

Sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) in divisions 4.b–c, 7.a, and 7.d–h (central and southern North Sea, Irish Sea, English Channel, Bristol Channel, and Celtic Sea)

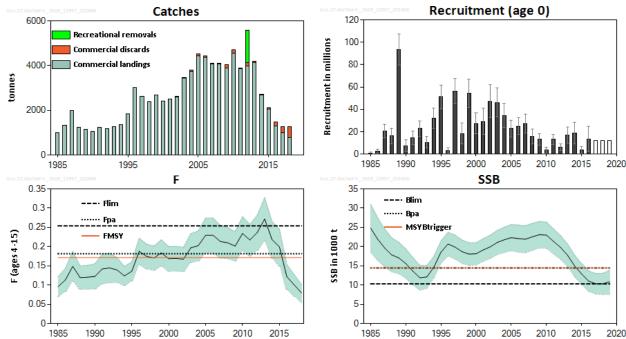
ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, total removals[†] in 2019 should be no more than 1806 tonnes. This advice for 2019 replaces the advice provided in July 2018[‡].

ICES advises that when the EU multiannual plan (MAP) for Western Waters and adjacent waters is applied, total removals in 2020 that correspond to the F ranges in the MAP are between 1634 tonnes and 1946 tonnes.

Stock development over time

Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has been declining since 2009 and is currently below MSY B_{trigger} and just above B_{lim}. Fishing mortality (F) has increased over the time-series, peaking in 2013 before a rapid decline to below F_{MSY}. After a period of above average recruitment (R), recruitment is low, fluctuating without trend since 2008.



Sea bass in divisions 4.b—c, 7.a, and 7.d—h. Summary of the stock assessment. Total landings (commercial landings and estimated recreational removals, available for 2012 only [green bar], taking mortality of released fish into account). Fishing mortality is shown for the combined commercial and recreational fisheries. Discard estimates are available from 2009. Assumed recruitment values are not shaded. Recruitment, F, and SSB are shown with 95% confidence intervals.

Stock and exploitation status

ICES assesses that fishing pressure on the stock is below F_{MSY} , F_{lim} , and F_{pa} ; spawning stock size is below MSY $B_{trigger}$ and between B_{pa} and B_{lim} .

[†] Includes commercial catch and recreational removals (taking mortality of released fish into account, estimated at approximately 5%).

[‡] This advice is provided because of an error that was discovered in the advice for 2019 provided in July 2018. The advice for total catches is practically unchanged. See the Quality of the assessment for details.

Table 1 Sea bass in divisions 4.b–c, 7.a, and 7.d–h. State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points.

| | | Fishing pressure | | | | | | Stock size | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|------|---|-----------------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------|------|----|----------------|--|
| | | 2016 | 2017 | | 2018 | | 2017 2018 | | 2019 | | | |
| Maximum sustainable yield | F _{MSY} | • | • | 0 | Below | | MSY B _{trigger} | 8 | 8 | €3 | Below trigger | |
| Precautionary approach | F _{pa} ,F _{lim} | • | • | • | Harvested sustainably | | B _{pa} ,B _{lim} | 0 | 0 | 0 | Increased risk | |
| Management plan | F _{MGT} | • | • | • | Below | | B _{MGT} | 8 | 8 | 8 | Below trigger | |

Catch scenarios for 2019

Table 2 Sea bass in divisions 4.b–c, 7.a, and 7.d–h. Assumptions made for the interim year and 2019 forecast.

| Variable | Value | Notes | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|---|--|--|--|
| F _{ages 4–15} (2018) | 0.078 | Model output (2019 assessment using data up to 2018). | | | |
| SSB (2019) | 10884 | Model output; in tonnes. | | | |
| R _{age 0} (2017–2019) | 12383 | Geometric mean (2005–2016); in thousands. | | | |
| Total catch (2018) | 1467 | Total landings + discards + recreational removals; in tonnes. | | | |
| Total landings (2018) | 801 | ICES landings; in tonnes. | | | |
| Discards (2018) | 482 | ICES discards; in tonnes. | | | |
| Recreational removals (2018) | 156 | Model output; in tonnes. | | | |

