# ICES advice for North Western Waters

## NWWAC meeting, July 2025

### Celtic Sea and West of Scotland

Joanne Morgan

ICES ACOM vice-chair

ICES CIEM

Science for sustainable seas

Image Dirk Vonten, Fotolia

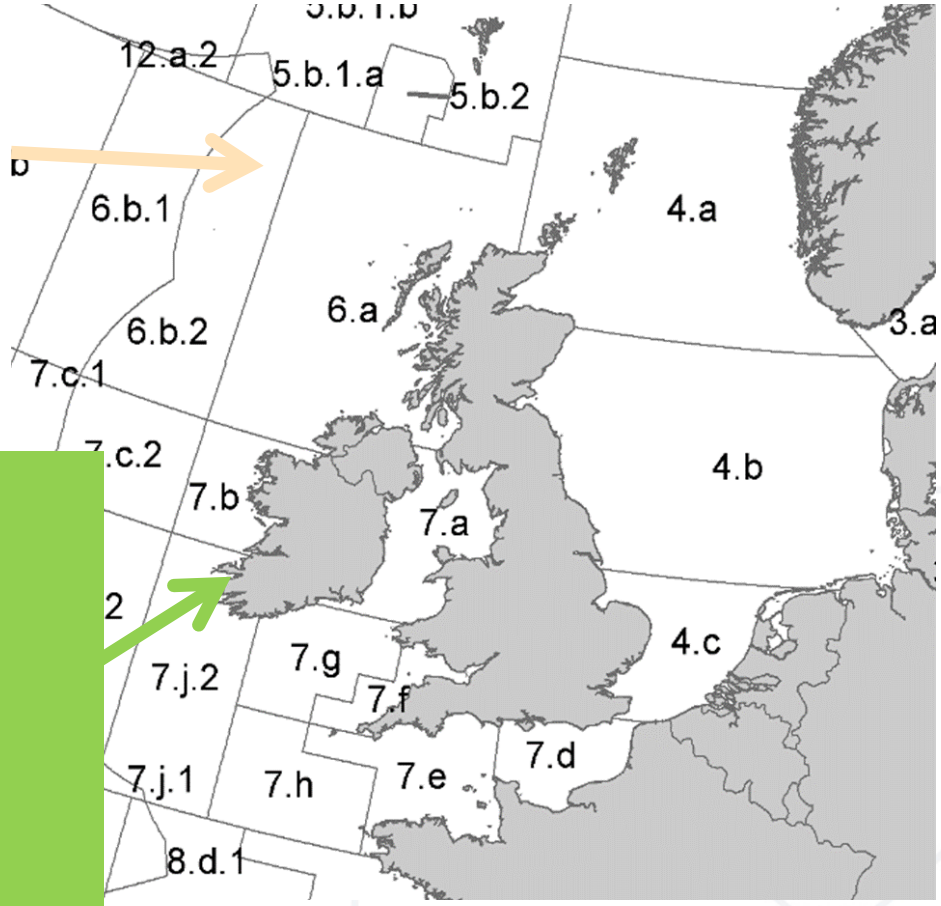
# Celtic Sea & West, Southwest Ireland + West of Scotland

**West of Scotland & Rockall (6.ab)**

- Cod (4,6a,7d,20) delayed
- Haddock (4,6.a,sub 20; 6.b)
- Whiting (6.a; 6.b)
- Anglerfish (3.a,4,6)
- Megrim (4.a-6.a; 6.b)
- Saithe 3.a 4, 6
- *Nephrops* (FUs11-12-13)

**Celtic Sea & West, Southwest Ireland**

- Cod (7.e-k)
- Haddock (7.b-k)
- Plaice (CS; 7.h-k; 7.bc)
- Sole (CS; 7.b-c;7.h-k; 7.bc)
- Northern hake
- Anglerfish (7.b-k, 8.abd)
- Megrim (7.b-k, 8.abd) delayed
- Pollack (6,7)
- *Nephrops* (FUs 16-17-20-22)

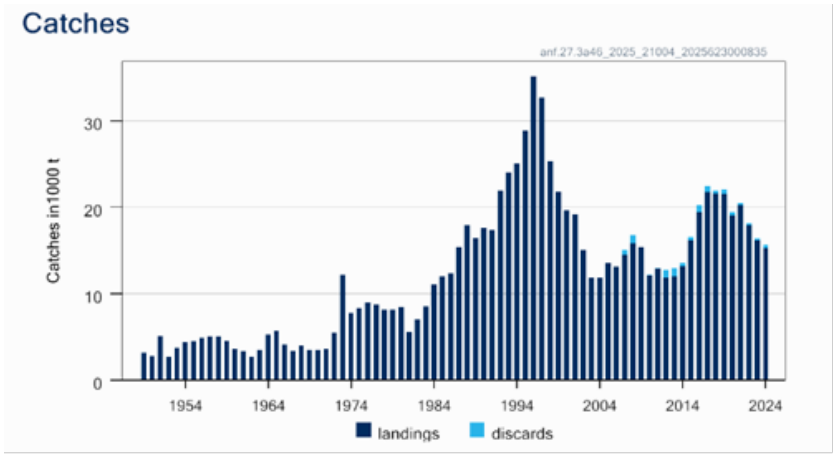


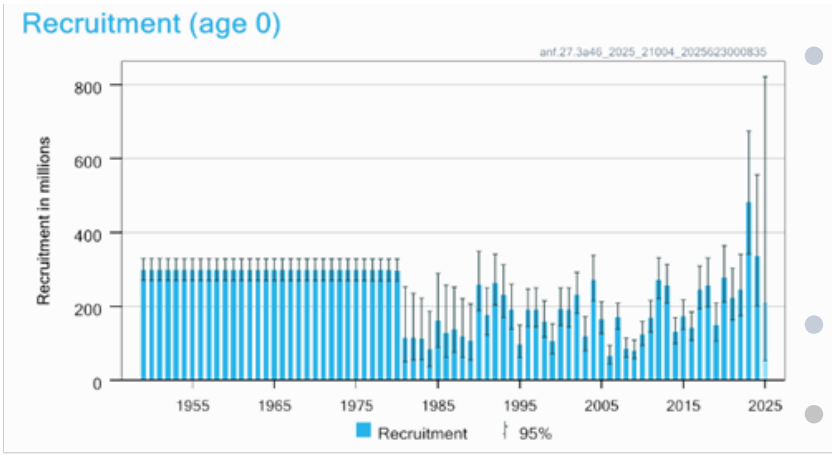

Deep sea stocks Nephrops in autumn

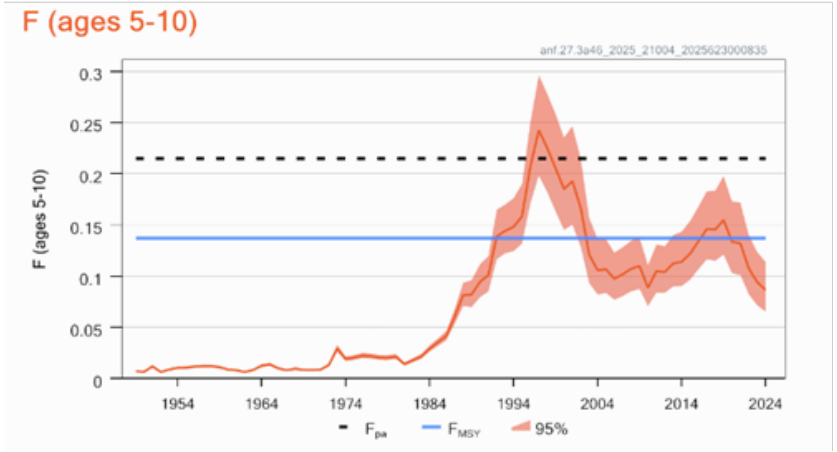
# Anglerfish in Subareas 4 and 6 and divisions 3a

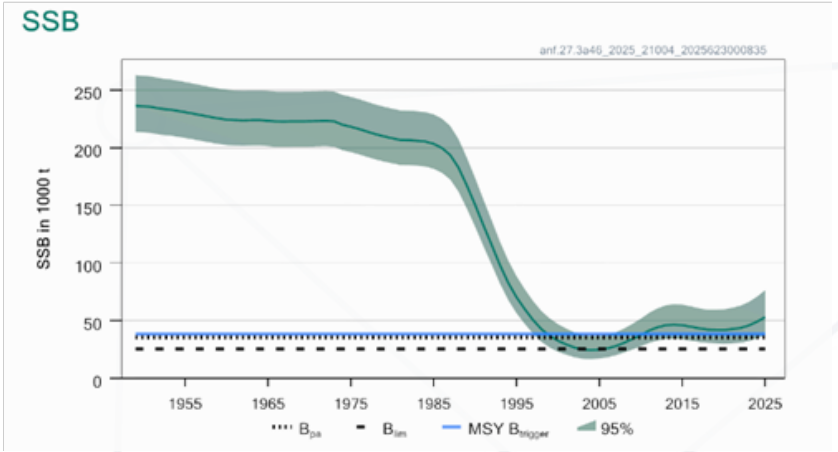
**Advice for 2026 : MSY:** Catch ≤ 30 358 advice -1.2%






Advice for black bellied and white combined F<Fmsy SSB>trigger

UK catch and sample data were revised for 2021–2023, negligible impact

Management at should be at stock level

# Anglerfish in Subareas 4 and 6 and divisions 3a



**Catch (2024) = 15 732 t ( 2.6 % discards)**
**F(2025) = 0.11 (avg 2020-2024)**
**SSB (2026)= 56 881> $MSY_{Btrigger}$ (38 604)  $F_{MSY}$= 0.137**

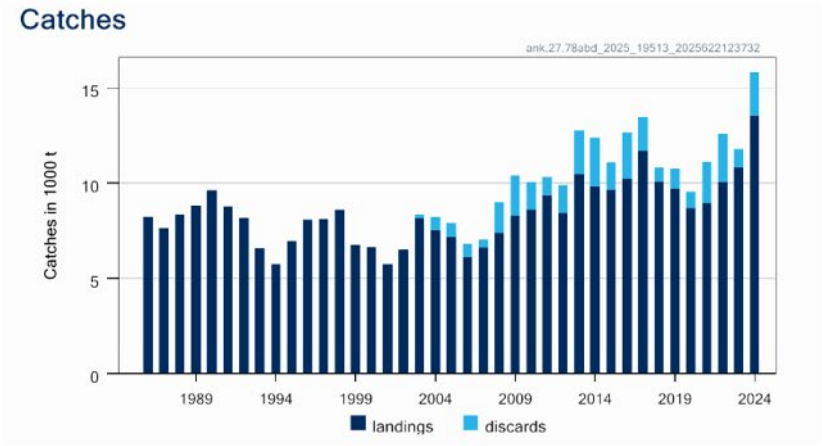
SS3

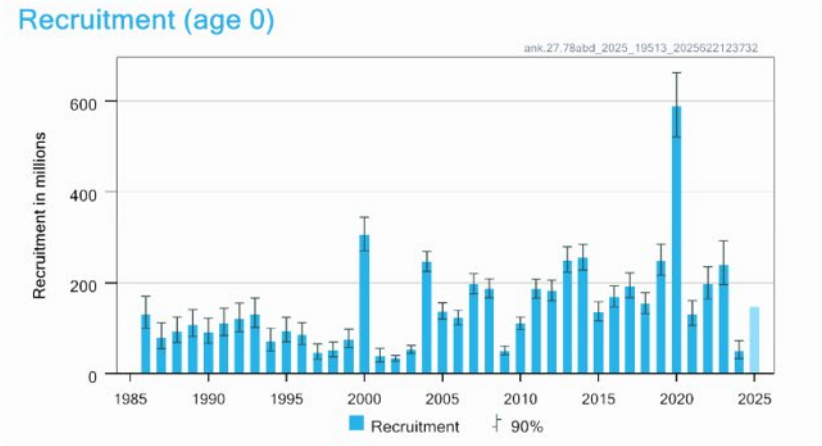
**Table 2** Anglerfish in subareas 4 and 6 and in Division 3.a. Annual catch scenarios. Weights are in tonnes.

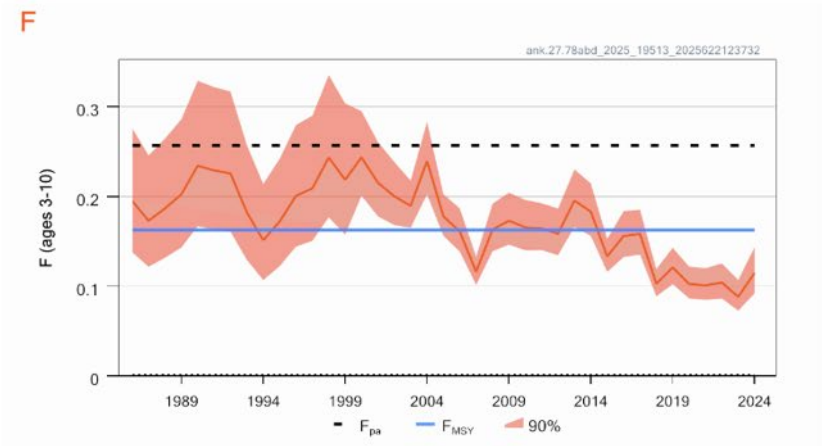
| Basis | Total catch (2026) | Projected landings (2026) | Projected discards (2026) | $F_{total}$ (2026) | Spawning-stock biomass (SSB; 2027) | % SSB change* | % advice change^ | Probability SSB < $B_{lim}$ in 2027 (%) # |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ICES advice basis | | | | | | | | |
| Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach: $F_{MSY}$ | 30358 | 29842 | 516 | 0.137 | 59697 | 5.0 | −1.20 | 0 |
| Other scenarios | | | | | | | | |
| EU MAP^^: $F_{MSY}$ | 30358 | 29842 | 516 | 0.137 | 59697 | 5.0 | −1.20 | 0 |
| EU MAP^^: $F_{MSY\ lower}$ | 23587 | 23186 | 401 | 0.105 | 61224 | 7.6 | −23 | 0 |
| EU MAP^^: $F_{MSY\ upper}$ | 37949 | 37304 | 645 | 0.174 | 57986 | 1.94 | 24 | 0 |
| F = 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 66544 | 17.0 | −100 | 0 |
| $F = F_{PA}$ | 46080 | 45297 | 783 | 0.215 | 56155 | -1.28 | 50 | 0 |
| $SSB_{2027} = B_{lim}$ | 183200 | 180086 | 3114 | 1.27 | 25686 | -55 | 500 | 50 |
| $SSB_{2027} = B_{pa}$ | 137525 | 135187 | 2338 | 0.81 | 35692 | -37 | 350 | 3.4 |
| $SSB_{2027} = SSB_{2026}$ | 42856 | 42127 | 729 | 0.199 | 56881 | 0 | 39 | 0 |
| $SSB_{2027}$ = MSY $B_{trigger}$ | 124404 | 122289 | 2115 | 0.71 | 38604 | -32 | 300 | 1.04 |
| $F = F_{2025}$ | 24662 | 24243 | 419 | 0.110 | 60981 | 7.2 | −19.7 | 0 |
| Catch advice 2026 = $TAC_{2025}$ | 30726 | 30204 | 522 | 0.139 | 59614 | 4.8 | 0 | 0 |

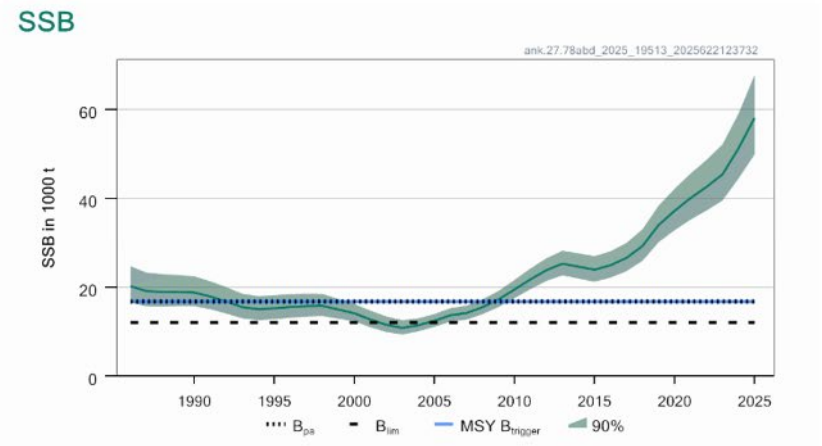
# Black-bellied anglerfish in Subarea 7 and divisions 8.a–b, and 8.d

**Advice for 2026 : MSY:** Catch ≤ 22 390t advice -11.6%




F increased in 2024: below FMSY

SSB above MSY Btrigger

Decrease advice – downward revision of stock size in 2025 assessment

# Black-bellied anglerfish in Subarea 7 and divisions 8.a–b, and 8.d

**Catch (2024) = 15 811 t ( 15.3 % discards)**

**F(2025) = 0.103 (average 2022-2024)**

**SSB (2026)= 64 553 > $MSY_{Btrigger}$ (16 776)  $F_{MSY}$= 0.163**

Length based stock synthesis

TAC is for both species of anglerfish.

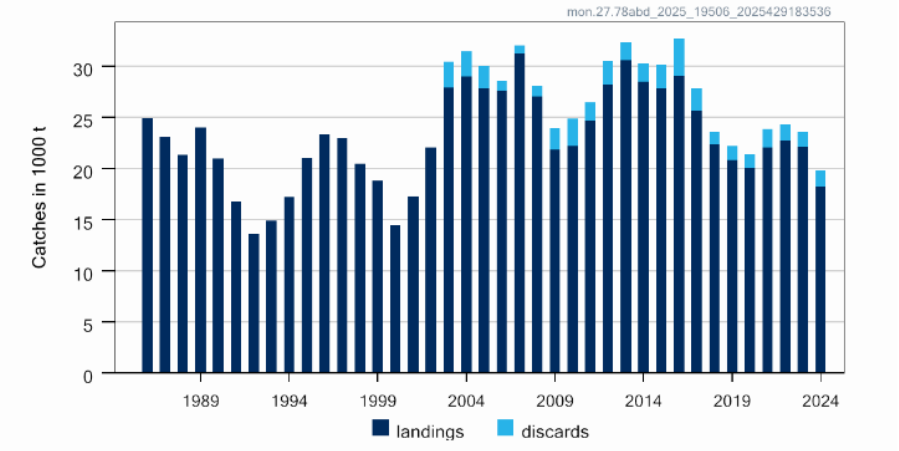
| Basis | Total catch (2026) | Projected landings (2026) | Projected discards (2026) | $F_{ages\ 3–10}$ total (2026) | $F_{ages\ 3–10}$ projected landings (2026) | $F_{ages\ 3–10}$ projected discards (2026) | Spawning-stock biomass (SSB; 2027) | % SSB change* | % advice change** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ICES advice basis | | | | | | | | | |
| Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach = $F_{MSY}$ | 22390 | 19514 | 2875 | 0.163 | 0.156 | 0.0074 | 63742 | −1.26 | −11.6 |
| Other options | | | | | | | | | |
| F = MAP^ $F_{MSY\ lower}$ | 15747 | 13728 | 2019 | 0.112 | 0.107 | 0.0051 | 67077 | 3.9 | −38 |
| F = MAP^ $F_{MSY\ upper}$ | 32429 | 28255 | 4175 | 0.25 | 0.23 | 0.0111 | 58724 | −9 | +28 |
| F = 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75027 | 16 | −100 |
| $F_{PA}$ | 33835 | 29478 | 4357 | 0.26 | 0.25 | 0.0116 | 58023 | −10.1 | +34 |
| $SSB_{2027} = B_{lim}$ | 131050 | 113505 | 17545 | 1.83 | 1.74 | 0.083 | 12073 | −81 | +420 |
| $SSB_{2027} = B_{PA}$ = MSY $B_{trigger}$ | 120214 | 104232 | 15982 | 1.50 | 1.43 | 0.068 | 16776 | −74 | +370 |
| $SSB_{2027} = SSB_{2026}$ | 20773 | 18106 | 2667 | 0.150 | 0.144 | 0.0068 | 64553 | 0 | −17.9 |
| $F = F_{2025}$ | 14497 | 12639 | 1858 | 0.103 | 0.098 | 0.0046 | 67706 | 4.9 | −43 |
| Catch advice 2026 = catch advice 2025 | 25317 | 22064 | 3253 | 0.186 | 0.178 | 0.0084 | 62276 | −3.5 | 0 |

**Note: Under combined TAC with white anglerfish – could lead to overexploitation of either species**

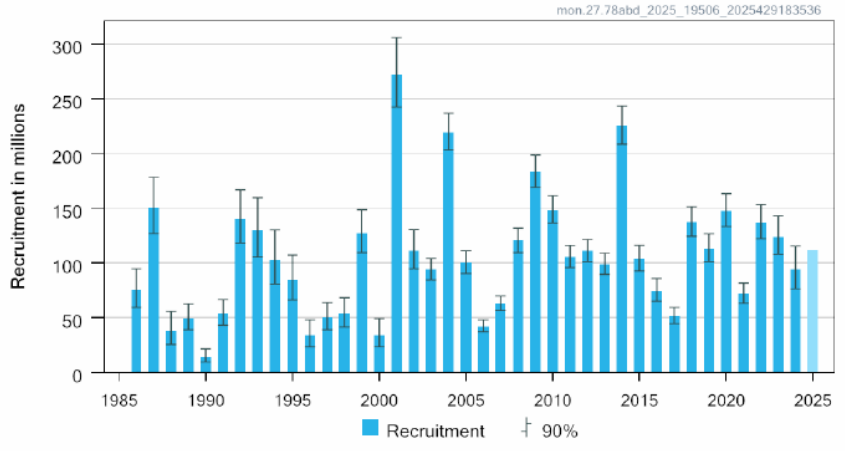
# White anglerfish in Subarea 7 and div. 8.a-b,d (Celtic Sea, Bay of Biscay)

**Advice for 2026: MSY :** Catch ≤ 36 090t  advice +3.2%

Catches

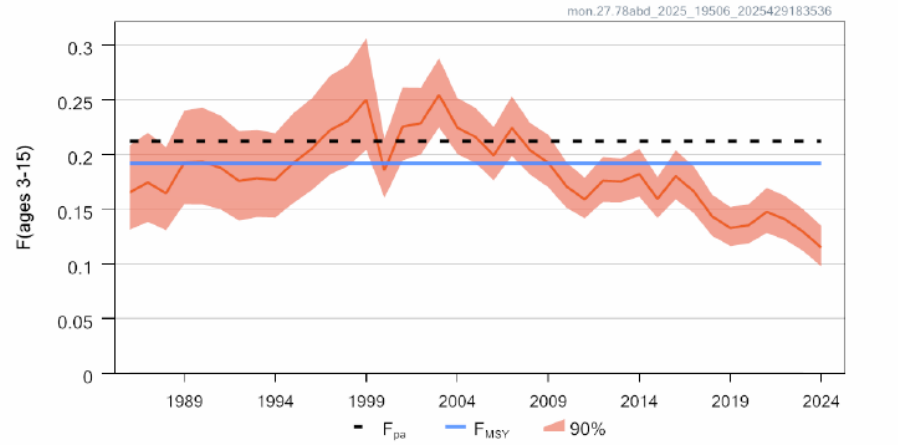



Recruitment (age 0)

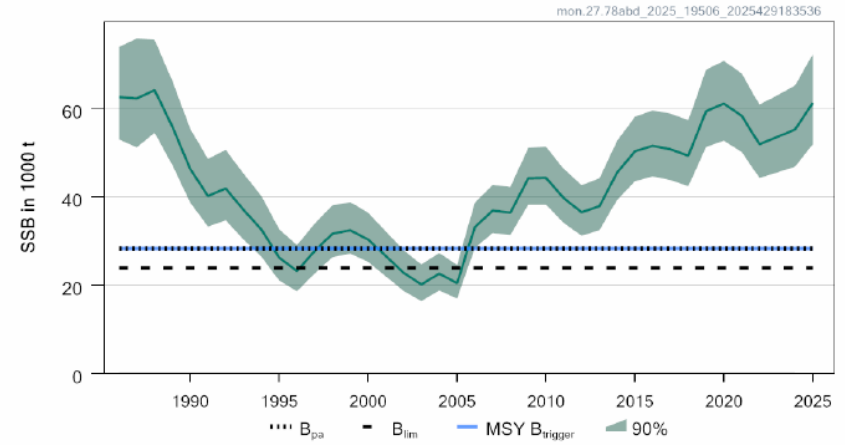



- F decreasing: below $F_{MSY}$
- SSB above MSY Btrigger
- Small increase in biomass

F




SSB



# White anglerfish in Subarea 7 and div. 8.a-b,d (Celtic Sea, Bay of Biscay)

**Catch (2024) : 19 821 t (8.1 % discards)**

**F(2025) = 0.115 (Average 2022-2024, scaled to 2024);**

**SSB (2026)= 60 443> $MSY_{Btrigger}$ (28 275 t) $F_{MSY}$= 0.192**

is no TAC rollover scenario and the change in TAC is not computed because the TAC is for both species of anglerfish.

