

Sandeel (*Ammodytes* spp.) in subdivisions 20–22, Sandeel Area 6 (Skagerrak, Kattegat and Belt Sea)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches should be no more than 140 tonnes 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 MSY and precautionary approach (PA) reference points because information to define reference points is not available.

Catches

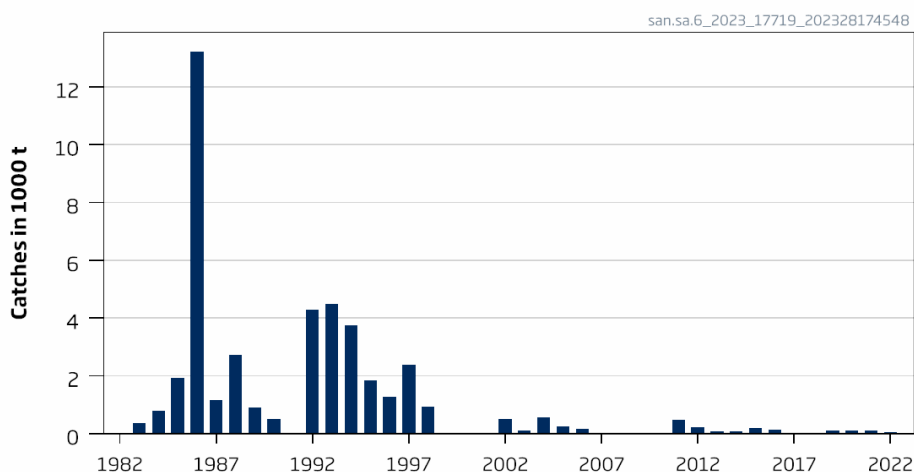


Figure 1 Sandeel in subdivisions 20–22, Sandeel Area 6. ICES estimates of catches (in thousands of tonnes).

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). For stocks without information on abundance or exploitation, ICES considers that a precautionary reduction in catch advice should be implemented periodically unless there is ancillary information clearly indicating that the current level of exploitation is appropriate for the stock. The precautionary buffer was last applied in 2021 and is therefore not applied in the advice for 2023 and 2024.

Table 1 Sandeel in subdivisions 20–22, Sandeel Area 6. The catch scenarios. For stocks in ICES categories 3–6, one catch scenario is possible.

Recent advised catch (2021–2022)		140 tonnes
Discard rate		Negligible
Precautionary buffer	Not applied	
Catch advice		140 tonnes
% Advice change*		0

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

Basis of the advice

Table 2 Sandeel in subdivisions 20–22, Sandeel Area 6. 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 basis for the advice is expected to remain unchanged unless information on stock status becomes available.