Table 3 Sea bass in divisions 4.b—c. 7.a. and 7.d—h. Annual catch scenarios for 2019. All weights are in tonnes.

| Table 3 | Jea i | Jass III uivis | 10113 4.D-C, | 7.a, anu 7.u- | II. Allilua | i catcii sceii | ai 103 101 20 | 19. All Weights | s are iii t | unines. | | | |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| Basis | Total catch* (2019) | Commercial landings (2019) | Commercial discards (2019) | Recreational removals (2019) | Total F (2019) | F Commercial landings (2019) | F Commercial discards (2019) | F Recreational removals (2019) | SSB (2020) | % SSB change ** | % Advice change *** | | |
| ICES advice b | ICES advice basis | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MSY approach = F _{MSY} × SSB ₂₀₁₉ / MSY B _{trigger} | 1806 | 1480 | 118 | 207 | 0.129 | 0.110 | 0.0041 | 0.015 | 10960 | 0.70 | 105 | | |
| | Other scenarios | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| $F = F_{MSY}$ | 2341 | 1918 | 154 | 269 | 0.171 | 0.145 | 0.0054 | 0.020 | 10527 | -3.3 | 166 | | |
| F = 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12432 | 14.2 | -100 | | |
| F _{pa} | 2488 | 2038 | 164 | 286 | 0.182 | 0.155 | 0.0057 | 0.022 | 10408 | -4.4 | 183 | | |
| F _{lim} | 3350 | 2741 | 224 | 385 | 0.25 | 0.216 | 0.0080 | 0.030 | 9717 | -10.7 | 281 | | |
| $SSB_{2020} = B_{lim}$ | 2606 | 2135 | 172 | 299 | 0.192 | 0.163 | 0.0060 | 0.023 | 10313 | -5.2 | 196 | | |
| $SSB_{2020} = B_{pa}^{\Lambda}$ | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SSB ₂₀₂₀ = MSY B _{trigger} | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| $F = F_{2018}$ | 1121 | 919 | 73 | 129 | 0.078 | 0.067 | 0.0025 | 0.0093 | 11516 | 5.8 | 27 | | |

^{*} Includes commercial catch and recreational removals (taking mortality of released fish into account, estimated at approximately 5%).

While the assessment has been revised and reference points have been updated, the increase of 105% in catch advice for 2019 compared with the advice for 2018 is mainly due to the above-average recruitment in 2013 and 2014, low fishing mortality, and increase in stock size.

^{**} SSB 2020 relative to SSB 2019.

^{***}Advice value for 2019 relative to the advice value for 2018 (880 tonnes).

[^] The B_{pa} and MSY B_{trigger} options were left blank because B_{pa} and MSY B_{trigger} cannot be achieved in 2020, even with zero catch in 2019.

Catch scenarios for 2020

Table 4 Sea bass in divisions 4.b–c, 7.a, and 7.d–h. Assumptions made for the interim year and 2019 forecast.

| Variable | Value | Notes |
|--------------------------------|-------|---|
| Fages 4–15 (2019) | 0.088 | Total F, F_{sq} = (average F 2016–2018) for commercial fishery plus assuming full compliance of recreational fisheries in 2019. |
| SSB (2020) | 11413 | Short-term forecast; in tonnes. |
| R _{age 0} (2017–2020) | 12383 | Geometric mean (2005–2016); in thousands. |
| Total catch (2019) | 1248 | Short-term forecast; in tonnes. |
| Total landings (2019) | 915* | Short-term forecast (average landings pattern over the last 3 years [2016–2018]); in tonnes. |
| Discards (2019) | 73* | Short-term forecast (average discards pattern over the last 3 years [2016–2018]); in tonnes. |
| Recreational removals (2019) | 260 | Short-term forecast assuming an F = 0.019** (average recreational removals pattern over the last 3 years [2016–2018], assuming full compliance); in tonnes. |

^{*} The split of total commercial F into commercial landings and commercial discards in the interim year is modelled.

