

### 7.3.40 Whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) in Subarea VIII and Division IXa (Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Iberian Waters)

#### ICES stock advice

**Please note: This advice was updated in July 2016 (ICES, 2016).**

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, landings should be no more than 1688<sup>†</sup> tonnes in each of the years 2016 and 2017. ICES cannot quantify the corresponding total catches.

#### Stock development over time

Landings have been relatively stable over the time period. The available information is insufficient to evaluate stock trends and exploitation status. Therefore, the status of the whiting in the Bay of Biscay and Atlantic Iberian waters ecoregion is unknown.

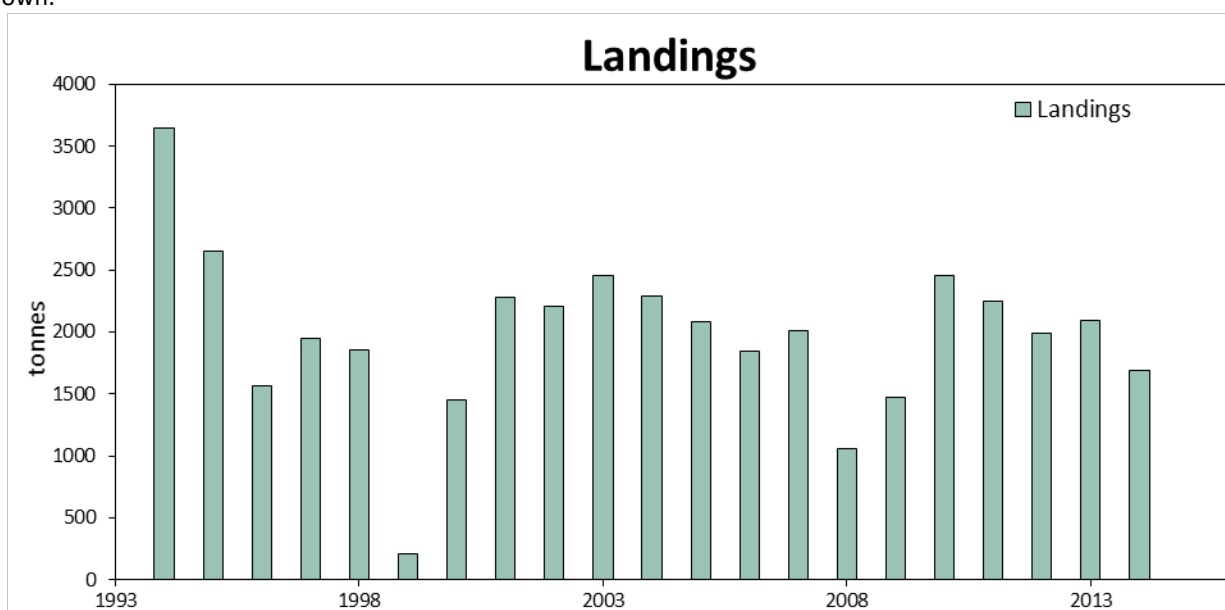


Figure 7.3.40.1 Whiting in Subarea VIII and Division IXa. Discards are unknown. The 2014 data are preliminary.

#### Stock and exploitation status

Table 7.3.40.1 Whiting in Subarea VIII and Division IXa. 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	$MSY B_{trigger}$	?	?	?	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

<sup>†</sup> Version 2: This advice has been replaced by a new version issued in [July 2016](#). This value was updated to 1613 t based on newly available ICES estimates of commercial landings (including a correction for pollack misreported as whiting)

## Catch options

The ICES framework for category 5 stocks 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. Given that this is the first time that ICES is providing a quantitative advice, the precautionary buffer was applied.

**Table 7.3.40.2** Whiting in Subarea VIII and Division IXa. The catch option. For stocks in ICES data categories 3-6, one catch option is possible.

Average landings (2011–2013)	2110 tonnes	
Discard rate	Unknown	
Precautionary buffer	Applied	0.8
Landings advice*	1688 tonnes	

\* (recent average landings x buffer)

## Basis of the advice

**Table 7.3.40.3** Whiting in Subarea VIII and Division IXa. 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

At present, only official landings are available, which are considered to be preliminary for the purpose of stock assessment. Associated effort should be compiled. Survey information is available and could provide information on stock dynamics.

