

ECOREGION **Widely distributed and migratory stocks**
STOCK **Alfonsinos/Golden eye perch (*Beryx* spp.) in the Northeast Atlantic**

Advice for 2011

Fisheries should not be allowed to expand, and in the light of the vulnerability of deep sea species a reduction in catches should be considered until such time there is sufficient scientific information to prove the fishery is sustainable.

Stock status

Fishing mortality	2007	2008	2009
F_{MSY}	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
F_{PA}/F_{lim}	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB)	2008	2009	2010
$MSY B_{trigger}$	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
B_{PA}/B_{lim}	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

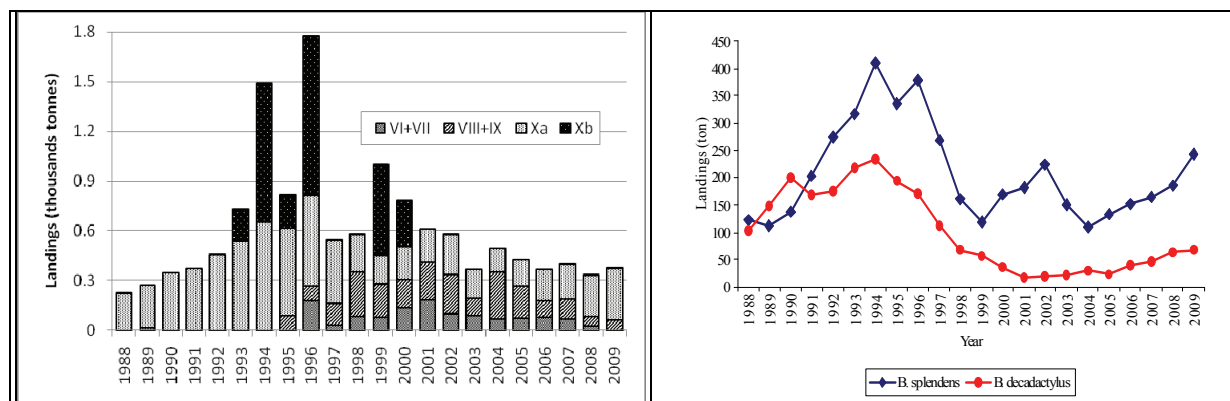


Figure 9.4.18.1 Alfonsinos in the Northeast Atlantic. Landings (tonnes) from the main fishing areas for species combined (left) and from the Azores (ICES Subarea X) longline fishery by species (right).

Management plans

No specific management objectives are known to ICES.

In the light of the EU policy paper on fisheries management (17 May 2010, [COM\(2010\) 241](#)) this stock is classified under category 11.

Biology

This advice section deals with two species, *Beryx splendens* and *B. decadactylus*. They are distributed over a wide area which may be composed of several populations.

The fisheries

Most of the landings of *Beryx* spp. are taken by handlines and longlines within the Azorean EEZ of Subarea X and by trawl outside the EEZ on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge.

Quality considerations

The general absence of data on species composition of the catches and biological parameters are important limiting factors for the knowledge of these fish stocks. Underreporting of catches from international waters is suspected.

Scientific basis

Assessment type	Landings trends assessment
Input data	Landings
Discards and by-catch	No discards information is available
Indicators	-
Other information	-
Working group report	WGDEEP

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Reference points

No reference points have been defined for these stocks.

Outlook for 2011

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

Data for 2008 and 2009 (landings) do not change the perception of the stock. Therefore, the advice for the fishery given in 2008 is still appropriate: *“Due to their spatial distribution associated with seamounts, their life history and their aggregation behavior, alfonsinos are easily overexploited by trawl fishing; they can only sustain low rates of exploitation. Fisheries on such species should not be allowed to expand above current levels unless it can be shown that such expansion is sustainable”*. In the light of the vulnerability of deep sea species a reduction should be considered until such time there is sufficient scientific information to prove the fishery is sustainable.

Additional considerations

As a consequence of alfonsinos spatial distribution associated with seamounts, their life-history and their aggregation behaviour, these species are easily overexploited; they can only sustain low rates of exploitation. To prevent depleting localised aggregations that have not yet been mapped and assessed the exploitation of new seamounts should not be allowed.

Sources

ICES. 2010. Report of the Working Group on the Biology and Assessment of Deep-Sea Fisheries Resources, 7–13 April 2010, ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen. ICES CM 2010/ACOM:17.

