

7.3.25 Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) in Division 8.c, Functional Unit 25 (southern Bay of Biscay and northern Galicia)

ICES stock advice

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, there should be zero catch in each of the years 2017, 2018, and 2019.

To protect the stock in these functional units, ICES advises that management should be implemented at the functional unit level.

Stock development over time

Catches and CPUE have fluctuated along a marked downward trend and are currently very low. The available information indicates that the stock is at a very low abundance.

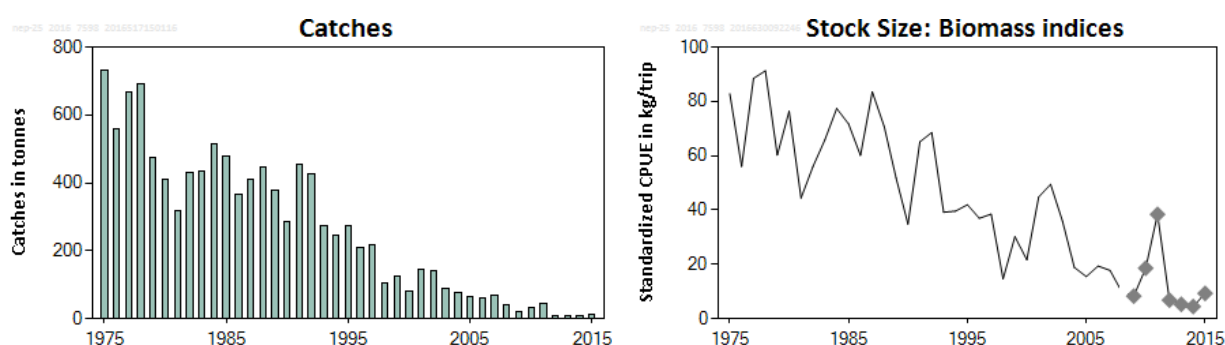


Figure 7.3.25.1 Norway lobster in Division 8.c, FU 25. Left: Official landings. Right: Stock size indicator, CPUE SP-CORUTR8c (1975-2008) and SP-LCGOTBDEF8c (2009-2015).

Stock and exploitation status

Table 7.3.25.1 Norway lobster in Division 8.c, FU 25. State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points. The fishing pressure evaluation is based on reference point proxies (ICES 2016a, 2016b) for 2013 and 2014, and no update analysis is available for 2015. The stock size evaluation is based on CPUE information.

		Fishing pressure			Stock size				
		2013	2014	2015		2013	2014	2015	
Maximum sustainable yield	$F_{MSY/proxy}$				Unknown	$MSY_{B_{trigger}}$			Below
Precautionary approach	F_{pa}, F_{lim}				Unknown	B_{pa}, B_{lim}			Below
Management plan	F_{MGT}	-	-	-	Not applicable	SSB_{MGT}	-	-	- Not applicable

Catch options

The stock biomass indicator is at a historical low value, below possible reference points, and therefore the advice is for zero catch for each of the years 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Table 7.3.25.2 Norway lobster in Division 8.c, FU 25. For stocks in ICES data categories 3–6, one catch option is possible.

Recent advised landings	0	
Discard rate	Negligible	
Precautionary buffer	Not applied	NA*
Landings advice	0 tonnes	

* The precautionary buffer was not applied because the catch advice is zero.

Basis of the advice

Table 7.3.25.3 Norway lobster in Division 8.c, FU 25. The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	Precautionary approach
Management plan	A recovery plan for southern hake and Norway lobster was agreed by the EU in 2005 (EU, 2005, Appendix 7.3.7). This plan is based on precautionary reference points for southern hake that are no longer appropriate.

Quality of the assessment

No fishery-independent information is available for this stock.

Issues relevant for the advice

ICES advises that the management area should be consistent with the assessment area (Figure 7.3.25.2).

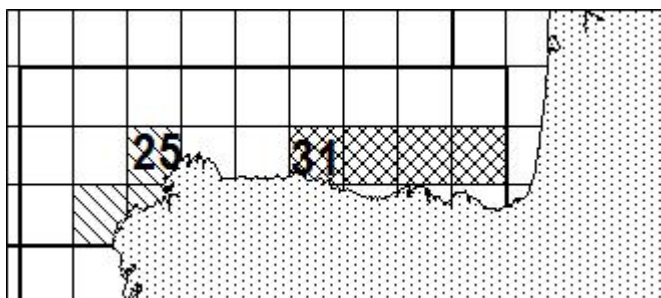


Figure 7.3.25.2 *Nephrops* functional units in Division 8.c. FU 25 covers statistical rectangles 15E0–E1 and 16E1.

Reference points

Table 7.3.25.4 Norway lobster in Division 8.c, FU 25. Reference points, values, and their technical basis.

Framework	Reference point	Value	Technical basis	Source
MSY approach	MSY $B_{trigger}$	Not defined		
	F_{MSY} proxy	0.17	$F_{0.1}$ from length-based analysis estimated using the mean-length Z method, assuming knife-edge length selection.	ICES (2016b)
Precautionary approach	B_{lim}	Not defined		
	B_{pa}	Not defined		
	F_{lim}	Not defined		
	F_{pa}	Not defined		
Management plan	SSB_{MGT}	Not defined		
	F_{MGT}	Not defined		

Basis of the assessment

Table 7.3.25.5 Norway lobster in Division 8.c, FU 25. The basis of the assessment.

