

## Sole (Solea solea) in subdivisions 20-24 (Skagerrak and Kattegat, western Baltic Sea)

### ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the EU multiannual plan (MAP) for the North Sea and adjacent waters is applied, catches in 2021 that correspond to the F ranges in the plan are between 502 tonnes and 665 tonnes. According to the MAP, catches higher than those corresponding to F<sub>MSY</sub> (596 tonnes) can only be taken under conditions specified in the MAP, whilst the entire range is considered precautionary when applying the ICES advice rule.

Note: This advice sheet is abbreviated due to the COVID-19 disruption. The previous advice issued for 2020 is attached as Annex 1.

### Stock development over time

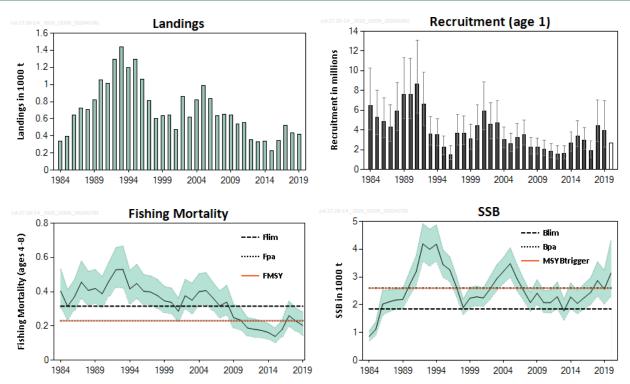


Figure 1 Sole in subdivisions 20–24. Summary of the stock assessment (weights in thousand tonnes). Recruitment, fishing mortality, and spawning-stock biomass (SSB) are indicated with 95% confidence limits. Assumed recruitment value is unshaded.

## Stock and exploitation status

**Table 1** Sole in subdivisions 20–24. State of the stock and the fishery relative to reference points.

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		Fishing pressure						Stock size				
		2017	2018		2019	_		2018	2019		2020	
Maximum sustainable yield	F <sub>MSY</sub>	8	•	0	Below		MSY B <sub>trigger</sub>	<b>②</b>	8	0	Above trigger	
Precautionary approach	F <sub>pa</sub> ,F <sub>lim</sub>	0	•	•	Harvested sustainably		B <sub>pa</sub> ,B <sub>lim</sub>	•	0	0	Full reproductive capacity	
Management plan	F <sub>MGT</sub>	•	•	0	Within the range		B <sub>MGT</sub>	•	8	0	Above	

### **Catch scenarios**

**Table 2** Sole in subdivisions 20–24. Assumptions made for the interim year and in the forecast.

Variable	Value	Notes
F <sub>ages 4–8</sub> (2020)	0.197	$F_{ages 4-8}$ (2020); $F_{sq}$ (average $F_{2017}$ – $F_{2019}$ rescaled to $F_{2019}$ )
SSB (2021)	3549	Tonnes; when fishing at F <sub>sq</sub>
R <sub>age 1</sub> (2020)	2647	Thousands; resampled from recruitment (2004–2019)
R <sub>age 1</sub> (2021)	2595	Thousands; resampled from recruitment (2004–2019)
Projected landings (2020)	447	Tonnes; fishing at status quo (F <sub>sq</sub> ) in 2020
Projected discards (2020)	13	Tonnes; mean discard rate in weight (2015–2019): 2.8%.
Total catch (2020)	460	Tonnes; based on fishing at F <sub>sq</sub> and mean discard rate

**Table 3** Sole in subdivisions 20–24. Annual catch scenarios. All weights are in tonnes.

Table 3	able 3 Sole in subdivisions 20–24. Annual Catch scenarios. All weights are in tollies.									
Basis	Total catch * (2021)	Projected landings ** (2021)	Projected discards ** (2021)	F <sub>projected</sub> landings (4–8) (2021)	SSB (2022)	% SSB change ***	% TAC change ^	% advice change ^^		
ICES advice ba	sis									
EU MAP #: F <sub>MSY</sub>	596	580	16	0.23	3537	-0.34	12	11		
EU MAP #: F <sub>lower</sub>	502	488	14	0.190	3626	2.2	-5.8	-11 §		
EU MAP #: F <sub>upper</sub>	665	647	18	0.26	3457	-2.6	25	11 <sup>§§</sup>		
Other scenarios	i									
F = 0	0	0	0	0	4160	17	-100	-100		
$F_pa$	596	580	16	0.23	3537	-0.34	12	11		
F <sub>lim</sub>	785	764	21	0.315	3330	-6.2	47	46		
SSB (2022) = B <sub>lim</sub>	2153	2156	60	1.31	1859	-48	304	299		
SSB (2022) = B <sub>pa</sub>	1490	1449	41	0.71	2614	-26	180	176		
SSB (2022) = MSY B <sub>trigger</sub>	1490	1449	41	0.71	2614	-26	180	176		
$F = F_{2020}$	525	511	14	0.20	3602	1.49	-1.50	-2.6		

<sup>#</sup> EU multiannual plan (MAP) for the North Sea (EU, 2018).

<sup>\*</sup> Total catch is calculated based on projected landings (fish that would be landed in the absence of the EU landing obligation) and 2.8% discard ratio (in weight).

<sup>\*\* &</sup>quot;Projected landings" and "projected discards" are used to describe fish that would be landed and discarded in the absence of the EU landing obligation, based on discard ratio estimates for 2015–2019.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> SSB 2022 relative to SSB 2021.

