

Pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*) in Subarea 4 and Division 3.a (North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches in the years 2022–2024 should be no more than 1828 tonnes.

Stock development over time

ICES cannot assess the stock and exploitation status relative to MSY and precautionary approach (PA) reference points because information to define reference points is not available.

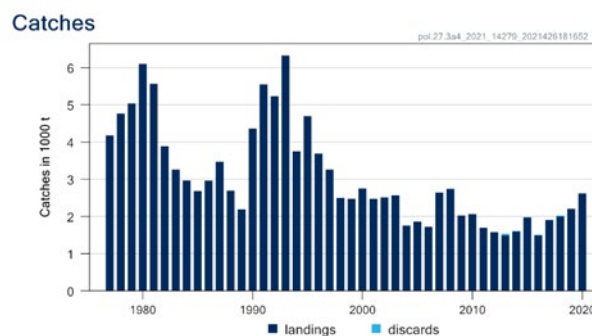


Figure 1 Pollack in Subarea 4 and Division 3.a. Official landings are presented until 2012. From 2013, discards and landings presented are the estimates by ICES.

Catch scenarios

ICES framework for category 5 stocks was applied (ICES, 2012) for this stock. 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 last applied in 2017 and therefore the precautionary buffer is applied in 2021. The discarding rate is 0.49 % of total catch.

Table 1 Pollack in Subarea 4 and Division 3.a. The basis for the catch options.*

Average catch (2018–2020)	2285 tonnes	
Discard rate	0.49 %	
Precautionary buffer	Applied	0.8
Catch advice *	1828 tonnes	
Projected landings corresponding to catch advice**	1819 tonnes	

* Average catch (2018–2020) × precautionary buffer

** Average catch (2018–2020) × precautionary buffer × [1 – discard rate].

Basis of the advice

Table 2 Pollack in Subarea 4 and Division 3.a. The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	Precautionary approach
Management plan	The EU multiannual plan (MAP) for stocks in the North Sea (EU, 2018) and adjacent waters applies to bycatches of this stock. UK and Norway have not requested ICES to provide advice based on the EU MAP. 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

The advice is based on commercial catches for Subarea 4 and Division 3.a. Recreational catches are known to take place and might be substantial but cannot be quantified.

Issues relevant for the advice

There are no directed fisheries for pollack in Subarea 4 and Division 3.a, and pollack is taken solely as bycatch.

Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

Basis of the assessment

Table 3 Pollack in Subarea 4 and Division 3.a. Assumptions made for the interim year and in the forecast.

ICES stock data category	5 (ICES, 2021a)
Assessment type	No assessment
Input data	Commercial landings and discards
Discards and bycatch	Discards are known to take place and have been quantified for 2013–2020. Discard estimates were provided for an average of 41 % of the landings in 2018–2020. Estimated discards were on average 0.49% of catches in 2018–2020.
Indicators	None
Other information	2011 was the first year ICES reported on this species in this area
Working group	Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak (WGNSSK)

History of the advice, catch, and management

Table 4 Pollack in Subarea 4 and Division 3.a. History of ICES advice and official landings. All weights in tonnes

Year	ICES advice	Predicted catch corresponding to advice	Predicted landings corresponding to advice	Official landings Division 3.a	Official landings Subarea 4	Total official landings
2000		-	-	500	2251	2751
2001		-	-	501	1971	2472
2002		-	-	477	2037	2514
2003		-	-	425	2140	2565
2004		-	-	359	1397	1756
2005		-	-	498	1367	1865
2006		-	-	330	1399	1729
2007		-	-	464	2181	2645
2008		-	-	451	2294	2745
2009		-	-	473	1551	2024
2010		-	-	552	1485	2037
2011		-	-	395	1299	1694
2012	No increase in catches	-	-	414	1164	1578
2013	Subarea 4: 20% reduction in catches (last three years' average) Division 3.a: no directed fisheries and reduce bycatch	4: < 1300 3.a: 0	-	420	1080	1500
2014	Same catch advice as in 2013	4: < 1300 3.a: 0	-	383	1215	1598
2015	Landings at the level of the 2013 advice		4: < 1300 3.a: 0	390	1594	1984
2016	No new advice, same as for 2015		4: < 1300 3.a: 0	341	1174	1505
2017	Precautionary approach	≤ 1368		357	1551	1908

Year	ICES advice	Predicted catch corresponding to advice	Predicted landings corresponding to advice	Official landings Division 3.a	Official landings Subarea 4	Total official landings
2018	Precautionary approach	≤ 1368		406	1588	1994
2019	No catch advice requested	-	-	313*	1881*	2194*
2020	No catch advice requested	-	-	251*	2373*	2624*
2021	No catch advice requested	-	-			
2022	Precautionary approach	≤ 1828				
2023	Precautionary approach	≤ 1828				
2024	Precautionary approach	≤ 1828				

* Preliminary

History of the catch and landings

Table 5 Pollack in Subarea 4 and Division 3.a. Catch distribution by fleet in 2020 as estimated by ICES.

Total catch (2020)	Commercial landings					Discards
2625 tonnes	69% otter trawl	21% gillnet	5% seine	2% longline	3% other	3 tonnes
	2622 tonnes					

Table 6 Pollack in Division 3.a. History of commercial catch and landings; both the official, by country, and total ICES estimated values are presented. All weights in tonnes.

