## 13.2 Oceanic Northeast Atlantic ecoregion – fisheries overview

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### Executive summary

The commercial fisheries in the Oceanic Northeast Atlantic ecoregion target few stocks. The main fisheries in the area are a multinational pelagic fishery on two pelagic beaked redfish stocks in the northwestern part of the ecoregion and a fishery on blue whiting in the Hatton-Rockall plateau and west of the Porcupine Bank using midwater trawl. The demersal fisheries for haddock at Rockall account for only a small proportion of the total catches of haddock taken in this ecoregion. Fishing for tuna (bluefin, skipjack, bigeye, and albacore) and other large pelagic species (swordfish) by long-distance longliners occurs across much of this ecoregion. Very few deep-sea fisheries are conducted in the region.

There are currently around 20 nations with fisheries targeting the stocks in the ecoregion. Norway, Iceland, and Russia have the largest fleets and dominate the landings in the region. Total landings have varied since the mid-1970s, with a rise in the recent decade which is mainly due to increased blue whiting catches. Two beaked redfish stocks dominated the catches (by weight) until 2000. Catches of these beaked redfish stocks have decreased considerably since the peak of the fishery in the mid-1990s.

The Oceanic Northeast Atlantic ecoregion has 52 stocks for which ICES provided advice in 2021. Around 13% of the assessed stocks are fished at or below $F_{MSY}$ target levels; around 19% of the stocks were assessed to be above MSY $B_{trigger}$. The majority of the stocks have unknown stock and fishing mortality status.

Supporting data used in the Oceanic Northeast Atlantic fisheries overview is accessible at https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21646910

### Introduction

The Oceanic Northeast Atlantic ecoregion consists of the portion of the ICES statistical area (Figure 1) that is beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), i.e., outside the 200-nautical-mile limit of the exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of the EU Member States, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland, and United Kingdom. The ecoregion is mostly deeper than 1000 m, with only a small fraction of the seabed (ca. 0.03%) shallower than 500 m.

All of the Oceanic Northeast Atlantic ecoregion lies within the FAO Major Fishing Area 27; the prefix "27" in the ICES statistical area codes is therefore omitted in the following. The overview covers ICES divisions and subdivisions 5.b.1.a, 6.b.1, 7.c.1, 7.k.1, 8.e.1, 8.d.1, 9.b.1, 10.a.1, 10.b, 12.a.1, 12.b, 12.c, and 14.b.1 (Figure 1).

Note that updates to the figures using data from the stock assessment graphs (SAG) include only advice published before 10 October 2022. Therefore, mon.27.78abd, lez.27.6b, and had.27.6b refer to the advice current at this time (the advice applicable for 2022).

This fisheries overview provides:

- a short description of each of the national commercial fishing fleets in the ecoregion, including their fishing gears, and spatial and temporal patterns of activity;
- a summary of the status of the fisheries resources and the level of exploitation relative to agreed objectives and reference points;
- a description of mixed fisheries interactions in the ecosystem, and
- an evaluation of the effects of fishing gear on the ecosystem in terms of the seabed and on the bycatch of protected, endangered and threatened species.

The scientific names of all species described in this overview are listed in Table A2 in the Annex.

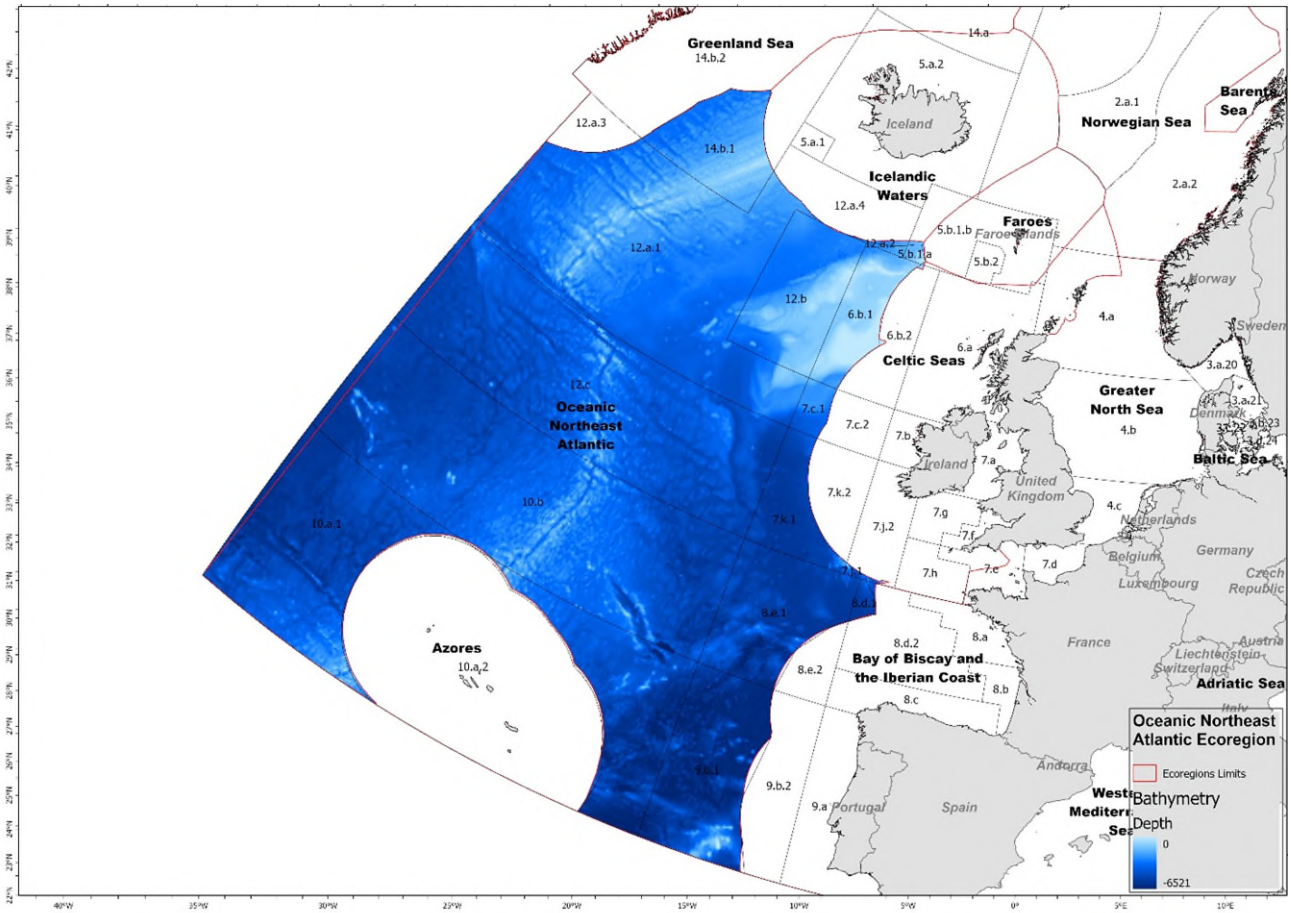



**Figure 1** The Oceanic Northeast Atlantic ecoregion and ICES statistical areas.

## Who is fishing

The main fishery in the area has been a multinational pelagic fishery, fishing on two pelagic beaked redfish stocks (shallow pelagic [reb.2127.sp] and deep pelagic [reb.2127.dp]) in the northwestern part of the ecoregion and blue whiting (whb.27.1-91214) in the Rockall-Hatton and west of the Porcupine area.

The redfish fishery commenced in the early 1980s. The number of vessels participating in the fishery decreased substantially as the stocks were depleted. The combined catch of both stocks peaked in 1996 when 180 000 tonnes were caught; this has since declined to an annual catch of about 30 000 tonnes. Catches of blue whiting have been high since the early 2000s and peaked at very high levels (over 200 000 thousand tonnes) recently.

Fisheries for deep-sea species developed in the early 1970s and peaked at 30 000 tonnes in 1975. Since then, effort has declined, and landings now amount to less than 4000 tonnes per year. The current relatively small fisheries are mainly conducted by a few trawlers and longliners, primarily from the EU and the Faroe Islands.

There are demersal fisheries for haddock (had.27.6b) at Rockall, but these account for only a small proportion of the total catches on this stock taken in this ecoregion.

The fishery within this extensive ecoregion is a multinational fishery that targets many marine stocks. Currently, about 20 countries have fisheries within the ecoregion. The greatest amounts of landings are taken by Norway, Russia, and Iceland, mainly targeting pelagic beaked redfish and blue whiting. Lesser amounts are landed by Spain, Germany, Portugal, Netherlands, Ireland, the Faroe Islands, Latvia, and Lithuania.

**Norway**

The Norwegian fleet fishing this ecoregion consists of about 50–60 pelagic trawlers and five to six demersal longline vessels. The highest fishing activity is in the northeastern area, close to the continental shelf edge bordering the Celtic Seas ecoregion and the shallower banks in the same area. The pelagic fleet is mainly targets blue whiting, but also other pelagic species. Catches of beaked redfish are taken in the northwestern corner of this ecoregion. The demersal longliners mainly target ling (lin.27.3a4a6-91214) and tusk (usk.27.3a45b6a7-912b, usk.27.12ac, and usk.27.6b).

**Iceland**

Industrial factory vessels target pelagic beaked redfish in the northwestern part of the ecoregion. The number of vessels participating in this fishery has decreased substantially over time, from around 25 at the peak of the fishery in 1996–2002 to only four vessels in 2019. Iceland did not participate in the fishery in 2020–2021.

In some years the Icelandic pelagic fleet (10–16 vessels > 65 m) catches part of its blue whiting quota (16–23% in 2017–2021) in the ecoregion, using pelagic trawls. The fishery occurs mainly in the northeastern part of the ecoregion, close to the continental shelf edge bordering the Celtic Seas ecoregion and the shallower banks in the same area.

**Ireland**

The very minor pelagic trawl fishing activity by Ireland in this ecoregion is an extension of the fisheries occurring in the Celtic Seas ecoregion. The albacore tuna fishery, in some years, extends beyond the EEZ southwest of Ireland. Similarly, the blue whiting fishery occasionally extends west of the Porcupine Bank. There is some Irish demersal trawling activity on the western side of the Rockall bank targeting anglerfish and megrim mainly.

**Spain**

The Spanish bottom trawling fleet operates mainly on the western slope of the Hatton Bank, and until 2018 consisted of three to six vessels larger than 50 m length, although in recent years the effort has been drastically reduced. The most important species targeted have traditionally been Baird's slickhead, blue ling (bli.27.nea), roundnose grenadier (rng.27.1245a8914ab, rng.27.5a10b12ac14b, and rng.27.5b6712b), black scabbardfish (bsf.27.nea), and Greenland halibut. There has also been a pelagic beaked redfish fishery in the northwestern part of the ecoregion (Subdivision 14.b.1), although the size of the Spanish fleet operating in the ecoregion has decreased during recent years, and the fishery has been temporarily closed (2021–2022) due to the low stock biomass and recruitment levels.

The Spanish pelagic longlining fleet (around 26 vessels) operates in the southern part of the ecoregion (Subarea 10), fishing mainly swordfish and blue shark.

**Faroes**

At the peak of the pelagic beaked redfish fishery in the mid-1990s (Subdivision 14.b.1), up to seven Faroese vessels participated in the fishery. In recent years one to three Faroese vessels have fished for the deep pelagic beaked redfish stock.

**France**

Only one French vessel (targeting blue whiting) operates in the eastern part of the ecoregion.

**Russia**

The Russian fleet is the largest one participating in the pelagic beaked redfish fishery in the northwestern part of the ecoregion (Subdivision 14.b.1 and Subarea 12). The fleet consists of industrial factory ships. In recent years about 15 vessels have participated in the fishery; during the peak of the fishery (second half of the 1990s and early 2000s), 35–40 vessels participated.

**Portugal**

Portugal took part in the pelagic beaked redfish fishery during 1994–2012 (subareas 5, 12, and 14). In 2011 and 2012 only four vessels participated in this fishery. The Portuguese pelagic longlining fleet operates in the southern part of the ecoregion (Subarea 10), targeting swordfish and blue shark.

