

7 Horse Mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic

7.1 Fisheries in 2021

The total international catches of horse mackerel in the North East Atlantic are shown in Table 5.1.1. Since 2011, the southern horse mackerel stock is assessed by ICES WGHANSA. The total catch from all areas in 2021 for the Western and North Sea stocks was 92,639t which is 3,630t more than in 2020 and the 3rd lowest in the time series.

France, Germany and the Netherlands have a directed trawl fishery and Norway and France a directed purse-seine fishery for horse mackerel. Spain has directed as well as mixed trawl and purse-seine fisheries targeting horse mackerel. In earlier years, most of the catches were used for meal and oil while in later years most of the catches have been used for human consumption.

The quarterly catches of North Sea and Western horse mackerel by Division and Subdivision in 2021 are given in Table 5.1.2 and the distributions of the fisheries are given in Figures 5.1.1.a–d. Note that the figures also include catches of southern horse mackerel. The maps are based on data provided by Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the UK and represent 99% of the total catches. The distribution of the fishery is similar to recent years with the highest catches taken in the 1st and 4th quarter. The historic catch by rectangle and year is also shown in section 1.10 of this report.

The Dutch, Danish, Irish and German fleets operated mainly in the North and West of Ireland and the Western waters off Scotland. The French fleet were in the Bay of Biscay and West Scotland whereas the Norwegian fleet fished in the North-eastern part of the North Sea. The Spanish fleet operated mainly in waters of Cantabrian Sea and Bay of Biscay.

First quarter: The fishing season with most of the catches 43,160 t (46% of the total catch of the combined Western and North Sea horse mackerel catch). The fishery was mainly carried out west of Scotland and West and North of Ireland and along the Spanish coast (Figure 5.1.1.a).

Second quarter: 8,046 t. As usual, catches were significantly lower than in the first quarter as the second quarter is the main spawning period. Most of the catch were taken West of Ireland and along the Spanish coast. (Figure 5.1.1.b)

Third quarter: 13,517 t. Most of the catch were taken in Spanish waters, West of Ireland, in the Channel area and at the Norwegian coast (Figure 5.1.1.c).

Fourth quarter: Catches were 27,073 t (29% of the total catch). The catches were distributed in five main areas (Figure 5.1.1.d):

- Spanish waters,
- Western and Northern Irish waters and West of Scotland
- Norwegian coast
- Eastern part of the Channel
- Along the shelf edge of the Celtic Sea

7.2 Stock Units

For many years the Working Group has considered the horse mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic as consisting of three separate stocks: the North Sea, the Southern and the Western stocks (ICES 1990, ICES 1991). For further information, see the Western Horse Mackerel Stock Annex and the

WD document on horse mackerel stock structure (WD Brunel et al., 2016). The boundaries for the different stocks are given in Figure 5.2.1.

7.3 WG Catch Estimates

In 2017, a review of catch statistics for North Sea and Western horse mackerel stocks was carried out. The results of this report have been reported in previous Working Groups (Costas, 2017a).

As a result of this review, catches and catch-at-age of reported historical data of both North Sea and Western stocks of horse mackerel were updated (Figures 5.3.1 and 5.3.2). Catch statistics were reviewed since 1990 onward for the Western stock and since 2000 onward for the North Sea stock. The main mismatches between the catch statistics in working group reports and these reviewed data were due to several reasons such as late availability of some data for the report or the availability of official catch data only.

7.4 Allocation of Catches to Stocks

The distribution areas for the three stocks are given in the Stock Annex for the Western Horse Mackerel. The catches in 2021 were allocated to the three stocks as follows:

Western stock: 3rd and 4th quarters: Divisions 3.a and 4.a. Quarters 1-4: 2.a, 5.b, 6.a, 7.a–c, e–k and 8.a–e.

North Sea stock: 1st and 2nd quarters: Divisions 3.a and 4.a. Quarters 1-4: Divisions 4.b, 4.c and 7.d.

Southern stock: Division 9.a. All catches from these areas were allocated to the southern stock. This stock is now dealt with by another working group (ICES WGHANSA).

The catches by stock are given in Table 5.4.1 and Figure 5.4.1. The catches by ICES sub-area and division for the Western and North Sea stocks for period 1982-2021 are shown in Figures 5.4.2-3. The catches by stock and countries for the period 1997-2021 are given in Table 5.4.2-5.4.3.

Recent genetic investigations show that the current boundaries might need to be newly evaluated in future (see section 1.4.8.3).

7.5 Estimates of discards

Only the Netherlands have provided data on discards over an extended period with occasional estimates from Germany and Spain. Since 2017 however, additional countries have provided estimates of discards with 6 countries reporting in 2021. Following the introduction of the European landing obligation for the pelagic fisheries targeting horse mackerel in large areas of the overall fishing area and for Norwegian waters there is a general discard ban in place and discards in recent years have decreased substantially. The discard rate is estimated to be 1.8% in weight for the combined horse mackerel stocks. The discard rate for the North Sea stock is estimated to be 0.5% and for the Western stock 2.0% in 2021.

7.6 *Trachurus* Species Mixing

Three species of genus *Trachurus*: *T. trachurus*, *T. mediterraneus* and *T. picturatus* are found together and are commercially exploited in NE Atlantic waters. Following the Working Group recommendation (ICES 2002/ACFM: 06) special care was taken to ensure that catch and length

distributions and numbers-at-age of *T. trachurus* supplied to the Working Group did not include *T. mediterraneus* and/or *T. picturatus*.

The *T. mediterraneus* fishery mainly takes place in the eastern part of ICES division 8.c. There is no clear trend in *T. mediterraneus* catches in this area although the most recent catch is the second lowest in the time series (Table 5.6.1). Information on the *T. picturatus* fishery is available in the WGHANSA Report (Working Group on Horse Mackerel, Anchovy and Sardine).

Taking into account that the WGWIDE horse mackerel assessments are only made for *T. trachurus*, the Working Group recommends that the TACs and any other management regulations which might be established in the future should be related only to *T. trachurus* and not to *Trachurus spp.* More information is needed about the *Trachurus spp.* before the fishery and the stock can be evaluated.

7.7 Length Distribution by Fleet and by Country:

Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, France, UK (England and Scotland) and Spain provided length distributions for their catches in 2021. The length distributions cover approximately 79% of the total landings of the Western and North Sea horse mackerel catches and are shown in Figure 5.7.1.

7.8 Comparing trends between areas and stocks

Horse mackerel (*Trachurus trachurus*) in the northeast Atlantic is assumed to consist of three separate stocks:

- North Sea (4a part of the year, 4b, 4c and 7d)
- Western (4a part of the year, 5b, 6a, 7a-c,e-k, 8a-d)
- Southern (9a)

Catches between 2000 and 2021 are shown in figure 5.4.1 and indicate an overall decline in the catches of horse mackerel since 2009.

A detailed analysis on the development of the catch by age data was presented to the 2017 working group (Pastoors, 2017). In this analysis it was indicated that there is an increase in the catches of juveniles in the Western and North Sea stocks in recent years. This could be an indication of a stronger recruitment of horse mackerel which has been reported by surveys and fishermen. However, it is also an alarming signal if a larger proportion of the catch consists of juveniles. These catches could be seen mostly in division 7.d and to a lesser extent, 7.e.

7.9 Quality and Adequacy of fishery and sampling data

Table 5.9.1 shows a summary of the overall sampling intensity on horse mackerel catches in recent years based on the InterCatch input. Since 2011 the Southern horse mackerel is dealt with by ICES WGHANSA.

Countries that historically sample are Ireland, the Netherlands, Germany, Norway and Spain, covering 42–100% of their respective catches. In 2020, due to the Covid pandemic, sampling activities in some countries were hampered which lead to an overall lower sampling coverage for 2020. However, due to the fact that for the first time it was possible to upload age samples taken from English vessels in the Netherlands for North Sea horse mackerel the proportion of sampling increased in comparison to last year for this stock. Overall, sampling improved again in 2021.

Table 5.9.2 shows the sampling intensity for the Western stock in 2021 and table 5.9.3 shows the sampling intensity for the North Sea stock in 2021 by country.

In 2021, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, UK (England), UK Scotland, and Spain provided samples and length distributions and Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, UK (England), and Spain provided also age distributions. However, the lack of age and length distribution data for relatively large portions of the horse mackerel catches continues to have a serious effect on the accuracy and reliability of the assessment and the Working Group remain especially concerned about the low number of fish which are aged.

An analysis of the sampling intensity was carried out for the period 2000-2019 for both the North Sea and the Western stock. Sampling intensity in fisheries can be defined as the ratio of sampled catch to the total catch. The precision and accuracy of sampled catch are of considerable importance to obtain a reliable estimate of the commercial catch. Sampled catch is used to extrapolate to total catch in order to obtain a catch-at-age (or at-length) and weight-at-age which are often used as inputs for the stock assessment models. In addition, in the case of horse mackerel the impact of temporal (quarter) and spatial (area by ICES division) factors have to be taken in account in order to obtain a reliable estimate of the commercial catches.