| Basis | Total catch (2026) | Projected landings (2026) | Projected discards (2026) | $F_{ages\ 3–15}$ total (2026) | $F_{ages\ 3–15}$ projected landings (2026) | $F_{ages\ 3–15}$ projected discards (2026) | Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) (2027) | % SSB change * | % advice change^ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ICES advice basis | | | | | | | | | |
| Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach = $F_{MSY}$ | 36090 | 31928 | 4162 | 0.192 | 0.190 | 0.00155 | 59745 | −1.15 | 3.2 |
| Other scenarios | | | | | | | | | |
| F = MAP^^ $F_{MSY\ lower}$ | 25403 | 22477 | 2926 | 0.131 | 0.130 | 0.00106 | 63669 | 5.3 | −27 |
| F = MAP^^ $F_{MSY\ upper}$ | 39449 | 34898 | 4551 | 0.212 | 0.21 | 0.00171 | 58513 | −3.2 | 12.8 |
| F = 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 72993 | 21 | −100 |
| $F_{PA}$ | 39449 | 34898 | 4551 | 0.212 | 0.21 | 0.00171 | 58513 | −3.2 | 12.8 |
| $SSB_{2027} = B_{lim}$ | 134601 | 118711 | 15890 | 1.08 | 1.07 | 0.0087 | 23868 | −61 | 280 |
| $SSB_{2027} = B_{pa} = MSY\ B_{trigger}$ | 122309 | 107942 | 14368 | 0.91 | 0.90 | 0.0073 | 28275 | −53 | 250 |
| $SSB_{2027} = SSB_{2026}$ | 34190 | 30248 | 3942 | 0.181 | 0.179 | 0.00146 | 60443 | 0 | −2.3 |
| $F = F_{2025}$ | 22454 | 19869 | 2585 | 0.115 | 0.114 | 0.00093 | 64751 | 7.1 | −36 |
| Catch advice 2026 = catch advice 2025 | 34983 | 30949 | 4034 | 0.185 | 0.184 | 0.0015 | 60152 | −0.48 | 0.00 |

Length based age structured stock synthesis

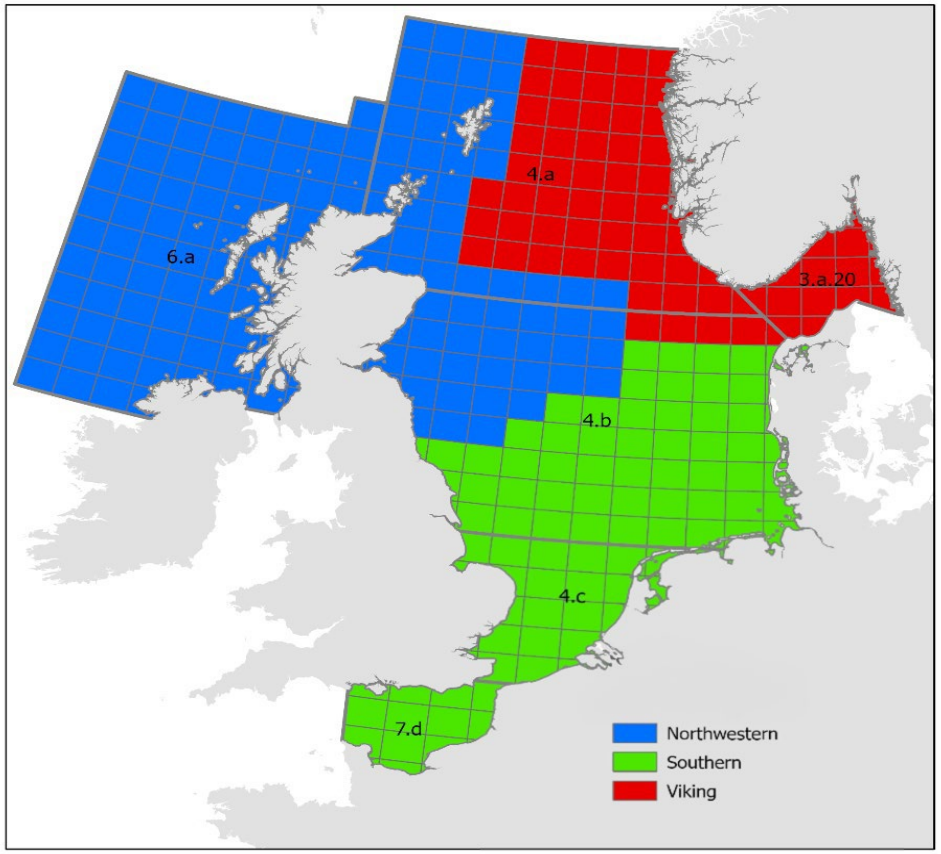
**Note: Under combined TAC with black bellied anglerfish – could lead to overexploitation of either species**

# Cod North Sea W Scotland E Channel (4, 6a, 7d, 20)

## Advice for 2026



- Advice delayed until autumn
- October likely
- Struggle with mixing implications for advice – will give time for ACOM to further discuss
- Team being set up to try to improve assessment

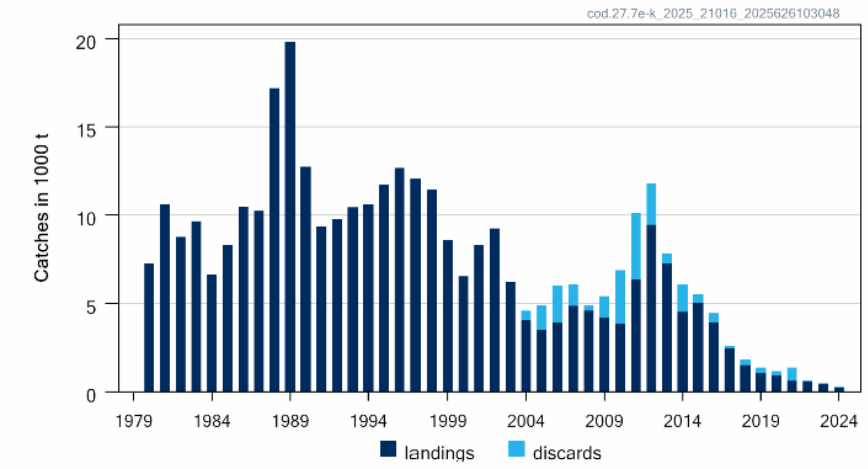


# Cod in the western English Channel and southern Celtic Seas (7.e–k)

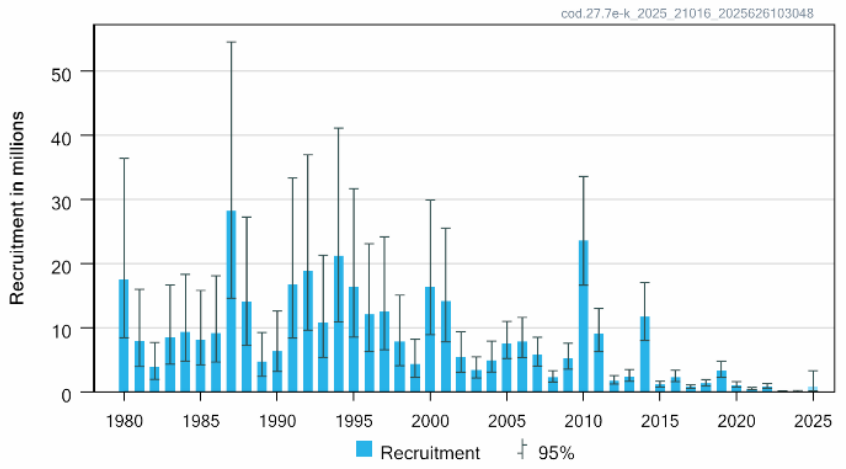
**Advice for 2026 MSY:** Catch =0 t  advice: no change



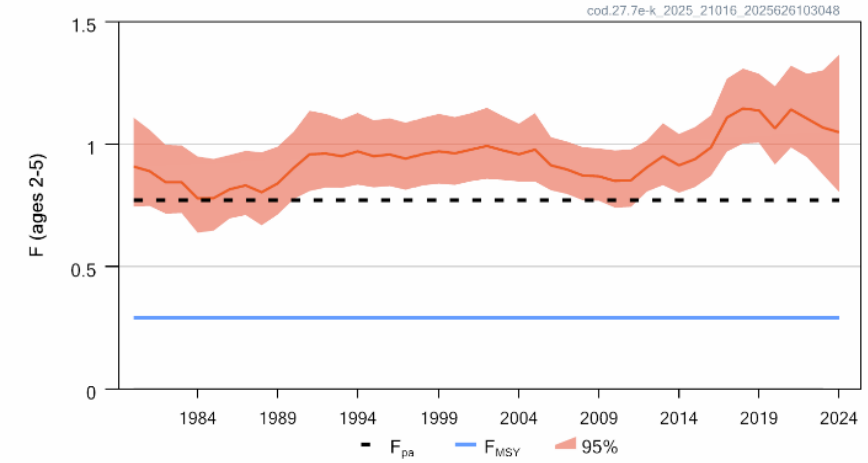
Catches



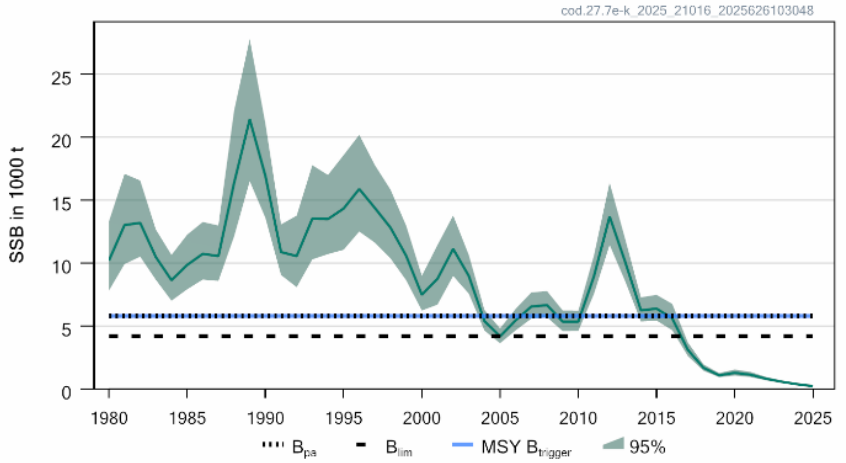

Recruitment (age 1)




F




SSB




- F above $F_{MSY}$
- SSB below $B_{lim}$
- Recruitment low
- No catch scenario brings stock above $B_{lim}$
- Some tendency to overestimate SSB and recruitment
- UK catch and sample data were revised for 2021–2023 (minimal impact)

# Cod in the western English Channel and southern Celtic Seas(7.e–k)



**Catch (2024) : 272 t (8.5% discards)**
**F(2025) =1.07 (avg 2022-2024)**
**SSB (2026)= 368 t < $B_{lim}$ (7 300 t)  $F_{MSY}$= 0.29**

| Basis | Total catch (2026) | $F_{total}$ (2026) | Spawning-stock biomass (SSB ; 2027) | % SSB change* | % total allowable catch (TAC) change** | Probability of SSB (2027) < $B_{lim}$ (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ICES advice basis | | | | | | |
| Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach: F = 0 | 0 | 0 | 1506 | 309 | −100 | 97 |
| Other scenarios | | | | | | |
| $F_{MSY}$ × $SSB_{2026}$/MSY $B_{trigger}$ | 17 | 0.0184 | 1480 | 303 | −97 | 97 |
| EU MAP***: $F_{MSY\ lower}$ × $SSB_{2026}$/MSY $B_{trigger}$ | 10 | 0.0108 | 1490 | 305 | −98 | 97 |
| EU MAP***: $F_{MSY\ upper}$ × $SSB_{2026}$/MSY $B_{trigger}$ | 24 | 0.026 | 1471 | 300 | −96 | 97 |
| $F = F_{MSY}$ | 236 | 0.29 | 1158 | 215 | −63 | 100 |
| $F = F_{MSY\ lower}$ | 146 | 0.170 | 1289 | 251 | −77 | 99 |
| $F = F_{MSY\ upper}$ | 318 | 0.41 | 1041 | 183 | −50 | 100 |
| $F = F_{PA}$ | 522 | 0.77 | 761 | 107 | −19.0 | 100 |
| $SSB_{2027} = SSB_{2026}$ | 837 | 1.66 | 368 | 0 | 30 | 100 |
| $F = F_{2025}$ | 652 | 1.07 | 590 | 60 | 1.27 | 100 |
| $SSB_{2027} = B_{lim}$^ | | | | | | |
| $SSB_{2027} = B_{PA}$ = MSY $B_{trigger}$^ | | | | | | |

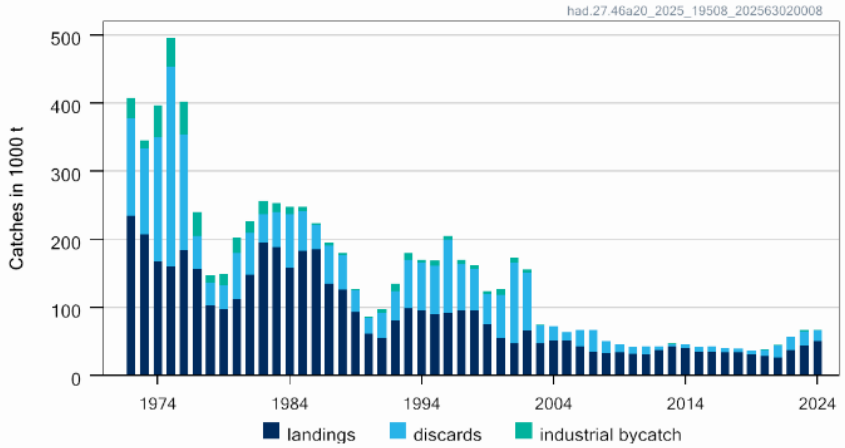
- **Caught in mixed fisheries with haddock and whiting.**
- **Assessment includes the south of Division 7.a (rectangles 33E2-33E3) 0.8% of catch from 7e-k stock taken in 7a**
- **SAM assessment**

# Haddock in the North Sea, West of Scotland, Skagerrak (4, 6.a and Subdiv. 20)

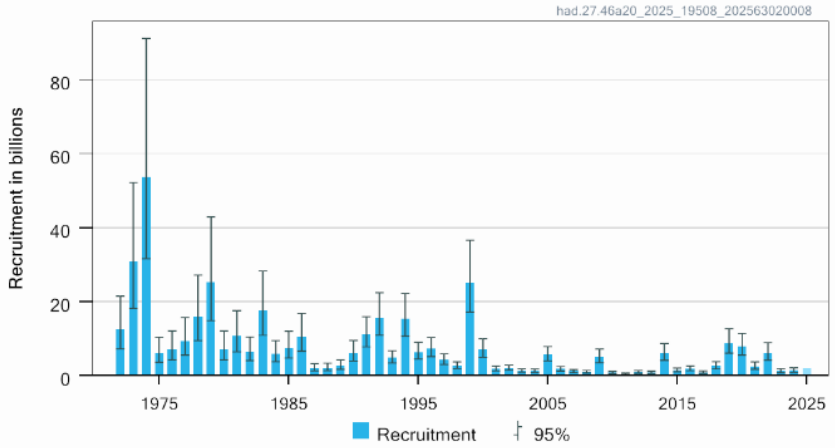
**Advice for 2026 MSY:** Catch ≤ 108 301 t advice -3.7%



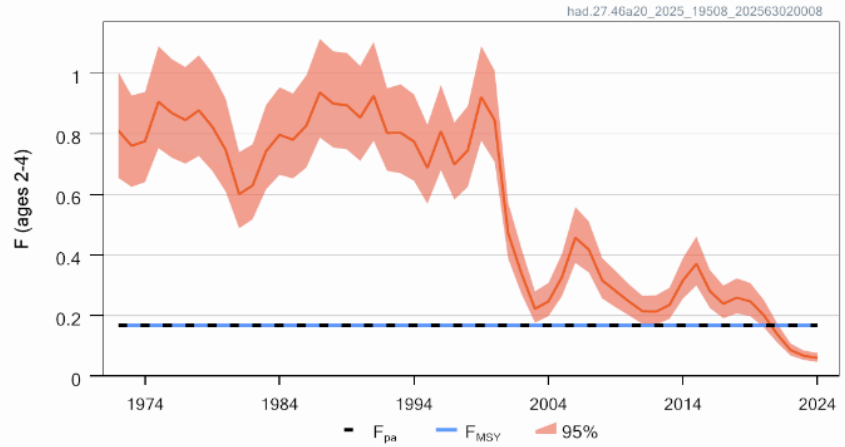
Catches



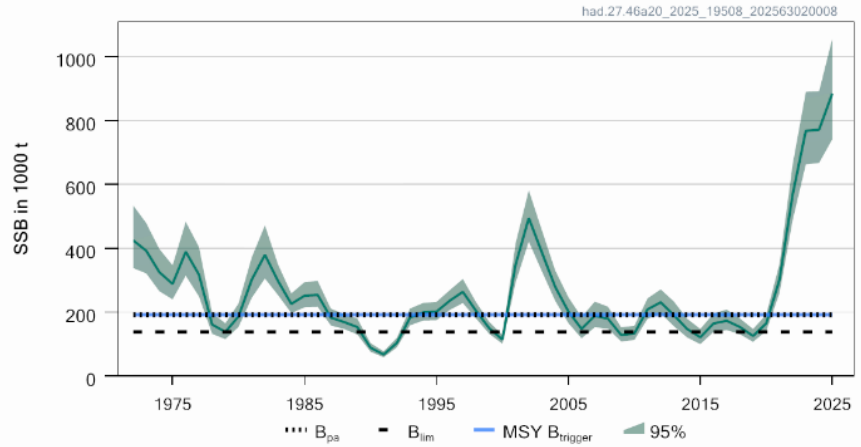

Recruitment (age 0)




Fishing pressure




Spawning Stock Biomass




- F below $F_{MSY}$
- SSB above MSY $B_{trigger}$
- Revised survey model
- Changes assessment model settings.
- upward revision in SSB, downward revision F
- Improved retro.
- Reference points updated, changes within the range of 4%

# Haddock in the North Sea, West of Scotland, Skagerrak (4, 6.a and Subdiv. 20)



Catch (2024) : 66 868 t (21.7% discards); **5335 t catch in 6.a**

F(2025) = 0.06 (F 2024)

SSB(2026) = 6-7 965 t > $MSY_{Btrigger}$ 192 109 t (previous 196 402 t)  $F_{MSY}$= 0.167 (prev 0.174)

**Table 2** Haddock in Subarea 4, Division 6.a, and Subdivision 20. Annual catch scenarios. All weights are in tonnes.

| Basis | Total catch (2026) | Projected landings (2026) | Projected discards and industrial bycatch (IBC; 2026)* | $F_{total}$ (ages 2–4) (2026) | $F_{projected\ landings}$ (ages 2–4) (2026) | $F_{projected\ discards\ and\ IBC}$ (ages 2–4) (2026) | Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) (2027) | % SSB change** | % TAC change*** | % advice change^ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ICES advice basis | | | | | | | | | | |
| Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach: $F_{MSY}$ | 108301 | 91316 | 16985 | 0.167 | 0.104 | 0.063 | 470142 | –23 | –3.7 | –3.7 |
| Other scenarios | | | | | | | | | | |
| $F_{MSY\ lower}$ | 101195 | 85301 | 15894 | 0.155 | 0.097 | 0.058 | 475992 | –22 | –10.0 | –10.0 |
| $F_{MSY\ upper}$ | 108301 | 91316 | 16985 | 0.167 | 0.104 | 0.063 | 470142 | –23 | –3.7 | –3.7 |
| F = 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 559222 | –8.0 | –100 | –100 |
| $F_{PA}$ | 108301 | 91316 | 16985 | 0.167 | 0.104 | 0.063 | 470142 | –23 | –3.7 | –3.7 |
| SSB (2027) = $B_{lim}$ | 541852 | 450688 | 91164 | 1.57 | 0.98 | 0.59 | 138250 | –77 | 382 | 382 |
| SSB (2027) = $B_{PA}$ = MSY $B_{trigger}$ | 465741 | 389448 | 76293 | 1.14 | 0.71 | 0.43 | 192109 | –68 | 314 | 314 |
| F = $F_{2025}$ | 41299 | 34843 | 6456 | 0.060 | 0.037 | 0.023 | 525491 | –13.6 | –63 | –63 |

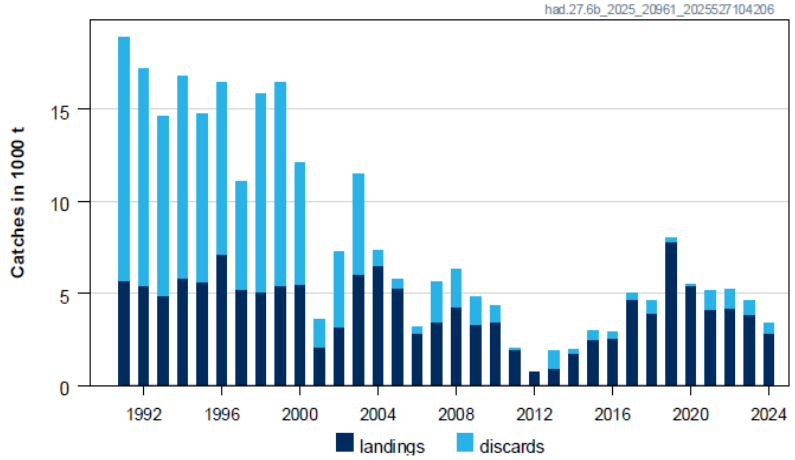
SAM model

# Haddock at Rockall (6.b)

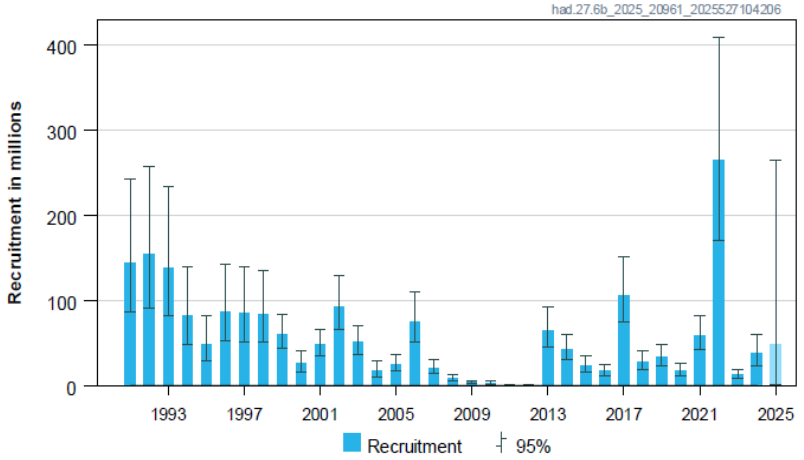
## **Advice for 2026: MSY:** Catch ≤ 20 432 advice -35 %



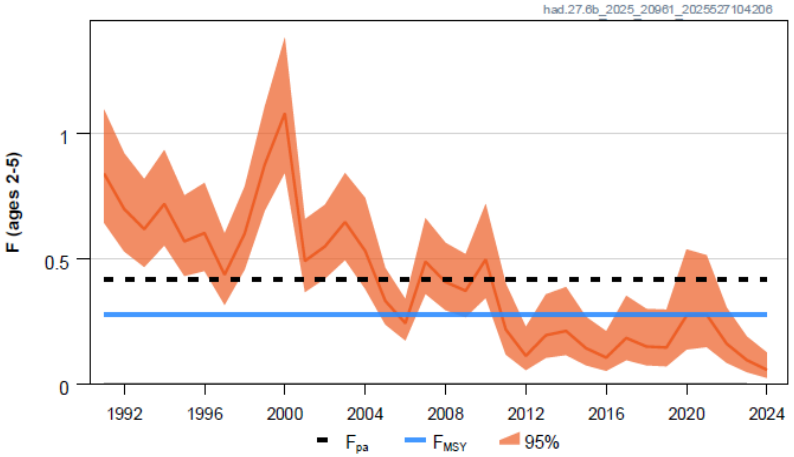
Catches



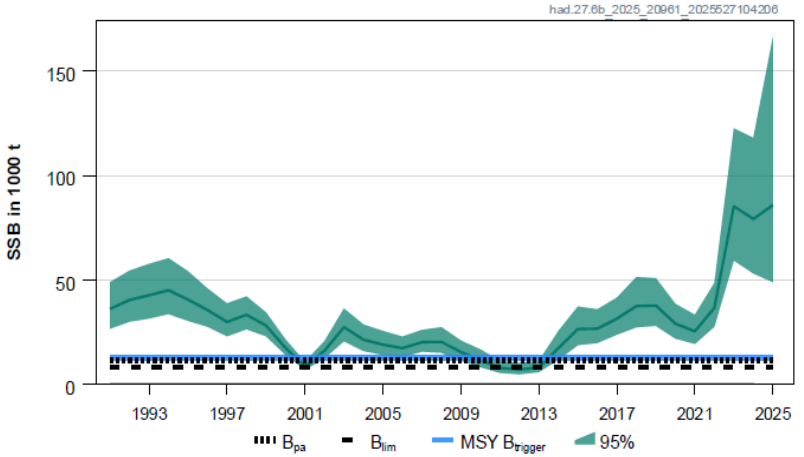

Recruitment (age 1)




F




SSB




- F below FMSY
- SSB above trigger
- Downward revision of estimated size of very strong 2022 year class and lower fishery selectivity of older fish in recent year reflected in forecast
- Sampling remains sparse

