

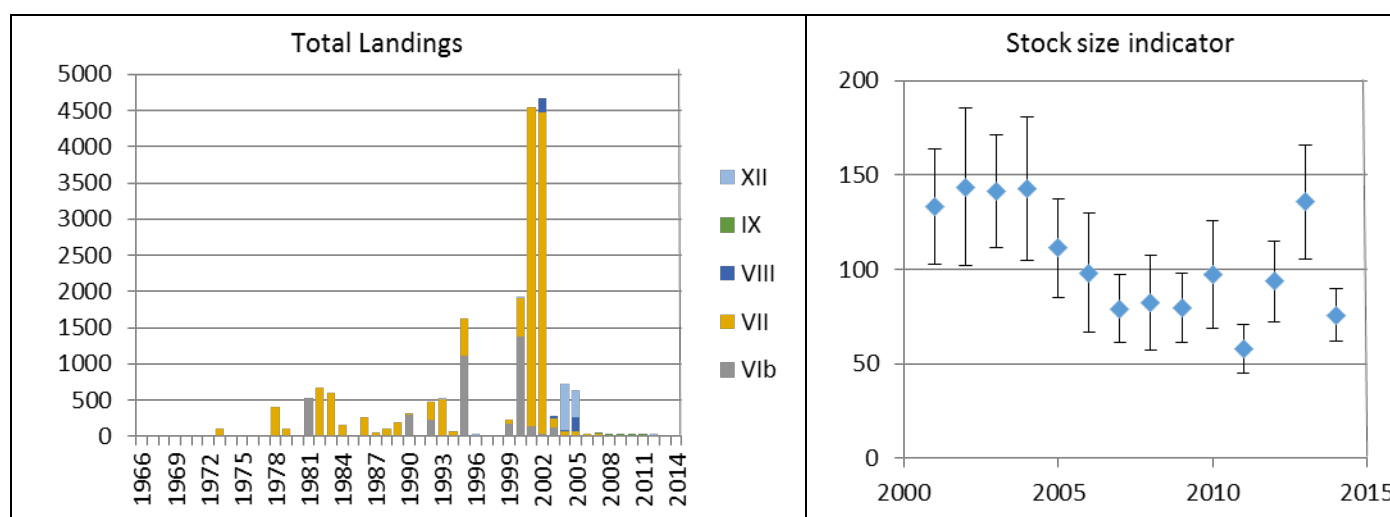
### 9.3.15 Greater silver smelt (*Argentina silus*) in Subareas VII-X, XII, and Division VIb (other areas)

#### ICES stock advice

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, landings should be no more than 15 tonnes in each of the years 2016 and 2017. ICES cannot quantify the corresponding catches.

#### Stock development over time

Over the past decade, landings from the stock have been low, typically under 500 tonnes. The Spanish survey on the Porcupine bank provides an index of biomass for the area where the bulk of the cumulated catch in the past 30 years was taken. The survey index does not indicate any marked trend in the stock.



**Figure 9.3.15.1** Greater silver smelt in Subareas VII–X, XII, and Division VIb. Total landings (tonnes) and index of biomass ( $\text{kg h}^{-1}$ ) from the Spanish survey on the Porcupine Bank (ICES Divisions VIb,c,j,k).

#### Stock and exploitation status

**Table 9.3.15.1** Greater silver smelt in Subareas VII–X, XII, and Division VIb. State of the stock and fishery, relative to reference points.

		Fishing pressure				Stock size			
		2012	2013	2014		2012	2013	2014	
Maximum Sustainable Yield	$F_{MSY}$	?	?	?	Undefined	MSY	?	?	?
Precautionary approach	$F_{pa}$ $F_{lim}$	?	?	?	Undefined	$B_{pa}$ , $B_{lim}$	?	?	?
Management Plan	$F_{MGT}$	-	-	-	Not applicable	$SSB_{MGT}$	-	-	-
Qualitative evaluation	-	?	?	?	Low	-	↗	↗	↘
									stable

#### Catch options

The ICES framework for category 3 stocks was applied (ICES, 2012). The Spanish Porcupine bank survey was applied as index for the stock biomass. The advice is based on a comparison of the two latest index values (index A) with the three preceding values (index B), combined with average landings in recent years. The index is estimated to have increased by more than 20% which means that the uncertainty cap was applied to calculate the landings advice. Although the stock status relative to

candidate reference points is unknown, the low catches in recent years suggested a very low fishing pressure. Therefore, the precautionary buffer was not applied. Discarding is known to take place, but ICES cannot quantify the corresponding catches.

