

ECOREGION Widely distributed and migratory stocks
STOCK Tusk (*Brosme brosme*) in Division VIb (Rockall)

Advice for 2015 and 2016

ICES advises on the basis of the data-limited approach that annual catches should be no more than 350 t. All catches are assumed to be landed.

Stock status

Fishing pressure		
	2011–2013	
MSY (F_{MSY})	?	Unknown
Precautionary approach (F_{pa}, F_{lim})	?	Unknown
Stock size		
	2012–2014	
MSY ($B_{trigger}$)	?	Unknown
Precautionary approach (B_{pa}, B_{lim})	?	Unknown
Qualitative evaluation	→	Stable at low level

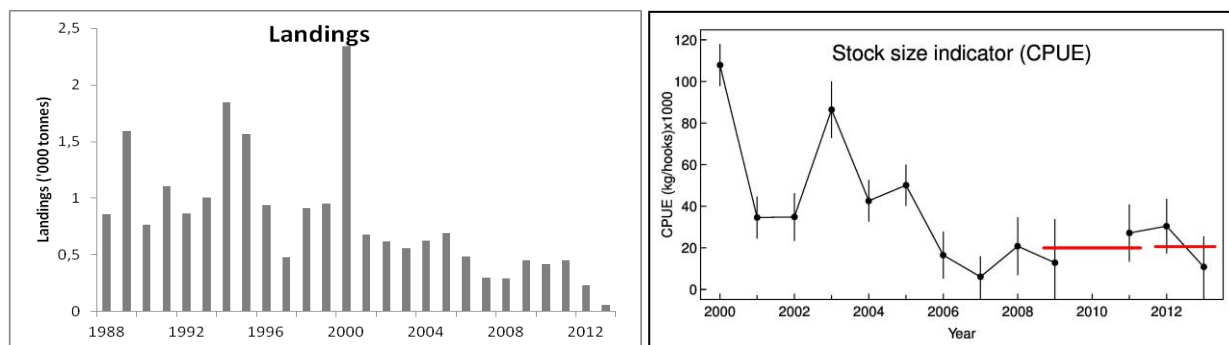


Figure 9.3.29.4.1 Tusk in Division VIb. Left: Landings (in thousand tonnes, 2013 values are preliminary). Right: Cpue ($[kg\ hook^{-1}] \times 1000$), based on electronic logbooks.

The only information on abundance of tusk is from a standardized cpue index from the Norwegian longline fishery which indicates a stable stock in the recent years. The landings have been low and decreasing since 2001.

Management plans

No specific management objectives are known to ICES.

Biology

See Section 9.3.29 for details on biology.

The fisheries

Tusk is a bycatch species in the trawl, gillnet, and longline fisheries in Division VIb. Norway has traditionally caught the largest percentage of the total catch.

Since January 2007 parts of the Rockall bank have been closed to fishing with bottom trawls, gillnets, and longlines. The closed areas were traditional fishing grounds for the Norwegian longline fleet.

In 2004 Russia initiated a longline fishery of ling with a bycatch of tusk in international waters of the Rockall Bank. The maximum catch (137 t) was taken in 2005. In recent years the intensity of the Russian longline fishery has decreased. Small bycatches of tusk were also taken in the area by trawlers targeting haddock.

Catch distribution	Total catch (2013) was 0.058 kt, where 100% were official landings (79% longline and 21% other gear types). Discard information is not available but all catches are likely to be landed.
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Quality considerations

The Norwegian cpue index was revised in 2014 and is now standardized .

Scientific basis

Stock data category	3.2 (ICES, 2014a).
Assessment type	Cpue trends.
Input data	Commercial catches (international landings data and standardized cpue from the Norwegian longline fleet.
Discards and bycatch	All catches are likely to be landed.
Indicators	None.
Other information	None.
Working group	Working Group on the Biology and Assessment of Deep-Sea Fisheries Resources (WGDEEP).

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Reference points

No reference points have been proposed.

