

Sandeel (*Ammodytes* spp.) in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r (northern North Sea, Shetland)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach (PA) is applied there should be zero catches in each of the years 2021 and 2022.

Stock development over time

ICES cannot assess the stock and exploitation status relative to maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and PA reference points, because the reference points are undefined.

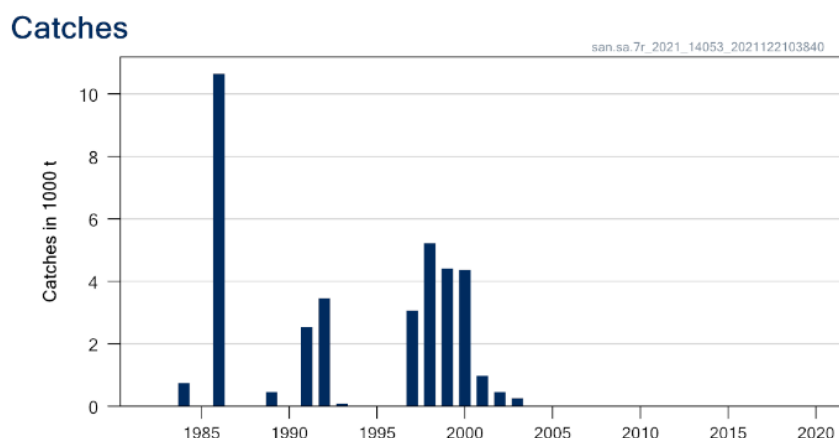


Figure 1 Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r. ICES estimates of catches (in thousands of tonnes).

Catch scenarios

For this stock, current catches are zero. Based on the above, ICES advises that when the PA is applied no increase in the fisheries should take place unless there is evidence that this will be sustainable. This corresponds to zero catch in each of the years 2021 and 2022.

Table 1 Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r; the catch scenarios. For stocks in ICES categories 3–6, only one catch scenario is possible.

Recent advised catch (2019–2020)	0 tonnes	
Discard rate	Negligible	
Precautionary buffer	Not applicable	-
Catch advice	0 tonnes	
% Advice change*	0	

* Advice value 2021–2022 relative to advice value 2019–2020.

ICES advice for this stock has been for zero catch since 2013, and advice remains at zero catch for 2021 and 2022.

Basis of the advice

Table 2 Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r. The basis of the advice.

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

Quality of the assessment

The available information is inadequate to evaluate stock status or trends.

Issues relevant for the advice

The advice is expected to remain unchanged unless information on stock status becomes available.