Table 5 Sea bass in divisions 4.b–c, 7.a, and 7.d–h. Annual catch scenarios for 2020. All weights are in tonnes.

| Table 5 | Sea | bass in div | isions 4.b–c | , 7.a, and 7.d | d–h. Ann | ual catch scen | arios for 20 | 20. All weights | are in to | nnes. | | | |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| Basis | Total catch* (2020) | Commercial landings (2020) | Commercial discards (2020) | Recreational removals (2020) | Total F (2020) | F Commercial landings (2020) | F Commercial discards (2020) | F Recreational removals (2020) | SSB (2021) | % SSB change ** | % Advice change *** | | |
| ICES advice b | ICES advice basis | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| EU MAP#: F _{MSY} × SSB ₂₀₂₀ / MSY B _{trigger} | 1946 | 1445 | 89 | 412 | 0.135 | 0.102 | 0.0038 | 0.029 | 10861 | -4.8 | 7.8 | | |
| $F = MAP$ $F_{MSY} lower$ $\times SSB_{2020} /$ $MSY B_{trigger}$ | 1634 | 1213 | 74 | 346 | 0.112 | 0.085 | 0.0031 | 0.024 | 11114 | -2.6 | -9.5 | | |
| Other scenar | rios | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MSY approach = $F_{MSY} \times SSB_{2020} / MSY B_{trigger}$ | 1946 | 1445 | 89 | 412 | 0.135 | 0.102 | 0.0038 | 0.029 | 10861 | -4.8 | 7.8 | | |
| $F = F_{MSY}$ | 2428 | 1802 | 111 | 514 | 0.171 | 0.130 | 0.0048 | 0.037 | 10473 | -8.2 | 34 | | |
| F = 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12444 | 9.0 | -100 | | |
| F_pa | 2560 | 1900 | 118 | 543 | 0.182 | 0.138 | 0.0051 | 0.039 | 10367 | -9.2 | 42 | | |
| F _{lim} | 3462 | 2567 | 161 | 734 | 0.254 | 0.192 | 0.0071 | 0.054 | 9644 | -15.5 | 92 | | |
| $SSB_{2021} = B_{lim}$ | 2627 | 1949 | 121 | 557 | 0.187 | 0.141 | 0.0052 | 0.040 | 10313 | -9.6 | 45 | | |
| $SSB_{2021} = B_{pa}^{\Lambda}$ | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SSB ₂₀₂₁ = MSY B _{trigger} | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| $F = F_{2019}$ | 1296 | 963 | 59 | 275 | 0.088 | 0.067 | 0.0025 | 0.019 | 11388 | -0.22 | -28 | | |

^{*} Includes commercial catch and recreational removals (taking mortality of released fish into account, estimated at approximately 5%).

The increase in advice for 2020 of 7.8% is mainly due to above-average recruitment in 2013 and 2014.

^{**} Recreational F as estimated in 2012 (0.06), reduced by 69% to account for the management measures in place in 2019.

^{**} SSB 2021 relative to SSB 2020.

^{***}Advice value for 2020 relative to the advice value for 2019 (1806 tonnes).

[^] The B_{pa} and MSY B_{trigger} options were left blank because B_{pa} and MSY B_{trigger} cannot be achieved in 2021, even with zero catch in 2020.

[#] MAP multiannual plan (EU, 2019).

Basis of the advice

Table 6 Sea bass in divisions 4.b–c, 7.a, and 7.d–h. The basis of the advice.

| Advice basis for 2020 | Management plan |
|--|---|
| Advice basis for 2020 Management plan | The EU multiannual plan (MAP) for stocks in in the Western Waters and adjacent waters applies to this stock. The plan specifies conditions for setting fishing opportunities, depending on stock status and making use of the F _{MSY} range for the stock. In accordance with the MAP, catches higher than those corresponding to F _{MSY} can only be taken providing SSB is greater than MSY B _{trigger} , and one of the following conditions is met: a) if it is necessary for the achievement of objectives of mixed fisheries; b) if is necessary to avoid serious harm to a stock caused by intra- or inter-species stock dynamics; c) in order to limit variations in fishing opportunities between consecutive years to not more than 20%. |
| | ICES considers that the F_{MSY} range used in the MAP for this stock is precautionary. Full details of the plan are described in EU (2019). |

Quality of the assessment

An error was found in the computation of the early part of the LPUE series, used in the advice provided in July 2018 regarding fishing opportunities for 2019. The correction of this error implied also a revision in the estimation of recreational catches for the entire time-series. These are based on the fishing mortality for recreational fisheries in 2012 when the estimate of recreational catch was available. These changes are mostly the cause of the downward revision in SSB at the beginning of the series, as well as the upward revision of SSB and the downward revision in F in recent years. Reference points have been updated accordingly.