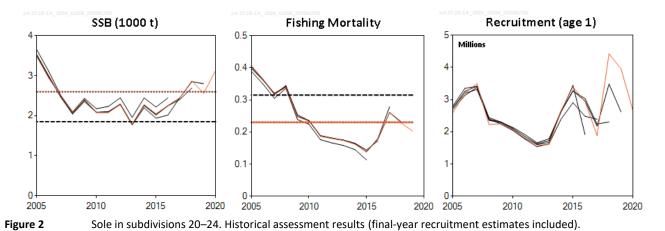
<sup>^</sup> Total catch in 2021 relative to the TAC in 2020 (533 tonnes).

<sup>^^</sup> Advice value 2021 relative to the advice value 2020 (539 tonnes).

 $<sup>\</sup>S$  ICES advice for  $F_{lower}$  in 2021 relative to ICES advice  $F_{lower}$  in 2020 (452 tonnes).

 $<sup>\</sup>S\S$  ICES advice for  $F_{upper}$  in 2021 relative to ICES advice  $F_{upper}$  in 2020 (600 tonnes).

# **Quality of the assessment**



History of the advice, catch, and management

Table 4 Sole in subdivisions 20–24. History of ICES advice, agreed TAC, and ICES estimates of landings and discards. Weights

2001       No increase in F       -       700       700       478       -         2002       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       500       500       862       10         2003       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       300       350       618       43         2004       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       500       520       824       -         2005       No increase in F       -       850       900       990       -         2006       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       820       900       836       -         2007       Limit catches to 2002- 2005 average       -       740       900       633       -         2008       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       970       940       655       -         2009       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       800       800       641       -         2010       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       620       700       538       14         2011       See scenarios       -       -       840       552       8         2012       MSY framework       -       610       610^A       358       11		are in tonnes.					
1988 -	Year	ICES advice	corresponding to	corresponding to	Agreed TAC*	ICES landings**	ICES discards***
1989 TAC - < <800 800 824 - − 1990 Precautionary TAC - 600 500 1050 − − 1991 TAC - 1000 1000 − ↑ − − − − − 1992 TAC - 1000 1000 1400 ↑ ↑ − ↑ − − − − 1993 TAC - 1000 1600 1400 ↑ ↑ − ↑ − − − − − − − − − − − − − − −	1987	-	-	-	850	722	-
1990       Precautionary TAC       -       600       500       1050       -         1991       TAC       -       1000       1000       -^^       -         1992       TAC       -       1000       1600       -^^       -         1993       TAC at recent catch levels       -       -       1000       1600       -^^       -         1994       No advice due to uncertain catches       -       -       -       2100       1198       -         1995       No advice       -       -       -       2250       1297       -         1996       No advice       -       -       -       2250       1059       -         1997       No advice       -       -       -       2250       1059       -         1998       No advice       -       -       -       2250       1059       -         1999       No increase in F       -       800       1350       637       -         2000       No increase in F       -       650       950       645       169         2001       No increase in F       -       500       500       862       10	1988	-	-	-	950	706	-
1991       TAC       -       1000       1000       -^       -         1992       TAC       -       1000       1400       -^       -         1993       TAC at recent catch levels       -       1000       1600       -^       -         1994       No advice due to uncertain catches       -       -       -       2100       1198       -         1995       No advice       -       -       -       2250       1297       -         1996       No advice       -       -       -       2250       1814       -         1997       No advice       -       -       -       2250       1814       -         1998       No advice       -       -       -       2250       1814       -         1998       No increase in F       -       800       1350       637       -         1999       No increase in F       -       800       1350       637       -         2001       No increase in F       -       650       950       645       169         2001       Felow F <sub>pa</sub> -       500       500       862       10         2003 <td>1989</td> <td>TAC</td> <td>-</td> <td>&lt; 800</td> <td>800</td> <td>824</td> <td>-</td>	1989	TAC	-	< 800	800	824	-
1992       TAC       -       1000       1400       -^A       -         1993       TAC at recent catch levels       -       1000       1600       -^A       -         1994       No advice due to uncertain catches       -       -       -       2100       1198       -         1995       No advice       -       -       2250       1297       -         1996       No advice       -       -       2250       1059       -         1997       No advice       -       -       2250       814       -         1998       No advice       -       -       2250       814       -         1999       No increase in F       -       800       1350       637       -         2000       No increase in F       -       800       1350       637       -         2001       No increase in F       -       650       950       645       169         2002       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       500       500       862       10         2003       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       500       500       862       10         2004       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       <	1990	Precautionary TAC	-	600	500	1050	-
TAC at recent catch levels   -   1000   1600   -^   -   -     -	1991	TAC	-	1000	1000	_^	-
1993   levels	1992	TAC	-	1000	1400	_^	-
1994 uncertain catches 1995 No advice 1996 No advice 1997 No advice 1997 No advice 1998 No advice 1999 No advice 1999 No increase in F 1999 No increase in F 1990 No increase	1993		-	1000	1600	_^	-
1996         No advice         -         -         2250         1059         -           1997         No advice         -         -         2250         814         -           1998         No advice         -         -         1800         605         -           1999         No increase in F         -         800         1350         637         -           2000         No increase in F         -         650         950         645         169           2001         No increase in F         -         700         700         478         -           2002         F below F <sub>pa</sub> -         500         500         862         10           2003         F below F <sub>pa</sub> -         500         500         862         10           2004         F below F <sub>pa</sub> -         500         520         824         -           2005         No increase in F         -         850         900         990         -           2006         F below F <sub>pa</sub> -         820         900         836         -           2007         Limit catches to 2002-         -         740         900	1994		-	-	2100	1198	-
1997         No advice         -         -         2250         814         -           1998         No advice         -         -         1800         605         -           1999         No increase in F         -         800         1350         637         -           2000         No increase in F         -         650         950         645         169           2001         No increase in F         -         700         700         478         -           2002         F below F <sub>pa</sub> -         500         500         862         10           2003         F below F <sub>pa</sub> -         300         350         618         43           2004         F below F <sub>pa</sub> -         500         520         824         -           2005         No increase in F         -         850         900         990         -           2005         No increase in F         -         850         900         990         -           2006         F below F <sub>pa</sub> -         820         900         836         -           2007         Eimit catches to 2002-         -         740         900	1995	No advice	-	-	2250	1297	-
1998 No advice	1996	No advice	-	-	2250	1059	-
1999 No increase in F	1997	No advice	-	-	2250	814	-
