Saithe (Pollachius virens) in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat)

## ICES stock advice

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2018 should be no more than 118460 tonnes.

## Stock development over time

Recruitment ( $R$ ) has fluctuated over time and has generally been below the long-term average since 2003. Fishing mortality (F) has been below FMsy since 2013. Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has fluctuated without trend and has been above MSY Btrigger since 1996.


Figure 1 Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. Summary of the stock assessment. Predicted recruitment values are not shaded. Shaded areas (F, SSB) and error bars (R) indicate point-wise 95\% confidence intervals.

Stock and exploitation status

Table 1 Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points.

|  | Fishing pressure |  |  |  |  | Stock size |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 2013 | 2014 |  | 2015 |  | 2015 | 2016 |  | 2017 |
| Maximum Sustainable Yield | $\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{MSY}}$ |  |  |  | Below | MSY <br> $\mathrm{B}_{\text {Trigger }}$ |  |  |  | Above trigger |
| Precautionary Approach | $\begin{aligned} & \mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{pa}} \\ & \mathrm{~F}_{\mathrm{lim}} \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  | Harvested sustainably | $\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{pa}}, \mathrm{B}_{\text {lim }}$ | $\checkmark$ | ( |  | Full reproductive capacity |
| Management plan | $\mathrm{F}_{\text {MGT }}$ | - | - | - | Not applicable | $\mathrm{B}_{\text {MGT }}$ | - | - |  | Not applicable |

## Catch options

Table 2
Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. The basis for the catch options.

| Variable | Value | Source | Notes |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | :--- |
| Fages 4-7 (2017) $^{\text {F }}$ (20.381 | ICES (2017a) | TAC constraint for wanted catch based on TAC for 2017 <br> (106 331 tonnes).* The F corresponds to the total catch. |  |
| SSB (2018) | 272061 | ICES (2017a) | SSB at the beginning of the TAC year; tonnes. |
| $R_{\text {age 3 (2017-2018) }}$ | 110334 | ICES (2017a) | Median recruitment re-sampled from the years 2003-2016; <br> thousands. |
| Total catch (2017) | 123135 | ICES (2017a) | Sum of catch components, assuming 2016 landings fraction by <br> age; tonnes. |
| Wanted catch (2017) | 106331 | ICES (2017a) | TAC 2017; tonnes*. |
| Unwanted catch (2017) | 16804 | ICES (2017a) | Assuming 2016 discard fraction by age; tonnes. |

* 2017 TAC minus top-up for fleets under landing obligation in 2017.

Table 3 Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. Annual catch options. All weights are in tonnes.

| Basis | Total catch (2018) | Wanted <br> catch* <br> (2018) | Unwanted catch* (2018) | Wanted catch* 3 a 4 | Wanted catch* 6 | $\begin{aligned} & F_{\text {total }} \\ & (2018) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & F_{\text {wanted }} \\ & (2018) \end{aligned}$ | Funwanted (2018) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { SSB } \\ & (2019) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { \% SSB } \\ \text { change } \\ * * \end{gathered}$ | \% TAC change *** |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ICES advice basis |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| MSY approach: FMSY | 118460 | 103731 | 14729 | 93980 | 9751 | 0.36 | 0.32 | 0.040 | 279689 | 2.8 | -2.4 |
| Other options |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $\mathrm{F}=0$ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 394153 | 45 | -100 |
| $\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{pa}}$ | 130786 | 114463 | 16323 | 103704 | 10759 | 0.40 | 0.36 | 0.045 | 267945 | -1.5 | 7.6 |
| $\mathrm{F}_{\text {lim }}$ | 171024 | 149404 | 21620 | 135360 | 14044 | 0.56 | 0.50 | 0.063 | 229853 | -15.5 | 41 |
| SSB (2019) $=\mathrm{B}_{\text {lim }}$ | 310073 | 267552 | 42521 | 242402 | 25150 | 1.40 | 1.25 | 0.157 | 107000 | -61 | 152 |
| SSB (2019) $=\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{pa}}$ | 259758 | 225247 | 34511 | 204073 | 21174 | 1.03 | 0.91 | 0.115 | 150000 | -45 | 112 |
| SSB (2019) = | 259758 | 225247 | 34511 | 204073 | 21174 | 1.03 | 0.91 | 0.115 | 150000 | -45 | 112 |
| $F=F_{2017}$ | 124816 | 109286 | 15530 | 99013 | 10273 | 0.38 | 0.34 | 0.043 | 273559 | 0.55 | 2.8 |
| TAC 2017 | 121516 | 106331 | 15185 | 96336 | 9995 | 0.37 | 0.33 | 0.041 | 276208 | 1.52 | 0.00 |
| $\mathrm{F}=\mathrm{F}_{\text {MSY lower }}$ | 75093 | 65865 | 9228 | 59673 | 6192 | 0.21 | 0.189 | 0.024 | 321353 | 18.1 | -38 |
| $\mathrm{F}=\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{MSY}}$ upper with AR | 153765 | 134418 | 19347 | 121783 | 12635 | 0.49 | 0.44 | 0.055 | 246136 | -9.5 | 26 |
| Mixed fisheries options |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A: Max. | 188427 |  |  |  |  | 0.61 |  |  | 226078 | -17 |  |
| B: Min. | 66271 |  |  |  |  | 0.18 |  |  | 341644 | 26 |  |
| C: HAD | 79769 |  |  |  |  | 0.20 |  |  | 362988 | 33 |  |
| D: POK | 114358 |  |  |  |  | 0.36 |  |  | 267781 | -2 |  |
| E: SQ effort | 99571 |  |  |  |  | 0.27 |  |  | 316163 | 16 |  |
| F: Value | 100212 |  |  |  |  | 0.28 |  |  | 309074 | 14 |  |
| G: Range | 77317 |  |  |  |  | 0.22 |  |  | 319205 | 17 |  |