**Netherlands**

The Dutch fleet has minimal activity in the ecoregion. The pelagic fleet, consisting of seven vessels that target blue whiting, mackerel (mac.27.nea), horse mackerel (hom.27.2a4a5b6a7a-ce-k8), and herring, operates on the eastern border of the ecoregion and in adjacent waters, with occasional landings originating from the Oceanic Northeast Atlantic ecoregion.

**Others**

In recent years Germany (one industrial factory vessel), Lithuania (one industrial factory vessel), and Latvia (one industrial factory vessel) have participated in the pelagic beaked redfish fishery in the western part of the ecoregion (Subdivision 14.b.1 and Subarea 12). Other countries, such as Japan, China and the Republic of Korea, fish for bluefin tuna in this ecoregion.

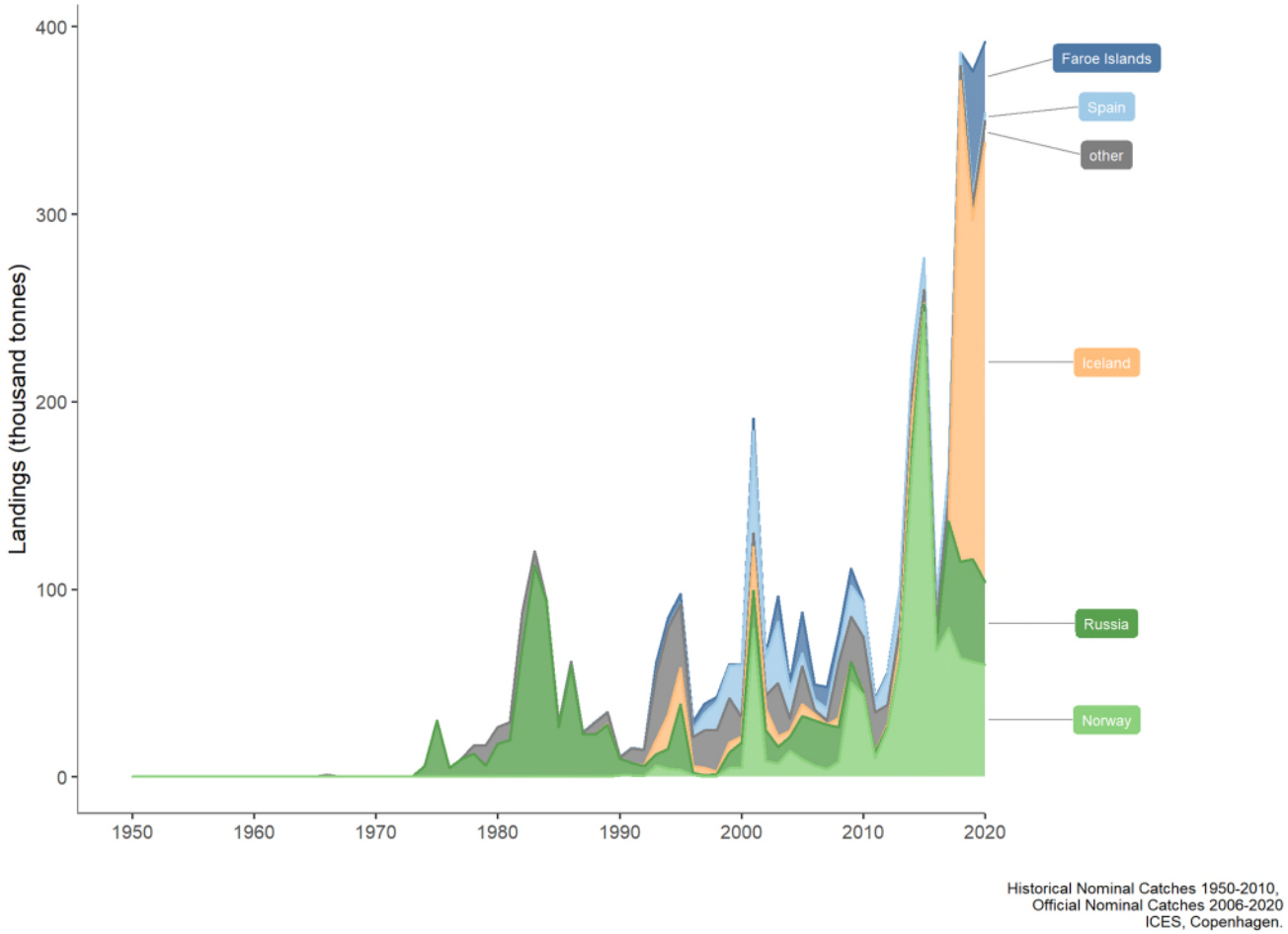



**Figure 2** Landings (thousand tonnes) from ICES divisions and subdivisions 5.b.1.a, 6.b.1, 7.c.1, 7.k.1, 8.e.1, 8.d.1, 9.b.1, 10.a.1, 10.b, 12.a.1, 12.b, 12.c, and 14.b.1. This approximates to the majority of landings from the Oceanic Northeast Atlantic ecoregion in 1950–2020, by (current) country. The five countries with the highest landings are shown individually; the remaining countries are aggregated and displayed as "other".

## Catches over time

The landings of pelagic species have fluctuated with an increasing trend, showing large spikes in the most recent years (Figure 3). This is mainly due to migration patterns and associated fishing activity on blue whiting, which constitutes the highest proportions of the catches in later years (Figure 4). The two pelagic beaked redfish constituted the majority of the pelagic catches before 2000. Catches of redfish fluctuated in the 1980s and 1990s but have since declined (Figure 4).

Demersal landings were highest in the early 2000s and have declined to a low level since then.

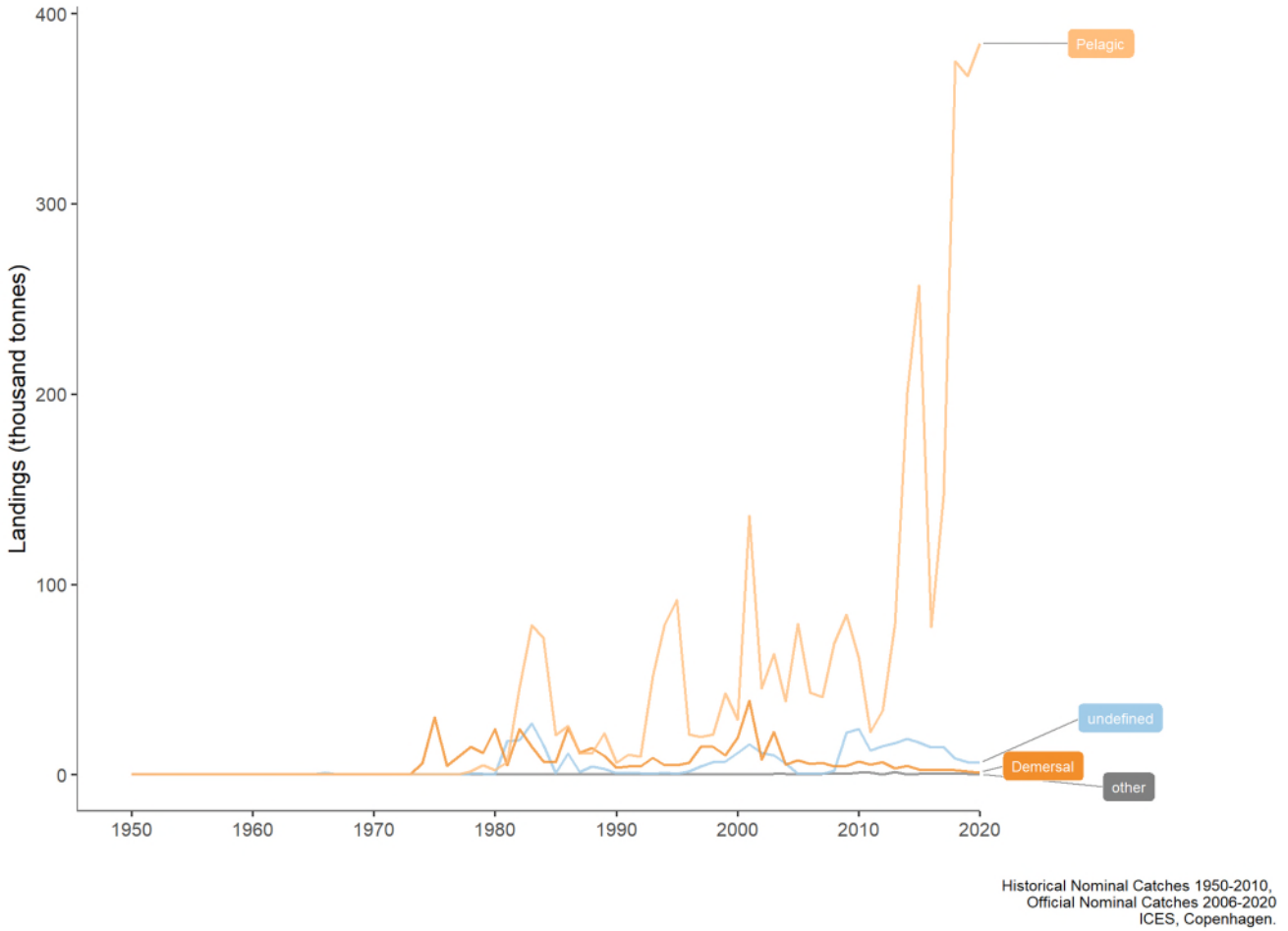



**Figure 3** Landings (thousand tonnes) from ICES divisions and subdivisions 5.b.1.a, 6.b.1, 7.c.1, 7.k.1, 8.e.1, 8.d.1, 9.b.1, 10.a.1, 10.b, 12.a.1, 12.b, 12.c, and 14.b.1 in 1950–2020, by fish category. Table A1 in the Annex details the species that belong to each fish category.

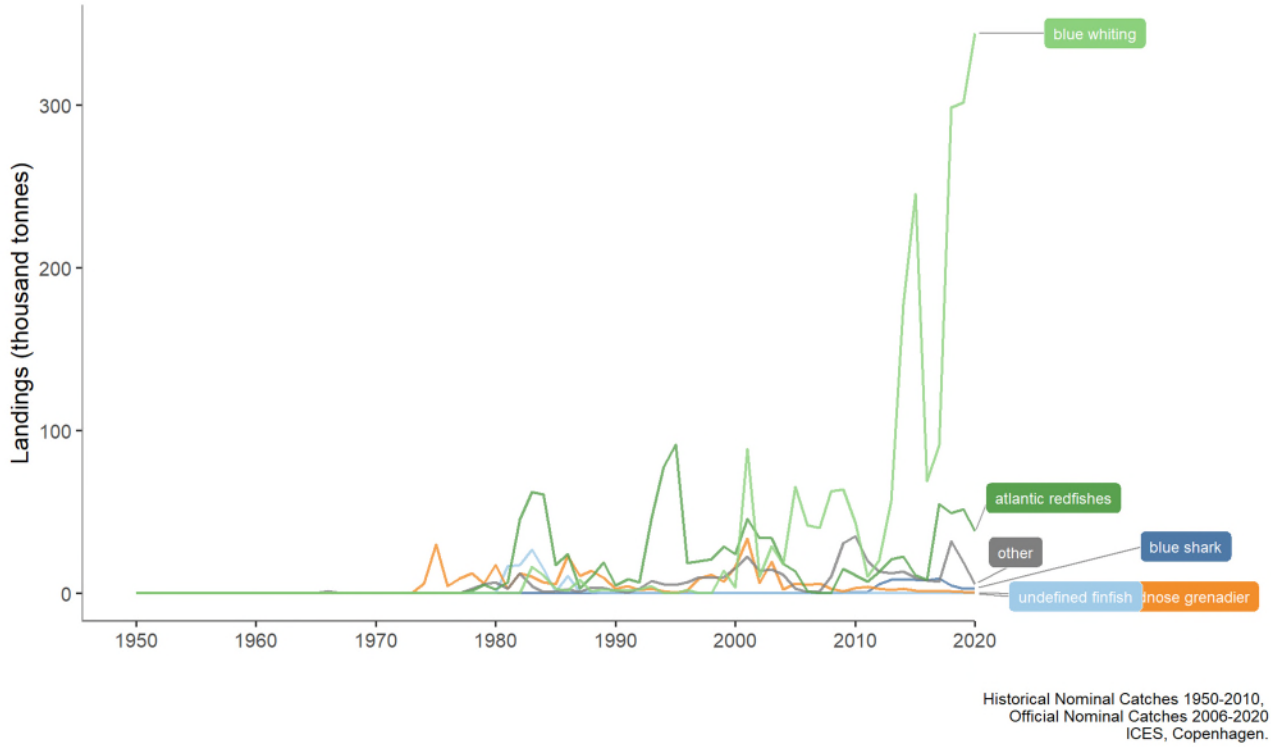



**Figure 4** Landings (thousand tonnes) from ICES divisions and subdivisions 5.b.1.a, 6.b.1, 7.c.1, 7.k.1, 8.e.1, 8.d.1, 9.b.1, 10.a.1, 10.b, 12.a.1, 12.b, 12.c, and 14.b.1 in 1950–2020, by species. The five species with the highest cumulative landings over the entire time-series are displayed separately; the remaining species are aggregated and labelled as "other".