ICES stock data category	3.1.4 (ICES, 2016c)
Assessment type	Trends from commercial CPUE
Input data	Commercial landings (Spanish landings (1975–2015)); two commercial indices (SP-CORUTR8c) (1975–2008) and SP-LCGOTBDEF8c (2009–2015).
Discards and bycatch	Not included, considered negligible.
Indicators	Mean length in commercial catches
Other information	None
Working group	Working Group for the Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Waters Ecoregion (WGBIE)

Information from stakeholders

There is no available information.

History of advice, catch, and management

Table 7.3.25.6 Norway lobster in Division 8.c, FU 25. History of ICES advice, the agreed TAC, and ICES estimates of landings. Weights are in thousand tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Predicted landings correspond. to advice	Agreed TAC *	ICES landings **
1987				0.41
1988				0.45
1989				0.38
1990				0.29
1991				0.45
1992		0.51	0.8	0.43
1993		0.51	1.0	0.27
1994		0.51	1.0	0.25
1995		0.51	1.0	0.27
1996		0.51	1.0	0.21
1997		0.51	1.0	0.22
1998		0.51	1.0	0.10
1999		0.51	1.0	0.12
2000		0.51	0.8	0.08
2001		0.51	0.72	0.15
2002	Reduce catches to zero	0	0.36	0.14
2003	Reduce catches to zero	0	0.18	0.09
2004	Reduce catches to zero	0	0.18	0.08
2005	Reduce catches to zero	0	0.16	0.063
2006	Reduce catches to zero	0	0.146	0.062
2007	Reduce catches to zero	0	0.131	0.067
2008	Reduce catches to zero	0	0.124	0.039
2009	Reduce catches to zero	0	0.112	0.021
2010	No new advice, same as 2009	0	0.101	0.034
2011	Reduce catches to zero	0	0.091	0.044
2012	No new advice, same as 2011	0	0.082	0.021
2013	Reduce catch to zero	0	0.062	0.010
2014	No new advice, same as 2013	0	0.067	0.009
2015	Zero catch and reduce bycatch	0	0.060	0.014
2016	No new advice, same as 2015	0	0.046	
2017	Precautionary approach (zero catch)	0		
2018	Precautionary approach (zero catch)	0		
2019	Precautionary approach (zero catch)	0		

* For the whole of Division 8.c.

** Unallocated landings included.

History of catch and landings

Table 7.3.25.7 Norway lobster in Division 8.c, FU 25. Catch distribution by fleet in 2015 as estimated by ICES.

Total catch (2015)	Landings	Discards
14 t	100% bottom trawl	Discarding is considered negligible.
	14 t	

Table 7.3.25.8 Norway lobster in Division 8.c. Landings by FU and for all of Division 8.c. Total landings in tonnes (only exploited by the Spanish fleet).

Year	Official landings		ICES landings
	FU 25	FU 31	Division 8.c
1975	731		731
1976	559		559
1977	667		667
1978	690		690
1979	475		475
1980	412		412
1981	318		318
1982	431		431
1983	433	63	496
1984	515	100	615
1985	477	128	605
1986	364	127	491
1987	412	118	530
1988	445	151	596
1989	376	177	553
1990	285	174	459
1991	453	109	562
1992	428	94	522
1993	274	101	375
1994	245	148	393
1995	273	94	367
1996	209	129	338
1997	219	98	317
1998	103	72	175
1999	124	48	172
2000	81	34	115
2001	147	27	174
2002	143	26	169
2003	89	22	111
2004	75	17	92
2005	63	14	77
2006	62	15	77
2007	67	19	86
2008	39	19	58
2009	21	6	27
2010	34	8	42
2011	44	7	51
2012	10	10	31*
2013	10	10	20
2014	9	4	13
2015	14	4	18

* Unallocated landings (11 t) included.

Summary of the assessment

Table 7.3.25.9 Norway lobster in Division 8.c, FU 25. Assessment summary. Weights are in tonnes.

Year	Official landings (tonnes)	Standardised CPUE SPCORUÑA-8.c (kg [fishing day] ⁻¹)	Standardised CPUE SPLCOTBDEF -8.c (kg [fishing day] ⁻¹)
1975	731	82.8	
1976	559	56.1	
1977	667	88.4	
1978	690	91.3	
1979	475	60.2	
1980	412	76.4	
1981	318	44.5	
1982	431	56.0	
1983	433	65.8	
1984	515	77.4	
1985	477	71.7	
1986	364	60.1	
1987	412	83.5	
1988	445	70.7	
1989	376	51.7	
1990	285	34.9	
1991	453	65.1	
1992	428	68.5	
1993	274	39.2	
1994	245	39.6	
1995	273	42.0	
1996	209	37.0	
1997	219	38.5	
1998	103	14.7	
1999	124	30.2	
2000	81	21.7	
2001	147	44.8	
2002	143	49.5	
2003	89	35.9	
2004	75	18.9	
2005	63	15.5	
2006	62	19.4	
2007	67	17.8	
2008	39	9.9	
2009	21		8.3
2010	34		18.6
2011	44		38.4
2012	10*		6.8
2013	10		5.3
2014	9		4.5
2015	14		9.3

* Unallocated landings (11 t) not included.

Sources and references

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