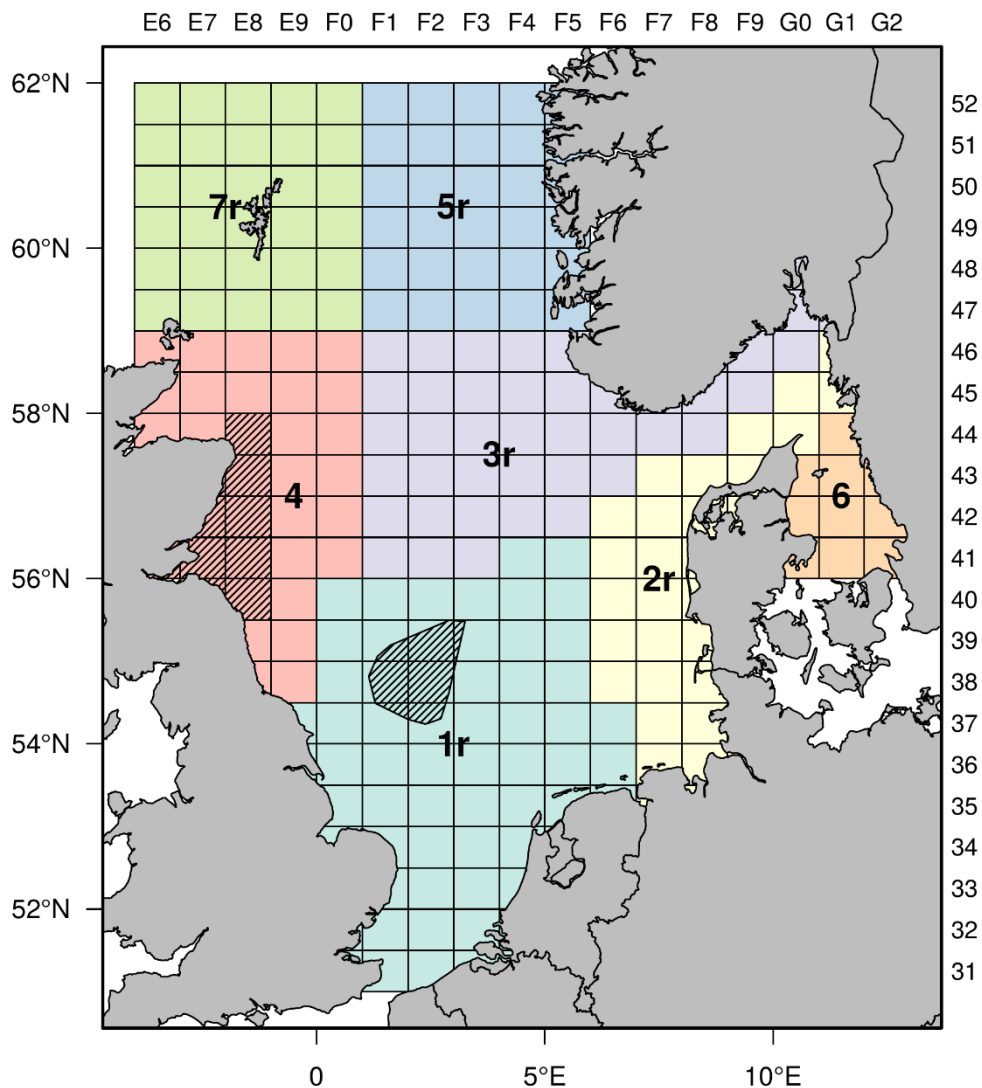


Figure 2 Sandeel in subdivisions 20–22, Sandeel Area 6. Stock areas for the seven sandeel stocks. The closed part of Sandeel Area 1 (Dogger Bank) and 4 is shown with hatched markings.

Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

Basis of the assessment

Table 3 Sandeel in subdivisions 20–22, Sandeel Area 6. The basis of the assessment.

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

History of advice, catch, and management

Table 4 Sandeel in subdivisions 20–22, Sandeel Area 6. History of ICES advice, the agreed TAC, and ICES estimated catch. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Catch corresponding to advice	TAC	ICES catch SA 6
2005	No advice			262
2006	No advice			161
2007	No advice			661
2008	No advice			472
2009	No advice			26
2010	No advice			132
2011	No increase in effort unless there is evidence that this is sustainable		42	481
2012	No increase in effort unless there is evidence that this is sustainable		42	211
2013	20% reduction in catches from last three-year average	< 219	336	90
2014	No new advice, same as for 2013	< 219	219	79
2015	Precautionary approach	< 219	219	199
2016	Precautionary approach	< 219	219	123
2017	Precautionary approach	≤ 175	175	0
2018	Precautionary approach	≤ 175	175	0
2019	Precautionary approach	≤ 175	175	96
2020	Precautionary approach	≤ 175	175	97
2021	Precautionary approach	≤ 140	140	93
2022	Precautionary approach	≤ 140	140	42*
2023	Precautionary approach	≤ 140		
2024	Precautionary approach	≤ 140		

*Preliminary.

History of catch and landings

Table 5 Sandeel in subdivisions 20–22, Sandeel Area 6. Catch distribution by fleet in 2022 as estimated by ICES (in tonnes).

Total catch (2022)	Landings	Discards
42	100% industrial trawl fisheries	Negligible
	42	

Table 6 Sandeel in subdivisions 20–22, Sandeel Area 6. History of catch (in tonnes) as estimated by ICES.

Year	Catch
1983	364
1984	791
1985	1927
1986	13219
1987	1163
1988	2726
1989	909
1990	499
1991	17
1992	4277
1993	4490
1994	3748
1995	1830
1996	1263
1997	2372
1998	941
1999	0
2000	0
2001	26
2002	493
2003	111
2004	573
2005	259
2006	161
2007	0
2008	0
2009	0
2010	0
2011	489
2012	214
2013	72
2014	65
2015	198
2016	123
2017	0
2018	0
2019	96
2020	97
2021	93
2022	42*

*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 subdivisions 20–22, Sandeel Area 6 (Skagerrak, Kattegat, and Belt Sea). *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2023. ICES Advice 2023, san.sa.6, <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21815211>