

Blackspot sea bream (*Pagellus bogaraveo*) in Subarea 9 (Atlantic Iberian waters)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches should be no more than 149 tonnes in each of the years 2019 and 2020. All catches are assumed to be landed.

ICES notes that the distribution of the stock extends outside Subarea 9. ICES recommends the establishment of a management plan that covers the entire stock distribution area.

Stock development over time

The biomass index has decreased since 2015.

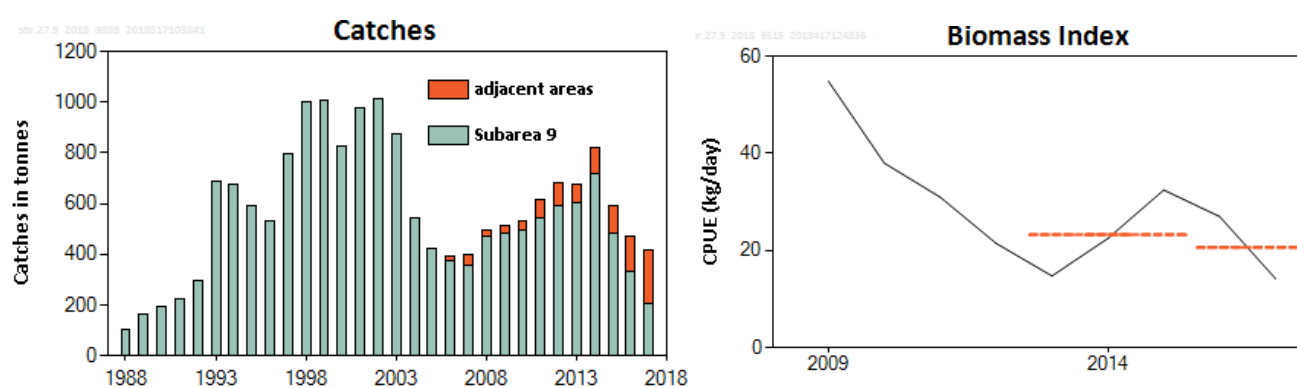


Figure 1 Blackspot sea bream in Subarea 9. Left: Catches (in thousand tonnes) include other (adjacent) areas, for Spain and Morocco fleets (FAO 34.1.11 and FAO 37.1.1,) as well as ICES 27.9 (Subarea 9). Right: Biomass index from standardized CPUE from Spanish “voracera” fleet VMS (information in kg per fishing trip from Strait of Gibraltar). The dotted horizontal lines indicate the average biomass index of the respective year range (last two and preceding three years) used to calculate the advice.

Stock and exploitation status

ICES cannot assess the stock and exploitation status relative to MSY and PA reference points because the reference points are undefined.

Table 1 Blackspot sea bream in Subarea 9. State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points.

Backstop sea chart: indicators of state of the stock and fishery relative to reference points										
		Fishing pressure				Stock size				
		2015	2016	2017		2015	2016	2017		
Maximum sustainable yield	F_{MSY}	?	?	?	Unknown	$MSY B_{trigger}$?	?	?	Undefined
Precautionary approach	F_{pa}, F_{lim}	?	?	?	Unknown	B_{pa}, B_{lim}	?	?	?	Undefined
Management plan	F_{MGT}	—	—	—	Not applicable	B_{MGT}	—	—	—	Not applicable
Qualitative evaluation	-	?	?	?	Unknown	-	↗	↘	↘	Decreasing

Catch scenarios

The ICES framework for category 3 stocks was applied (ICES, 2012). The standardized CPUE from Spanish “voracera” fleet (information in kg per fishing trip from Strait of Gibraltar) was used as the index of stock development. The advice is based on a comparison of the two latest index values (index A) with the three preceding values (index B), multiplied by the recent adjusted advised catch. The index is estimated to have decreased by less than 20% and thus the uncertainty cap was not applied. The precautionary buffer was last applied in 2014. Since the index is estimated to have declined further in 2016–2017, the precautionary buffer was applied. Discards are considered negligible.

The inclusion of new catch time series from the CECAF area (FAO 34.1.11), results in a revision of the basis for the advice. The ICES advice rule for category 3 stocks use the previous year’s advice in the calculation.

The advised landings for 2015–2016 were originally derived using landings statistics that did not include catches from Morocco. In 2018, a review of landings statistics resulted in the inclusion of new catch time series from the CECAF area (FAO 34.1.11). As a result, the basis which was used to provide advice for 2015–2016 has been adjusted to account for the update in the landing statistics and propagated to the advice for 2017–2018. The advice in Table 2 is based on this adjustment.

Table 2 (option b) Blackspot sea bream in Subarea 9. The basis for the catch scenarios.*

Index A (2016–2017)		20.59
Index B (2013–2015)		23.23
Index ratio (A/B)		0.89
Uncertainty cap	Not applied	-
Advised catch for 2017-2018 issued in 2016		138 t
Adjusted advised catch for 2017–2018**		209 t
Discard rate		Negligible
Precautionary buffer	applied	0.8
Catch advice ***		149 t
% Advice change ^		+8%

*The figures in the table are rounded. Calculations were done with unrounded inputs and computed values may not match exactly when calculated using the rounded figures in the table.

** Due to a revision in statistics the catch advised for 2017–2018 was adjusted as follows: [advice for 2015–2016 (2013 landings (revised) × 0.8 uncertainty cap × 0.8 precautionary buffer)] × [1.2 uncertainty cap applied in the advice for 2017–2018]

*** [Adjusted catch advice] × [(Index ratio)*(precautionary buffer)]

^ Advice value for 2019 relative to the published advice value for 2018 (138 tonnes).