Poor catch data quality, owing to limited sampling of the discards and recreational removals, leads to additional uncertainty in the assessment. The discard values are estimated from sampling programmes, and more recently from a mix of sampling programmes and logbooks, where sampling is variable across fleets and years. Despite an increase in the reported discard values in the logbooks since 2016 for some countries, total discards are still considered to be considerably underestimated. For the forecast, the discard ratio assumed is the estimate provided by the assessment model. This assumed discard rate is lower than the discard rates recently observed. This has little impact on the values of the advised total catch.

The estimates of 1440 tonnes for the recreational removals (including post-release mortality, estimated to be 5%) in 2012, are based on multiple surveys covering a range of years. As in previous years, the mortality rate from recreational removals for 1985–2014 (excluding 2012) was assumed to be the same as estimated for 2012. In the assessment, the mortality rate from recreational removals for 2015 to 2018 was derived by scaling down the 2012 F to account for the management measures in these years, assuming full compliance.

Fishery sampling rates over time have been variable for all countries. For France, no data on commercial numbers-at-length and age are available prior to 2000, increasing the uncertainty in this time period. Additional information on recreational removals from all countries is needed in order to improve these estimates and the stock assessment model.

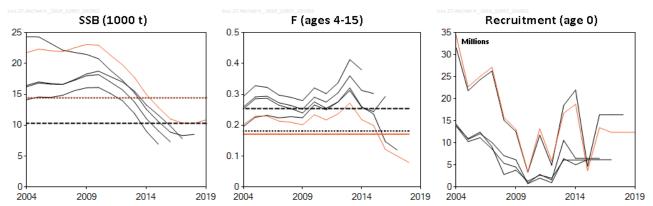


Figure 2 Sea bass in divisions 4.b–c, 7.a, and 7.d–h. Historical assessment results. F in the current assessment (red line) refers to ages 4–15; in all other assessments (black lines) it refers to ages 5–11. The stock was benchmarked in 2016, 2017, and 2018.

Issues relevant for the advice

Following a correction of the error in the calculation of the LPUE series used in the previous assessment, ICES is now providing revised advice for 2019 based on the current assessment. The result of this correction is that the advice for total catches for 2019 is increased slightly compared to that provided in 2018 and there is a difference in the predicted proportions of commercial and recreational catches. For example, the predicted recreational catches for 2019 are estimated to be 207 t in the corrected advice compared to 113 t in the initial advice provided in 2018 for 2019.

In the absence of information on future management measures, the forecast assumes the same relative fishing mortality ratios as those indicated in the interim year of the forecast for the commercial and recreational fleet components. Using different ratios for the fleet components can give different resulting catches.

The emergency measures introduced in 2015 reduced not only pelagic trawl catches of sea bass, but also bycatch of sea bass in other fisheries. However, observed discards have increased.

Stock identity remains poorly understood.

Reference points

Table 7 Sea hass in divisions 4 b-c 7 a and 7 d-h Reference points values and their technical hasis