Figure 5.9.1 shows the proportion of sampled catches by division for the North Sea stock. In general, all ICES divisions show low levels of sampling, especially in recent years. The sampling intensity in relation to the length composition of catch was >60%. In relation to age composition sampling level are dramatically lower in recent years (Figure 5.9.2) but due to the inclusion of samples of English vessels sampled in the Netherlands this situation improved substantially in the last two years. However, divisions that are usually not sampled can affect the precision and accuracy of total catch-at-age and weight-at-age. For the North Sea stock, samples were only available for area 4.c for all quarters and 7.d from the 3rd and 4th quarters. Therefore, these estimates can be biased, especially, since samples are usually less than the recommended 100 fish per sample. (Table 5.9.1)

The proportion of the sampled catches by region for the Western stock are shown in figure 5.9.3. The general index of sampling intensity increased in 2021 to 78% in comparison to 51% last year which was mainly due to the impact of the pandemic on sampling. Divisions (regions) that are not sampled can affect the precision and accuracy of total catch-at-age and weight at age (Figure 9.5.4).

Length distributions were supplied by a number of countries. However, as some countries only deliver catch-at-age distributions and others only length distributions of the catch, the obtained catch-at-age and length distributions do not reflect the total catch especially in case of North Sea horse mackerel. Furthermore, some of the length distributions are only taken from discards of non-horse mackerel targeting fleets and omit the horse mackerel target fleet. This lack of coverage may also affect the accuracy and reliability of the assessment and is a matter of concern for the Working Group.

7.10 References

- Brunel, T., 2016. Revision of the Maturity Ogive for the Western Spawning Component of NEA Mackerel. Working document to WKWIDE, 6pp.
- Costas, G. 2017a. Review of Horse Mackerel catch data. North Sea and Western Stocks. WD to WGWIDE 2017. 11 pp.
- Costas, G. 2017b. Sampling coverage for Horse Mackerel Stocks. Presentation to WGWIDE 2017.
- ICES, 1990. Report of the Working Group on the Assessment of the Stocks of Sardine, Horse Mackerel and Anchovy. ICES, C.M. 1990/Assess: 24.

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7.11 Tables

Table 5.1.1 HORSE MACKEREL general. Catches (t) by Sub-area. Data as submitted by Working Group members. Data of limited discard information are only available for some years.

Sub-area	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
2	2	-	+	-	412	23	79	214
4 + 3.a	1,412	2,151	7,245	2,788	4,420	25,987	24,238	20,746
6	7,791	8,724	11,134	6,283	24,881	31,716	33,025	20,455
7	43,525	45,697	34,749	33,478	40,526	42,952	39,034	77,628
8	47,155	37,495	40,073	22,683	28,223	25,629	27,740	43,405
9	37,619	36,903	35,873	39,726	48,733	23,178	20,237	31,159
Total	137,504	130,970	129,074	104,958	147,195	149,485	144,353	193,607

Sub-area	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
2	3,311	6,818	4,809	11,414	3200	13457	0	759
4 + 3.a	20,895	62,892	112,047	145,062	71,195	120,054	145,965	111,899
6	35,157	45,842	34,870	20,904	29,726	39,061	65,397	69,616
7	100,734	90,253	138,890	192,196	150,575	183,458	202,083	196,192
8	37,703	34,177	38,686	46,302	42,840	54,172	44,726	35,501
9	24,540	29,763	29,231	24,023	34,992	27,858	31,521	28,442
Disc					5,440	2,220	9,530	4,565
Total	222,340	269,745	358,533	439,901	337,968	440,280	499,222	446,974

Sub-area	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
2	13151	3366	2601	2544	2557	919	310	1324
4 + 3.a	100,916	25,998	79,761	34,917	58,745	31,435	18,513	52,337
6	83,568	81,311	40,145	35,073	40,381	20,735	24,839	14,843
7	328,995	263,465	326,469	300,723	186,622	140,190	138,428	98,677
8	28,707	48,360	40,806	38,571	48,350	54,197	75,067	55,897
9	25,147	20,400	29,491	41,574	27,733	26,160	24,912	23,665
Disc	2,076	17,082	168	996	0	385	254	307
Total	582,560	459,982	519,441	454,398	364,388	274,022	282,323	247,049

Sub-area	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
2	36	42	176	27	366.34	572	1847	1667
4 + 3.a	34,095	30,736	40,594	37,583	16,226	15,628	78,064	13,600
6	23,772	22,177	22,053	15,722	25,949	25,867	17,775	23,199
7	123,428	115,739	106,671	101,183	93,013	102,755	96,915	148,701
8	41,711	24,126	41,491	34,121	28,396	33,756	33,580	39,659
9	19,570	23,581	23,111	24,557	23,423	23,596	26,496	27,217
Disc	842	2,356	1,864	1,431	509	474	1,483	434
Total	243,455	218,758	235,961	214,624	187,882	202,649	256,161	254,478

Sub-area	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
2	647.588	66.02912	30	424.291	10	45.276	5	718
4 + 3.a	25,158	5,234	8,183	17,270	10,560	11,565	12,609	11,758
6	39,496	44,971	43,266	32,444	24,153	32,186	28,170	38,896
7	120,340	120,476	100,859	66,853	49,644	46,901	33,297	38,816
8	35,245	17,209	26,983	30,844	19,822	17,511	18,307	23,393
9 ¹	22,575	25,316	29,382	29,205	33,179	41,081	37,080	31,920
Disc	430	3,279	4,582	1,904	6,232	5,944	5,488	2,873
Total	243,892	216,552	213,285	178,945	143,600	155,232	134,956	148,374

Sub-area	2019	2020	2021
2	867	290	12
4 + 3.a	12,593	13,792	7,672
6	47,351	19,037	13,727
7	42,973	33,310	49,934
8	29,640	19,639	19,602
9 ¹	34,080	31,344	26,745
Disc	3,326	2,942	1,692
Total	170,829	120,347	119,384

¹ - Southern Horse Mackerel (ICES Division 9) is assessed by ICES WGHANSA since 2011

Table 5.1.2 HORSE MACKEREL Western and North Sea Stock combined.
Quarterly catches (t) by Division and Subdivision in 2021.

Division	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	TOTAL
2.a+5.b	5	1	0	6	12
3	1	0	7	6	14
4.a	2080	190	1897	1790	6180 x
4.bc	371	257	487	524	1639
7.d	888	203	140	5922	7172*
6.a,b	10691	2	8	2568	13819**
7.a–c,e–k	26735	590	5481	10592	43490***
8.a-e	2389	6805	5496	5624	20314
Sum	43160	8048	13516	27032	92460****

* for the total 221t were added which were only declared as yearly catch

** for the total 19t were added which were only declared as yearly catch

*** for the total 550t were added which were only declared as yearly catch

**** for the total 92t were added which were only declared as yearly catch

***** for the total 882t were added which were only declared as yearly catch

X includes 222t declared as yearly catch

Table 5.4.1 HORSE MACKEREL General. Landings and discards (t) by year and ICES Division, for the North Sea, Western, and Southern horse mackerel stocks. (Data submitted by Working Group members.)

Year	3.a	4.a	4.b,c	7.d	Disc	NS Stock	2.a 5.b	3.a	4.a	6.a,b	7.a-c, e-k	8.a-e	Disc	Western Stock	W + NS Stock	Southern Stock(9.a)*	All Stocks
1982	2,788*		-	1,247		4,035	-		-	6,283	32,231	3,073	-	61,197	65,232	39,726	104,958
1983	4,420*		-	3,600		8,020	412		-	24,881	36,926	28,223	-	90,442	98,462	48,733	147,195
1984	25,893*		-	3,585		29,478	23		94	31,716	38,782	25,629	500	96,744	126,222	23,178	149,400
1985	-		22,897	2,715		26,750	79		203	33,025	35,296	27,740	7,500	103,843	129,455	20,237	150,830
1986	-		19,496	4,756		24,648	214		776	20,343	72,761	43,405	8,500	145,999	170,251	31,159	201,806
1987	1,138		9,477	1,721		11,634	3,311		11,185	35,197	99,942	37,703	-	187,338	199,674	24,540	223,512
1988	396		18,290	3,120		23,671	6,818		42,174	45,842	81,978	34,177	3,740	214,729	236,535	29,763	268,163
1989	436		25,830	6,522		33,265	4,809		85304**	34,870	131,218	38,686	1,150	296,037	328,825	29,231	358,533
1990	2,261		17,437	1,325		18,762	11,414	14,878	112753**	20,794	182,580	46,302	9,930	398,645	419,668	24,023	441,430
1991	913	0	11,400	600	0	12,913	3,200	2,725	56,157	29,726	149,975	42,840	5,440	290,063	302,976	34,992	337,968
1992	0	0	13,955	688	400	15,043	13,457	2,374	103,725	39,061	182,770	54,172	1,820	397,379	412,422	27,858	440,280