The stock unit definition of whiting in this area is not clear. The bulk of the fishery takes place on the northern boundary of this stock area.

## Issues relevant to the advice

There is no information to present for this stock.

## Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

## Basis of the assessment

**Table 7.3.40.4** Whiting in Subarea VIII and Division IXa. The basis of the assessment.

ICES stock data category	5.2.0 ( <a href="#">ICES, 2015a</a> )
Assessment type	No assessment (ICES, 2015b)
Input data	Official landings statistics
Discards and bycatch	Unknown
Indicators	None
Other information	None
Working group	Working Group for the Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Waters Ecoregion ( <a href="#">WGBIE</a> )

## Information from stakeholders

There is no available information.

### History of advice, catch and management

**Table 7.3.40.5** Whiting in Subarea VIII and Division IXa. History of ICES advice, the agreed TAC, and ICES estimates of landings. Weights in thousand tonnes.

Year	ICES Advice	Predicted catch corresponding to advice	TAC in VIII	TAC in IX *	Official landings
2000			7.000	2.640	1.449
2001		-	5.600	2.100	2.281
2002		-	5.600	1.700	2.203
2003		-	5.600	1.360	2.452
2004		-	4.500	1.020	2.291
2005		-	3.600	0.816	2.083
2006		-	3.600	0.653	1.842
2007		-	3.600	0.653	2.013
2008		-	3.600	0.653	1.060
2009		-	3.600	0.653	1.473
2010		-	3.240	0.588	2.452
2011		-	3.175	0.588	2.243
2012	No increase in catch	-	3.175	0.588	1.995
2013	20% reduction in catches	-	3.175	***	2.094
2014	Same catch value advised for 2013	-	3.175	***	1.690 **
2015	Same catch value advised for 2013	-	3.175		
2016	Precautionary approach	≤ 1.688 <sup>‡</sup>			
2017	Precautionary approach	≤ 1.688 <sup>‡</sup>			

\* In Subareas IX and X; EU waters of CECAF 34.1.1.

\*\* Preliminary.

\*\*\* TAC to be established by Member State article 6<sup>o</sup> of Council Regulation [\(EC\) No. 43/2014](#) of 20 January 2014.

### History of catch and landings

**Table 7.3.40.6** Whiting in Subarea VIII and Division IXa. Catch distribution by fleet in 2014 as estimated by ICES.

Total catch (2014)						Landings				Discards	
Unknown	43% Bottom otter-trawls		15% Danish seines		32% Miscellaneous		9% Trammel nets		Unknown		
	1.69 kt										

<sup>‡</sup> Version 2: This advice has been replaced by a new version issued in [July 2016](#). This value was updated to 1613 t based on newly available ICES estimates of commercial landings (including a correction for pollack misreported as whiting)

**Table 7.3.40.7** Whiting in Subarea VIII and Division IXa. History of official commercial landings are presented for each country participating in the fishery. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	Belgium	France	Portugal	Spain	Total
1994		3496	15	136	3647
1995		2645	2	1	2648
1996		1544	4	13	1561
1997		1895	3	47	1945
1998		1750	3	105	1858
1999			1	211	212
2000	2	1106	2	338	1448
2001	3	1989	1	288	2281
2002	3	1970		230	2203
2003	1	2275	4	171	2451
2004		1965	77	249	2291
2005	3	1662	2	416	2083
2006	2	1400	6	433	1841
2007	4	1605	107	296	2012
2008	1	772	98	187	1058
2009	2	1303	114	54	1473
2010	3	2234	114	101	2452
2011	1	2029	105	108	2243
2012	3	1791	90	110	1994
2013	1	1943	95	55	2094
2014*	1	1572	63	54	1690

\*Preliminary.

### Summary of the assessment

There is no assessment for whiting in this area.

### Sources and references

ICES. 2012. Whiting in Subarea VIII and Division IXa. *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2012, Section 7.4.18. ICES Advice 2012, Book 7: 181–186.

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 for the Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Waters Ecoregion (WGBIE), 6–12 May 2015, ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2015/ACOM:11.

ICES. 2016. Whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a (Bay of Biscay and Atlantic Iberian waters). *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2016. ICES Advice 2016, Book 7, Section 7.3.3.39.<sup>§</sup>

<sup>§</sup> Version 2: Reference added