

Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) in Division 6.a, outside the functional units (West of Scotland)

ICES stock advice

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, wanted catches* should be no more than 261 tonnes in each of the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. ICES cannot quantify the corresponding total catches.

Stock development over time

The state of *Nephrops* outside the functional units (FUs) is unknown. Landings have fluctuated throughout the time-series and are now around the average of the time-series.

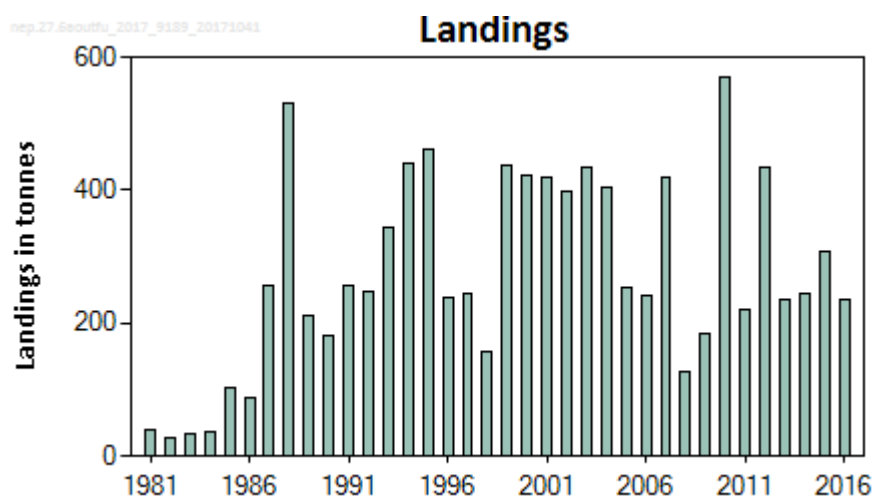


Figure 1 Norway lobster in Division 6.a, outside the functional units. ICES estimated landings. Discard estimates are not available. Landings may be unreliable prior to 2006 due to underreporting.

Stock and exploitation status

Table 1 Norway lobster in Division 6.a, outside the functional units. 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	$MSY B_{trigger}$?	?	?
Precautionary approach	F_{pa}, F_{lim}	?	?	?	Undefined	B_{pa}, B_{lim}	?	?	?
Management plan	F_{MGT}	—	—	—	Not applicable	SSB_{MGT}	—	—	—
Qualitative evaluation	—	?	?	?	Unknown	—	?	?	?

* "Wanted catch" is used to describe the catch that would be landed in the absence of the EU landing obligation (EC, 2015).

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 precautionary buffer was last applied in 2013. Therefore, the precautionary buffer was applied to the advice this year.

Table 2 Norway lobster in Division 6.a, outside the functional units. The basis for the catch options.

Recent advised wanted catch* for 2017		326 tonnes
Discard rate		Unknown
Precautionary buffer	Applied	0.8
Wanted catch advice**		261 tonnes
Total catch advice		Unknown

*“Wanted” catch is used to describe *Nephrops* that would be landed in the absence of the EU landing obligation.

** [recent advised wanted catch] × [precautionary buffer].

Basis of the advice

Table 3 Norway lobster in Division 6.a, outside the functional units. The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	Precautionary approach.
Management plan	ICES is not aware of any agreed precautionary management plan for Norway lobster in this area.

Quality of the assessment

For rectangles in Division 6.a that are outside of the functional units, only landings data are available. ICES is unable to quantify the total catch corresponding to the advice.

Issues relevant for the advice

Nephrops outside the FUs are not considered to constitute separate stocks but represent small patches of *Nephrops* outside the identified stock units (FUs). The level of self-recruitment to these patches is unknown; it is, however, likely that there is some recruit spill-over from the major stock units.

From 2016, fisheries catching *Nephrops* in all of Subarea 6, and thus also in Division 6.a, are covered by the EU landings obligation (EU, 2015). Creel fisheries are exempted from the landings obligation, with a *de minimis* exemption consisting of a 6% discard rate by weight for the trawl fishery in 2018 (reduced from 7% in 2016 and 2017). There is no information available for discards from areas outside the FUs.

A single TAC covers the entire ICES Subarea 6. Management should ensure that fishing opportunities are in line with the scale of the resource in each of the stocks.

