

6.3.37 Sandeel (*Ammodytes* spp.) in Division 4a, SA 5 (Northern North Sea, Viking and Bergen banks)

ICES stock advice

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches should not increase. This corresponds to zero catch in 2016. This advice is valid for 2017 and 2018 unless there is a change in perception of stock status.

Stock development over time

Catch statistics are available for sandeel area 5 (SA 5). No landings have occurred since 2004 (except for 4 t landed in 2007). The available information is inadequate to evaluate stock status or trends. The state of the stock is therefore unknown.

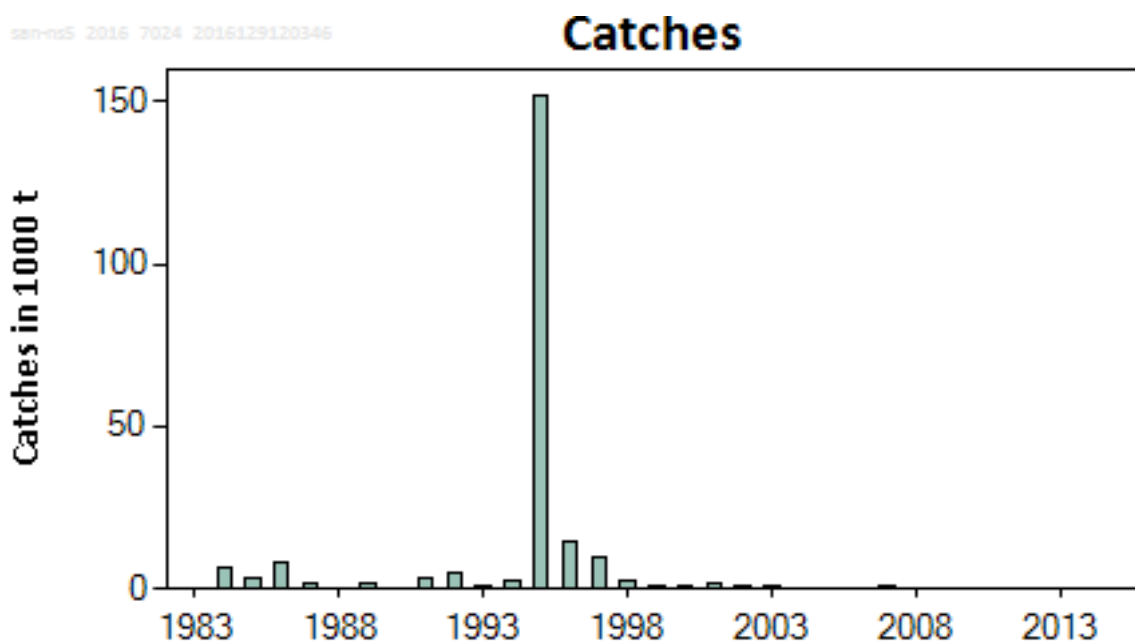


Figure 6.3.37.1 Sandeel on the Viking and Bergen banks (SA 5). ICES estimates of catch (in thousand tonnes).

Stock and exploitation status

Table 6.3.37.1 Sandeel on the Viking and Bergen banks (SA 5). State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points.

		Fishing pressure			Stock size					
		2013	2014	2015	2014	2015	2016			
Maximum sustainable yield	F_{MSY}	?	?	?	Undefined	$MSY_{B_{escapement}}$?	?	?	Undefined
Precautionary approach	F_{pa}, F_{lim}	?	?	?	Undefined	B_{pa}, B_{lim}	?	?	?	Undefined
Management plan	F_{MGT}	-	-	-	Not applicable	SSB_{MGT}	-	-	-	Not applicable
Qualitative evaluation	-	?	?	?	Unknown	-	?	?	?	Unknown

Catch options

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. ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches should not increase unless there is evidence that this will be sustainable. This corresponds to zero catch in 2016, 2017, and 2018.

Table 6.3.37.2 Sandeel on the Viking and Bergen banks (SA 5). For stocks in ICES categories 3–6, one catch option is possible.

Average catch (2012, 2013, 2014)	0 (tonnes)	
Discard rate	Negligible	
Precautionary buffer	Not applicable	-
Catch advice*	0 tonnes	

* Average catch.

Basis of the advice

Table 6.3.37.3 Sandeel in the Viking and Bergen banks (SA 5). The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	Precautionary approach
Management plan	There is no ICES-evaluated 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 Norwegian acoustic survey conducted on the Viking Bank during 2005–2014 indicates that the stock in this area is very small. Norway closed fisheries on the Viking Bank area in 2011 because of very low estimates of sandeel abundance from the acoustic surveys conducted in 2007–2010 (ICES, 2010).

