

6.3.38 Sandeel (*Ammodytes* spp.) in Division 4a, SA 7 (Northern North Sea, Shetland)

ICES stock advice

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches should not increase. This corresponds to zero catch in 2016. This advice is valid for 2017 and 2018 unless there is a change in perception of stock status.

Stock development over time

Catch statistics are available for sandeel area 7 (SA 7). The available information is inadequate to evaluate stock status or trends. The state of the stock is therefore unknown.

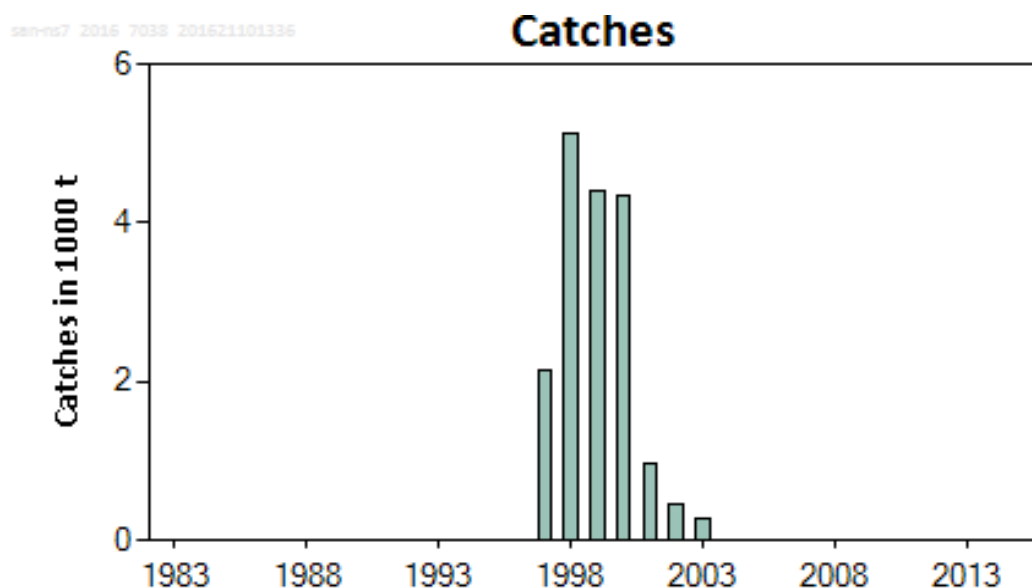


Figure 6.3.38.1 Sandeel in the Shetland area (SA 7). ICES estimates of catch (in thousand tonnes).

Stock and exploitation status

Table 6.3.38.1 Sandeel in the Shetland area (SA 7). State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points.

		Fishing pressure				Stock size			
		2013	2014	2015		2014	2015	2016	
Maximum sustainable yield	F_{MSY}	?	?	?	Undefined	$MSY_{B_{escapement}}$?	?	?
Precautionary approach	F_{pa}, F_{lim}	?	?	?	Undefined	B_{pa}, B_{lim}	?	?	?
Management plan	F_{MGT}	-	-	-	Not applicable	SSB_{MGT}	-	-	-
Qualitative evaluation	-	→	→	→	Very low	-	?	?	?
									Unknown

Catch options

For stocks without information on abundance or exploitation ICES considers that a precautionary reduction of catches should be implemented, unless there is ancillary information clearly indicating that the current level of exploitation is appropriate for the stock (ICES, 2012).

For this stock, current catches are zero. ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, no increase in the fisheries should take place unless there is evidence that this will be sustainable. This corresponds to zero catch in 2016, 2017, and 2018.

Table 6.3.38.2 Sandeel in the Shetland area (SA 7). The catch options. For stocks in ICES categories 3–6, one catch option is possible.

Average catch (2012, 2013, 2014)	0 tonnes	
Discard rate	Negligible	
Precautionary buffer	Not applicable	-
Catch advice*	0 tonnes	

* Average catch.

Basis of the advice

Table 6.3.38.3 Sandeel in the Shetland area (SA 7). The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	Precautionary approach
Management plan	There is no management plan for sandeel in this area.

Quality of the assessment

The available information is inadequate to evaluate stock status or trends.

Issues relevant for the advice

The advice is expected to remain unchanged for several years unless information on stock status becomes available.