The advice catches are higher than the advice for 2018 because of a revision of the basis for the advice to include catches from the CECAF area (FAO 34.1.11). The magnitude of this change in advice was tempered by the decrease in the stock biomass index (-11%).

Basis of the advice

Table 3 Blackspot sea bream in Subarea 9. The basis of the advice.

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

Quality of the assessment

Stock structure is uncertain and is considered to extend outside Subarea 9. Catch data are available for ICES Subarea 9 and for adjacent areas in the Strait of Gibraltar (FAO 34.1.11 and FAO 37.1.1).

The advice is based on a biomass index from Spanish “voracera” fleet (information in kg per fishing trip from Strait of Gibraltar) which is representative of the Strait of Gibraltar fishery. One quarter of the catches considered comes from outside

of this area in the West of Portugal. The catch data come from ICES Subarea 9 and the adjacent Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) and General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM) areas.

There is a Portuguese CPUE series available that should be evaluated for the use in the assessment of the stock.

Issues relevant for the advice

There is a fishery outside the ICES area to which the TAC does not apply.

The previous advice (ICES, 2016a) recommended the establishment of a recovery plan. There is still the need to establish a management plan that covers the entire stock distribution area.

Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

Basis of the assessment

Table 4 Blackspot sea bream in Subarea 9. The basis of the assessment.

ICES stock data category	3 (ICES, 2016b)
Assessment type	Trends-based assessment (ICES, 2018)
Input data	CPUE indices from VMS series (since 2009).
Discards and bycatch	Discarding is considered to be negligible.
Indicators	None
Other information	None
Working group	Working Group on the Biology and Assessment of Deep-Sea Fisheries Resources (WGDEEP)

Information from stakeholders

There is no additional available information.

History of the advice, catch, and management

Table 5 Blackspot sea bream in Subarea 9. ICES advice, management, and landings. Weights are in tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Predicted catch corresp. to advice	TAC EU Subarea 9	ICES catches in Subarea 9 and adjacent areas
2003	*	-	1271	495
2004	*	-	1271	514
2005	*	-	1271	533
2006	*	-	1271	618
2007	*	-	1080	682
2008	*	-	1080	678
2009	Constrain catches to average catches 2003–2007	500	918	817
2010	Biennial	500	780	591
2011	Same advice as previously	500	780	469
2012	No new advice, same as 2011	500	780	417
2013	No increase in effort and catches reduced 20% (average of 2009 to 2011)	500	780	273
2014	No new advice, same as 2013	500	780	380
2015	Reduce catches by 36%	115**	374	514
2016	No new advice, same as 2015	115**	183	401

2017	Precautionary approach, 20 % increase from last catch advice	≤ 138**	174	336
2018	Precautionary approach (same value as advised catches for 2017)	≤ 138**	165	
2019	Precautionary approach	≤ 149		
2020	Precautionary approach	≤ 149		

*Advice prior to 2008, the advice was for the whole Northeast Atlantic area.

**Advice on EU catches.

History of catch and landings

Table 6 Blackspot sea bream in Subarea 9. Catch distribution by fleet in 2017 as estimated by ICES.

Total catch (2017)		Landings		Discards
130* tonnes	34% hooks and lines	25% trawls	41% miscellaneous	Negligible
	130* tonnes			

*Only catches in ICES Subarea 9.

Table 7 Blackspot sea bream in Subarea 9. History of commercial ICES estimates of catches for Subarea 9 and adjacent areas.

Year	Portugal (Subarea 9)	Spain* (Subarea 9)	Spain* (FAO 34.1.11)	Spain* (FAO 37.1.1)	Morocco (outside Subarea 9)	Unallocated	Total
1983		101					101
1984		166					166
1985		196					196
1986		225					225
1987		296					296
1988	370	319					689
1989	260	416					676
1990	166	428					594
1991	109	423					532
1992	166	631					797
1993	235	765					1000
1994	150	854					1004
1995	204	625					829
1996	209	769					978
1997	203	808					1011
1998	357	520					877
1999	265	278					543
2000	83	338					421
2001	97	277			19		393
2002	111	248			37		396
2003	142	329			24		495
2004	183	297			34		514
2005	129	365			39		533
2006	104	440			74		618
2007	185	407			90		682
2008	158	443			77		678
2009	124	594			99		817
2010	105	379			107		591
2011	74	259			136		469
2012	143	60			122	92	417
2013	90	91			92		273
2014	59	203			118		380
2015	66	87	64	78	219		514
2016	70	95	29	48	159		401
2017	69	61	5	13	188		336

* Since 2012 landings come from official statistics (previous landings should be considered ICES estimates).

Table 8 Blackspot sea bream in Subarea 9. Landings inside and outside the NEAFC Regulatory Area (RA) as estimated by ICES. Weights are in tonnes.

Year	Inside the NEAFC RA (t)	Outside the NEAFC RA (t)	Landings (t)
2015	0	514	514
2016	0	401	401
2017	0	336	336

Summary of the assessment

Table 9 Blackspot sea bream in Subarea 9. Assessment summary. Biomass index from “voracera” fleet VMS standardized CPUE (kg/fishing trip).

Year	Biomass Index (kg/ fishing trip)
2009	54.82
2010	37.98
2011	30.97
2012	21.48
2013	14.77
2014	22.49
2015	32.44
2016	26.99
2017	14.20

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.

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