

Sprat (*Sprattus sprattus*) in Subarea 6 and divisions 7.a–c and 7.f–k (West of Scotland, southern Celtic Seas)

ICES stock advice

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches should be no more than 2800 tonnes in each of the years 2018 and 2019.

Stock development over time

The information available is insufficient to evaluate stock trends and exploitation. Stock identity for this species in this area is not defined.

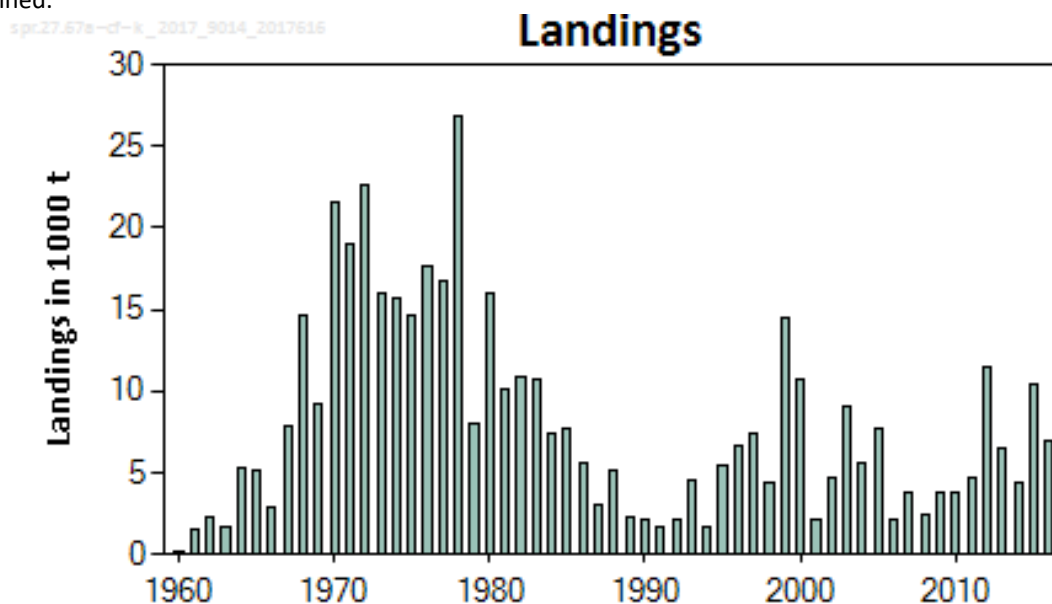


Figure 1 Sprat in Subarea 6 and divisions 7.a–c and 7.f–k. Summary of the stock assessment.

Stock and exploitation status

Table 1 Sprat in Subarea 6 and divisions 7.a–c and 7.f–k. 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	$MSY_{B_{escapement}}$?	?	?
Precautionary approach	F_{pa}, F_{lim}	?	?	?	Undefined	B_{pa}, B_{lim}	?	?	?
Management plan	F_{MGT}	—	—	—	Not applicable	S_{SBMGT}	—	—	—
Qualitative evaluation	—	?	?	?	Unknown	Qualitative evaluation	?	?	?

Catch options

The ICES framework for category 5 stocks was applied (ICES, 2012). The advice is based on the most recent advised catch. The stock status relative to candidate reference points is unknown. The precautionary buffer was last applied in 2012. Because there is no information on stock size or fishing pressure, the precautionary buffer is applied again in 2017. Discarding is assumed to be negligible.

Table 2 Sprat in Subarea 6 and divisions 7.a–c and 7.f–k. The basis for the catch options.

Recent advised catch	3500 tonnes	
Discard rate	Negligible	
Precautionary buffer	Applied	0.8
Catch advice*	2800 tonnes	

* [advice for 2017 × precautionary buffer]

Basis of the advice

Table 3 Sprat in Subarea 6 and divisions 7.a–c and 7.f–k. The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	Precautionary approach
Management plan	ICES is not aware of any management plan for sprat in this area.

Quality of the assessment

Historical landings data may not be accurate.

Issues relevant for the advice

This advice does not refer to a 'stock'. It relates to the species in a wider region where data are available. The stock structure of sprat populations in this ecoregion is not clear. ICES is unable to identify appropriate management units for sprat in this area, and the relationship with sprat in divisions 7.d and 7.e is also unknown.

Currently there is no TAC for this species in this area, and it is not clear whether there should be one or several management units.

Acoustic surveys carried out off the Celtic Sea (Irish Sea Acoustic Survey (Ac(VIIaN)) and the Celtic Sea Herring Acoustic Survey (CSHAS)) that target herring also provide estimates of sprat biomass. Those estimates correspond to a small fraction of the total area of distribution of sprat in the Celtic Sea and therefore they provide a lower boundary for the total sprat biomass in the area. On average the survey biomass exceeds the average catches by orders of magnitude.

A precautionary buffer was applied in 2012 (for 2013 catch advice) and is applied again in 2017. Given the uncertainty in stock structure and the limited survey coverage, issues of potential local depletion should be monitored.

Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

Basis of the assessment

Table 4 Sprat in Subarea 6 and divisions 7.a–c and 7.f–k. Basis of assessment and advice.

ICES stock data category	5 (ICES, 2016)
Assessment type	No assessment (ICES, 2017)
Input data	Landing statistics
Discards and bycatch	Discards are not included and are considered negligible.
Indicators	Irish Sea Acoustic Survey (AC(VIIaN)) and the Celtic Sea Herring Acoustic Survey (CSHAS)
Other information	Benchmarked in 2013 (WKSPRAT; ICES, 2013)
Working group	Herring Assessment Working Group for the Area South of 62°N (HAWG).

Information from stakeholders

There is no additional available information.

History of the advice, catch, and management

Table 5 Sprat in Subarea 6 and divisions 7.a–c and 7.f–k. ICES advice and official landings. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Predicted catch corresponding to advice	TAC	ICES estimated landings
2000	-	-	-	10 641
2001	-	-	-	2119
2002	-	-	-	4692
2003	-	-	-	9020
2004	-	-	-	5646
2005	-	-	-	6784
2006	-	-	-	2086
2007	-	-	-	3762
2008	-	-	-	2355
2009	-	-	-	3844
2010	-	-	-	3744
2011	-	-	-	4703
2012	No increase in catch	-	-	11 424
2013	20% reduction on catches (10-year average)	< 3500	-	6424
2014	Same advice as last year	< 3500	-	4392
2015	Same advice as last year	< 3500	-	10 368
2016	Precautionary approach (same catch value as advised for 2013)	< 3500	-	6882
2017	Precautionary approach (same catch value as advised for 2013)	< 3500	-	
2018	Precautionary approach	≤ 2800		
2019	Precautionary approach	≤ 2800		

History of the catch and landings

Table 6 Sprat in Subarea 6 and divisions 7.a–c and 7.f–k. Catch distribution by fleet in 2016 as estimated by ICES.

Catch (2016)	Landings	Discards
6882 tonnes	Mid-water trawl 100%	negligible
	6882 tonnes	

Table 7 Sprat in Subarea 6 and divisions 7.a–c and 7.f–k. History of commercial landing as estimated by ICES for each country participating in the fishery. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	Denmark	Faroe Islands	France	Ireland	Isle of Man	Netherlands	Norway	Spain	UK - England & Wales	UK - Scotland	Total
1985	0	0	0	3964	0	273	557	0	20	2946	7760
1986	538	0	0	4532	1	0	0	0	10	520	5601
1987	269	0	1	2230	0	0	0	0	0	582	3082
1988	364	0	0	853	0	1	0	0	4	3870	5092
1989	0	0	0	1163	0	0	0	0	1	1146	2310
1990	0	0	0	1325	0	0	0	0	0	813	2138
1991	0	0	0	205	0	0	0	0	4	1526	1735
1992	28	0	0	508	0	0	0	0	0	1555	2091
1993	22	0	0	2353	0	0	0	0	0	2230	4605
1994	0	0	0	232	0	0	0	0	2	1491	1725
1995	491	0	0	799	0	0	0	0	30	4124	5444
1996	0	0	0	4214	0	0	0	0	0	2350	6564
1997	0	0	0	2085	0	0	0	0	8	5313	7406
1998	40	0	0	1578	0	0	0	0	54	3467	5139
1999	0	0	0	5826	0	0	0	0	456	8161	14 443
2000	0	0	0	6032	0	0	0	0	371	4238	10 641
2001	0	0	0	0455	0	0	0	0	367	1297	2119
2002	0	0	0	1729	0	0	0	0	306	2657	4692
2003	887	0	0	4948	0	0	0	0	592	2593	9020
2004	0	0	0	4096	0	0	0	0	134	1416	5646
2005	0	252	0	5928	0	0	0	0	604	0	6784
2006	0	0	0	1523	0	0	0	0	563	0	2086
2007	0	0	0	3745	0	0	0	1	2	14	3762
2008	0	0	0	2353	0	0	0	0	2	0	2355
2009	0	0	0	3773	0	0	0	0	1	70	3844
2010	0	0	0	3200	0	0	0	0	7	537	3744
2011	0	0	0	3935	0	0	0	0	261	507	4703
2012	6	0	2	9726	0	0	0	0	2	1688	11 424
2013	0	0	0	5453	0	0	0	0	2	968	6424
2014	0	0	0	2852	0	0	0	0	1	1540	4392
2015*	0	0	0	10 366	0	0	0	0	0	1060	11 427
2016*	0	0	0	4704	0	0	0	0	1	2177	6882

*Preliminary

Summary of the assessment

There is no assessment for sprat in this area.

Sources and references

ICES. 2013. Report of the Benchmark Workshop on Sprat Stocks (WKSPRAT), 11–15 February 2013, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2013/ACOM:48. 220 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 Herring Assessment Working Group for the Area South of 62°N (HAWG) 14–22 March 2017. ICES CM 2017/ACOM:08.