| Table / | Sea bass in divisions 4.b-c, 7.a, and 7.a-n. Reference points, values, and their technical basis. | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|---|--------|--|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Framework | Reference point | Value | Technical basis | Source | | | | | |
| MCV approach | MSY B _{trigger} | 14439 | B _{pa} ; in tonnes. | ICES (2019) | | | | | |
| MSY approach | F _{MSY} | 0.1713 | Stochastic simulations (EqSim). | ICES (2019) | | | | | |
| Draggutionan | B _{lim} | 10313 | B _{loss} (lowest value in the time-series, SSB in 2018 as estimated by the WGCSE 2019 assessment); in tonnes. | ICES (2019) | | | | | |
| Precautionary | B _{pa} | 14439 | B _{lim} × 1.4; in tonnes. | ICES (2019) | | | | | |
| approach | F _{lim} | 0.254 | Stochastic simulations (EqSim). | ICES (2019) | | | | | |
| | F _{pa} | 0.1815 | F _{lim} / 1.4 | ICES (2019) | | | | | |
| | MAP MSY B _{trigger} | 14439 | MSY B _{trigger} ; in tonnes. | EU (2019) | | | | | |
| | MAP B _{lim} | 10313 | B _{lim} ; in tonnes. | EU (2019) | | | | | |
| | MAP F _{MSY} | 0.1713 | F _{MSY} | EU (2019) | | | | | |
| plan | MAP range F _{lower} | 0.142 | Consistent with ranges provided by ICES (2019), resulting in no more than 5% reduction in long-term yield compared with MSY. | ICES (2019) and EU (2019) | | | | | |
| | MAP range F _{upper} | 0.1713 | Consistent with ranges provided by ICES (2019), resulting in no more than 5% reduction in long-term yield compared with MSY. | ICES (2019) and EU (2019) | | | | | |

^{*} EU multiannual plan (MAP) for the Western Waters and adjacent waters (EU, 2019).

Basis of the assessment

Table 8 Sea bass in divisions 4.b–c, 7.a, and 7.d–h. Basis of the assessment and advice.

| ICES stock data category | 1 (ICES, 2018a). |
|--------------------------|--|
| Assessment type | Age- and length-based analytical assessment (Stock Synthesis 3; NOAA Toolbox). |
| Input data | Commercial landings (international landings, ages and length frequencies from catch sampling); commercial discards (UK bottom otter trawl and nets and combined French fleet, length frequencies from catch sampling); one recruit survey (UK Solent autumn survey, 1986 to present, excluding 2010 and 2012); one bottom trawl survey (Channel Groundfish Survey, 1988–2014); one commercial tuning fleet (2001 to present); growth and maturity data from sampling of commercial catches and surveys; natural mortality (inferred from life history parameters and maximum observed ages). |
| Discards and bycatch | Discarding included in the model and forecast for some of the fleets. |
| Recreational | Used in the model and in the forecast. |
| Indicators | None. |
| Other information | Benchmarked in 2018 (ICES, 2018b). |
| Working group | Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE) |

Information from stakeholders

There is no additional available information.

History of the advice, catch, and management

Table 9 Sea bass in divisions 4.b–c, 7.a, and 7.d–h. History of ICES advice, the agreed TAC and ICES estimates of landings, discards, and official landings. All weights are in tonnes.

| | discards, and official landings. All weights are in tonnes. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|------------------|--------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | Catch | Agreed | Official | ICES | ICES | ICES | | | | | | |
| Year | ICES advice | corresponding to | TAC | commercial | commercial | commercial | recreational | | | | | | |
| | | advice* | 170 | landings | landings | discards^ | removals | | | | | | |
| 2000 | - | - | none | 2100 | 2407 | | | | | | | | |
| 2001 | - | - | none | 2200 | 2500 | | | | | | | | |
| 2002 | No increase in effort or F | - | none | 2400 | 2622 | | | | | | | | |
| 2003 | No increase in effort or F | - | none | 2900 | 3459 | | | | | | | | |
| 2004 | No increase in effort or F | - | none | 3000 | 3731 | | | | | | | | |
| 2005 | - | - | none | 3200 | 4430 | | | | | | | | |
| 2006 | - | - | none | 3373 | 4377 | | | | | | | | |
| 2007 | - | - | none | 3520 | 4064 | | | | | | | | |
| 2008 | - | - | none | 3008 | 4107 | | | | | | | | |
| 2009 | - | - | none | 4273 | 3889 | 151 | | | | | | | |
| 2010 | - | - | none | 4953 | 4562 | 148 | | | | | | | |
| 2011 | - | - | none | 4184 | 3858 | 22 | | | | | | | |
| 2012 | No increase in catch | - | none | 3983 | 3987 | 157 | 1440 | | | | | | |
| 2013 | 20% reduction in catches (last 3 years' average) | < 6000** | none | 4242 | 4137 | 53 | | | | | | | |
| 2014 | 36% reduction in commercial landings (20% reduction, followed by 20% precautionary reduction) | < 2707** | none | 2817 | 2682 | 25 | | | | | | | |