* "Wanted" and "unwanted" catch are used to describe fish that would be landed and discarded in the absence of the EU landing obligation, based on discard rate estimates for 2016.
** SSB 2019 relative to SSB 2018.
*** Wanted catch in 2018 relative to TAC, minus top-up for fleets under landing obligation in 2017 (106 331 t).
Mixed-fisheries assumptions (note: "fleet's stock share" is used to describe the share of the fishing opportunities for each particular fleet, which has been calculated based on the single-stock advice for 2018 and the historical proportion of the stock landings taken by the fleet):
A. Maximum scenario: Each fleet stops fishing when its last stock share is exhausted.
B. Minimum scenario: Each fleet stops fishing when its first stock share is exhausted.
C. HAD: Each fleet stops fishing when its individual haddock share is exhausted.
D. POK: Each fleet stops fishing when its individual saithe share is exhausted.
E. SQ (status quo) effort scenario: The effort of each fleet in 2017 and 2018 is as in 2016.
F. Value scenario: The effort of each fleet is equal to the weighted average of the efforts required to catch the fleet's quota share of each of the stocks, where the weights are the relative catch values of each stock in the fleet's portfolio.
G. Range scenario: where the potential for TAC mismatches in 2018 are minimized within the $\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{MSY}}$ range, for the demersal fish stocks for which such a range is available (cod.27.47d20; had.27.46a20; pok.27.3a46; ple.27.420; ple.27.7d; sol.27.4; sol.27.7d).


## Basis of the advice

Table 4
Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. The basis of the advice.
Advice basis

Management plan MSY approach
Changes to the stock assessment and reference points in 2016 imply a need to re-evaluate the EU-Norway management strategy. Until such an evaluation is conducted, the ICES advice is based on the MSY approach.

## Quality of the assessment

The saithe assessment went through an ICES benchmark process in 2016 (ICES, 2016a). The scientific survey used in the assessment does not cover the whole stock distribution; however, it is considered generally representative. The survey index is uncertain because it is influenced by occasional large catches. This occurred for example in 2016.

Commercial catch per unit of effort information for French, German, and Norwegian trawlers was combined into a single index of biomass of fishable saithe. Factors such as vessel experience and fishing behaviour likely contribute to the variability in cpue for all fleets, but these are not captured in the cpue model. Conflicting signals between the survey and fishable biomass index contributes to the assessment uncertainty.

The uncertainty for age 3 saithe in 2016 is estimated to be large. The fraction of age 3 saithe migrating into the survey area (and the fishery) is low and varying between years with no obvious trend. Observations of saithe at age 3 are not suitable for predicting year-class strength. This means that assumed recruitment values are highly uncertain; $27 \%$ of the advised total catch in 2018 is based on the recruitment assumptions for 2017 and 2018.


