

**ECOREGION** Widely distributed and migratory stocks  
**STOCK** Tusk (*Brosme brosme*) in Subarea XII, excluding Division XIIb  
 (Mid-Atlantic Ridge)

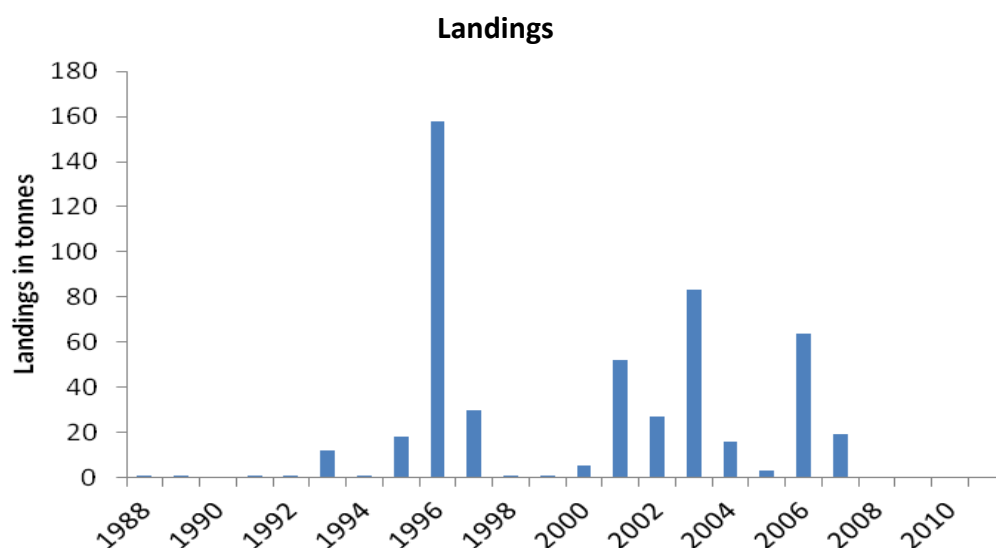
#### Advice for 2013 and 2014

ICES advises on the basis of the approach for data-limited stocks that catches should not be increased unless there is evidence that this is sustainable. Measures should be taken to limit occasional high levels of bycatch.

This is the first year ICES is providing quantitative advice for data-limited stocks (see Quality considerations).

#### Stock status

F (Fishing Mortality)	
Qualitative evaluation	2009–2011
	Unknown
SSB (Spawning-Stock Biomass)	
Qualitative evaluation	2009–2011
	Unknown



**Figure 9.4.12.3.1** Tusk on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Landings (tonnes). Note: catches in Division XIIb (Hatton Bank) may be included.

The only available information is landing statistics, with sporadic very low catches showing no trend.

#### Management plans

No specific management objectives are known to ICES.

## Biology

The life history traits are in line with other members of the gadoid family and suggest that tusk is less vulnerable to fishing mortality than typical deep-water species.

## The fisheries

Tusk is a bycatch species in this area. There have been no reported catches during the last four years. Tusk has previously been a bycatch species in the gillnet and longline fisheries in Subdivisions XIIa<sub>1</sub> and XIVb<sub>1</sub>. Russia reported catches of tusk in 2005, 2007, and 2009. In 1996–1997 Norway also had a fishery in this area.

NEAFC recommends that in 2009–2010 the effort in areas beyond national jurisdiction shall not exceed 65% of the highest level for deep-water fishing in previous years.

## Quality considerations

Catches from this area have been small and no catches have been reported for the last four years. No scientific analyses have been carried out.

The advice is based on a precautionary low level of catches because of missing or non-representative data. The methods applied to derive quantitative advice for data-limited stocks are expected to evolve as they are further developed and investigated.

## Scientific basis

<b>Assessment type</b>	No assessment.
<b>Indicators</b>	Landings data.
<b>Other information</b>	None.
<b>Working group report</b>	<a href="#">WGDEEP</a>

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**STOCK**            **Tusk (*Brosme brosme*) in Subarea XII, excluding Division XIIb**  
**(Mid-Atlantic Ridge)**

**Reference points**

No reference points have been defined for this assessment unit.

**Outlook for 2013 and 2014**

No reliable assessment can be presented for this assessment unit and fishing possibilities cannot be projected.

***ICES approach to data-limited stocks***

For data-limited stocks without information on abundance or exploitation ICES considers that a precautionary reduction of catches should be implemented. The resulting limit should stay in place for at least two years unless stock information shows a change that merits updating the advice.

For this stock, since the current catches are around zero, ICES advises that catches should not increase unless there is evidence that this is sustainable. Occasional high bycatches should be avoided.

**Additional considerations**

Tusk is primarily fished in the depth range 500–800 m on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

***Comparison with previous assessment and advice***

The basis for the assessment has not changed. The basis for the advice this year is the ICES approach to data-limited stocks.

**Source**

ICES. 2012. Report of the Working Group on the Biology and Assessment of Deep-Sea Fisheries Resources (WGDEEP), 29 March–5 April 2012, ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen. ICES CM 2012/ACOM:17.

**Table 9.4.12.3.1**      Tusk on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. ICES advice, management, and landings.

Year	ICES Advice <sup>1</sup>	Predicted catch corresp. to advice	ICES landings
2003			0.083
2004			0.016
2005			0.003
2006			0.064
2007		-	0.019
2008		-	0
2009	Fisheries should not be allowed to expand	-	0
2010	No new advice, same as for 2009	-	0
2011	Fisheries should not be allowed to expand and measures should be considered to limit occasional high levels of bycatch	-	0
2012	No new advice, same as 2011	-	
2013	No increase in catches, and measures should be taken to limit occasional high levels of bycatch	0	
2014	No new advice, same as 2013	0	

Weights in thousand tonnes.

<sup>1</sup> Prior to 2008 advice for this stock was combined with other areas.

**Table 9.4.12.3.2** Tusk in Sudivision XIIa<sub>1</sub> (Mid-Atlantic Ridge). ICES estimate of landings (tonnes). Note: catches in Division XIIb (Hatton Bank) may be included in these data.

<b>TUSK XII</b>							
Year	Faroes	France	Iceland	Norway	Scotland	Russia	<b>Total</b>
1988		1					<b>1</b>
1989		1					<b>1</b>
1990		0					<b>0</b>
1991		1					<b>1</b>
1992		1					<b>1</b>
1993		12	+				<b>12</b>
1994		1	+				<b>1</b>
1995	8	-	10				<b>18</b>
1996	7	-	9	142			<b>158</b>
1997	11	-	+	19			<b>30</b>
1998		1		-			<b>1</b>
1999		1		+	1		<b>1</b>
2000				5	+		<b>5</b>
2001		1		51	+		<b>52</b>
2002				27			<b>27</b>
2003				83			<b>83</b>
2004	2	2		7		5	<b>16</b>
2005	2	1					<b>3</b>
2006		0				64	<b>64</b>
2007		0				19	<b>19</b>
2008		0				0	<b>0</b>
2009		0				0	<b>0</b>
2010		0					<b>0</b>
2011*		0					<b>0</b>

\*Preliminary.