

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

Advice Summary for 2011

ICES advises to reduce catches by at least the rate of decline of the cpue.

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

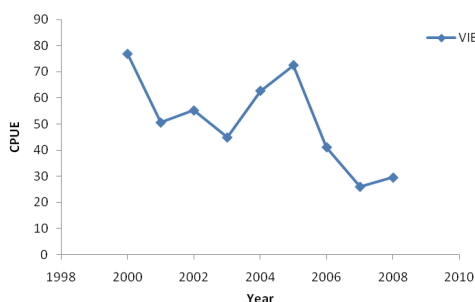
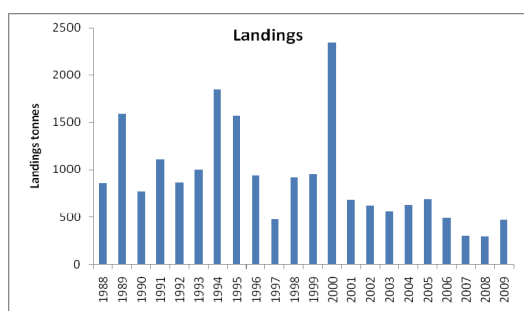


Figure 9.4.12.4.1 Tusk in Division VIb. Left: Landings in Division VIb; Right: Cpue ([kg/hook] x1000) for tusk in Division VIb based on electronic logbooks (preliminary estimates for 2009).

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 assessment unit is classified under category 6.

The fisheries

Tusk is a bycatch species in the trawl, gillnet and longline fisheries in Subarea VIb. Norway has traditionally landed the largest percentage of the total catch. Longliners catch about 90% of the Norwegian landings.

Since January, 12th 2007 parts of the Rockall bank have been closed to fishing with bottom trawls, gillnets and longlines. The areas closed are traditional areas fished by the Norwegian longline fleet.

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

Scientific basis

Assessment type	No assessment
Input data	Landings data
Discards and bycatch	Not available
Indicators	-
Other information	-
Working group report	WGDEEP

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Reference points

No reference points have been defined for this assessment unit.

Outlook 2011

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

The historic cpue data were reinterpreted and suggest that catches in Division VIb should be reduced by at least the rate of decline of the cpue.

Additional considerations

The interpretation of the information of the stocks has changed since 2008 because the cpue was separate in different gears and effort is not comparable through time. Since 2000, autolines have been used and this information is the basis of the advice.

Tusk is primarily fished in the depth range 200–500 m, though it is also found at shallower depths.