Figure 2 Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. Historical assessment results.

## Issues relevant for the advice

The advice based on the MSY approach gives a small decrease in TAC compared to the TAC in 2017. The 2016 SSB estimate has been revised downwards. Estimates of recruitment for a given year class tend to be revised considerably with successive assessments (Figure 2) and therefore the associated short-term forecast is uncertain for this stock (see under "Quality of assessment").

It is expected that under the EU landing obligation, below minimum size fish that would formerly have been discarded would now be reported as below minimum size (BMS) landings in logbooks. However, BMS landings reported to ICES may be lower than expected for several reasons: fish caught below minimum size could either not have been landed and not recorded in logbooks, or landed but not recorded as BMS; additionally, BMS landings recorded in logbooks may not be reported to ICES.

In the case of saithe, there is no indication that fish that would formerly have been discarded are being reported as BMS, based on the observation that BMS landings reported to ICES are currently much lower than the estimates of discards from observer programmes, which estimate discards at $13 \%$ of the total catch.

Results from a North Sea mixed-fisheries analysis are presented in ICES (2017b). For 2018, assuming a strictly implemented discard ban (corresponding to the "Minimum" scenario), whiting would be the most limiting stock, being estimated to constrain 24 out of 42 fleet segments. Haddock is the second most limiting stock, constraining eight fleet segments. Additionally, if Norway lobster was managed by separate TACs for the individual functional units (FUs), Norway lobster in FU 6 would be considered the most limiting stock for ten fleet segments. Conversely, in the "Maximum" scenario, saithe and Eastern Channel plaice would be the least limiting for 20 and 11 fleet segments, respectively. Finally, if Norway lobster was managed by separate TACs, Norway lobster in FUs 7, 5, 33, and 4.non-FU would be the least limiting for nine, two, one, and two fleet segments, respectively. For those demersal fish stocks for which the Fmsy range is available, a "range" scenario is presented that minimizes the potential for TAC mismatches in 2018 within the Fmsy range. This scenario returns a fishing mortality by stock which, if used for setting single-stock fishing opportunities for 2018, may reduce the gap between the most and the least restrictive TACs, thus reducing the potential for quota over- and undershoot. This "range" scenario suggests that the potential for mixed-fisheries mismatch would be lowered with a 2018 TAC in the lower part of the Fmsy range for Eastern English Channel plaice and saithe, and in the upper part of the range for cod and North Sea plaice.

## Reference points

Table 5 Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. Reference points, values, and their technical basis.

| Framework | Reference point | Value | Technical basis | Source |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| MSY approach | MSY Btrrigger | 150000 t | $\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{pa}}$ | ICES (2016a) |
|  | $\mathrm{F}_{\text {MSY }}$ | 0.36 | EQsim analysis based on the recruitment period 20032015. | ICES (2016a) |
| Precautionary approach | $\mathrm{Bl}_{\text {lim }}$ | 107000 t | $\mathrm{B}_{\text {loss }}$ | ICES (2016a) |
|  | $\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{pa}}$ | 150000 t | $\mathrm{B}_{\text {lim }} \times \exp (1.645 \times 0.2) \approx 1.4 \times \mathrm{B}_{\text {lim }}$ | ICES (2016a) |
|  | Flim | 0.56 | EQsim analysis based on the recruitment period 20032015. | ICES (2016a) |
|  | $\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{pa}}$ | 0.40 | $\mathrm{F}_{\text {lim }} \times \exp (-1.645 \times 0.2) \approx \mathrm{F}_{\text {lim }} / 1.4$ | ICES (2016a) |
| Management plan | $S_{\text {SB }}^{\text {mgt }}$ | Not defined |  |  |
|  | $\mathrm{F}_{\text {mgt }}$ | Not defined |  |  |

## Basis of the assessment

Table 6 Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. Basis of the assessment and advice.

