

**ECOREGION**      **Widely distributed and migratory stocks**  
**STOCK**            **European sea bass in Divisions VIIIc and IXa (Atlantic Iberian waters)**

**Advice for 2015**

There are no new data available that change the perception of the stock. Therefore, the advice for this fishery in 2015 is the same as the advice for 2014 (see [ICES, 2013](#)): *Based on ICES approach to data-limited stocks, ICES advises that commercial catches should be no more than 598 t. All commercial catches are assumed to be landed. Recreational catches cannot be quantified; therefore, total catches cannot be calculated.*

**Quality considerations**

Recreational fisheries are likely to contribute substantially to fishery removals in some areas. Time-series of catches, releases, and size/age composition are needed from this component of the fishery to improve the assessment and advice.

Stock structure is poorly understood and further studies (including tagging, genetics, or other types of markers) are needed.

Historical sampling of the commercial catches is of variable quality and data sampling should cover all fleets involved in this fishery. Time-series of relative abundance indices are needed for both the adult and pre-recruit components of the stock.

The advice is based on a precautionary reduction of catches 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>	5.2.0 ( <a href="#">ICES, 2014a</a> ).
<b>Assessment type</b>	No assessment.
<b>Input data</b>	Commercial catches (international landings).
<b>Discards and bycatch</b>	Not included, considered negligible.
<b>Indicators</b>	None.
<b>Other information</b>	This stock was benchmarked in IBPNew 2012 (ICES, 2012).
<b>Working group report</b>	Working Group for the Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Waters Ecoregion ( <a href="#">WGBIE</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. 2013. European sea bass in Divisions VIIIc and IXa (Atlantic Iberian waters). *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2013. ICES Advice 2012, Book 7, Section 7.4.26.
- 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 Bay of Biscay and the Iberian Waters Ecoregion (WGBIE), 7–13 May 2014, Lisbon, Portugal. ICES CM 2014/ACOM:11. 714 pp.

**Table 7.3.26.1** European sea bass in Divisions VIIIc and IXa. ICES advice, management, official and ICES landings. Advice prior to 2014 was given for sea bass in the Northeast Atlantic.

Year	ICES Advice a	Predicted catch corresp. to advice	Agreed TAC	Official landings c	ICES landings
2000	-	-	none	380	775
2001	-	-	none	277	635
2002	No increase in effort or F	-	none	172	518
2003	No increase in effort or F	-	none	161	466
2004	No increase in effort or F	-	none	362	676
2005	-	-	none	453	753
2006	-	-	none	731	905
2007	-	-	none	888	910
2008	-	-	none	655	614
2009	-	-	none	634	652
2010	-	-	none	777	814
2011	-	-	none	759	777
2012	No increase in catch	-	none	273 <sup>b</sup>	701 <sup>b</sup>
2013	20% reduction in catches (last 3-year average)	< 6 000	none	1046	1046
2014	20% reduction in catches (last 3-year average) <sup>d</sup>	< 598			
2015	Same advice as last year	< 598			

Weights in tonnes.

<sup>a</sup> 2014 is the first time that ICES provides specific advice for sea bass in Divisions VIIIc and IXa. Prior to the 2014 advice, ICES advice was provided for European sea bass in the Northeast Atlantic.

<sup>b</sup> Preliminary.

<sup>c</sup> Official landings were extracted from the ICES Official Statistics webpage for BSS and Divisions VIIIc and IXa. The difference between ICES statistics and the official statistics are mainly due to the fact that prior to 2006 most of the sea bass catches in the Portuguese statistics were registered under the code BSE, i.e. (*Dicentrarchus* spp.). After the DCF implementation there was a progressive increase in the correct identification of species in the official statistics (BSS increase, BSE decrease) that consider *Dicentrarchus* spp. landings minus 2.3% of *Dicentrarchus punctatus* based on DCF market and on-board sampling between 2008 and 2012.

<sup>d</sup> Advice for sea bass in Divisions VIIIc and IXa.