

**ECOREGION** Celtic Sea and West of Scotland  
**STOCK** European sea bass in Divisions VIa, VIIb, and VIIj (West of Scotland and Ireland)

**Advice for 2015**

The revised landings data do not change the perception of the stock but result in a revision of the advised landings. Therefore, ICES advises based on the data-limited stocks approach, but cannot quantify the resulting catches. The implied commercial landings should be no more than 5 tonnes.

Currently there is no TAC for this species in this area, and it is not clear whether this should constitute a separate management unit. ICES does not necessarily advocate the introduction of a TAC for sea bass in this area

**Quality considerations**

It is not possible to provide commercial catch advice. Also, recreational catches cannot be quantified. Therefore total catches cannot be calculated.

The only available information is official landings. No information on discards is available. Recreational fisheries are subject to bag limits and size limits for sea bass in Irish waters, but the catch is unknown. If an assessment of sea bass is needed, then a time-series of relative abundance indices for both the adult and pre-recruit components of the stock would be required.

The advice is based on a precautionary reduction of commercial landings because of missing or non-representative data. The methods applied to derive quantitative advice for data-limited stocks are expected to evolve as they are further developed and validated.

**Scientific basis**

<b>Stock data category</b>	6.2.0 ( <a href="#">ICES, 2014a</a> )
<b>Assessment type</b>	No assessment.
<b>Input data</b>	Official landings (revised in 2014).
<b>Discards and bycatch</b>	Not available.
<b>Indicators</b>	None.
<b>Other information</b>	The combined sea bass stock was benchmarked in 2012 (ICES, 2012), where a new stock definition was proposed.
<b>Working group</b>	Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion ( <a href="#">WGCSE</a> ).

**Sources**

- ICES. 2012. Report of the Inter-Benchmark Protocol on New Species (Turbot and Sea bass; IBPNew 2012), 1–5 October 2012, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2012/ACOM:45. 239 pp.
- ICES. 2014a. Advice basis. *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2014. ICES Advice 2014, Book 1, Section 1.2.
- ICES. 2014b. Report of the Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE), 13–22 May 2014, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2014/ACOM:12.

**Table 5.3.33.1**

European sea bass in Divisions VIa, VIIb, and VIIj. ICES advice, management, and official landings.

Year	ICES Advice	Predicted catch corresp. to advice	Agreed TAC	Official landings <sup>a)</sup>
2000	-	-	none	1
2001	-	-	none	4
2002	No increase in effort or F <sup>b)</sup>	-	none	4
2003	No increase in effort or F <sup>b)</sup>	-	none	2
2004	No increase in effort or F <sup>b)</sup>	-	none	8
2005	-	-	none	4
2006	-	-	none	2
2007	-	-	none	5
2008	-	-	none	5
2009	-	-	none	4
2010	-	-	none	9
2011	-	-	none	7
2012	No increase in catch <sup>b)</sup>	-	none	1
2013	20% reduction in catches (last 3 years' average) <sup>b)</sup>	< 6.0 <sup>b)</sup>	none	>1 <sup>c)</sup>
2014	20% reduction in commercial landings (last 3 years' average 2009–2011)	<18		
2015	20% reduction in commercial landings (average 2009–2011)	<5		

Weights in tonnes.

<sup>a)</sup> Landings between 2007–2011 were revised.<sup>b)</sup> Advice for the European sea bass in the Northeast Atlantic (combined stock).<sup>c)</sup> Preliminary.