# Haddock at Rockall (6.b)



**Catch (2024) : 3 354 t (17.8% discards)**

**F2025 = 0.059 (avg 2022-2024)**

**SSB 2026 = 94 765 t > MSYbtrigger 12 877 t FMSY=0.28**

SAM

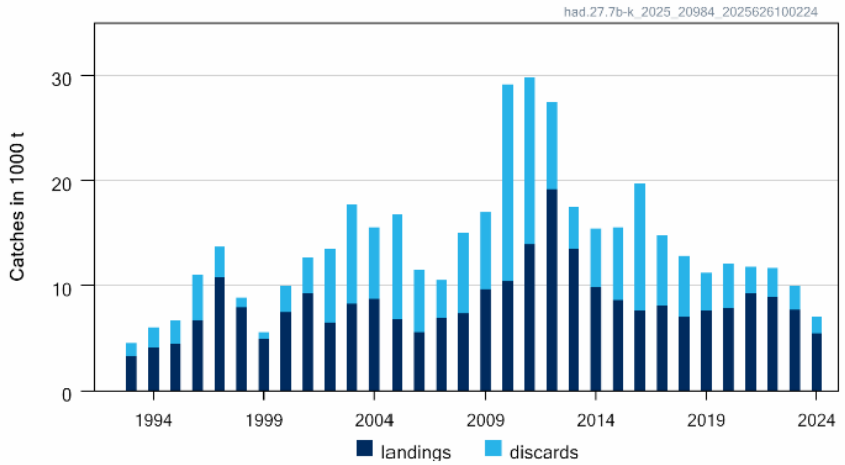
| Basis | Total catch (2026) | Projected landings (2026) | Projected discards (2026) | $F_{total}$ (2026) | $F_{projected\ landings}$ (2026) | $F_{projected\ discards}$ (2026) | Spawning-stock biomass (SSB; 2027) | % SSB change * | % advice change^ | Probability of SSB (2027) < $B_{lim}$ (%)^^ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ICES advice basis | | | | | | | | | | |
| Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach: F = $F_{MSY}$ | 20432 | 19500 | 932 | 0.28 | 0.25 | 0.030 | 86025 | −9.2 | −35 | 0 |
| Other scenarios | | | | | | | | | | |
| EU MAP**: $F_{MSY}$ | 20432 | 19500 | 932 | 0.28 | 0.25 | 0.030 | 86025 | −9.2 | −35 | 0 |
| EU MAP**: $F_{MSY\ lower}$ | 14060 | 13442 | 618 | 0.184 | 0.164 | 0.0197 | 92801 | −2.1 | −55 | 0 |
| EU MAP**: $F_{MSY\ upper}$ | 28050 | 26780 | 1270 | 0.41 | 0.37 | 0.044 | 77634 | −18.1 | −11.1 | 0 |
| F = 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 107775 | 13.7 | −100 | 0 |
| $F_{PA}$ | 28605 | 27304 | 1301 | 0.42 | 0.38 | 0.045 | 77073 | −18.7 | −9.4 | 0 |
| $F = F_{2025}$ | 4782 | 4588 | 194 | 0.059 | 0.053 | 0.0063 | 102587 | 8.3 | −85 | 0 |
| $SSB_{2027} = B_{lim}$ | 98033 | 90464 | 7569 | 7.6 | 6.8 | 0.82 | 8542 | −91 | 211 | 50 |
| $SSB_{2027} = B_{pa}$ | 93329 | 86976 | 6353 | 5 | 4.4 | 0.54 | 11870 | −87 | 196 | 33 |
| $SSB_{2027}$ = MSY $B_{trigger}$ | 92083 | 85903 | 6180 | 4.5 | 4.1 | 0.49 | 12877 | −86 | 192 | 29 |
| $SSB_{2027} = SSB_{2026}$ | 12341 | 11824 | 517 | 0.159 | 0.142 | 0.0171 | 94765 | 0 | −61 | 0 |

# Haddock in the southern Celtic Seas and English Channel (7.b–k)

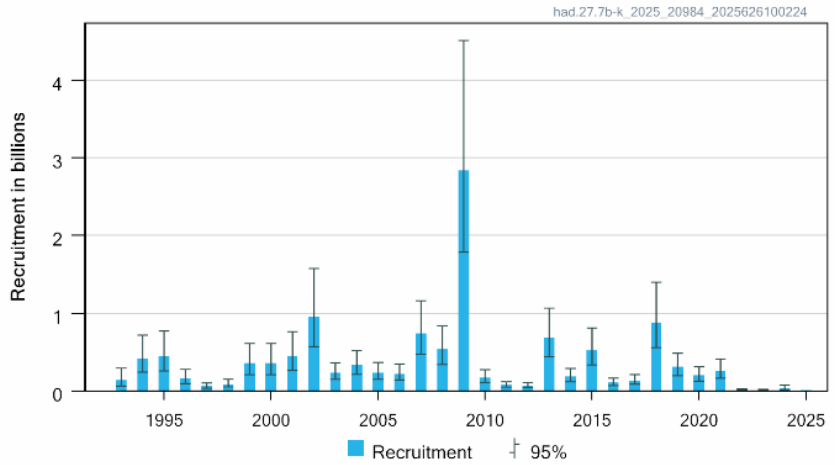
## Advice for 2026: MSY and PA: Zero Catch (2025 advice 4 644t )



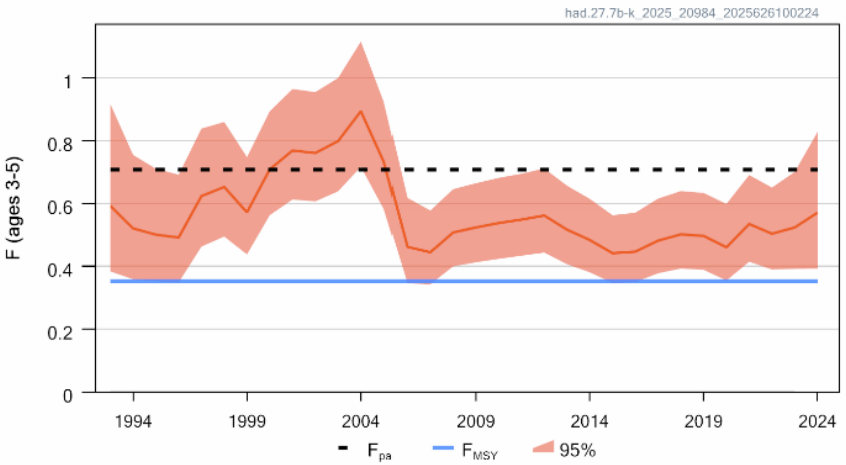
Catches



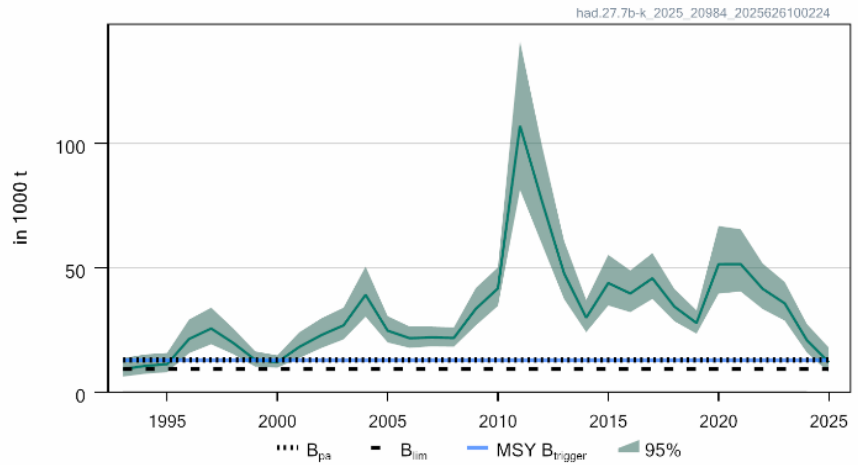

Recruitment (age 0)




F




SSB




- $F < F_{MSY}$
- SSB declining: below MSY Btrigger but above Bpa and Blim
- Recruitment low
- Below Blim in all catch scenarios

# Haddock in the southern Celtic Seas and English Channel (7.b–k)



**Catch (2024) : 7 108 (22.8% discards)**

**F(2025) = 0.53 (average 2022-2024)**

**SSB (2026 )= 7464< $MSY_{Btrigger}$ (12 822t)  $F_{MSY}$= 0.353**

SAM assessment

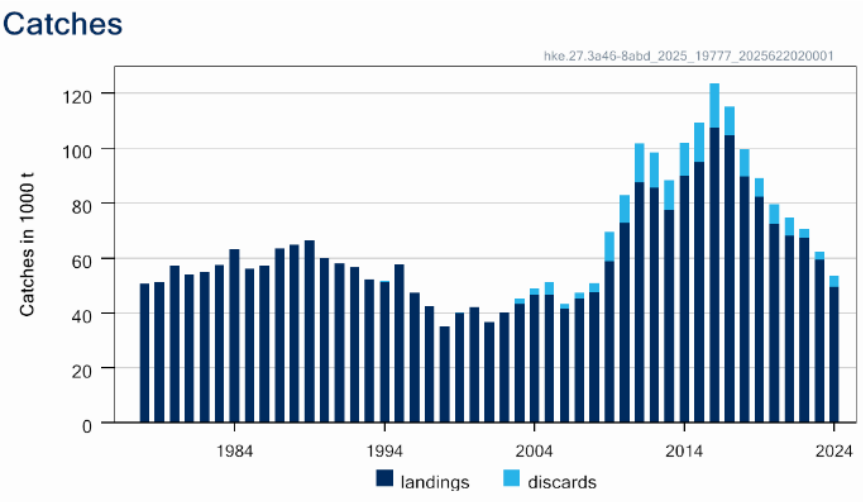
**Table 2** Haddock in divisions 7.b–k. Annual catch scenarios. Weights are in tonnes.

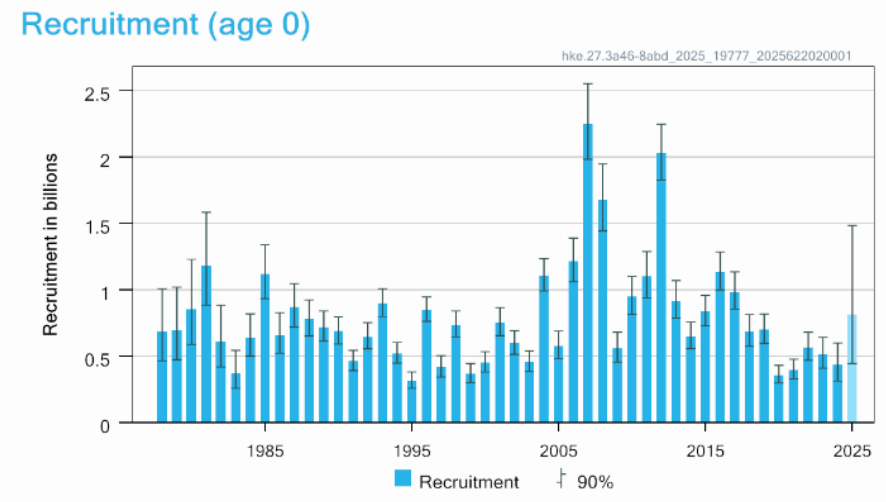
| Basis | Total catch (2026) | Projected landings (2026) | Projected discards (2026) | $F_{total}$ (2026) | $F_{projected\ landings}$ (2026) | $F_{projected\ discards}$ (2026) | Spawning-stock biomass (SSB; 2027) | % SSB change* | % advice change^ | % probability SSB < $B_{lim}$ in 2027# |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ICES advice basis | | | | | | | | | | |
| Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach: F = 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7647 | 2 | −100 | 77 |
| Other scenarios | | | | | | | | | | |
| $F_{MSY}$ × $SSB_{2026}$/MSY $B_{trigger}$ | 1381 | 1194 | 187 | 0.205 | 0.155 | 0.05 | 6252 | −16 | −70 | 92 |
| $F_{MSY\ lower}$ × $SSB_{2026}$/MSY $B_{trigger}$ | 905 | 786 | 119 | 0.129 | 0.097 | 0.032 | 6731 | −10 | −81 | 88 |
| EU MAP ^^: $F_{MSY}$ | 2177 | 1872 | 305 | 0.353 | 0.267 | 0.086 | 5451 | −27 | −53 | 96 |
| EU MAP^^: $F_{MSY\ lower}$ | 1471 | 1272 | 199 | 0.221 | 0.167 | 0.054 | 6159 | −17 | −68 | 93 |
| $F_{PA}$ | 3632 | 3089 | 543 | 0.708 | 0.535 | 0.173 | 4033 | −46 | −22 | 99 |
| $SSB_{2027}$ = $B_{lim}$^^^ | | | | | | | | | | |
| $SSB_{2027}$ = $B_{PA}$= MSY $B_{trigger}$^^^ | | | | | | | | | | |
| $SSB_{2027}$ = $SSB_{2026}$ | 173 | 151 | 22 | 0.023 | 0.017 | 0.006 | 7464 | 0 | −96 | 79 |
| F = $F_{2025}$ | 2984 | 2552 | 432 | 0.53 | 0.402 | 0.131 | 4659 | −38 | −36 | 99 |

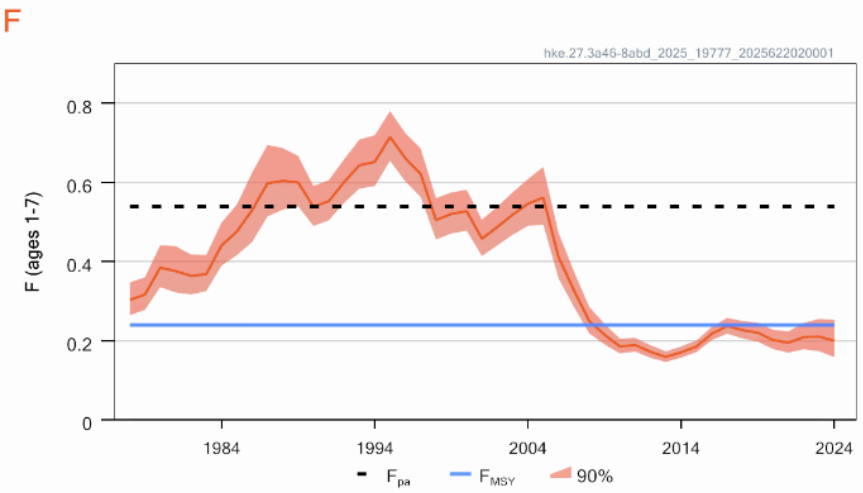
- **Stock includes the south of Division 7.a (rectangles 33E2-3) 9% of landings of 7b-k stock**

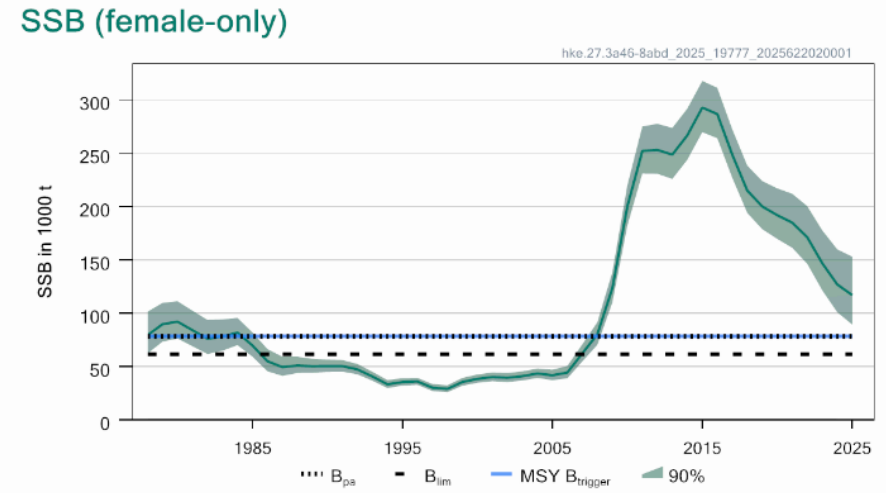
# Hake – Northern stock (3.a, 4, 6, 7, 8.abd)

**Advice for 2026: MSY:** Catch ≤ 54 912 t  advice +4.7%




- F below Fmsy
- SSB above MSY $B_{trigger}$ but decreasing
- Upward revision of SSB and lower F in 2024 than assumed in last year's forecast
- Stock area does not correspond to the TAC areas

# Hake – Northern stock (3.a, 4, 6, 7, 8.abd)

**Catch (2024) : 53 733 t (7.7 % discards)**

**F(2025) = 0.23 (Average $F_{2022\text{-}2024}$ )**

**SSB (2026)= 110 427 > $MSY_{Btrigger}$ (78 405t) $F_{MSY}$= 0.24**

stock assessment unit area.

| Basis | Total catch (2026) | Projected landings (2026) | Projected discards (2026) | $F_{ages\ 1–7}$ total (2026) | $F_{ages\ 1–7}$ projected landings (2026) | $F_{ages\ 1–7}$ projected discards (2026) | Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) (2027) *** | % SSB change * | % advice change ** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ICES advice basis | | | | | | | | | |
| Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach = $F_{MSY}$ | 54912 | 49774 | 5138 | 0.24 | 0.22 | 0.023 | 104520 | −5.4 | 4.7 |
| Other scenarios | | | | | | | | | |
| EU MAP^: $F_{MSY}$ | 54912 | 49774 | 5138 | 0.24 | 0.22 | 0.023 | 104520 | −5.4 | 4.7 |
| F = MAP^:$F_{MSY\ lower}$ | 35102 | 31905 | 3197 | 0.147 | 0.134 | 0.0134 | 117219 | 6.2 | −33 |
| F = MAP^:$F_{MSY\ upper}$ | 77898 | 70354 | 7544 | 0.37 | 0.33 | 0.036 | 90003 | −18 | 48 |
| F = 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 140088 | 27 | −100 |
| F = $F_{PA}$ | 103394 | 92942 | 10453 | 0.54 | 0.48 | 0.054 | 74220 | −33 | 97 |
| SSB (2027) = $B_{lim}$ | 124324 | 111241 | 13083 | 0.7 | 0.63 | 0.074 | 61563 | −44 | 137 |
| SSB (2027) = $B_{PA}$ = MSY $B_{trigger}$ | 96575 | 86929 | 9646 | 0.49 | 0.44 | 0.049 | 78405 | −29 | 84 |
| SSB (2027) = SSB(2026) | 45666 | 41448 | 4218 | 0.197 | 0.179 | 0.0182 | 110427 | 0 | −13 |
| F = $F_{2025}$ | 48087 | 43631 | 4457 | 0.21 | 0.189 | 0.0193 | 108876 | −1.40 | −8.4 |
| Catch (2026) = TAC (2025) | 58272 | 52793 | 5479 | 0.26 | 0.24 | 0.024 | 102382 | −7.3 | 11 |

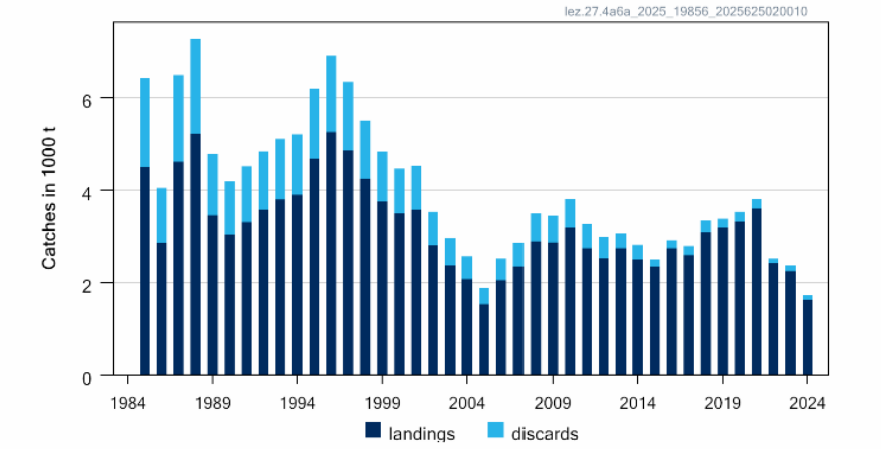
Length based and sex disaggregated stock synthesis

# Megrim in the northern North Sea and West of Scotland (4.a and 6.a)

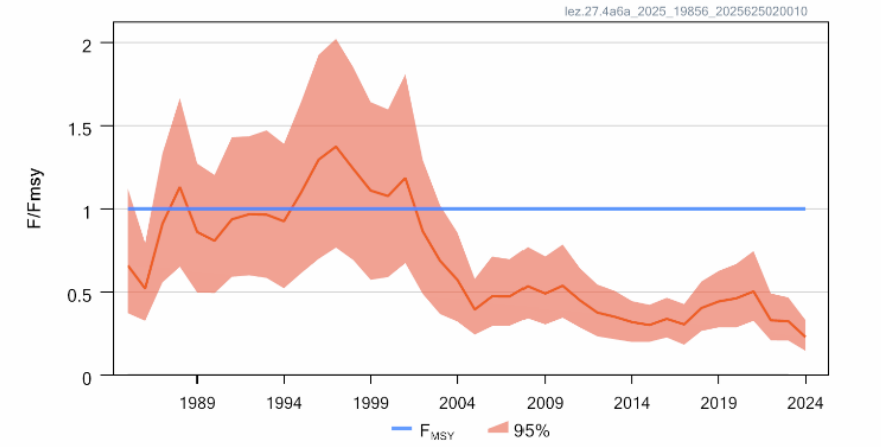
**Advice for 2026: MSY:** Catch ≤ 8050 t advice +6.6%



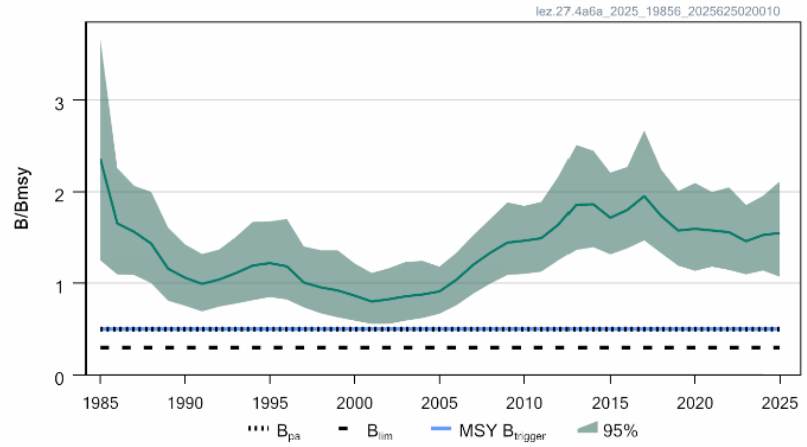
Catches




F/Fmsy




B/Bmsy




- F below FMSY
- Stock size above MSY Btrigger
- Increase in stock size
- UK data revised 2021-2023 negligible impact
- Advice is for 2 species:*L. whiffiagonis* and *L. boscii* combined.
- *L. boscii* negligible in catches.

# Megrim in the northern North Sea and West of Scotland (4.a and 6.a)



Catch (2024) : 1732t (6.1% discards)

F(2025)/Fmsy = 0.23 (Fsq = F 2024/Fmsy)

B2026/BMSY = 1.55 *Note: TAC includes area 6b for which separate advice given*

**Table 2** Megrim in divisions 4.a and 6.a. Annual catch scenarios. Weights are in tonnes.

| Basis | Total catch (2026) | Projected landings (2026) | Projected discards (2026) | Fishing mortality $F_{2026}/F_{MSY}$ | Stock size $B_{2027}/B_{MSY}$ | % B change* | % advice change^ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ICES advice basis | | | | | | | |
| Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach: $F = F_{MSY}$ | 8050 | 7663 | 387 | 1 | 1.39 | −10.6 | 6.6 |
| Other scenarios | | | | | | | |
| EU MAP^^: $F_{MSY}$ | 8050 | 7663 | 387 | 1 | 1.39 | −10.6 | 6.6 |
| EU MAP^^: $F_{MSY\ lower}$ | 6250 | 5949 | 301 | 0.77 | 1.48 | −4.4 | −17.2 |
| EU MAP^^: $F_{MSY\ upper}$ | 8050 | 7663 | 387 | 1 | 1.39 | −10.6 | 6.6 |
| $F = 0$ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1.82 | 17.1 | −100 |
| $B_{2027} = B_{lim}$ | 29850 | 28413 | 1437 | 3.7 | 0.30 | −80 | 295 |
| $B_{2027} = B_{PA}$ = MSY $B_{trigger}$ | 25050 | 23844 | 1206 | 3.1 | 0.50 | −68 | 232 |
| $B_{2027} = B_{2026}$ | 5050 | 4807 | 243 | 0.62 | 1.55 | 0 | -33 |
| $F = F_{2025}$ | 1850 | 1761 | 89 | 0.23 | 1.71 | 10.5 | −75 |

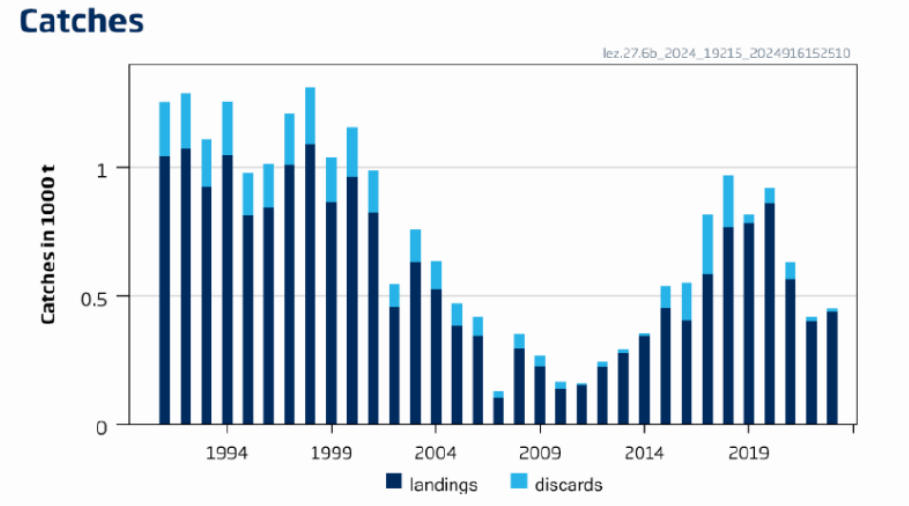
Bayesian production model

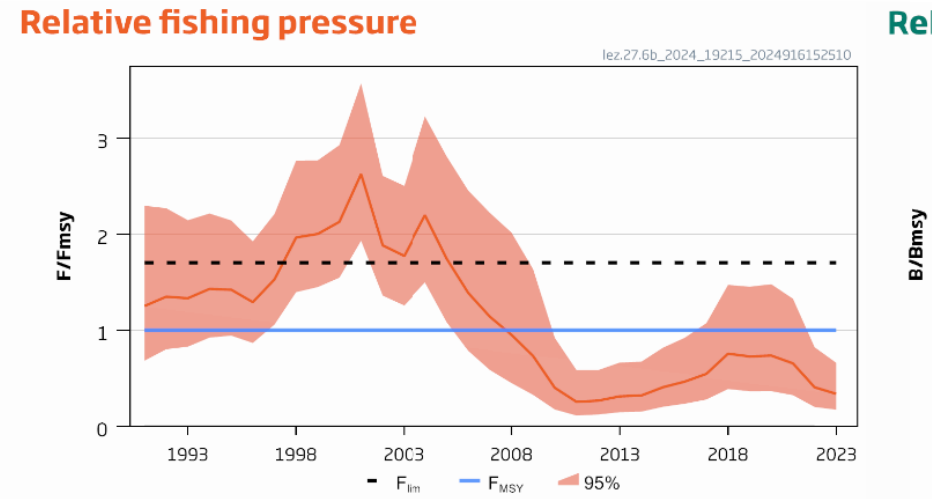
# Megrim in Rockall (6b)