Year	3.a	4.a	4.b,c	7.d	Disc	NS Stock	2.a 5.b	3.a	4.a	6.a,b	7.a-c, e-k	8.a-e	Disc	Western Stock	W + NS Stock	Southern Stock(9.a)*	All Stocks
1993	0	0	3,895	8,792	930	13,617	0	850	141,220	65,397	193,291	44,726	8,600	454,084	467,701	31,521	499,222
1994	0	0	2,496	2,503	630	5,629	759	2,492	106,911	69,616	193,689	35,501	3,935	412,903	418,532	28,442	446,974
1995	112	0	7,948	8,666	30	16,756	13,151	128	92,728	83,568	320,329	28,707	2,046	540,657	557,413	25,147	582,560
1996	1,657	0	7,558	9,416	212	18,843	3,366	0	16,783	81,311	254,049	48,360	16,870	420,739	439,582	20,400	459,982
1997	0	0	14,078	5,452	10	19,540	2,601	2,037	63,646	40,145	321,017	40,806	158	470,410	489,950	29,491	519,441
1998	3,693	0	10,530	16,194	83	30,500	2,544	3,693	17,001	35,073	284,529	38,571	913	382,324	412,824	41,574	454,398
1999	0	0	9,335	27,889	0	37,224	2,557	2,095	47,315	40,381	158,733	48,350	0	299,431	336,655	27,733	364,388
2000	0	176	25,931	19,019	4	45,130	919	1,014	4,314	20,735	121,171	54,197	382	202,732	247,862	26,160	274,022
2001	43	212	6,686	21,390	0	28,331	310	134	11,438	24,839	117,038	75,067	254	229,081	257,411	24,912	282,323
2002	0	639	15,303	11,323	0	27,264	1,324	174	36,221	14,843	87,354	55,897	307	196,120	223,384	23,665	247,049
2003	49	622	10,309	21,049	0	32,028	36	1,843	21,272	23,772	102,379	41,711	842	191,856	223,885	19,570	243,455
2004	303	133	18,544	16,455	0	35,435	42	48	11,708	22,177	99,284	24,126	2,356	159,742	195,177	23,581	218,758

Year	3.a	4.a	4.b,c	7.d	Disc	NS Stock	2.a 5.b	3.a	4.a	6.a,b	7.a-c, e-k	8.a-e	Disc	Western Stock	W + NS Stock	Southern Stock(9.a)*	All Stocks
2005	0	1,331	13,995	15,460	62	30,848	176	284	24,983	22,053	91,211	41,491	1,802	182,001	212,850	23,111	235,961
2006	185	2,192	7,996	23,789	78	34,240	27	58	27,152	15,722	77,394	34,121	1,353	155,827	190,067	24,557	214,624
2007	11	2,051	9,114	29,789	139	41,103	366	110	4,940	25,949	63,224	28,396	370	123,356	164,459	23,423	187,882
2008	27	910	2,582	32,185	0	35,704	572	3	12,107	25,867	70,570	33,756	474	143,349	179,053	23,596	202,649
2009	21	314	18,975	25,537	1,036	45,883	1,847	17	58,738	17,775	71,378	33,580	447	183,782	229,665	26,496	256,161
2010	0	100	1,969	22,077	2	24,149	1,667	88	11,442	23,199	126,624	39,659	432	203,112	227,261	27,217	254,478
2011	0	0	10,435	17,184	0	27,619	648	0	14,723	39,496	103,156	35,245	430	193,698	221,317	22,575	243,892
2012	0	355	1,559	19,464	0	21,378	66	9	3,311	44,971	101,012	17,209	3,279	169,858	191,236	25,316	216,552
2013	0	17	1,453	17,175	0	18,645	30	10	6,702	43,266	83,684	26,983	4,582	165,258	183,903	29,382	213,285
2014	1	2	2,597	10,772	7	13,380	424	4,096	10,573	32,444	56,081	30,844	1,896	136,360	149,740	29,205	178,945
2015	3	644	770	8,581	2,004	12,002	10	65	9,078	24,153	41,063	19,822	4,228	98,419	110,421	33,179	143,600
2016	2	1,628	975	11,209	1,527	15,341	45	0	8,960	32,186	35,692	17,511	4,417	98,811	114,151	41,081	155,232

Year	3.a	4.a	4.b,c	7.d	Disc	NS Stock	2.a 5.b	3.a	4.a	6.a,b	7.a-c, e-k	8.a-e	Disc	Western Stock	W + NS Stock	Southern Stock(9.a)*	All Stocks
2017	0	22	2,557	10,787	1,213	14,579	5	697	9,332	28,170	22,510	18,307	3,939	82,961	97,540	37,088	134,956
2018	0	1,418	1,413	11,677	265	14,773	718	380	8,547	38,896	27,140	23,393	2,609	101,683	116,456	31,920	148,376
2019	0.5	2,571	1,217	7,829	185	11,803	867	490	8,314	47,351	35,144	29,640	3,141	124,947	136,750	34,080	170,830
2020	0	2,211	1,099	9,077	201	12,587	290	96	10,387	19,037	24,232	19,359	2,741	76,422	89,009	31,344	120,347
2021	1	2,270	1,639	7,120	52	11,082	12	12	3,751	13,727	42,813	19,602	1,641	81,557	92,639	26,745	119,384

*Divisions 3.a and 4.b,c combined

**Norwegian catches in 4.b included in Western horse mackerel

* Southern Horse Mackerel is assessed by ICES WGHANSA since 2011

Table 5.4.2 National catches of the Western Horse mackerel stock.

Country	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Belgium	18	19	21	0	-	-	-	-	-
Denmark	62,897	31,023	26,040	16,385	21,254	10,147	11,340	11,667	10,155
Estonia	78	22	-	0	-	-	-	3,826	3,695
Faroe Islands	1,095	216	1,040	24	800	671	4	8,056	10,690
France	39,188	26,667	25,141	20,457	15,145	18,951	10,381	17,744	16,364
Germany, Fed.Rep.	28,533	33,716	23,549	13,014	11,491	12,658	15,696	26,432	34,607
Ireland	74,250	73,672	57,983	55,229	51,874	36,422	35,857	-	-
Lithuania	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,986	41,057
Netherlands	82,885	103,246	83,450	57,261	73,440	44,997	48,924	10,729	24,909
Norway	45,058	13,363	46,648	1,982	7,956	36,164	20,371	16,272	16,636
Russia	554	345	121	80	16	3	2	567	216
Spain	31,087	43,829	39,831	24,204	23,537	24,763	24,599	4,617	3,560
Sweden	1,761	3,411	1,957	1,009	68	561	1,002	458	210
UK (Engl. + Wales)	19,778	13,068	9,268	4,554	7,096	5,970	4,438	1,522	143
UK (N. Ireland)	-	1,158	-	625	1,140	1,129	914	14,506	17,962
UK (Scotland)	32,865	18,283	11,197	10,283	8,026	2,905	721	2,356	1,802
Unallocated	17,158	15,262	23,763	-2,757	6,978	472	16,765	159,737	182,006
Discard	158	913	-	382	254	307	842	-	-
Total	437,363	378,213	350,009	202,732	229,075	196,120	191,856	11,667	10,155

Country	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Belgium	-	-	-	-	19	2	0.2	14
Denmark	8,411	7,617	5,261	6,027	5,940	6,108	4,002	6,820
Faroe Islands	-	478	841	-	377	349	-	
France	11,031	12,748	12,626	-	260	8,271	1,797	3,595
Germany, Fed.Rep.	10,862	5,784	11,801	15,122	17,688	21,114	17,063	24,835
Ireland	26,779	29,759	35,332	40,754	44,488	38,466	45,239	35,791
Lithuania	6,828	5,467	5,548	-	-	-	-	
Netherlands	37,130	29,462	43,648	39,453	61,504	55,690	66,396	53,697
Norway	27,114	4,182	12,223	59,764	11,978	13,755	3,251	6,596
Spain	13,877	14,277	19,851	21,077	38,745	34,581	13560	22,541
Sweden	-	76	8	258	2	90	-	1
UK (Engl. + Wales)	3,574	5,482	3,365	6,482	12,714	11,716	12,122	3,959
UK (N. Ireland)	103	-	-	-	59	198	-	2,325
UK (Scotland)	468	776	1,077	1,412	2,349	2,928	1,335	504
Unallocated	8,292	6,878	-8,703	-7,014	6,556	-	1815	-
Discard	1353	370	474	447	432	430	3,280	4,582
Total	155,822	123,356	143,352	183,782	203,111	193,698	169,860	165,260

Country	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Belgium								
Denmark	5,945	4,556	321	4,541	6,302	7,764	5,487	6,042
Faroe Islands	68	-	-	180	-	26	-	
France	3,428	3,247	2,797	3,923	3,443	4,382	2,217	2,710
Germany, Fed.Rep.	17,161	9,417	11,414	7,172	4,734	9,211	954	5,530
Ireland	32,667	21,654	27,605	23,560	25,347	28,899	17,390	18,770
Lithuania	-	-	2,596	-	-	-	0	
Netherlands	25,053	24,958	23,792	14,269	25,942	29,656	14,240	20,786
Norway	14,353	8,897	9,438	9,885	9,319	9,021	10,666	3,663
Poland	-	-	--	-	-	127	1,002	1,605
Spain	19,442	13,071	14,235	14,901	20,362	25,776	18,582	16,191
Sweden	0	10	-	41	23	323	83	4
UK (Engl. + Wales)	4,832	2,063	842	549	2,443	4,036	1,496	2,651
UK (N. Ireland)	1,579	1,204	-		1,080	1,907	1,231	1,350
UK (Scotland)	1,389	738	970	-	-	678	333	615
Unallocated	8,545	4,377	1,010	3,994	74	-	-	-
Discard	1,896	4,228	4,417	3,928	2,609	3,141	2,741	1,641
Total	136,360	98,419	98,810	82,950	101,682	124,947	76,422	81,557

Table 5.4.3. National catches of the North Sea Horse mackerel stock.