2000       No increase in F       -       650       950       645       169         2001       No increase in F       -       700       700       478       -         2002       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       500       500       862       10         2003       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       300       350       618       43         2004       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       500       520       824       -         2005       No increase in F       -       850       900       990       -         2006       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       820       900       836       -         2007       Limit catches to 2002- 2005 average       -       740       900       633       -         2008       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       970       940       655       -         2009       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       800       800       641       -         2010       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       620       700       538       14         2011       See scenarios       -       -       840       552       8         2012       MSY framework       -       610	1998	No advice	-	-	1800	605	-
2001       No increase in F       -       700       700       478       -         2002       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       500       500       862       10         2003       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       300       350       618       43         2004       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       500       520       824       -         2005       No increase in F       -       850       900       990       -         2006       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       820       900       836       -         2007       Limit catches to 2002- 2005 average       -       740       900       633       -         2008       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       970       940       655       -         2009       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       800       800       641       -         2010       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       620       700       538       14         2011       See scenarios       -       -       840       552       8         2012       MSY framework       -       610       610^A       358       11	1999	No increase in F	-	800	1350	637	-
2002       F below Fpa       -       500       500       862       10         2003       F below Fpa       -       300       350       618       43         2004       F below Fpa       -       500       520       824       -         2005       No increase in F       -       850       900       990       -         2006       F below Fpa       -       820       900       836       -         2007       Limit catches to 2002- 2005 average       -       740       900       633       -         2008       F below Fpa       -       970       940       655       -         2009       F below Fpa       -       800       800       641       -         2010       F below Fpa       -       620       700       538       14         2011       See scenarios       -       -       840       552       8         2012       MSY framework       -       610       610^A       358       11	2000	No increase in F	-	650	950	645	169
2003       F below Fpa       -       300       350       618       43         2004       F below Fpa       -       500       520       824       -         2005       No increase in F       -       850       900       990       -         2006       F below Fpa       -       820       900       836       -         2007       Limit catches to 2002- 2005 average       -       740       900       633       -         2008       F below Fpa       -       970       940       655       -         2009       F below Fpa       -       800       800       641       -         2010       F below Fpa       -       620       700       538       14         2011       See scenarios       -       840       552       8         2012       MSY framework       -       610       610^A       358       11	2001	No increase in F	-	700	700	478	-
2004       F below Fpa       -       500       520       824       -         2005       No increase in F       -       850       900       990       -         2006       F below Fpa       -       820       900       836       -         2007       Limit catches to 2002- 2005 average       -       740       900       633       -         2008       F below Fpa       -       970       940       655       -         2009       F below Fpa       -       800       800       641       -         2010       F below Fpa       -       620       700       538       14         2011       See scenarios       -       -       840       552       8         2012       MSY framework       -       610       610^^       358       11	2002	F below F <sub>pa</sub>	-	500	500	862	10
2005       No increase in F       -       850       900       990       -         2006       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       820       900       836       -         2007       Limit catches to 2002– 2005 average       -       740       900       633       -         2008       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       970       940       655       -         2009       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       800       800       641       -         2010       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       620       700       538       14         2011       See scenarios       -       -       840       552       8         2012       MSY framework       -       610       610^{^{^{^{^{^{^{^{^{^{^{^{^{^{^{^{^{^{^{	2003	F below F <sub>pa</sub>	-	300	350	618	43
2006       F below Fpa       -       820       900       836       -         2007       Limit catches to 2002– 2005 average       -       740       900       633       -         2008       F below Fpa       -       970       940       655       -         2009       F below Fpa       -       800       800       641       -         2010       F below Fpa       -       620       700       538       14         2011       See scenarios       -       -       840       552       8         2012       MSY framework       -       610       610^^       358       11	2004	F below F <sub>pa</sub>	-	500	520	824	-
2007       Limit catches to 2002– 2005 average       -       740       900       633       -         2008       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       970       940       655       -         2009       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       800       800       641       -         2010       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       620       700       538       14         2011       See scenarios       -       -       840       552       8         2012       MSY framework       -       610       610^^       358       11	2005	No increase in F	-	850	900	990	-
2007       2005 average       -       740       900       633       -         2008       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       970       940       655       -         2009       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       800       800       641       -         2010       F below F <sub>pa</sub> -       620       700       538       14         2011       See scenarios       -       -       840       552       8         2012       MSY framework       -       610       610^^       358       11	2006	F below F <sub>pa</sub>	-	820	900	836	-
2009       F below Fpa       -       800       800       641       -         2010       F below Fpa       -       620       700       538       14         2011       See scenarios       -       -       840       552       8         2012       MSY framework       -       610       610^^       358       11	2007		-	740	900	633	-
2010       F below Fpa       -       620       700       538       14         2011       See scenarios       -       -       840       552       8         2012       MSY framework       -       610       610^^       358       11	2008	F below F <sub>pa</sub>	-	970	940	655	-
2011       See scenarios       -       -       -       840       552       8         2012       MSY framework       -       610       610^^       358       11	2009	F below F <sub>pa</sub>	-	800	800	641	-
2012 MSY framework - 610 610^^ 358 11	2010	F below F <sub>pa</sub>	-	620	700	538	14
	2011	See scenarios	-	-	840	552	8
2013         MSY framework         -         560         590         332         10	2012	MSY framework	-	610	610^^	358	11
	2013	MSY framework	-	560	590	332	10

