

Sandeel (*Ammodytes* spp.) in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 5r (northern North Sea, Viking and Bergen banks)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, there should be zero catches in each of the years 2023 and 2024.

ICES advice on conservation aspects

ICES has not identified any conservation aspects.

Stock development over time

ICES cannot assess the stock and exploitation status relative to maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and precautionary approach (PA) reference points because information to define reference points is not available.

Catches

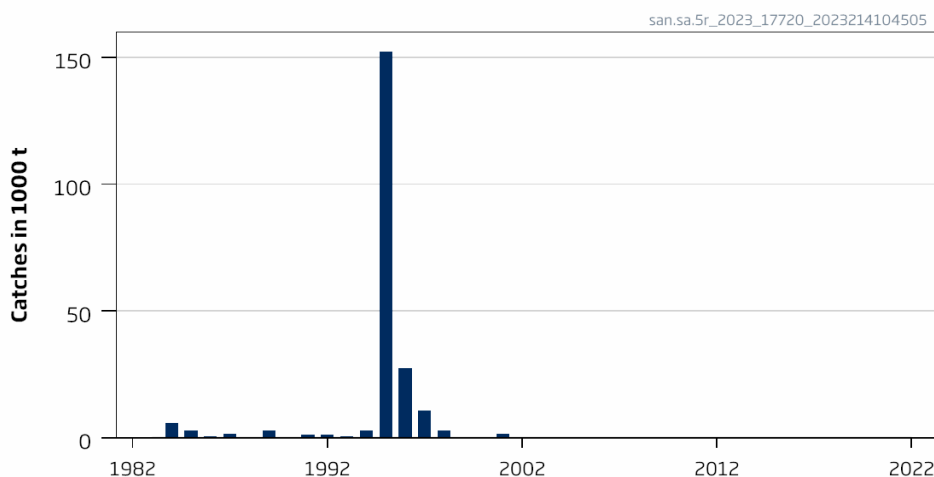


Figure 1 Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 5r. ICES estimates of catch (in thousand tonnes).

Conservation status

ICES is not aware of any information on stock specific conservation status.

Catch scenarios

The ICES framework for stocks in categories 5–6 was applied (ICES, 2012). When the precautionary approach is applied, catches should not increase unless there is evidence that this will be sustainable. This corresponds to zero catch in each of the years 2023 and 2024. For this stock, current catches are zero.

Table 1 Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 5r. The basis for the catch scenarios. For stocks in ICES categories 3–6, only one catch scenario is possible.

Recent advised catch (2021–2022)	0 tonnes	
Discard rate	Negligible	
Precautionary buffer	Not applicable	-
Catch advice	0 tonnes	
% Advice change *	-	

* Advice value 2023–2024 relative to advice value 2021–2022.

ICES advice for this stock has been for zero catch since 2011.

Basis of the advice

Table 2 Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 5r. The basis of the advice for fishing opportunities.

Advice basis	Precautionary approach
Management plan	ICES is not aware of any agreed precautionary management plan for sandeel in this area.

Quality of the assessment

The available information is inadequate to evaluate stock status or trends.

Issues relevant for the advice

The Norwegian acoustic survey conducted on the Viking Bank during 2005–2022 shows that the stock densities are very low compared to other banks in the Norwegian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) where fisheries take place. Sandeel fisheries in the Viking Bank area have been closed since 2009 because of very low estimates of sandeel abundance from the acoustic surveys (ICES, 2017).