Country	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Belgium	-	19	21			30	5	4	4	-
Denmark	180	1,481	3,377	4,403	885	2,315	3,301	8,690	3,987	8,353
Faroe Islands	-	-	135	-	-	28	804	21	-	-
France	3,246	2,399	-	-		1,246	2,326	231	5,236	1,205
Germany, Fed.Rep.	7,847	5,844	5,920	3,728	974	6,532	2,936	5,194	2,725	11,034
Ireland	-	2,861	27	201	338	61	-	1	753	10,863
Lithuania	-	10,711	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,779
Netherlands	36,855	-	8,117	8,697	13,867	12,209	24,119	26,303	27,730	6,829
Norway	-	-	238	105	36	525	144	22	204	37,130

Country	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Sweden	-	3,401	5	40	46	16	72	98	4	27,114
UK (Engl. + Wales)	269	907	11	1,585	3,425	2,322	1,966	5,633	3,859	-
UK (Scotland)	29	-	-	421	-	2	1	2	-	13,878
Unallocated	-28,896	2,794	19,373	25,944	8,805	1,981	-3,645	-13,064	-13,719	-
Discard	10	83	-	4	-	-	-	-	62	3,583
Total	19,540	30,500	37,224	45,128	28,376	27,267	32,029	33,135	30,845	155,094

Country	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Belgium				4	16		46	51,077	74
Denmark	1,283	252	57	72	15	142	1514	1,020	552
Faroe Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	0		
France	4,380	5,349	2,247	-	813	273	1,047	1,010	1,742
Germany, Fed.Rep.	1,125	65	1,081	1,539	3,794	3,461	5,356	2,941	1,619
Ireland	2,077		887	25	-	-	0		0
Lithuania	1,999	297	-	-	-	-	0		0
Netherlands	27,285	31,153	19,439	22,546	17,093	16,289	12,157	8,725	4,925
Norway	113	1,243	21	12,855	526	7,359	129	377	0
Sweden	9	21	36	401	-	-	0		1
UK (Engl. + Wales)	595	6921	1,061	1,435	1,890		935	4,401	4,198
UK (Scotland)	300	625	7	4	111	93	240	172	262
Unallocated	-5,004	-4,960	10,869	5,964	-116	0	0	0	
Discard	78	139	-	1,036	2	0	0	0	7
Total	34,240	41,105	35,705	45,881	24,144	27,617	21,424	18,696	13,380

Country	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Belgium	63	51	67	44	18	39	38
Denmark	800	268	294	397	100	177	72
Faroe Islands	0	0	4	0	10	109	
France	934	1,322	1,863	1,443	935	758	503

Germany, Fed.Rep.	644	1,879	949	2,766	946	3	87
Ireland	0	0	0	0	0	0	174
Lithuania	0	0	0	0	1,254	0	
Netherlands	3,305	3,892	5,638	5,184	2,089	4,803	3,377
Norway	662	1,701	5	1,423	2,543	2,090	2,091
Sweden	9	0	0	0	0	1	0
UK (Engl. + Wales)	3,581	4,697	4,546	3,250	3,632	4,381	4,669
UK (Northern Ireland)	0	0	0	0	53	0	
UK (Scotland)	0	0	0	0	38	24	19
Unallocated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Discard	2,004	1,527	1,213	265	185	201	52
Total	12,002	15,337	14,579	14,773	11,802	12,587	11,082

Table 5.6.1. Catches (t) of *Trachurus mediterraneus* in Divisions 8.ab, 8.c and Sub-Area 7

	7	8.ab	8.c East	8.c West	TOTAL
1989	0	23	3903		3926
1990	0	298	2943		3241
1991	0	2122	5020		7142
1992	0	1123	4804		5927
1993	0	649	5576		6225
1994	0	1573	3344		4917
1995	0	2271	4585		6856
1996	0	1175	3443		4618
1997	0	557	3264		3821
1998	0	740	3755		4495
1999	0	1100	1592		2692
2000	59	988	808		1854
2001	1	525	1293		1820
2002	1	525	1198		1724
2003	0	340	1699		2039
2004	0	53	841		894

	7	8.ab	8.c East	8.c West	TOTAL
2005	1	155	1005		1162
2006	1	168	794		963
2007	0	126	326		452
2008	0	82	405		487
2009	0	42	1082		1124
2010	0	97	370		467
2011	0	119	1096		1225
2012	0	186	667	116	969
2013	0	52	238	0	290
2014	0	130	1160	0	1290
2015	0	8	890	0	899
2016	0	5	471	0	476
2017	0	18	684	0	702
2018	0.4	38	640	0	678
2019	0.02	81	384	1	466
2020	0	0	558	2	560
2021	0.9	265	390	0	656

Table 5.9.1. Summary of the overall sampling intensity on horse mackerel catches in recent years in all areas 1992—2021

Year	Total Catch (ICES estimate)	% catch covered by sampling programme*	No. samples	No. Measured	No. Aged
1992	436 500	45	1 803	158447	5797
1993	504190	75	1178	158954	7476
1994	447153	61	1453	134269	6571
1995	580000	48	2041	177803	5885
1996	460200	63	2498	208416	4719
1997	518900	75	2572	247207	6391
1998	399700	62	2539	245220	6416
1999	363033	51	2158	208387	7954
2000	247862	50	378	33317	4126
2001	257411	61	467	46885	7141

Year	Total Catch (ICES estimate)	% catch covered by sampling programme*	No. samples	No. Measured	No. Aged
2002	223384	68	540	79103	6831
2003	223885	77	434	59241	8044
2004	195177	62	518	62720	9273
2005	212850	76	573	67898	8840
2006	190067	75	602	57701	9905
2007	164459	58	397	41046	8061
2008	179053	72	488	46768	8870
2009	229665	84	902	57505	10575
2010	227261	82	710	49307	14159
2011	221317	71	502	40492	7484
2012	191236	69	501	41148	8220
2013	183903	75	686	87300	9776
2014	149740	83	650	53945	8085
2015	110421	68	825	39415	7034
2016	114151	76	1033	93853	6675
2017	97539	63	1113	116722	8221
2018	116455	74	1584	117768	6965
2019	136750	64	1014	77211	7476
2020	89,009	52	516	41811	5662
2021	92,639	77	977	59222	8080

*Percentage related to catch (catch at age) according to ICES estimation

Table 5.9.2. Horse mackerel sampling intensity for the Western stock in 2021.

Country	Catch	% Catch Sampled*	No. Samples	No. Measured	No. Aged
Denmark	6042	0	0	0	0
Faroe Islands	-	0	0	0	0
France**	3288	-*	106	2034	0
Germany	5530	99	21	7952	21
Ireland	18770	96	49	9609	49
Netherlands	20785	89	59	7774	59

Country	Catch	% Catch Sampled*	No. Samples	No. Measured	No. Aged
Norway	3662	99	8	422	8
Poland	1605	0	0	0	0
Spain	16994	97	763	23750	195
Sweden	6	0	0	0	0
UK (England)	2658	100	67	3391	249
UK(Northern Ireland)	1350	0	0	0	0
UK(Scotland)	863	-*	35	1344	0
Total	81557	78	951	52702	7433

*Percentage based on ICES estimate with regards to age samples

**provided only length distributions

*** age samples processed by the Netherlands

Table 5.9.3. Horse mackerel sampling intensity for the North Sea stock in 2021.

Country	Catch	% Catch Sampled*	No. Samples	No. Measured	No. Aged
Belgium	37	0	0	0	0
Denmark	72	0	0	0	0
Faroe Islands	0	0	0	0	0
France**	549	-*	19	373	0
Germany	87	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	3377	88	9	1600	225
Norway	2091	0	0	0	0
Sweden	0	0	0	0	0
UK (England)****	4674	100	24	5137	422
UK(Northern Ireland)	0	0	0	0	0
UK(Scotland)***	19	0	0	0	0
Total	11082	68	26	6520	647

* Percentage based on ICES estimate with regards to age samples.

