

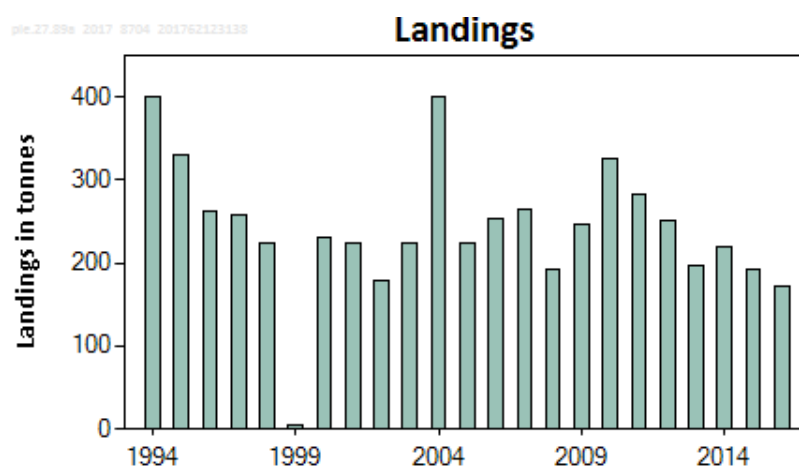
## Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a (Bay of Biscay and Atlantic Iberian waters)

### ICES stock advice

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, wanted catches<sup>1</sup> in each of the years 2018 and 2019 should be no more than 194 tonnes. ICES cannot quantify the corresponding total catches.

### Stock development over time

Landings have been relatively stable over the time period. The available information is insufficient to evaluate stock trends and exploitation status.



**Figure 1** Plaice in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. Official landings (in tonnes). The 2015 and 2016 data are preliminary.

### Stock and exploitation status

**Table 1** Plaice in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points.

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

### Catch options

The ICES framework for category 5 stocks was applied (ICES, 2012). For stocks without information on abundance or exploitation, ICES considers that a precautionary reduction of catches should be implemented unless there is ancillary information clearly indicating that the current level of exploitation is appropriate for the stock. The stock status relative to reference points remains unknown. The precautionary buffer was applied in 2015 (for the 2016 advice) and is therefore not applied again this year.

Discarding is likely to be >5% of the catch but the information is uncertain; therefore, no catch advice can be given.

<sup>1</sup> The term "wanted catch" is used to describe the fish that would be landed in the absence of the EU landing obligation.

**Table 2** Plaice in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. The basis for the catch options.

Recent advised wanted catch* (for 2017)	194 tonnes	
Discard rate	Unknown	
Precautionary buffer	Not applied	-
Wanted catch* advice**	194 tonnes	

\*The term "wanted catch" is used to describe the fish that would be landed in the absence of the EU landing obligation.

\*\* Recent advice.

### Basis of the advice

**Table 3** Plaice in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	Precautionary approach.
Management plan	There is no management plan for plaice in this area.

### Quality of the assessment

ICES estimates of the landings are available from 2014 onwards. Only official landings are available prior to 2014.

The stock definition of plaice in this area is not clear. The bulk of the fishery takes place on the northern boundary of the stock area.

### Issues relevant for the advice

Discard data for the last two years are available for some of the fleets only. The available discard rates are variable, but below 10%; therefore, total catch advice cannot be given.

### Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

### Basis of the assessment

**Table 4** Plaice in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. Basis of the assessment and advice.

ICES stock data category	5 (ICES, <a href="#">2016</a> ).
Assessment type	No assessment (ICES, 2017).
Input data	Official landings until 2013 and ICES estimated landings from 2014.
Discards and bycatch	Limited data.
Indicators	None.
Other information	None.
Working group	Working Group for the Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Waters Ecoregion ( <a href="#">WGBIE</a> )

### Information from stakeholders

No information available.

## History of the advice, catch, and management

**Table 5** Plaice in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. ICES advice and official landings. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Predicted catch corresponding to advice	TAC*	Official landings	ICES landings
2000		-	700	230	-
2001		-	560	223	-
2002		-	560	179	-
2003		-	448	223	-
2004		-	448	399	-
2005		-	448	224	-
2006		-	448	253	-
2007		-	448	264	-
2008		-	448	193	-
2009		-	448	246	-
2010		-	403	325	-
2011		-	395	282	-
2012	No increase in catch	-	395	251	-
2013	20% reduction in catches	-	395	196	-
2014	Same catch value advised for 2013	-	395	220	217
2015	Same catch value advised for 2013	-	395	193**	193
2016	Precautionary approach	≤ 194***	395	173**	174
2017	Precautionary approach	≤ 194***	395		
2018	Precautionary approach	≤ 194***			
2019	Precautionary approach	≤ 194***			

\* For subareas 8, 9, and 10; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1.

\*\* Preliminary.

\*\*\* Advice is for wanted catch.

## History of the catch and landings

**Table 6** Plaice in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. Catch distribution by fleet in 2016 as estimated by ICES.

Catch (2016)	Landings			Discards
	Trawl 36%	Nets 29%	Other 35%	Unknown
Cannot be quantified	174 tonnes			

**Table 7a** Plaice in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. History of official landings. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	Belgium	France	Portugal	Spain	Total
1994		365	33	1	399
1995		319		12	331
1996		248		14	262
1997		255		3	258
1998		219		6	225
1999	1			3	4
2000	15	193		22	230
2001		201		22	223
2002	1	167		11	179
2003	1	217	1	4	223
2004		229	163	7	399
2005	4	186	1	33	224
2006	2	248	1	4	253
2007	5	214	41	4	264
2008	2	98	89	4	193
2009	2	134	101	9	246
2010	1	200	112	12	325
2011	2	208	64	8	282
2012	3	183	62	3	251
2013	0	147	44	5	196
2014	1	164	51	6	220
2015*	2	141	45	5	193
2016*	1	121	47	4	173

\* Preliminary.

### Summary of the assessment

There is no assessment for plaice 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. Advice basis. *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2016. ICES Advice 2016, Book 1, Section 1.2.

ICES. 2017. Report of the Working Group for the Bay of Biscay and the Iberian waters Ecoregion (WGBIE), 4–9 May 2017, Cadiz, Spain. ICES CM 2017/ACOM:12. In preparation.