

5.3.3 Black-mouth dogfish (*Galeus melastomus*) in Subareas VI and VII (West of Scotland, Southern Celtic Seas and English Channel)

ICES stock advice

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches in 2016 could be increased by no more than 20% compared to the average of 2012–2014, with the catch value advised for 2016 also applicable to 2017. ICES is not able to quantify the resulting catches or landings. The exact levels of catch are unreliable as discard levels are considered to be high and highly variable, with a substantial part of the landings not reported at species level.

Stock development over time

The stock size indicator shows that the stock has increased since 2001.

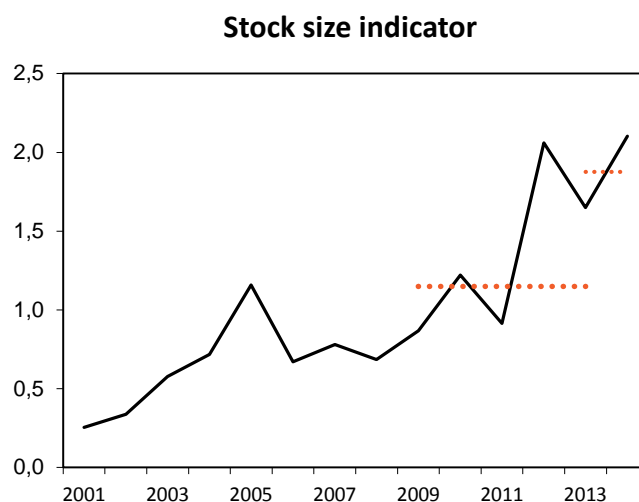


Figure 5.3.3.1 Black-mouth dogfish in Subareas VI and VII. Standardized survey index ($n\ h^{-1}$, relative to the time-series mean) from the Spanish Porcupine Bank survey. The dotted horizontal lines indicate the mean catch rates for 2013–2014 and 2008–2012.

Stock and exploitation status

Table 5.3.3.1 Black-mouth dogfish in Subareas VI and VII. State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points.

		Fishing pressure			Stock size		
		2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
Maximum sustainable yield	F_{MSY}	?	?	?	MSY	?	?
Precautionary approach	F_{pa}	?	?	?	$B_{trigger}$?	?
Management plan	F_{MGT}	-	-	-	B_{pa}, B_{lim}	?	?
Qualitative evaluation	-	?	?	?	SSB_{MGT}	-	-
					-	↗	↘
						↗	↘
						↗	↘

Catch options

The ICES framework for category 3 stocks (ICES, 2012) was applied. The Spanish Porcupine Bank survey provided an overall indicator of stock size. The advice is based on a comparison of the last two values (index A) with the five preceding values (index B), combined with the average landings in 2012–2014.

The stock indicator has increased by more than 20% and therefore the uncertainty cap was applied. As the stock size indicator has shown a continuous increase since 2001, the precautionary buffer is not applied. This corresponds to a total increase in catches of no more than 20%.

ICES is not able to quantify the resulting catches or landings. The exact levels of catch are unreliable as discard levels are considered to be high and highly variable, with a substantial part of the landings not reported at species level.

Table 5.3.3.2 Black-mouth dogfish in Subareas VI and VII. For stocks in ICES data category 3, one catch option is possible.

Index A (2013–2014)		1.88
Index B (2008–2012)		1.15
Index ratio (A/B)		1.63
Uncertainty cap	Applied	1.20
Average catches (2012, 2013, 2014)		Unknown
Discard rate		Unquantified, high discarding rates have been reported
Precautionary buffer	Not applied	-
Catch advice *		Increase by 20% compared to the average catches in 2012–2014

* [Average catches (2012, 2013, 2014)] × (uncertainty cap).

Basis of the advice

Table 5.3.3.3 Black-mouth dogfish in Subareas VI and VII. The basis of the advice.

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

Quality of the assessment

Landings data are unreliable for this species, because part of the landings of this species is included in the generic “dogfish” category, which is not disaggregated at the species level and, therefore, not included in the landings of black-mouth dogfish.

Discarding is known to occur and is very high and variable between fishing fleets, but it has not been fully quantified and discard survival has not been estimated. The discard rate was higher between 2010 and 2013, when EU regulations listed this species as a deep-water shark, permitting no landings. Since 2013, this species has been removed from this list; however, while landings have increased, discards still remain high.

Fishery-independent trawl surveys provide the longest and most reliable time-series of species-specific information. The status of the stock was evaluated from only one survey covering the core part of the management area. Other trawl surveys in this ecoregion have reduced their coverage of deeper waters to focus on shelf species, and therefore were not considered informative on the trend of shelf edge stocks.

Issues relevant for the advice

Scyliorhinids are generally productive species in comparison to other demersal elasmobranchs and are typically discarded or of low value as a bycatch.

Given that the species is usually discarded and is a common bycatch in shelf edge fisheries, discard survival should be quantified.

Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

Basis of the assessment

Table 5.3.3.4 Black-mouth dogfish in Subareas VI and VII. The basis of the assessment.

ICES stock data category	3.20 (ICES, 2015a).
Assessment type	Survey trends-based assessment (ICES, 2015b).
Input data	Surveys: SpPGFS-WIBTS-Q4.
Discards and bycatch	Unknown.
Indicators	None.
Other information	Life history, discard rates available for some fleets in Spain, Portugal, France, and Belgium.
Working group	Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes (WGEF).

Information from stakeholders

No information has been provided.

History of advice, catch, and management

Table 5.3.3.5 Black-mouth dogfish in Subareas VI and VII. History of ICES advice, the agreed TAC, and official landings (tonnes).

Year	ICES advice	Predicted catch corresp. to advice	Agreed TAC	Official landings (t)
2002	No advice	-	No TAC	9
2003	No advice	-	No TAC	1
2004	No advice	-	No TAC	0
2005	No advice	-	No TAC	1
2006	No advice	-	No TAC	0
2007	No advice	-	No TAC	0
2008	No advice	-	No TAC	2
2009	No advice	-	No TAC	2
2010	No advice	-	No TAC	1
2011	No advice	-	No TAC	0
2012	No advice	-	No TAC	3
2013	No advice	-	No TAC	4
2014	No advice	-	No TAC	7
2015	No advice	-		
2016	Precautionary approach	Increase by no more than 20% compared to the average catches in 2012–2014		
2017	Biennial advice	Same catch value as advised for 2016		

History of catch and landings

This is a bycatch species in bottom trawl, gillnet, trammelnet, and longline fisheries.

Table 5.3.3.6 Black-mouth dogfish in Subareas VI and VII. Catch distribution by fleet in 2014 as estimated by ICES.

Total catch (2014)	Landings	Discards
Unknown	Landings are not fully quantified Proportion by fleet is unquantified	Unknown

Table 5.3.3.7 Black-mouth dogfish in Subareas VI and VII. History of official commercial landings.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
VI and VII combined	9	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	0	3	4	7

Summary of the assessment

Table 5.3.3.8 Black-mouth dogfish in Subareas VI and VII. Assessment summary. The stock size indicator for the Spanish Porcupine Bank ($n \text{ h}^{-1}$) is scaled to its long-term mean.

Year	Spanish Porcupine Bank (standardized to the mean)
2001	0.25
2002	0.34
2003	0.58
2004	0.72
2005	1.16
2006	0.67
2007	0.78
2008	0.69
2009	0.87
2010	1.22
2011	0.91
2012	2.06
2013	1.65
2014	2.10

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.