**provided only length distributions

***provided length distributions not incl. in InterCatch

****age samples processed by the Netherlands

7.12 Figures

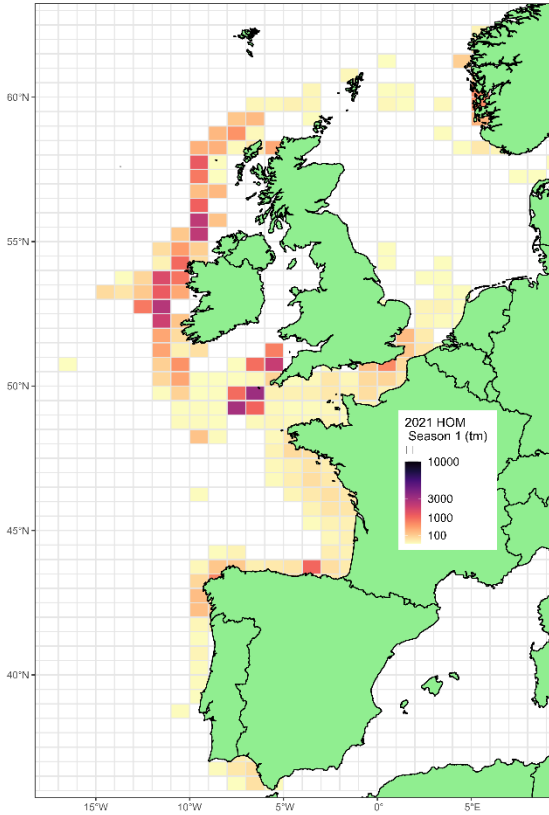


Figure 5.1.1a. Horse mackerel catches 1st quarter 2021

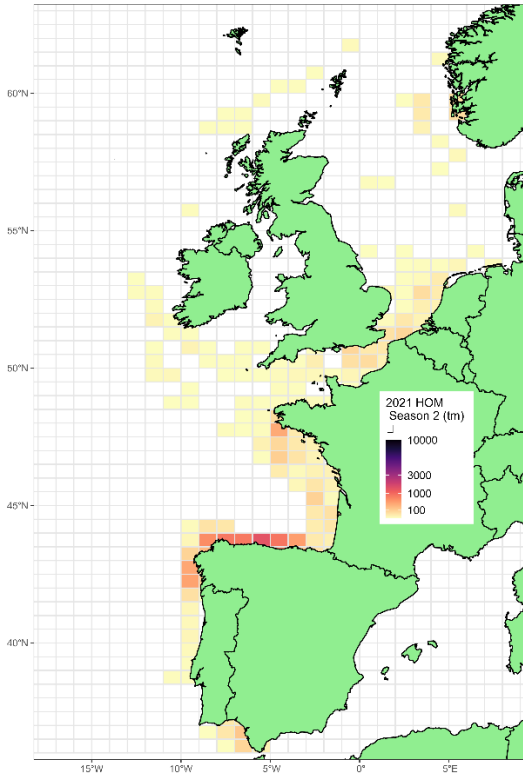


Figure 5.1.1b. Horse mackerel catches 2nd quarter 2021.

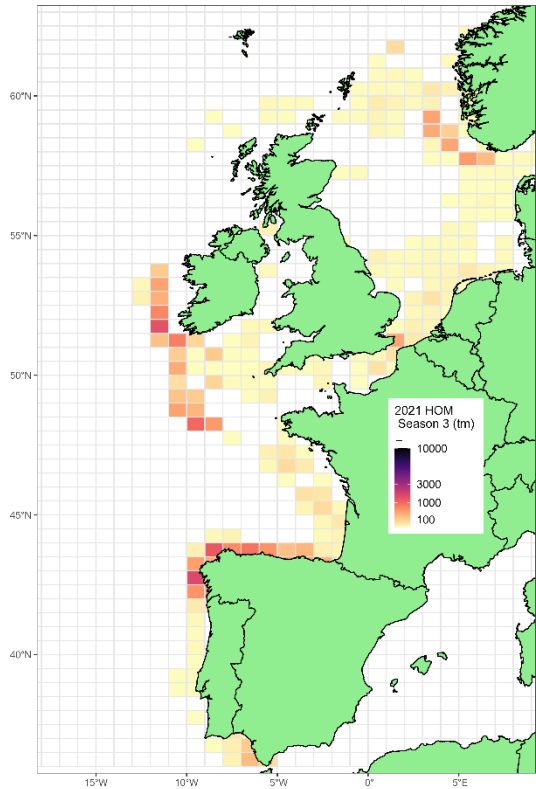


Figure 5.1.1c. Horse mackerel catches 3rd quarter 2021.

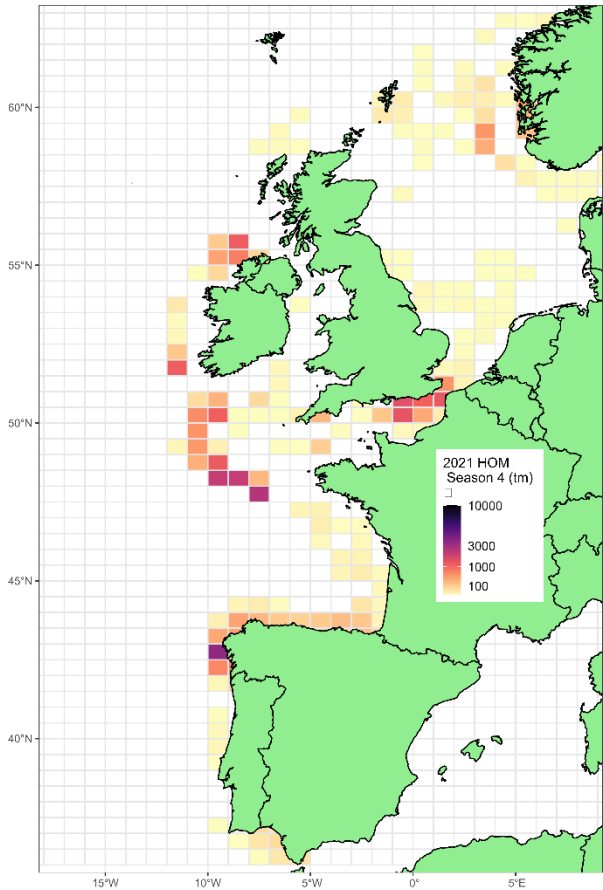


Figure 5.1.1d. Horse mackerel catches 4th quarter 2021.

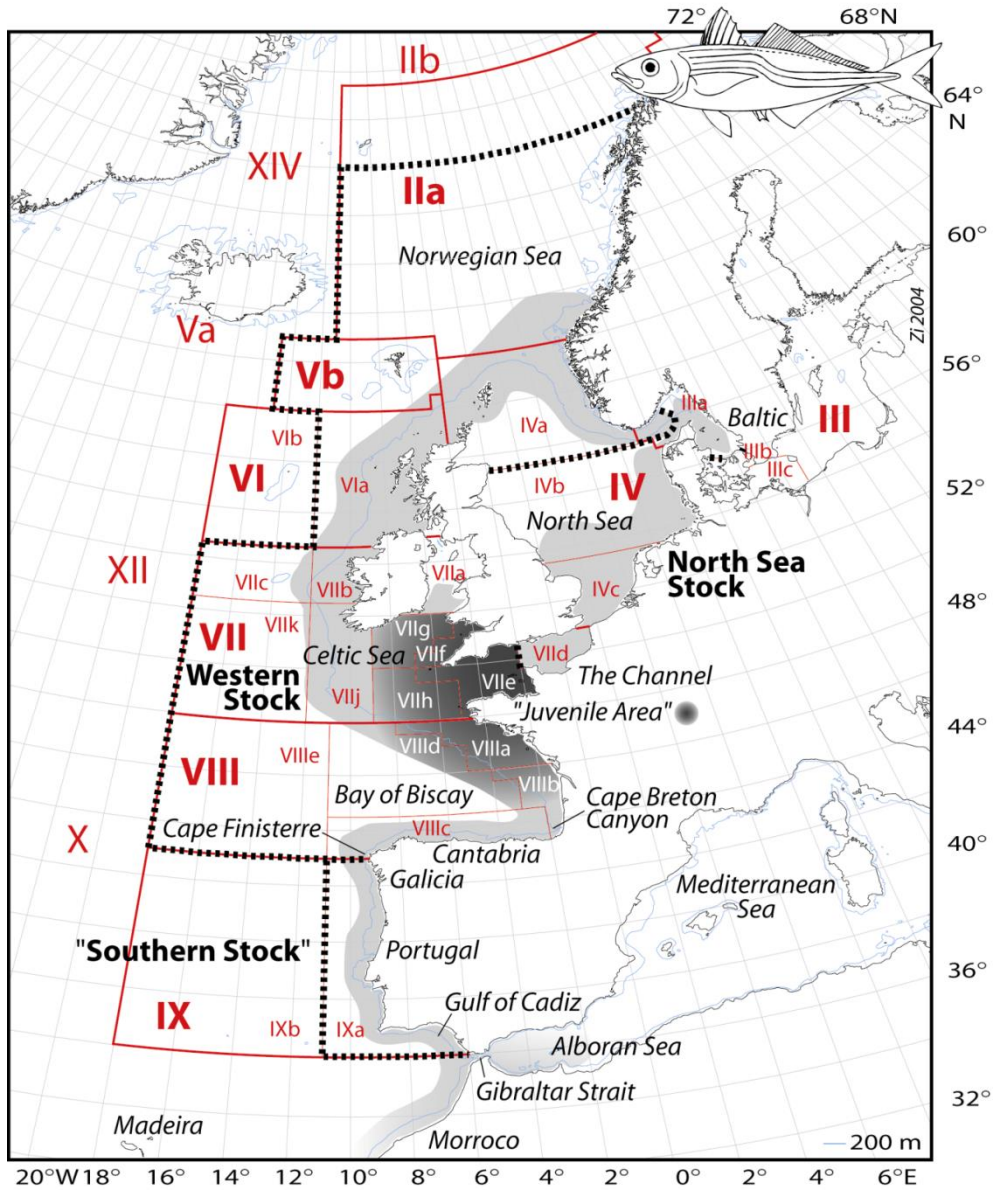


Figure 5.2.1: Distribution of Horse Mackerel in the Northeast-Atlantic: Stock definitions as used by the 2004 WGMHSA. Note that the “Juvenile Area” is currently only defined for the Western Stock distribution area – juveniles do also occur in other areas (like in Div. 7.d). Map source: GEBCO, polar projection, 200 m depth contour drawn.

