

Lesser-spotted dogfish (*Scyliorhinus canicula*) in divisions 8.c and 9.a (Cantabrian Sea and Atlantic Iberian waters)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES has not been requested to provide advice on fishing opportunities for this stock.

Stock development over time

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

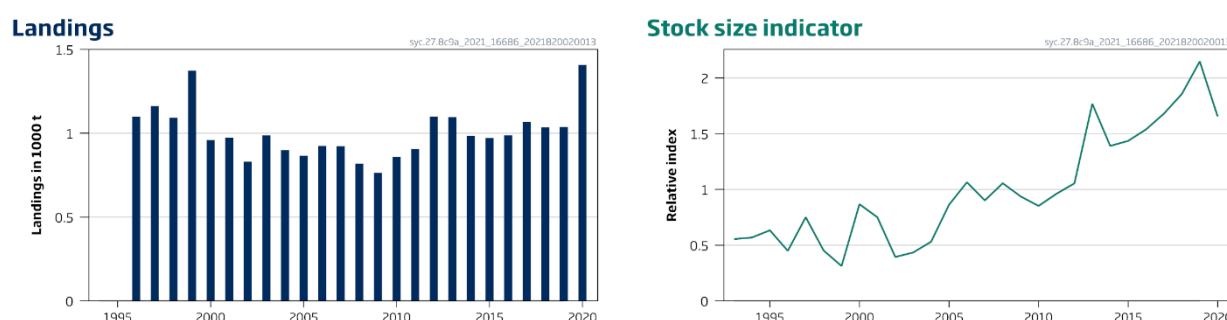


Figure 1 Lesser-spotted dogfish in divisions 8.c and 9.a. Summary of the stock assessment. Left: recent ICES estimates of species-specific landings (landings data before 1996 are incomplete and not shown). Right: the stock-size indicator, is the mean normalized biomass index from the average of the two Spanish groundfish surveys in the Gulf of Cadiz: SP-GCGFS-WIBTS-Q1 (G7511) and SP-GCGFS-WIBTS-Q4 (G4309), the Portuguese survey PT-GFS-WIBTS-Q4 (G8899) and the Northern Spanish survey SP-NSGFS-WIBTS-Q4 (G2784).

Catch scenarios

ICES has not been requested to provide advice on fishing opportunities for this stock.

Basis of the advice

ICES has not been requested to provide advice on fishing opportunities for this stock.

Table 1 Lesser-spotted dogfish in divisions 8.c and 9.a. The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	No advice requested
Management plan	ICES is not aware of any agreed precautionary management plan for lesser spotted dogfish in this area

Quality of the assessment

Fishery-independent trawl surveys provide the longest time-series of species-specific information, cover most of the stock area and depth distribution, and sample mature fish effectively.

The Portuguese survey PT-GFS-WIBTS-Q4 (G8899) was not conducted in 2019 (technical problems) and 2020 (COVID-19 pandemic). This survey series showed similar trends to the other surveys prior to this time and the absence of 2019–2020 data from this survey is not expected to change the perception of the stock (ICES, 2021b). Consequently, this survey series (1993–2018) was included in the stock-size indicator.

Issues relevant for the advice

Scyliorhinid species are productive in comparison to other demersal elasmobranchs (McCully Phillips *et al.*, 2015).

Discarding is variable between fishing fleets and has not been fully quantified. Discard survival is ~70% in otter trawls (Rodríguez-Cabello *et al.*, 2005) but has not been estimated for other métiers.

Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

Basis of the assessment

Table 2 Lesser-spotted dogfish in divisions 8.c and 9.a. Basis of the assessment and advice.

ICES stock data category	3 (ICES, 2021a)
Assessment type	Survey trends-based assessment (ICES, 2021b)
Input data	Surveys: Portuguese PT-GFS-WIBTS-Q4 (G8899) and Spanish: SP-GCGFS-WIBTS-Q1, (G7511), SP-GCGFS-WIBTS-Q4 (G4309), SP-NSGFS-WIBTS-Q4 (G2784)
Discards and bycatch	Unknown
Indicators	None
Other information	None
Working group	Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes (WGEF)