Year	ICES advice	Catch corresponding to advice	Landings corresponding to advice	Agreed TAC*	ICES landings**	ICES discards***
2014	MSY approach	353	353^^^	350	335	32
2015	MSY approach	211	205	205	224	6
2016	MSY approach	≤ 394	379	391	348	17
2017	MSY approach	≤ 555	-	555	520	15
2018	MSY approach	≤ 453	-	448	434	7
2019	Proposed MAP F ranges, F <sub>lower</sub> to F <sub>upper</sub>	422–562	-	502	419	8
2020	MAP target F ranges: F <sub>lower</sub> to F <sub>upper</sub> , but F higher than F <sub>MSY</sub> only under conditions specified in MAP	452–600, but catch higher than 539 only under conditions specified in MAP		533		
2021	Management Plan	596 (range 502– 665)				

<sup>\*</sup> TAC applies to subdivisions 20–21 and the EC waters of subdivisions 22–32.

# Summary of the assessment

**Table 5** Sole in subdivisions 20–24. Assessment summary. Weights are in tonnes, recruitment in thousands. High and Low refer to 95% confidence intervals.

	Recru	itment		Spawnin	g-stock bi	omass		Fishin	g mortality	у
Year	R (age 1)	High	Low	SSB	High	Low	Landings	F (ages 4–8)	High	Low
	thou	sands			tonnes		tonnes			
1984	6444	10284	4038	857	1055	696	337	0.40	0.53	0.31
1985	5285	7993	3495	1121	1389	905	397	0.31	0.41	0.24
1986	4857	7222	3267	2023	2519	1625	643	0.37	0.47	0.29
1987	4280	6510	2813	2108	2530	1756	722	0.46	0.58	0.36
1988	5886	8762	3953	2173	2569	1838	706	0.41	0.52	0.32
1989	7620	11358	5112	2192	2565	1873	824	0.42	0.53	0.33
1990	7590	11257	5117	2708	3171	2313	1050	0.39	0.49	0.31
1991	8650	13051	5734	3188	3759	2703	1011	0.46	0.57	0.37
1992	6609	9857	4431	4189	4913	3572	1294	0.53	0.66	0.43
1993	3599	5320	2434	3994	4712	3386	1439	0.53	0.67	0.42
1994	3510	5166	2384	4178	4873	3581	1198	0.42	0.52	0.33
1995	2256	3367	1511	3444	3965	2991	1297	0.45	0.56	0.36
1996	1517	2405	958	3257	3731	2843	1059	0.40	0.50	0.33
1997	3687	5554	2447	2633	3019	2297	814	0.40	0.49	0.32
1998	3689	5426	2508	1897	2197	1638	605	0.38	0.47	0.30
1999	3092	4610	2073	2237	2619	1910	637	0.35	0.43	0.28
2000	4446	6534	3026	2287	2668	1961	645	0.34	0.42	0.27
2001	5945	8836	4000	2245	2603	1937	478	0.29	0.36	0.23
2002	4560	6721	3094	2571	3011	2195	862	0.38	0.47	0.30
2003	4707	6979	3175	2935	3433	2509	618	0.35	0.45	0.27
2004	3047	4273	2173	3204	3699	2775	824	0.40	0.51	0.32
2005	2595	3659	1840	3479	4047	2992	990	0.41	0.51	0.32
2006	3209	4646	2216	2942	3447	2511	836	0.36	0.46	0.29

<sup>\*\*</sup> Landings include subdivisions 20–21 and subdivisions 22–24.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Discard estimates are not available for all years.

<sup>^</sup> Uncertain

<sup>^^</sup> No more than 461 tonnes in subdivisions 20–21.

<sup>^^^</sup> Discarding is assumed to be negligible.

	Recru	itment		Spawnin	g-stock bi	omass		Fishin	g mortality	У
Year	R (age 1)	High	Low	SSB	High	Low	Landings	F (ages 4–8)	High	Low
	thou	sands			tonnes		tonnes			
2007	3496	4967	2461	2506	2917	2153	633	0.32	0.40	0.25
2008	2229	3240	1533	2080	2450	1765	655	0.34	0.44	0.26
2009	2250	3196	1584	2415	2900	2011	641	0.25	0.33	0.189
2010	2064	2941	1448	2078	2505	1724	538	0.23	0.31	0.177
2011	1807	2639	1237	2079	2533	1706	552	0.188	0.25	0.142
2012	1586	2408	1044	2289	2815	1862	358	0.180	0.24	0.135
2013	1605	2422	1063	1780	2190	1447	332	0.174	0.23	0.131
2014	2647	3802	1842	2278	2780	1866	335	0.162	0.21	0.123
2015	3391	4960	2318	2049	2506	1676	224	0.139	0.187	0.104
2016	2948	4250	2045	2254	2747	1849	348	0.179	0.23	0.137
2017	1885	2895	1227	2448	2978	2012	520	0.26	0.35	0.196
2018	4427	7013	2794	2871	3544	2325	434	0.23	0.30	0.171
2019	3955	6947	2251	2561	3240	2024	419	0.20	0.28	0.147
2020	2647*			3136	4305	2310				

<sup>\*</sup> Resampled from recruitment in 2004–2019.

# Sources and references

EU. 2018. Regulation (EU) 2018/973 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2018 establishing a multiannual plan for demersal stocks in the North Sea and the fisheries exploiting those stocks, specifying details of the implementation of the landing obligation in the North Sea and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 676/2007 and (EC) No 1342/2008. Official Journal of the European Union, L. 179. 13 pp. http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/973/oj.