Year	Belgium	Denmark	Germany	Netherlands	Norway	Sweden	UK	Official total	ICES est. landings	ICES est. discards
1977	10	1764	4	3	449	706		2936		
1978	1	2077	4		556	794		3432		
1979	13	1898	< 0.5		824	1066		3801		
1980	13	1860			987	1584	< 0.5	4444		
1981	5	1661			839	1187	1	3693		
1982	1	1272			575	417	< 0.5	2265		
1983	2	972			438	288		1700		
1984	2	930	< 0.5		371	276		1579		
1985	-	824	< 0.5		350	356		1530		
1986	4	759	< 0.5		374	271		1408		
1987	6	665			342	246		1259		
1988	4	494			350	136		984		
1989	3	554			313	152		1022		
1990	8	1842	< 0.5		246	253		2349		
1991	2	1824			324	281		2431		
1992	8	1228			391	320		1947		
1993	6	1130	1		364	442		1943		
1994	5	645	< 0.5		276	238		1164		
1995	10	497			322	271		1100		
1996		680			309	273		1262		
1997		364	< 0.5		302	178		844		
1998		299			330	105		734		
1999		192			342	88		622		
2000		199			268	33		500		
2001		201	1		253	46		501		
2002		228	3		202	44		477		
2003		168	3	1	236	17		425		
2004		140	2	4	179	34		359		
2005		160	5	7	173	153		498		
2006		103	10	3	178	36		330		
2007		172	9		245	38		464		
2008		166	5		247	33		451		
2009		208	7		220	38		473		

Year	Belgium	Denmark	Germany	Netherlands	Norway	Sweden	UK	Official total	ICES est. landings	ICES est. discards
2010		313	8	1	195	35		552		
2011		193	7		168	28		395		
2012		200	7		171	37		414		
2013		210	3		172	35		420	430	5
2014		191	5	1	156	30		383	382	2
2015		190	14	1	138	48		390	410	3
2016		151	8	1	134	47		341	338	5
2017		185	7	4	117	44		357	361	2
2018		226	10	1	105	64		406	412	3
2019		196*	5*	1*	81*	30*		313*	306	1
2020		163*	5*	18*	47*	17*		251*	250	1

* Preliminary

Table 7 Pollack in Subarea 4. History of commercial landings; both the official, by country, and total ICES estimated values of landings and discards are presented. All weights in tonnes.

Year	Belgium	Denmark	Faroes	France	Germany	Netherlands	Norway	Poland	Sweden	UK	Official total	ICES est. landings	ICES est. discards
1977	121	275		75	142	38	419	9	0	442	1521		
1978	102	249		98	154	21	492	2	0	471	1589		
1979	62	333		72	64	8	563	11	31	429	1573		
1980	82	407		66	58	2	1095		38	355	2103		
1981	59	500		173	21	2	1261		12	362	2390		
1982	46	431		59	40	1	1169	33	23	270	2072		
1983	58	481		79	44	1	1081		57	300	2101		
1984	52	402		108	37	0	880	2	106	315	1902		
1985	14	308		69	23	0	686		51	363	1514		
1986	44	550		45	21	0	602		67	362	1691		
1987	21	427		988	21	0	471		40	290	2258		
1988	32	432		367	30	10	560		20	296	1747		
1989	31	273		0	21	4	568		37	269	1203		
1990	44	924		0	34	3	651		126	366	2148		
1991	31	1464		0	48	4	887		153	684	3271		
1992	49	794		18	59	7	1051		141	1310	3429		
1993	46	1161		8	161	19	1429		217	1561	4602		
1994	42	635		12	55	14	845		113	872	2588		
1995	56	532	1	7	84	18	1203		175	1525	3601		
1996	13	366		4	99	13	909		82	945	2431		
1997	20	272	1	1	115	11	733		82	1185	2420		
1998	21	265		7	44	5	567		75	780	1764		
1999	21	288		0	62	5	768		72	636	1852		
2000	45	291		24	38	5	880		91	877	2251		
2001	36	156		6	40	1	860		63	809	1971		
2002	27	234		6	112	0	879		68	711	2037		
2003	13	191		9	82	1	971		36	837	2140		
2004	28	162		5	57	0	517		16	612	1397		
2005	26	173		3	128	3	511		46	477	1367		
2006	18	152		4	80	1	545		12	587	1399		
2007	18	192		130	137	2	754		43	905	2181		
2008	15	150		129	114	1	840		46	999	2294		
2009	13	121	2	6	50	1	668		32	658	1551		
2010	12	163		10	129	0	599		32	540	1485		
2011	12	106	0	10	67	0	580	0	35	489	1299		

Year	Belgium	Denmark	Faroës	France	Germany	Netherlands	Norway	Poland	Sweden	UK	Official total	ICES est. landings	ICES est. discards
2012	17	123	0	3	102	1	433		42	443	1164		
2013	17	128	0	2	66	4	371	0	29	463	1080	1061	42
2014	24	121		32	145	1	476		40	377	1215	1215	12
2015	20	183		3	237	3	473		50	627	1594	1564	3
2016	21	127		2	107	2	447		37	430	1174	1158	1
2017	18	187		8	269	3	510		44	511	1551	1543	0
2018	14	139		23	154	2	739		30	486	1588	1586	22
2019	20*	184*		24*	159*	6*	894*		38*	557*	1881*	1897	2
2020	22*	241*		20*	262*	9*	1128*		71*	619*	2373*	2373	1

* Preliminary

Summary of the assessment

There is no assessment for pollack in this area.

Source and references

ICES. 2021a. Advice on fishing opportunities. *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2021. ICES Advice 2021, section 1.1.1. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7720>.

ICES. 2021b. Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak (WGNSSK). ICES Scientific Reports. 3:66. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.8211>. *In prep.*

[Download the stock assessment data and figures.](#)

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