**Discards**

Discard rates in this ecoregion are generally low (below 10%). Some discarding occurs in demersal and benthic fisheries in the area (Figure 5).

Most of the pelagic catches are blue whiting, which is caught in directed fisheries and are used for reduction to fish meal and fish oil. Therefore, there are almost no discards.

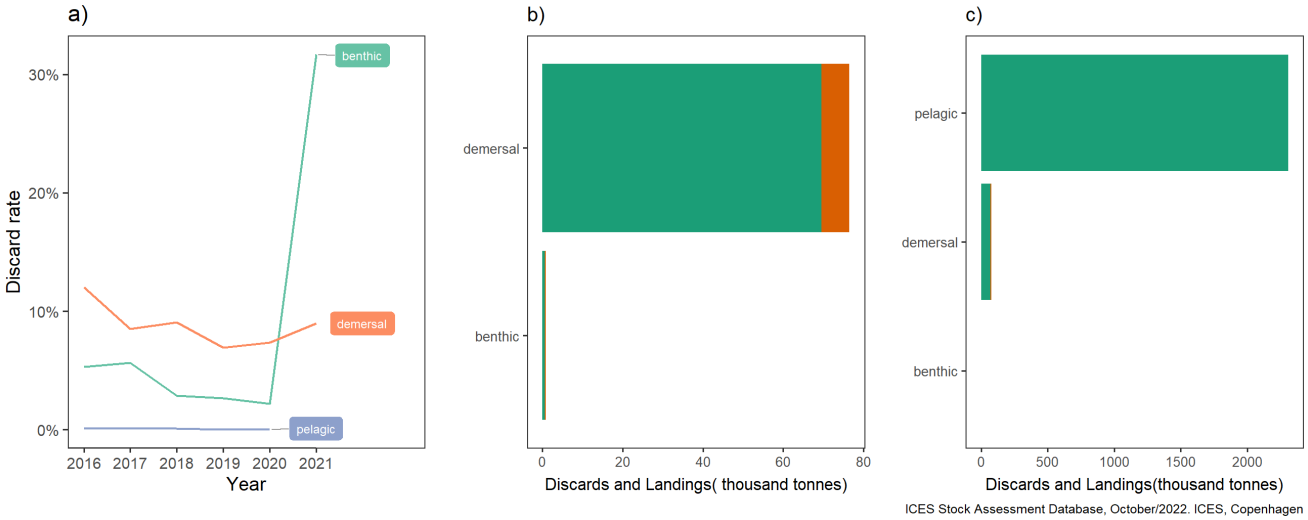



**Figure 5** ICES divisions and subdivisions 5.b.1.a, 6.b.1, 7.c.1, 7.k.1, 8.e.1, 8.d.1, 9.b.1, 10.a.1, 10.b, 12.a.1, 12.b, 12.c, and 14.b.1. Left panel (a): discard rates 2016–2021 by fish category, shown as percentages (%) of the total annual catch in that category. Middle panel (b): landings (green) and discards (orange) in 2020 by fish category (in thousand tonnes), only of those stocks with recorded discards. Right panel (c): landings (green) and discards (orange) in 2021 by fish category (in thousand tonnes) of all stocks, including stocks with zero discards or without discard information.

## Description of the fisheries

Pelagic trawlers account for the majority of the fishing effort in the region, mainly in the northeastern (blue whiting) and northwestern (two pelagic beaked redfish stocks) parts of the ecoregion (Figure 6).

The main demersal otter trawl fisheries in the area take place on the western part of the Rockall Bank, targeting haddock, anglerfish (anf.27.3a46), and megrim (lez.27.6b). Some longline fisheries (shown as static gears in Figure 6) target ling, blue ling, greater forkbeard (gfb.27.nea), and tusk at Rockall and around the Hatton Bank.

Furthermore, some pelagic longline and hook and line fisheries, mainly in the southern part of the ecoregion, target large pelagic fish, such as tuna, swordfish, and pelagic sharks. These fisheries are not shown in Figure 6.

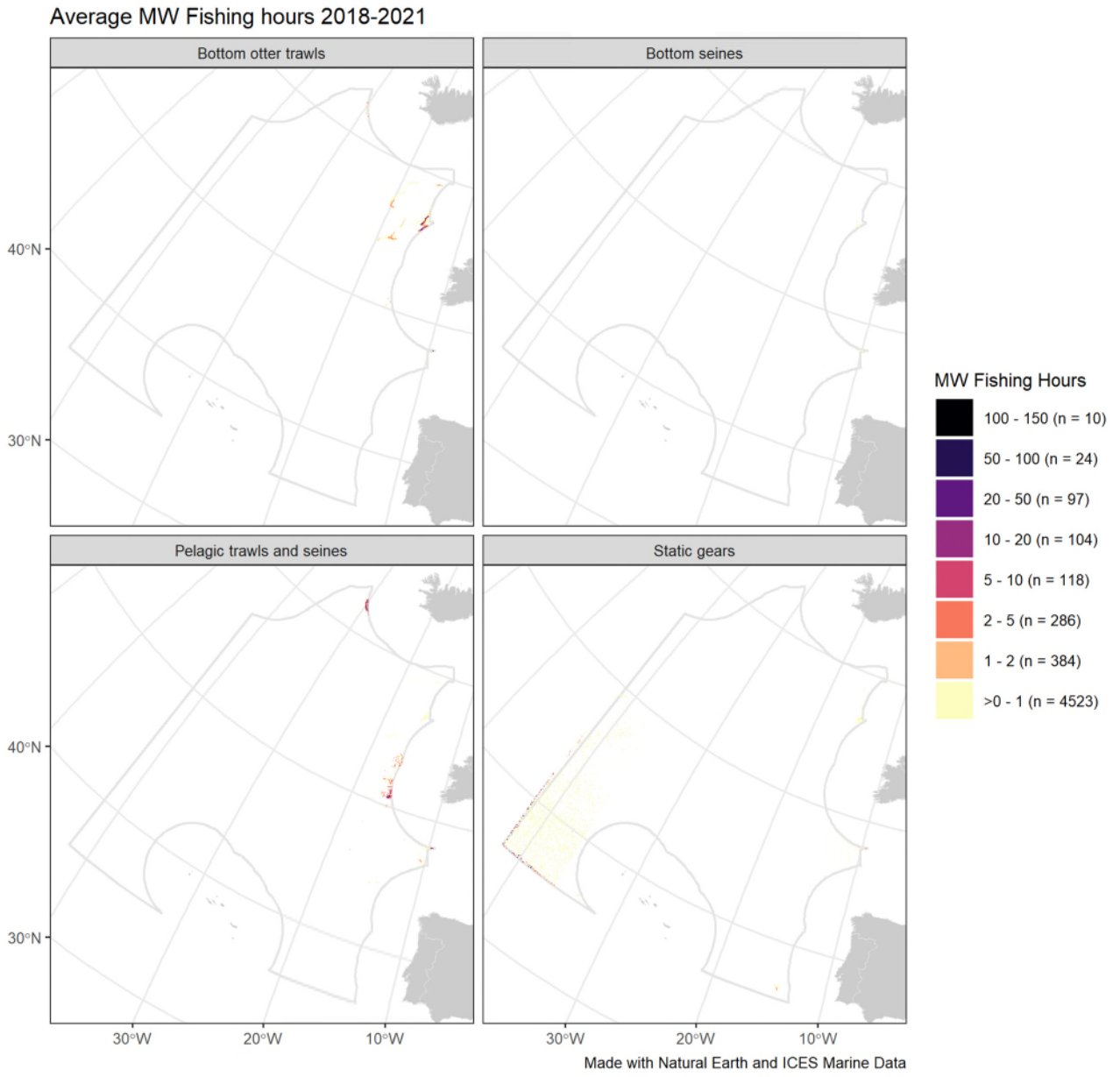



**Figure 6** Spatial distribution of average annual fishing effort (MW fishing hours) in the Oceanic Northeast Atlantic ecoregion, by gear type. Fishing effort data are only shown for vessels > 12 m that have vessel monitoring systems (VMS); this biases the distributions, particularly in coastal areas[†].

[†] Details on countries submitting data can be found at https://data.ices.dk/accessions/allaccessions.aspx?search=vms

**Pelagic trawls**

Blue whiting

The main fisheries target spawning and post-spawning fish west of Ireland and Scotland. The fishery extends into Faroese and international waters west of the Porcupine Bank. Most of the catch (~90%) is taken in the first half of the year. The multinational fleet targeting blue whiting mostly consists of large pelagic trawlers. Blue whiting is mainly used for fishmeal. In 2017–2021 around 10–15% (equal to about 200 000 tonnes) of the total catch of blue whiting in the ICES statistical area was taken from this ecoregion.

Shallow pelagic beaked redfish

The multinational fishery for the shallow pelagic beaked redfish (reb.2127.sp) was started in 1982 by the former USSR, with other countries joining in soon after. A total of 19 countries have taken part in this fishery since 1982, with a minimum of two countries in 1982 and a maximum of 17 in 1995. The total number of vessels from each country is not known for the entire time-series but during the years 1995–2009, their numbers ranged from 45 to 92. In 1982–1995 annual landings ranged between 60 000 tonnes and 100 000 tonnes. Since 1996 the landings have gradually decreased; in the last decade, landings have been between 100 tonnes and 6500 tonnes and are mainly caught by Russia. The fishing currently occurs in August to October on post-spawning fish and the main fishing area is in the northwestern part of Subdivision 12.a.1. Since 2007, the proportion of shallow pelagic beaked redfish caught within the ecoregion has been on average about 48% of the total catch of shallow pelagic beaked redfish in the ICES statistical area.

Deep pelagic beaked redfish

The international pelagic fishery for the deep pelagic stock of beaked redfish (reb.2117.dp) started in 1991 in the international waters of the Irminger Sea, 200 nautical miles southwest of Iceland and extending to the Icelandic EEZ. The fishing occurs in April to July on post-spawning fish. The same fleet participates in this fishery as in the shallow pelagic fishery. The fishery peaked in 1996 at about 139 000 tonnes but has decreased considerably in recent years and is now at 20% of what it was in 1996. With the decreasing catches, the total number of vessels have also decreased substantially. In 2018, 25 industrial factory vessels from eight countries fished for deep pelagic beaked redfish, with 14 of these vessels coming from Russia. In comparison, 92 vessels from 16 countries took part in the fishery in 1996.

