

5.3.63 Whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) in Division VIb (Rockall)

ICES stock advice

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches should be no more than 11 tonnes in each of the years 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Stock development over time

The available information is insufficient to evaluate the stock trends and exploitation. Landings of whiting from Division VIb are negligible.

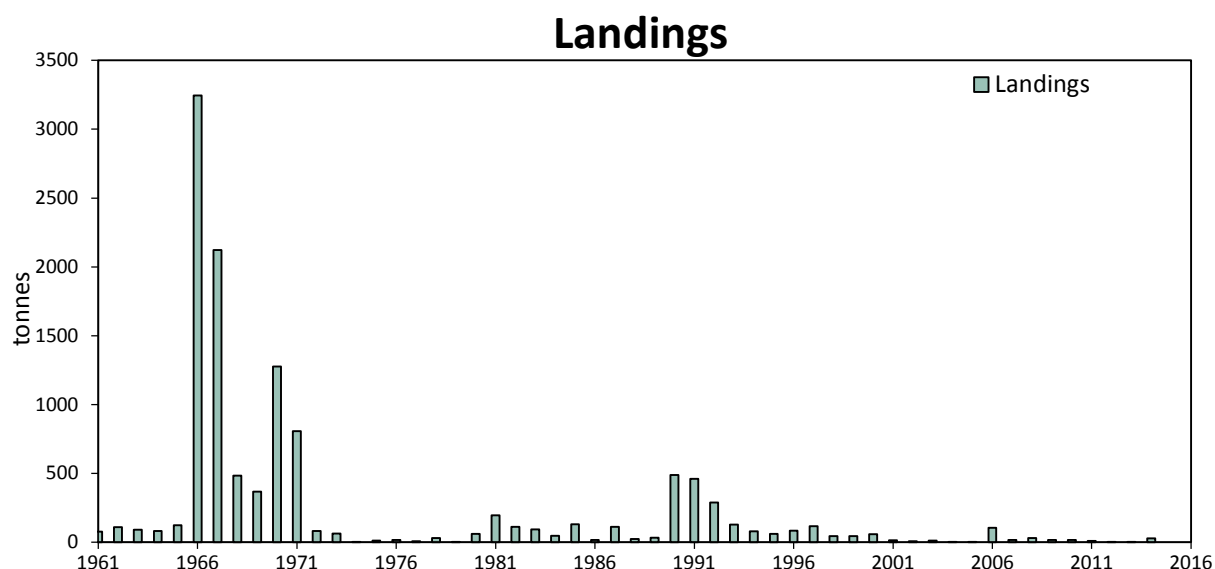


Figure 5.3.63.1 Whiting in Division VIb. Official landings in tonnes.

Stock and exploitation status

Table 5.3.63.1 Whiting in Division VIb. 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	?	?	?
Precautionary approach	F_{pa}, F_{lim}	?	?	?	Undefined	B_{pa}, B_{lim}	?	?	?
Management Plan	F_{MGT}	-	-	-	Not applicable	SSB_{MGT}	-	-	-
Qualitative evaluation	-	?	?	?	Unknown	-	?	?	?

Catch options

The ICES framework for category 6 stocks was applied (ICES, 2012). For stocks without information on abundance or exploitation, ICES considers that a precautionary reduction of catches should be implemented. The precautionary buffer was last applied in 2012.

The perception of the stock has not changed; therefore, the advice given in the three most recent years is still applicable this year and is described in the table below.

Table 5.3.63.2 Whiting in Division VIb. ICES framework for category 6 applied.

Recent advised catches	11 (tonnes)	
Discard	Negligible	
Precautionary buffer	Not applied	-
Catch advice*	11 (tonnes)	

*recent advice catch.

Basis of the advice

Table 5.3.63.4 Whiting in Division VIb. The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	Precautionary approach
Management plan	There is no management plan for whiting in this area.

Quality of the assessment

Available data provides information on landings only. There is uncertainty on the accuracy of the reported landings.

Issues relevant for the advice

It is unlikely that there is a self-sustaining population of whiting at Rockall.

Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

Basis of the assessment

Table 5.3.63.6 Whiting in Division VIb. The basis of the assessment.

ICES stock data category	6.2.0. (ICES 2015a).
Assessment type	No assessment.
Input data	Official landings statistics.
Discards and bycatch	Not included and considered negligible.
Indicators	None.
Other information	None.
Working group	Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE).

Information from stakeholders

Since 2014, there has been effort to improve coverage by the Scottish industry/science observer sampling scheme in Subareas IV and VI. The sampling coverage now is more likely to reflect fishing patterns.

History of advice, catch and management

Table 5.3.63.7 Whiting in Division Vlb. History of ICES advice, the agreed TAC, and official landings. Weights in tonnes.

Year	ICES Advice	Predicted catch corresp. to advice	Agreed TAC *	Official landings
2001	No advice	-	4000	14
2002	No advice	-	3500	7
2003	No advice	-	2000	13
2004	No advice	-	1600	4
2005	No advice	-	1600	4
2006	No advice	-	1360	105
2007	No advice	-	1020	17
2008	No advice	-	765	31
2009	No advice	-	547	16
2010	No advice	-	431	18
2011	No advice	-	323	9
2012	No increase in catch	-	307	1
2013	20% reduction in catches (last 3-year average)	11	292	3
2014	Same advice as for 2013	11	292	28
2015	Same advice as for 2013	11	263	
2016	Precautionary approach (same advised catch value as provided for 2015)	≤11		
2017	Precautionary approach (same advised catch value as provided for 2015)	≤11		
2018	Precautionary approach (same advised catch value as provided for 2015)	≤11		

*SubareaVI; EC waters of Division Vb; EC and international waters of Subareas XII and XIV.

History of catch and landings

Table 5.3.63.8 Whiting in Division Vlb. Catch distribution by fleet in 2014 as estimated by ICES.

Catch (2014)	Landings	Discards
30 t	28 t	2 t

Table 5.3.63.9 Whiting in Division VIb. History of official landings for each country participating in the fishery.

Year	Faroe Islands	France	Ireland	Spain	UK (E. & W, NI)	UK (Scotland)	UK (all)	Total
1989	-	-	-	-	16	18		34
1990	-	-	-	-	6	482		488
1991	-	-	-	-	1	459		460
1992	-	-	-	-	5	283		288
1993	-	-	32	-	10	86		128
1994	-	-	10	-	2	68		80
1995	-	-	4	-	5	53		62
1996	-	-	23	-	26	36		85
1997	-	-	3	-	49	65		117
1998	-	-	1	-	20	23		44
1999	-	-	-	+	+	44		44
2000	-	-	-	-	+	58		58
2001	-	-	10	-	-	4		14
2002	-	-		-	-	7		7
2003	-	-	2	-	-	11		13
2004	+	-	3	-	-	1		4
2005	-	-	3	-	-	1		4
2006	-	-	104	-	-	1		105
2007	-	-	16	-	-	1		17
2008	-	-	23	-	-	8		31
2009	-	-	4	-	-	12		16
2010	-	-	2	-	-	16		18
2011	-	-	3	-	-	6		9
2012			-			1		1
2013			+			3		3
2014*			6				22	28

*Preliminary.

Summary of the assessment

There is no assessment for this stock.

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. General context of ICES advice. *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2015. ICES Advice 2015, Book 1, Section 1.2.

ICES 2015b. Report of the Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE), 12–21 May 2015, ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2015/ACOM:12.