ICES. 2020. Baltic Fisheries Assessment Working Group (WGBFAS). ICES Scientific Reports, 2:45. 632 pp. http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.6024.

Recommended citation: ICES. 2020. Sole (Solea solea) in subdivisions 20–24 (Skagerrak and Kattegat, western Baltic Sea). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2020. ICES Advice 2020, sol.27.20-24. https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.5854.

ICES Advice on fishing opportunities, catch, and effort Baltic Sea and Greater North Sea ecoregions Published 28 June 2019



## Sole (Solea solea) in subdivisions 20–24 (Skagerrak and Kattegat, western Baltic Sea)

## ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the EU multiannual plan (MAP) is applied, catches in 2020 that correspond to I range in the plan are between 452 tonnes and 600 tonnes. According to the MAP, catches higher than those correspond to I range in the plan are between 452 tonnes and 600 tonnes. According to the MAP, catches higher than those correspond to I range in the plan are between 452 tonnes and 600 tonnes. According to the MAP, whilst the entire range is considered productionary when applying the ICES advice rule.

#### Stock development over time

Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) shows an increasing trend from 2015 and has been above MS. B<sub>trigger III</sub> the past two years. Fishing mortality (F) has increased in recent years and is at F<sub>MSY</sub> in 2018. Recruitment has fluctuated below the average of the time-series since 2004.

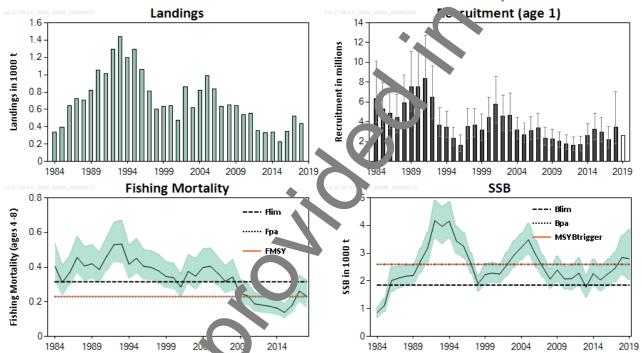


Figure 1 Sole in subdivisions 20–24. Su, mary of the stock assessment (weights in thousand tonnes). 95% confidence limits indicated for recruitment, fishing mortality, and spawning-stock biomass. Assumed recruitment value is unshaded.

### Stock and exploitation status

ICES assesses that fisking purssure on the stock is at F<sub>MSY</sub> and F<sub>pa</sub> and below F<sub>lim</sub>, and spawning stock size is above MSY B<sub>trigger</sub> and B<sub>lim</sub>.

**Table 1** Solo in st. divisions 22–24. State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points.

		-										
		Fishing pressure						Stock size				
	,	2016	2017		2018			2017	2018		2019	
Maximum sustaine le yield	F <sub>MSY</sub>	•	8	0	At		MSY B <sub>trigger</sub>	8	•	0	Above trigger	
Precaution: y approach	F <sub>pa</sub> ,F <sub>lim</sub>	•	0	0	Harvested sustainably		B <sub>pa</sub> ,B <sub>lim</sub>	0	•	0	Full reproductive capacity	
Management plan	F <sub>ranges</sub>	•	•	0	Within range		B <sub>MGT</sub>	8	•	0	Above trigger	

#### **Catch scenarios**

**Table 2** Sole in subdivisions 20–24. Assumptions made for the interim year and in the forecast.

Variable	Value	Notes
F <sub>ages 4-8</sub> (2019)	0.23	F corresponding to a TAC of 502 conn. in 2019.
SSB (2020)	3065 tonnes	Fishing at F = 0.23 in 2019.
R <sub>age 1</sub> (2019-2020)	2618 thousands	Resampled from recruitment (2004–2018)
Wanted catch (2019)	482 tonnes	Based on the TAC and mear and ratio.
Unwanted catch (2019)	20 tonnes	Mean discard ratio in weight (2014 2018) of 4%.
Total catch (2019)	502 tonnes	Corresponding to a AC or 22 tonnes.

**Table 3** Sole in subdivisions 20–24. Annual catch scenarios. All weights are in tonnes.

Basis		Wanted catch ** (2020)	Unwanted catch ** (2020)	F wanted (4–8) (2020)	SSB (2021)	% SB change ***	% TAC change ^	% Advice change ^^					
ICES advice ba	ICES advice basis												
EU MAP#: F <sub>MSY</sub>	539	518	21	0.23	2081	1%	7.4%	7.4%					
EU MAP#: F <sub>lower</sub>	452	435	17	0.19	3168	3%	7.1% #	7.1% #					
EU MAP#: F <sub>upper</sub>	600	577	23	0.26	36.9	-2%	6.8% ##	6.8% ##					
Other scenario	Other scenarios												
F = 0	0	0	0		3631	18%	-100%	-100%					
F <sub>pa</sub>	539	518	21	າ 23	3081	1%	7.4%	7.4%					
F <sub>lim</sub>	710	683	27	0.31	2902	-5%	41.4%	41.4%					
SSB (2021) = B <sub>lim</sub>	1758	1690	68	Ę	1848	-40%	250.2%	250.2%					
SSB (2021) = B <sub>pa</sub>	1015	976	39	0.49	2620	-15%	102.2%	102.2%					
SSB (2021) = MSY B <sub>trigger</sub>	1015	976	39	0.49	2620	-15%	102.2%	102.2%					
$F = F_{2019}$	539	518	71	0.23	3081	1%	7.4%	7.4%					

<sup>#</sup> EU multiannual plan (MAP) for the North Sea (EU, 2018).