**Table 9.3.15.2** Greater silver smelt in Subareas VII–X, XII, and Division VIb For stocks in ICES data categories 3–6, one catch option is provided.

Index A (2013–2014)		91 t
Index B (2010–2012)		74 t
Index ratio (A/B)		1.22
Uncertainty cap	Applied	1.20
Average landings (2012, 2013, 2014)		13 t
Discard rate		Unknown
Precautionary buffer	Not applied	
Landings advice *		15 t

\* (average landings × cap).

### Basis of the advice

**Table 9.3.15.3** Greater silver smelt in Subareas VII–X, XII, and Division VIb. The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	ICES precautionary approach.
Management plan	There is no management plan for greater silver smelt in this area.

### Quality of the assessment

The survey index used for the assessment does not cover the full area but corresponds to the area where the bulk of the catch was taken. The abundance of the species is lesser in southern areas (Subareas VIII, IX, and X). The survey covers water depth from 300 to 800 m, which is the main depth range of the species.

### Issues relevant for the advice

Advice for this area was previously given as part of a wider advice unit that included fisheries in Subareas I, II, and IV and Division IIIa as well as in Divisions Vb and VIa. These are now assessed separately as two stock units.

Landings in Division VIb and Subareas VII–XII are small. Considerable discarding is known to occur in some fisheries in the Porcupine bank outer shelf and upper slope fisheries for demersal and deep-water fish. These fisheries do not land greater silver smelt. Targeted fisheries prior to 2006 have not operated significantly in these areas since then. Landings variations over time are considered more likely to reflect market opportunities than fish abundance. Current advice is based on precautionary considerations on recent low landings and may not reflect potential fishing opportunities for this advice unit.

### Reference points

No reference points are defined for this advisory unit.

### Basis of the assessment

**Table 9.3.15.4** Greater silver smelt in Subareas VII–X, XII, and Division VIb. The basis of the assessment.

ICES stock data category	3.2 (ICES, 2015a).
Assessment type	Trends-based assessment (ICES, 2015b).
Input data	Spanish Porcupine Bank survey.
Discards and bycatch	Not included in the assessment.
Indicators	None.
Other information	This is a new advice unit for greater silver smelt in 2015. The stock has not been benchmarked although an assessment for greater silver smelt was benchmarked in 2010 ( <a href="#">ICES, 2010</a> ).
Working group	Working Group on the Biology and Assessment of Deep-Sea Fisheries Resources ( <a href="#">WGDEEP</a> ).

## Information from stakeholders

There is no information from stakeholders for this stock.

## History of advice, catch and management

**Table 9.3.15.5** Greater silver smelt in Subareas VII–X, XII, and Division VIb History of ICES advice, the agreed TAC, and ICES estimates of landings. Weights in thousand tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Predicted catch corresp. to advice	TAC EC Subareas III and IV	TAC EC Subareas V–VII	ICES landings Other areas (current definition**)	ICES landings Other areas (old definition*)
2003	No fisheries unless data collection on (by)catch, no expansion unless proven to be sustainable	-	1.566	6.247	1.3	19.1
2004	Biennial	-	1.566	6.247	1.7	28.9
2005	No fisheries unless accompanied by programmes to collect data on both target and bycatch fish	-	1.311	5.310	1.1	29.2
2006	Biennial	-	1.311	5.310	3.9	39.4
2007	The fishery should not be allowed to expand unless it can be shown that it is sustainable	-	1.331	5.311	3.1	30.2
2008	Biennial	-	1.331	5.311	1.6	32.5
2009	Same advice as 2007	-	1.331	5.311	1.6	30.9
2010	Biennial	-	1.278	5.099	1.1	35.9
2011	The fishery should not be allowed to expand, and a reduction in catches should be considered	-	1.176	4.691	0.6	35.6
2012	No new advice, same as 2011		.108	4.316	0.4	35.0
2013	Reduce catches by 10%	31.3	1.028	4.316	1.3	28.9
2014	No new advice, same as 2013	31.3	1.028	4.316	3.3	31.7
2015*	Precautionary approach	31.3				
2016	Precautionary approach	0.015				
2017	Biennial	0.015				