| ICES stock data category | 1 (ICES, 2016c). |
| :--- | :--- |
| Assessment type | Age-based analytical assessment SAM, (ICES, 2017a) that uses catches in the model and in the forecast. |
| Input data | Commercial catches (international landings, BMS landings, and discards, age and length frequencies from <br> catch sampling); survey index (IBTS Q3, ages 3-8); combined commercial index scaled to the exploitable <br> biomass (French, German, Norwegian trawler fleets). Maturity-at-age and natural mortality are assumed <br> to be constant. Stock weights are catch weights. |
| Discards, BMS landings, <br> and bycatch | Discards were included (96\% reported, 4\% raised); dataseries in 2016 covered 43\% of the landings by <br> weight. BMS landings, where reported, are included with discards as unwanted catch in the assessment <br> from 2016. Logbook registered discards, where reported, were 0 kg. |
| Indicators | None. |
| Other information | Benchmarked in 2016 (ICES, 2016a) with additional review (ICES, 2016b). |
| Working group | Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak (WGNSSK) |

## Information from stakeholders

No additional information was provided.

## History of the advice, catch, and management

Table 7 Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. ICES advice and official landings. All weights are in tonnes. Values of official and ICES landings for the period 1987 to 2001 are presented to the nearest thousand tonnes in Subarea 4 and Division 3.a and the nearest hundred tonnes in Subarea 6.

Subarea 4 and Division 3.a
$\left.\begin{array}{|c|l|r|r|r|r|r|r|r|}\hline \text { Year } & \text { ICES advice } & \begin{array}{c}\text { Predicted } \\ \text { landings } \\ \text { corresp. to } \\ \text { advice }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { Predicted } \\ \text { catches } \\ \text { corresp. to } \\ \text { advice }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { Agreed } \\ \text { TAC }\end{array} & \begin{array}{c}\text { Official } \\ \text { landings }\end{array} & \text { ICES landings } & \text { ICES discards }\end{array} \begin{array}{c}\text { BMS reported } \\ \text { to ICES }\end{array}\right]$

[^0]Subarea 6

| Year | ICES advice | Predicted landings corresp. to advice | Predicted catches corresp. to advice | Agreed TAC^^ | Official landings | ICES <br> landings | ICES discards | BMS reported to ICES |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1987 | F reduced towards $\mathrm{F}_{\text {max }}$ | 19000 |  | 27800 | 32500 | 31400 |  |  |
| 1988 | 80\% of F(86); TAC | 35000 |  | 35000 | 32800 | 34200 |  |  |
| 1989 | F < 0.3; TAC | 20000 |  | 30000 | 22400 | 25600 |  |  |
| 1990 | 80\% of F(88); TAC | 24000 |  | 29000 | 18000 | 19900 |  |  |
| 1991 | Stop SSB decline; TAC | 21000 |  | 22000 | 17900 | 17000 |  |  |
| 1992 | Avoid further reduction in SSB | < 19000 |  | 17000 | 10800 | 11800 |  |  |
| 1993 | F = 0.21 | 6300 |  | 14000 | 14500 | 13900 |  |  |
| 1994 | Lowest possible F |  |  | 14000 | 13000** | 12800 |  |  |
| 1995 | Significant reduction in effort | - |  | 16000 | 10600** | 11800 |  |  |
| 1996 | No increase in F | 10200* |  | 13000 | 9400** | 9400 |  |  |
| 1997 | Significant reduction in F |  |  | 12000 | 8600** | 9400 |  |  |
| 1998 | 60\% reduction in F | 4800 |  | 10900 | 7400** | 8400 |  |  |
| 1999 | 60\% reduction in F | 4800 |  | 7500 | 6800 | 7300 |  |  |
| 2000 | Reduce F by 30\% | 6000 |  | 7000 | 6400 | 5900 |  |  |
| 2001 | Reduce F by 20\% | 9000 |  | 9000 | 8700 | 8400 |  |  |
| 2002 | $\mathrm{F}<\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{pa}}$ | < 13000 |  | 14000 | 5600 | 5519 | 3150 |  |
| 2003 | $\mathrm{F}<\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{pa}}$ | < 17000 |  | 17100 | 5220 | 5789 | 2242 |  |
| 2004 | $\mathrm{F}<\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{pa}}{ }^{\wedge}$ | < 21000 |  | 20000 | 4810 | 4982 | 620 |  |
| 2005 | F according to man. plan $\left(<\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{pa}}\right)^{\wedge}$ | < 14000 |  | 15000 | 8700 | 6456 | 1637 |  |
| 2006 | F according to man. plan ( $\left.<\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{pa}}\right)^{\wedge}$ | < 12000 |  | 13000 | 9420 | 9474 | 1675 |  |
| 2007 | F according to man. plan $\left(<\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{pa}}\right)^{\wedge}$ | < 12000 |  | 13000 | 6690 | 6602 | 584 |  |
| 2008 | F according to man. plan ( $\left.<\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{pa}}\right)^{\wedge}$ | < 14000 |  | 14000 | 6010 | 6712 | 981 |  |
| 2009 | F according to man. plan ( $\left.<\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{pa}}\right)^{\wedge}$ | < 13000 |  | 13000 | 6170 | 6294 | 521 |  |
| 2010 | F according to man. plan $\left(<\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{pa}}\right)^{\wedge}$ | < 11000 |  | 11000 | 6220 | 6263 | 412 |  |
| 2011 | See scenarios | - |  | 10000 | 7310 | 6917 | 502 |  |
| 2012*** | F according to man. plan ( $\left.<\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{pa}}\right)^{\wedge}$ | <8230 |  | 8000 | 7560 | 7549 | 2887 |  |
| 2013 | Management plan (TAC +15\%)^ | < 9464 |  | 9464 | 8470 | 8653 | 1397 |  |
| 2014 | Management plan (TAC-15\%)^ | < 8045 |  | 8045 | 6842 | 7020 | 512 |  |
| 2015 | Management plan | < 6848 | $<7492$ | 6848 | 7577 | 7534 | 405 |  |
| 2016 | EU-Norway management strategy | $\leq 6448$ | $\leq 7054$ | 6816 | 5849 | 7458 | 335 | 6 |
| 2017*** | MSY approach | $\leq 12670$ | $\leq 13221$ | 10404 † |  |  |  |  |
| 2018 | MSY approach | $\leq 9751$ | $\leq 11135$ |  |  |  |  |  |