The advised catch for 2000 presents an increase from previous advice (+7.4%) because of increased recruitment.

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<sup>\*</sup> Total catch is calculated based on wanted count fish hat would be landed in the absence of the EU landing obligation) and 4% discard ratio (in weight).

<sup>\*\* &</sup>quot;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 ratio estimates for 2014–2018.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> SSB 2021 relative to SSB 2020.

<sup>^</sup> Total catch in 2020 relative to TA (in 201 (502 tonnes).

<sup>^^</sup> Advice value 2020 relative to adv = value 2019 (502 tonnes).

 $<sup>^{\#}</sup>$  ICES advice for  $F_{lower}$  in 2020  $\,$  elative to ICES advice  $F_{lower}$  in 2019 (422 tonnes).

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> ICES advice for  $F_{upper}$  202 relative to ICES advice  $F_{upper}$  in 2019 (562 tonnes).

### Basis of the advice

**Table 4** Sole in subdivisions 20–24. The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	EU multiannual plan (MAP) for stocks in the North Sea (EU, 2018).
Management plan	The EU multiannual plan (MAP) for stocks in North Sea and adjacent waters applies to the stock. The plan specifies conditions for setting fishing opportunities depending on stock status and mixing use of the F <sub>MSY</sub> range for the stock.  In accordance with the MAP, catches higher than those corresponding to F <sub>MSY</sub> can phily be taken providing SSB is greater than MSY B <sub>trigger</sub> , and one of the following conditions is met:  a) if it is necessary for the achievement of objectives of mixed fisheries; b) if is necessary to avoid serious harm to a stock caused by intra- or interapecies suck dynamics; c) in order to limit variations in fishing opportunities between consecutive years to rot more than 20 %.  ICES considers that the F <sub>MSY</sub> range for this stock used in the MAP is precausonary.

## Quality of the assessment

This assessment is considered to be internally consistent and of good quality. The number of biological samples has increased significantly in 2018.

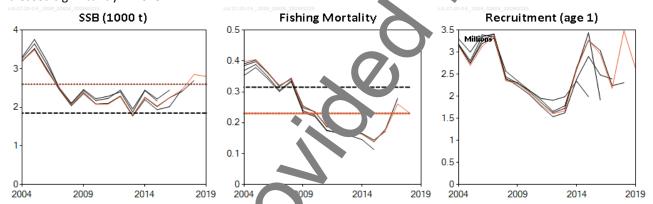


Figure 2 Sole in subdivisions 20–24. Historical a sment results (final-year recruitment estimates included).

# Issues relevant for the advice

There are no specific issues relevant for the cock

### **Reference points**

Table 5 Sole in subditions 24. Reference points, values, and their technical basis. Weights are in tonnes.

I able 3	301E 111 3000 0113	24. INCICICIO	points, values, and their technical basis. Weights are in	i torrics.
Framework	Reference point	Value	Technical basis	Source
MCV	MSY B <sub>tree</sub>	2600	B <sub>pa</sub> .	ICES (2015a)
MSY approach	F <sub>MSY</sub> 0.23		Equilibrium scenarios stochastic recruitment, short time-series 1992–2014, constrained by F <sub>pa</sub> .	ICES (2015a)
	B <sub>lim</sub>	1850	B <sub>loss</sub> from 1992 (low productivity regime).	ICES (2015a)
Draggutionary		2600	$B_{lim} \times e^{1.645\sigma}$ , $\sigma = 0.20$ .	ICES (2015a)
Precautionary approach	F <sub>lim</sub> 0.315		Equilibrium scenarios prob(SSB $<$ B <sub>lim</sub> ) = 50% with stochastic recruitment.	ICES (2015a)
	F <sub>na</sub>	0.23	$F_{lim} \times e^{-1.645\sigma}$ , $\sigma = 0.18$ .	ICES (2015a)
	MAP B <sub>MGT</sub>	2600	MSY B <sub>trigger</sub> .	ICES (2015a)
Managamat	MAP B <sub>lim</sub>	1850	B <sub>lim</sub> .	ICES (2015a)
Management plan*	MAP F <sub>MSY</sub>	0.23	F <sub>MSY</sub> .	ICES (2015a)
	MAP range F <sub>lower</sub>	0.19	F <sub>MSY lower</sub> without AR from equilibrium scenarios.	ICES (2015b)
	MAP range F <sub>upper</sub>	0.26	F <sub>p05</sub> with AR from equilibrium scenarios.	ICES (2015b)

<sup>\*</sup> EU multiannual plan (MAP) for the North Sea (EU, 2018).

# Basis of the assessment

**Table 6** Sole in subdivisions 20–24. Basis of the assessment and advice.

ICES stock data category	1 ( <u>ICES, 2018</u> ).
Assessment type	Age-based analytical stochastic assessment (SAM) that uses landings only in the model is scards are included afterwards in the forecast (ICES, 2019).
Input data	Commercial catches (international landings, ages and length frequencies from catch solving), one survey index (Fishermen–DTU Aqua 2004–2018), two commercial indices: (private logbook gillnetters (1994–2007), private logbook trawlers (1987–2008)); fixed maturity and fixed natural mortality (0.1) for all age groups.
Discards and bycatch	Used to provide advice, but not included in the assessment. Discard in rmation available since 2000, average discard ratio 2014–2018 is 4%.
Indicators	None.
Other information	Stock inter-benchmarked in 2015 (ICES, 2015a).
Working group	Baltic Fisheries Assessment Working Group (WGBFAS)

## Information from stakeholders

There is no additional available information for this stock.