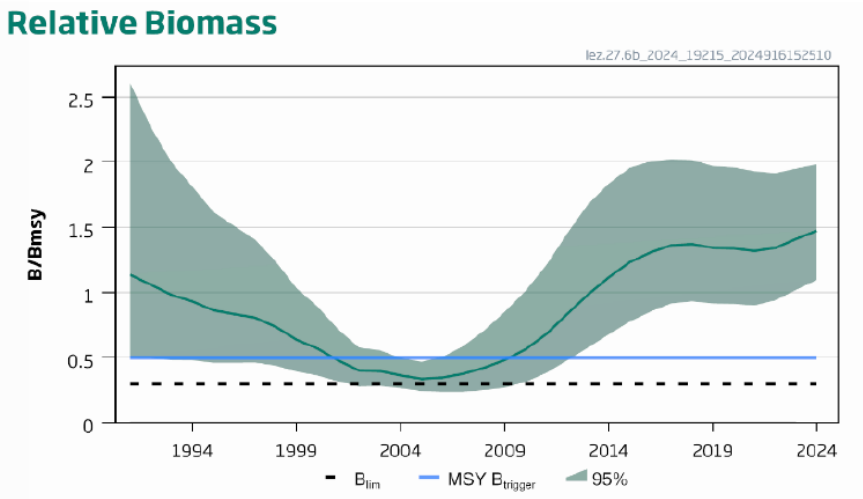


**Advice for 2025: MSY:** Catch ≤ 1 192 t advice +6.9%

- Advice released autumn 2024
- New advice autumn 2025



# Megrim in the west and southwest of Ireland, Bay of Biscay (7.b–k, 8.a–b, and 8.d )

## Advice for 2026:

- Advice Delayed
- Retrospective issue
- Hope to release in autumn

# Pollack in the Celtic Seas and the English Channel (6 and 7)

## Advice for 2026



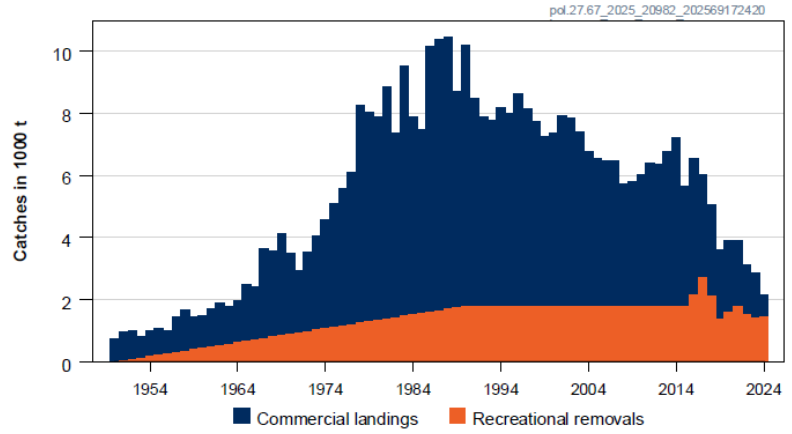
- Benchmarked 2025 – WKBSS3
- Examined
  - Input data – more work on recreational data including more work on survival of releases – overall 71% survival
  - Stock structure – no change – remains uncertain (included tagging, acoustic telemetry)
  - New natural mortality estimates
  - Increased number of surveys (5 to 12), several commercial indices
- Accepted SS3 - move from SPiCT
- New reference points estimated

# Pollack in the Celtic Seas and the English Channel (6 and 7)

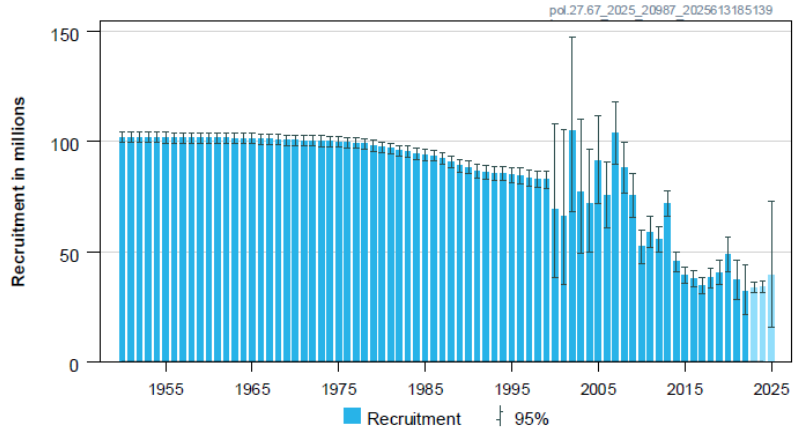
**Advice for 2026 : MSY:** ≤ 3310 t last year zero catch advice



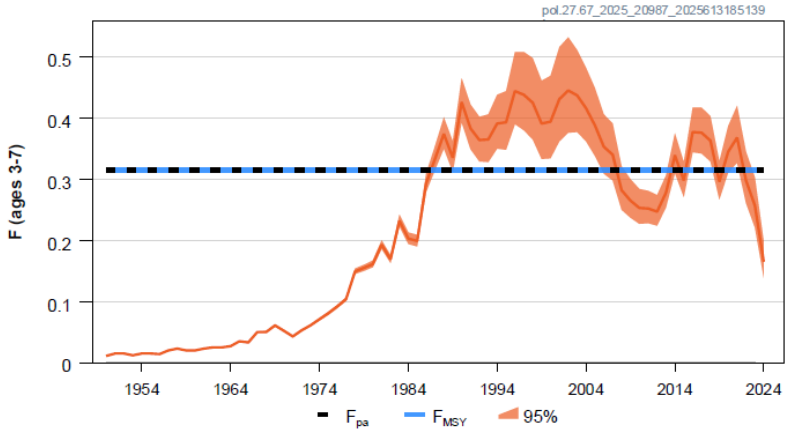
Total removals



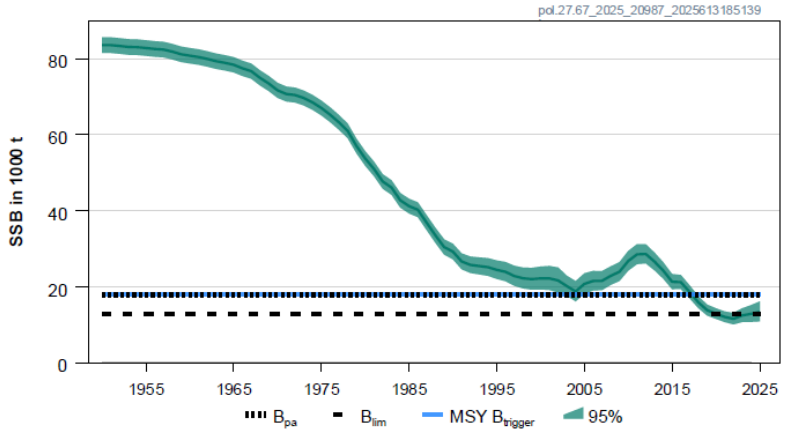

Recruitment (age 0)




F




SSB




- F< FMSY
- B < Btrigger > Bpa, Blim
- Still uncertainty in rec catches
- 3 commercial LPUE not calculated in 2024 – sensitivity to this tested in benchmark – no impact

# Pollack in the Celtic Seas and the English Channel (6 and 7)



## Catch (2024) : 2144 t of which 1437 t was recreationa
## F(2025)= 0.165 (total F 2024)
## SSB 2026=13 690 <  MSYbtrigger(17 912 t) FMSY=0.315

SS3

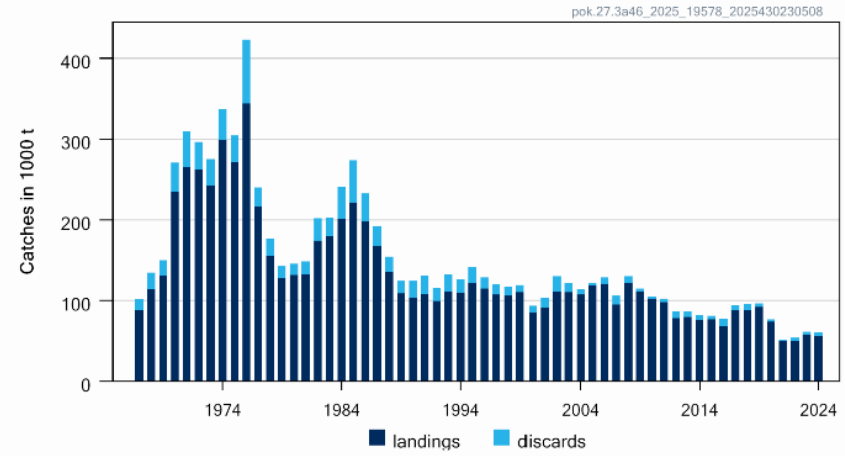
| Basis | Total removals (2026)* | Projected commercial landings (2026)** | Projected recreational removals (2026)** | $F_{ages\ 3–7}$ total* (2026) | $F_{ages\ 3–7}$ projected commercial landings (2026) | $F_{ages\ 3–7}$ Projected recreational removals (2026) | Spawning-stock biomass (SSB; 2027) | % SSB change *** | Probability SSB < $B_{lim}$ in 2027 (%) ^ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ICES advice basis | | | | | | | | | |
| Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach: $F_{MSY}$ × SSB (2026)/ MSY $B_{trigger}$ | 3310 | 1085 | 2225 | 0.24 | 0.091 | 0.149 | 13077 | −4.5 | 46 |
| Other scenarios | | | | | | | | | |
| $F_{MSY\ lower}$ × SSB (2026)/MSY $B_{trigger}$ | 2386 | 784 | 1603 | 0.168 | 0.064 | 0.104 | 13895 | 1.50 | 21 |
| F = 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16028 | 17.1 | 1.00 |
| $F = F_{pa} = F_{MSY}$ | 4195 | 1373 | 2822 | 0.315 | 0.119 | 0.196 | 12300 | −10.2 | 71 |
| $F = F_{MSY\ lower}$ | 3052 | 1001 | 2051 | 0.220 | 0.083 | 0.137 | 13305 | −2.8 | 37 |
| SSB (2027) = $B_{lim}$ | 3523 | 1155 | 2368 | 0.26 | 0.098 | 0.160 | 12890 | −5.8 | 50 |
| SSB (2027) = MSY $B_{trigger}$ = $B_{pa}$^^ | | | | | | | | | |
| $F = F_{2025}$ | 2350 | 772 | 1578 | 0.165 | 0.063 | 0.103 | 13927 | 1.74 | 20 |

# Saithe in the North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat (4,6,3.a)

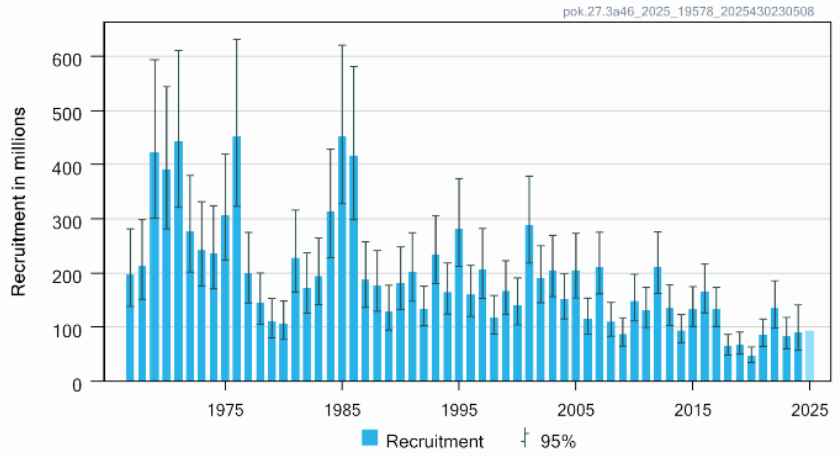
## **Advice for 2026: MSY:** Catch ≤ 60 167 t advice -24%



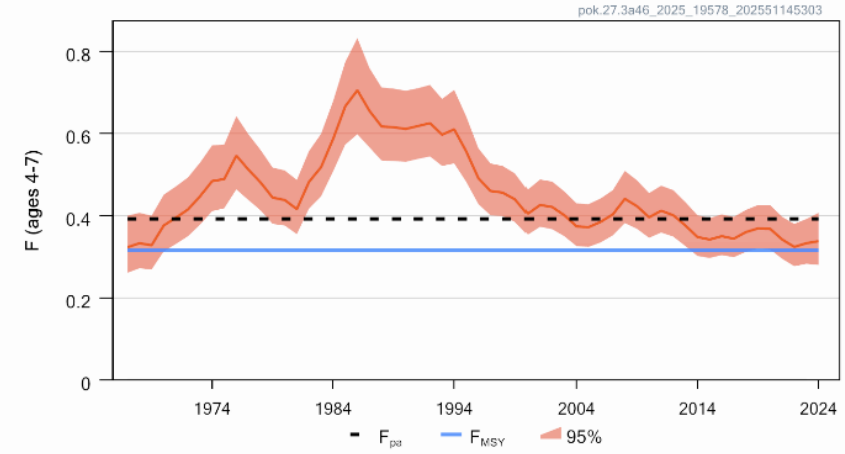
Catches



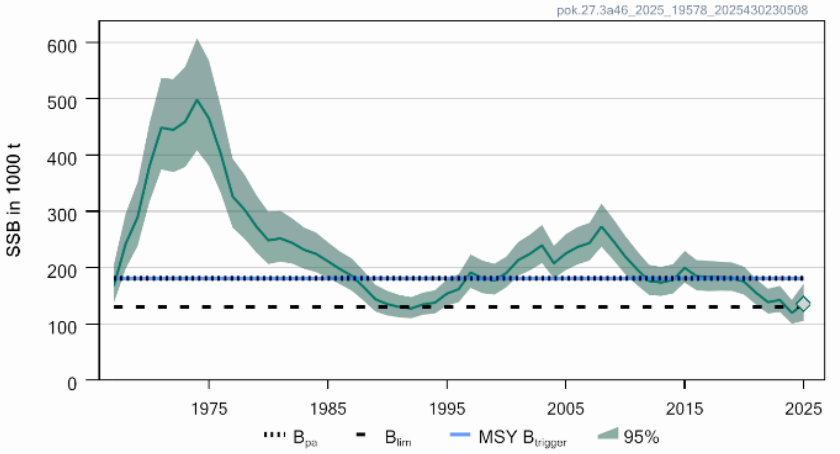

Recruitment (age 3)




Fishing pressure




Spawning Stock Biomass




- F just above FMSY
- SSB < MSY $B_{trigger}$ between Bpa and Blim
- Lower stock size, stock weights, proportion mature, and lower advised F because below trigger

# Saithe in the North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat (4,6,3.a)



Catch (2024) : 60 303t (7 % discards); **2 095 t (landings) from West of Scotland**

F(2025) = 0.34 (Average exploitation pattern (2022-2024) scaled to F 2024);

SSB (2026)= 162 097< $MSY_{Btrigger}$ (180 770 t) $F_{MSY}$= 0.316

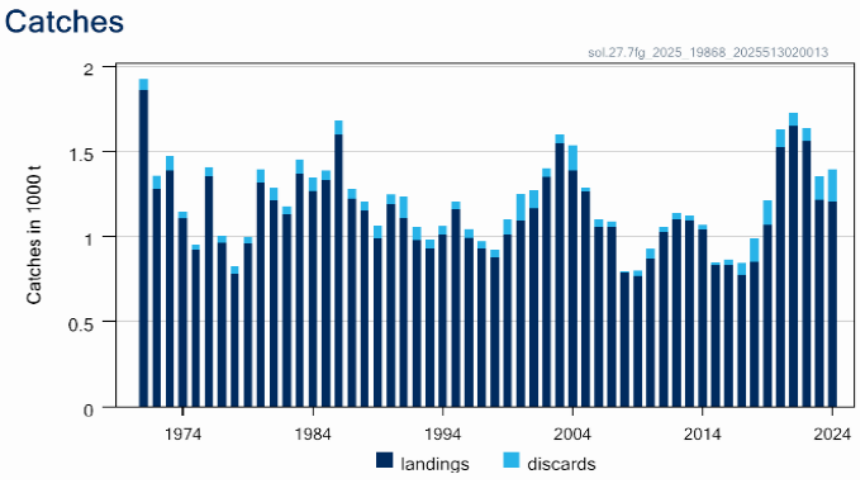
| Basis | Total catch (2026) | Projected landings (2026) | Projected discards* (2026) | Projected landings ## | | $F_{total}$ (ages 4–7) (2026) | $F_{projected\ landings}$ (ages 4–7) (2026) | $F_{projected\ discards}$ (ages 4–7) (2026) | Spawning-stock biomass (SSB; 2027) | % SSB change ** | % total allowable catch (TAC) change # | % advice change # | Probability of SSB (2027) < $B_{lim}$ (%)*** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Division 3.a and Subarea 4 | Subarea 6 | | | | | | | | |
| ICES advice basis | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach: $F_{MSY}$ × SSB (2026)/ MSY $B_{trigger}$ | 60 167 | 56 835 | 3332 | 51 493 | 5342 | 0.283 | 0.27 | 0.014 | 173 194 | 6.8 | −24 | −24 | 5.2 |
| Other scenarios | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| $F_{MSY\ lower}$ × SSB (2026)/MSY $B_{trigger}$ | 38 328 | 36 230 | 2098 | 32 824 | 3406 | 0.172 | 0.163 | 0.009 | 190 394 | 17.5 | −52 | −52 | 1.18 |
| $F_{MSY\ lower}$ | 42 383 | 40 059 | 2324 | 36 293 | 3766 | 0.192 | 0.182 | 0.010 | 187 176 | 15.5 | −46 | −46 | 1.65 |
| $F_{MSY}$ | 66 183 | 62 520 | 3663 | 56 643 | 5877 | 0.32 | 0.30 | 0.017 | 168 502 | 4.0 | −16.3 | −16.3 | 7.4 |
| F = 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 221 546 | 37 | −100 | −100 | 0.030 |
| $F_{PA}$ | 79 535 | 75 081 | 4454 | 68 023 | 7058 | 0.392 | 0.37 | 0.021 | 158 004 | −2.5 | 0.59 | 0.59 | 13.8 |
| SSB (2027) = $B_{lim}$ | 117 051 | 110 255 | 6796 | 99 891 | 10 364 | 0.63 | 0.60 | 0.033 | 130 090 | −19.7 | 48 | 48 | 50 |
| SSB (2027) = $B_{PA}$ = MSY $B_{trigger}$ | 51 240 | 48 422 | 2818 | 43 870 | 4552 | 0.24 | 0.22 | 0.012 | 180 770 | 11.5 | −35 | −35 | 2.6 |
| F = $F_{2025}$ | 70 101 | 66 228 | 3873 | 60 003 | 6225 | 0.34 | 0.32 | 0.018 | 165 358 | 2.0 | −11.3 | −11.3 | 9.0 |

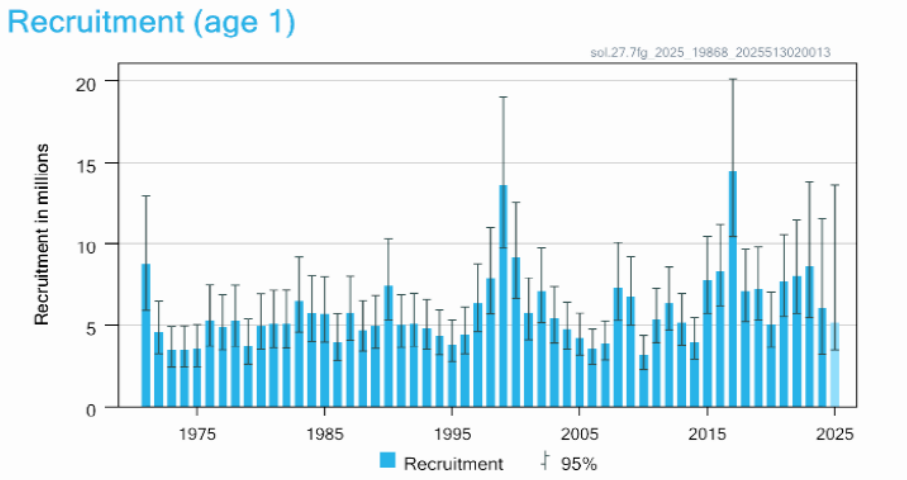
SAM assessment

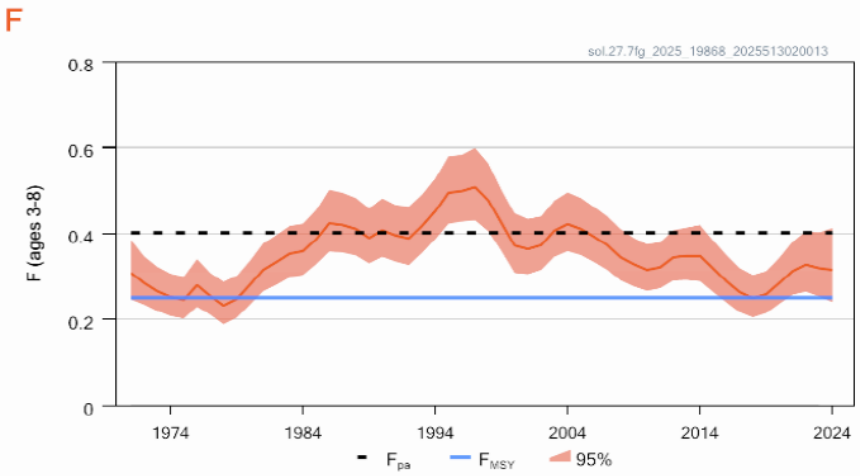
In 2025, quota in 6 is 9.4% (7433 t) of TAC for the stock

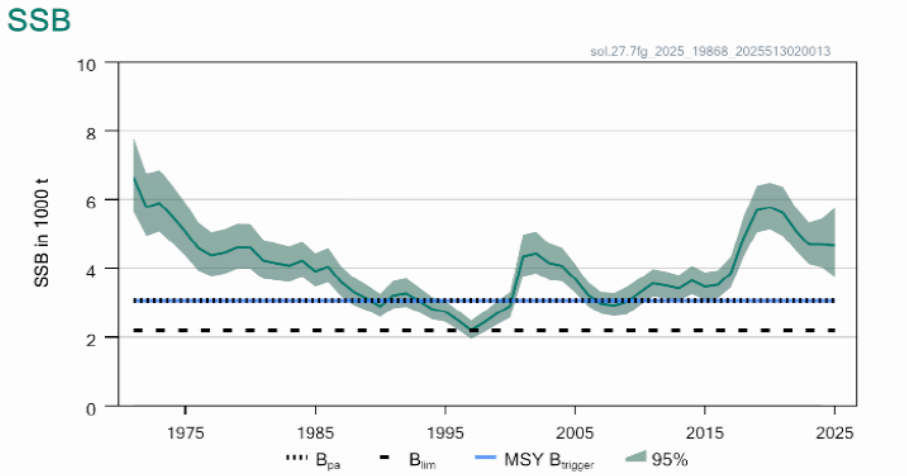
# Sole in the Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea (7.f and 7.g)

**Advice for 2026 MSY:** Catch ≤ 989 t advice -13.9%




- F above $F_{MSY}$
- SSB is above MSY Btrigger
- Decrease in advice: downward revision in stock size (retrospective)
- UK Q3 survey incomplete 2024 and UK catch and sample data revised 2021-2023 – both minimal impact

# Sole in the Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea (7.f and 7.g )

**Catch (2024) : 1396t (13.5 % discards)**

**F(2025) = 0.32 (average 2022-2024)**

**SSB (2026)= 4419 t > $MSY_{Btrigger}$ (3 057t) $F_{MSY}$= 0.251**

| Basis | Total catch (2026) | Projected landings (2026) | Projected discards (2026) | $F_{total}$ (2026) | $F_{projected\ landings}$ (2026) | $F_{projected\ discards}$ (2026) | Spawning-stock biomass (SSB; 2027) | % SSB change * | % advice change^ | Probability of SSB (2027) < $B_{lim}$ (%)# |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ICES advice basis | | | | | | | | | | |
| Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach: F = $F_{MSY}$ | 989 | 931 | 58 | 0.251 | 0.238 | 0.013 | 4361 | −1.31 | −13.9 | 0 |
| Other scenarios | | | | | | | | | | |
| EU MAP^^: $F_{MSY}$ | 989 | 931 | 58 | 0.251 | 0.238 | 0.013 | 4361 | −1.31 | −13.9 | 0 |
| EU MAP^^: $F_{MSY\ lower}$ | 565 | 533 | 32 | 0.136 | 0.129 | 0.007 | 4793 | 8.5 | -51 | 0 |
| EU MAP^^ : $F_{MSY\ upper}$ | 1652 | 1550 | 102 | 0.462 | 0.437 | 0.025 | 3692 | −16.5 | 44 | 0.30 |
| F = 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5367 | 21 | −100 | 0 |
| F= $F_{PA}$ | 1476 | 1387 | 89 | 0.402 | 0.381 | 0.021 | 3871 | −12.4 | 28 | 0.10 |
| $SSB_{2027}$ = $B_{lim}$ | 3150 | 2940 | 210 | 1.20 | 1.13 | 0.063 | 2184 | −51 | 174 | 50 |
| $SSB_{2027}$ =$B_{pa}$ = MSY $B_{trigger}$ | 2279 | 2138 | 141 | 0.71 | 0.67 | 0.038 | 3057 | −31 | 98 | 5.7 |
| $SSB_{2027}$ = $SSB_{2026}$ | 933 | 878 | 55 | 0.24 | 0.22 | 0.012 | 4419 | 0 | −18.8 | 0 |
| F = $F_{2025}$ | 1224 | 1151 | 73 | 0.32 | 0.30 | 0.017 | 4128 | −6.6 | 6.5 | 0.02 |

