

EU request for updated catch advice in 2019 for whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a

Advice summary

In response to the special request for updated catch advice for whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a (Bay of Biscay and Atlantic Iberian waters), ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches in 2019 should be no more than 2276 tonnes.

Request

The text of the request received from the European Commission was as follows:

The last ICES catch advice for whiting in ICES divisions 8 and 9a was issued 30 June 2017 for 2018 and 2019. 2016 fisheries dependent data was used in this assessment. ICES is requested to take into account all relevant data available since 2016 and consider, if appropriate, updating the catch advice for 2019. If possible, ICES is asked to include the best available estimates of discards in previous years and an advice with a clear division of total catch, wanted catch and unwanted catch for 2019.

Elaboration on the advice

The updated advice is based on revised estimates of landings (wanted catch) and discards (unwanted catch) for the recent period. Previous advice was based on landings only. Discards have been estimated for all fleets based on data from 2016 to 2018. Combined with the landings, this provided estimates of total catch that could be used to update the advice for 2019.

The analysis results in advised catches for 2019 of 2276 tonnes divided in wanted catches of 1593 t and unwanted catches of 683 t. More details on this updated catch advice for 2019 can be found in the advice document on fishing opportunities for this stock for 2019–2021 (ICES, 2019a).

Basis of the advice

Background

The most recent ICES advice was based on landings (ICES, 2017); discards were known to be substantial for some métiers but were not fully quantified. Landings have fluctuated around 2000 tonnes since 1994. Whiting in this area falls under the landings obligation from 2019 (the EU multiannual plan [MAP]; EU, 2019).

Discards for the years 2016–2018 and landings for 2018 were included in the additional data provided to ICES. Official landings are available from 1994 to present. The additional data provided to ICES also include length composition of landings and discards.

As a result of these newly available data, ICES assessed the feasibility of including discards to provide updated total catch advice for 2019.

Methods

The standard procedure for estimating discards was followed. To this end, discard data provided for different combinations of countries/gears/seasons/areas ("strata") are used to raise landings data to the total catch (ICES, 2019b).

The ICES framework for category 5 stocks was applied, using the updated catch data to revise the advice for 2019 (ICES, 2012).

Results and conclusions

88%, 72%, and 70% of the strata in 2016, 2017, and 2018, respectively, have reported discards; these strata represent 95% of the landings by weight. Discards for the uncovered strata were then estimated using the most similar strata.

Discard practices are variable seasonally and annually, as well as between métiers. The observed discard rates vary between 0 and 80% (Figure 1).

The estimated wanted and unwanted catch indicate that the total catch was 3452, 2863, and 2221 tonnes in 2016, 2017, and 2018, respectively, with an overall unwanted catch rate of 30% (Table 2).

These estimated catches (2016–2018), when used in the ICES category 5 framework, produce a revised catch advice for 2019 of 2276 tonnes.