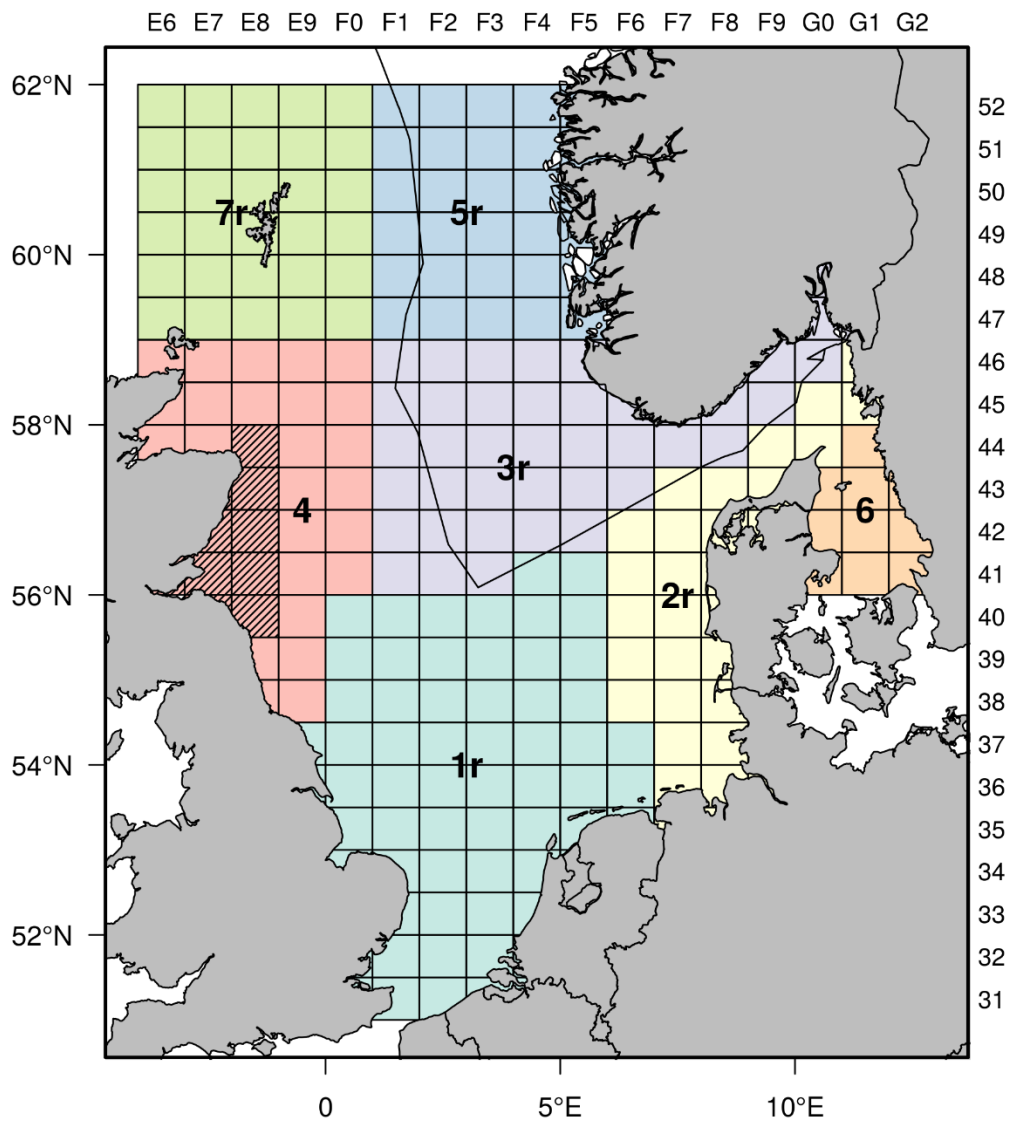


Figure 2 Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r. Stock areas for the seven sandeel stocks. The border of the Norwegian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is shown as a black line, and the closed area in Sandeel Area 4 is shown with hatched markings.

Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

Basis of the assessment

Table 3 Sandeel in Division 4.a Sandeel Area 7r. The basis of the assessment.

ICES stock data category	5 (see ICES, 2021a)
Assessment type	No assessment (ICES, 2021b)
Input data	Commercial catch statistics
Discards and bycatch	Discarding is considered to be negligible.
Indicators	None
Other information	Last benchmarked in 2016 (ICES, 2017)
Working group	Herring Assessment Working Group (HAWG)

History of advice, catch, and management

Table 4 Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r. History of ICES advice, the agreed TAC, and ICES estimates of catch. Weights are in tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Catch corresponding to advice	EU TAC	ICES catch SA 7	ICES catch SA 7r ^
2005	No advice			0	
2006	No advice			0	
2007	No advice			0	
2008	No advice			0	
2009	No advice			0	
2010	No advice			0	
2011	No increase in effort unless there is evidence that this is sustainable.		0	0	
2012	No increase in effort unless there is evidence that this is sustainable.		0	0	
2013	No increase in effort unless there is evidence that this is sustainable.	0	0	0	
2014	No new advice, same as for 2013	0	0	0	
2015	Precautionary approach	0	0	0	
2016	Precautionary approach	0	0	0	
2017	Precautionary approach	0	0		0
2018	Precautionary approach	0	0		0
2019	Precautionary approach	0	0		0
2020	Precautionary approach	0	0		0
2021	Precautionary approach	0			
2022	Precautionary approach	0			

^ ICES statistical rectangles included in this sandeel area have changed since the 2017 advice.

History of catch and landings

Table 5 Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r. Catch distribution by fleet in 2020 as estimated by ICES (in tonnes).

Total catch (2020)	Landings	Discards
0	0	0

Table 6 Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r. History of catch (in tonnes) as estimated by ICES.

Year	Catch
1983	32543
1984	17223
1985	11966
1986	7226
1987	4710
1988	3503
1989	2344
1990	0

Year	Catch
1991	0
1992	0
1993	0
1994	1164
1995	1042
1996	2010
1997	5211
1998	4157
1999	4334
2000	970
2001	543
2002	186
2003	0
2004	0
2005	0
2006	0
2007	0
2008	0
2009	0
2010	0
2011	0
2012	0
2013	0
2014	0
2015	0
2016	0
2017	0
2018	0
2019	0
2020	0*

* Preliminary

Summary of the assessment

There is no assessment for sandeel in this area.

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. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5322>.

ICES. 2017. Report of the Benchmark Workshop on Sandeel Stocks (WKSAND), 31 October–4 November 2016, Bergen, Norway. ICES CM 2016/ACOM:33. 319 pp.

ICES. 2021a. Advice on fishing opportunities. In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2021. ICES Advice 2021, section 1.1.1. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.7720>.

ICES. 2021b. Herring Assessment Working Group for the Area South of 62° N (HAWG). ICES Scientific Reports. 779 pp. 3:12. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.8214>.

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