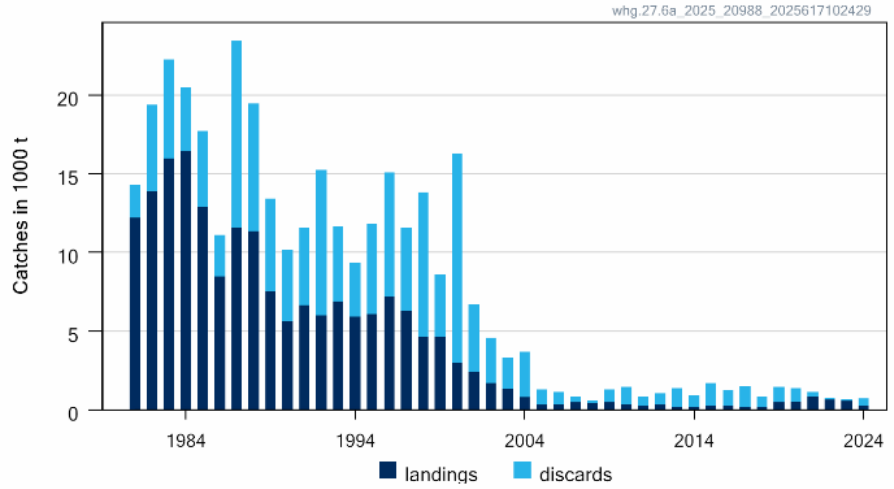
SAM assessment model

# Whiting 6a West of Scotland

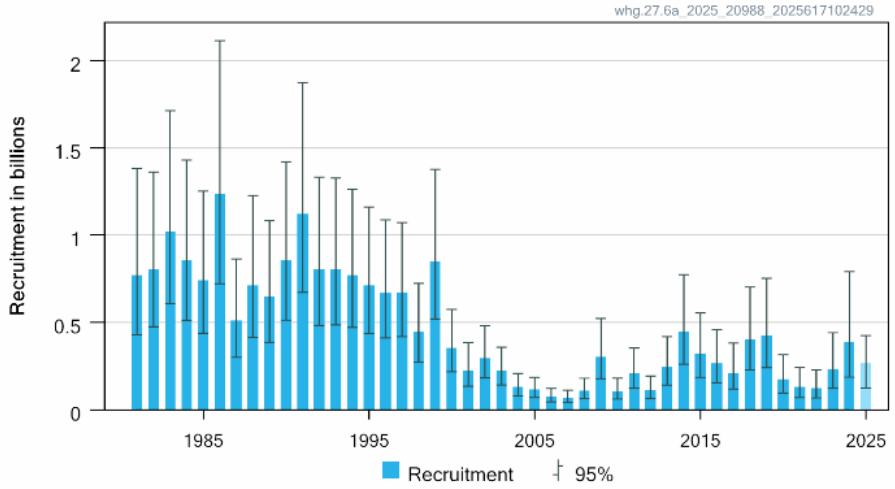


## **Advice for 2026 : MSY:** Catch ≤ 5 364 advice +4.8%

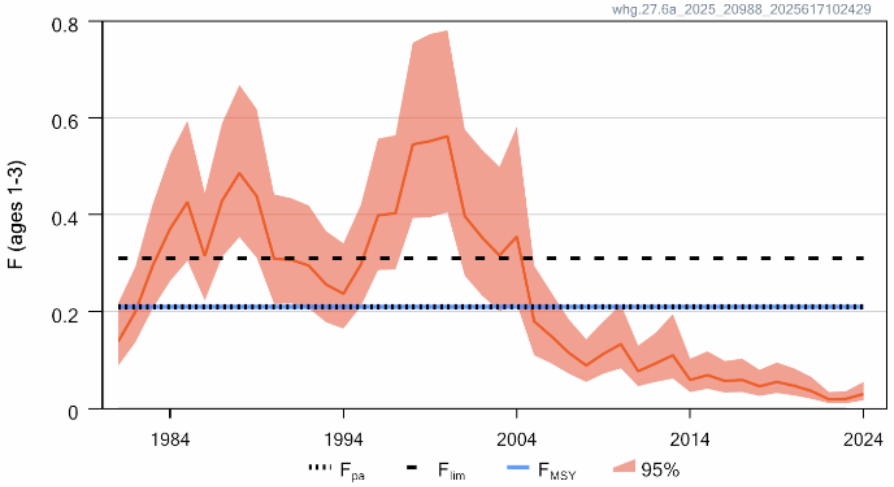
Catches



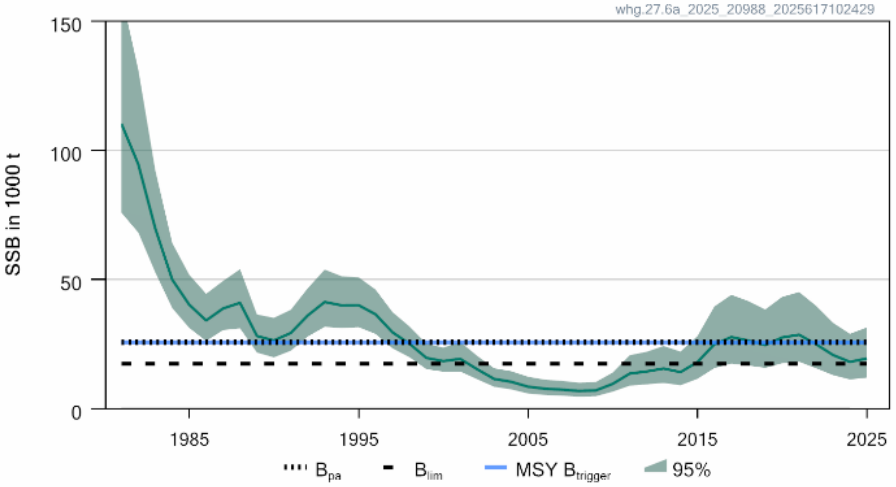

Recruitment (age 0)




F




SSB




- F below $F_{MSY}$
- SSB just below MSY Btrigger
- Increased recruitment leading to increased biomass in 2026 (interim year)
- Tendency to over estimate SSB - retro

# Whiting 6a West of Scotland



**Catch (2024) = 716 t ( 63 % discards)**

**F(2025) = 0.030 (average 2020-2024, rescaled to 2024)**

**SSB (2026)= 25 542 > $B_{lim}$ (17 286) but < MSY Btrigger (25 597) $F_{MSY}$= 0.21**

| Basis | Total catch (2026) | Projected landings (2026) | Projected discards (2026) | $F_{total}$ (2026) | $F_{projected\ landings}$ (2026) | $F_{projected\ discards}$ (2026) | SSB (2027) | % SSB change * | % advice change** | % probability of being below $B_{lim}$ in 2027^ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ICES advice basis | | | | | | | | | | |
| Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach: $F_{MSY}$ × SSB (2026)/MSY $B_{trigger}$ | 5364 | 2809 | 2555 | 0.21 | 0.079 | 0.131 | 23970 | −6.2 | 4.8 | 13.5 |
| Other scenarios | | | | | | | | | | |
| MSY approach: $F_{MSY\ lower}$ × SSB (2026) /MSY $B_{trigger}$ | 4494 | 2354 | 2140 | 0.173 | 0.065 | 0.108 | 24771 | −3.0 | −12.2 | 11.0 |
| F = 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 28825 | 12.9 | −100 | 2.8 |
| F= $F_{MSY}$ | 5374 | 2815 | 2559 | 0.21 | 0.079 | 0.131 | 23960 | −6.2 | 5.0 | 13.5 |
| F= $F_{MSY\ lower}$ | 4503 | 2359 | 2144 | 0.173 | 0.065 | 0.108 | 24764 | −3.0 | −12.0 | 11.0 |
| F= $F_{PA}$ | 5374 | 2815 | 2559 | 0.21 | 0.079 | 0.131 | 23960 | −6.2 | 5.0 | 13.5 |
| SSB (2027) = $B_{lim}$ | 13044 | 6756 | 6288 | 0.6 | 0.23 | 0.38 | 17286 | −32 | 155 | 50 |
| SSB(2027) = $B_{PA}$ = MSY $B_{trigger}$ | 3591 | 1888 | 1703 | 0.136 | 0.051 | 0.085 | 25597 | 0.22 | −30 | 8.6 |
| SSB (2027) = SSB (2026) | 3652 | 1920 | 1732 | 0.138 | 0.052 | 0.086 | 25542 | 0 | −29 | 8.7 |
| F = $F_{2025}$ | 836 | 442 | 394 | 0.030 | 0.011 | 0.019 | 28029 | 9.7 | −84 | 3.5 |

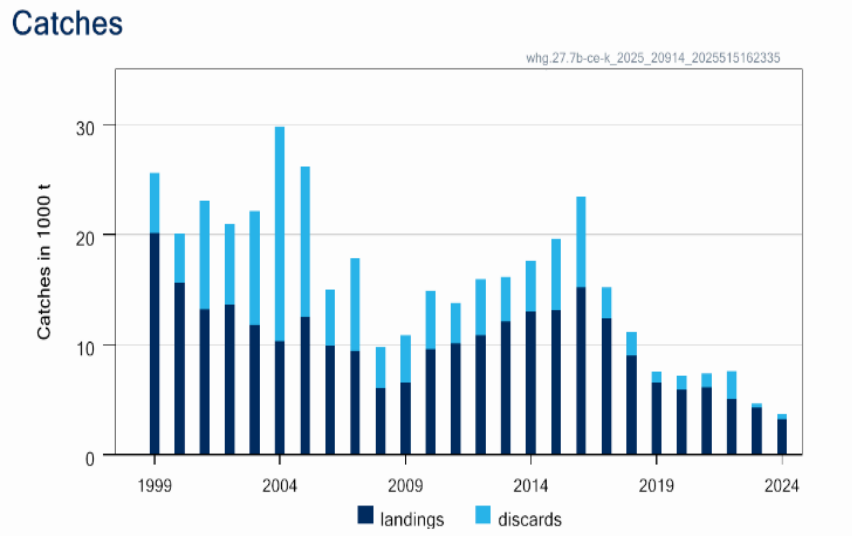
SAM assessment

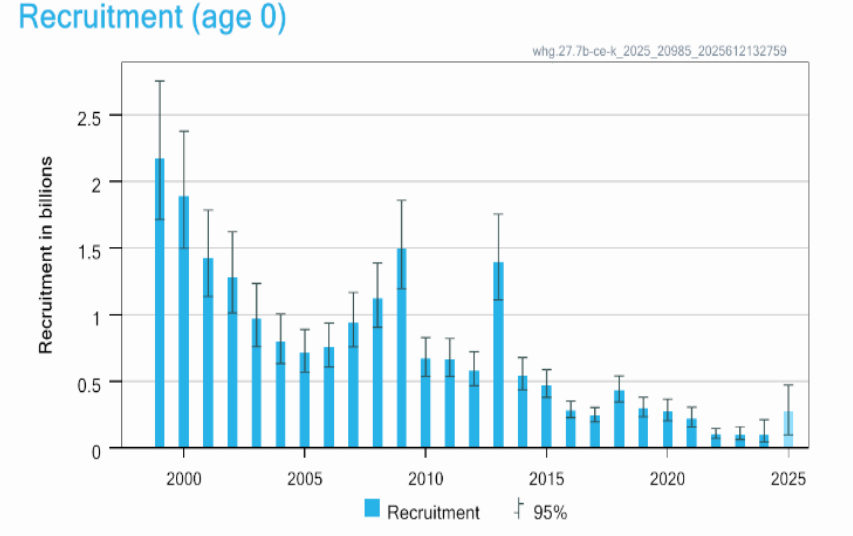
TAC includes Division 6.b, for which advice is given separately. ICES recommends, therefore, that the TAC area corresponds to the assessment area.

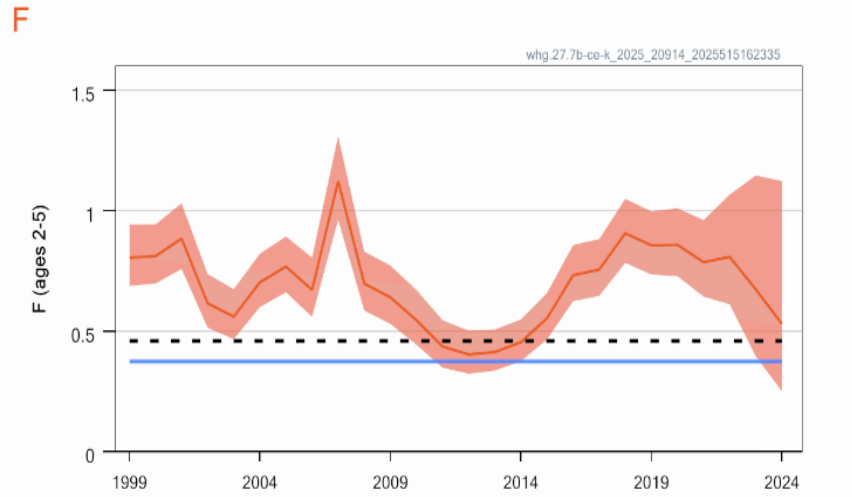
# Whiting 7b-c and 7e-k

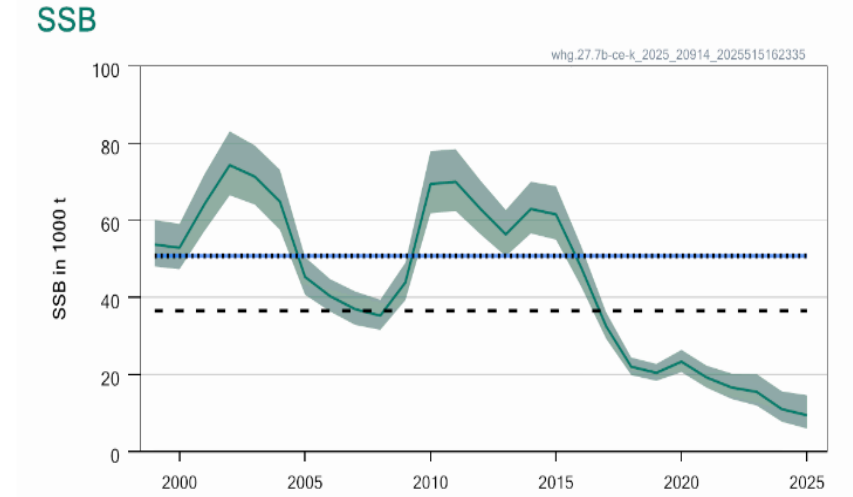
## **Advice for 2026 : MSY and PA:** zero catch






- F below $F_{MSY}$
- SSB is below $B_{lim}$
- No catch scenario brings SSB above Blim with 50% probability
- Recruitment is low
- Overestimate SSB and underestimate F
- UK catch and sampling revised 2021-2023 – some rescaling

# Whiting 7b-c and 7e-k



**Catch (2024) = 3 675 t ( 12 % discards)**
**F(2025) = 0.67 (average F 2022-2024)**
**SSB (2026)= 11 192 < $B_{lim}$ (36 571)  $F_{MSY}$= 0.375**

| Basis | Total catch (2026) | Projected landings (2026) | Projected discards (2026) | $F_{total}$ (2026) | $F_{projected\ landings}$ (2026) | $F_{projected\ discards}$ (2026) | Spawning-stock biomass (SSB; 2027) | % SSB change* | % TAC change** | Probability SSB < $B_{lim}$ in 2027 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ICES advice basis | | | | | | | | | | |
| Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach: F=0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16046 | 43 | −100 | 100 |
| Other scenarios | | | | | | | | | | |
| EU MAP^^: $F_{MSY}$ | 1975 | 1566 | 409 | 0.375 | 0.31 | 0.064 | 14680 | 31 | −58 | 100 |
| EU MAP^^: $F_{MSY\ lower}$ | 1686 | 1358 | 328 | 0.315 | 0.26 | 0.053 | 14844 | 33 | −64 | 100 |
| $F_{MSY} \times SSB_{2026}/MSY\ B_{trigger}$ | 489 | 392 | 97 | 0.083 | 0.069 | 0.0140 | 15867 | 42 | −90 | 100 |
| $F_{MSY\ lower} \times SSB_{2026}/MSY\ B_{trigger}$ | 412 | 330 | 82 | 0.069 | 0.058 | 0.0110 | 15896 | 42 | −91 | 100 |
| $F= F_{MSY} = F_{PA}$ | 1975 | 1566 | 409 | 0.375 | 0.31 | 0.064 | 14680 | 31 | −58 | 100 |
| $SSB_{2027} = B_{lim}$^ | | | | | | | | | | |
| $SSB_{2027} = B_{PA} = B_{trigger}$^ | | | | | | | | | | |
| $F = F_{2025}$ | 3275 | 2519 | 756 | 0.67 | 0.56 | 0.114 | 13529 | 21 | −31 | 100 |
| $SSB_{2027} = SSB_{2026}$ | 1910 | 1315 | 595 | 1.62 | 1.34 | 0.27 | 11182 | 0 | −60 | 100 |

## SAM assessment

Assessment and advice are for divisions 7.b-ce-k, including rectangles 33E2 and 33E3 (0.8% of catch)

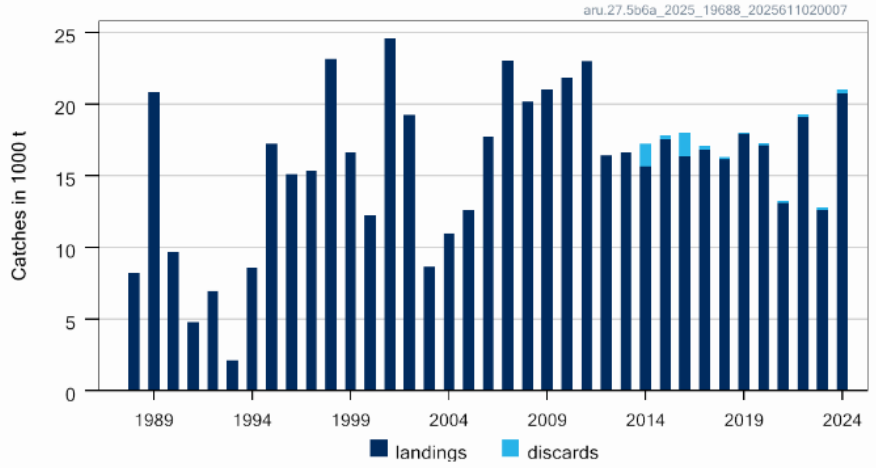
Historically fished under a common TAC with whiting in Division 7.d
In 2025 limits for the two components in place

# Greater silver smelt Faroes and W Scotland (5b 6a)

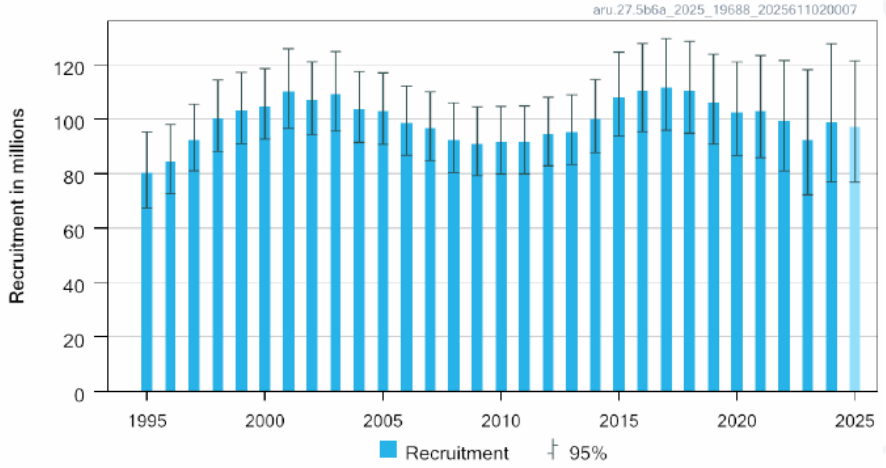


**Advice for 2026 : MSY** 18 441 t  advice -2.8%

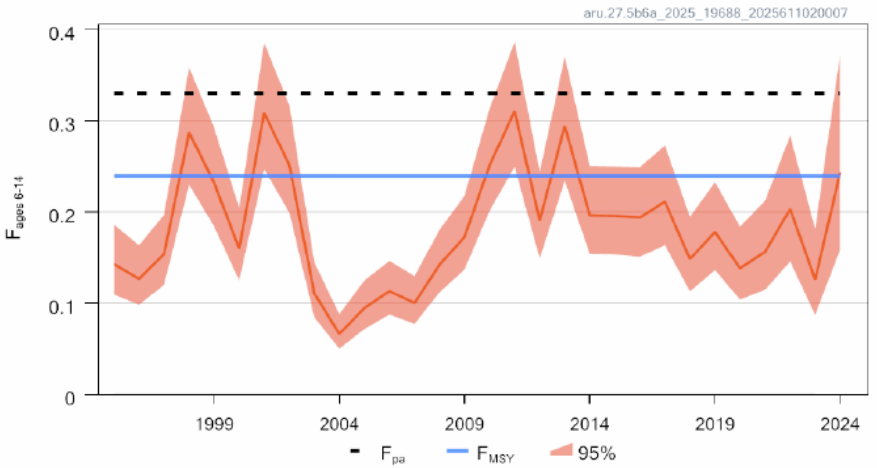
Catches



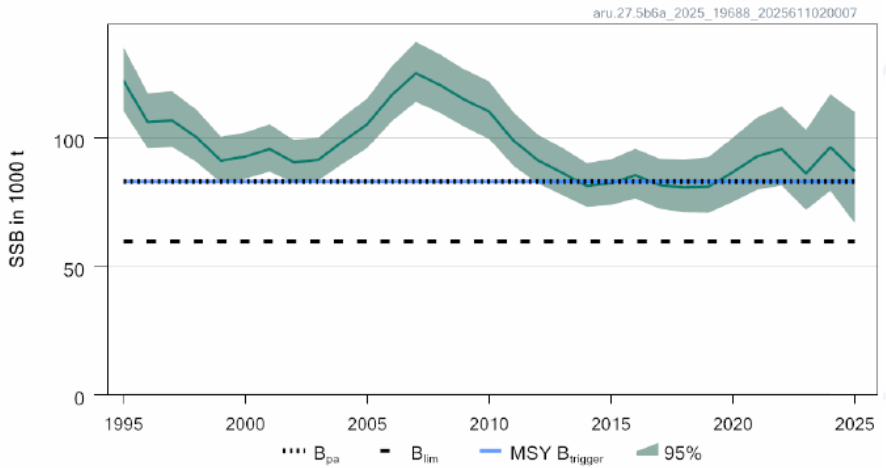

Recruitment (age 5)




Fishing mortality




Spawning-stock biomass




- F at $F_{MSY}$
- SSB above MSYbtrigger
- Small decline in stock size
- 2018-2023 catch updated – minimal impact

# Greater silver smelt Faroes and W Scotland (5b 6a)



**Catch (2024) = 20 781t (negligible discards)**

**F(2025) = 0.232 (catch 19047 t)**

**SSB (2026)= 83157> MSYBtrigger (82 999)** **$F_{MSY}$= 0.24**

Table 2 Greater silver smelt in divisions 5.b and 6.a. Annual catch scenarios. All weights are in tonnes.

| Basis | Total catch (2026) | Projected landings (2026)^^ | Projected discards (2026)^^ | $F_{6-14}$ (2026) | $F_{Projected\ landings}$ (2026)^^ | $F_{Projected\ discards}$ (2026)^^ | Spawning-stock biomass (SSB; 2027) | % SSB change* | % total allowable catch (TAC) change@ | % advice change^ | Probability SSB < $B_{lim}$ in 2027 (%) ^^^ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ICES advice basis | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MSY approach: $F_{FMSY}$ | 18 441 | - | - | 0.24 | - | - | 80 101 | −3.7 | | −2.8 | 1 |
| Other scenarios | | | | | | | | | | | |
| F = 0 | 0 | - | - | 0 | - | - | 96 843 | 16.5 | | −100 | 0 |
| F = $F_{sq}$ (2024) | 18 111 | - | - | 0.23 | - | - | 80 663 | −3.0 | | −4.5 | 5 |
| F = $F_{PA}$ | 24 647 | - | - | 0.33 | - | - | 74 939 | −9.9 | | 30 | 6 |
| SSB (2027) = MSY $B_{trigger}$ | 15 493 | - | - | 0.191 | - | - | 82 999 | −0.190 | | −18.3 | 0 |
| SSB (2027) = $B_{lim}$ | 42 490 | - | - | 0.65 | - | - | 59 730 | −28 | | 124 | 50 |
| [illegible] *** | | | | | | | | | | | |

SAM assessment

Management measures are set independently by the Faroe Islands in Division 5.b and by EU and UK for subareas 5–7.