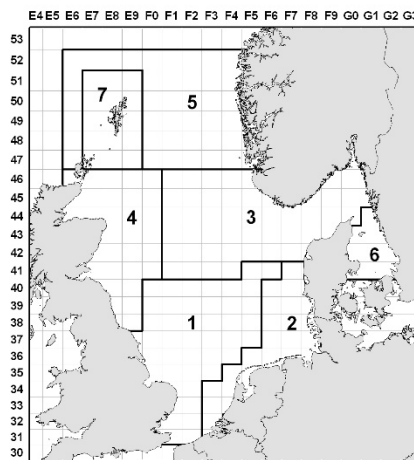


Figure 6.3.37.2 Sandeel on the Viking and Bergen banks (SA 5). Sandeel are largely sedentary after settlement and form a complex of local (sub-) stocks in the North Sea. To avoid local depletion, ICES advice for sandeel is provided separately for seven areas in Division 3a and Subarea 4. Advice for sandeel on the Viking and Bergen banks (SA 5) specifically applies to sandeel in rectangles 47–51 E6 + F0–F5 and 52 E6–F5.

Reference points

No reference points are defined for sandeel in this area.

Basis of the assessment

Table 6.3.37.4 Sandeel on the Viking and Bergen banks (SA 5). The basis of the assessment.

ICES stock data category	5 (ICES, 2016a)
Assessment type	No assessment (ICES, 2016b)
Input data	Commercial catch statistics
Discards and bycatch	Discarding is considered to be negligible.
Indicators	None
Other information	Last benchmark in 2010 (ICES, 2010)
Working group	Herring Assessment Working Group (HAWG)

Information from stakeholders

There is no available information.

History of advice, catch, and management

Table 6.3.37.5 Sandeel on the Viking and Bergen banks (SA 5). History of ICES advice, the agreed TAC, and ICES estimates of catches. All weights are in thousand tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Catch corresponding to advice	TAC	ICES catch SA 5	Total ICES catch (SAs 1–7)
2005*	Exploitation to be kept below the level of 2003. Adjustment to be made conditional on the abundance of the 2004 year class.	-	661**	0	177
2006*	The fishery should remain closed until information is available which assures that the stock can be rebuilt to B_{pa} by 2007.	-	300**	0	293
2007*	The fishery should remain closed until information is available which assures that the stock can be rebuilt to B_{pa} by 2008.	-	173**	0	230
2008*	The fishery should only be allowed if monitoring information is available and shows that the stock can be rebuilt to B_{pa} by 2009.	-	375**	0	348
2009*	The fishery should only be allowed if monitoring information is available and shows that the stock can be rebuilt to B_{pa} by 2010.	-	377**	0	353
2010*	The fishery should only be allowed if monitoring information is available and shows that the stock can be rebuilt to B_{pa} by 2011.	-	377**	0	414
2011	No increase in effort unless there is evidence that this is sustainable.	0	0	0	
2012	No increase in catches unless there is evidence that this is sustainable.	0	0	0	
2013	ICES advises on the basis of the approach to data-limited stocks that catches should not increase.	0	0	0	
2014	ICES advises on the basis of the approach to data-limited stocks that catches should not increase. This corresponds to zero catch.	0	0	0	
2015	ICES advises that applying the precautionary approach catches should not increase unless there is evidence that this will be sustainable. This corresponds to zero catch.	0	0	0***	307***
2016	Precautionary approach	0			
2017	Precautionary approach	0			
2018	Precautionary approach	0			

* Advice for Subarea 4 excluding the Shetland area.

** Set for EU waters of Divisions 2a and 3a and Subarea 4.

*** Preliminary

History of catch and landings

Table 6.3.37.6 Sandeel on the Viking and Bergen banks (SA 5). Catch distribution by fleet in 2015 as estimated by ICES. All weights are in thousand tonnes.

Total catch (2015)	Landings	Discards
0	0	0

Table 6.3.37.7 Sandeel on the Viking and Bergen banks (SA 5). History of commercial catch as estimated by ICES.

Year	Catch (tonnes)
1983	0
1984	6587
1985	3004
1986	11277
1987	1713
1988	0
1989	3353
1990	374
1991	3697
1992	4554
1993	666
1994	2765
1995	150637
1996	6176
1997	11279
1998	2984
1999	141
2000	327
2001	1689
2002	10
2003	44
2004	0
2005	0
2006	0
2007	4
2008	0
2009	0
2010	0
2011	0
2012	0
2013	0
2014	0
2015	0

Summary of the assessment

There is no assessment for sandeel in this area.

Sources and references

ICES. 2010. Report of the Benchmark Workshop on Sandeel (WKSAN), 6–10 September 2010, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2010/ACOM:57. 201 pp.

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

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ICES. 2016b. Sandeel in Division 3a and Subarea 4. Available online as Section 11 of the coming Report of the Herring Assessment Working Group for the Area South of 62°N (HAWG), 29 March–7 April 2016, ICES HQ, Denmark. ICES CM 2016/ACOM:07.