

Sandeel (*Ammodytes* spp.) in subdivisions 20-22, Sandeel Area 6 (Skagerrak, Kattegat and Belt Sea)

ICES stock advice

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches should be no more than 175 tonnes in each of the years 2017 and 2018.

Stock development over time

Only catch statistics are available. The available information is inadequate to evaluate stock status or trends. The state of the stock is therefore unknown.

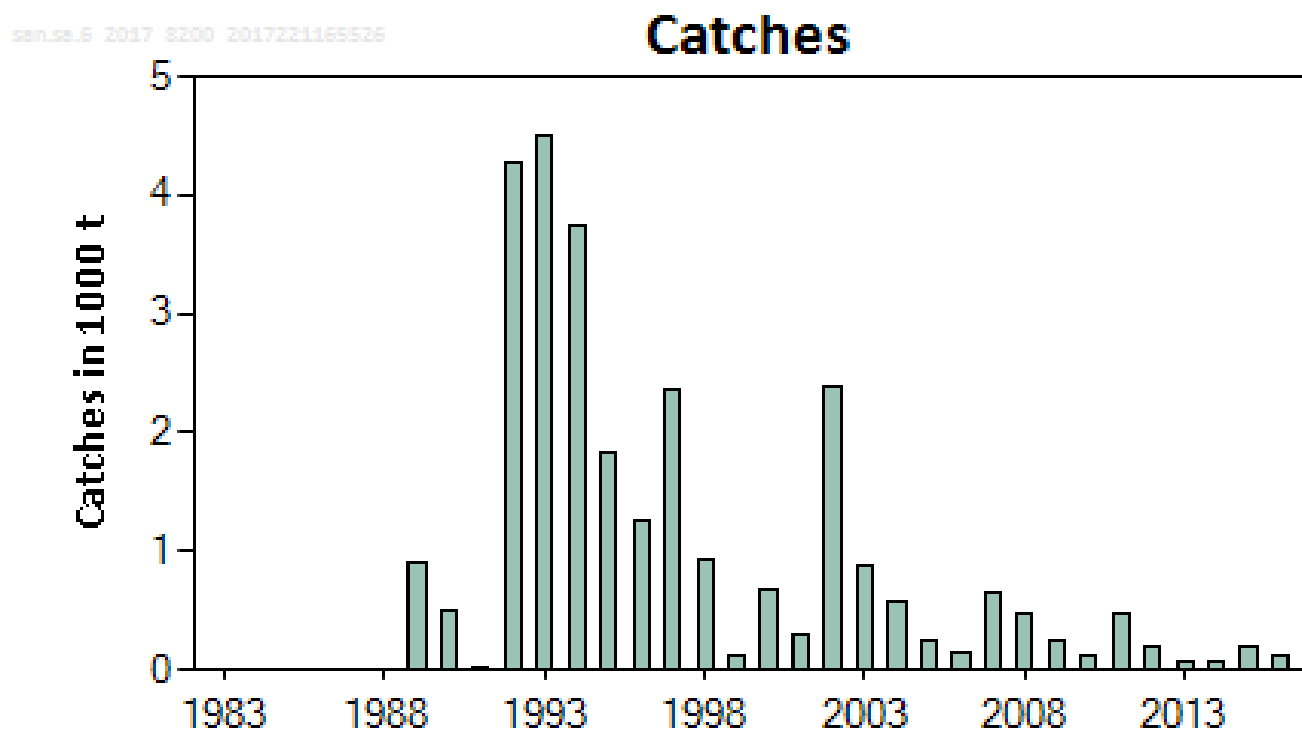


Figure 1 Sandeel in subdivisions 20-22, Sandeel Area 6. ICES estimates of catches (in thousand tonnes).

Stock and exploitation status

Table 1 Sandeel in subdivisions 20-22, Sandeel Area 6. State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points.

		Fishing pressure				Stock size			
		2014	2015	2016		2015	2016	2017	
Maximum sustainable yield	F_{MSY}	?	?	?	Undefined	$MSY_{B_{escapement}}$?	?	?
Precautionary approach	F_{pa} F_{lim}	?	?	?	Undefined	B_{pa} , B_{lim}	?	?	?
Management plan	F_{MGT}	-	-	-	Not applicable	SSB_{MGT}	-	-	-
Qualitative evaluation	-	?	?	?	Unknown	-	?	?	?

Catch options

The ICES framework for stocks in categories 4–6 was applied (ICES, 2012). For stocks without information on abundance or exploitation, ICES considers that a precautionary reduction of catches should be implemented every three years unless there is ancillary information clearly indicating that the current level of exploitation is appropriate for the stock. The precautionary buffer was last applied in 2013. Because there is no information on stock size or fishing pressure, the precautionary buffer was applied again in 2017.

Table 2 Sandeel in subdivisions 20-22, Sandeel Area 6. The catch options. For stocks in ICES categories 3–6, one catch option is possible.

Recent advised catch	219 tonnes	
Discard rate	Negligible	
Precautionary buffer	Applied	0.80
Catch advice	175 tonnes	

Basis of the advice

Table 3 Sandeel in subdivisions 20-22, Sandeel Area 6. 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 basis for the advice is expected to remain unchanged unless information on stock status becomes available.

In 2017 the names of several other sandeel areas were changed because of a change in the statistical rectangles included in those stock areas; the stock area of Sandeel Area 6 did not change (ICES, 2017a).

