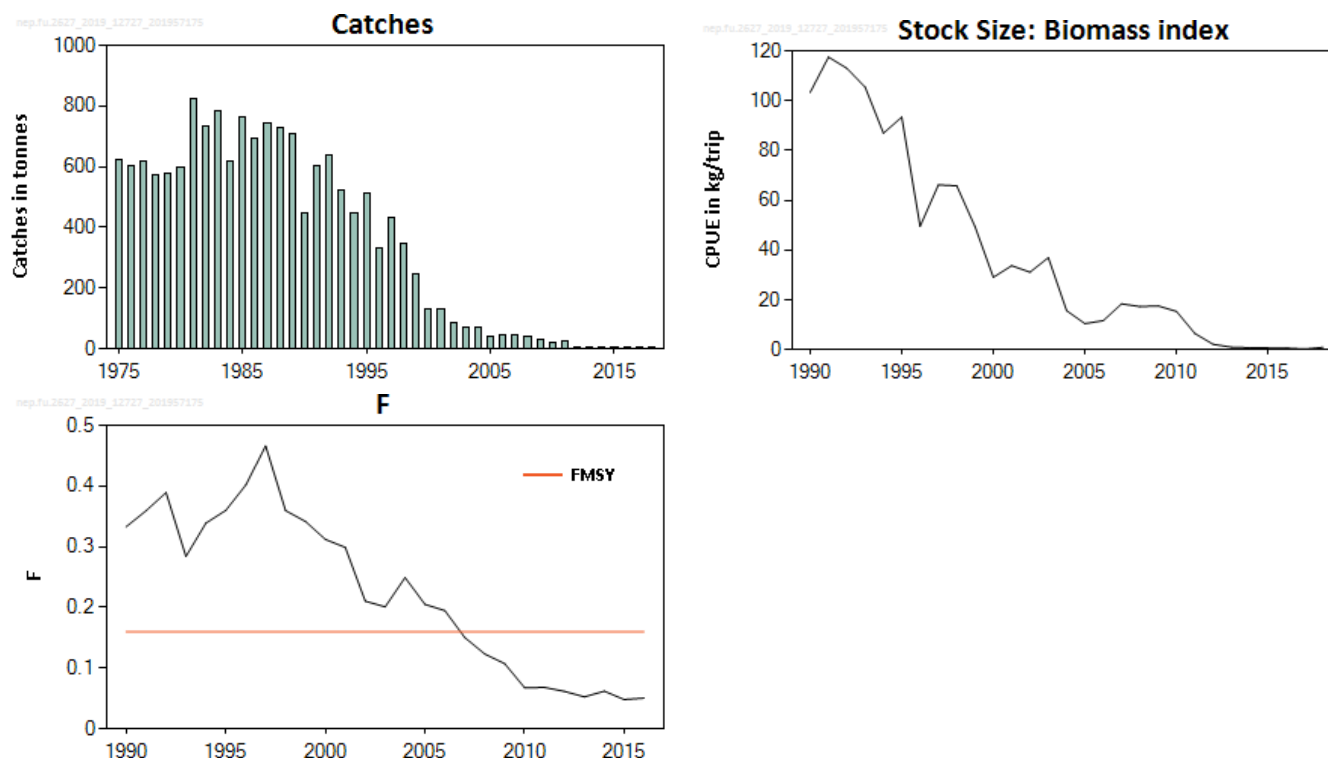


Figure 1 Norway lobster in Division 9.a, functional units (FUs) 26–27. Top left: Official catches. Top right: Stock size indicator, CPUE SP-MATR. Bottom left: Fishing mortality.

Stock and exploitation status

ICES cannot assess the stock and exploitation status relative to maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and precautionary approach (PA) reference points because the stock size reference point is undefined and current exploitation is unknown. Qualitatively, the spawning stock size is below any possible biomass reference point.

Table 1 Norway lobster in Division 9.a, FUs 26–27. State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points. The fishing pressure evaluation is based on reference point proxies for 2016 (ICES, 2019), and no update analysis is available for 2017 and 2018. The stock size evaluation is based on CPUE information.

		Fishing pressure			Stock size					
		2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018			
Maximum sustainable yield	F_{MSY} proxy	✓	?	?	Unknown	MSY	?	?	?	Undefined
Precautionary approach	F_{pa}, F_{lim}	?	?	?	Undefined	B_{pa}, B_{lim}	?	?	?	Undefined
Management plan	F_{MGT}	✓	?	?	Unknown	B_{MGT}	?	?	?	Undefined
Qualitative evaluation	-	✓	?	?	Unknown	-	✗	✗	✗	Below possible reference points

Catch scenarios

The 2018 stock biomass indicator (SP-MATR commercial index) is at a historical low value, below possible reference points, and therefore the advice is for zero catch for each of the years 2020, 2021, and 2022.