History of the advice, catch, and management

Table 3 Lesser-spotted dogfish in divisions 8.c and 9.a. History of ICES advice, the agreed TAC and ICES species-specific estimated landings. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Landings corresp. to advice	Agreed TAC	ICES species-specific estimates of landings
2005	No advice		No TAC	866
2006	No advice		No TAC	925
2007	No advice		No TAC	923
2008	No advice		No TAC	819
2009	Maintain catch at recent level		No TAC	765
2010	Maintain catch at recent level		No TAC	858
2011	Maintain catch at recent level		No TAC	915
2012	No new advice, same as for 2011		No TAC	1099
2013	Decrease catch by 9% + no species-specific TAC		No TAC	1097
2014	No new advice, same as for 2013		No TAC	985
2015	No new advice, same as for 2014		No TAC	971
2016	Increase by no more than 20% compared to the average catches in 2012–2014		No TAC	987
2017	Same catch value as advised for 2016		No TAC	1067
2018	Precautionary approach	≤ 1178	No TAC	1014
2019	Precautionary approach (Same advice as for 2018)	≤ 1178	No TAC	1037
2020	No catch advice requested	-	No TAC	1408
2021	No catch advice requested	-	No TAC	
2022	No catch advice requested	-		
2023	No catch advice requested	-		

History of the catch and landings

The distribution of this stock does not extend into the NEAFC Regulatory area.

Table 4 Lesser-spotted dogfish in divisions 8.c and 9.a. Catch distribution by fleet in 2020 as estimated by ICES.

Catch (2020)	Landings				Discards
Unknown	Bottom trawl 75%	Others 17%	Gillnet 8 %	Longline < 1 %	Unknown
1408 tonnes					

Table 5 Lesser-spotted dogfish in divisions 8.c and 9.a. ICES estimates of landings by country (in tonnes). 0 = value below 0.5.

Year	France	Spain	Portugal	Total
1996	0	431	667	1098
1997	0	472	691	1163
1998	1	403	689	1093
1999	1	491	882	1374
2000	1	202	757	960
2001	4	236	734	974
2002	3	155	673	831
2003	4	248	735	987
2004	5	237	657	900
2005	1	297	568	866
2006	1	333	591	925
2007	1	327	595	923
2008	1	272	546	819
2009	0	229	535	765
2010	0	336	522	858
2011	0	364	551	915
2012	0	555	544	1099
2013	0	577	520	1097
2014	0	464	521	985
2015	0	417	554	971
2016	0	398	589	987
2017	0	448	619	1067
2018	0	484	530	1014
2019	0	449	588	1037
2020	0	853	555	1408

Summary of the assessment

Table 6 Lesser-spotted dogfish in divisions 8.c and 9.a. Assessment summary. Biomass indices were derived from four bottom trawl surveys (SP-GCGFS-WIBTS-Q1 and Q4, SP-NSGFS-WIBTS-Q4, and PT-GFS-Q4). The indices for SP-GCGFS-WIBTS-Q1 and SP-GCGFS-WIBTS-Q4 were averaged and normalized. The stock-size indicator is the annual mean of the normalized survey indices.

Year	Spain		Portugal	Combined stock-size indicator
	SP-GCGFS-WIBTS-Q1 & Q4	SP-NSGFS-WIBTS-Q4	PT-PGFS-Q4	
1993	0.187	0.51	0.97	0.55
1994	0.45	0.5	0.76	0.57
1995	0.48	0.33	1.1	0.63
1996	0.43	0.47	-	0.45
1997	0.65	0.47	1.13	0.75
1998	0.161	0.41	0.78	0.45
1999	0.27	0.35		0.31
2000	0.32	0.56	1.73	0.87
2001	0.41	0.79	1.06	0.75
2002	0.23	0.5	0.45	0.39
2003	0.29	0.58	-	0.43
2004	0.54	0.53	-	0.53
2005	0.97	0.75	0.87	0.86
2006	1.51	0.87	0.81	1.06
2007	0.96	1.03	0.72	0.9
2008	1.37	0.75	1.05	1.06
2009	0.86	0.89	1.06	0.94
2010	1.1	0.81	0.64	0.85
2011	1.14	0.77	0.98	0.96
2012	1.06	1.05		1.05
2013	1.7	2.6	0.99	1.77
2014	1.48	1.93	0.76	1.39
2015	1.64	1.63	1.03	1.44
2016	1.94	1.76	0.91	1.54
2017	2.2	1.44	1.37	1.68
2018	1.87	1.86	1.84	1.86
2019	2.4	1.94	-	2.1
2020	1.39	1.92	-	1.65

Sources and references

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>.

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Rodríguez-Cabello, Fernández, A., Olaso, I., and Sánchez, F. 2005. Survival of small-spotted catshark (*Scyliorhinus canicula*) discarded by trawlers in the Cantabrian Sea. Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the UK, 85(05): 1145–1150. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S002531540501221X>.

[Download the stock assessment data and figures.](#)

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