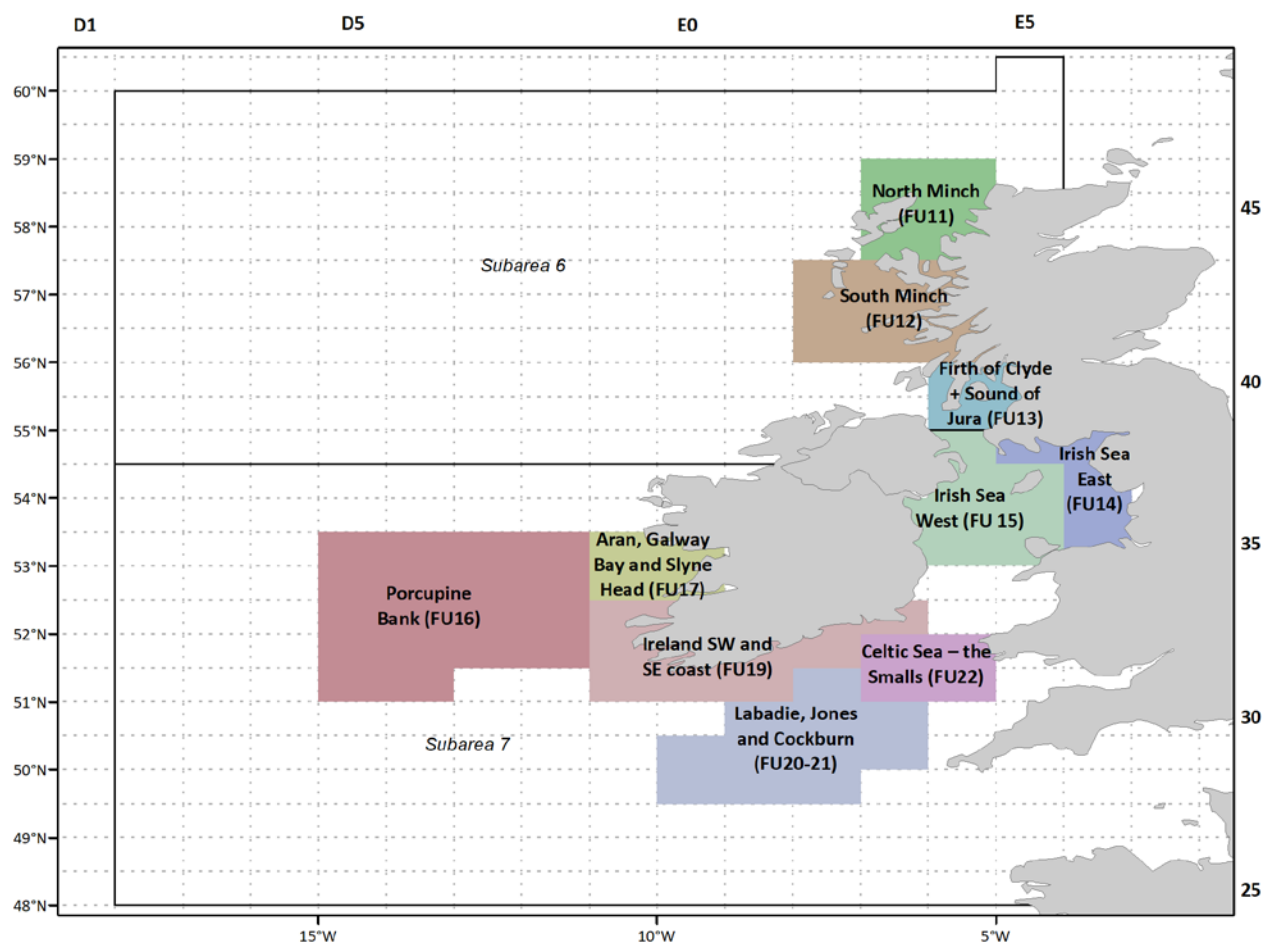


Figure 2 Norway lobster functional units in subareas 6 and 7.

Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

Basis of the assessment

Table 4 Norway lobster in Division 6.a, outside the functional units. Basis of the assessment and advice.

ICES stock data category	5 (ICES, 2016).
Assessment type	No assessment.
Input data	International landings (ICES, 2017).
Discards and bycatch	Unknown.
Indicators	None.
Other information	None.
Working group	Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE)

Information from stakeholders

There is no additional available information.

History of the advice, catch, and management

Table 5 Norway lobster in Division 6.a, outside the functional units. ICES advice, landings, and discards. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Predicted landings (wanted catch) corresponding to the advice	TAC*	ICES landings	ICES discards
2007		800	19900	420	Na
2008		800	19900	128	Na
2009	Precautionary approach	< 300	18400	185	Na
2010	Precautionary approach	< 250	16100	569	Na
2011	Precautionary approach	< 250	13700	219	Na
2012	No increase in catches	-	14100	435	Na
2013	No increase in catches	-	16700	234	Na
2014	Precautionary approach (decrease landings by 20% with respect to the 2010–2012 average)	< 326	15300	245	Na
2015	Precautionary approach (same value of landings as advised for 2014)	< 326	14200	309	Na
2016	Precautionary approach (same value of wanted catch as advised for 2014)	≤ 326	16524	236	Na
2017	Precautionary approach (same value of wanted catch as advised for 2014)	≤ 326	16407		
2018	Precautionary approach (latest advised wanted catch)	≤ 261			
2019	Precautionary approach (same value of wanted catch as advised for 2018)	≤ 261			
2020	Precautionary approach (same value of wanted catch as advised for 2018)	≤ 261			

* Subarea 6 and EU waters of Division 5.b.

Na = not available.

History of the catch and landings

Table 6 Norway lobster in Division 6.a, outside the functional units. Catch distribution by fleet in 2016 as estimated by ICES.

Catch (2016)	Landings	Discards
Unknown	Almost 100% otter trawl	Unknown
	236 tonnes	

Table 7 Norway lobster in Division 6.a, outside the functional units. History of landings. ICES estimates of landings. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	Total
1981	39
1982	27
1983	34
1984	36
1985	104
1986	89
1987	257
1988	529
1989	212
1990	182
1991	255
1992	248
1993	344

Year	Total
1994	441
1995	460
1996	239
1997	243
1998	157
1999	438
2000	421
2001	420
2002	397
2003	433
2004	403
2005	254
2006	241
2007	420
2008	128
2009	185
2010	569
2011	219
2012	435
2013	234
2014	245
2015	309
2016	236

Summary of the assessment

There is no assessment for Norway lobster in this area.

Sources and references

EU. 2015. COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2015/2438 of 12 October 2015 establishing a discard plan for certain demersal fisheries in north-western waters. Official Journal of the European Union, L 336: 29–35.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32015R2438&from=EN>.

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 Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE), 9–18 May 2017, ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2017/ACOM:13. 1464 pp.