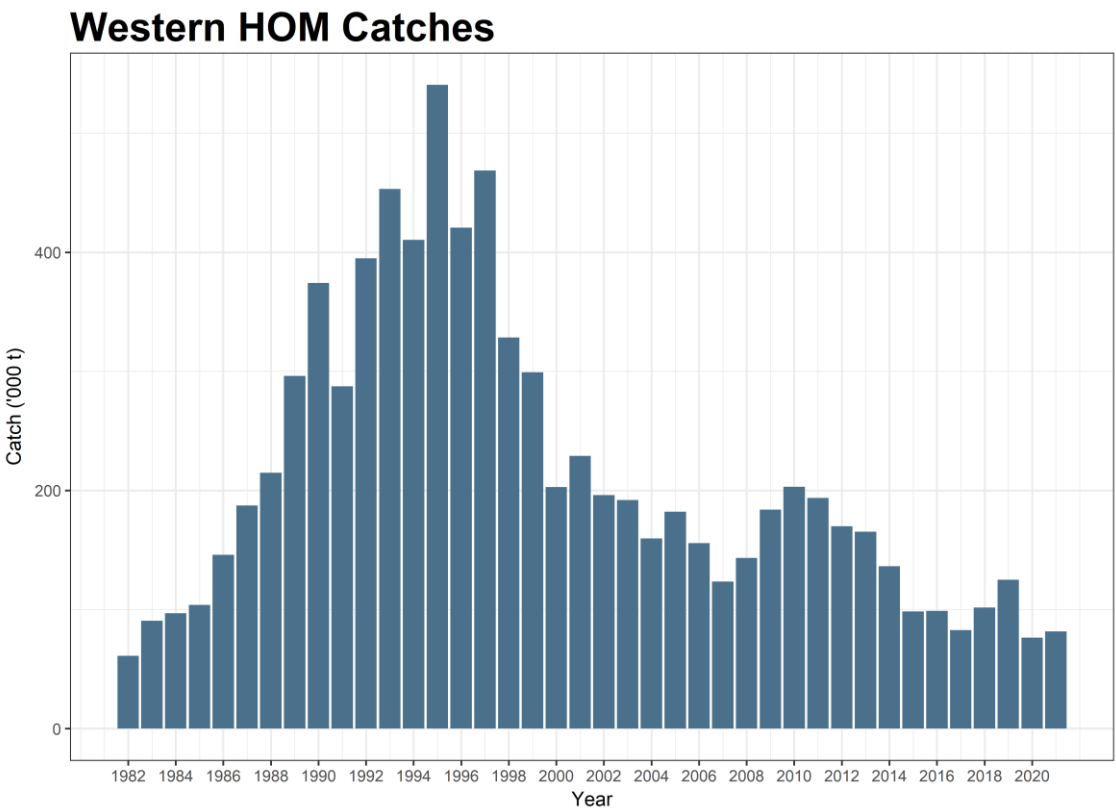


Figure 5.3.1. Total catch for Western Horse Mackerel stock, 1982–2021.

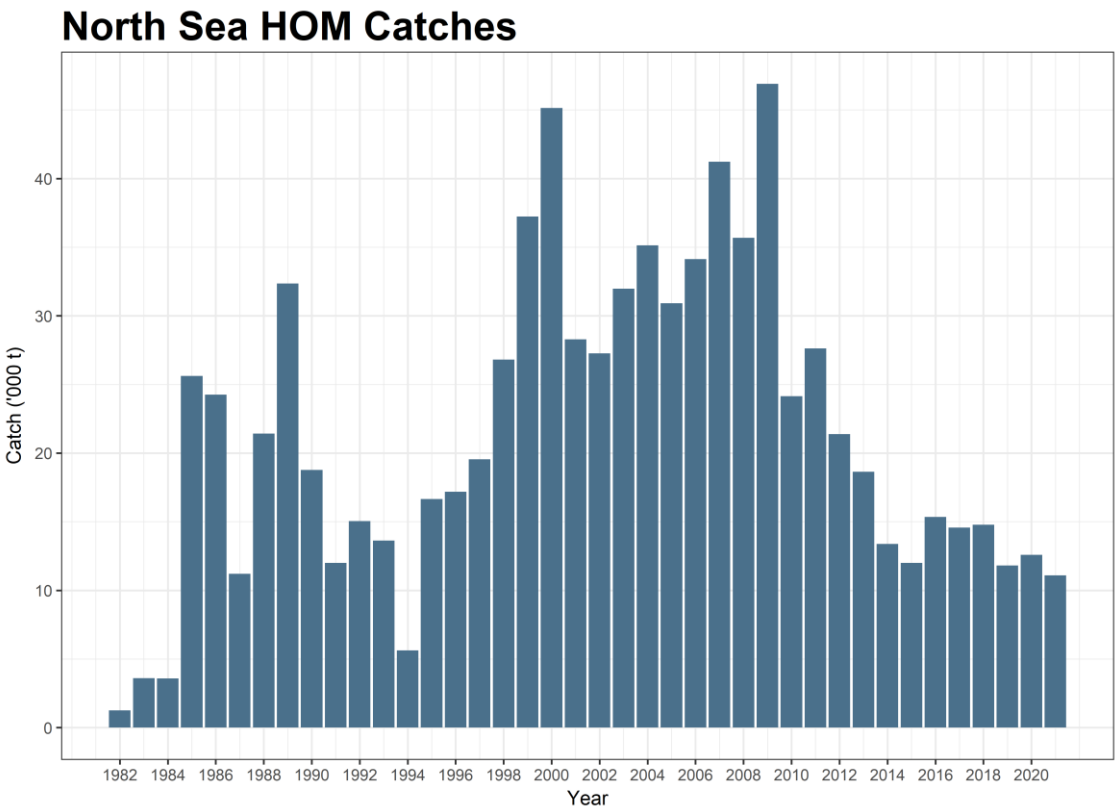


Figure 5.3.4. Total catch for North Sea Horse Mackerel stock, 1982–2021

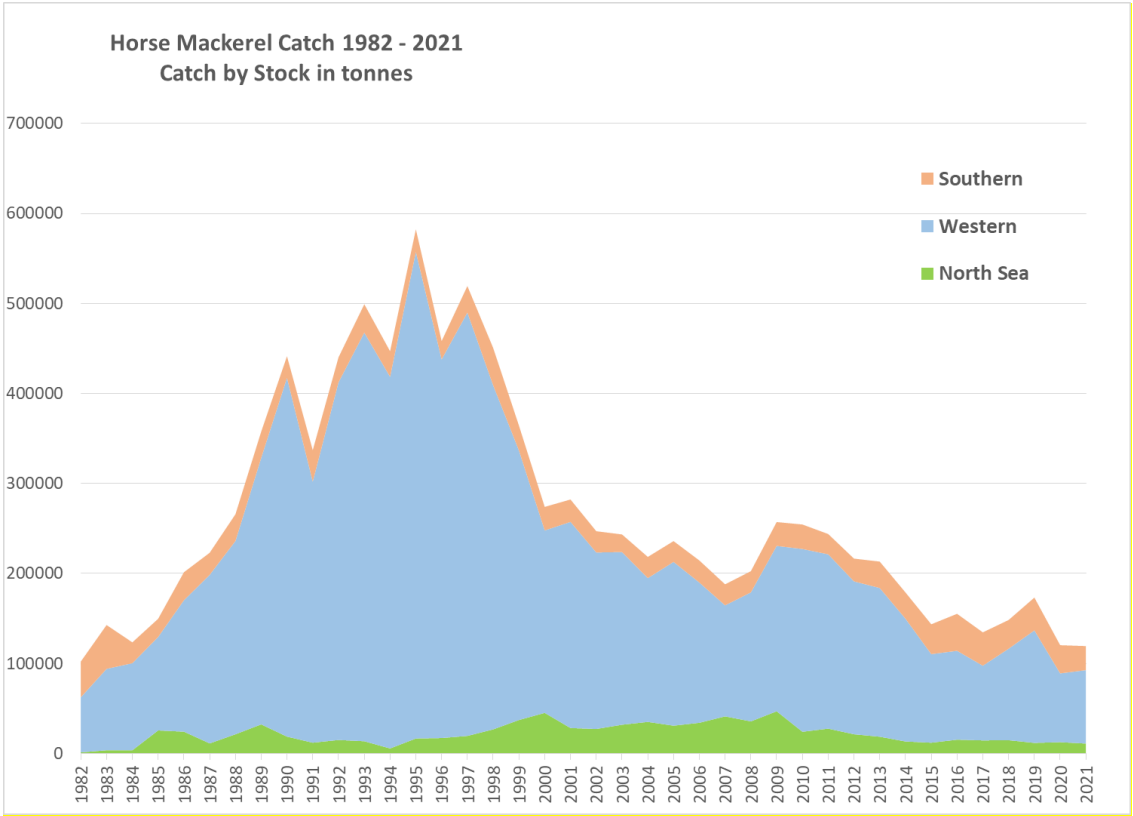


Figure 5.4.1 Horse mackerel general overview. Total catches in the northeast Atlantic during the period 1982–2021. The catches taken from the southern, western and North Sea horse mackerel stocks are shown in relation to the total catches in the northeast Atlantic. Catches from Div. 8.c were transferred from southern stock to western stock from 1982 onwards. Southern horse mackerel is assessed by ICES WGHANSA since 2011.