# Black scabbardfish in the Northeast Atlantic and Arctic Ocean

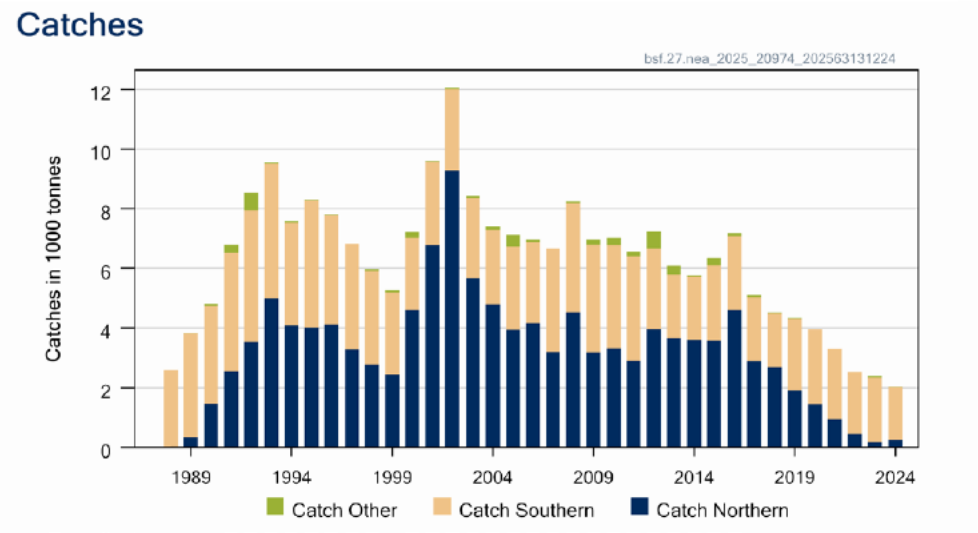
## Advice for 2026 and 2027

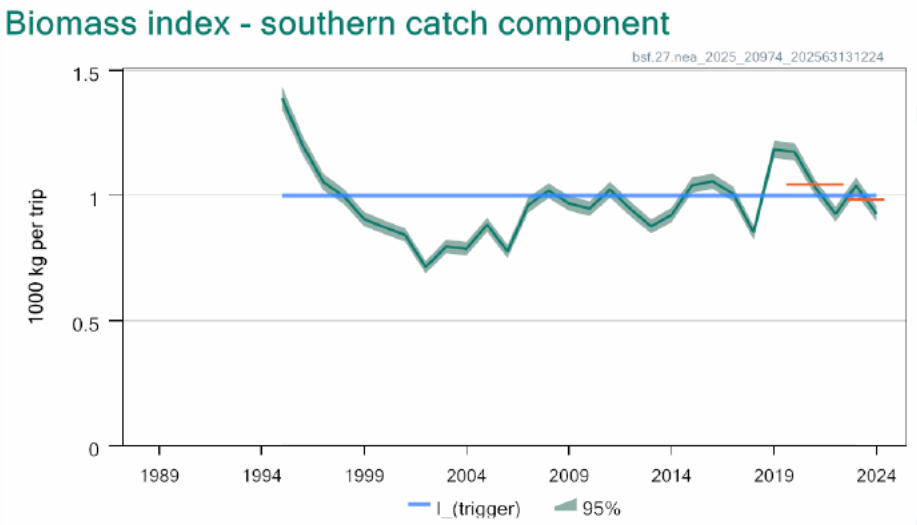


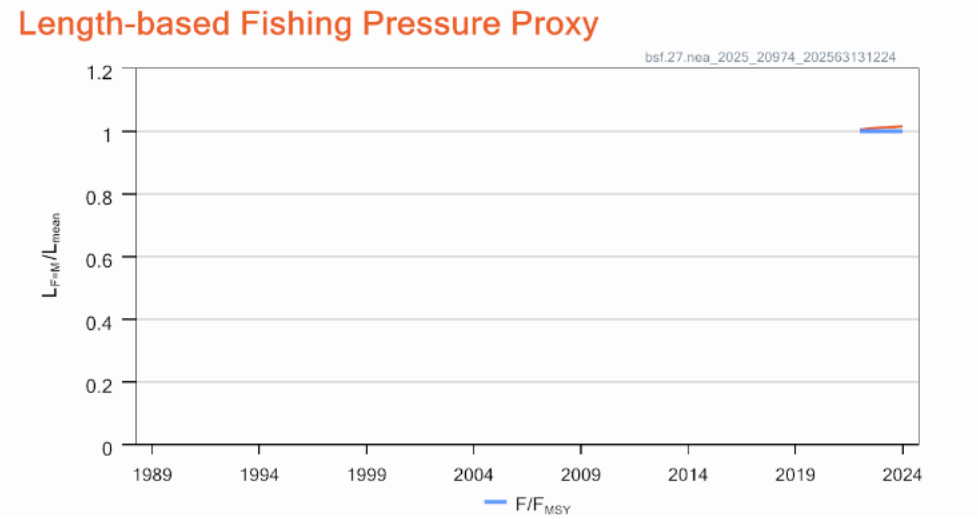
- Benchmarked 2025 – WKBDEEP
- Examined
  - Input data – landings, length frequencies, CPUE, length-weight
- Accepted rfb rule (previously could not assess status, did attempt some modelling)

# Black scabbardfish in the Northeast Atlantic and Arctic Ocean

**Advice for 2026 and 2027, MSY:** Catch each year ≤ 1 889 t advice change NA




- F > FMSY proxy
- Biomass < Itrigger
- F proxy from whole area, biomass index from south only – where most of the catch comes from

## Landings (2024): 2030 t (discards negligible)

## Index ratio (2024)= 927 kg/trip < $I_{Btrigger}$ (1000 kg/trip)

| | |
|---|---|
| Average last three years of catch [$A_y$] (2022–2024) | 2 311 tonnes |
| Stock biomass trend | |
| Index A (2023, 2024) | 984 kg.trip$^{-1}$ |
| Index B (2020, 2021, 2022) | 1 045 kg.trip$^{-1}$ |
| r: Index ratio (A/B) | 0.94 |
| Fishing pressure | |
| Mean catch length ($L_{mean}$ = $L_{2024}$) | 108.82 |
| Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) proxy length ($L_{F=M}$) | 110.5 |
| Fishing pressure proxy ($L_{F=M}/L_{mean}$) | 1.02 |
| f: multiplier for relative mean length in catches ($L_{mean}/L_{F=M}$) | 0.98 |
| Biomass safeguard | |
| Last index value ($I_{2024}$) | 927 kg.trip$^{-1}$ |
| Index trigger value ($I_{trigger}$ = $I_{loss}$ × 1.4) | 1 000 kg.trip$^{-1}$ |
| b: multiplier for index relative to trigger min{$I_{2024}/I_{trigger}$, 1} | 0.93 |
| Precautionary multiplier to maintain biomass above $B_{lim}$ with 95% probability | |
| m: multiplier (generic multiplier based on life history) | 0.95 |
| rfb calculation** | 1 889 tonnes |
| Stability clause (+20%/−30% compared to $A_y$, only applied if b ≥ 1) | Not applied |
| Discard rate | Negligible |
| Catch advice for 2026 and 2027 ($A_y$ × stability clause) | 1 889 tonnes |
| Projected landings corresponding to advice*** | 1 889 tonnes |
| % advice change^ | Not applicable |

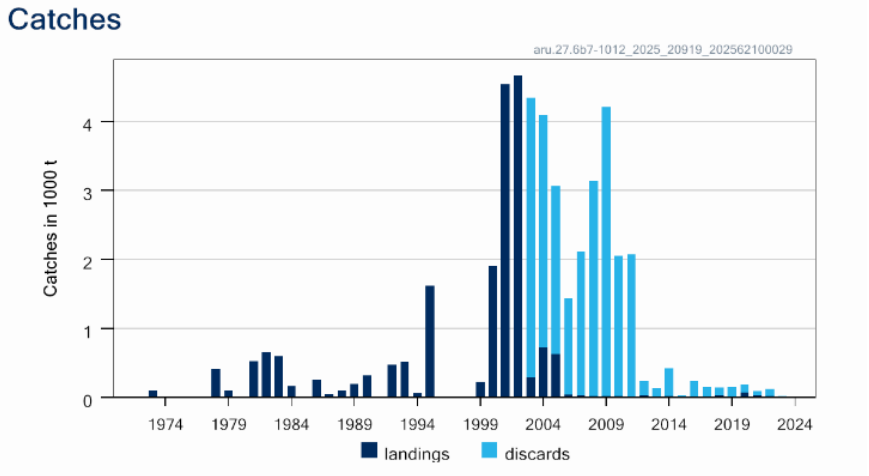
- $Ay{+}1 = Ay \times r \times f \times b \times m$

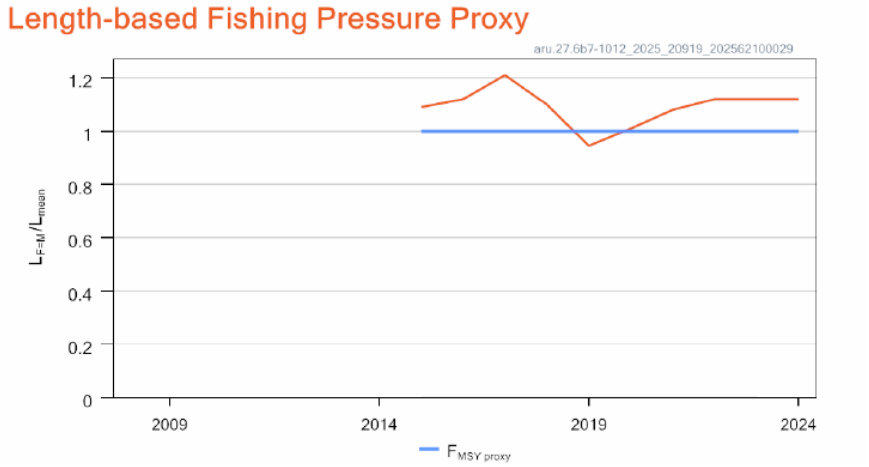
Rfb rule
Used avg last 3 years catch as basis – changes in fishery and assessment method

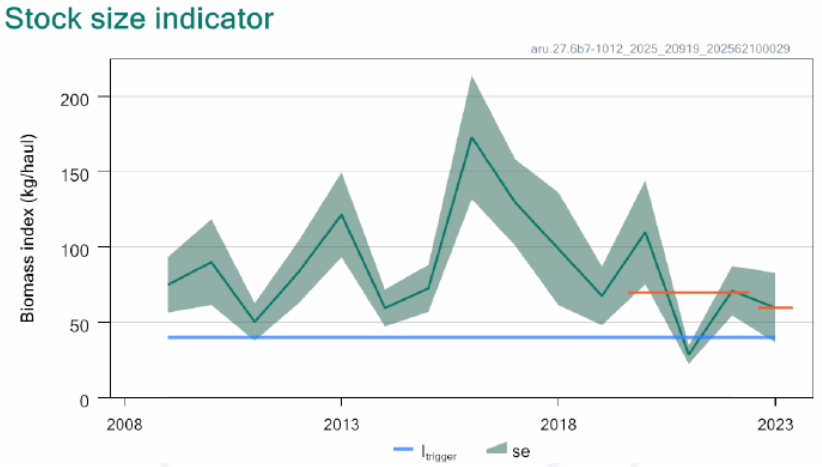
# Greater Silver Smelt subareas 7-10, 12 and division 6b other areas

**Advice for 2026 and 2027, MSY:** Catch ≤ 61 t Landings ≤ 12 t -30%






- F above FMSY proxy
- Biomass index above Itrigger
- Decreased advice: decrease in biomass, stability clause applied
- Survey doesn't cover whole stock area but is where most catch is taken
- 2024 survey incomplete and not used – index A only 1 year

## Catch (2024) : 0.15 t (53% discards)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Previous catch advice $A_y$ (2025) | | 87 tonnes |
| Stock biomass trend | | |
| Index A (2023) | | 60 kg haul$^{-1}$ |
| Index B (2020, 2021, 2022) | | 70 kg haul$^{-1}$ |
| r: Index ratio (A/B) | | 0.85 |
| Fishing pressure | | |
| Mean catch length ($L_{mean} = L_{2024}$) | | 22.8 cm |
| Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) proxy length ($L_{F=M}$) | | 25.5 cm |
| Fishing pressure proxy ($L_{F=M/Lmean}$) | | 1.12 |
| f: multiplier for relative mean length in catches ($L_{mean}/L_{F=M}$) | | 0.9 |
| Biomass safeguard | | |
| Last index value ($I_{2023}$) | | 60 kg haul$^{-1}$ |
| Index trigger value ($I_{trigger} = I_{loss} \times 1.4$) | | 40 kg haul$^{-1}$ |
| b: multiplier for index relative to trigger $\min\{I_{2023}/I_{trigger}, 1\}$ | | 1.00 |
| Precautionary multiplier to maintain biomass above $B_{lim}$ with 95% probability | | |
| m: multiplier (generic multiplier based on life history) | | 0.90 |
| RFB calculation** | | 60 tonnes |
| Stability clause (+20%/−30% compared to $A_y$, only applied if b ≥ 1) | Applied | −30% |
| Discard rate | | 80% |
| Catch advice for 2026 and 2027 ($A_y \times$ stability clause) | | 61 tonnes |
| Projected landings corresponding to advice*** | | 12 tonnes |
| % advice change^ | | −30% |

- $Ay{+}1 = Ay \times r \times f \times b \times m$
- Stability clause applied

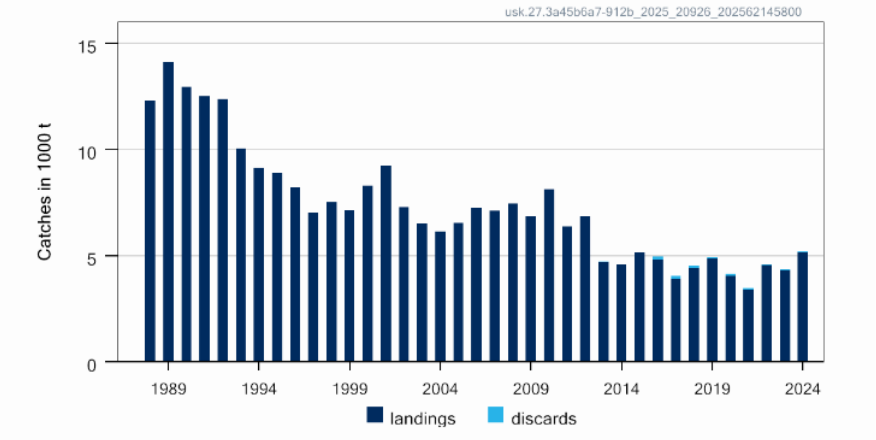
rfb rule

# Tusk subareas 4 and 7–9, divisions 3.a, 5.b, 6.a, and 12.b (Northeast Atlantic)

**Advice for 2026 and 2027, MSY:** Catch ≤ 5 336 t -23%

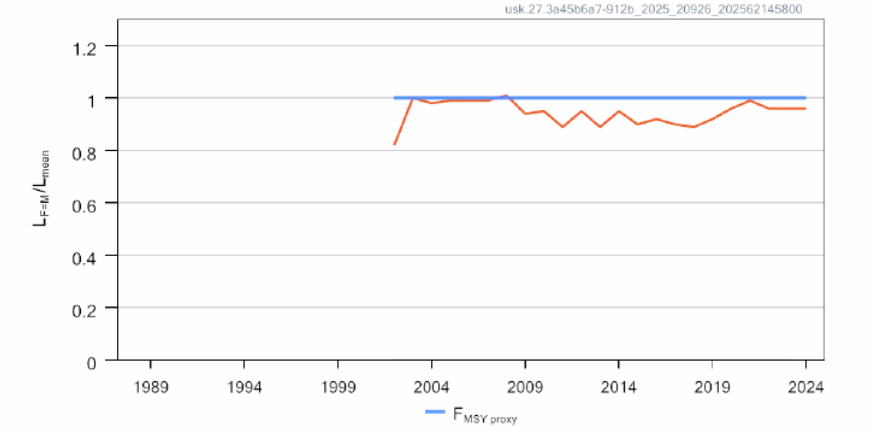


Catches

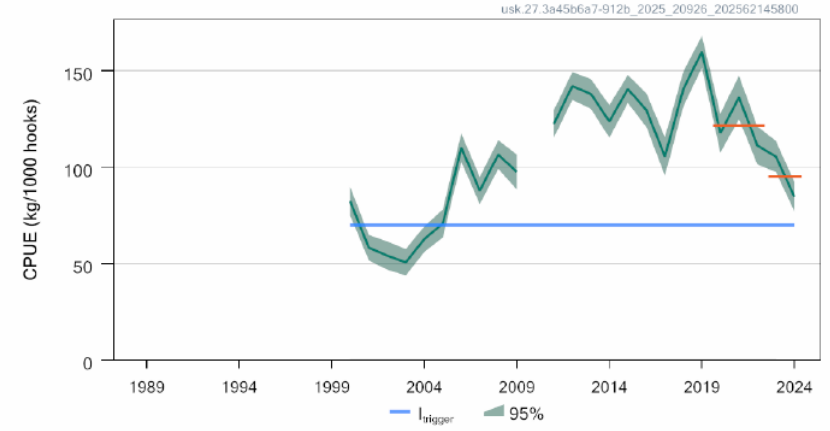



- F below FMSY proxy
- Biomass index above Itrigger
- Decreased advice: decrease in biomass

Length-based fishing pressure proxy




Biomass Index



## Catch (2024) : 5186 t (negligible discards)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Previous catch advice for $A_y$ (2025) | | 6 924 tonnes |
| Stock biomass trend | | |
| Index A (2023, 2024) | | 95 kg/ 1 000 hooks |
| Index B (2020, 2021, 2022) | | 122 kg/ 1 000 hooks |
| r: index ratio (A/B) | | 0.78 |
| Fishing pressure | | |
| Mean catch length ($L_{mean} = L_{2024}$) | | 55.5 cm |
| Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) proxy length ($L_{F=M}$) | | 53.2 cm |
| Fishing pressure proxy ($L_{F=M\ 2024}/L_{mean}$) | | 0.96 |
| f: multiplier for relative mean length in catches ($L_{mean}/L_{F=M}$) | | 1.04 |
| Biomass safeguard | | |
| Last index value ($I_{2024}$) | | 85 kg/ 1 000 hooks |
| Index trigger value ($I_{trigger} = I_{loss} \times 1.4$) | | 71 kg/1 000 hooks |
| b: multiplier for index relative to trigger $\min(I_{2024}/I_{trigger}, 1)$ | | 1 |
| Precautionary multiplier to maintain biomass above $B_{lim}$ with 95% probability | | |
| m: multiplier (generic multiplier based on life history) | | 0.95 |
| RFB calculation ** | | 5 336 tonnes |
| Stability clause (+20%/−30% compared to $A_y$, only applied if b ≥ 1) | Not applied | - |
| Discard rate | | Considered negligible |
| Catch advice for each of the years 2026 and 2027** | | 5 336 tonnes |
| Projected landings corresponding to advice | | ICES cannot estimate projected landings |
| % advice change^ | | −23 % |

rfb rule

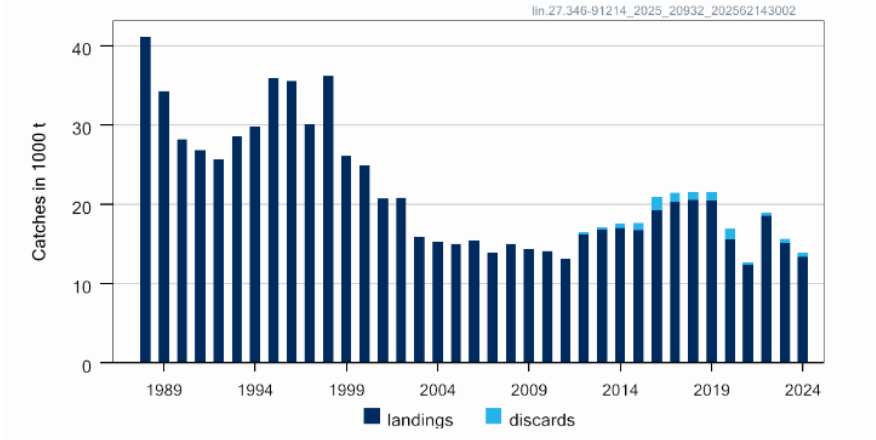
- $Ay{+}1 = Ay \times r \times f \times b \times m$

# Ling subareas 3, 4, 6–9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and Arctic Ocean)

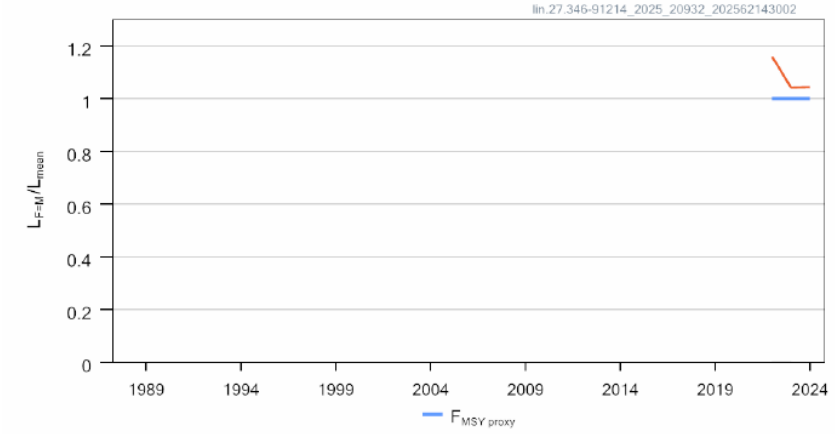
**Advice for 2026 and 2027, MSY:** Catch ≤ 9 322 t -30%



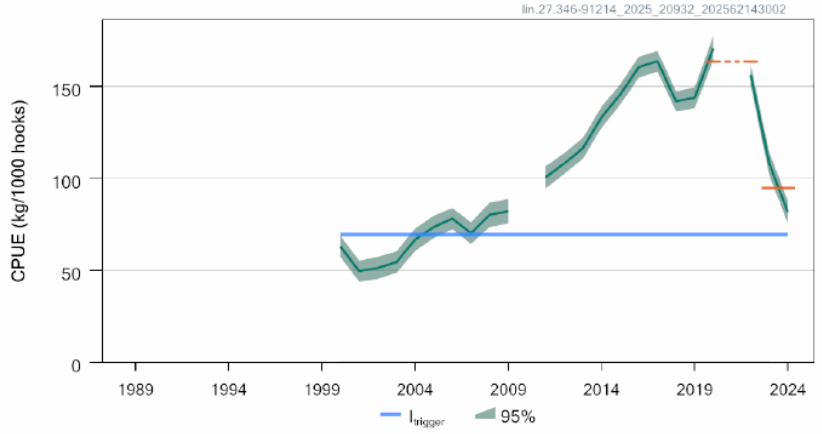
Catches




Length-based Fishing Pressure Proxy




Biomass index




- F above FMSY proxy
- Biomass index above Itrigger
- Decreased advice: decrease in biomass, stability clause applied
- 2021 index not reliable Index B therefore 2019, 2020, and 2022

# Ling subareas 3, 4, 6–9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and Arctic Ocean)



## Catch (2024) : 13 842 t (4.3% discards)

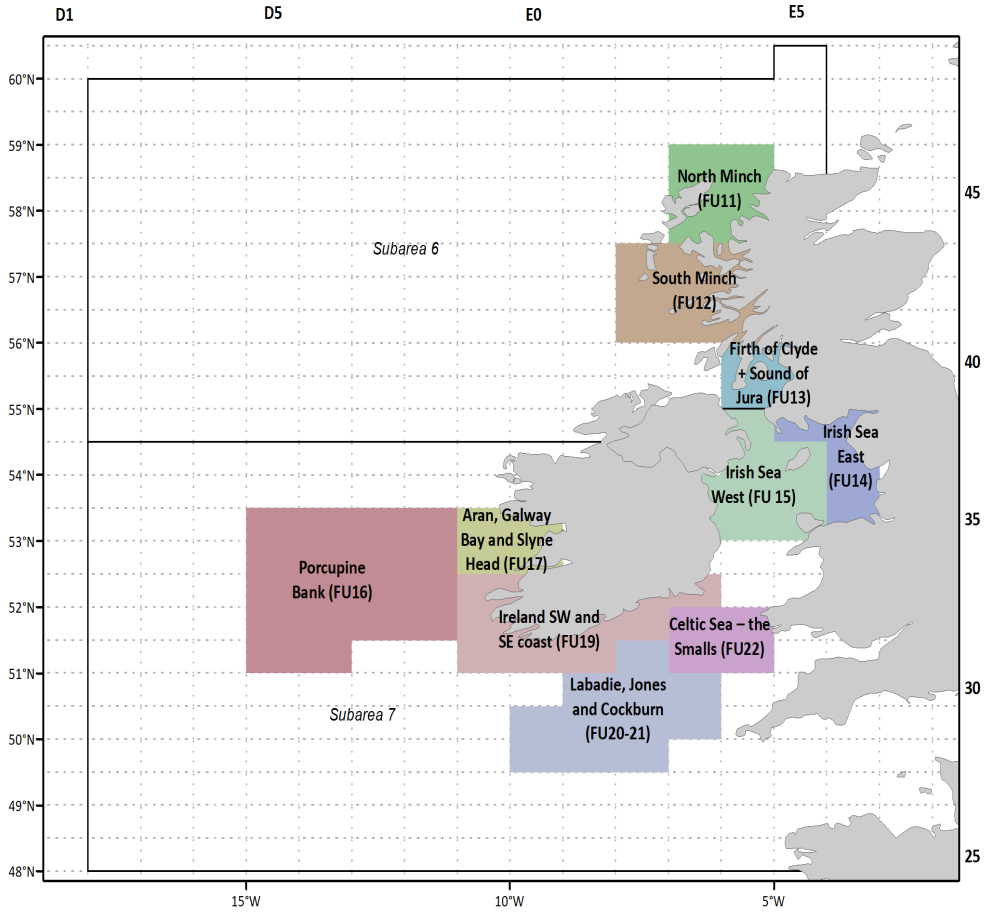
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Previous catch advice $A_y$ (2025) | | 13 317 tonnes |
| Stock biomass trend | | |
| Index A (2023, 2024) | | 95 kg per 1 000 hooks |
| Index B (2019, 2020, 2022) | | 157 kg per 1 000 hooks |
| r: index ratio (A/B) | | 0.6 |
| Fishing pressure | | |
| Mean catch length ($L_{mean} = L_{2024}$) | | 83 cm |
| Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) proxy length ($L_{F=M}$) | | 87 cm |
| Fishing pressure proxy ($L_{F=M\ 2024}/L_{mean}$) | | 1.04 |
| f: multiplier for relative mean length in catches ($L_{mean}/L_{F=M\ 2024}$) | | 0.96 |
| Biomass safeguard | | |
| Last index value ($I_{2024}$) | | 82 kg per 1 000 hooks |
| Index trigger value ($I_{trigger} = I_{loss} \times 1.4$) | | 69 kg per 1 000 hooks |
| b: multiplier for index relative to trigger $\min\{I_{2024}/I_{trigger}, 1\}$ | | 1 |
| Precautionary multiplier to maintain biomass above $B_{lim}$ with 95% probability | | |
| m: multiplier (generic multiplier based on life history) | | 0.95 |
| RFB calculation ** | | 7 318 tonnes |
| Stability clause (+20%/−30% compared to $A_y$, only applied if b ≥ 1) | Applied | −30% |
| Discard rate | | 3.0% |
| Catch advice for 2026 and 2027 ($A_y$ × stability clause) | | 9 322 tonnes |
| Projected landings corresponding to advice*** | | 9 038 tonnes |
| % advice change^ | | −30% |

rfb rule

- $Ay{+}1 = Ay \times r \times f \times b \times m$ Stability clause applied

# Nephrops






| FU | Advice 2024 | Change | Basis |
|---|---|---|---|
| 11 – North Minch | ≤ 3691 t | -12.5% | MSY |
| 12- South Minch | ≤ 5419 t | +15.4% | MSY |
| 13 – Firth of Clyde + Sound of Jura | ≤ 4924 t | +9.0% | MSY |
| 16 – Porcupine Bank | 2813 – 3488 t | -25% | MAP |
| 17 – Aran grounds | 565 – 649 t | +43% | MAP |
| 20-21 Celtic Sea | ≤ 2153 t | +15.4% | MSY |
| 22 – Celtic Sea, Bristol Channel | ≤ 1541 t | -19.4% | MSY |