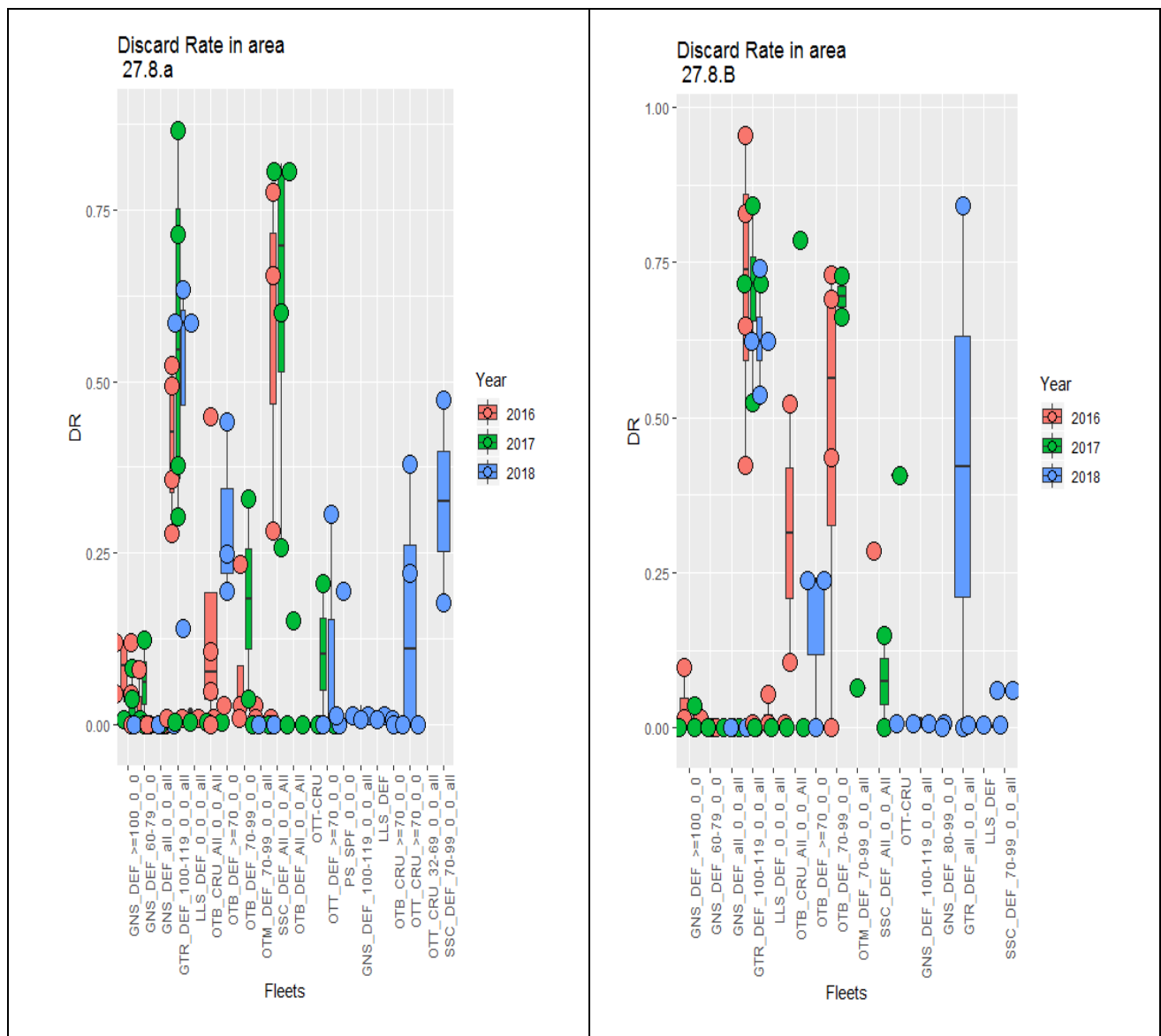


Figure 1 Discard rate in Division 8.a (left) and Division 8.b (right) by gear, computed from the landings and discards provided to ICES.

Table 1 Whiting in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. ICES landings and discards by year, area, métier, and season for the strata that have both landings and discard samples. All weights are in kilogrammes.