**Longline and line fisheries**

Fishing for tuna (bluefin, skipjack, bigeye, and albacore) and other large pelagic species (swordfish) by long-distance longliners occurs across much of this ecoregion, depending on target species and season. The stocks and fisheries range over a much wider area than the ecoregion. Average catches in the last ten years have been around 4500 tonnes of albacore, 3000 tonnes of skipjack and bigeye, and 2000 tonnes of swordfish and bluefin tunas. Pelagic sharks such as blue shark and short-finned mako are also fished on longline in the North Atlantic. Catches in the last decade have ranged from 4000 tonnes to 24 000 tonnes for blue shark and 1000 tonnes to 2000 tonnes for short-finned mako.

Other fisheries

Very little deep-sea fishery is conducted in the region. The main deep-sea species caught in the region are roundnose grenadier, black scabbardfish, and Baird's slickhead.

The Faroese fleet's fisheries for orange roughy (ory.27.nea) uses semi-pelagic trawls. The fishery takes place on the Fangorn Bank and the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

## Fisheries management

The North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) is the regional fisheries management organization mandated to manage most fisheries in the Oceanic Northeast Atlantic ecoregion. These fisheries are conducted both inside EEZs and in the area beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ), where they are regulated by a mixture of national, EU, and NEAFC measures. NEAFC receives scientific advice from ICES.

The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) is the regulatory authority for the fisheries of tuna and other large pelagic species. The North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) is the regulatory authority for the distant-water salmon fisheries, such as those off Greenland and Faroes, as these are largely confined to EEZs rather than to the ABNJ.

## Status of the fishery resources

Fishing mortalities and spawning-stock sizes have been evaluated against maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and precautionary approach (PA) reference points, and the status of these stocks has also been assessed relative to safe biological limits, i.e. $F < F_{pa}$ and $SSB > B_{pa}$ (Figure 7). Around 13% of the assessed stocks are fished at or below $F_{MSY}$ target levels, but 12 % above target levels. The majority of stocks have unknown stock status.

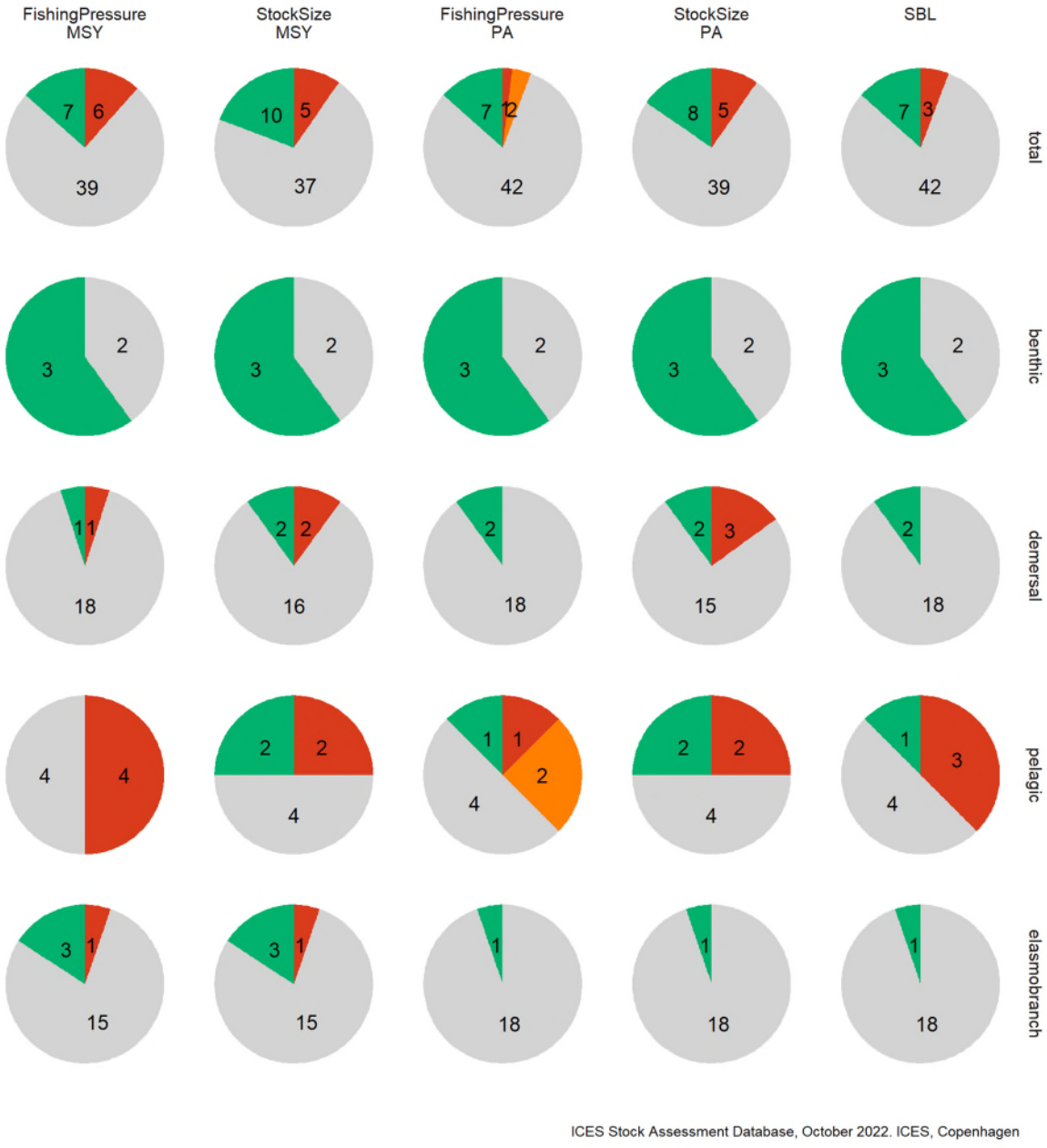


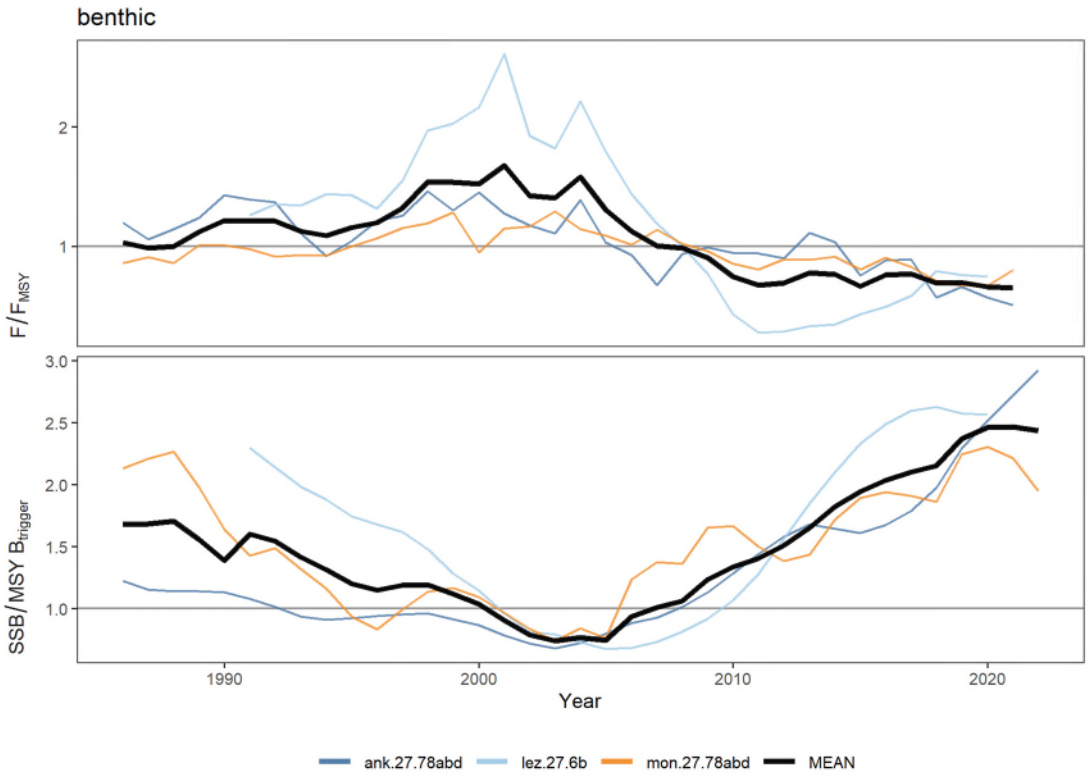

**Figure 7** Status summary of the Oceanic Northeast Atlantic stocks in 2022 (excluding European eel [ele.2737.nea], salmon, and sea trout) relative to ICES maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and precautionary (PA) approaches. For the MSY approach: green represents a stock that is either fished below $F_{MSY}$ or whose size is greater than MSY $B_{trigger}$; red represents a stock that is either fished above $F_{MSY}$ or whose size is lower than MSY $B_{trigger}$. For the PA: green represents a stock that is fished at or below $F_{pa}$ while its size is equal to or greater than $B_{pa}$; orange represents a stock that is either fished between $F_{pa}$ and $F_{lim}$ or whose size is between $B_{lim}$ and $B_{pa}$; red represents a stock that is fished above $F_{lim}$ or whose size is less than $B_{lim}$. Stocks with a fishing mortality at or below $F_{pa}$ and a size above $B_{pa}$ are defined as being inside safe biological limits. If this condition is not fulfilled, the stock is defined as being outside safe biological limits. Grey represents reference points that could not be estimated. For stock-specific information, see Table A1 in the Annex.

**Figure 8** Status summary of Oceanic Northeast Atlantic stocks in 2022 relative to the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) assessment criteria of the level of pressure of fishing activity (D3C1) and reproductive capacity of the stock (D3C2). Green represents the proportion of stocks that are either fished below $F_{MSY}$ or the stock size is greater than MSY $B_{trigger}$, for criteria D3C1 and D3C2. Red represents the proportion of stocks that are either fished above $F_{MSY}$ or the stock size is lower than MSY $B_{trigger}$, for criteria D3C1 and D3C2. Grey represents the proportion of stocks without MSY reference points. For stock-specific information, see Table A1 in the Annex.

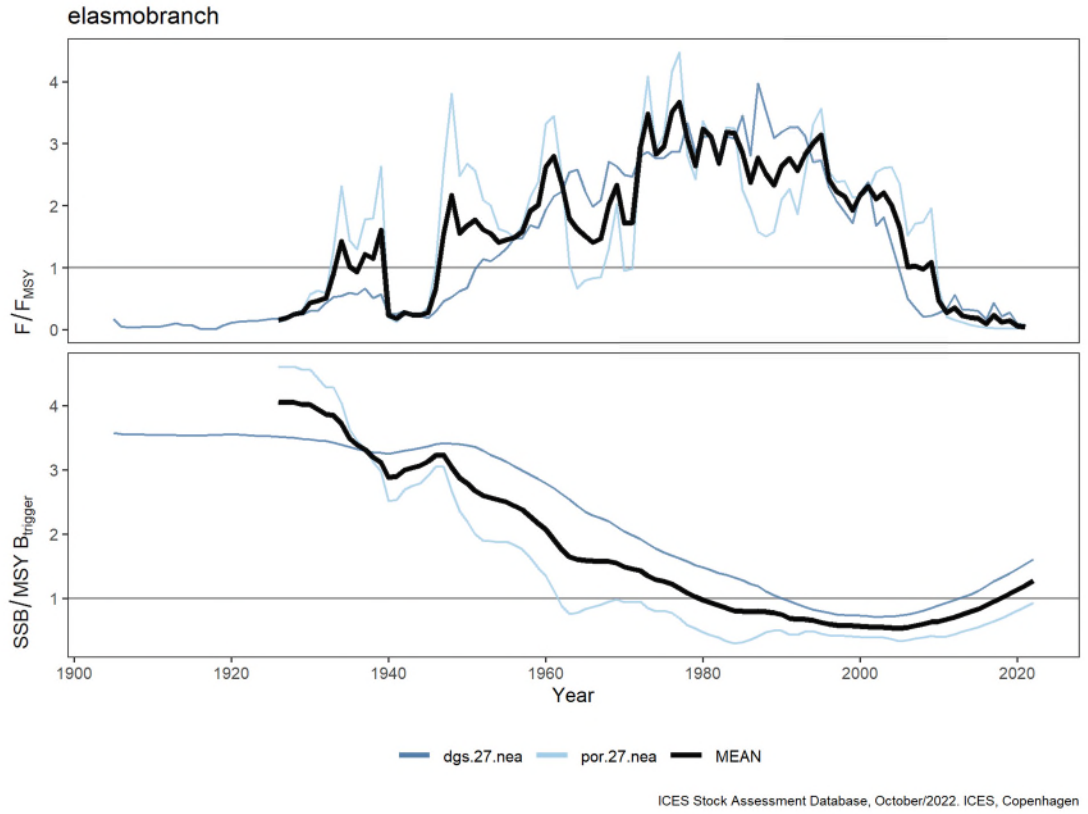
The Oceanic Northeast Atlantic ecoregion has 52 stocks for which ICES provided advice in 2022. These encompass the following categories: five benthic, 20 demersal, eight pelagic, and 19 elasmobranch stocks. Of these, the pelagic stocks are the best known, having the highest number of quantitative assessments with forecasts (ICES data category 1 stocks). Approximately 13% of the stocks ICES advises on are sustainably fished (i.e., D3C1 where $F < F_{MSY}$); these account for around 4% of the total landings in the ecoregion (Figure 8). About 12% of the stocks are however fished above desired fishing mortality rate (i.e., D3C1 where $F > F_{MSY}$) and these stocks account for around 93% of the total landings in the ecoregion. Other groups, such as the elasmobranchs, have a more limited knowledge base. While these "data-limited

