

Small-eyed ray (*Raja microcellata*) in divisions 7.d and 7.e (English Channel)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, landings should be no more than 40 tonnes in each of the years 2021 and 2022. ICES cannot quantify the corresponding catches.

Note: This advice sheet is abbreviated due to the COVID-19 disruption. The previous advice issued for 2019 and 2020 is attached as Annex 1.

Stock development over time

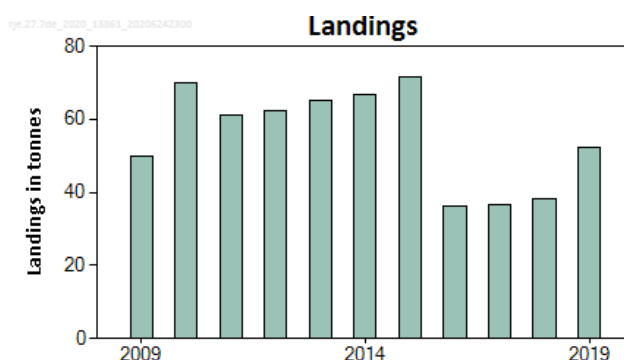


Figure 1 Small-eyed ray in divisions 7.d–e. ICES estimated landings for 2009–2019 (in tonnes).

Stock and exploitation status

Table 1 Small-eyed ray in divisions 7.d–e. State of the stock and the fishery relative to reference points.

		Fishing pressure			Stock size					
		2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019			
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}	—	—	—	Not applicable	B_{MGT}	—	—	—	Not applicable
Qualitative evaluation	-	?	?	?	Unknown	-	?	?	?	Unknown

Catch scenarios

The stock size and fishing pressure status relative to reference points is unknown. The precautionary buffer was last applied in 2018 and thus not applied in 2020.

Discarding is known to take place; however, ICES cannot quantify the corresponding dead catch.

Table 2 Small-eyed ray in divisions 7.d–e. The basis for the catch scenarios.

Advised landings for 2019–2020 issued in 2018		40 tonnes
Discard rate		Unknown
Precautionary buffer	Not applied	-
Landings advice *		40 tonnes
% advice change **		0%

* Advised landings for 2019–2020.

** Advice value for 2021 and 2022 relative to the advice value for 2019 and 2020.

History of the advice, catch, and management

Table 3 Small-eyed ray in divisions 7.d–e. History of ICES advice and ICES estimates of landings*. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Landings corresp. to advice	ICES landings
2011	No specific advice		61
2012	No specific advice		62
2013	No TAC, species-specific measures needed, catch to decrease by at least 20%	-	65
2014	No new advice, same as 2013	-	67
2015	Decrease at least 20% from the average of the last three years	43	72
2016	No new advice, same as 2015	43	36
2017	Precautionary approach	≤ 36	36
2018	Precautionary approach (same value as advised catches for 2017)	≤ 36	38
2019	Precautionary approach	≤ 40	52
2020	Precautionary approach	≤ 40	
2021	Precautionary approach	≤ 40	
2022	Precautionary approach	≤ 40	

* There is no specific TAC for this stock. Fishing opportunities are managed through an overall TAC by management unit, which includes all species of skates and rays.

Summary of the assessment

There is no assessment for this stock.

Sources and references

ICES. 2020. Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes (WGEF). ICES Scientific Reports, 2:77. <http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.7470>.

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