Area	Year	Fleets	Season	Discards (kg)	Landings (kg)	Discard rate
27.8.a	2016	GNS_DEF_>=100_0_0	1	9817	70017	0.123
27.8.a	2016	GNS_DEF_>=100_0_0	4	1374	23029	0.056
27.8.a	2016	GNS_DEF_>=100_0_0	3	419.4	12292	0.033
27.8.b	2016	GNS_DEF_>=100_0_0	2	0	1478	0
27.8.a	2016	GNS_DEF_>=100_0_0	2	1638	12534	0.116
27.8.b	2016	GNS_DEF_>=100_0_0	1	550.6	5157	0.096
27.8.b	2016	GNS_DEF_>=100_0_0	4	111.5	3449	0.031
27.8.b	2016	GNS_DEF_>=100_0_0	3	0	191.8	0
27.8.b	2017	GNS_DEF_>=100_0_0	4	0	2145	0
27.8.a	2017	GNS_DEF_>=100_0_0	4	206	14111	0.0144
27.8.b	2017	GNS_DEF_>=100_0_0	3	0	267.7	0
27.8.a	2017	GNS_DEF_>=100_0_0	2	0	6327	0
27.8.b	2017	GNS_DEF_>=100_0_0	1	226.3	6071	0.036
27.8.b	2017	GNS_DEF_>=100_0_0	2	0	302.5	0
27.8.a	2017	GNS_DEF_>=100_0_0	1	1301	33230	0.038
27.8.a	2017	GNS_DEF_>=100_0_0	3	914.1	10074	0.083
27.8.a	2016	GNS_DEF_60-79_0_0	3	0	2783	0
27.8.a	2016	GNS_DEF_60-79_0_0	1	0	7831	0
27.8.a	2016	GNS_DEF_60-79_0_0	2	727.5	8192	0.082
27.8.a	2017	GNS_DEF_60-79_0_0	2	623.8	4408	0.124
27.8.a	2017	GNS_DEF_60-79_0_0	1	0	4495	0
27.8.a	2018	GNS_DEF_60-79_0_0	3	0	1151	0
27.8.a	2018	GNS_DEF_60-79_0_0	2	0	7295	0
27.8.a	2018	GNS_DEF_60-79_0_0	1	0	6701	0
27.8.a	2016	GNS_DEF_all_0_0_all	2	0	2704	0
27.8.a	2016	GNS_DEF_all_0_0_all	3	0	8339	0
27.8.b	2016	GNS_DEF_all_0_0_all	2	0	21.36	0
27.8.b	2016	GNS_DEF_all_0_0_all	3	0	99.44	0
27.8.b	2017	GNS_DEF_all_0_0_all	3	0	124.1	0
27.8.b	2017	GNS_DEF_all_0_0_all	2	0	492.6	0
27.8.b	2017	GNS_DEF_all_0_0_all	1	0	560.2	0
27.8.a	2017	GNS_DEF_all_0_0_all	3	0	4275	0
27.8.b	2017	GNS_DEF_all_0_0_all	4	0	511	0
27.8.b	2018	GNS_DEF_all_0_0_all	3	0	172.2	0
27.8.a	2018	GNS_DEF_all_0_0_all	2	0	4358	0
27.8.a	2018	GNS_DEF_all_0_0_all	3	0	1995	0
27.8.b	2018	GNS_DEF_all_0_0_all	4	0	1266	0
27.8.a	2016	GTR_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	1	52740	94507	0.36
27.8.a	2016	GTR_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	4	16221	16640	0.49
27.8.b	2016	GTR_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	3	59999	2842	0.95
27.8.a	2016	GTR_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	2	8488	21905	0.28
27.8.a	2016	GTR_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	3	2677	2437	0.52
27.8.b	2016	GTR_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	2	7573	4124	0.65

Area	Year	Fleets	Season	Discards (kg)	Landings (kg)	Discard rate
27.8.b	2016	GTR_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	1	37830	51543	0.42
27.8.b	2016	GTR_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	4	81496	16942	0.83
27.8.a	2017	GTR_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	1	58418	96309	0.38
27.8.a	2017	GTR_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	4	52502	8150	0.87
27.8.b	2017	GTR_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	3	4527	1673	0.73
27.8.a	2017	GTR_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	3	3814	1528	0.71
27.8.b	2017	GTR_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	2	17304	3256	0.84
27.8.a	2017	GTR_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	2	2866	6583	0.3
27.8.b	2017	GTR_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	1	41948	38273	0.52
27.8.b	2017	GTR_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	4	36098	15482	0.7
27.8.a	2018	GTR_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	3	1827	1057	0.63
27.8.b	2018	GTR_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	2	3752	3249	0.54
27.8.a	2018	GTR_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	2	1279	7799	0.141
27.8.b	2018	GTR_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	1	79291	27886	0.74
27.8.b	2018	GTR_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	4	33778	19336	0.64
27.8.a	2018	GTR_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	1	100867	68964	0.59
27.8.a	2018	GTR_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	4	7691	5689	0.57
27.8.b	2018	GTR_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	3	11501	7328	0.61
27.8.a	2016	LLS_DEF_0_0_0_all	2	6949	326073	0.021
27.8.b	2016	LLS_DEF_0_0_0_all	1	694.1	12352	0.053
27.8.b	2016	LLS_DEF_0_0_0_all	4	0	37069	0
27.8.a	2016	LLS_DEF_0_0_0_all	1	144.9	46543	0.0031
27.8.a	2016	LLS_DEF_0_0_0_all	4	0	86068	0
27.8.b	2016	LLS_DEF_0_0_0_all	3	0	31043	0
27.8.a	2016	LLS_DEF_0_0_0_all	3	0	234039	0
27.8.b	2016	LLS_DEF_0_0_0_all	2	230.8	19230	0.0119
27.8.a	2017	LLS_DEF_0_0_0_all	3	0	164729	0
27.8.b	2017	LLS_DEF_0_0_0_all	2	0	15568	0
27.8.a	2017	LLS_DEF_0_0_0_all	2	0	280913	0
27.8.b	2017	LLS_DEF_0_0_0_all	1	0	11822	0
27.8.b	2017	LLS_DEF_0_0_0_all	4	0	19011	0
27.8.b	2017	LLS_DEF_0_0_0_all	3	0	18058	0
27.8.a	2017	LLS_DEF_0_0_0_all	1	847.9	93407	0.009
27.8.a	2017	LLS_DEF_0_0_0_all	4	0	71352	0
27.8.a	2016	OTB_CRU_All_0_0_All	1	12178	14902	0.45
27.8.a	2016	OTB_CRU_All_0_0_All	4	3122	26252	0.106
27.8.a	2016	OTB_CRU_All_0_0_All	3	2096	40212	0.05
27.8.b	2016	OTB_CRU_All_0_0_All	2	5318	4856	0.52
27.8.a	2016	OTB_CRU_All_0_0_All	2	0	21863	0