stocks" account for the majority of stocks (75%), they only account for less than 3% of the total landings in the ecoregion (Figure 8). Around 19% of the stocks ICES advises on were assessed to be above MSY $B_{trigger}$ (D3C2); these accounted for around 93% of the total biomass caught in the ecoregion.

Clear trends show a declining fishing mortality ratio for category 1 benthic and demersal stocks since the mid-2000s (Figure 9). The mean fishing mortality is now at or below the $F_{MSY}$ target. The SSB ratio shows an increasing trend over the same period and the mean values are now above MSY $B_{trigger}$. For pelagic stocks, the mean fishing mortality ratio showed an increasing trend to above 1 but has since declined towards the end of the time-series. This is strongly influenced by the deep pelagic beaked redfish stock. The mean biomass ratio for pelagic species is below 1 and has declined in the recent five years.




ICES Stock Assessment Database, October/2022. ICES, Copenhagen




ICES Stock Assessment Database, October/2022. ICES, Copenhagen

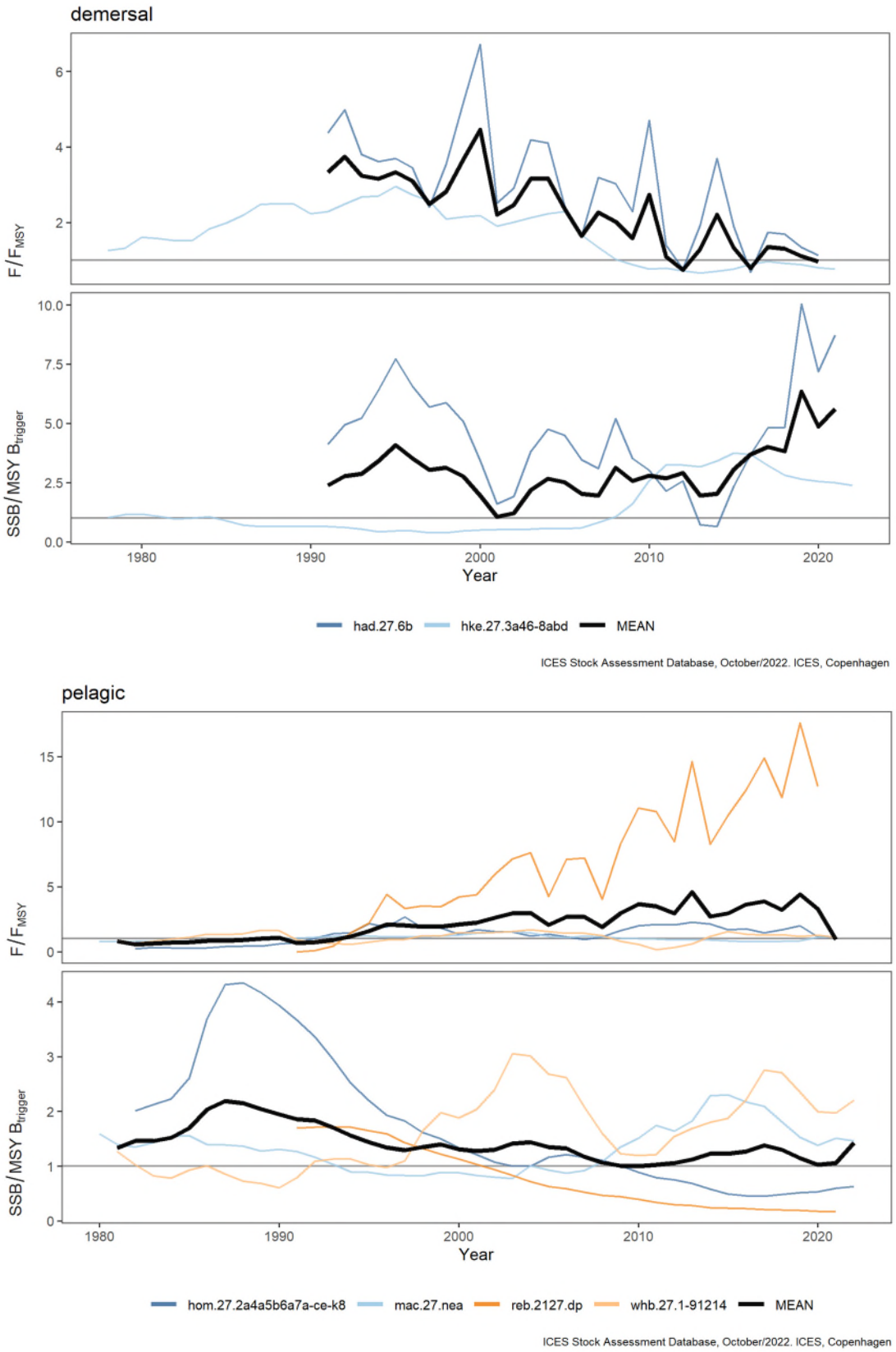
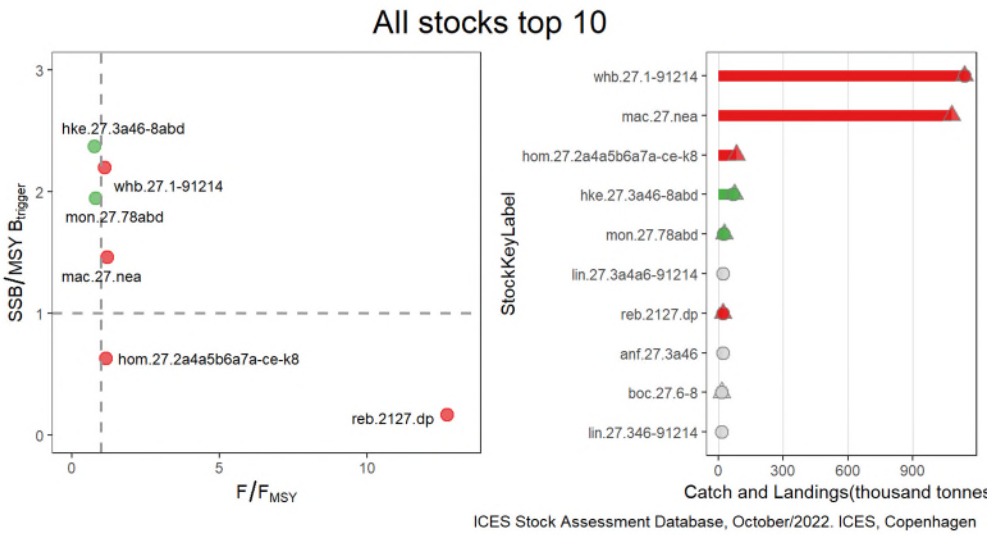
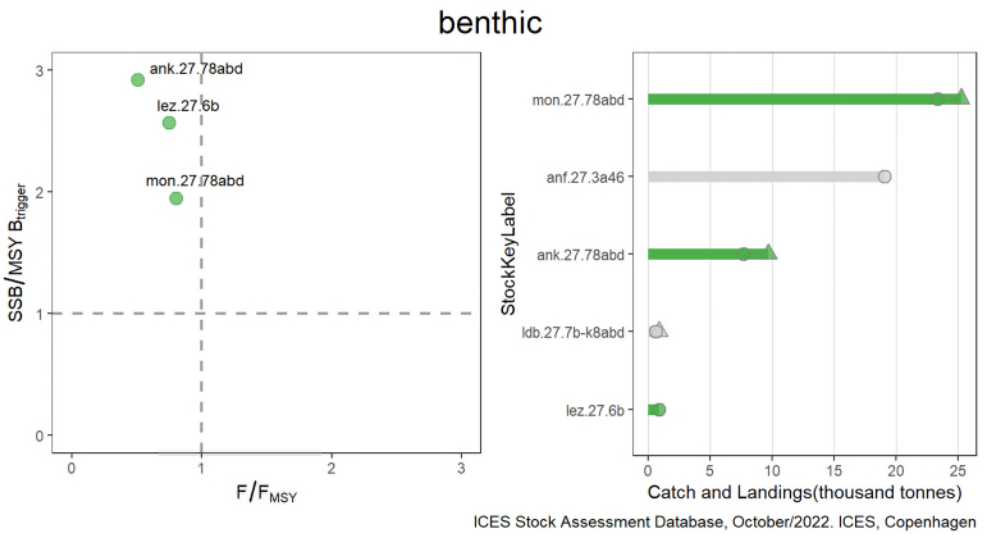
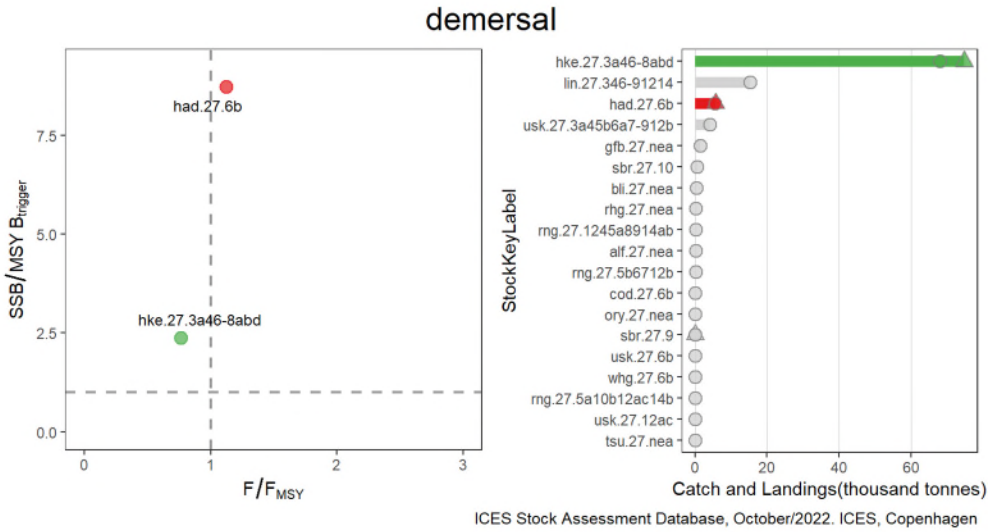



**Figure 9** Temporal trends in $F/F_{MSY}$ and SSB/MSY $B_{trigger}$ for Oceanic Northeast Atlantic elasmobranch, benthic, demersal, and pelagic stocks. Only stocks with defined MSY reference points are considered. For full stock names, see Table A1 in the Annex.