\* 2015 is the first year that ICES provides advice for this stock unit. Prior to 2015, “other areas” included Subareas I and II and Divisions Vb and VIb.

\*\* Division VIb and Subareas VII–XII.

## History of catch and landings

**Table 9.3.15.6** Greater silver smelt in Subareas VII–X, XII, and Division VIb. Catch distribution by fleet in 2014 as estimated by ICES.

Total catch	Commercial landings	Commercial discards
Unknown	100% trawl	Unknown
	0.001 kt	

**Table 9.3.15.7** Greater silver smelt in Subareas VII–X, XII, and Division VIb. Official landings in tonnes by area.

Year	Division VIb	Subarea VII	Subarea VIII	Subarea IX	Subarea XII	Total landings
1966						0
1967						0
1968						0
1969						0
1970						0
1971						0
1972		0				0
1973		103				103
1974		0				0
1975		0				0
1976		0				0
1977		1				1
1978		409				409
1979		103				103
1980	13	0				13
1981	525	0				525
1982	0	666				666
1983	4	595				599
1984	0	163				163
1985	0	0				0
1986	0	258				258
1987	0	50				50
1988	0	100			0	100
1989	0	200			0	200
1990	300	24			0	324
1991	5	9			0	14
1992	221	254			0	475
1993	3	505			6	514
1994	20	39			0	59
1995	1 114	510			0	1 624
1996	0	10			1	11
1997	0	12			0	12
1998	0	0			0	0
1999	178	50			0	228
2000	1 384	523			2	1 909
2001	130	4 415			0	4 545
2002	30	4 437	195		0	4 662
2003	126	119	43		0	288
2004	23	47	23		629	722
2005	4	58	202		362	626
2006	0	40	0	0	0	40
2007	0	35	0	1	0	36
2008	9	0	10	1	0	20
2009	0	20	0	2	0	22
2010	0	23	0	2	0	25
2011	0	12	1	1	0	14
2012	0	3	0	2	31	36
2013	0	1	0	0	0	1
2014*	0	0	1	0	0	1

\* Preliminary.

## Summary of the assessment

**Table 9.3.15.8** Greater silver smelt in Subareas VII–X, XII, and Division VIb. Assessment summary from the Spanish Porcupine Bank survey (Divisions VIIb,c,j,k).

Year	<i>Argentina spp.</i>		<i>Argentina silus</i>	
	kg hour <sup>-1</sup> (mean)	SE	kg hour <sup>-1</sup> (mean)	SE
2001	133	30.82		
2002	144	41.51		
2003	141	30.17		
2004	143	37.93		
2005	111	26.30		
2006	98	31.51		
2007	79	18.02		
2008	82	25.12		
2009	80	18.41	73	17.99
2010	97	28.67	90	28.55
2011	58	12.85	50	12.48
2012	94	21.43	83	20.67
2013	136	30.25	121	28.19
2014	76	13.87	60	12.27

## Sources and references

ICES. 2010. Report of the Benchmark Workshop on Deep-water Species (WKDEEP), 17–24 February 2010, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2010/ACOM:38. 247 pp.

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. In preparation.

ICES. 2015b. Report of the Working Group on the Biology and Assessment of Deep-Sea Fisheries Resources (WGDEEP), 20–27 March 2015, ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen. ICES CM 2015/ACOM:17.