| | | Catch | Agrood | Official | ICES | ICES | ICES |
|------|------------------------|------------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Year | ICES advice | corresponding to | Agreed TAC | commercial | commercial | commercial | recreational |
| | | advice* | | landings | landings | discards^ | removals |
| 2015 | MSY approach | < 1155*** | none | 2081 | 2066 | 40 | |
| 2016 | MSY approach | ≤ 541*** | none | 1290 | 1295 | 199## | |
| 2017 | Precautionary approach | 0 | none | 949^^ | 984 | 271## | |
| 2018 | MSY approach | ≤ 880^^^ | none | 912^^ | 801^^ | 482^^ | |
| 2019 | MSY approach | ≤ 1806^^^ | none | | | | |
| 2020 | Management plan# | 1634-1946^^^ | | | | | |

^{*} Advice prior to 2014 was given for sea bass in the Northeast Atlantic.

History of the catch and landings

Table 10 Sea bass in divisions 4.b–c, 7.a, and 7.d–h. Catch distribution by fleet in 2018 as estimated by ICES.

| Total catch | | | C | | Commercial discards | Recreational removals | | |
|-------------|---|--|---|------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| 1439 tonnes | Lines 52% Bottom trawlers gears 14% 4% 26% Danish seine 3% Pelagic trawlers 3% 1% | | | | | | 482 tonnes | 156 tonnes |
| | | | | 801 tonnes | | | | |

Table 11 Sea bass in divisions 4.b–c, 7.a, and 7.d–h. History of commercial landings by country. All weights are in tonnes.

| Year | Belgium | Denmark | Germany | France | UK | Netherlands | Channel Is. | Total | Total ICES |
|------|---------|---------|---------|--------|-----|-------------|-------------|-------|------------|
| 1985 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 620 | 105 | 0 | 18 | 743 | 994 |
| 1986 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 841 | 124 | 0 | 15 | 980 | 1319 |
| 1987 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1226 | 123 | 0 | 14 | 1363 | 1980 |
| 1988 | 0 | 18 | 0 | 714 | 173 | 8 | 12 | 925 | 1239 |
| 1989 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 675 | 192 | 2 | 48 | 919 | 1161 |
| 1990 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 609 | 189 | 0 | 25 | 824 | 1063 |
| 1991 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 726 | 239 | 0 | 16 | 982 | 1227 |
| 1992 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 721 | 148 | 0 | 36 | 906 | 1186 |
| 1993 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 718 | 230 | 0 | 45 | 994 | 1255 |
| 1994 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 593 | 535 | 0 | 49 | 1178 | 1371 |
| 1995 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 801 | 708 | 0 | 69 | 1579 | 1835 |
| 1996 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1703 | 563 | 8 | 56 | 2331 | 3022 |
| 1997 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1429 | 561 | 1 | 74 | 2066 | 2620 |
| 1998 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1363 | 488 | 48 | 79 | 1980 | 2390 |
| 1999 | 0 | 1 | 0 | NA | 685 | 32 | 108 | 826 | 2670 |
| 2000 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 1522 | 407 | 60 | 130 | 2124 | 2407 |
| 2001 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1619 | 458 | 77 | 80 | 2236 | 2500 |
| 2002 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1580 | 627 | 96 | 73 | 2377 | 2622 |
| 2003 | 154 | 1 | 0 | 1903 | 586 | 163 | 84 | 2891 | 3459 |
| 2004 | 159 | 1 | 0 | 1883 | 617 | 191 | 159 | 3010 | 3731 |
| 2005 | 206 | 1 | 0 | 1937 | 512 | 327 | 220 | 3203 | 4430 |
| 2006 | 211 | 2 | 0 | 2116 | 736 | 308 | 23 | 3396 | 4377 |
| 2007 | 178 | 1 | 0 | 2075 | 873 | 376 | 18 | 3521 | 4064 |
| 2008 | 187 | 0 | 0 | 1506 | 934 | 380 | 20 | 3027 | 4107 |
| 2009 | 174 | 0 | 0 | 2904 | 801 | 395 | 15 | 4288 | 3889 |
| 2010 | 216 | 4 | 0 | 3441 | 879 | 399 | 14 | 4952 | 4562 |
| 2011 | 152 | 2 | 0 | 2688 | 928 | 395 | 17 | 4183 | 3858 |
| 2012 | 154 | 3 | 0 | 2492 | 946 | 376 | 12 | 3982 | 3987 |

^{**} Commercial landings.