Table 2 Norway lobster in Division 9.a, FUs 26–27. The catch scenarios. For stocks in ICES data categories 3–6, one catch scenario is possible.

Recent advised catch	0
Discard rate	Negligible
Precautionary buffer	Not applied
% advice change*	0
Catch advice	0 tonnes

* Catch in 2020–2022 relative to advice for 2017–2019.

Basis of the advice

Table 3 Norway lobster in Division 9.a, FUs 26–27. The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	Precautionary approach
Management plan	The EU multiannual plan (MAP; EU, 2019) for stocks in the Western Waters and adjacent waters applies to this stock. The MAP stipulates that when the F_{MSY} ranges are not available, fishing opportunities should be based on the best available scientific advice.

Quality of the assessment

Fishery-independent information is not available.

Issues relevant for the advice

The proxy reference point was updated in 2019 (ICES, 2019), with additional data only for 2015 and 2016 (data for the last two years are not available). This resulted in an update to the F_{MSY} proxy values (0.16). However, owing to the lack of length frequency data in 2017–2018, the exploitation status is unknown.

A single TAC covers the entire ICES subareas 9 and 10 and EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1. ICES advises that the management area should be consistent with the assessment area (Figure 2).

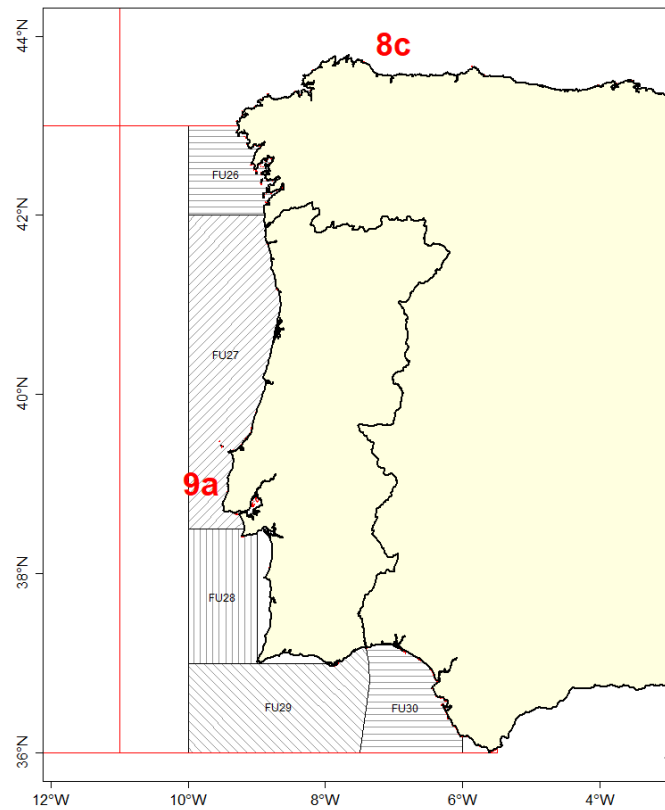


Figure 2 Norway lobster in Division 9.a, FUs 26–27. Map of functional units.

Reference points

Table 4 Norway lobster in Division 9.a, FUs 26–27. Reference points, values, and their technical basis.

Framework	Reference point	Value	Technical basis	Source
MSY approach	MSY $B_{trigger}$	Not defined		
	$F_{MSY proxy}$	0.16	$F_{0.1}$ from yield-per-recruit analysis.	ICES (2019)
Precautionary approach	B_{lim}	Not defined		
	B_{pa}	Not defined		
	F_{lim}	Not defined		
	F_{pa}	Not defined		
Management plan	SSB_{MGT}	Not defined		
	F_{MGT}	Not defined		

Basis of the assessment

Table 5 Norway lobster in Division 9.a, FUs 26–27. The basis of the assessment.

ICES stock data category	3 (ICES, 2018).
Assessment type	Trends from commercial CPUE.
Input data	Commercial landings (Spanish 1975–2018 and Portuguese 1984–2018); one commercial index (SP-MATR) for the period 1990–2018.
Discards and bycatch	Not included and considered negligible.
Indicators	Mean-length Z analysis of exploitation using size in commercial catches.
Other information	SPNGFS-IBTS-Q4 for FU 26.
Working group	Working Group for the Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Waters Ecoregion (WGBIE).

Information from stakeholders

There is no additional available information.

