

Sandeel (*Ammodytes* spp.) in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r (northern North Sea, Shetland)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches should not increase. This corresponds to zero catch in each of the years 2019 and 2020.

Stock development over time

Only catch statistics are available. The available information is inadequate to evaluate stock status or trends. The state of the stock is therefore unknown.

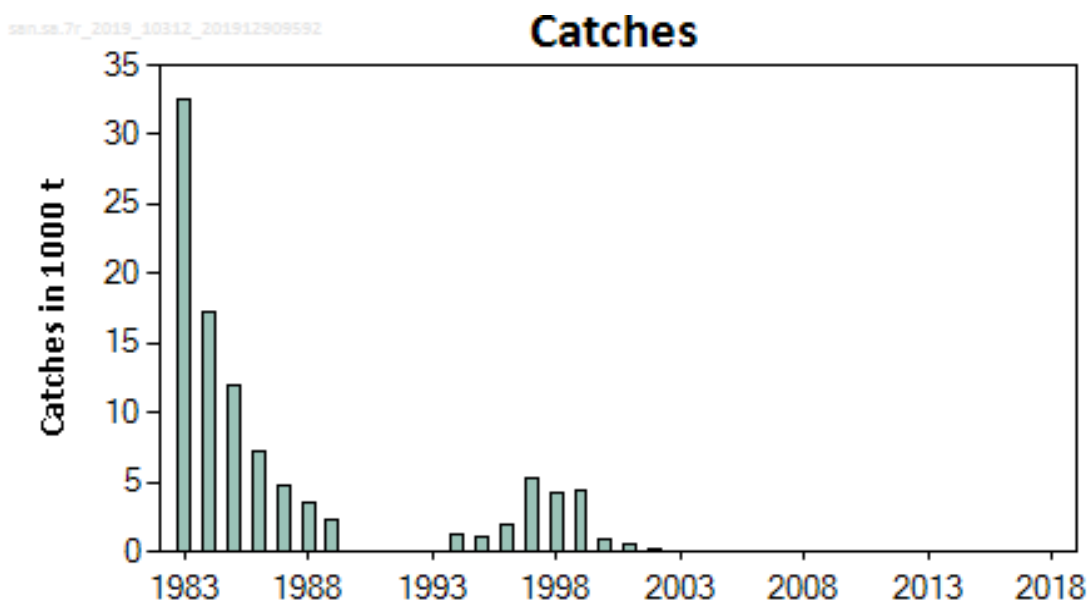


Figure 1 Sandeel in the Shetland area, Sandeel Area 7r. ICES estimates of catches (in thousand tonnes).

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 reference points are undefined.

Table 1 Sandeel in the Shetland area, Sandeel Area 7r. State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points.

		Fishing pressure			Stock size					
		2016	2017	2018	2017	2018	2019			
Maximum sustainable yield	F_{MSY}	?	?	?	Undefined	$MSY B_{trigger}$?	?	?	Unknown
Precautionary approach	F_{pa}, F_{lim}	?	?	?	Undefined	B_{pa}, B_{lim}	?	?	?	Unknown
Management plan	F_{MGT}	—	—	—	Not applicable	B_{MGT}	—	—	—	Not applicable
Qualitative evaluation	-	→	→	→	Very low	-	?	?	?	Unknown

Catch scenarios

For stocks without information on abundance or exploitation ICES considers that a precautionary reduction of catches should be implemented, unless there is ancillary information clearly indicating that the current level of exploitation is appropriate for the stock (ICES, 2012).

For this stock, current catches are zero. Based on the above ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, no increase in the fisheries should take place unless there is evidence that this will be sustainable. This corresponds to zero catch in both 2019 and 2020.

Table 2 Sandeel in the Shetland area, Sandeel Area 7r. The catch scenarios. For stocks in ICES categories 3–6, only one catch scenario is possible.

Recent advised catch (2017–2018)	0 tonnes	
Discard rate	Negligible	
Precautionary buffer	Not applicable	-
Catch advice	0 tonnes	
% Advice change*	0	

* Advice value 2019–2020 relative to advice value 2017–2018.