Advice released autumn

Management should be at FU level

# Thank you for your attention!

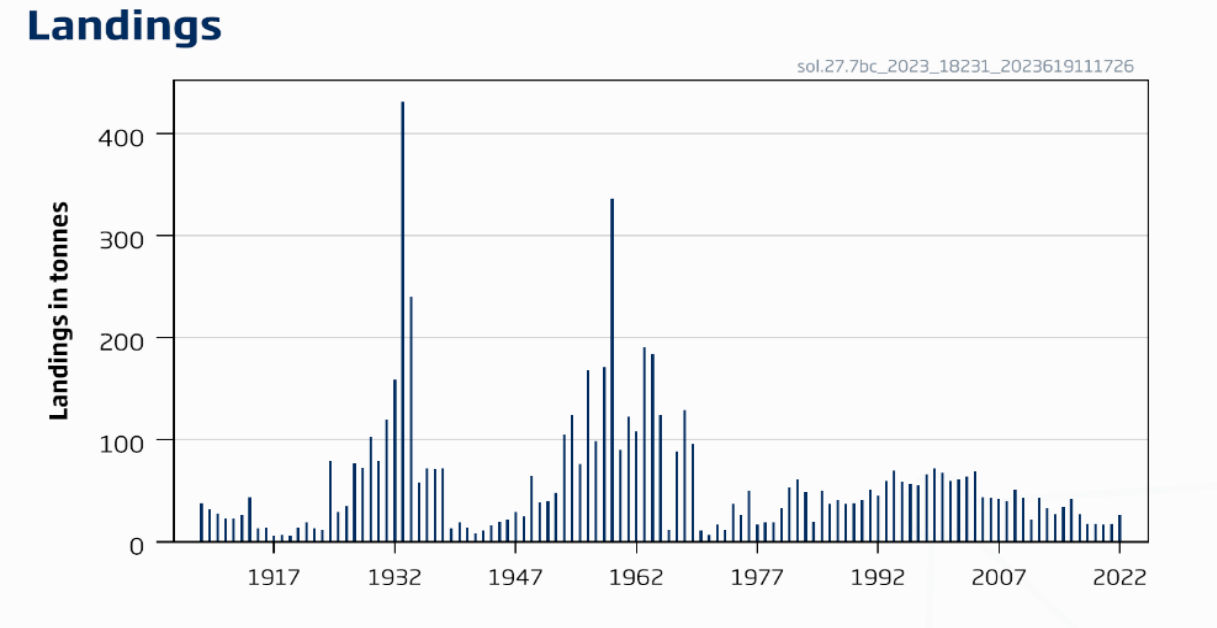
Joanne.Morgan@ices.dk

ICES
CIEM
Science for sustainable seas

# Sole in the West of Ireland (7.bc)

**Advice for 2024, 2025 and 2026: PA:** Catch ≤ 15 t -20%



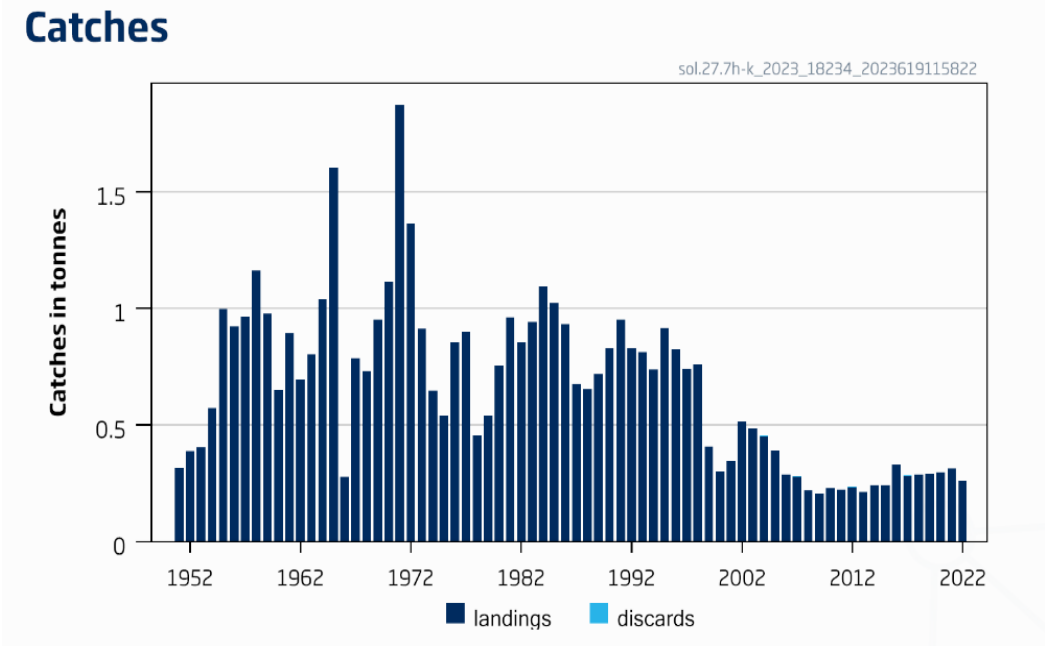



- State of the stock unknown.
- Category 6
- Landings in 2022, 26 t; discards considered negligible.
- Precautionary reduction advised from 19 t to 15 t.
- Buffer applied

# Sole in the Celtic Sea South, southwest of Ireland (7.h–k)

**Advice for 2024, 2025, 2026: PA:** Catch ≤ 170 t -20%



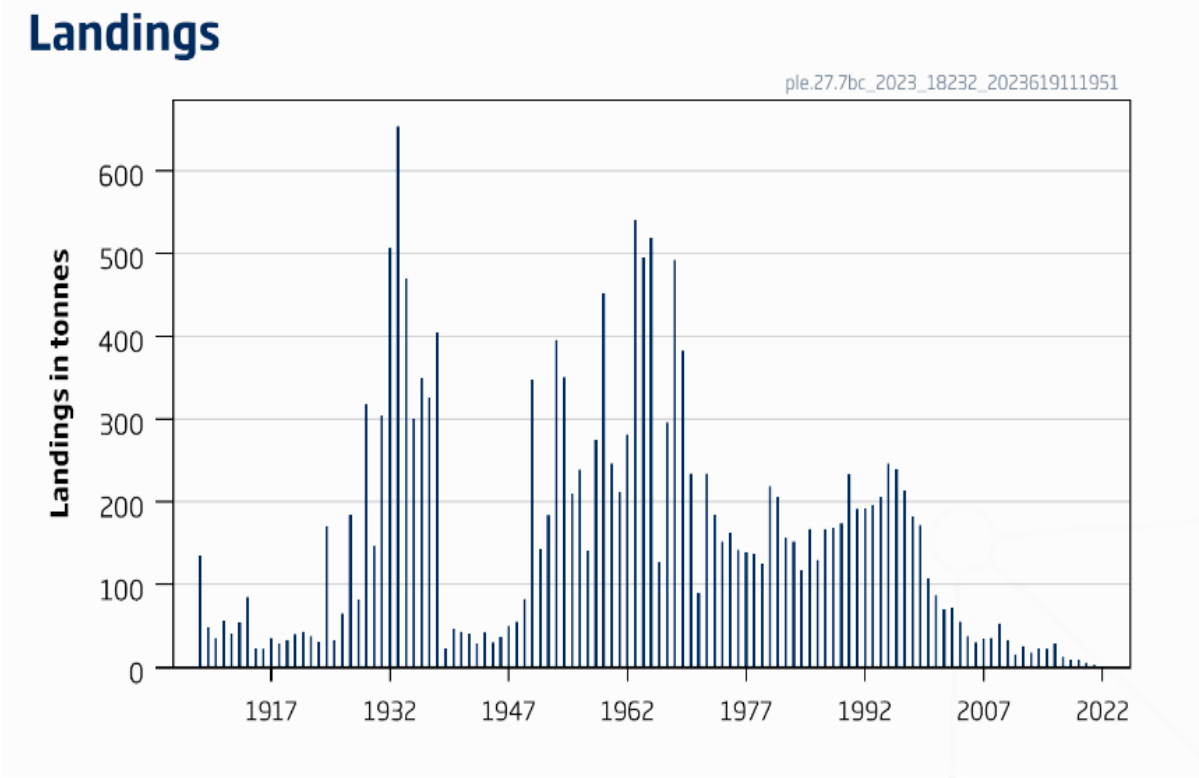



- Category 5
- Stock identity uncertain, research ongoing
- There is area misreporting of the catch but unquantified
- Catch in 2022 = 264 t - discards negligible

# Plaice West of Ireland (7.b-c)

**Advice for 2024, 2025, 2026: PA:** Catch ≤ 15 t advice -20%



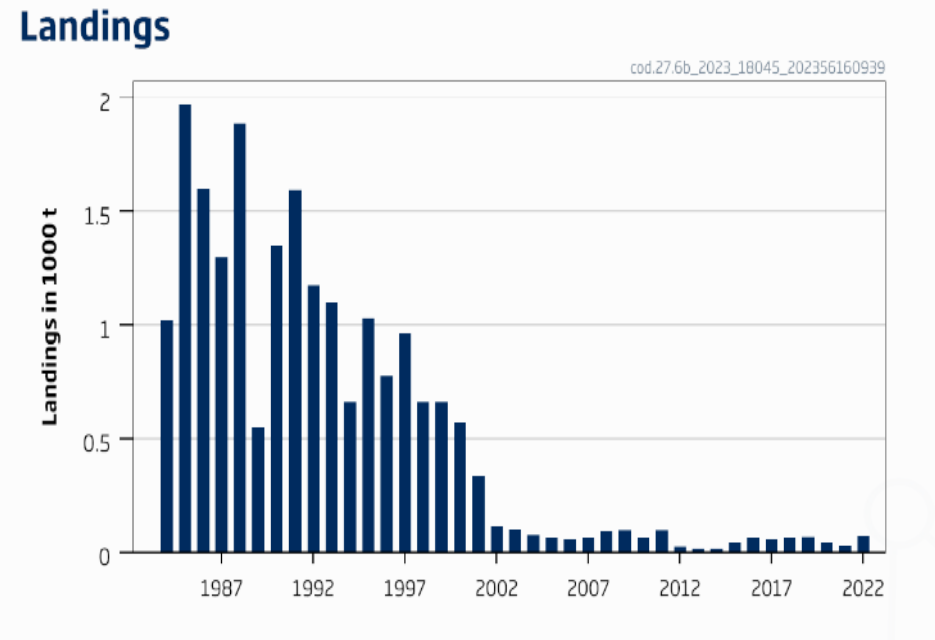



- Category 6
- Precautionary buffer applied
- Discarding takes place but not fully quantified
- Catch (without discards) 2022: 2 t

# Cod in Rockall (6b)

**Advice for 2024, 2025, 2026: PA:** Catch =11 t  -20%



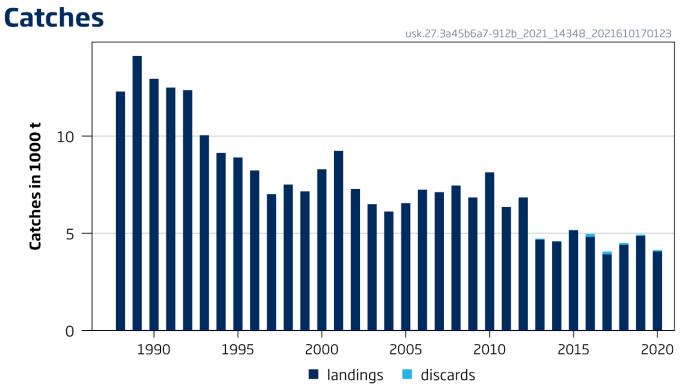


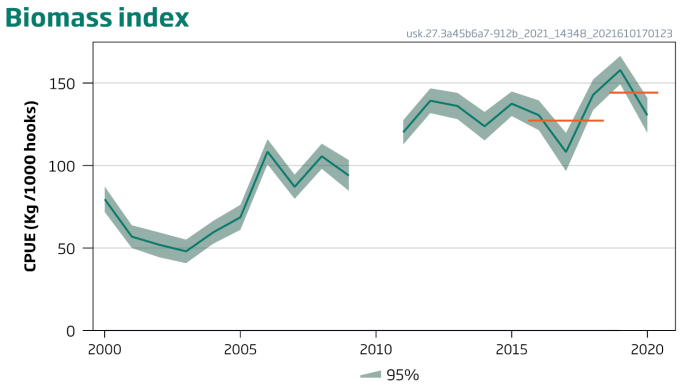

- Category 6
- PA buffer applied as last applied in 2017
- Discarding takes place but can not be quantified
- Catch (without discards) 2022 71 t
- Stock ID uncertain

# Tusk in the Northeast Atlantic (4, 7–9, 3.a, 5.b, 6.a, and 12.b )



## Advice for 2022 and 2023, PA: Catch ≤ 7 821 t)




Catch (2020) =4 134 t (2% discards)

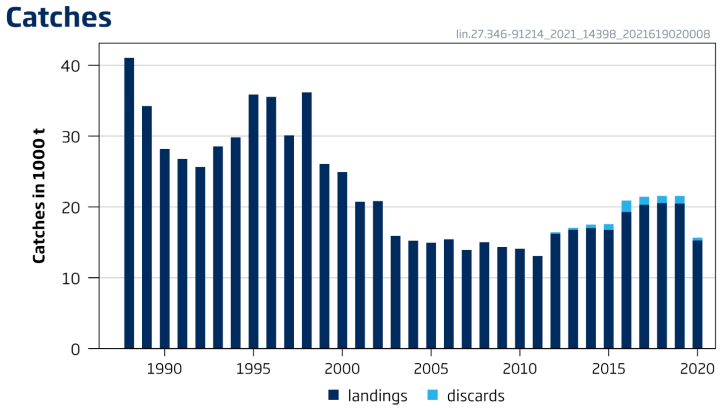
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Index A (2019–2020) | | 144 |
| Index B (2016–2018) | | 127 |
| Index ratio (A/B) | | 1.13 |
| Uncertainty cap | Not applied | |
| Advised catch for 2020–2021 (issued in 2019) | | 8 627 tonnes |
| Discard rate | | 1.80% |
| Precautionary buffer | Applied | 0.8 |
| **Catch advice *** | | **7 821 tonnes** |
| Projected landings corresponding to advice** | | 7 684 tonnes |
| % Advice change *** | | -9.30% |

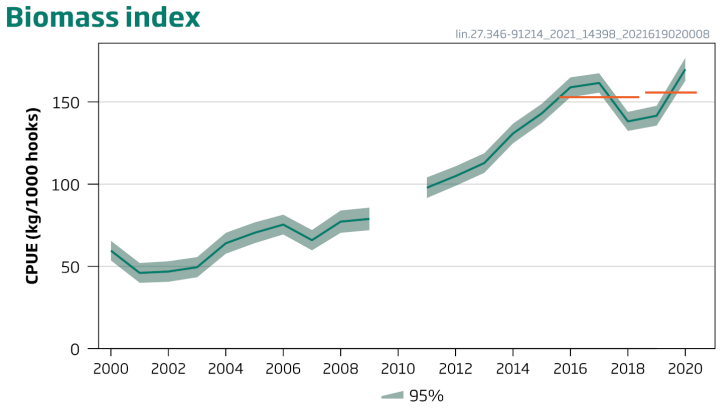
- Lower catches since 2013
- Catch per unit effort based on the Norwegian longline fleet remains high.

# Ling in the Northeast Atlantic and Arctic Oceans (6–9, 12, and 14, 3.a and 4.a)



## Advice for 2022 and 2023, PA: Catch ≤ 15 092 t

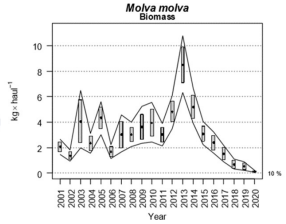


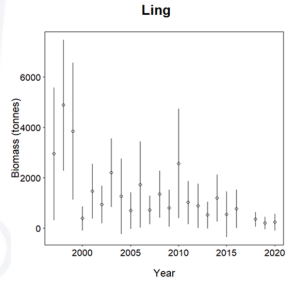




Catch (2020) =15 664 t (Discards = 407 t)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Index A (2019–2020) | | 156 |
| Index B (2016–2018) | | 153 |
| Index ratio (A/B) | | 1.02 |
| Uncertainty cap | Not applied | |
| Advised catch for 2020 and 2021 (issued in | | 18 516 tonnes |
| Discard rate | | 0.044 |
| Precautionary buffer | Applied | 0.8 |
| **Catch advice*** | | **15 092 tonnes** |
| Landings corresponding to the catch advice** | | 14 418 tonnes |
| % Advice change *** | | −18% |

- Landings have been lightly higher in the last 3 years.
- Discards have declined in 2017-2018
- Catch per unit effort (cpue) based on the Norwegian longline fleet is high.
- Low abundance in Subarea 7 and 8.
- Uncertainty about the stock structure.

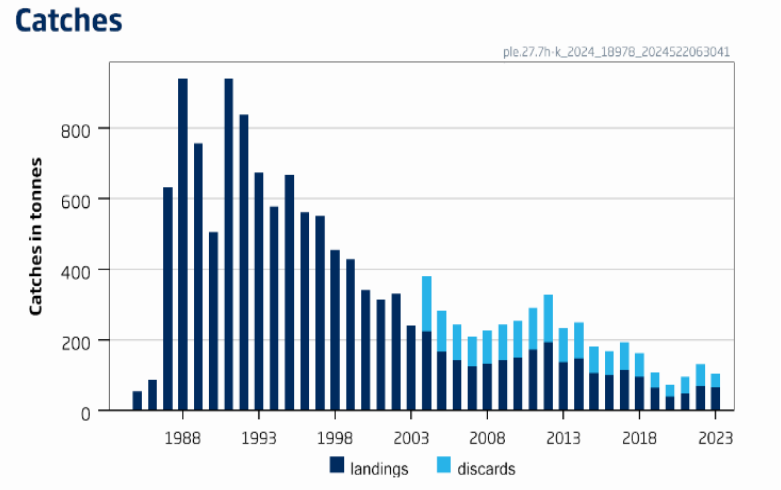


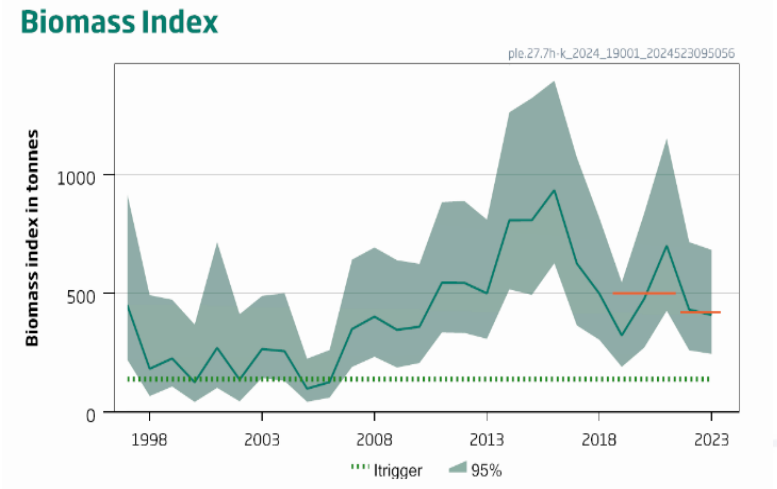



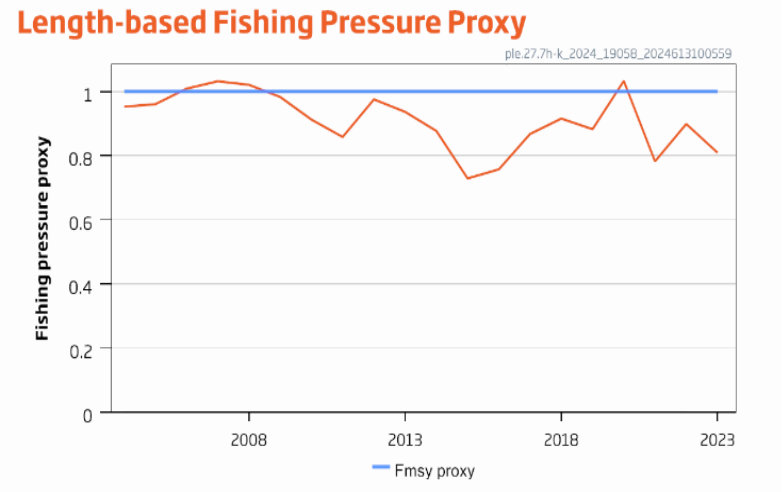
# Plaice in the Celtic Sea South, southwest of Ireland (7.h-k)

**Advice for 2025 and 2026: MSY:** Catch ≤ 130 t -1.4%





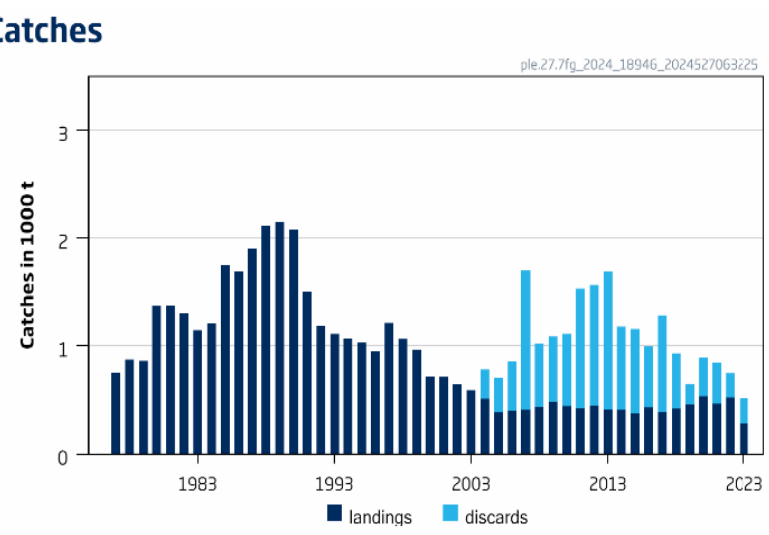



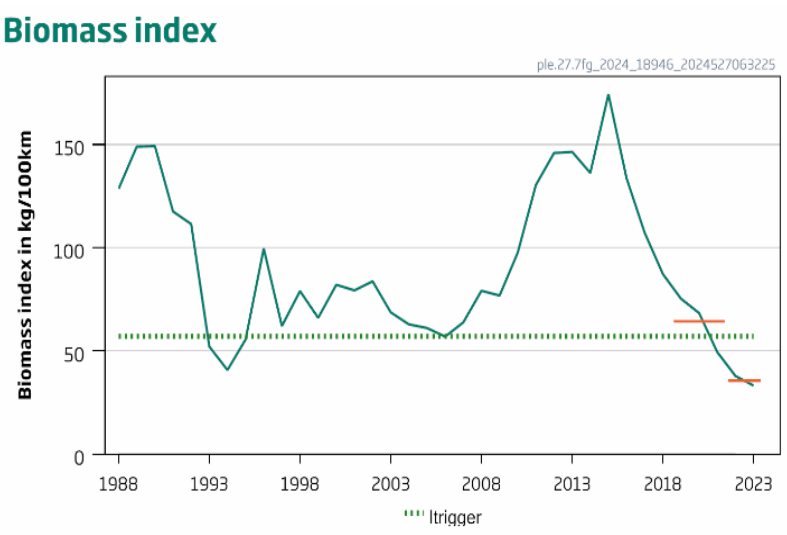

- F proxy below Fmsy proxy
- Biomass index: above Itrigger
- Biomass index has declined