History of the advice, catch, and management

Table 6 Norway lobster in Division 9.a, FUs 26–27. History of ICES advice, the agreed TAC, and ICES estimates of landings. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Predicted catches correspond. to advice	Agreed TAC *	ICES landings
2003	Zero catches	0	600	73
2004	Zero catches	0	600	71
2005	Zero catches	0	540	43
2006	Zero catches	0	486	44
2007	Zero catches	0	437	47
2008	Zero catches	0	415	42
2009	Zero catches	0	374	31
2010	No new advice, same as for 2009	0	337	21
2011	Zero catches	0	303	20 [#]
2012	No new advice, same as for 2011	0	273	8
2013	Zero catches	0	246	3
2014	No new advice, same as for 2013	0	221	4
2015	Zero catch and reduce bycatch	0	254	2
2016	No new advice, same as for 2015	0	320	5 [#]
2017	Precautionary approach (zero catch)	0	336	3
2018	Precautionary approach (zero catch)	0	381	2 ^{**}
2019	Precautionary approach (zero catch)	0	401	
2020	Precautionary approach (zero catch)	0		
2021	Precautionary approach (zero catch)	0		
2022	Precautionary approach (zero catch)	0		

* Subareas 9 and 10; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1.

** Preliminary.

[#] Updated by WGBIE (ICES, 2019).

History of catch and landings

Table 7 Norway lobster in Division 9.a, FUs 26–27. Catch distribution by fleet in 2018 as estimated by ICES.

Catch (2018)	Landings	Discards
2 tonnes	100% mixed <i>Nephrops</i> /demersal fishery	Negligible
	2 tonnes	

Table 8 Norway lobster in Division 9.a, FUs 26–27. History of commercial catch and landings; both the official and ICES estimated values are presented by area for each country participating in the fishery. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	Official landings			Total ICES landings**
	Spain		Portugal	
	FU 26*	FU 27	FU 27	FUs 26–27
1975	622			622
1976	603			603
1977	620			620
1978	575			575
1979	580			580
1980	599			599
1981	823			823
1982	736			736
1983	786			786
1984	604		14	618
1985	750		15	765
1986	657		37	694
1987	671		71	742
1988	631		96	727
1989	620		88	708
1990	401		48	449
1991	549		54	603
1992	584		52	636
1993	472		50	522
1994	426		22	448
1995	501		10	511
1996	264	50	17	331
1997	359	68	6	433
1998	295	42	8	345
1999	194	48	6	248
2000	102	21	9	132
2001	105	21	6	132
2002	59	24	4	87
2003	39	26	8	73
2004	38	24	9	71
2005	16	16	11	43
2006	15	17	12	44
2007	20	17	10	47
2008	17	12	13	42
2009	16	5	10	31
2010	3	14	4	21
2011	8	8	4	20 [#]
2012	3	4	1	8
2013	1	0	1	3
2014	1.16	0.95	1.43	4
2015	0.57	0.13	0.83	2
2016	2.54	0.45	3.31	5 [#]

Year	Official landings			Total ICES landings**
	Spain		Portugal	
	FU 26*	FU 27	FU 27	FUs 26–27
2017	0.76	0.00	2.09	3
2018***	0.70	1.31	0.00	2

* Prior to 1996, Spanish landings recorded in FU 26 include landings in FU 27.

** Includes unallocated landings.

*** Preliminary.

Updated by WGBIE (ICES, 2019).

Summary of the assessment

Table 9 Norway lobster in Division 9.a, FUs 26–27. Assessment summary. Weights are in tonnes.

Year	Stock size: Biomass index (kg/trip)	Catch	F
1975		622	
1976		603	
1977		620	
1978		575	
1979		580	
1980		599	
1981		823	
1982		736	
1983		786	
1984		618	
1985		765	
1986		694	
1987		742	
1988		727	
1989		708	
1990	103	449	0.33
1991	118	603	0.36
1992	113	636	0.39
1993	105	522	0.28
1994	87	448	0.34
1995	93	511	0.36
1996	50	331	0.40
1997	66	433	0.47
1998	66	345	0.36
1999	49	248	0.34
2000	29	132	0.31
2001	34	132	0.30
2002	31	87	0.21
2003	37	73	0.20
2004	16	71	0.25

Year	Stock size: Biomass index (kg/trip)	Catch	F
2005	10	43	0.21
2006	12	44	0.195
2007	18	47	0.151
2008	17	42	0.123
2009	18	31	0.108
2010	15	21	0.068
2011	6	27	0.068
2012	2	8	0.062
2013	1	3	0.053
2014	1	4	0.062
2015	1	2	0.048
2016	1	6	0.051
2017	0	3	
2018	1	2	

Sources and references

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