

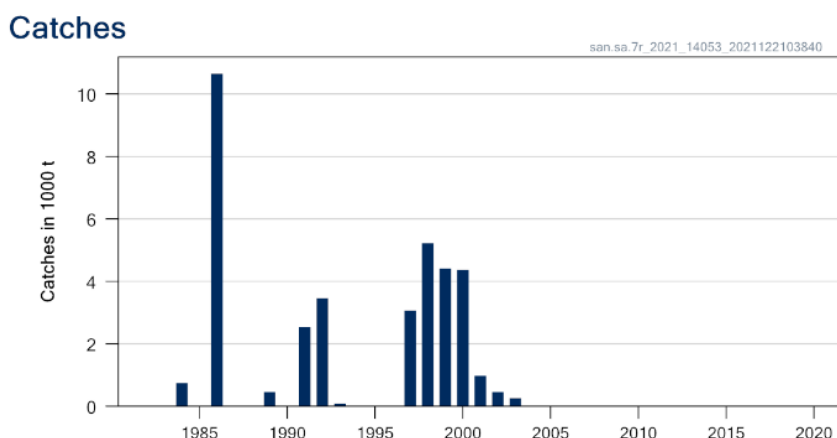
## Sandeel (*Ammodytes* spp.) in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r (northern North Sea, Shetland)

### 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 and 2022.

### Stock development over time

ICES cannot assess the stock and exploitation status relative to maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and PA reference points, because the reference points are undefined.



**Figure 1** Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r. ICES estimates of catches (in thousands of tonnes).

### Catch scenarios

For this stock, current catches are zero. Based on the above, ICES advises that when the PA is applied no increase in the fisheries should take place unless there is evidence that this will be sustainable. This corresponds to zero catch in each of the years 2021 and 2022.

**Table 1** Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r; the catch scenarios. For stocks in ICES categories 3–6, only one catch scenario is possible.

|                                  |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Recent advised catch (2019–2020) | 0 tonnes       |
| Discard rate                     | Negligible     |
| Precautionary buffer             | Not applicable |
| Catch advice                     | 0 tonnes       |
| % Advice change*                 | 0              |

\* Advice value 2021–2022 relative to advice value 2019–2020.

ICES advice for this stock has been for zero catch since 2013, and advice remains at zero catch for 2021 and 2022.

### Basis of the advice

**Table 2** Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r. The basis of the advice.

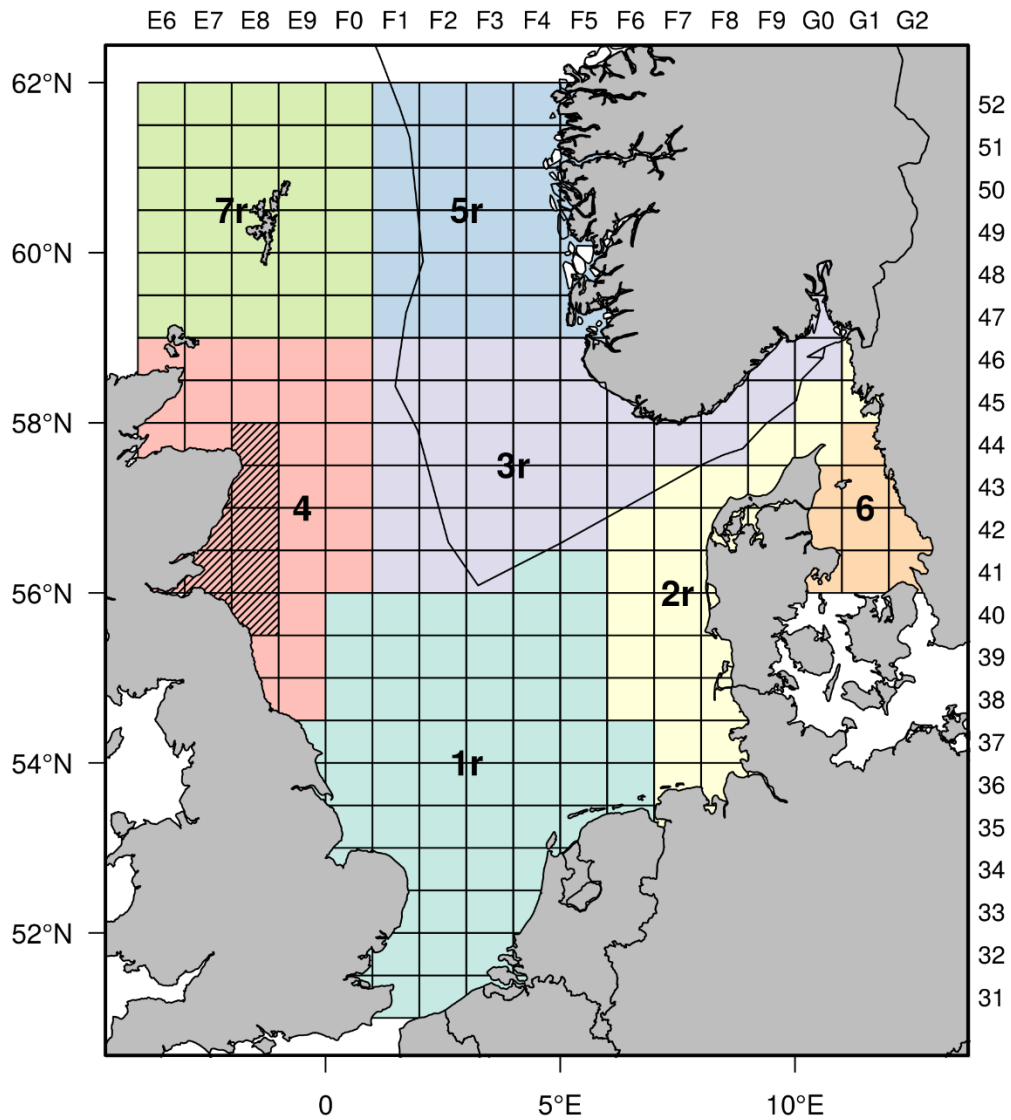
|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Advice basis    | Precautionary approach  |
| Management plan | ICES is not aware of any agreed precautionary management plan for sandeel in this area. |