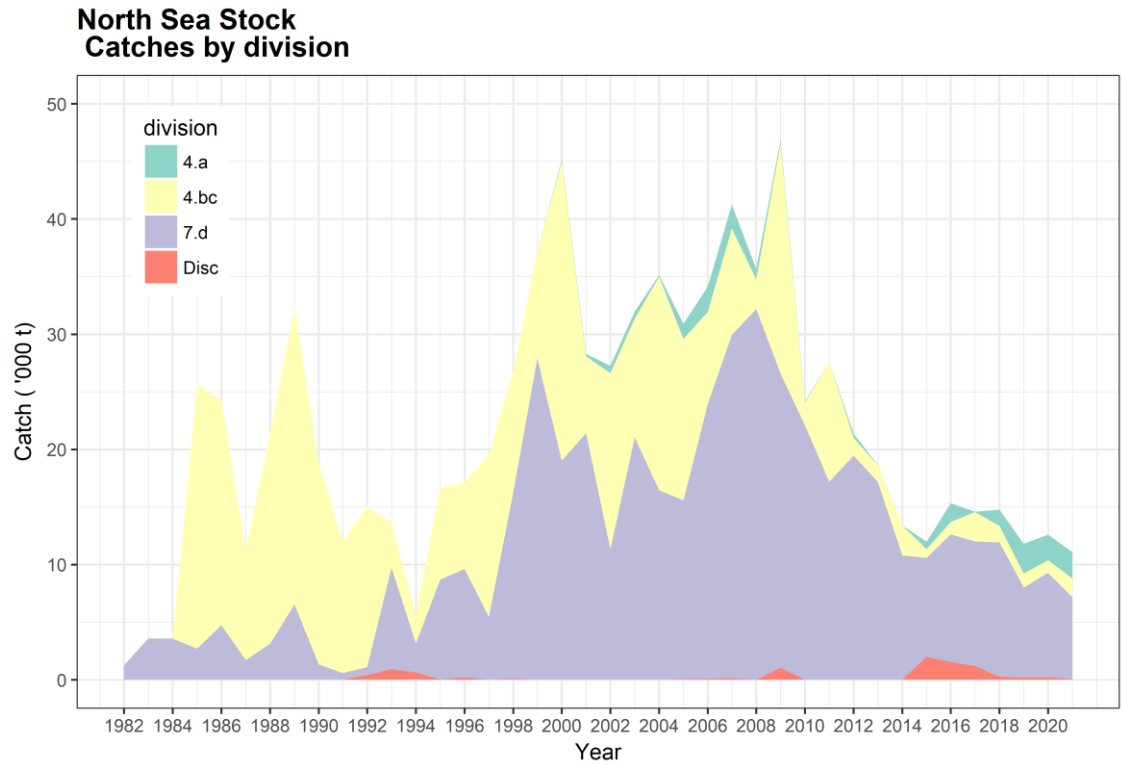


Figure 5.4.2. North Sea horse mackerel stock. Total catches by Division during the period 1982–2021.

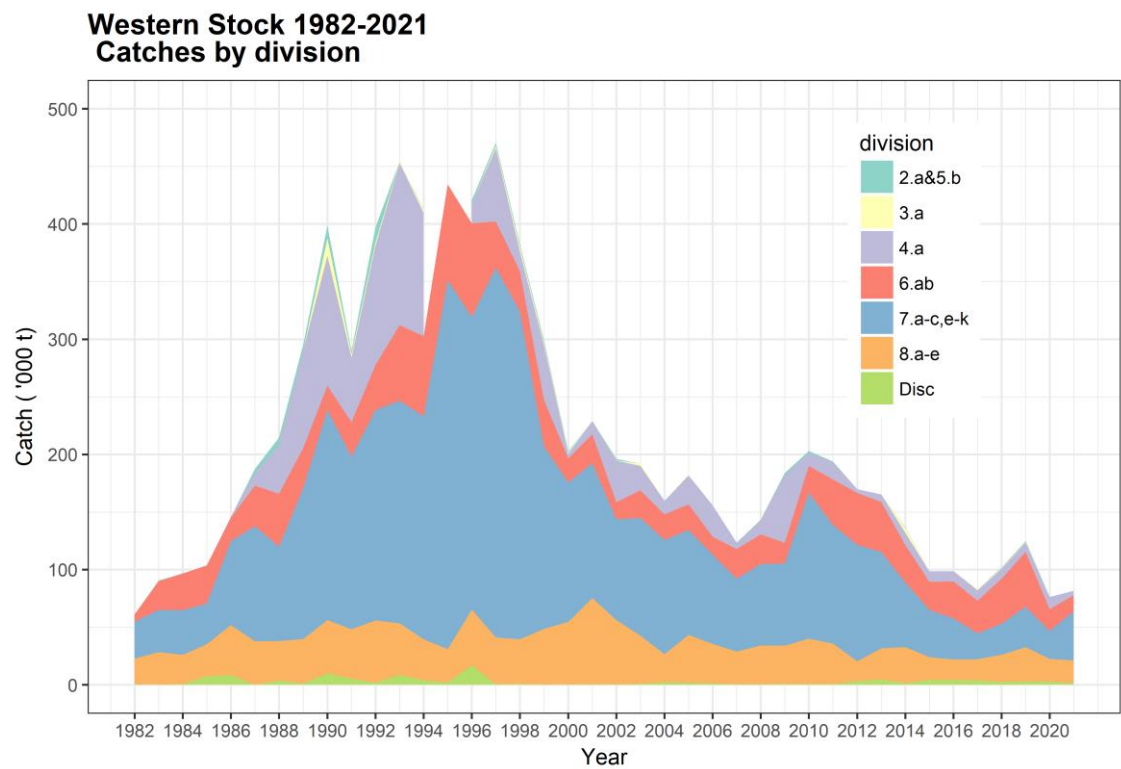


Figure 5.4.3. Western horse mackerel stock. Total catches by Sub-Area during the period 1982–2021.

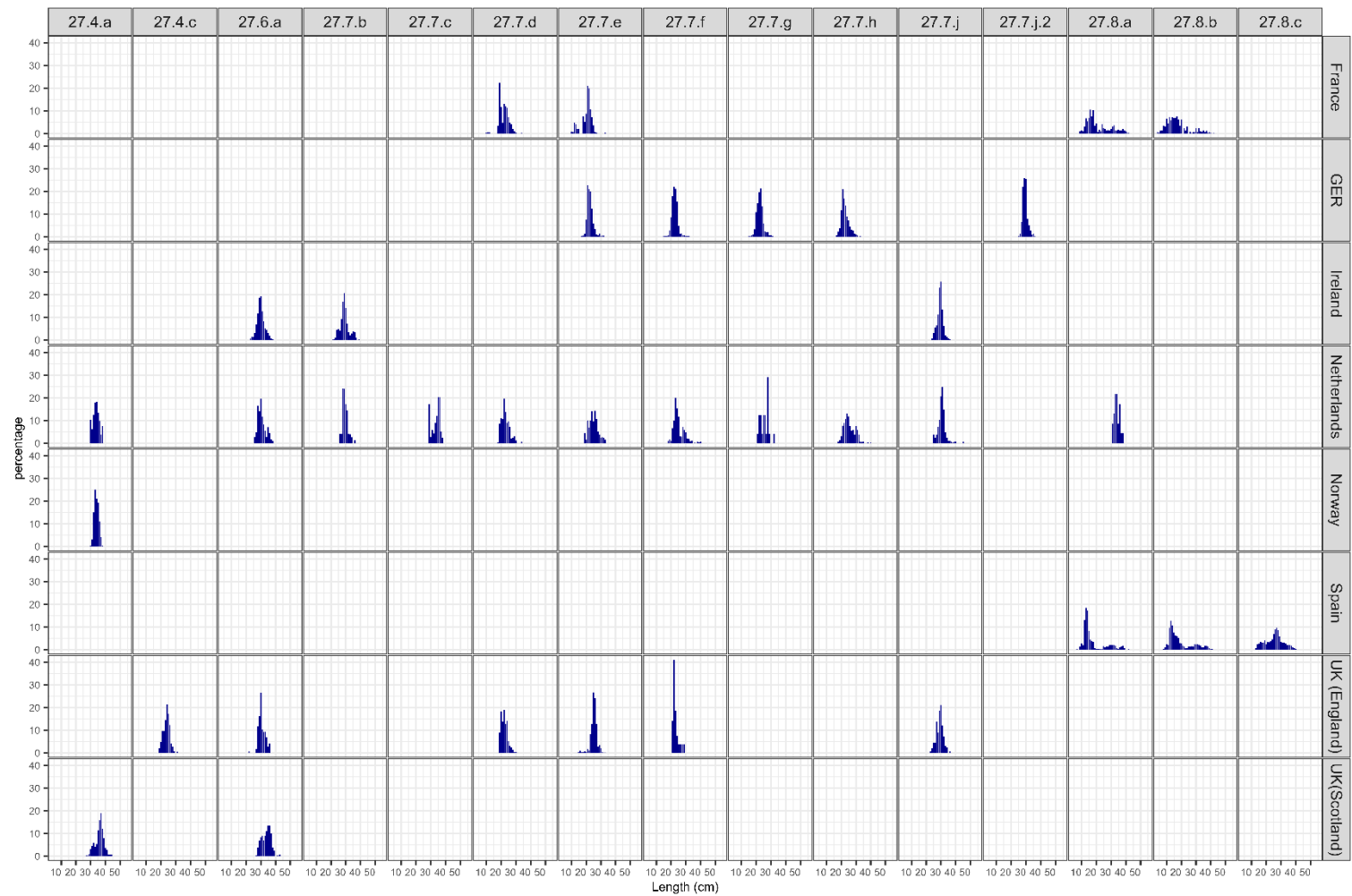


Figure 5.7.1. Length distributions contributed by country and area of the Western and North Sea horse mackerel 2021.