Table 9.4.18.1 Alfonsinos in the Northeast Atlantic. ICES advice, management, and landings.

Year	ICES Advice	Predicted catch corresp. to advice	TAC EU ¹	ICES Landings
2003	Fishery should not be allowed to expand, unless proven to be sustainable and accompanied by programmes to collect data on by(catch)			0.37
2004	Biennial			0.49
2005	Fisheries accompanied by programmes to collect data on by(catch)	-	0.328	0.42
2006	Biennial	-	0.328	0.37
2007	Fishery should not be allowed to expand, unless proven to be sustainable	-	0.328	0.40
2008	Biennial	-	0.328	0.33
2009	Fishery should not be allowed to expand, unless proven to be sustainable	-	0.328	0.37
2010	Biennial	-	0.328	
2011	Fisheries should not be allowed to expand, and a reduction in catches should be considered	-		

Weights in ,000t.

¹ Subareas III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XII and XIV.

Table 9.4.18.2 Alfonsinos in the Northeast Atlantic. Working group estimates of landings (tonnes) by Subarea and country.

Year	IV		Vb			VI and VII						VIII and IX					X						XII		TOTAL all areas
	France	TOTAL	Faroes	France	TOTAL	E & W	Spain	Ireland	Scotland	TOTAL	France	Portugal	Spain	E & W	TOTAL	Xa	Faroes	Norway	Russia**	E & W	Total Xb	TOTAL	Faroes	TOTAL	
1988	0	0			0					0					0	225									225
1989	0	0			0	12				12					0	260									260
1990	1	1	5	8	5	8				8	1				1	338									338
1991	0	0	0		0					0					0	371									371
1992	2	2	4	3	4	3				3	1				1	450									450
1993	0	0	0	0	0	0	1			1	0				0	533		195				195			728
1994	0	0	0	0	0	0	5			5	0		2		2	644		0	837			837			1481
1995	0	0	1	0	1	0	3			3	0	75	7		82	529	0	0	200			200	2	2	729
1996	0	0	0	0	0	0	178			178	0	43	45		88	550	0	0	960			960	0	0	1510
1997	0	0	0	17	4	5	5			26	69	35	31		135	379	5	0				5	0	0	384
1998	0	0	0	10	0	10	71			81	1	9	258		268	229	0	0			0	0	0	0	229
1999	0	0	0	55	0	55	20			75	11	29	161		201	175	0	0	550			550	0	0	725
2000	0	0	0	31	2	31	100			133	7	40	117	4	168	203	0	0	266	15	281	484	0	0	785
2001	0	0	0	51	13	51	116			180	6	43	179	0	228	199	0	0		0	0	199	0	0	607
2002	0	0	0	35	15	35	45			95	13	60	151	14	238	243	0	0		0	0	243	0	0	576
2003	0	0	0	20	5	20	55	4		84	10	0	95	0	110	172	0	0		0	0	172	0	0	366
2004	0	0	0	15	3	15	46			64	21	53	209	0	287	139	0	0		0	0	139	0	0	490
2005	0	0	0	15	0	15	55	0		70	9	45	141	0	196	157	0	0		0	0	157	0	0	423
2006	0	0	0	27	0	27	51	0		78	9	20	64	3	97	192	0	0		0	0	192	0	0	367
2007	0	0	0	17	1	17	47	0		65	8	45	67	0	120	211	0	0		0	0	211	0	0	396
2008	0	0	0	18	0	18	32	0		22	5	42	54	0	58	250	2	0	0	0	2	252	0	0	332
2009*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	42	18	0	60	311	1	0	0	0	1	312	0	0	373

*_ Preliminary; ** - Not official data from ICES Area Xb

Table 9.4.18.3 Alfonsinos in the Northeast Atlantic Reported landings (tonnes) of *Beryx splendens* and *B. decadactylus* in the Azores (ICES Division Xa).

Year	<i>B. splendens</i>	<i>B. decadactylus</i>	Total
1988	122	103	225
1989	113	147	260
1990	137	201	338
1991	203	168	371
1992	274	176	450
1993	316	217	533
1994	410	234	644
1995	335	194	529
1996	379	171	550
1997	268	111	379
1998	161	68	229
1999	119	56	175
2000	168	35	203
2001	182	17	199
2002	223	20	243
2003	150	22	172
2004	110	29	139
2005	134	23	157
2006	152	40	192
2007	165	46	211
2008	187	63	250
2009*	243	68	311

*Preliminary