# History of the advice, catch, and management

Table 7 Sole in subdivisions 20–24. History of ICES advice, agreed TAC, and CES estimates of landings and discards. Weights are in tonnes.

	T tornies.	Catala	LauNinga			
Year	ICES advice	Catch corresponding to advice	Lar lings correspon o to ac ice	Agreed TAC*	ICES landings**	ICES discards***
1987	-	-		850	722	-
1988	-	-	-	950	706	-
1989	TAC	-	< 800	800	824	-
1990	Precautionary TAC	·	600	500	1050	-
1991	TAC	-	1000	1000	_^	-
1992	TAC		1000	1400	_^	-
1993	TAC at recent catch levels		1000	1600	_^	-
1994	No advice due to uncertain catches	Ż	1	2100	1198	-
1995	No advice	-	•	2250	1297	-
1996	No advice	-	ı	2250	1059	-
1997	No advice	_	1	2250	814	-
1998	No advic	-	•	1800	605	-
1999	No increas in F	-	800	1350	637	-
2000	No increase in F	-	650	950	645	169
2001	No in rease in F	1	700	700	478	-
2002	Fpa Fpa	-	500	500	862	10
2003	below F <sub>pa</sub>	1	300	350	618	43
2004	F b w F <sub>pa</sub>	-	500	520	824	-
2005	Increase in F	-	850	900	990	-
2706	F below F <sub>pa</sub>	ı	820	900	836	-
2007	Limit catches to 2002–2005 average	-	740	900	633	-
2008	F below F <sub>pa</sub>	-	970	940	655	-
2009	F below F <sub>pa</sub>	-	800	800	641	-

Year	ICES advice	Catch corresponding to	Landings corresponding to	Agreed TAC*	ICES landings**	ICES discards***
		advice	advice			
2010	F below F <sub>pa</sub>	-	620	700	538	14
2011	See scenarios	-	-	840	552	8
2012	MSY framework	-	610	0.61^^	358	11
2013	MSY framework	=	560	590	332	10
2014	MSY approach	353	353^^^	350	25	32
2015	MSY approach	211	205	205	224	6
2016	MSY approach	≤ 394	379	391	348	17
2017	MSY approach	≤ 555	-	555	_70	15
2018	MSY approach	≤ 453	-	448	43	7
	Proposed MAP F					
2019	ranges, F <sub>lower</sub> to	422–562		502		
	F <sub>upper</sub>				<del></del>	
	MAP target F	452–600, but				
	ranges: F <sub>lower</sub> to F <sub>upper</sub> , but F	catch higher than				
2020	higher than F <sub>MSY</sub>	539 only under		• 4		
	only under	conditions				
	conditions	specified in MAP				
	specified in MAP	'				

<sup>\*</sup> TAC applies to subdivisions 20–21 and the EC waters of subdivisions 22–32.

## History of the catch and landings

**Table 8** Sole in subdivisions 20–24. Catch distribution by seet in 2018 as estimated by ICES.

	ordina Ed. E in Gatori distribut		2020 45 6511114164 57 16201	
Catch (2018)		andi	Discards	
441 tonnes	Active gear 65%		Passive gears 35%	7 tonnes
		434 to	nnes	/ tornies



<sup>\*\*</sup> Landings include subdivisions 20–21 and subdivisions 22–24.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Discard estimates are not available for all years.

<sup>^</sup> Uncertain.

<sup>^^</sup> No more than 461 tonnes in subdivisions 20–21.

<sup>^^^</sup> Discarding assumed to be negligible.

 Table 9
 Sole in subdivisions 20–24. History of landings by country and area. Weights are in tonnes.

Table 9	Sole in subdivisions 20–24. History of landings by country and area. Weights are in tonnes.											
		Denmark		Sweden	Germany	Belgium	Netherlands	Norway				
Year	Kattegat	Skagerrak	Belts	Skagerrak and Kattegat	Kattegat and the Belts	Skagerrak	Skagerrak	Skagerrak	Total official landings	ICES est. Lived I indings		
1952	156			51	59				66	266		
1953	159			48	42				. 19	249		
1954	177			43	34				37	254		
1955	152			36	35				223	223		
1956	168			30	57				255	255		
1957	265			29	53				347	347		
								,				
1958	226			35	56				317	317		
1959	222			30	44				296	296		
1960	294			24	83				401	401		
1961	339			30	61				430	430		
1962	356				58				414	414		
1963	338				27				365	365		
1964	376				45			74	421	421		
1965	324				50	4			374	374		
1966	312				20		7		332	332		
1967	429				26				455	455		
1968	290				16	<b>*</b>			306	306		
1969	261				7				268	268		
1970	158	25			,				183	183		
					0							
1971	242	32			9				283	283		
1972	327	31				-			370	370		
1973	260	52			13				325	325		
1974	388	39							436	436		
1975	381	55		16	16		9		477	468		
1976	367	34		11	1	2	155		590	435		
1977	400	91		1	8	1	276		789	513		
1978	336	141		9	9		141		636	495		
1979	301	57		8	6	1	84		457	373		
1980	228	73		9	12	2	5		329	324		
1981	199	59		7	16	1			282	282		
1982	147	52		4	8	1	1		213	212		
1983	180	70		11	15	<u> </u>	31		307	276		
1984	235	76	-	13	13	1	54	1	391	337		
1985	275	102		19	13	+	132		529	397		
1986	456	158		26	1	2	109	1	752	643		
1987	564			19		2	70		792	722		
1988	540	138		24		4			706	706		
1989	57	21.		21	7	1			824	824		
1990	464	128	<b>"</b>	29		2			623	1050		
199	746	216		38	+	<u> </u>		<u> </u>	1000	1011		
1992	6ر ع	372		54					1282	1294		
1993	.0 <del>16</del>	355		68	9				1448	1439		
1994	90	296		12	4				1202	1198		
1995	850	382		65	6				1303	1297		
1996	784	203		57	612	1		1	1656	1059		
1996				52	2					814		
1997	560	200	l	52		l .		l .	814	814		