The stock status relative to $F_{MSY}$ and MSY $B_{trigger}$ is shown for all stocks and partitioned by stock groups in Figure 10. This shows that for the hake (hke.27.3a46-8abd) and monkfish (mon.27.78abd) stocks, SSB is around two-three times higher than MSY $B_{trigger}$ and the stock is fished below $F_{MSY}$. Rockall haddock has an SSB well above MSY $B_{trigger}$ but F is slightly above $F_{MSY}$. Blue whiting and mackerel account for the highest landings and fishing mortality for both stocks is higher than $F_{MSY}$. Fishing mortality of the deep pelagic redfish remains too high and SSB is below MSY $B_{trigger}$.

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SSB/MSY B$_{trigger}$
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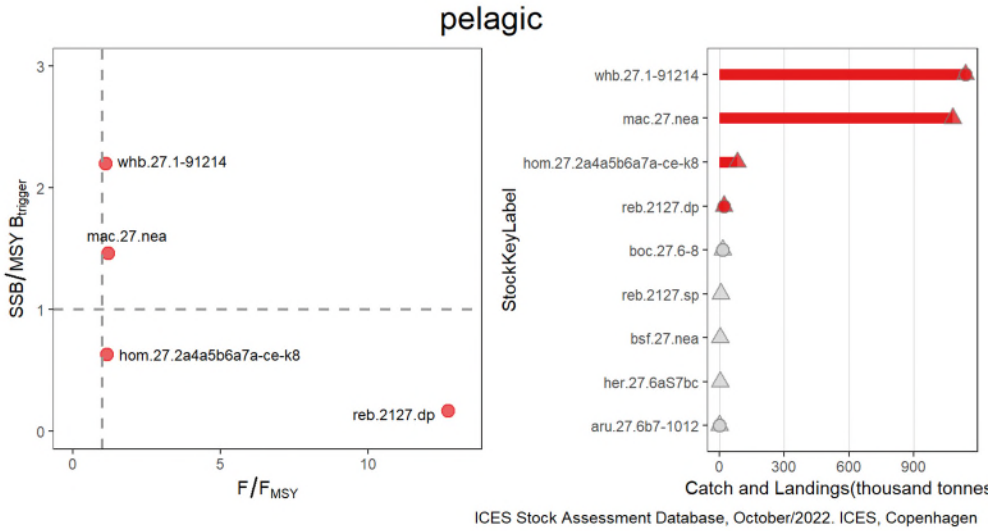
alf.27.nea
rng.27.5b6712b
cod.27.6b
ory.27.nea
sbr.27.9
usk.27.6b
whg.27.6b
rng.27.5a10b12ac14b
usk.27.12ac
tsu.27.nea
Catch and Landings(thousand tonnes)
ICES Stock Assessment Database, October/2022. ICES, Copenhagen


pelagic
whb.27.1-91214
mac.27.nea
hom.27.2a4a5b6a7a-ce-k8
reb.2127.dp
SSB/MSY B$_{trigger}$
F/F$_{MSY}$
StockKeyLabel
whb.27.1-91214
mac.27.nea
hom.27.2a4a5b6a7a-ce-k8
reb.2127.dp
boc.27.6-8
reb.2127.sp
bsf.27.nea
her.27.6aS7bc
aru.27.6b7-1012
Catch and Landings(thousand tonnes)
ICES Stock Assessment Database, October/2022. ICES, Copenhagen

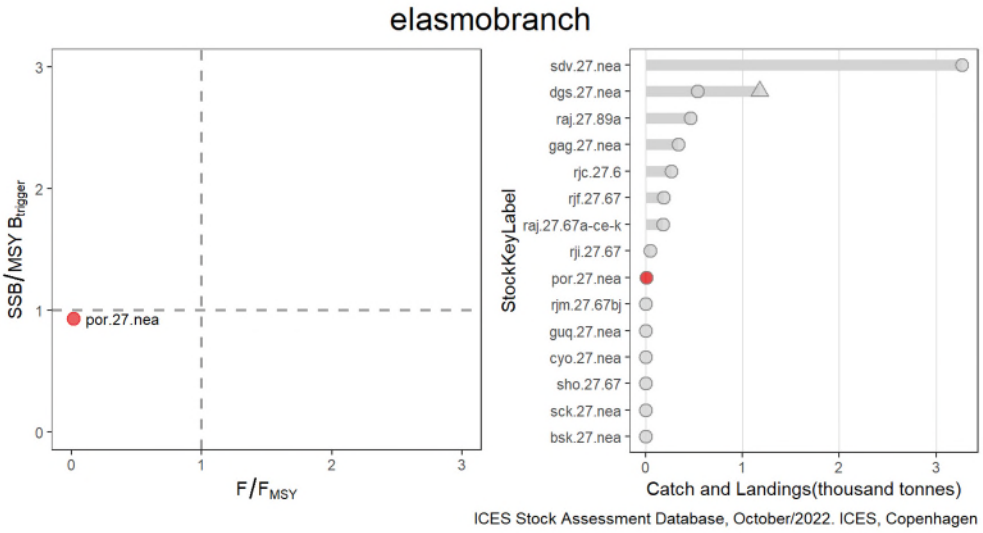



**Figure 10** Status of Oceanic Northeast Atlantic stocks relative to the joint distribution of exploitation ($F/F_{MSY}$) and stock size (SSB/ MSY $B_{trigger}$ [left panels, by individual stocks]) and catches (triangles)/landings (circles) from these stocks in 2022 (right panels]). The left panels only include stocks for which MSY reference points have been defined (MSY where available). Stocks in green are exploited at or below $F_{MSY}$ while their size is also at or above MSY $B_{trigger}$. Stocks in red are either exploited above $F_{MSY}$ or their size is below MSY $B_{trigger}$ or both. Stocks in grey have unknown/undefined status in relation to reference points. "All stocks" refers to the ten stocks with highest catches and landings across fisheries guilds in 2021. For full stock names, see Table A1 in the Annex.

## Mixed fisheries

The information on mixed fisheries in this ecoregion is limited. The available information relates to demersal fisheries on the Rockall Bank targeting haddock and anglerfish. The main bycatch species in this fishery are ling, saithe, squid, and megrim, with smaller quantities of cod (cod.27.6b) and whiting (whg.27.6b). Anglerfish are also targeted in gillnet fishery, which has a bycatch mainly consisting of ling and ray species.

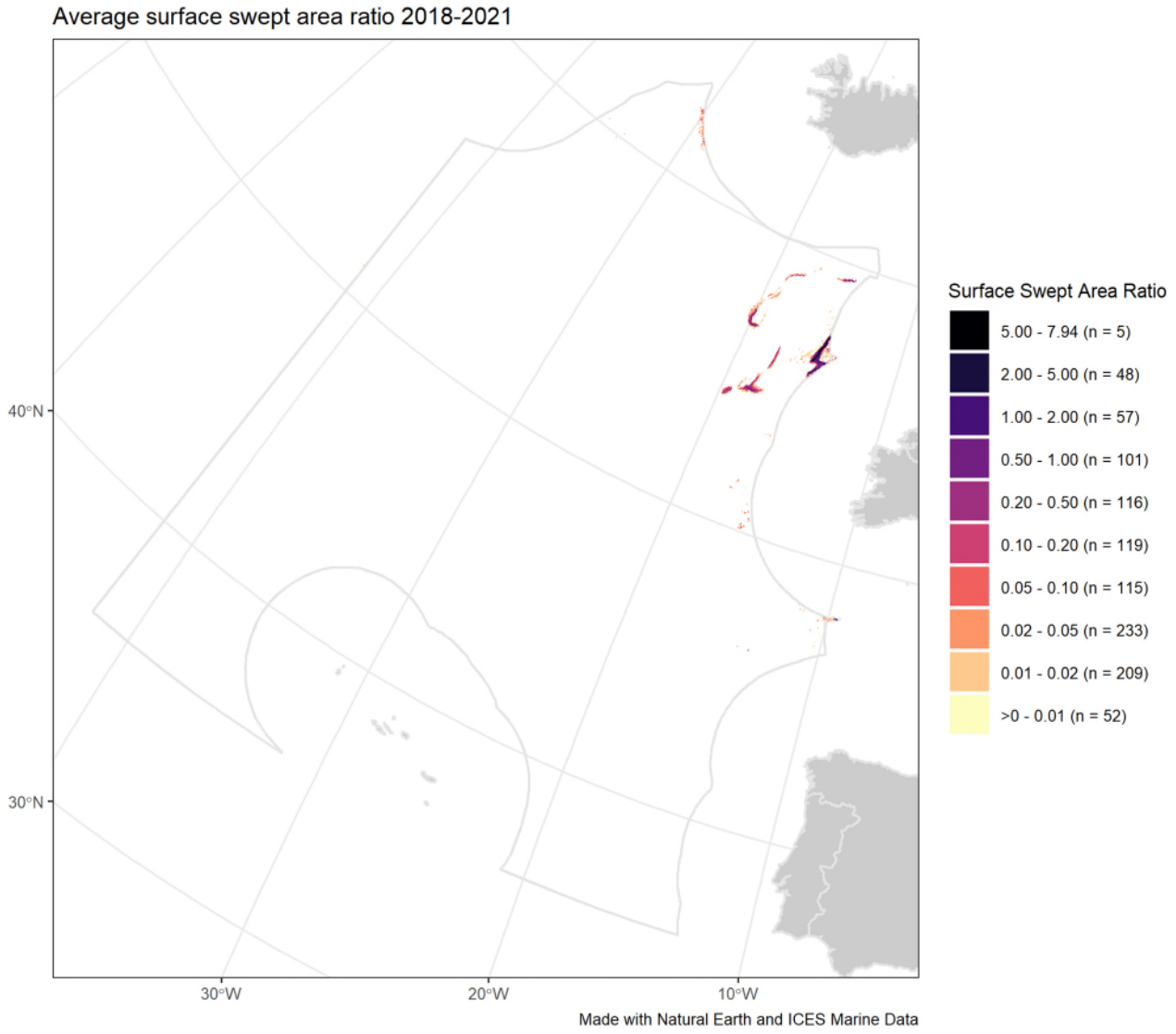
## Effects of fisheries on the ecosystem

Abrasion of the seabed by mobile bottom-contacting fishing gears has been investigated to describe the extent, magnitude, and effects of fishing on benthic habitats (Figure 11). There is little activity by mobile bottom-contacting gears in much of the ecoregion; what is there is mostly located at the Hatton-Rockall plateau in the northeastern part of the ecoregion.

Cold-water coral species such as *Lophelia pertusa* have been reported from multiple sites across the ecoregion, including the Hatton and Rockall banks, Edoras Bank, Lousy Bank, and the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Video records from three different sections along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge found some lost fishing gear in areas of coral, but no evidence of trawl-door tracks. Degraded or damaged cold-water coral reefs have been reported from existing fishing areas, and there is evidence of recent damage by bottom-trawl fisheries to cold-water corals on Rockall Bank.

The ecoregion has numerous seamounts. Some seamounts with summits at depths < 1500 m were explored for fisheries, but too few have been studied by video or photography to assess the state of the sessile benthic communities. Many seamounts are now protected by NEAFC closures and affected communities may be assumed to be recovering.

Cold-water coral species such as Lophelia species have been reported from multiple sites across the ecoregion and degraded or damaged cold-water coral reefs have been reported from existing fishing areas.