* Status quo catch.
** Incomplete data.
*** The June advice was updated in November.
$\wedge$ Single-stock boundary and the exploitation of this stock should be conducted in the context of mixed fisheries.
^^ Since 1999, this area has been assessed together with the North Sea/Skagerrak. The TACs for each area are derived from a split based on historical landings.
$\ddagger$ Includes top-up of 4.1\%.


## History of the catch and landings

Table 8 Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. Catch distribution by fleet in 2016 as estimated by ICES.

| Catch (2016) | Wanted catch |  | Unwanted catch |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Discards | BMS landings |
| 78715 tonnes | Bottom trawl 89.7\% | Gillnet 4.9\% | 10421 tonnes | 182 tonnes |
|  | 68113 tonnes |  |  |  |

Table 9 Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. History of commercial landings; both the official and ICES estimated values are presented by area for each country participating in the fishery. All weights are in tonnes.
Subarea 4 and Division 3.a

| Country | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016* |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Belgium | 22 | 28 | 15 | 18 | 7 | 27 | 15 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 16 |
| Denmark | 7991 | 7498 | 7470 | 5443 | 8066 | 8802 | 8018 | 6331 | 5171 | 5691 | 5056 | 4508 | 3109 |
| Faroe Isl. | 558 | 463 | 60 | 15 | 108 | 841 | 146 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| France | 13628 | 11830 | 16953 | 15083 | 15881 | 7203 | 4582* | 13856* | 14093* | 8475 | 7906 | 11612 | 10842 |
| Germany | 9589 | 12401 | 14397 | 12791 | 14140 | 13410 | 11193 | 10234 | 8052 | 9687 | 8562 | 7954 | 6196 |
| Greenland | 403 | 1042 | 924 | 564 | 888 | 927 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ireland | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lithuania | 0 | 149 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Netherlands | 3 | 40 | 28 | 5 | 3 | 16 | 3 | 24 | 34 | 168 | 0 | 64 | 87 |
| Norway | 62783 | 68122 | 61318 | 45396 | 61464 | 57708 | 52712 | 46809 | 33288 | 35701 | 37463 | 35691 | 30951 |
| Poland | 0 | 1100 | 1084 | 1384 | 1407 | 988 | 654 | 584 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Russia | 0 | 35 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sweden | 2249 | 2132 | 1745 | 1381 | 1639 | 1363 | 1545 | 1335 | 1306 | 1401 | 1272 | 1157 | 980 |
| UK (E/W/NI) | 457 | 960 |  | 9625** | 11804** | 12584** | 11887** | 250** | 7287** | 10379** | 687 | 8888** | 1707 |
| UK (Scotland) | 5924 | 6170 | O1 | 962 | 11 | 12584 | , | 10250 | 7287 | 10379 | 7686 |  | 6769 |
| Total reported | $\begin{array}{r} 10360 \\ 8 \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 11197 \\ 0 \end{array}$ | 113124 | 91710 | 115412 | 103883 | 90755 | 89427 | 69240 | 71508 | 68318 | 69879* | 62526* |
| Unallocated | -3646 | -427 | 3988 | 1908 | -3979 | 1646 | 4345 | 277 | 645 | 317 | 319 | 726 | 1871 |
| ICES estimate | 99962 | 11154 | 117112 | 93618 | 111433 | 105529 | 95100 | 89704 | 70510 | 71825 | 68662 | 69153 | 60655 |
| TAC | 19000 | 14500 | 123250 | 135900 | 135900 | 125934 | 107000 | 93600 | 79320 | 91220 | 77536 | 66006 | 65696 |