Area	Year	Fleets	Season	Discards (kg)	Landings (kg)	Discard rate
27.8.b	2016	OTB_CRU_All_0_0_All	3	1400	11956	0.105
27.8.b	2017	OTB_CRU_All_0_0_All	2	3640	994.4	0.79
27.8.a	2018	OTB_DEF_>=70_0_0	2	21078	26714	0.44
27.8.b	2018	OTB_DEF_>=70_0_0	1	0	65299	0
27.8.b	2018	OTB_DEF_>=70_0_0	4	12615	41154	0.23
27.8.a	2018	OTB_DEF_>=70_0_0	4	21076	63653	0.25
27.8.b	2018	OTB_DEF_>=70_0_0	3	10433	32605	0.24
27.8.a	2018	OTB_DEF_>=70_0_0	3	4402	18181	0.195
27.8.a	2016	OTB_DEF_70-99_0_0	2	17072	56143	0.23
27.8.a	2016	OTB_DEF_70-99_0_0	1	5412	255711	0.021
27.8.a	2016	OTB_DEF_70-99_0_0	4	5936	149652	0.038
27.8.b	2016	OTB_DEF_70-99_0_0	3	40661	18217	0.69
27.8.a	2016	OTB_DEF_70-99_0_0	3	1360	37539	0.035
27.8.b	2016	OTB_DEF_70-99_0_0	2	0	13933	0
27.8.b	2016	OTB_DEF_70-99_0_0	1	121601	44872	0.73
27.8.b	2016	OTB_DEF_70-99_0_0	4	28387	36732	0.44
27.8.b	2017	OTB_DEF_70-99_0_0	4	36548	18713	0.66
27.8.b	2017	OTB_DEF_70-99_0_0	2	16032	5992	0.73
27.8.a	2017	OTB_DEF_70-99_0_0	4	3686	92105	0.038
27.8.a	2017	OTB_DEF_70-99_0_0	2	10735	21884	0.33
27.8.a	2016	OTM_DEF_70-99_0_0_all	3	0	2120	0
27.8.a	2016	OTM_DEF_70-99_0_0_all	4	0	47309	0
27.8.a	2016	OTM_DEF_70-99_0_0_all	2	46.32	2156	0.021
27.8.a	2017	OTM_DEF_70-99_0_0_all	1	0	16834	0
27.8.a	2017	OTM_DEF_70-99_0_0_all	2	0	2964	0
27.8.b	2017	OTM_DEF_70-99_0_0_all	1	1406	20364	0.065
27.8.a	2018	OTM_DEF_70-99_0_0_all	3	0	333.3	0
27.8.a	2018	OTM_DEF_70-99_0_0_all	2	0	5831	0
27.8.a	2016	SSC_DEF_All_0_0_All	4	113886	32832	0.78
27.8.a	2016	SSC_DEF_All_0_0_All	2	34883	88895	0.28
27.8.a	2016	SSC_DEF_All_0_0_All	3	106763	56255	0.65
27.8.b	2016	SSC_DEF_All_0_0_All	2	38589	96589	0.29
27.8.a	2017	SSC_DEF_All_0_0_All	4	39964	26736	0.6
27.8.a	2017	SSC_DEF_All_0_0_All	1	193866	50237	0.79
27.8.b	2017	SSC_DEF_All_0_0_All	1	0	1637	0
27.8.a	2017	SSC_DEF_All_0_0_All	3	64593	14459	0.82
27.8.b	2017	SSC_DEF_All_0_0_All	2	2369	13518	0.149
27.8.a	2017	SSC_DEF_All_0_0_All	2	9464	27253	0.26
27.8.a	2017	OTB_DEF_All_0_0_All	4	823.2	4581	0.152
27.8.a	2017	OTT-CRU	3	0	28432	0
27.8.a	2017	OTT-CRU	2	0	19435	0
27.8.a	2017	OTT-CRU	1	0	30581	0
27.8.a	2017	OTT-CRU	4	0	20292	0
27.8.b	2017	OTT-CRU	3	2571	3754	0.41
27.8.a	2017	OTT_DEF_>=70_0_0	2	0	1824	0
27.8.a	2017	OTT_DEF_>=70_0_0	1	10285	39520	0.21
27.8.a	2018	OTT_DEF_>=70_0_0	1	11390	25835	0.31
27.8.a	2018	OTT_DEF_>=70_0_0	4	0	15004	0
27.8.a	2018	OTT_DEF_>=70_0_0	3	0	5753	0
27.8.a	2018	PS_SPF_0_0_0	3	1074	4424	0.195

