

Pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*) in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a (Bay of Biscay and Atlantic Iberian waters)

ICES stock advice

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, commercial catches in each of the years 2022 and 2023 should be no more than 905 tonnes. All commercial catches are assumed to be landed. ICES cannot quantify the corresponding total catches because the recreational catches cannot be quantified.

Stock development over time

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

Landings

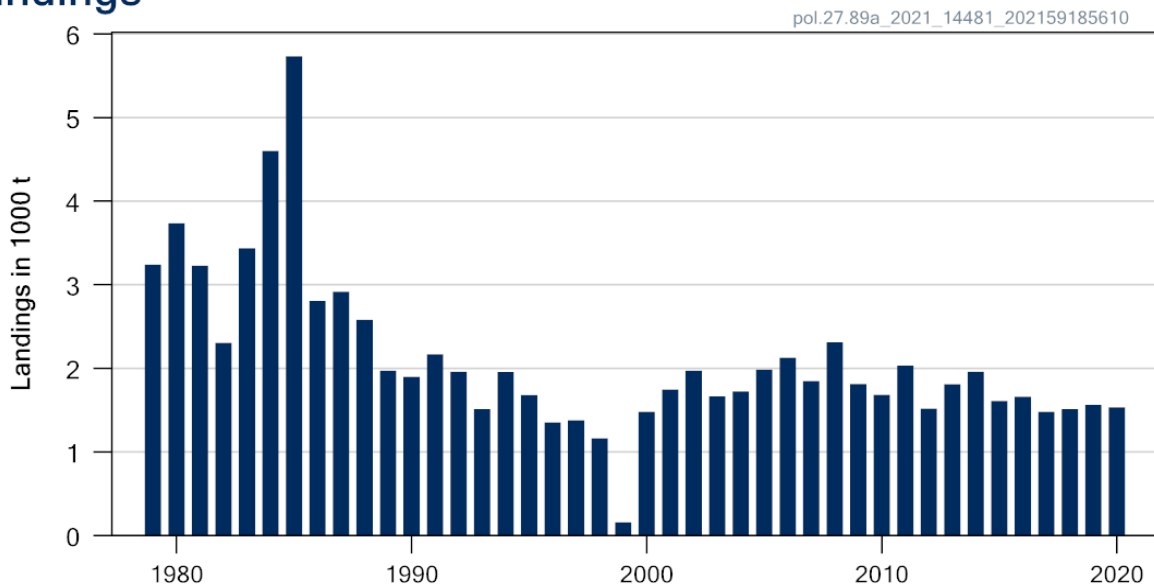


Figure 1 Pollack in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. ICES estimated commercial landings in thousand tonnes. Discards are negligible and recreational catches are unknown. Landings for Subarea 8 for 1999 are incomplete.

Catch scenarios

The ICES framework for category 5 stocks (ICES, 2012) was applied. For stocks without information on abundance or exploitation, ICES considers that a precautionary reduction of catches should be implemented unless there is no ancillary information clearly indicating that the current level of exploitation is appropriate for the stock. The precautionary buffer was applied in 2017, and it has therefore been considered again this year. The stock status relative to candidate reference points is unknown, so the precautionary buffer was applied in this advice.

Discarding is considered negligible. The recreational catches are unquantified but considered non-negligible.

Table 1 Pollack in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. The basis for the catch scenarios*.

Recent advised commercial catch	1131 tonnes	
Discard rate	Negligible	
Precautionary buffer	Applied	0.8
% Advice change **	-20 %	
Commercial catch advice (for 2022 and 2023) ***	905 tonnes	

* The figures in the table are rounded. Calculations were done with unrounded inputs and computed values may not match exactly when calculated using the rounded figures in the table.

** [advice for 2021 × precautionary buffer].

*** Advice for each of the years 2022 and 2023 relative to the advice value for each of the years 2021 and 2020.

Basis of the advice

Table 2 Pollack in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	Precautionary approach
Management plan	ICES is not aware of any agreed precautionary management plan for pollack in this area.

Quality of the assessment

The COVID-19 pandemic has not affected the quality of data on which the advice is based.

Recreational catches of pollack are unquantified but considered to be non-negligible.

Issues relevant for the advice

Pollack has a preference for wrecks and rocky bottoms, making it difficult to catch with trawls and therefore poorly suited for monitoring by bottom trawl research surveys.

Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

Basis of the assessment

Table 3 Pollack in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. Basis of the assessment and advice.

ICES stock data category	5 (ICES, 2021a).
Assessment type	No assessment (ICES, 2021b).
Input data	Commercial landings.
Discards and bycatch	Negligible.
Indicators	None.
Other information	None.
Working group	Working Group for the Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Waters Ecoregion (WGBIE).