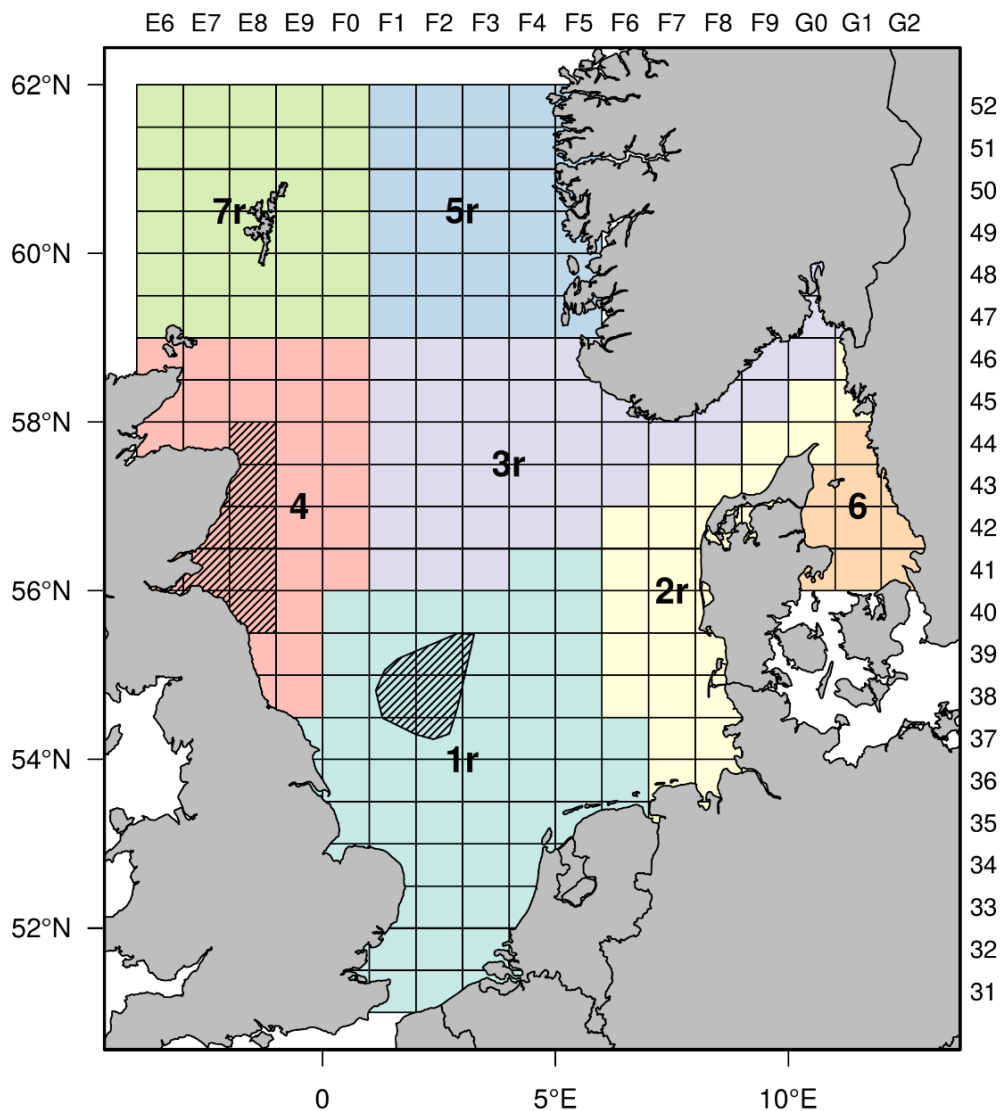


Figure 2 Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 5r. The closed part of Sandeel Area 1 (Dogger Bank) and 4 is shown with hatched markings.

Reference points

No reference points are defined for sandeel in this area.

Basis of the assessment

Table 3 Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 5r. The basis of the assessment.

ICES stock data category	5 (ICES, 2022)
Assessment type	No assessment (ICES, 2023)
Input data	Commercial catch statistics
Discards and bycatch	Discarding is considered to be negligible.
Indicators	None
Other information	Last benchmark in 2016 (ICES, 2017)
Working group	Herring Assessment Working Group (HAWG)