Average surface swept area ratio 2018-2021
40°N
30°N
30°W
20°W
10°W
Made with Natural Earth and ICES Marine Data
Surface Swept Area Ratio
5.00 - 7.94 (n = 5)
2.00 - 5.00 (n = 48)
1.00 - 2.00 (n = 57)
0.50 - 1.00 (n = 101)
0.20 - 0.50 (n = 116)
0.10 - 0.20 (n = 119)
0.05 - 0.10 (n = 115)
0.02 - 0.05 (n = 233)
0.01 - 0.02 (n = 209)
>0 - 0.01 (n = 52)

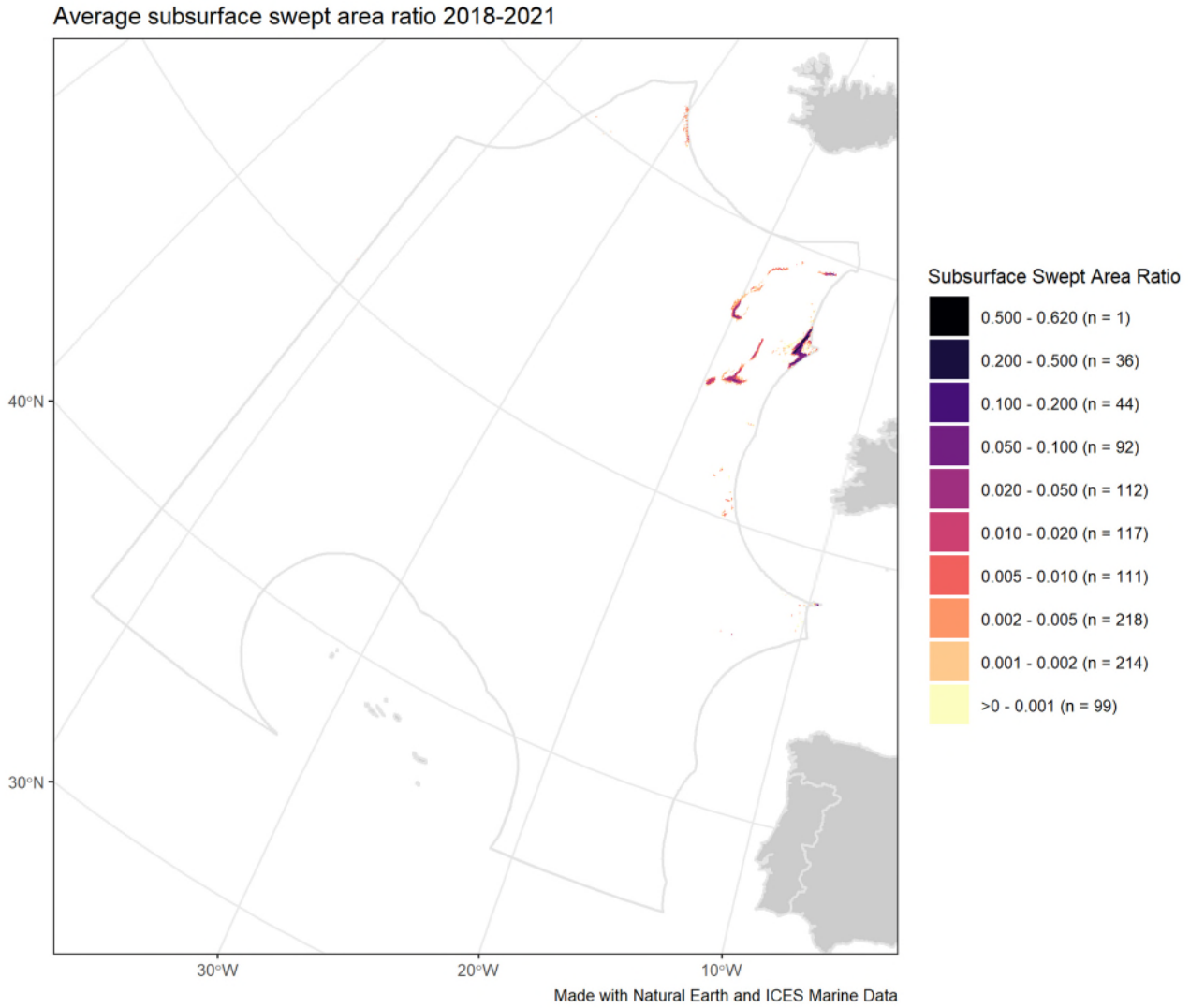



**Figure 11** Average annual surface (top) and subsurface (bottom) disturbance by mobile bottom-contacting fishing gear (bottom otter trawls, bottom seines, dredges, beam trawls) in the Oceanic Northeast Atlantic ecoregion, expressed as average swept-area ratios (SAR [note: the reported activity in the northwestern corner is most likely to be pelagic trawling)]. Surface disturbance is defined as affecting the top 2 cm of sediments and subsurface as > 2cm[‡].

**Bycatch of protected, endangered, and threatened species**

ICES has previously advised zero catches in this ecoregion for stocks of rare or threatened species such as basking shark (bsk.27.nea), porbeagle (por.27.nea), angel shark, the common skate complex (rjb.27.67a-ce-k and rjb.27.89a), white skates, orange roughy, deep-water sharks (kitefin shark [sck.27.nea], leafscale gulper shark [guq.27.nea], Portuguese dogfish [cyo.27.nea]), and greater silver smelt (aru.27.6b7-1012). These stocks have been either targeted or bycaught in fisheries in the past and are now considered depleted. Information on these stocks is sparse, but they require special management attention to conserve remaining populations.

Furthermore, two additional sharks—blue shark (*Prionace glauca*) and shortfin mako (*Isurus oxyrinchus*)—are fully exploited or overfished.

[‡] Details on countries submitting data can be found at https://data.ices.dk/accessions/allaccessions.aspx?search=vms

## Sources and references

*This section will be updated.*

*Recommended citation:* ICES. 2022. Oceanic Northeast Atlantic ecoregion – fisheries overview. *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2021. ICES Advice 2021, section 13.2, https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21646910

## Annex

**Table A1** Status summary of the Oceanic Northeast Atlantic stocks in 2022, relative to maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and ICES precautionary approach (PA) (excluding salmon and sea trout). For MSY: green represents a stock that is fished below $F_{MSY}$ or whose size is greater than MSY $B_{trigger}$; red represents a stock that is fished above $F_{MSY}$ or whose size is lower than MSY $B_{trigger}$. For PA: green represents a stock that is fished below $F_{pa}$ or whose size is greater than $B_{pa}$; yellow represents a stock that is fished between $F_{pa}$ and $F_{lim}$ or whose size is between $B_{lim}$ and $B_{pa}$; red represents a stock that is fished above $F_{lim}$ or whos size is less than $B_{lim}$. Stocks with a fishing mortality below or at $F_{pa}$ and a size above $B_{pa}$ are defined as being inside safe biological limits. Grey represents stocks for which reference points are unknown. MSFD = EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive; D3C1 = MSFD indicator for fishing mortality; D3C2 = MSFD indicator for spawning-stock biomass; SBL = safe biological limits; GES = good environmental status. Stock codes contain a hyperlink for the most recent ICES advice.

| Stock Code | Stock Description | Species Scientific Name | Species Common Name | Fisheries Guild | Data Category | Assessment Year | Advice Category | Approach | Fishing Pressure | Stock Size | D3C1 | D3C2 | GES | SBL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| alf.27.nea | Alfonsinos in subareas 1-10, 12 and 14 | *Beryx* | Alfonsinos | Demersal | 5.2 | 2022 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| anf.27.3a46 | Anglerfish in Subareas 4 and 6, and Division 3.a | *Lophius budegassa, Lophius piscatorius* | Anglerfish | Benthic | 3.2 | 2021 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| ank.27.78abd | Black-bellied anglerfish in Subarea 7 and divisions 8.a-b and 8.d | *Lophius budegassa* | Black-bellied anglerfish | Benthic | 1 | 2021 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| aru.27.6b7-1012 | Greater silver smelt in subareas 7-10 and 12, and Division 6.b | *Argentina silus* | Greater silver smelt | Pelagic | 3.2 | 2021 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |

| Stock Code | Stock Description | Species Scientific Name | Species Common Name | Fisheries Guild | Data Category | Assessment Year | Advice Category | Approach | Fishing Pressure | Stock Size | D3C1 | D3C2 | GES | SBL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| bli.27.nea | Blue ling in Subareas 1, 2, 8, 9, and 12, and Divisions 3.a and 4.a | *Molva dypterygia* | Blue ling | Demersal | 5.3 | 2019 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ✗ | ? | ✗ | | |
| boc.27.6-8 | Boarfish in subareas 6-8 | *Capros aper* | Boarfish | Pelagic | 3.2 | 2021 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| bsf.27.nea | Black scabbardfish in subareas 1, 2, 4-8, 10, and 14, and divisions 3.a, 9.a, and 12.b | *Aphanopus carbo* | Black scabbardfish | Pelagic | 3.2 | 2022 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| bsk.27.nea | Basking shark in Subareas 1-10, 12 and 14 | *Cetorhinus maximus* | Basking shark | Elasmobranch | 6.3 | 2019 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| cod.27.6b | Cod in Division 6.b | *Gadus morhua* | Cod | Demersal | 6.2 | 2020 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| cyo.27.nea | Portuguese dogfish in subareas 1- | *Centrophorus squamosus, Centroscymnus* | Portuguese dogfish | Elasmobranch | 6.3 | 2019 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |

| Stock Code | Stock Description | Species Scientific Name | Species Common Name | Fisheries Guild | Data Category | Assessment Year | Advice Category | Approach | Fishing Pressure | Stock Size | D3C1 | D3C2 | GES | SBL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 10, 12 and 14 | *coelolepis* | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| dgs.27.nea | Spurdog in Subareas 1-10, 12 and 14 | *Squalus acanthias* | Spurdog | Elasmobranch | 1.2 | 2022 | MSY | Maximum sustainable yield | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| ele.2737.nea | European eel throughout its natural range | *Anguilla anguilla* | Eel | Demersal | 3.14 | 2021 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ✗ | ? | ✗ | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ✗ | ? | ✗ | | |
| gag.27.nea | Tope in subareas 1-10, 12 and 14 | *Galeorhinus galeus* | Tope | Elasmobranch | 5.2 | 2021 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| gfb.27.nea | Greater forkbeard in subareas 1-10, 12 and 14 | *Phycis blennoides* | Greater forkbeard | Demersal | 3.2 | 2022 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| guq.27.nea | Leafscale gulper shark in subareas 1-10, 12 and 14 | *Centrophorus squamosus* | Leafscale gulper shark | Elasmobranch | 6.3 | 2019 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| had.27.6b | Haddock in Division 6.b | *Melanogrammus aeglefinus* | Haddock | Demersal | 1 | 2021 | MSY | Maximum sustainable yield | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

| Stock Code | Stock Description | Species Scientific Name | Species Common Name | Fisheries Guild | Data Category | Assessment Year | Advice Category | Approach | Fishing Pressure | Stock Size | D3C1 | D3C2 | GES | SBL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| hke.27.3a46-8abd | Hake in subareas 4, 6, and 7, and divisions 3.a, 8.a-b, and 8.d, Northern stock | *Merluccius merluccius* | Hake | Demersal | 1 | 2022 | MSY | Maximum sustainable yield | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| hom.27.2a4a5b6a7a-ce-k8 | Horse mackerel in Subarea 8 and divisions 2.a, 4.a, 5.b, 6.a, 7.a-c,e-k | *Trachurus trachurus* | Horse mackerel | Pelagic | 1 | 2022 | MSY | Maximum sustainable yield | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | o | ✗ | o | ✗ | | |
| ldb.27.7b-k8abd | Four-spot megrim in divisions 7.b-k, 8.a-b, and 8.d | *Lepidorhombus boscii* | Four-spot megrim | Benthic | 5.2 | 2022 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| lez.27.6b | Megrim in Division 6.b | *Lepidorhombus* | Megrim | Benthic | 2.11 | 2021 | MSY | Maximum sustainable yield | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| lin.27.346-91214 | Ling in subareas 3,4, 6–9, 12, | *Molva molva* | Ling | Demersal | 3.2 | 2021 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |