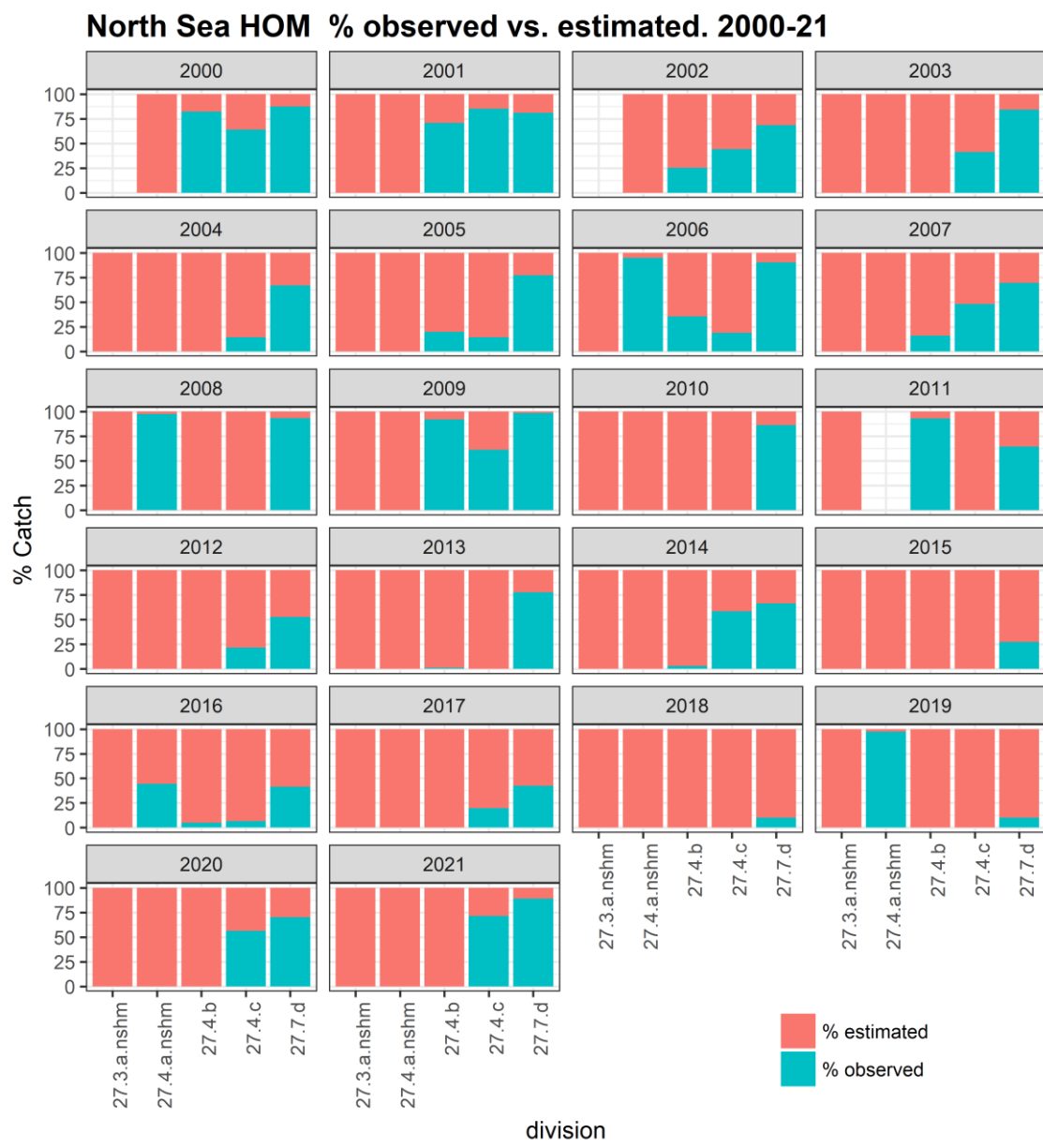


Figure 5.9.1 North Sea horse mackerel stock. Percentage sampled catch (blue) vs. unsampled catch (red) by division and year, 2000–2021.

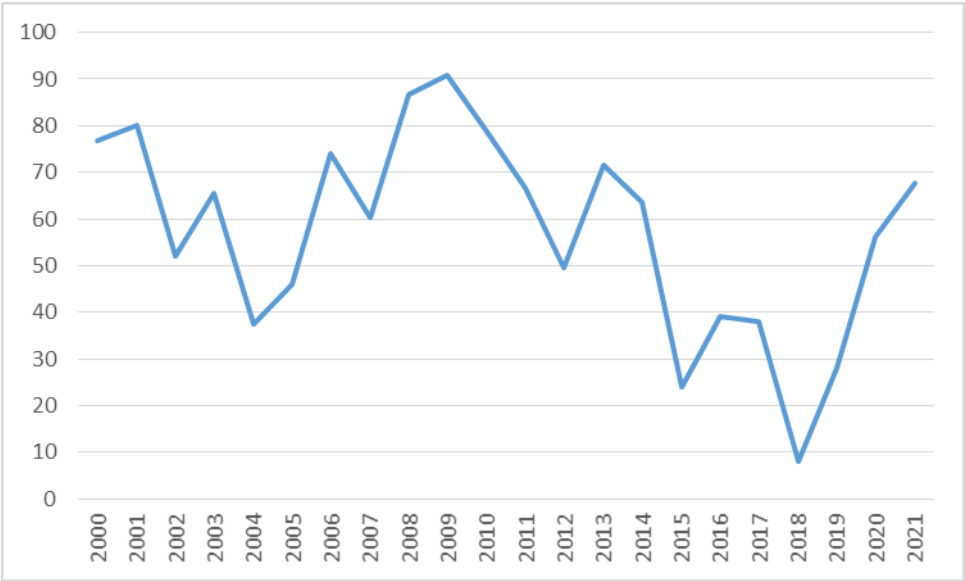


Figure 5.9.2. North Sea horse mackerel stock. Sampling intensity index as percentage sampled catch in total catch by year, 2000–2021.



Figure 5.9.5. Western horse mackerel stock. Percentage sampled catch (blue) vs. unsampled catch (red) by division and year. Period 2000–2021. Area of distribution of Western stock was divided into different regions. Chan: (7.e,f,h); W-SCO+IRL (7.a-c, 7.j-k and 6.a); BoB (8.a,b,d); CantSea(8.c); N-Nsea (3.a and 4.a); NOR (2.a and 5.a).

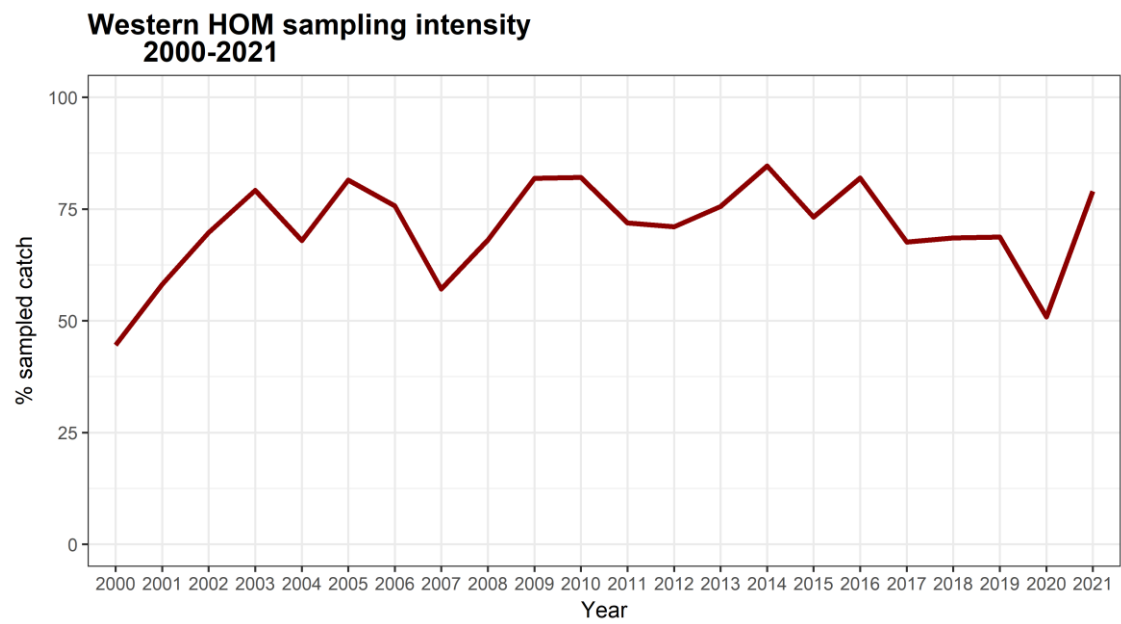


Figure 5.9.6. Western horse mackerel stock. Sampling intensity index as percentage sampled catch in total catch by year, 2000–2021.