

**ECOREGION**      **Bay of Biscay and Atlantic Iberian waters**  
**STOCK**            **European sea bass in Divisions VIIIa,b (Bay of Biscay)**

**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. The advice for 2014 was (*see* [ICES, 2013](#)): *Based on the ICES approach to data-limited stocks, ICES advises that commercial catches should be no more than 1890 tonnes. Discards are considered as negligible, therefore, all catches are assumed to be landed. ICES recommends that implementation of 'input' controls should be promoted.*

**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 remains poorly known 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.

**Scientific basis**

<b>Stock data category</b>	5.2.0 ( <a href="#">ICES, 2014a</a> ).
<b>Assessment type</b>	Landings-based.
<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>	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 VIIIa,b (Bay of Biscay). *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2013, Section 7.4.25. ICES Advice 2012, Book 7.
- 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 7.3.25.1**

European sea bass in Divisions VIIIa,b. ICES advice, management, official and ICES landings. Advice prior to 2014 was given for sea bass in the Northeast Atlantic.

Year	ICES Advice	Predicted catch corresp. to advice	Agreed TAC	Official landings <sup>c</sup>	ICES landings
2000 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	none	2147	2362
2001 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	none	2091	2309
2002 <sup>a</sup>	No increase in effort or F	-	none	2113	2392
2003 <sup>a</sup>	No increase in effort or F	-	none	2931	2616
2004 <sup>a</sup>	No increase in effort or F	-	none	2657	2380
2005 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	none	3258	2796
2006 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	none	3488	2877
2007 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	none	3060	2769
2008 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	none	1653	2745
2009 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	none	2534	2279
2010 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	none	2489	2231
2011 <sup>a</sup>	-	-	none	2607	2576
2012 <sup>a</sup>	No increase in catch	-	none	2330 <sup>b</sup>	2551 <sup>b</sup>
2013 <sup>a</sup>	20% reduction in catches (last 3-year average)	< 6.0	none		2532
2014	20% reduction in catches (last 3-year average) <sup>d</sup>	< 1890			
2015	Same advice as last year <sup>d</sup>	< 1890			

Weights in tonnes.

<sup>a</sup> The advice for 2014 is the first time that ICES has provided 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 VIIIa+VIIIb. The difference between Official and ICES landings values are mainly due to the French landing data that come from a separate analysis of logbooks, auctions, and VMS data from 2000 onwards. From 2011 onwards, data from this method are reported as official landings.

<sup>d</sup> Advice for sea bass in Divisions VIIIa,b.