

Sandeel (*Ammodytes* spp.) in Division 6.a (West of Scotland)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach (PA) is applied, there should be zero catches in each of the years 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Stock development over time

ICES cannot assess the stock and exploitation status relative to MSY and PA reference points, because the reference points are undefined.

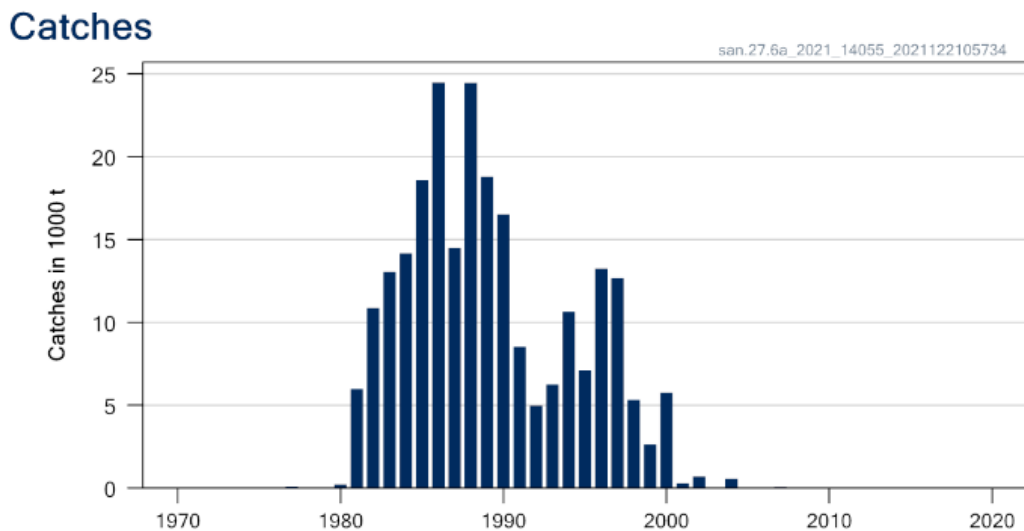


Figure 1 Sandeel in Division 6.a. Official landings (in thousands of tonnes).

Catch scenarios

The ICES framework for category 6 stocks was applied (ICES, 2012). For stocks without information on abundance or exploitation, ICES considers that a precautionary reduction of catches should be implemented where there is no ancillary information clearly indicating that the current level of exploitation is appropriate for the stock.

Table 1 Sandeel in Division 6.a. The basis for the catch scenarios.

Recent advised landings	0 tonnes	
Discard rate	Unknown	
Precautionary buffer	Not applied	-
Catch advice	0 tonnes	

Basis of the advice

Table 2 Sandeel in Division 6.a. The basis of the advice.

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

Quality of the assessment

The available information on sandeel in Division 6.a is inadequate to evaluate stock status.

Issues relevant for the advice

The advice is expected to remain unchanged for several years unless information on stock status becomes available.

Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

Basis of the assessment

Table 3 Sandeel in Division 6.a. The basis of the assessment.

ICES stock data category	6 (see ICES, 2021a)
Assessment type	No assessment (ICES, 2021b)
Input data	Official landings statistics
Discards and bycatch	Unknown
Indicators	None
Other information	None
Working group	Herring Assessment Working Group (HAWG)

History of the advice, catch, and management

Table 4 Sandeel in Division 6.a. History of ICES advice, the agreed TAC, and official landings. Weights are in tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Catch corresponding to advice	TAC	Official landings
2010	No advice	-	No TAC	0
2011	No advice	-	No TAC	0
2012	No increase of catches	0	No TAC	0
2013	No increase of catches	0	No TAC	0
2014	Same advice as for 2013	0	No TAC	0
2015	Same advice as for 2013	0	No TAC	0
2016	Same advice as for 2013	0	No TAC	0
2017	No catch advice	-	No TAC	0
2018	No catch advice	-	No TAC	0
2019	No catch advice requested	-	No TAC	0
2020	No catch advice requested	-	No TAC	2.7*
2021	Precautionary approach	0		
2022	Precautionary approach	0		
2023	Precautionary approach	0		

* Preliminary.

History of the catch and landings

Table 5 Sandeel in Division 6.a. Catch in 2020 as estimated by ICES. Weights are in thousands of tonnes.

Total catch (2020)	Landings	Discards
Unknown	2.7	Unknown

Table 6 Sandeel in Division 6.a. History of the total catch (in tonnes) as estimated by ICES.

Year	Denmark	Faroe Islands	Norway	UK – Scotland	Total
1970	-	.	-	-	0
1971	-	.	-	-	0
1972	-	.	-	-	0
1973	-	.	-	-	0
1974	-	.	-	< 0.5	0
1975	-	.	-	< 0.5	0
1976	-	.	17	< 0.5	17
1977	-	.	54	13	67
1978	-	.	-	5	0
1979	-	.	-	-	0
1980	-	.	-	211	211
1981	-	.	-	5972	5972
1982	-	.	-	10873	10873
1983	-	.	-	13051	13051
1984	-	.	-	14166	14166
1985	-	.	-	18586	18586
1986	-	.	-	24469	24469
1987	-	.	-	14479	14479
1988	-	.	-	24465	24465
1989	-	.	-	18785	18785
1990	-	.	-	16515	16515
1991	-	.	-	8532	8532
1992	-	.	-	4985	4985
1993	80	.	-	6156	6236
1994	-	.	-	10627	10627
1995	-	.	-	7111	7111
1996	-	.	-	13257	13257
1997	-	.	-	12679	12679
1998	-	.	-	5320	5320
1999	-	.	-	2627	2627
2000	-	.	-	5771	5771
2001	-	.	-	295	295
2002	-	.	-	706	706
2003	-	.	-	-	0
2004	-	.	-	566	566
2005	-	.	-	-	0
2006	-	-	-	.	0
2007	.	57	-	.	57
2008	.	-	.	.	0
2009	.	.	.	.	0
2010	.	.	.	.	0
2011	-	-	-	-	0
2012	-	-	-	-	0
2013	-	-	-	-	0
2014	-	-	-	-	0
2015	-	-	-	-	0
2016	-	-	-	-	0
2017	-	-	-	-	0
2018	-	-	-	-	0
2019	-	-	-	-	0
2020*	2.7	-	-	-	2.7

* Preliminary.

Summary of the assessment

There is no assessment for this stock.

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. Sandeel in Division 3.a and Subarea 4. *In* Herring Assessment Working Group for the Area South of 62°N (HAWG), Section 9. *In prep.* Section 9 is available separately at the [HAWG website](#).

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