History of the advice, catch, and management

Table 4 Pollack in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. ICES advice and official landings. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Landings corresponding to advice	TAC in divisions 8.a,b,d, and e	TAC in div. 8.c	TAC in divisions 9 and 10	Summed TAC	ICES estimated commercial landings *
2000		-	2600	800	450	3850	1479
2001		-	2600	800	450	3850	1746
2002		-	2100	640	450	3190	1972
2003		-	1680	512	360	2552	1663
2004		-	1680	410	360	2450	1726
2005		-	1680	328	288	2296	1986
2006		-	1680	262	288	2230	2126
2007		-	1680	262	288	2230	1847
2008		-	1680	262	288	2230	2313
2009		-	1680	262	288	2230	1812
2010		-	1512	236	288	2036	1682
2011		-	1482	231	282	1995	2032
2012	No increase in catch	-	1482	231	282	1995	1520
2013	20% reduction in catches	-	1482	231	282	1995	1811
2014	Same catch value advised for 2013	-	1482	231	282	1995	1959

Year	ICES advice	Landings corresponding to advice	TAC in divisions 8.a,b,d, and e	TAC in div. 8.c	TAC in divisions 9 and 10	Summed TAC	ICES estimated commercial landings *
2015	Reduce catch by 20%	≤ 1316	1482	231	282	1995	1610
2016	Precautionary approach (same catch value as advised in 2015)	≤ 1414	1482	231	282	1995	1661
2017	Precautionary approach (same catch value as advised in 2015)	≤ 1414	1482	231	282	1995	1481
2018	Precautionary approach	≤ 1131	1482	231	282	1995	1513
2019	Precautionary approach	≤ 1131	1482	231	282	1995	1562
2020	Precautionary approach (same landings value as advised in 2017)	≤ 1131	1482	208	254	1944	1535 **
2021	Precautionary approach (same landings value as advised in 2017)	≤ 1131	1482	166	203	1851	
2022	Precautionary approach#	≤ 905					
2023	Precautionary approach#	≤ 905					

* Updated by WGBIE (ICES, 2021).

** Preliminary.

Advice is for commercial catch.

History of the catch and landings

Table 5 Pollack in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. Catch distribution by fleet in 2020 as estimated by ICES.

Total catch (2020)	Commercial landings			Commercial discards	Recreational catches
Unknown	52 % nets	37% lines	10.1 % others	Negligible	Unquantified, but not negligible
	1535 tonnes				

Table 6 Pollack in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. History of commercial landings; both the official and ICES estimated values are presented by area for each country participating in the fishery. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	Bay of Biscay (Subarea 8)				Iberian waters (Division 9.a)		Total official landings **	Unallocated	Total ICES estimates **
	Belgium	Spain	France	UK	Spain	Portugal			
1979	0	1021	2221	0	0	0	3242	0	3242
1980	1	1576	2158	0	0	0	3735	0	3735
1981	1	902	2326	0	0	0	3229	0	3229
1982	2	85	2185	2	32	0	2306	0	2306
1983	0	581	2652	0	203	0	3436	0	3436
1984	0	1606	2351	1	642	0	4600	0	4600
1985	0	2304	2769	23	636	0	5732	0	5732
1986	0	437	2127	5	237	0	2806	0	2806
1987	0	584	2022	1	308	3	2918	0	2918
1988	3	476	1761	6	329	7	2582	0	2582
1989	13	214	1682	4	57	3	1973	0	1973
1990	14	194	1662	2	27	1	1900	0	1900
1991	1	221	1867	1	76	2	2168	0	2168
1992	2	154	1735	0	65	2	1958	0	1958
1993	3	135	1327	0	47	1	1513	0	1513
1994	3	157	1764	0	28	3	1955	0	1955
1995	6	153	1457	2	59	2	1679	0	1679
1996	8	137	1164	0	43	2	1354	0	1354
1997	2	152	1167	1	54	2	1378	0	1378
1998	1	152	956	0	55	1	1165	0	1165
1999*	0	120	na*	0	36	1	157*	0	157
2000	0	121	1294	0	49	15	1479	0	1479

Year	Bay of Biscay (Subarea 8)				Iberian waters (Division 9.a)		Total official landings **	Unallocated	Total ICES estimates **
	Belgium	Spain	France	UK	Spain	Portugal			
2001	0	346	1278	0	81	41	1746	0	1746
2002	0	170	1722	0	35	45	1972	0	1972
2003	0	142	1450	1	39	31	1663	0	1663
2004	0	211	1343	0	90	12	1656	70	1726
2005	0	306	1552	0	132	0	1990	-4	1986
2006	0	251	1596	171	102	0	2120	6	2126
2007	0	198	1375	62	103	5	1743	104	1847
2008	0	265	1732	64	128	31	2220	93	2313
2009	0	218	1371	41	68	3	1701	111	1812
2010	0	265	1170	44	91	2	1572	110	1682
2011	0	322	1475	27	104	2	1930	102	2032
2012	0	159	1131	2	139	2	1433	87	1520
2013	0	251	1346	8	110	3	1718	93	1811
2014	0	185	1612	19	93	1	1910	49	1959
2015	0	195	1244	37	78	18	1573	37	1610
2016	0	186	1292	25	111	28	1642	19	1661
2017	0	128	1219	0	95	38	1480	1	1481
2018	0	135	1220	0	124	33	1513	0	1513
2019	0	174	1189	0	143	57	1562	0	1562
2020 ***	0	171	1174	0	136	54	1535	0	1535

* Data for Subarea 8 are not fully available for 1999.

** Updated by WGBIE (ICES, 2021b).

*** Preliminary.

Summary of the assessment

There is no assessment for pollack in this area.

Sources and references

ICES. 2012. ICES Implementation of Advice for Data-limited Stocks in 2012 in its 2012 Advice. ICES CM 2012/ACOM:68. 42 pp. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5322>

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 for the Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Waters Ecoregion (WGBIE). ICES Scientific Reports. 3:48. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.8212>.

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

Recommended citation: ICES. 2021. Pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*) in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a (Bay of Biscay and Atlantic Iberian waters). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2021. ICES Advice 2021, pol.27.89a, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7832>.