

Sole (*Solea solea*) in divisions 8.c and 9.a (Cantabrian Sea and Atlantic Iberian waters)

ICES stock advice

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches in each of the years 2020 and 2021 should be no more than 502 tonnes.

Management of catches of all sole species under a combined TAC prevents effective control of each single-species exploitation rate and could potentially lead to overexploitation of all of the species.

Stock development over time

Catches of *sole* have generally increased across the time-series, with a relatively stable period from 2010. The available information is insufficient to evaluate stock trends.

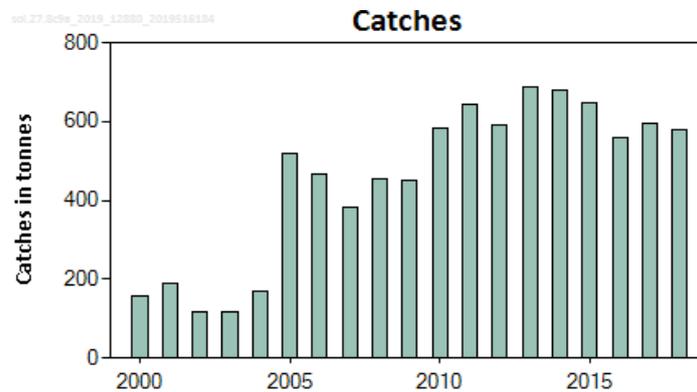


Figure 1 Sole (*Solea solea*) in divisions 8.c and 9.a.

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 Sole in divisions 8.c and 9.a. State of the stock.

		Fishing pressure				Stock size				
		2016	2017	2018		2016	2017	2018		
Maximum sustainable yield	F_{MSY}	?	?	?	Unknown	$MSY B_{trigger}$?	?	?	Unknown
Precautionary approach	$F_{pa} F_{lim}$?	?	?	Unknown	$B_{pa} B_{lim}$?	?	?	Unknown
Management plan	F_{MGT}	?	?	?	Unknown	B_{MGT}	?	?	?	Unknown
Qualitative evaluation	-	?	?	?	Unknown	-	?	?	?	Unknown

Catch scenarios

The advice is provided for *sole*, for which reliable catch statistics are available.

The ICES framework for category 5 stocks was applied (ICES, 2012). 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. The precautionary buffer was applied in 2017 and has, therefore, not been applied again. Discarding is considered to be negligible.

Table 2 Sole in divisions 8.c and 9.a. The basis for the catch scenarios.

Recent advised catch (for 2018–2019)	502 tonnes	
Discard rate	Negligible	
Precautionary buffer	Not applied	-
Catch advice for <i>Solea solea</i> *	502 tonnes	
% Advice change **	0%	

* [Advice in 2019].

** Advice value for 2020 relative to the advice value for 2019.

The advice for the stock remains unchanged.

Basis of the advice

Table 3 Sole in divisions 8.c and 9.a. 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

There were indications of species misidentification in the historical landing statistics prior to 2012 for sole species (*Solea solea* and *Solea senegalensis*) in this area. Using port sampling data, it was possible to estimate species-specific landings from 2000.

Issues relevant for the advice

Previous advice issued by ICES for *Solea solea* presented information for *Solea solea*, *Solea senegalensis*, and *Pegusa lascaris*. This year only *Solea solea* is considered.

Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

Basis of the assessment

Table 4 Sole in divisions 8.c and 9.a. Basis of the assessment and advice.

ICES stock data category	5 (ICES, 2018).
Assessment type	No assessment (ICES, 2019).
Input data	ICES catches.
Discards and bycatch	Discards are known to take place and are considered negligible.
Indicators	None.
Other information	None.
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 5 Sole in divisions 8.c and 9.a. ICES advice and official landings. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Catch corresponding to advice	EU TAC*	Total official landings <i>Solea</i> spp.	ICES landings of <i>Solea solea</i>
2000		-	2000	900	159
2001		-	2000	842	189
2002		-	2000	623	115
2003		-	1600	786	116
2004		-	1520	839	171
2005		-	1216	966	520
2006		-	-	670	467
2007		-	1216	560	380
2008		-	1216	665	454
2009		-	1216	649	450
2010		-	1094	864	581
2011		-	1072	730	644
2012	No increase in catch	-	1072	628	589
2013	20% reduction in catches	-	1072	721	687
2014	Same catch value advised for 2013	-	1072	722	681
2015	Same catch value advised for 2013	-	1072	689	646
2016	Precautionary approach (same catch value advised for 2013)	-	1072	557	557
2017	Precautionary approach (same catch value advised for 2013)	-	1072	595**	595
2018	Precautionary approach (≥20% reduction in catch relative to 2014–2016 average)	≤ 502	1072	579**	579**
2019	Precautionary approach (same catch value advised as 2018)	≤ 502	1072		
2020	Precautionary approach	≤ 502			
2021	Precautionary approach (same catch value advised as 2020)	≤ 502			

* The TAC is set for *Solea* spp.

** Preliminary.

History of the catch and landings

Table 6 Sole in divisions 8.c and 9.a. Catch distribution of *Solea solea* by fleet in 2018 as estimated by ICES.

Catch (2018)	Landings		Discards
	5% bottom otter trawl	95% other gears	
579 tonnes	579 tonnes		Negligible

Summary of the assessment

There is no assessment for sole in this area.

Sources and references

EU. 2019. Regulation (EU) 2019/472 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019 establishing a multiannual plan for stocks fished in the Western Waters and adjacent waters, and for fisheries exploiting those stocks, amending Regulations (EU) 2016/1139 and (EU) 2018/973, and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 811/2004, (EC) No 2166/2005, (EC) No 388/2006, (EC) No 509/2007 and (EC) No 1300/2008. Official Journal of the European Union, L 83: 1–17. <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/472/oj>.

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. 2019. Working Group for the Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Waters Ecoregion (WGBIE). ICES Scientific Reports. 1:31. 692 pp. <http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5299>

Recommended citation: ICES. 2019. Sole (*Solea solea*) in divisions 8.c and 9.a (Cantabrian Sea and Atlantic Iberian waters). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2019. ICES Advice 2019, sol.27.8c9a, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.4776>