

5.3.13 Greater-spotted dogfish (*Scyliorhinus stellaris*) in Subareas VI and VII (west of Scotland, southern Celtic Sea, and the English Channel)

ICES stock advice

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches in 2016 should be decreased by 6% 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 overall increased since 1993.

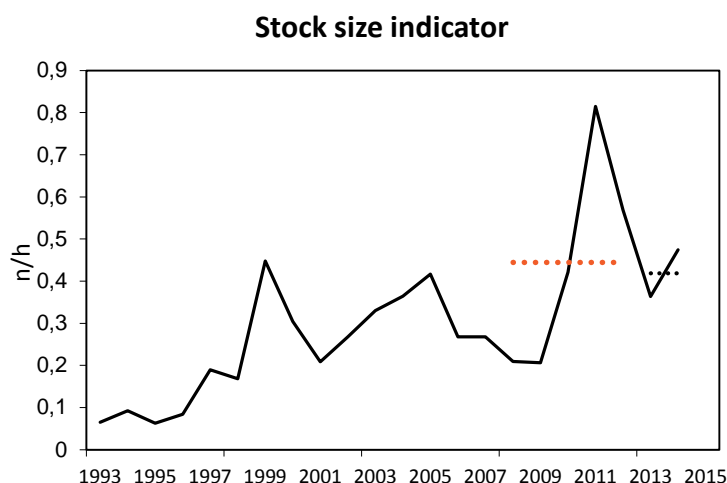





Figure 5.3.13.1 Greater-spotted dogfish in Subareas VI and VII. Survey index of abundance ($n \text{ h}^{-1}$, relative to the time-series mean) from the UK-BTS-VIIa,f trawl survey. The dotted horizontal lines indicate mean catch rates for 2013–2014 and 2008–2012.

Stock and exploitation status

Table 5.3.13.1 Greater-spotted dogfish in Subareas VI and VII. 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	?	?	?	Undefined
Precautionary approach	F _{pa} , F _{lim}	?	?	?	Undefined	B _{trigger} B _{pa} , B _{lim}	?	?	?	Undefined
Management plan	F _{MGT}	-	-	-	Not applicable	SSB _{MGT}	-	-	-	Not applicable
Qualitative evaluation	-	?	?	?	Unknown	-				Increasing

Catch options

The ICES framework for category 3 stocks (ICES, 2012) was applied. A survey index from UK-BTS-VIIa,f was used to provide 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 catches in 2012–2014.

The stock indicator has decreased by 6% and therefore the uncertainty cap was not applied. Given the longer-term increase in the stock size indicator, that this is a bycatch species, and that scyliorhinids are generally productive species in comparison to other demersal elasmobranchs, the precautionary buffer is not applied, which corresponds to a total decrease of 6%.

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 being reported at species level.

Table 5.3.13.2 Greater-spotted dogfish in Subareas VI and VII. For stocks in ICES data category 3, one catch option is possible.

Index A (2013–2014)		0.42
Index B (2008–2012)		0.44
Index ratio (A/B)		0.94
Uncertainty cap	Not applied	-
Average catch (2012, 2013, 2014)		Unknown
Discard rate		Unknown
Precautionary buffer	Not applied	-
Catch advice *	Decrease by 6% compared to the average catches in 2012–2014	

* [Average catches (2012, 2013, 2014)] × (index ratio).

Basis of the advice

Table 5.3.13.3 Greater-spotted 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 because part of the landings of this species is included in the generic “dogfish” category; this category is not disaggregated at the species level and, therefore, not included in the landings of greater-spotted dogfish. Misidentification with *S. canicula* may occur.

Discarding is known to occur but is variable between fishing fleets and has not been fully quantified. Discard survival has not been estimated but is likely to be similar to lesser-spotted dogfish.

Greater-spotted dogfish is patchily distributed in the Celtic Seas, with the main stock in Division VIIa. Only one survey (UK-BTS-VIIa,f Beam trawl) catches this species in sufficient numbers for use as an index.

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. Greater-spotted dogfish is the largest of the two species *S. canicula* and *S. stellaris*.

Greater-spotted dogfish occurs primarily in inshore waters on rocky grounds where fishing pressure is low and some grounds are subject to spatial management.

This species is locally important for recreational fisheries and it is generally released alive.

Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

Basis of the assessment

Table 5.3.13.4 Greater-spotted dogfish in Subareas VI and VII. The basis of the assessment.

ICES stock data category	3.2.0 (ICES, 2015a).
Assessment type	Survey-based trends (ICES, 2015b).
Input data	Survey UK VIIa BTS.
Discards and bycatch	Unquantified.
Indicators	None.
Other information	Life-history.
Working group	Working Group on Elasmobranch Fishes (WGEEF).

Information from stakeholders

No information has been provided.

History of advice, catch, and management

Table 5.3.13.5 Greater-spotted dogfish in Subareas VI and VII. History of ICES advice, the agreed TAC, and official landings.

Year	ICES advice	Predicted catch corresp. to advice	Agreed TAC	Landings (tonnes)
2011	NA		No TAC	NA
2012	NA		No TAC	41
2013	NA		No TAC	72
2014	NA		No TAC	13
2015	NA		No TAC	-
2016	Precautionary approach	Decrease by 6% compared to the average catches in 2012–2014.		
2017	Biennial	Same catch value advised for 2016.		

History of catch and landings

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

Table 5.3.13.6 Greater-spotted dogfish in Subareas VI and VII. Catch distribution by fleet in 2014 as estimated by ICES.

Total catch (2014)	Commercial landings	Commercial discards	Recreational catches
Unknown	Landings are not fully quantified Proportion by fleet is unquantified	Unknown	Unknown

Table 5.3.13.7 Greater-spotted dogfish in Subareas VI and VII. History of official commercial landings is presented by country participating in the fishery. Weights in tonnes.

	2012	2013	2014
Belgium		17	
France	41	50	
Ireland		< 0.5	13
UK (E,W, NI)		5	

Summary of the assessment

Table 5.3.13.8 Greater-spotted dogfish in Subareas VI and VII. Standardized stock size indicator ($n\ h^{-1}$, relative to the time-series mean) from the survey abundance index UK-BTS-VIIa,f.

Year	Survey index
	UK VIIaf BTS ($n\ h^{-1}$)
1993	0.07
1994	0.09
1995	0.06
1996	0.08
1997	0.19
1998	0.17
1999	0.45
2000	0.30
2001	0.21
2002	0.27
2003	0.33
2004	0.36
2005	0.42
2006	0.27
2007	0.27
2008	0.21
2009	0.21
2010	0.42
2011	0.81
2012	0.57
2013	0.36
2014	0.47

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.