*Preliminary.
**Scotland+E/W/NI combined.
$\neq$ does not include BMS landings.

Subarea 6

| Country | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Denmark | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 0 | 1035 |
| Faroe Islands | 34 | 25 | 76 | 32 | 23 | 60 | 24 | 5 | 6 | 25 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| France | 3053 | 3954 | 6092 | 4327 | 4170 | 2102 | 2008 | 2357 | 2612 | 3814 | 2904 | 3484 | 2298 |
| Germany | 4 | 373 | 532 | 580 | 148 | 298 | 257 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 91 |
| Ireland | 95 | 168 | 267 | 322 | 288 | 407 | 520 | 359 | 364 | 313 | 128 | 105 | 185 |
| Netherlands | 0 | 0 | 3 | 36 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 12 |
| Norway | 16 | 20 | 28 | 377 | 78 | 68 | 121 | 240 | 5 | 715 | 442 | 677 | 968 |
| Russia | 6 | 25 | 7 | 2 | 50 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Spain | 2 | 3 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 18 | 31 | 13 | 21 | 0 | 15 | 60 |
| Sweden | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 240 |
| UK (E/W/NI) | 37 | 133 | 2748** | 1424** | 2955** | 3491** | 3168** | 4500** | 4549** | 3646** | 97 | 3286** | 123 |
| UK (Scotland) | 1563 | 2922 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 3191 |  | 2493 |
| Total reported | 4810 | 7623 | 9759 | 7103 | 7717 | 6438 | 6118 | 7492 | 7558 | 8534 | 6842 | 7577* | 5849* |
| Unallocated | -296 | -1884 | -1191 | -317 | -483 | 525 | 722 | -92 | -351 | -472 | -60 | -1578 | -1609 |
| ICES estimate | 4514 | 5739 | 8568 | 6786 | 7234 | 6963 | 6840 | 7400 | 7162 | 8062 | 6831 | 9155 | 7458 \# |
| TAC | 20000 | 15044 | 12787 | 14100 | 14100 | 13066 | 11000 | 9570 | 8230 | 9464 | 8045 | 6848 | 6816 |

*Preliminary.
**Scotland+E/W/NI combined.
\# does not include BMS landings.

Subarea 4, 6, and Division 3.a

|  | $\mathbf{2 0 0 4}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 6}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 7}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 8}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 9}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 0}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 1}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 3}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 4}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 5}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 6}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ICES estimate | 108418 | 119593 | 125680 | 100404 | 118667 | 112492 | 101940 | 97104 | 77672 | 79887 | 75419 | 78307 | $68113 \neq$ |
| TAC | 210000 | 160044 | 136037 | 150000 | 150000 | 139000 | 118000 | 103170 | 87550 | 100684 | 85581 | 72854 | 72512 |

\# does not include BMS landings.