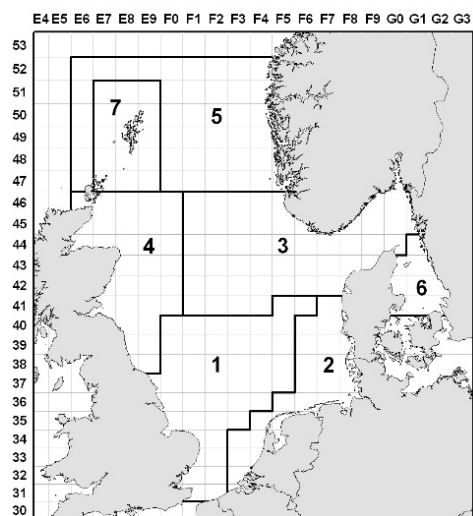


Figure 6.3.38.2 Sandeel in the Shetland area (SA 7). Sandeel are largely sedentary after settlement and form a complex of local (sub-) stocks in the North Sea. To avoid local depletion, ICES advice for sandeel is provided separately for seven areas in Division 3a and Subarea 4. Advice for sandeel in the Shetland area (SA 7) specifically applies to sandeel in rectangles 47–51 E7–E9.

Reference points

No reference points have been defined for sandeel in this area.

Basis of the assessment

Table 6.3.38.4 Sandeel in the Shetland area (SA 7). The basis of the assessment.

ICES stock data category	5.3.0 (ICES, 2016a)
Assessment type	No assessment (ICES, 2016b)
Input data	Commercial catch statistics
Discards and bycatch	Discarding is considered to be negligible.
Indicators	None
Other information	Last benchmark in 2010 (ICES, 2010)
Working group	Herring Assessment Working Group (HAWG)

Information from stakeholders

There is no available information.

History of advice, catch, and management

Table 6.3.38.5 Sandeel in the Shetland area (SA 7). History of ICES advice, the agreed TAC, and ICES estimates of catch. Weights are in thousand tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Catch corresponding to advice	EU TAC	ICES catch SA 7
2005*	No advice			0
2006*	No advice			0
2007*	No advice			0
2008*	No advice			0
2009*	No advice			0
2010*	No advice			0
2011	No increase in effort unless there is evidence that this is sustainable.		0	0
2012	No increase in effort unless there is evidence that this is sustainable.		0	0
2013	No increase in effort unless there is evidence that this is sustainable.	0	0	0
2014	No new advice, same as for 2013	0	0	0
2015	Precautionary approach	0	0	0**
2016	Precautionary approach	0		
2017	Precautionary approach	0		
2018	Precautionary approach	0		

* Advice for Subarea 4, excluding the Shetland area.

** Preliminary.

History of catch and landings

Table 6.3.38.6 Sandeel in the Shetland area (SA 7). Catch distribution by fleet in 2015 as estimated by ICES. Weights are in thousand tonnes.

Total catch (2015)	Landings	Discards
0	0	0

Table 6.3.38.7 Sandeel in the Shetland area (SA 7). History of catch as estimated by ICES.

Year	Catch (tonnes)
1983	0
1984	0
1985	0
1986	0
1987	0
1988	0
1989	0
1990	0
1991	0
1992	0
1993	0
1994	0
1995	0
1996	0
1997	2068
1998	5182
1999	0
2000	0
2001	0
2002	0
2003	73
2004	0
2005	0
2006	0
2007	0
2008	0
2009	0
2010	0
2011	0
2012	0
2013	0
2014	0
2015	0

Summary of the assessment

There is no assessment for sandeel in this area.

Sources and references

ICES. 2010. Report of the Benchmark Workshop on Sandeel (WKSAN), 6–10 September 2010, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2010/ACOM:57. 201 pp.

ICES. 2012. ICES Implementation of Advice for Data-limited Stocks in 2012 in its 2012 Advice. ICES CM 2012/ACOM 68. 42 pp.

ICES. 2016a. General context of ICES advice. *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2016. ICES Advice 2016, Book 1, Section 1.2.

ICES. 2016b. Sandeel in Division 3a and Subarea 4. Available online as Section 11 of the coming Report of the Herring Assessment Working Group for the Area South of 62°N (HAWG), 29 March–7 April 2016, ICES HQ, Denmark. ICES CM 2016/ACOM:07.