Assessment and management areas

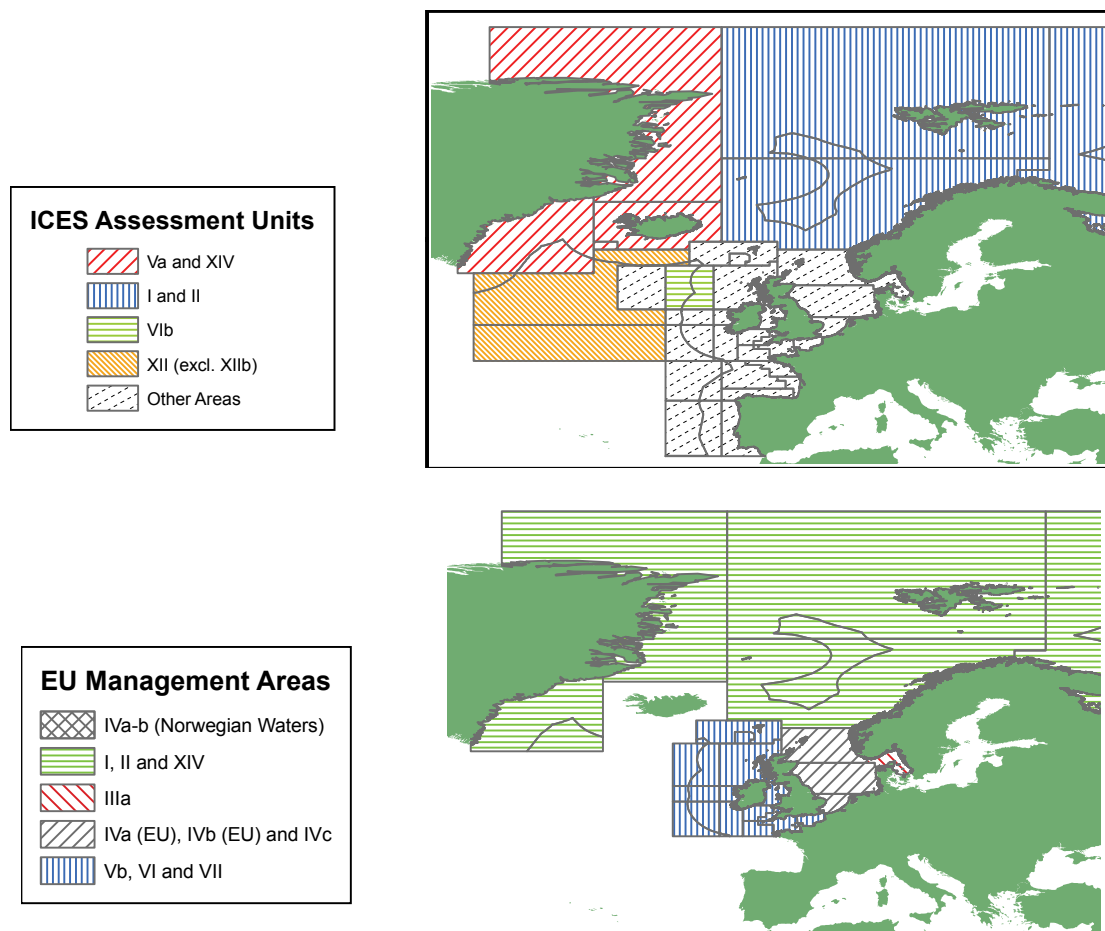


Figure 9.4.12.4.2 Tusk in Division VIb. ICES assessment area (top) and EU TAC Regulation areas (bottom) of tusk in the Northeast Atlantic.

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.

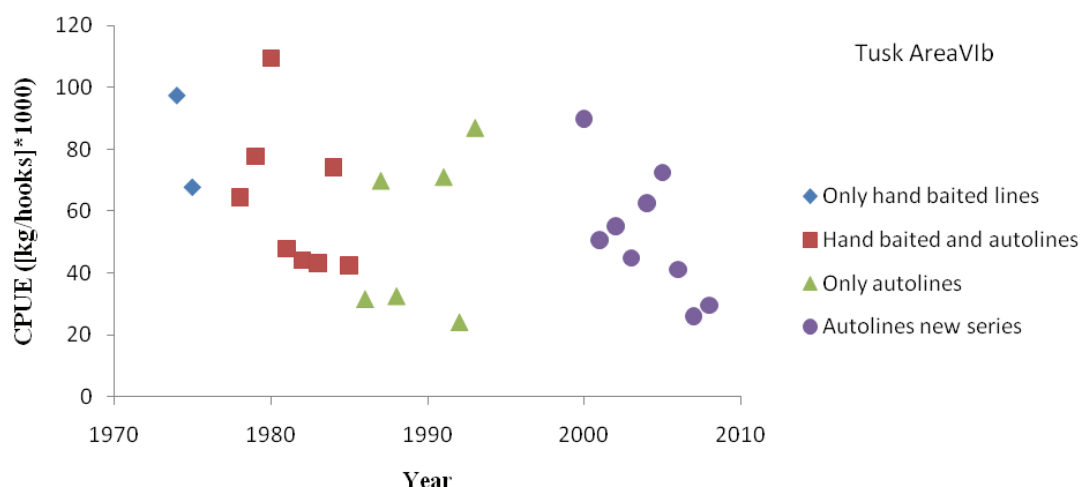


Figure 9.4.12.4.3 Tusk in Division VIb. Cpue ([kg/hook] x1000) for ling for ICES Division VIb for the period 1971 through 1993 and for 2000 through 2009 (preliminary estimates for 2009). The data used for the period 1971-1993 are, early on only hand baited lines (blue diamonds), then a mix of both hand baited and autolines (red squares) and finally only autolines (green triangles). The new data series is denoted by purple circles.

Table 9.4.12.4.1 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 2003-07 average	0.53	0.47
2010	Biennial	0.53	
2011	Reduce catches by at least the rate of decline of the cpue	-	

Weights in '000 t.

¹ Advice for this stock prior to 2008 were combined with other areas (see Table 9.4.12.1).

Table 9.4.12.4.2 Tusk in Division VIb. WG estimate 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			3		376			17	3	469

*Preliminary