Area	Year	Fleets	Season	Discards (kg)	Landings (kg)	Discard rate
27.8.a	2018	GNS_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	1	503.1	38704	0.0128
27.8.a	2018	GNS_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	4	0	5654	0
27.8.b	2018	GNS_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	3	0	596.6	0
27.8.a	2018	GNS_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	3	0	9151	0
27.8.b	2018	GNS_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	2	0	990.6	0
27.8.a	2018	GNS_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	2	238.4	8373	0.028
27.8.b	2018	GNS_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	1	0	3106	0
27.8.b	2018	GNS_DEF_100-119_0_0_all	4	63.34	4750	0.0132
27.8.b	2018	GNS_DEF_80-99_0_0	2	0	44.92	0
27.8.b	2018	GTR_DEF_all_0_0_all	2	115.5	21.95	0.84
27.8.b	2018	GTR_DEF_all_0_0_all	4	0	270.4	0
27.8.a	2018	LLS_DEF	2	2592	213359	0.012
27.8.b	2018	LLS_DEF	3	0	3654	0
27.8.b	2018	LLS_DEF	2	0	10418	0
27.8.a	2018	LLS_DEF	3	925.7	138342	0.0066
27.8.b	2018	LLS_DEF	4	125.2	11536	0.0107
27.8.a	2018	LLS_DEF	4	222.8	47513	0.0047
27.8.a	2018	OTB_CRU_>=70_0_0	2	0	2240	0
27.8.a	2018	OTT_CRU_>=70_0_0	1	0	5079	0
27.8.a	2018	OTT_CRU_>=70_0_0	4	1553	5456	0.22
27.8.a	2018	OTT_CRU_>=70_0_0	3	8793	14351	0.38
27.8.a	2018	OTT_CRU_>=70_0_0	2	0	5913	0
27.8.a	2018	SSC_DEF_70-99_0_0_all	2	32520	36286	0.47
27.8.a	2018	SSC_DEF_70-99_0_0_all	4	3551	16351	0.178
27.8.b	2018	SSC_DEF_70-99_0_0_all	3	1463	24673	0.056
27.8.b	2018	SSC_DEF_70-99_0_0_all	2	1269	18400	0.065

Table 2 Whiting in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. Total catch, wanted catch, and unwanted catch as estimated by ICES (in tonnes). The fishery is conducted by France, Spain, Belgium, and Portugal.

Year	Wanted catch	Unwanted catch	Total catch	Overall discard rate
2016	2525	927	3452	27%
2017	1925	938	2863	33%
2018	1565	656	2221	30%

Sources and references

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Recommended citation: ICES. 2019. EU request for updated catch advice in 2019 for whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2019. ICES Advice 2019, sr.2019.14, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.5448>