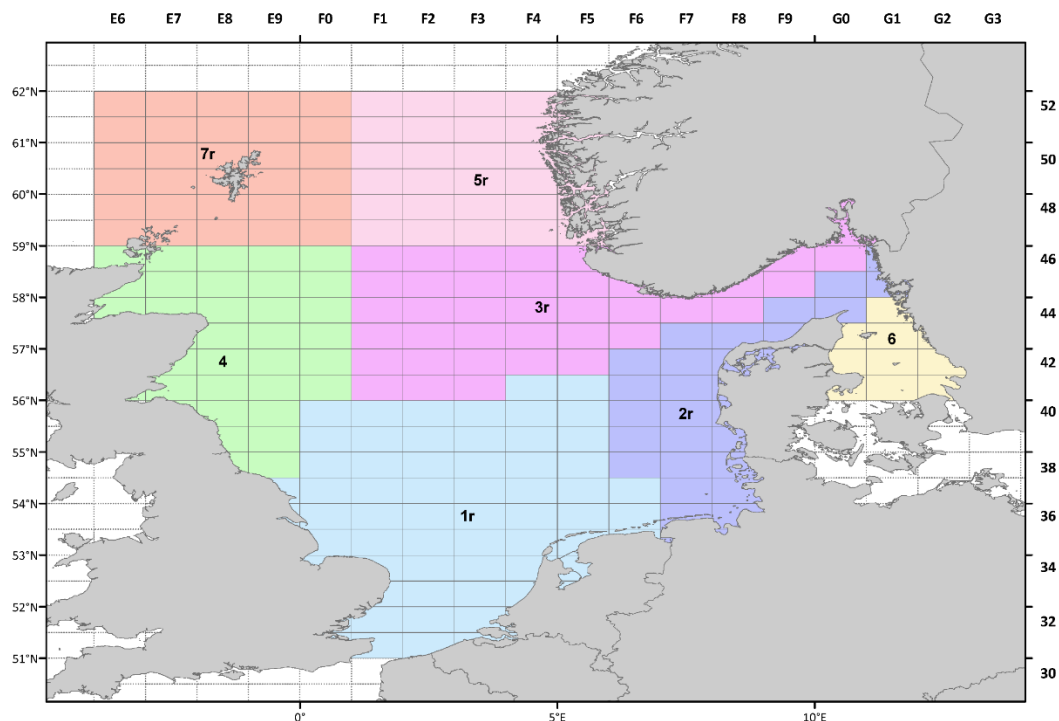


Figure 2 Sandeel in subdivisions 20-22, Sandeel Area 6. Sandeel are largely sedentary after settlement and form a complex of local (sub-)stocks in the North Sea. To avoid local depletion, ICES advice for sandeel is provided separately for seven areas in Division 3.a and Subarea 4. Advice for sandeel in subdivisions 20-22, Sandeel Area 6 is defined as rectangles 41–43 G0–G3; 44 G1. ICES revised many of the sandeel areas by ICES statistical rectangle at the 2016 benchmark, however, Sandeel Area 6 was not revised (ICES, 2017a).

Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

Basis of the assessment

Table 4 Sandeel in subdivisions 20-22, Sandeel Area 6. The basis of the assessment.

ICES stock data category	5 (ICES, 2016)
Assessment type	No assessment (ICES, 2017b)
Input data	Commercial catches statistics
Discards and bycatch	Discarding is considered to be negligible.
Indicators	None
Other information	Last benchmarked in 2016 (ICES, 2017a).
Working group	Herring Assessment Working Group (HAWG)

Information from stakeholders

There is no available information.

History of advice, catch, and management

Table 5 Sandeel in subdivisions 20-22, Sandeel Area 6. History of ICES advice, the agreed TAC, and ICES estimated catch. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Catch corresponding to advice	EU TAC	ICES catch SA 6
2005	No advice			262
2006	No advice			161
2007	No advice			661
2008	No advice			472
2009	No advice			26
2010	No advice			132
2011	No increase in effort unless there is evidence that this is sustainable.		42	481
2012	No increase in effort unless there is evidence that this is sustainable.		42	211
2013	20% reduction in catches from last 3-year average	< 219	336	90
2014	No new advice, same as for 2013	< 219	219	79
2015	Precautionary approach	< 219	219	199
2016	Precautionary approach	< 219	219	123*
2017	Precautionary approach	≤ 175		
2018	Precautionary approach	≤ 175		

*Preliminary.

History of catch and landings

Table 6 Sandeel in subdivisions 20-22, Sandeel Area 6. Catch distribution by fleet in 2016 as estimated by ICES (in tonnes).

Total catch (2016)	Landings	Discards
123	100% industrial trawl fisheries	Negligible
	123	

Table 7 Sandeel in subdivisions 20-22, Sandeel Area 6. History of catch (in tonnes) as estimated by ICES.

Year	Catch
1983	0
1984	0
1985	0
1986	0
1987	0
1988	0
1989	909
1990	499
1991	17
1992	4277
1993	4490
1994	3748
1995	1830
1996	1263
1997	2373
1998	936
1999	134
2000	680
2001	312
2002	2378
2003	869
2004	570
2005	262
2006	161
2007	661
2008	472
2009	260
2010	132
2011	481
2012	211
2013	90
2014	79
2015	199
2016	123*

*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.
- ICES. 2016. General context of ICES advice. *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2016. ICES Advice 2016, Book 1, Section 1.2.
- ICES. 2017a. Report of the Benchmark Workshop on Sandeel Stocks (WKSAND), 31 October–4 November 2016, Bergen, Norway. ICES CM 2016/ACOM:33.
- ICES. 2017b. Sandeel in Division 3.a and Subarea 4. Section 9 *in* Report of the Herring Assessment Working Group for the Area South of 62°N (HAWG), 16–22 March 2017, ICES HQ, Denmark. ICES CM 2017/ACOM:07. Available separately at the [HAWG](#) website.