| Stock Code | Stock Description | Species Scientific Name | Species Common Name | Fisheries Guild | Data Category | Assessment Year | Advice Category | Approach | Fishing Pressure | Stock Size | D3C1 | D3C2 | GES | SBL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | and 14 | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| mac.27.nea | Mackerel in subareas 1-8 and 14 and division 9.a | *Scomber scombrus* | Mackerel | Pelagic | 1 | 2022 | MSY | Maximum sustainable yield | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| mon.27.78abd | White anglerfish in Subarea 7 and divisions 8.a-b and 8.d | *Lophius piscatorius* | White anglerfish | Benthic | 1 | 2022 | MSY | Maximum sustainable yield | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| ory.27.nea | Orange roughy in subareas 1-10, 12 and 14 | *Hoplostethus atlanticus* | Orange roughy | Demersal | 6.3 | 2020 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ✗ | ? | ✗ | | |
| por.27.nea | Porbeagle in subareas 1-10, 12 and 14 | *Lamna nasus* | Porbeagle | Elasmobranch | 2 | 2022 | MSY | Maximum sustainable yield | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| raj.27.67a-ce-k | Other rays and skates in Subarea 6 and divisions 7.a-c and 7.e-k | *Rajidae* | Rays and skates | Elasmobranch | 6.9 | 2022 | No advice | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |

| Stock Code | Stock Description | Species Scientific Name | Species Common Name | Fisheries Guild | Data Category | Assessment Year | Advice Category | Approach | Fishing Pressure | Stock Size | D3C1 | D3C2 | GES | SBL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| raj.27.89a | Other rays and skates in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a | *Rajidae* | Rays and skates | Elasmobranch | 5.9 | 2022 | No advice | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| reb.2127.dp | Beaked redfish in ICES subareas 5, 12, and 14 and NAFO subareas 1 and 2 | *Sebastes mentella* | Beaked redfish | Pelagic | 2.13 | 2021 | MSY | Maximum sustainable yield | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | | |
| reb.2127.sp | Beaked redfish in ICES subareas 5, 12, and 14 and NAFO subareas 1 and 2 | *Sebastes mentella* | Beaked redfish | Pelagic | 3 | 2021 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| rhg.27.nea | Roughhead grenadier in subareas 5-8, 10, 12 and 14 | *Macrourus berglax* | Roughhead grenadier | Demersal | 6.3 | 2020 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| rjb.27.67a-ce-k | Common skate complex and flapper skate in Subarea 6 and divisions | *Dipturus batis* | Common skate | Elasmobranch | 6.3 | 2020 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |

| Stock Code | Stock Description | Species Scientific Name | Species Common Name | Fisheries Guild | Data Category | Assessment Year | Advice Category | Approach | Fishing Pressure | Stock Size | D3C1 | D3C2 | GES | SBL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 7.a–c and 7.e–k | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| rjb.27.89a | Common skate complex and flapper skate in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a | *Dipturus batis* | Common skate | Elasmobranch | 6.3 | 2020 | PA/Stock status only | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| rjc.27.6 | Thornback ray in Subarea 6 | *Raja clavata* | Thornback ray | Elasmobranch | 3 | 2022 | MSY | Maximum sustainable yield | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| rjf.27.67 | Shagreen ray in subareas 6-7 | *Leucoraja fullonica* | Shagreen ray | Elasmobranch | 5.2 | 2022 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| rji.27.67 | Sandy ray in subareas 6-7 | *Leucoraja circularis* | Sandy ray | Elasmobranch | 5.2 | 2022 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| rjm.27.67bj | Spotted ray in Subarea 6 and divisions 7.b and 7.j | *Raja montagui* | Spotted ray | Elasmobranch | 3 | 2022 | MSY | Maximum sustainable yield | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| rng.27.1245a8914ab | Roundnose grenadier in | *Coryphaenoides rupestris* | Roundnose grenadier | Demersal | 6.2 | 2019 | PA | Maximum sustainable | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |

| Stock Code | Stock Description | Species Scientific Name | Species Common Name | Fisheries Guild | Data Category | Assessment Year | Advice Category | Approach | Fishing Pressure | Stock Size | D3C1 | D3C2 | GES | SBL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | subareas 1, 2, 4, 8, and 9, Division 14.a, and in subdivisions 14.b.2 and 5.a.2 | | | | | | | yield | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| rng.27.5a10b12ac14b | Roundnose grenadier in Divisions 10.b and 12.c, and Subdivisions 12.a.1, 14.b.1, and 5.a.1 | *Coryphaenoides rupestris* | Roundnose grenadier | Demersal | 5.2 | 2019 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| rng.27.5b6712b | Roundnose grenadier in subareas 6-7 and divisions 5.b and 12.b | *Coryphaenoides rupestris* | Roundnose grenadier | Demersal | 5.2 | 2022 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| sbr.27.10 | Blackspot seabream in Subarea 10 | *Pagellus bogaraveo* | Blackspot seabream | Demersal | 3.2 | 2022 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| sbr.27.9 | Blackspot seabream in Subarea 9 | *Pagellus bogaraveo* | Blackspot seabream | Demersal | 3.2 | 2022 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| sck.27.nea | Kitefin shark in subareas | *Dalatias licha* | Kitefin shark | Elasmobranch | 6.3 | 2019 | PA | Maximum sustainable | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |

| Stock Code | Stock Description | Species Scientific Name | Species Common Name | Fisheries Guild | Data Category | Assessment Year | Advice Category | Approach | Fishing Pressure | Stock Size | D3C1 | D3C2 | GES | SBL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1-10, 12 and 14 | | | | | | | yield | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| sdv.27.nea | Smooth-hound in subareas 1-10, 12 and 14 | *Mustelus asterias* | Smooth-hound | Elasmobranch | 3.2 | 2021 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| sho.27.67 | Black-mouth dogfish in subareas 6 and 7 | *Galeus melastomus* | Black-mouth dogfish | Elasmobranch | 3.9 | 2021 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| syt.27.67 | Greater-spotted dogfish in subareas 6 and 7 | *Scyliorhinus stellaris* | Greater-spotted dogfish | Elasmobranch | 3.9 | 2021 | No advice | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| tsu.27.nea | Roughsnout grenadier in subareas 1-2, 4-8, 10, 12, 14 and Division 3a | *Trachyrincus scabrus* | Roughsnout grenadier | Demersal | 6.3 | 2020 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| usk.27.12ac | Tusk in Subarea 12, excluding Division 12.b | *Brosme brosme* | Tusk | Demersal | 6.3 | 2019 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |

| Stock Code | Stock Description | Species Scientific Name | Species Common Name | Fisheries Guild | Data Category | Assessment Year | Advice Category | Approach | Fishing Pressure | Stock Size | D3C1 | D3C2 | GES | SBL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| usk.27.3a45b6a7-912b | Tusk in subareas 4 and 7-9 and divisions 3.a, 5.b, 6.a, and 12.b | *Brosme brosme* | Tusk | Demersal | 3.2 | 2021 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| usk.27.6b | Tusk in Division 6.b | *Brosme brosme* | Tusk | Demersal | 5.2 | 2022 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |
| whb.27.1-91214 | Blue whiting in subareas 1-9, 12, and 14 | *Micromesistius poutassou* | Blue whiting | Pelagic | 1 | 2022 | MP | Maximum sustainable yield | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ? | ✗ |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | o | ✓ | o | ✓ | | |
| whg.27.6b | Whiting in Division 6.b | *Merlangius merlangus* | Whiting | Demersal | 6.2 | 2021 | PA | Maximum sustainable yield | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? | ? |
| | | | | | | | | Precautionary approach | ? | ? | ? | ? | | |

**Table A2** Scientific names of species.

| Common name | Scientific name |
|---|---|
| Albacore tuna | *Thunnus alalunga* |
| Angel shark | *Squatina squatina* |
| Alfonsinos | *Beryx* spp. |
| Anglerfish | *Lophius* spp. |
| Baird's slickhead | *Alepocephalus bairdii* |
| Basking shark | *Cetorhinus maximus* |
| Birdbeak dogfish | *Deania calcea* |
| Black-bellied anglerfish | *Lophius budegassa* |
| Black-mouth dogfish | *Galeus melastomus* |
| Black scabbardfish | *Aphanopus carbo* |
| Blackspot sea bream | *Pagellus bogaraveo* |
| Blonde ray | *Raja brachyuran* |
| Blue ling | *Molva dypterygia* |
| Blue whiting | *Micromesistius poutassou* |
| Boarfish | *Capros aper* |
| Brown crab | *Cancer pagurus* |
| Clam | *Spisula* |
| Cockle | *Cerastoderma edule* |
| Cod | *Gadus morhua* |
| Common dolphin (Long-finned) | *Delphis delphinus* |
| Common skate | *Dipturus batis*-complex (includes flapper skate *Dipturus cf. flossada*) and blue skate *Dipturus cf. intermedia* |
| Cuckoo ray | *Leucoraja naevus* |
| Cuttlefish | *Sepia officinalis* |
| European eel | *Anguilla anguilla* |
| Four-spot megrim | *Lepidorhombus boscii* |
| Great lanternshark | *Etmopterus princeps* |
| Greater forkbeard | *Phycis blennoides* |
| Greenland halibut | *Reinhardtius hippoglossoides* |
| Greater silver smelt | *Argentina silus* |
| Greater-spotted dogfish | *Scyliorhinus stellaris* |
| Haddock | *Melanogrammus aeglefinus* |
| Harbour porpoise | *Phocoena phocoena* |
| Herring | *Clupea harengus* |
| Hake | *Merluccius merluccius* |
| Horse mackerel | *Trachurus trachurus* |
| Kitefin shark | *Dalatias licha* |
| Leafscale gulper shark | *Centrophorus squamosus* |
| Lesser-spotted dogfish | *Scyliorhinus canicula* |
| Ling | *Molva molva* |
| Lobster | *Homarus gammarus* |
| Mackerel | *Scomber scombrus* |
| Megrim | *Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis* |
| Megrims | *Lepidorhombus* spp. |
| Norway lobster | *Nephrops norvegicus* |
| Norway pout | *Trisopterus esmarkii* |
| Norwegian skate | *Dipturus nidarosiensis* |
| Orange roughy | *Hoplostethus atlanticus* |
| Oyster | *Ostrea edulis* |
| Plaice | *Pleuronectes platessa* |
| Pollack | *Pollachius pollachius* |
| Porbeagle | *Lamna nasus* |
| Portuguese dogfish | *Centroscymnus coelolepis* |
| Queen scallop | *Chlamys opercularis* |
| Rays and skates | *Rajidae* |
| Razor clam | *Ensis magnus* |

| Common name | Scientific name |
|---|---|
| Red gurnard | *Chelidonichthys cuculus* |
| Roughhead grenadier | *Macrourus berglax* |
| Roughsnout grenadier | *Trachyrincus scabrous* |
| Roundnose grenadier | *Coryphaenoides rupestris* |
| Saithe | *Pollachius virens* |
| Salmon | *Salmo salar* |
| Sandy ray | *Leucoraja circularis* |
| Sardine | *Sardina pilchardus* |
| Sea bass | *Dicentrarchus labrax* |
| Sea trout | *Salmo trutta* |
| Shagreen ray | *Leucoraja fullonica* |
| Small-eyed ray | *Raja microocellata* |
| Smooth-hound | *Mustelus* spp. |
| Smooth lanternshark | *Etmopterus pusillus* |
| Sole | *Solea solea* |
| Spotted ray | *Raja montagui* |
| Sprat | *Sprattus sprattus* |
| Spurdog (Piked dogfish) | *Squalus acanthias* |
| Starry ray | *Amblyraja radiate* |
| Striped red mullet | *Mullus surmuletus* |
| Thornback ray | *Raja clavata* |
| Thorny skate | *Amblyraja radiate* |
| Thresher sharks | *Alopias* spp. |
| Tope | *Galeorhinus galeus* |
| Tusk | *Brosme brosme* |
| Undulate ray | *Raja undulata* |
| White anglerfish | *Lophius piscatorius* |
| White skate | *Rostroraja alba* |
| Whelk | *Buccinum undatum* |
| Whiting | *Merlangius merlangus* |