

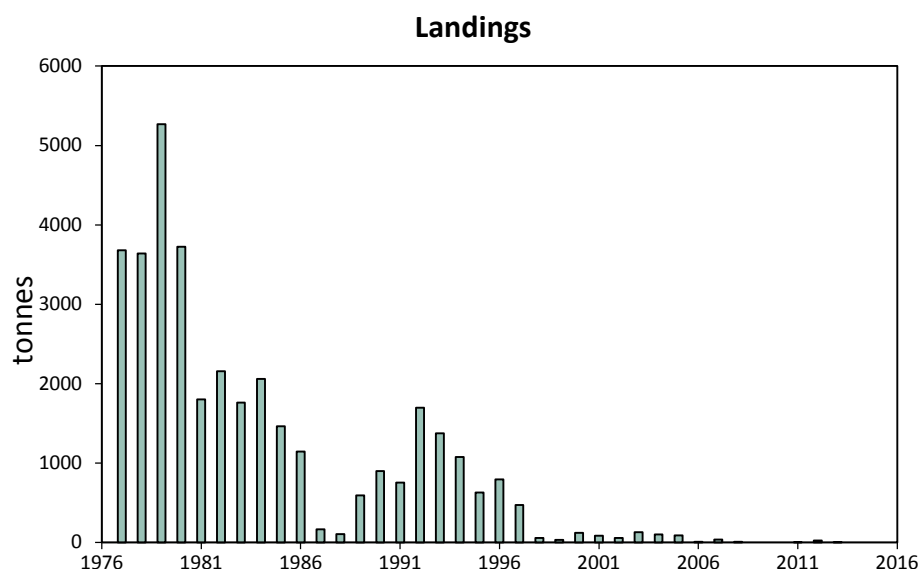
### 9.3.3 Basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) in the Northeast Atlantic

#### ICES stock advice

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied for basking shark in the Northeast Atlantic, no targeted fisheries should be permitted and bycatch should be minimized. This advice is valid for 2016 to 2019.

#### Stock development over time

The stock is thought to have declined historically following target fisheries. Fishing for basking shark has been forbidden in much of the EU since 2001, and in Norway since 2006. The species has been on the EU Prohibited species list since 2007. No new information is available to inform on current stock status.



**Figure 9.3.3.1** Basking shark in the Northeast Atlantic. ICES landings (tonnes) of basking sharks in Subareas I–XIV from 1977 to 2014.

#### Stock and exploitation status

**Table 9.3.3.1** Basking shark in the Northeast Atlantic. State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points.

		Fishing pressure				Stock size			
		2012	2013	2014		2013	2014	2015	
Maximum sustainable yield	$F_{MSY}$	?	?	?	Undefined	MSY	?	?	?
						$B_{trigger}$	?	?	Undefined
Precautionary approach	$F_{pa}, F_{lim}$	?	?	?	Undefined	$B_{pa}, B_{lim}$	?	?	Undefined
Management plan	$F_{MGT}$	-	-	-	Not applicable	$SSB_{MGT}$	-	-	Not applicable
Qualitative evaluation	-	?	?	?	Unknown	-	?	?	Unknown

### Catch options

The ICES framework for category 6 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.

In its most recent advice for 2013–2015 for this stock, ICES advises that there should be no catches. Landings in the last decade have been close to zero and data available do not allow the current stock status to be evaluated. The low productivity and aggregating nature of this species makes it particularly vulnerable to overexploitation. Therefore, ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, no targeted fisheries should be permitted and bycatch should be minimized.

**Table 9.3.3.2** Basking shark in the Northeast Atlantic. For stocks in ICES data categories 3–6, one catch option is possible.

Recent advised catch (for 2013–2015)	No catch	
Discard rate	Unknown	
Precautionary buffer	Not applied	-
Catch advice	No targeted fisheries and bycatch minimized	

### Basis of the advice

**Table 9.3.3.3** Basking shark in the Northeast Atlantic. The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	Precautionary approach.
Management plan	There is no management plan for this stock.

### Quality of the assessment

There is no assessment for this stock.

### Issues relevant for the advice

The low productivity and aggregating nature of this species makes it particularly vulnerable to overexploitation.