Outlook 2015

No reliable forecast can be presented for this stock, because the assessment is only indicative of trends and the stock size and fishing pressure are uncertain.

ICES approach to data-limited stocks

For data-limited stocks for which an abundance index is available, ICES uses as harvest control rule an index-adjusted *status quo* catch. The advice is based on a comparison of the two most recent index values with the three preceding values, combined with recent catch or landings data. Knowledge about the exploitation status also influences the advised catch.

The PA Buffer was applied for the advice given in 2012. The new data on cpue available for this stock (3% increase) do not change the perception of the stock. Therefore, the advice for this fishery in 2015 is the same as the advice for 2013–2014 which implies annual catches of no more than 350 t in 2015–2016.

Additional considerations***Comparison of the basis of previous assessment and advice***

The basis for the advice this year is the same as last year: ICES approach to data-limited stocks.

Sources

ICES. 2014a. Advice basis. *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2014. ICES Advice 2014, Book 1, Section 1.2.
ICES. 2014b. Report of the Working Group on the Biology and Assessment of Deep-Sea Fisheries Resources (WGDEEP), 4–11 April 2014, ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen. ICES CM 2014/ACOM:17.

Table 9.3.29.4.1 Tusk in Division VIb. ICES advice and landings.

Year	ICES Advice ¹	Predicted catch corresp. to advice	ICES landings
2003	-		0.56
2004	-		0.63
2005	-		0.69
2006	-		0.49
2007	-		0.30
2008	-		0.29
2009	Constrain catches to 2003–2007 average	0.53	0.47
2010	Biennial	0.53	0.42
2011	Reduce catches by at least the rate of decline of the cpue	-	0.45
2012	No new advice, same as 2011	-	0.233
2013	20% reduction in catches	< 0.35	0.058
2014	No new advice, same as 2013	< 0.35	
2015	Same advised catch as in 2013	< 0.35	
2016	No new advice, same as 2015	< 0.35	

Weights in thousand tonnes.

¹ Prior to 2008 advice for this stock was combined with other areas.

Table 9.3.29.4.2 Tusk in Division VIb. ICES estimates of landings by country in Division VIb (tonnes).

Year	Faroes	France	Germany	Ireland	Iceland	Norway	E & W	N.I.	Scot.	Russia	Total
1988	217		-	-		601	8	-	34		860
1989	41	1	-	-		1537	2	-	12		1593
1990	6	3	-	-		738	2	+	19		768
1991	-	7	+	5		1068	3	-	25		1108
1992	63	2	+	5		763	3	1	30		867
1993	12	3	+	32		899	3	+	54		1003
1994	70	1	+	30		1673	6	-	66		1846
1995	79	1	+	33		1415	1		35		1564
1996	0	1		30		836	3		69		939
1997	1	1		23		359	2		90		476
1998		1		24	18	630	9		233		915
1999				26	-	591	5		331		953
2000		2		22		1933	14		372	1	2344
2001	1	1		31		476	10		157	6	681
2002		8		3		515	8		88		622
2003		7		18		452	11		72	1	561
2004		9		1		508	4		45	60	627
2005		5		9		503	5		33	137	692
2006	10	1		16		431	2		25	2	487
2007	4	0		8		231	1		30	25	299
2008	41	0		2		190	0		16	44	293
2009	70			4		358			17	3	452
2010	57			1		348			13		419
2011	3					433			14		450
2012	15					209			9		233
2013*		1				46			11		58

*Preliminary.

Table 9.3.29.4.3 Standardized cpue ($[\text{kg hook}^{-1}] \times 1000$) for tusk in Division VIb (Rockall) based on electronic logbooks from Norwegian longliners.

Year	Cpue	95% conf int
2000	107.9	9.9
2001	34.58	9.9
2002	34.84	11.3
2003	86.43	13.4
2004	42.63	9.8
2005	50.1	9.7
2006	16.49	11.1
2007	6.07	9.7
2008	20.81	13.7
2009	12.83	20.8
2010		
2011	27.15	13.6
2012	30.44	12.9
2013	10.78	14.5