^{***} Total landings (commercial and recreational landings).

[^] Incomplete for some fleets.

^{^^} Preliminary.

^{^^^} Includes commercial catch and recreational removals (taking mortality of released fish into account, estimated at approximately 5%).

[#] EU multiannual plan (MAP) for the Western Waters and adjacent waters (EU, 2019).

^{##} Updated in 2019.

| Year | Belgium | Denmark | Germany | France | UK | Netherlands | Channel Is. | Total | Total ICES |
|-------|---------|---------|---------|--------|------|-------------|-------------|-------|------------|
| 2013 | 146 | 4 | 2 | 2868 | 841 | 370 | 12 | 4243 | 4137 |
| 2014 | 148 | 1 | 1 | 1322 | 1080 | 253 | 11 | 2816 | 2682 |
| 2015 | 40 | 0 | 0 | 1113 | 701 | 218 | 9 | 2081 | 2066 |
| 2016 | 23 | 0 | 1 | 545 | 567 | 156 | 7 | 1300 | 1295 |
| 2017* | 22 | 0 | | 423 | 437 | 57 | 11 | 949 | 984 |
| 2018* | 18 | 0 | 0 | 297 | 431 | 165 | 0 | 912 | 801 |

^{*} Preliminary.

Summary of the assessment

Table 12 Sea bass in divisions 4.b—c, 7.a, and 7.d—h. Assessment summary. Weights are in tonnes and recruitment in thousands. High and low refers to 95% confidence intervals.