## Summary of the assessment

Table 10 Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. Assessment summary. Weights are in tonnes. 'High' and 'Low' indicate point-wise 95\% confidence intervals.

| Year | Recruitment Age 3 | High | Low | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { Stock } \\ \text { size } \\ \text { (SSB) } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | High | Low | Wanted catch | Unwanted catch* | Fishing pressure <br> (F) <br> Ages 4-7 | High | Low |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | thousands |  |  | tonnes |  |  | tonnes | tonnes | Year-1 |  |  |
| 1967 | 141514 | 198745 | 100764 | 152767 | 193033 | 120900 | 113751 |  | 0.35 | 0.45 | 0.27 |
| 1968 | 160859 | 222336 | 116381 | 210990 | 262593 | 169528 | 88326 |  | 0.29 | 0.38 | 0.23 |
| 1969 | 284822 | 394129 | 205830 | 277160 | 340517 | 225592 | 130588 |  | 0.32 | 0.40 | 0.26 |
| 1970 | 294503 | 405303 | 213994 | 346166 | 418512 | 286326 | 234962 |  | 0.34 | 0.42 | 0.28 |
| 1971 | 354127 | 482458 | 259932 | 461470 | 556353 | 382769 | 265381 |  | 0.37 | 0.46 | 0.31 |
| 1972 | 224106 | 303169 | 165662 | 490295 | 587477 | 409188 | 261877 |  | 0.41 | 0.49 | 0.33 |
| 1973 | 200845 | 271614 | 148515 | 522480 | 625953 | 436111 | 242499 |  | 0.43 | 0.52 | 0.36 |
| 1974 | 199013 | 269673 | 146867 | 576888 | 687561 | 484030 | 298351 |  | 0.50 | 0.59 | 0.42 |
| 1975 | 234919 | 316460 | 174388 | 516750 | 617248 | 432615 | 271584 |  | 0.54 | 0.64 | 0.45 |
| 1976 | 401972 | 551750 | 292854 | 399015 | 479462 | 332067 | 343967 |  | 0.60 | 0.71 | 0.50 |
| 1977 | 150280 | 203969 | 110722 | 324937 | 391182 | 269910 | 216395 |  | 0.59 | 0.71 | 0.49 |
| 1978 | 120225 | 162612 | 88887 | 297584 | 359712 | 246186 | 155141 |  | 0.48 | 0.58 | 0.40 |
| 1979 | 87717 | 119074 | 64617 | 278836 | 333293 | 233277 | 128360 |  | 0.45 | 0.54 | 0.38 |
| 1980 | 85814 | 116486 | 63218 | 260862 | 309522 | 219852 | 131908 |  | 0.48 | 0.57 | 0.40 |
| 1981 | 162770 | 222713 | 118960 | 249513 | 294608 | 211321 | 132278 |  | 0.47 | 0.57 | 0.40 |
| 1982 | 141141 | 190783 | 104416 | 220136 | 256407 | 188996 | 174351 |  | 0.54 | 0.64 | 0.46 |
| 1983 | 149021 | 201668 | 110118 | 219742 | 256639 | 188151 | 180044 |  | 0.65 | 0.77 | 0.55 |
| 1984 | 254611 | 345686 | 187531 | 188748 | 219530 | 162282 | 200834 |  | 0.68 | 0.79 | 0.58 |
| 1985 | 353772 | 485949 | 257547 | 166053 | 192182 | 143476 | 220869 |  | 0.70 | 0.82 | 0.60 |
| 1986 | 289914 | 393146 | 213789 | 156590 | 180923 | 135529 | 198596 |  | 0.73 | 0.87 | 0.62 |
| 1987 | 149682 | 202813 | 110471 | 165598 | 191333 | 143324 | 167514 |  | 0.71 | 0.83 | 0.60 |
| 1988 | 138104 | 186308 | 102372 | 154921 | 180925 | 132654 | 135172 |  | 0.71 | 0.83 | 0.61 |
| 1989 | 102737 | 138815 | 76036 | 126668 | 147400 | 108851 | 108877 |  | 0.69 | 0.81 | 0.59 |
| 1990 | 150580 | 203858 | 111226 | 114889 | 133984 | 98515 | 103800 |  | 0.66 | 0.77 | 0.56 |
| 1991 | 174149 | 235106 | 128996 | 107824 | 125078 | 92950 | 108048 |  | 0.63 | 0.74 | 0.53 |
| 1992 | 104585 | 140415 | 77898 | 113356 | 130830 | 98216 | 99742 |  | 0.61 | 0.72 | 0.51 |