Measures should be put in place to ensure that incidental catches are recorded in numbers, and by size and weight (where possible). Discarding is known to occur but it has not been quantified and discard survival has not been estimated.

Basking shark has a high conservation status, is legally protected in the national wildlife legislation of some EU Member States, and is included in Appendix II of CITES.

### Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

### Basis of the assessment

**Table 9.3.3.4** Basking shark in the Northeast Atlantic. The basis of the assessment.

ICES stock data category	6.3.0 ( <a href="#">ICES, 2015a</a> ).
Assessment type	No assessment (ICES, 2015b).
Input data	Landings.
Discards and bycatch	Unknown.
Indicators	None.
Other information	Historical landings, life-history information, historical accounts.
Working group	Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes ( <a href="#">WGEF</a> ).

### Information from stakeholders

No information has been provided.

### History of advice, catch, and management

**Table 9.3.3.5** Basking shark in the Northeast Atlantic. History of ICES advice, the agreed TAC, and ICES estimates of landings. Weights in tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Predicted catch corresp. to advice	Agreed TAC	ICES landings
2006	TAC = 0	0	0	7
2007	TAC = 0, no target fishery, minimize bycatch	0	0	38
2008	No new advice, same as for 2007	0	0	7
2009	TAC = 0, no target fishery, minimize bycatch	0	0	< 1
2010	No new advice, same as for 2009	0	0	0
2011	Catch = 0	0	0	4
2012	No new advice, same as for 2011	0	0	22
2013	No target fishery, TAC = 0	0	0	< 1
2014	No new advice, same as for 2013	0	0	0
2015	No new advice, same as for 2014	0		
2016	Precautionary approach: no target fishery, bycatch should be minimized	0		
2017	Quadrennial advice	0		
2018	Quadrennial advice	0		
2019	Quadrennial advice	0		

## History of catch and landings

**Table 9.3.3.6** Basking shark in the Northeast Atlantic. Catch distribution by fleet in 2014 as estimated by ICES.

Total catch (2014)	Landings	Discards
Unknown	0 tonnes	Unknown

**Table 9.3.3.7** Basking shark in the Northeast Atlantic. History of commercial official landings values are presented by area.

Year	I & II	III & IV	Vb	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	TOTAL
1977	3680	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3680
1978	3349	.	14	.	278	.	.	.	3641
1979	5120	.	.	.	139	7	.	.	5266
1980	3642	.	83	.	.	.	.	.	3725
1981	1772	.	28	.	.	.	.	.	1800
1982	1970	.	.	.	186	.	.	.	2156
1983	967	734	.	.	60	.	.	.	1761
1984	873	1188	.	.	1	.	.	.	2062
1985	1465	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1465
1986	1144	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1144
1987	164	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	165
1988	96	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	106
1989	593	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	593
1990	781	116	.	.	.	1	.	.	897
1991	533	220	.	.	.	0	.	.	753
1992	1613	84	.	.	.	0	.	.	1697
1993	1374	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1374
1994	920	157	.	.	.	0	1	.	1078
1995	604	23	.	.	.	1	1	.	629
1996	792	.	.	.	.	0	1	.	793
1997	425	43	.	.	.	2	1	.	471
1998	55	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	56
1999	31	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	33
2000	117	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	119
2001	80	.	.	.	.	.	2	1	83
2002	54	0	.	.	.	.	1	.	55
2003	128	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	129
2004	72	.	.	.	.	.	1	26	99
2005	87	.	.	.	1	.	2	.	90
2006	6	.	.	.	+	+	.	.	7
2007	26	.	.	.	.	+	8	3	38
2008	4	.	.	.	+	2	.	.	7
2009	.	.	.	.	+	.	.	.	+
2010	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0
2011	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
2012	22	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	22
2013	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+
2014	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0

No reported catches from Division Va or Subareas VI, XII, and XIV.

## Summary of the assessment

There is no assessment for this species.

## 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.

ICES. 2015a. Advice basis. *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2015. ICES Advice 2015, Book 1, Section 1.2.

ICES. 2015b. Report of the Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes (WGEF), 17—23 June 2015, Lisbon, Portugal. ICES CM 2015/ACOM:19.