### Quality of the assessment

The available information is inadequate to evaluate stock status or trends.

**Issues relevant for the advice**

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



**Figure 2** Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r. Stock areas for the seven sandeel stocks. The border of the Norwegian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is shown as a black line, and the closed area in Sandeel Area 4 is shown with hatched markings.

**Reference points**

No reference points are defined for this stock.

## Basis of the assessment

**Table 3** Sandeel in Division 4.a Sandeel Area 7r. The basis of the assessment.

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| ICES stock data category | 5 (see <a href="#">ICES, 2021a</a> )                      |
| Assessment type          | No assessment (ICES, 2021b)                               |
| Input data               | Commercial catch statistics                               |
| Discards and bycatch     | Discarding is considered to be negligible.                |
| Indicators               | None  |
| Other information        | Last benchmarked in 2016 ( <a href="#">ICES, 2017</a> )   |
| Working group            | Herring Assessment Working Group ( <a href="#">HAWG</a> ) |

## History of advice, catch, and management

**Table 4** Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r. History of ICES advice, the agreed TAC, and ICES estimates of catch. Weights are in tonnes.

| Year | ICES advice  | Catch corresponding to advice | EU TAC | ICES catch SA 7 | ICES catch SA 7r ^ |
|------|--|-------------------------------|--------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 2005 | No advice  |                               |        | 0               |                    |
| 2006 | No advice  |                               |        | 0               |                    |
| 2007 | No advice  |                               |        | 0               |                    |
| 2008 | No advice  |                               |        | 0               |                    |
| 2009 | No advice  |                               |        | 0               |                    |
| 2010 | No advice  |                               |        | 0               |                    |
| 2011 | No increase in effort unless there is evidence that this is sustainable. |                               | 0      | 0               |                    |
| 2012 | No increase in effort unless there is evidence that this is sustainable. |                               | 0      | 0               |                    |
| 2013 | No increase in effort unless there is evidence that this is sustainable. | 0                             | 0      | 0               |                    |
| 2014 | No new advice, same as for 2013  | 0                             | 0      | 0               |                    |
| 2015 | Precautionary approach   | 0                             | 0      | 0               |                    |
| 2016 | Precautionary approach   | 0                             | 0      | 0               |                    |
| 2017 | Precautionary approach   | 0                             | 0      |                 | 0                  |
| 2018 | Precautionary approach   | 0                             | 0      |                 | 0                  |
| 2019 | Precautionary approach   | 0                             | 0      |                 | 0                  |
| 2020 | Precautionary approach   | 0                             | 0      |                 | 0                  |
| 2021 | Precautionary approach   | 0                             |        |                 |                    |
| 2022 | Precautionary approach   | 0                             |        |                 |                    |

^ ICES statistical rectangles included in this sandeel area have changed since the 2017 advice.

## History of catch and landings

**Table 5** Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r. Catch distribution by fleet in 2020 as estimated by ICES (in tonnes).

| Total catch (2020) | Landings | Discards |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| 0                  | 0        | 0        |

**Table 6** Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r. History of catch (in tonnes) as estimated by ICES.

| Year | Catch |
|------|-------|
| 1983 | 32543 |
| 1984 | 17223 |
| 1985 | 11966 |
| 1986 | 7226  |
| 1987 | 4710  |
| 1988 | 3503  |
| 1989 | 2344  |
| 1990 | 0     |

| Year | Catch |
|------|-------|
| 1991 | 0     |
| 1992 | 0     |
| 1993 | 0     |
| 1994 | 1164  |
| 1995 | 1042  |
| 1996 | 2010  |
| 1997 | 5211  |
| 1998 | 4157  |
| 1999 | 4334  |
| 2000 | 970   |
| 2001 | 543   |
| 2002 | 186   |
| 2003 | 0     |
| 2004 | 0     |
| 2005 | 0     |
| 2006 | 0     |
| 2007 | 0     |
| 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 | 0*    |

\* Preliminary

### Summary of the assessment

There is no assessment for sandeel 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. 2017. Report of the Benchmark Workshop on Sandeel Stocks (WKSAND), 31 October–4 November 2016, Bergen, Norway. ICES CM 2016/ACOM:33. 319 pp.

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](#).

*Recommended citation:* ICES. 2021. Sandeel (*Ammodytes* spp.) in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r (northern North Sea, Shetland). *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2021. ICES Advice 2021, san.sa.7r, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7678>.