		Denmark		Sweden	Germany	Belgium	Netherlands	Norway		
Year	Kattegat	Skagerrak	Belts	Skagerrak and Kattegat	Kattegat and the Belts	Skagerrak	Skagerrak	Skagerrak	Total official landings	ICES ( timat (a) andings
1998	367	145		90	3				605	605
1999	431	158		45	3				37	637
2000	399	320	13	34	11				77	645
2001	249	286	21	25					5 7	478
2002*	360	177	18	15	11				581	862
2003*	195	77	17	11	17				317	618
2004*	249	109	40	16	18				432	824
2005*	531	132	118	30	34				845	990
2006	521	114	107	38	43		4	9	836	836
2007	366	81	93	45	39		0	3	633	633
2008	361	102	113	34	35		3		655	655
2009	325	103	145	37	27			4	641	641
2010	273	61	125	46	26		3	3	537	538
2011	271	127	65	53	33			/1	552	552
2012	154	140	28	30		4			358	358
2013	153	78		54	9			6	300	332
2014	141	104	48	36	2	-	0.3	3	335	335
2015	95	66	36	9	7		9	5	224	224
2016	164	78	56	14	17		16	2	348	348
2017	221	169	47	20	22		41	2	520	520
2018	158	140	57	16	15		47	0	434	434

<sup>\*</sup> Assuming misreporting rates at 50%, 100%, 100%, ar a 22 in 2002–2005, respectively.

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### Summary of the assessment

**Table 10** Sole in subdivisions 20–24. Assessment summary. Weights are in tonnes, recruitment in thousands. High and low refers to 95% confidence intervals.

	10 337	Recruitment	21 7 4131	SSB			Fishing m		m lity	lity	
Year	Age 1	High	Low	SSB	High	Low	Landings				
	<u> </u>	thousands			tonnes		tonnes	Ages 4–8	High	Low	
1984	6328	10098	3965	859	1062	696	337	0.4	0.51	0.31	
1985	5294	7944	3528	1123	1395	903	397	0.3 L	0.41	0.24	
1986	4878	7197	3307	2018	2514	1619	643	0.37	.47	0.29	
1987	4410	6726	2891	2104	2529	1751	722	0	0.58	0.36	
1988	5891	8705	3987	2173	2572	1835	706	0.41	0.52	0.32	
1989	7495	11105	5059	2196	2574	1873	824	42	0.53	0.33	
1990	7555	11133	5127	2712	3181	2313	1050	0.39	0.49	0.31	
1991	8378	12726	5515	3183	3758	2696	1011	.46	0.57	0.37	
1992	6456	9637	4326	4175	4905	3553	1294	0.53	0.66	0.43	
1993	3687	5426	2505	3970	4694	3357	1439	0.53	0.67	0.42	
1994	3469	5071	2373	4155	4856	3554	11 8	0.42	0.53	0.33	
1995	2295	3442	1531	3442	3968	2985	12.7	0.45	0.57	0.36	
1996	1628	2682	988	3254	3734	2836	159	0.40	0.50	0.33	
1997	3550	5348	2357	2635	3027	2293	81-	0.40	0.49	0.32	
1998	3649	5338	2495	1896	2200	1635	605	0.38	0.47	0.30	
1999	3183	4754	2131	2236	2628	19 2	637	0.35	0.43	0.28	
2000	4437	6481	3038	2284	2672	19. 3	645	0.34	0.42	0.27	
2001	5780	8596	3886	2247	2611	^4	478	0.29	0.36	0.23	
2002	4574	6701	3122	2582	3040	7 192	862	0.38	0.47	0.30	
2003	4628	6869	3119	2938	_ 153	240	618	0.35	0.45	0.27	
2004	3150	4451	2230	3205	5/12	2767	824	0.40	0.51	0.31	
2005	2701	3844	1897	3/87	4079	2981	990	0.41	0.51	0.32	
2006	3128	4514	2167	2945	34.	2500	836	0.37	0.46	0.29	
2007	3381	4845	2360	24, 9	2 ``21	2137	633	0.32	0.41	0.25	
2008	2356	3426	1620	2067	2449	1744	655	0.34	0.45	0.26	
2009	2283	3273	1592	2394	2898	1977	641	0.25	0.33	0.189	
2010	2073	2985	1440	2 778	2527	1709	538	0.24	0.31	0.177	
2011	1797	2651	1218	20 32	2562	1691	552	0.188	0.25	0.141	
2012	1606	2440	1 57	_284	2838	1839	358	0.181	0.24	0.135	
2013	1668	2537	10.5	1776	2210	1427	332	0.174	0.23	0.130	
2014	2618	3808	1 70	2266	2794	1837	335	0.163	0.22	0.122	
2015	3272	4870	219	2037	2519	1647	224	0.139	0.189	0.103	
2016	2960	4409	-68	2250	2779	1822	348	0.178	0.24	0.135	
2017	2179	3510	13. 3	2446	3034	1972	520	0.26	0.35	0.193	
2018	3485	70 1	1732	2850	3643	2229	434	0.23	0.32	0.167	
2019	2618*			2802	3853	2050					

<sup>\*</sup> Resampled from recent recry ...ien. 34–2018).

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Recommended citation: ICES. 2019. Sole (Solea solea) in subdivisions 20–24 (Skagerrak and Kattegat, western Baltic Sea). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2019. ICES Advice 2019, sol.27.20-24, https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.4753

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