| High and low refers to 95% confidence intervals. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| | Recruitment | | | SSB | | | F | | | Commercial landings | Commercial discards* | Recreational removal** |
| Year | age 0 | | | | | | ages 4–15 | | | | | |
| | Low | Value | High | Low | Value | High | Low | Value | High | ianungs | uiscarus | Tellioval |
| 1985 | 74 | 862 | 1649 | 18600 | 24810 | 31019 | 0.070 | 0.096 | 0.122 | 994 | | 1713 |
| 1986 | 433 | 2469 | 4506 | 16390 | 21938 | 27485 | 0.083 | 0.113 | 0.143 | 1318 | | 1550 |
| 1987 | 14534 | 20458 | 26382 | 14719 | 19651 | 24584 | 0.110 | 0.149 | 0.188 | 1979 | | 1412 |
| 1988 | 9114 | 16119 | 23124 | 13426 | 17849 | 22272 | 0.089 | 0.119 | 0.150 | 1239 | | 1305 |
| 1989 | 79578 | 93569 | 107559 | 12979 | 17065 | 21150 | 0.090 | 0.120 | 0.151 | 1161 | | 1204 |
| 1990 | 2215 | 7374 | 12533 | 11764 | 15593 | 19422 | 0.090 | 0.122 | 0.155 | 1064 | | 1082 |
| 1991 | 8602 | 14562 | 20522 | 10088 | 13634 | 17179 | 0.103 | 0.142 | 0.181 | 1226 | | 988 |
| 1992 | 15797 | 22786 | 29774 | 8665 | 11894 | 15123 | 0.106 | 0.145 | 0.183 | 1186 | | 998 |
| 1993 | 5453 | 10557 | 15661 | 9160 | 12117 | 15075 | 0.107 | 0.139 | 0.171 | 1256 | | 1150 |
| 1994 | 22843 | 32088 | 41332 | 11898 | 14699 | 17500 | 0.099 | 0.124 | 0.148 | 1370 | | 1378 |
| 1995 | 40622 | 51030 | 61438 | 15668 | 18556 | 21444 | 0.111 | 0.136 | 0.161 | 1835 | | 1551 |
| 1996 | 432 | 2914 | 5397 | 17597 | 20666 | 23735 | 0.153 | 0.188 | 0.22 | 3022 | | 1570 |
| 1997 | 45059 | 56168 | 67277 | 16778 | 19884 | 22991 | 0.142 | 0.175 | 0.21 | 2620 | | 1496 |
| 1998 | 8994 | 18334 | 27674 | 15627 | 18670 | 21713 | 0.138 | 0.170 | 0.20 | 2390 | | 1448 |
| 1999 | 41905 | 54392 | 66880 | 15107 | 18052 | 20997 | 0.149 | 0.184 | 0.22 | 2670 | | 1449 |
| 2000 | 17955 | 27423 | 36891 | 15250 | 18133 | 21016 | 0.136 | 0.169 | 0.20 | 2407 | | 1496 |
| 2001 | 17253 | 29225 | 41198 | 16176 | 19119 | 22062 | 0.137 | 0.169 | 0.20 | 2500 | | 1572 |
| 2002 | 32494 | 47319 | 62144 | 16904 | 19937 | 22970 | 0.135 | 0.167 | 0.198 | 2622 | 17 | 1655 |
| 2003 | 33020 | 45959 | 58899 | 17922 | 21075 | 24227 | 0.159 | 0.197 | 0.23 | 3459 | 16 | 1727 |
| 2004 | 23697 | 34346 | 44995 | 18495 | 21776 | 25056 | 0.163 | 0.20 | 0.24 | 3731 | 59 | 1771 |
| 2005 | 14954 | 22710 | 30466 | 18937 | 22343 | 25749 | 0.183 | 0.23 | 0.27 | 4430 | 96 | 1782 |
| 2006 | 17519 | 25061 | 32603 | 18571 | 22078 | 25586 | 0.182 | 0.23 | 0.27 | 4377 | 53 | 1777 |
| 2007 | 18588 | 27150 | 35712 | 18395 | 21925 | 25455 | 0.170 | 0.21 | 0.25 | 4064 | 50 | 1798 |
| 2008 | 8968 | 15775 | 22582 | 19057 | 22552 | 26048 | 0.168 | 0.21 | 0.25 | 4107 | 8 | 1824 |
| 2009 | 8083 | 13076 | 18068 | 19649 | 23102 | 26555 | 0.163 | 0.20 | 0.24 | 3889 | 151.2 | 1812 |
| 2010 | 549 | 3423 | 6296 | 19583 | 22973 | 26363 | 0.189 | 0.23 | 0.28 | 4562 | 147.9 | 1726 |
| 2011 | 8739 | 13192 | 17646 | 18095 | 21351 | 24607 | 0.175 | 0.22 | 0.26 | 3858 | 22 | 1592 |
| 2012 | 2787 | 5831 | 8876 | 16716 | 19794 | 22871 | 0.190 | 0.24 | 0.28 | 3987 | 156.6 | 1440 |
| 2013 | 9586 | 16744 | 23902 | 14851 | 17758 | 20665 | 0.21 | 0.27 | 0.33 | 4137 | 53.4 | 1241 |
| 2014 | 9215 | 18780 | 28344 | 12200 | 14982 | 17763 | 0.170 | 0.22 | 0.27 | 2682 | 24.7 | 1048 |
| 2015 | 854 | 3661 | 6468 | 10174 | 12885 | 15595 | 0.149 | 0.199 | 0.25 | 2066 | 39.5 | 737 |
| 2016 | 2298 | 13452 | 24605 | 8360 | 11025 | 13689 | 0.088 | 0.122 | 0.153 | 1295 | 198.6 | 228 |
| 2017 | | 12383^ | | 7685 | 10353 | 13020 | 0.071 | 0.101 | 0.127 | 984 | 271.102 | 223 |
| 2018 | | 12383^ | | 7559 | 10313 | 13068 | 0.055 | 0.079 | 0.101 | 801 | 482.4 | 156 |
| 2019 | | 12383^ | | 7559 | 10884 | 13884 | | | | | | |

^{*} Incomplete for some fleets.

^{**} Estimated.

[^] Geometric mean recruitment (2005–2016).

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