ICES advice for this stock has been for zero catch since 2013 and remains at zero catch for 2019 and 2020.

Basis of the advice

Table 3 Sandeel in the Shetland area, Sandeel Area 7r. The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	Precautionary approach
Management plan	ICES is not aware of any agreed precautionary management plan for sandeel in this area.

Quality of the assessment

The available information is inadequate to evaluate stock status or trends.

Issues relevant for the advice

The advice is expected to remain unchanged for several years unless information on stock status becomes available.

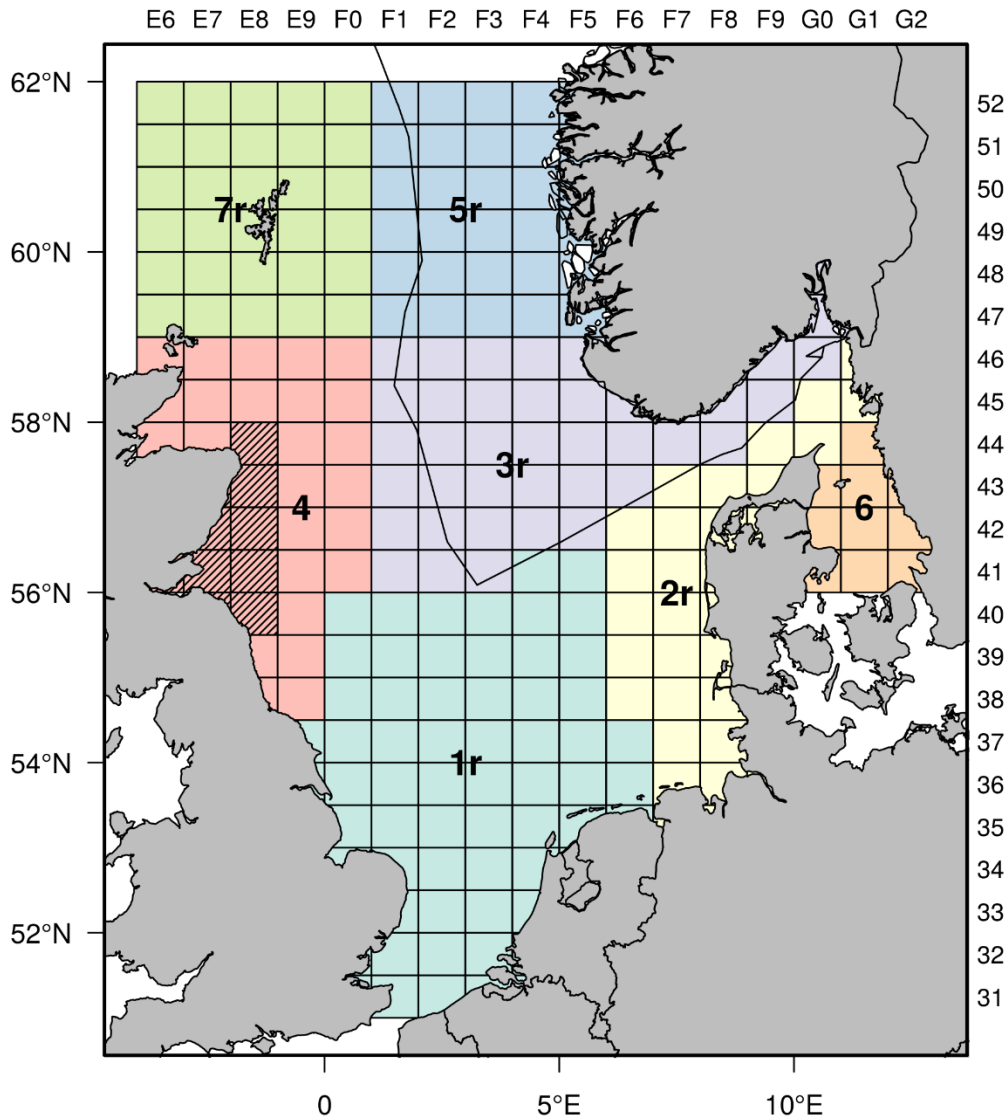


Figure 2 Sandeel in the Shetland area, Sandeel Area 7r. Stock areas for the seven sandeel stocks. The border of the Norwegian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is shown as a black line, and the closed area in Sandeel Area 4 is shown with hatched markings. Sandeel Area 7r is defined as rectangles 47–52 E6–F0. ICES revised this sandeel area by ICES statistical rectangle at the 2016 benchmark (ICES, 2017).

Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

Basis of the assessment

Table 4 Sandeel in the Shetland area, Sandeel Area 7r. The basis of the assessment.

ICES stock data category	5 (see ICES, 2018).
Assessment type	No assessment (ICES, 2019).
Input data	Commercial catch statistics.
Discards and bycatch	Discarding is considered to be negligible.
Indicators	None.
Other information	Last benchmarked in 2016 (ICES, 2017).
Working group	Herring Assessment Working Group (HAWG)

Information from stakeholders

There is no additional available information.

History of advice, catch, and management

Table 5 Sandeel in the Shetland area, Sandeel Area 7r. History of ICES advice, the agreed TAC, and ICES estimates of catch. Weights are in tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Catch corresponding to advice	EU TAC	ICES catch SA 7	ICES catch SA 7r
2005	No advice			0	0
2006	No advice			0	0
2007	No advice			0	0
2008	No advice			0	0
2009	No advice			0	0
2010	No advice			0	0
2011	No increase in effort unless there is evidence that this is sustainable.		0	0	0
2012	No increase in effort unless there is evidence that this is sustainable.		0	0	0
2013	No increase in effort unless there is evidence that this is sustainable.	0	0	0	0
2014	No new advice, same as for 2013	0	0	0	0
2015	Precautionary approach	0	0	0	0
2016	Precautionary approach	0	0	0	0
2017 [^]	Precautionary approach	0	0	0	0
2018 [^]	Precautionary approach	0	0	0*	0*
2019 [^]	Precautionary approach	0			
2020 [^]	Precautionary approach	0			

* Preliminary.

[^] ICES statistical rectangles included in this sandeel area have changed since the 2017 advice.

History of catch and landings

Table 6 Sandeel in the Shetland area, Sandeel Area 7r. Catch distribution by fleet in 2018 as estimated by ICES (in tonnes).

Total catch (2018)	Landings	Discards
0	0	0

Table 7 Sandeel in the Shetland area, Sandeel Area 7r. History of catch (in tonnes) as estimated by ICES.

Year	Catch*
1983	32543
1984	17223
1985	11966
1986	7226
1987	4710
1988	3503
1989	2344
1990	0
1991	0
1992	0
1993	0
1994	1164
1995	1042
1996	2010
1997	5211
1998	4157

Year	Catch*
1999	4334
2000	970
2001	543
2002	186
2003	0
2004	0
2005	0
2006	0
2007	0
2008	0
2009	0
2010	0
2011	0
2012	0
2013	0
2014	0
2015	0
2016	0
2017	0
2018	0

* The catch time-series was revised in 2017.

Summary of the assessment

There is no assessment for sandeel in this area.

Sources and references

ICES. 2012. ICES Implementation of Advice for Data-limited Stocks in 2012 in its 2012 Advice. ICES CM 2012/ACOM:68. 42 pp.

ICES. 2018. Advice basis. *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2018. ICES Advice 2018, Book 1, Section 1.2. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.4503>

ICES. 2017. Report of the Benchmark Workshop on Sandeel Stocks (WKSAND), 31 October–4 November 2016, Bergen, Norway. ICES CM 2016/ACOM:33. 319 pp.

ICES. 2019. Sandeel in Division 3.a and Subarea 4. Section 9 *in* Herring Assessment Working Group for the Area South of 62 deg N (HAWG). ICES Scientific Reports. VOL 1:ISS 2. Section 9 is available separately at the [HAWG](https://www.ices.dk/HAWG) website.

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