History of advice, catch, and management

Table 4 Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 5r. History of ICES advice, the agreed TAC, and ICES estimates of catches. All weights are in tonnes. Values of catch for the period 2005 to 2015 are presented to the nearest thousand tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Catch corresponding to advice	TAC	ICES catch SA 5	ICES catch SA 5r
2005*	Exploitation to be kept below the level of 2003. Adjustment to be made conditional on the abundance of the 2004 year class.	-	661000**	0	
2006*	The fishery should remain closed until information is available which assures that the stock can be rebuilt to B_{pa} by 2007.	-	300000**	0	
2007*	The fishery should remain closed until information is available which assures that the stock can be rebuilt to B_{pa} by 2008.	-	173000**	0	
2008*	The fishery should only be allowed if monitoring information is available and shows that the stock can be rebuilt to B_{pa} by 2009.	-	375000**	0	
2009*	The fishery should only be allowed if monitoring information is available and shows that the stock can be rebuilt to B_{pa} by 2010.	-	377000**	0	
2010*	The fishery should only be allowed if monitoring information is available and shows that the stock can be rebuilt to B_{pa} by 2011.	-	377000**	0	
2011	No increase in effort unless there is evidence that this is sustainable.	0	0	0	
2012	No increase in catches unless there is evidence that this is sustainable.	0	0	0	
2013	ICES advises on the basis of the approach to data-limited stocks that catches should not increase.	0	0	0	
2014	ICES advises on the basis of the approach to data-limited stocks that catches should not increase. This corresponds to zero catch.	0	0	0	
2015	ICES advises that applying the precautionary approach catches should not increase unless there is evidence that this will be sustainable. This corresponds to zero catch.	0	0	0	
2016	Precautionary approach	0	0	0	
2017^	Precautionary approach	0	0		0
2018^	Precautionary approach	0	0		0
2019^	Precautionary approach	0	0		0
2020^	Precautionary approach	0	0		0
2021^	Precautionary approach	0	0		0
2022^	Precautionary approach	0	0		0***
2023^	Precautionary approach	0			
2024^	Precautionary approach	0			

* Advice for Subarea 4, excluding the Shetland area.

** Set for EU waters of divisions 2.a and 3.a, and Subarea 4.

*** Preliminary

^ ICES statistical rectangles included in this sandeel area were changed in the 2017 assessment and advice.

History of catch and landings

Table 5 Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 5r. Catch distribution by fleet in 2022 as estimated by ICES (in tonnes).

Total catch (2022)	Landings	Discards
0	0	0

Table 6 Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 5r. History of total catch (in tonnes) as estimated by ICES.

Year	Catch
1983	0
1984	5821
1985	3004
1986	628
1987	1713
1988	0
1989	2903
1990	374
1991	1168
1992	1099
1993	586
1994	2757
1995	152274
1996	27570
1997	10772
1998	2952
1999	145
2000	303
2001	1678
2002	8
2003	44
2004	0
2005	0
2006	0
2007	4
2008	0
2009	0
2010	0
2011	0
2012	0
2013	0
2014	0
2015	0
2016	0
2017	0
2018	0
2019	0
2020	0
2021	0
2022	0*

* Preliminary

Summary of the assessment

There is no assessment for sandeel in this area.

Sources and references

ICES. 2012. ICES Implementation of Advice for Data-limited Stocks in 2012 in its 2012 Advice. ICES CM 2012/ACOM:68. 42 pp. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.5322>

ICES. 2017. Report of the Benchmark Workshop on Sandeel Stocks (WKSAND), 31 October–4 November 2016, Bergen, Norway. ICES CM 2016/ACOM:33. 319 pp. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.7718>

ICES. 2022. Advice on fishing opportunities. *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2022. ICES Advice 2022, section 1.1.1. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.19928060>

ICES. 2023. Herring Assessment Working Group for the Area South of 62° N (HAWG). ICES Scientific Reports. 5:23. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.22182034>. Publication of the full report is expected 30 June 2023.

[Download the stock assessment data and figures.](#)

Recommended citation: ICES. 2023. Sandeel (*Ammodytes* spp.) in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 5r (northern North Sea, Viking and Bergen banks). *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2023. ICES Advice 2023, san.sa.5r, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21815199>