| 1993 | 175575 | 236012 | 130614 | 120263 | 139763 | 103483 | 111491 |  | 0.64 | 0.75 | 0.54 |
| 1994 | 118405 | 159033 | 88157 | 125595 | 145928 | 108095 | 109622 |  | 0.57 | 0.67 | 0.48 |
| 1995 | 213393 | 290523 | 156740 | 144868 | 169090 | 124116 | 121810 |  | 0.57 | 0.68 | 0.48 |
| 1996 | 119173 | 161808 | 87772 | 156723 | 182531 | 134565 | 114997 |  | 0.51 | 0.60 | 0.42 |
| 1997 | 149745 | 204844 | 109467 | 194687 | 230395 | 164514 | 107327 |  | 0.44 | 0.53 | 0.37 |
| 1998 | 88800 | 121858 | 64710 | 191555 | 226214 | 162206 | 106123 |  | 0.45 | 0.54 | 0.37 |
| 1999 | 112273 | 154020 | 81842 | 201484 | 238751 | 170034 | 110716 |  | 0.48 | 0.58 | 0.40 |
| 2000 | 97570 | 133136 | 71506 | 192931 | 227648 | 163508 | 91322 |  | 0.42 | 0.51 | 0.34 |
| 2001 | 202590 | 277932 | 147672 | 199793 | 236632 | 168689 | 95042 |  | 0.39 | 0.47 | 0.32 |
| 2002 | 162163 | 221595 | 118670 | 223121 | 264616 | 188132 | 122036 | 21544 | 0.40 | 0.48 | 0.33 |
| 2003 | 167325 | 228525 | 122515 | 214702 | 254273 | 181289 | 112383 | 11438 | 0.41 | 0.50 | 0.34 |
| 2004 | 117047 | 159181 | 86065 | 272663 | 323587 | 229753 | 107384 | 8088 | 0.36 | 0.44 | 0.30 |
| 2005 | 142683 | 195446 | 104164 | 263677 | 311712 | 223045 | 118873 | 8196 | 0.37 | 0.45 | 0.31 |
| 2006 | 100788 | 140095 | 72510 | 275577 | 325883 | 233037 | 121650 | 8585 | 0.39 | 0.47 | 0.32 |
| 2007 | 152005 | 214355 | 107791 | 252610 | 299803 | 212846 | 99470 | 12413 | 0.37 | 0.45 | 0.30 |
| 2008 | 73322 | 99813 | 53862 | 255923 | 303698 | 215663 | 121848 | 8359 | 0.44 | 0.53 | 0.36 |
| 2009 | 58977 | 80288 | 43322 | 250254 | 299114 | 209375 | 113756 | 4296 | 0.44 | 0.53 | 0.36 |
| 2010 | 89587 | 122353 | 65596 | 235448 | 283805 | 195330 | 103004 | 4484 | 0.42 | 0.51 | 0.35 |
| 2011 | 81755 | 114282 | 58486 | 188553 | 227947 | 155967 | 97598 | 4362 | 0.43 | 0.52 | 0.35 |
| 2012 | 138077 | 193631 | 98461 | 170443 | 207556 | 139967 | 77865 | 9278 | 0.39 | 0.49 | 0.31 |
| 2013 | 98200 | 141052 | 68366 | 179628 | 221604 | 145603 | 80447 | 7777 | 0.35 | 0.45 | 0.27 |


| Year | Recruitment Age 3 | High | Low | Stock size (SSB) | High | Low | Wanted catch | Unwanted catch* | Fishing pressure <br> (F) <br> Ages 4-7 <br> Year-1 | High | Low |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | thousands |  |  | tonnes |  |  | tonnes | tonnes |  |  |  |
| 2014 | 62041 | 94667 | 40659 | 208448 | 263156 | 165114 | 75493 | 6337 | 0.32 | 0.43 | 0.23 |
| 2015 | 110334 | 184412 | 66013 | 220918 | 290888 | 167778 | 78307 | 5003 | 0.31 | 0.44 | 0.21 |
| 2016 | 142625 | 286779 | 70933 | 215697 | 306967 | 151563 | 68375 | 10603 | 0.28 | 0.45 | 0.18 |
| 2017 | 110334** |  |  | 257329 | 323890 | 190767 |  |  |  |  |  |

* Unwanted catch values include discards and BMS landings from 2016.
** Preliminary.


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[^0]:    * Single-stock boundary and the exploitation of this stock should be conducted in the context of mixed fisheries.
    ** The June advice was updated in November.
    $\ddagger$ Includes top-up of 4.1\%.