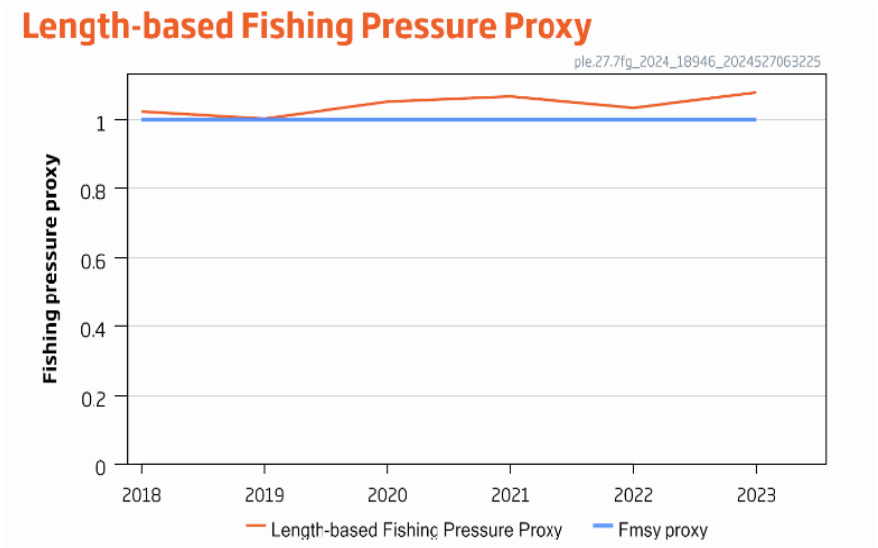
# Plaice in the Bristol Channel, Celtic Sea (7.f and 7.g)



**Advice for 2025 and 2026: MSY:** Catch ≤ 114 t advice -72%



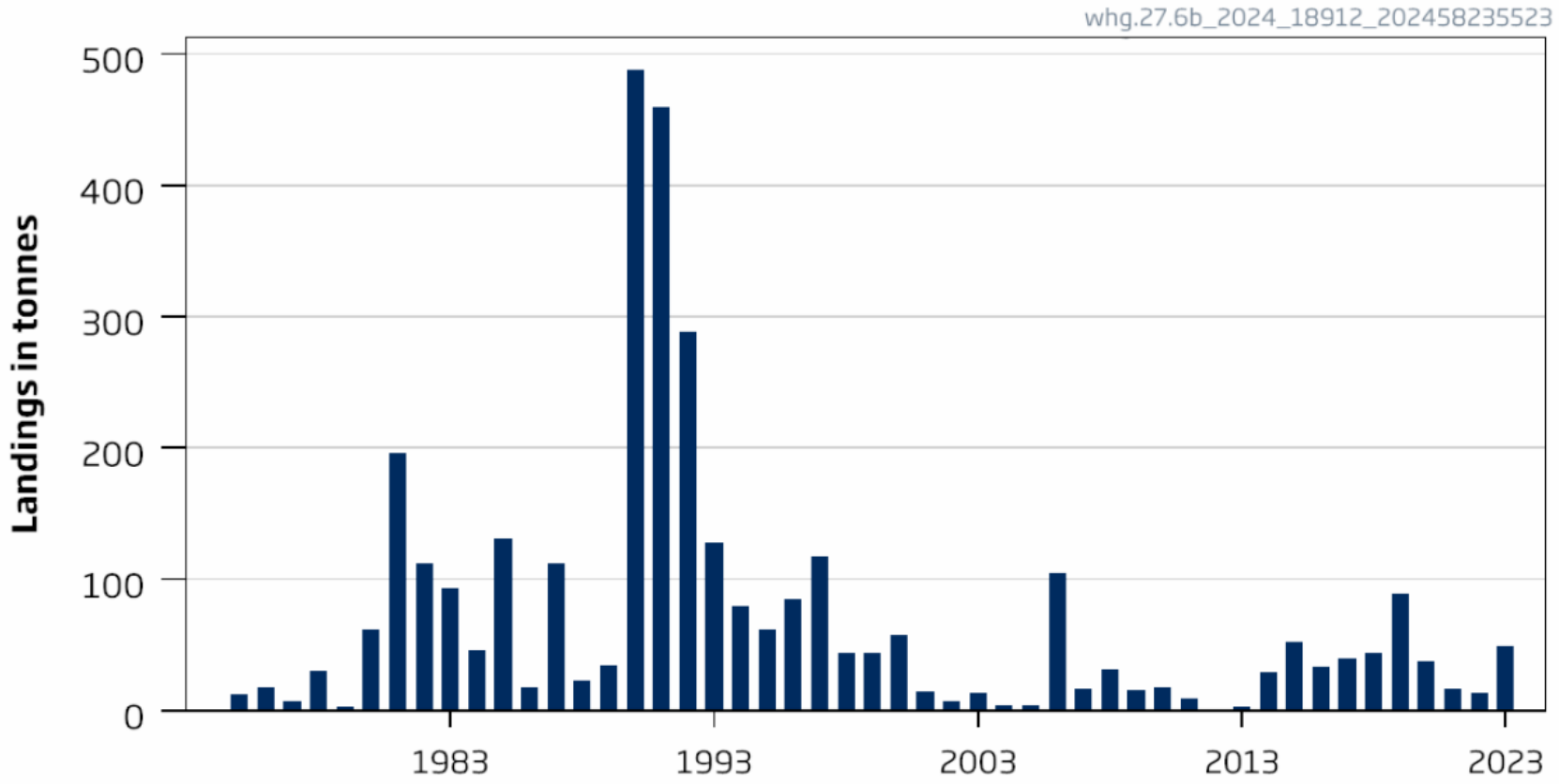

- Fishing pressure above $F_{MSY}$ proxy
- Stock size below trigger
- Decline in stock size
- Biomass safeguard as below trigger
- Caught in mixed fishery with sole – high discards

# Whiting in division 6.b

**Advice for 2025, 2026, 2027: PA:** Catch ≤ 6 t -20%



## Landings



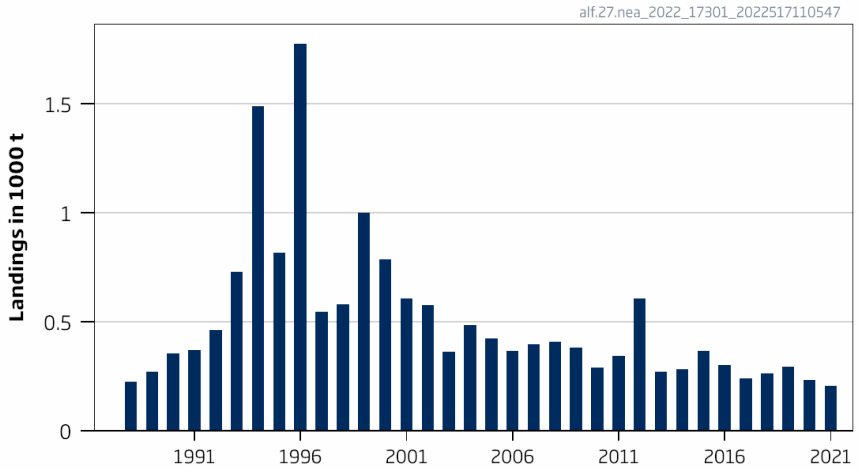

- Only landings data are available.
- Catch of 49 t in 2023
- There is uncertainty on the accuracy of historical landings
- Discards uncertain
- PA buffer applied

# Alfonsinos in subareas 1–10, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)

## Advice for 2025 and 2026 , PA: Landings ≤ 179 t advice 0%



**Landings**




Landings in 2022 = 216 t

. 2023 =165 t

- Two Beryx species : most catch in Azorean EEZ and in Mid-Atlantic Ridge.
- Cannot assess stock status
- PA buffer last applied 2022 so applied not again

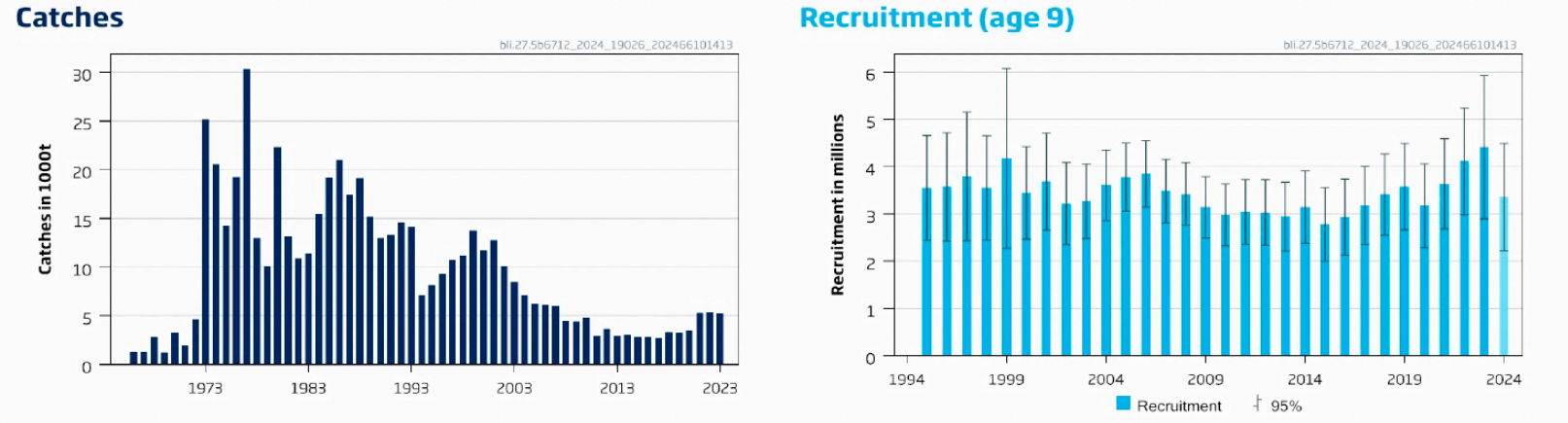
**Table 1** Alfonsinos in the Northeast Atlantic. The basis for the catch scenarios*. Landings are in tonnes.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Advised landings for 2023–2024 issued in 2022 | | 179 |
| Discard rate | | Unknown |
| Precautionary buffer | Not Applied | |
| Landings advice | | 179 |
| % advice change** | | 0 |

# Blue ling in 6–7 and 5.b and 12 (Celtic Seas, W Hatton Bank, and Faroes grounds)

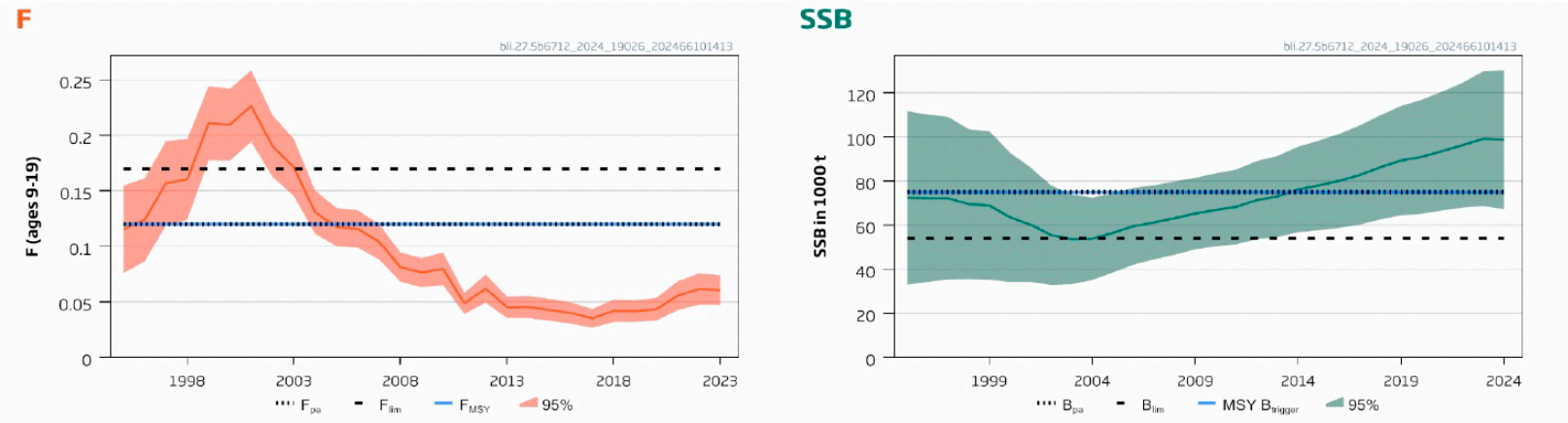
**Advice for 2025 and 2026, MSY:** Catch ≤ 11 197 t and ≤11 170 t +2%















Fishing pressure below $F_{MSY}$

Spawning stock above MSY Btrigger

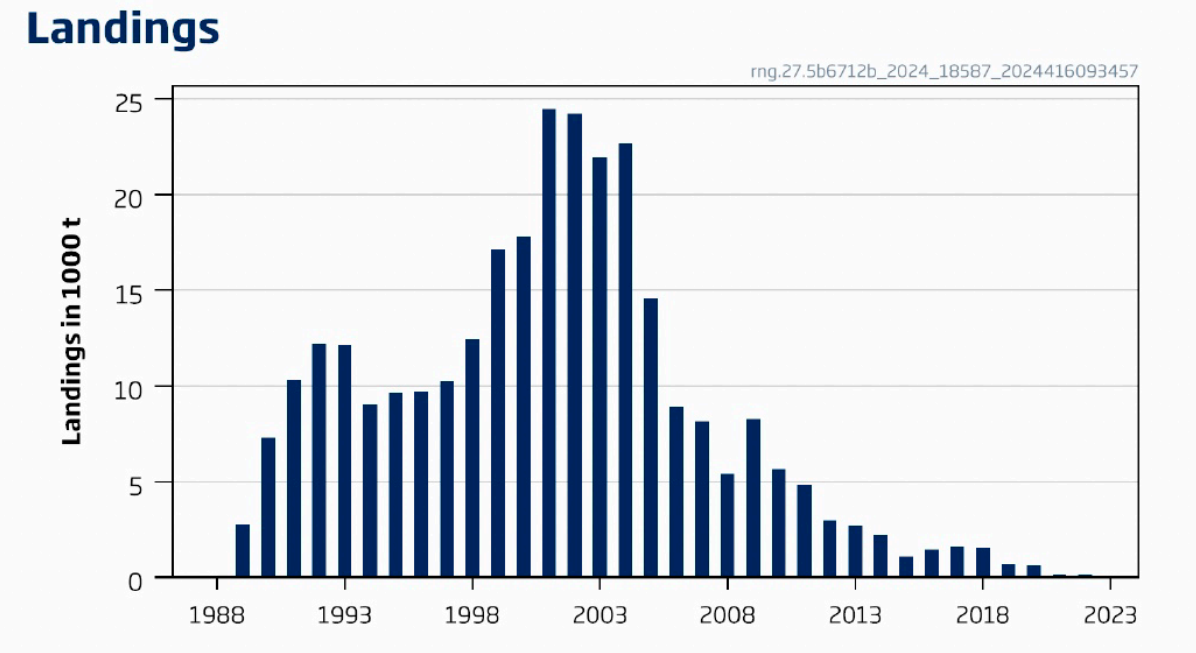
Advice applies only to 5b, 6, 7 and 12b (revised stock area 12b added)

No advice 12a, 12c

# Roundnose grenadier in subareas 6 and 7 and division 5.b and 12.b

**Advice for 2025 and 2026, PA:** Catch ≤ 2 542 t -20%






- Landings (2023) =32 t
- Cannot assess status
- Ban on fishing with bottom trawls in EU waters deeper than 800 m
- Less fishing activity
- PA buffer not applied 2022 applied this time

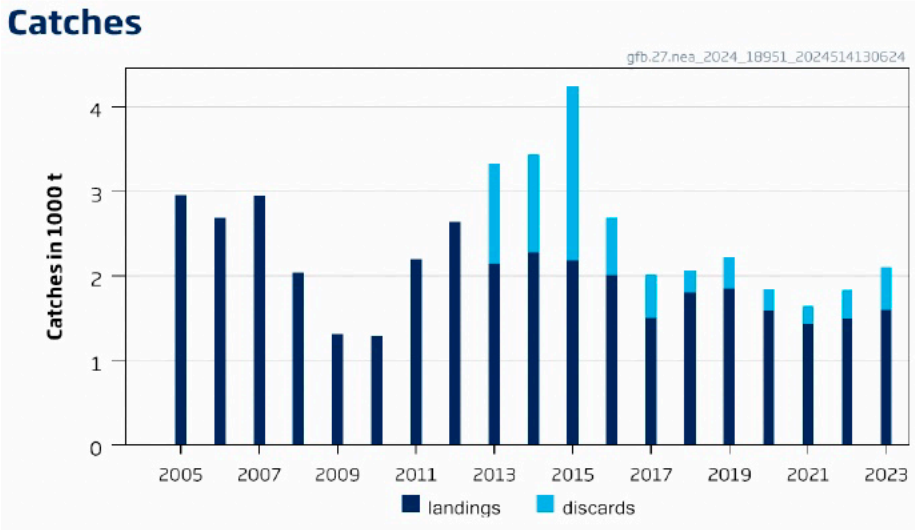
**Table 1** Roundnose grenadier in subareas 6 and 7 and divisions 5.b and 12.b. The basis for the catch scenarios*.

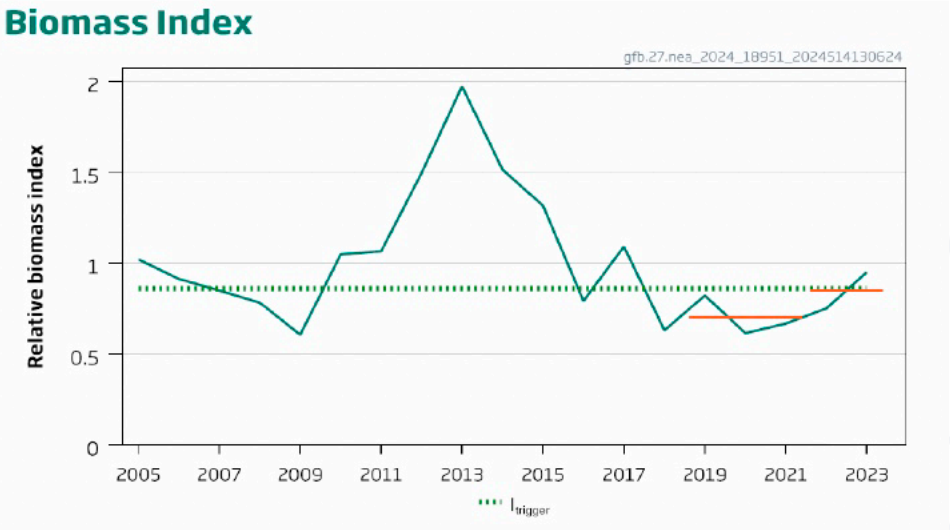
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Advised catches for 2023–2024, issued in 2022 | | 3 177 |
| Discard rate (average 2021–2023) | | Negligible |
| Precautionary buffer | Applied | 0.8 |
| Catch advice** | | 2 542 tonnes |
| % advice change^ | | –20% |

# Greater forkbeard Subareas 1-10, 12, 14 Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters



**Advice for 2025 and 2026, PA:** Catch ≤ 573 t (landings 435t)
advice -30%



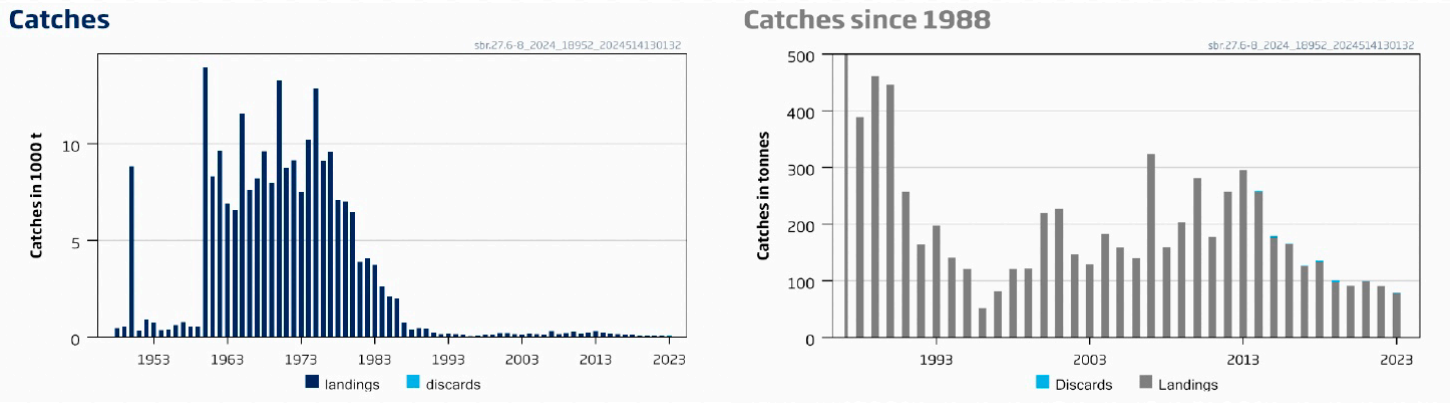




- Landings (2023) =1596 t
- rb rule (change from 2 over 3)
- Index has increased but advice is less due to change in method
- Stability clause applied

# Blackspot seabream subareas 6-8 Celtic Seas, English Channel, Bay of Biscay

## Advice for 2025 and 2026, PA: Zero Catch – no change






- Landings (2023) =79 t
- Cannot assess status
- No information clearly indicating exploitation level appropriate

**Table 1** Blackspot seabream in subareas 6–8. The basis for the catch scenarios. Catches are in tonnes.

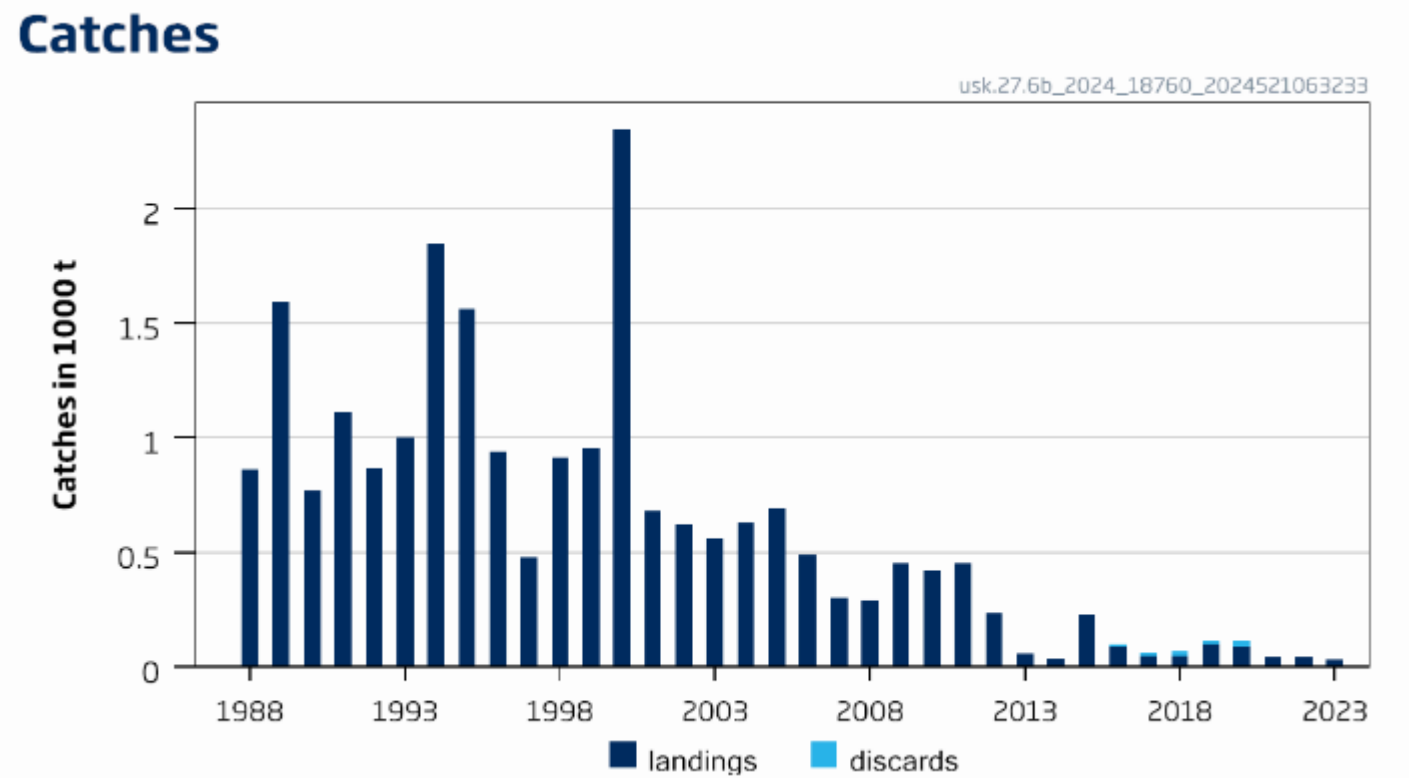
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Advised catches for 2025–2026 issued in 2024 | | 0 |
| Discard rate | | Negligible |
| Precautionary buffer | Not applied | - |
| Catch advice | | 0 |
| % advice change* | | 0 |

*Advice value for 2025–2026 relative to advice value for 2023–2024

# Tusk Rockall (6b)

**Advice for 2025 and 2026 PA:** Catch ≤ 224 t no change






- Category 5
- Precautionary buffer not applied (last applied 2022)
- No directed fishery
- Catch 2023 32 t