

Sandeel (*Ammodytes* spp.) in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r (northern North Sea, Shetland)

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

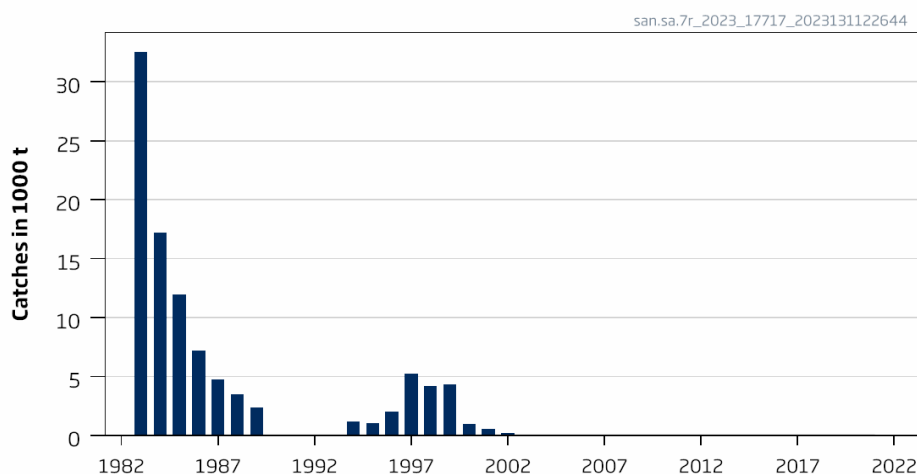


Figure 1 Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r. ICES estimates of catches (in thousands of tonnes).

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). 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 7r; 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*	0	

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

ICES advice for this stock has been for zero catch since 2013.

Basis of the advice

Table 2 Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r. 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.

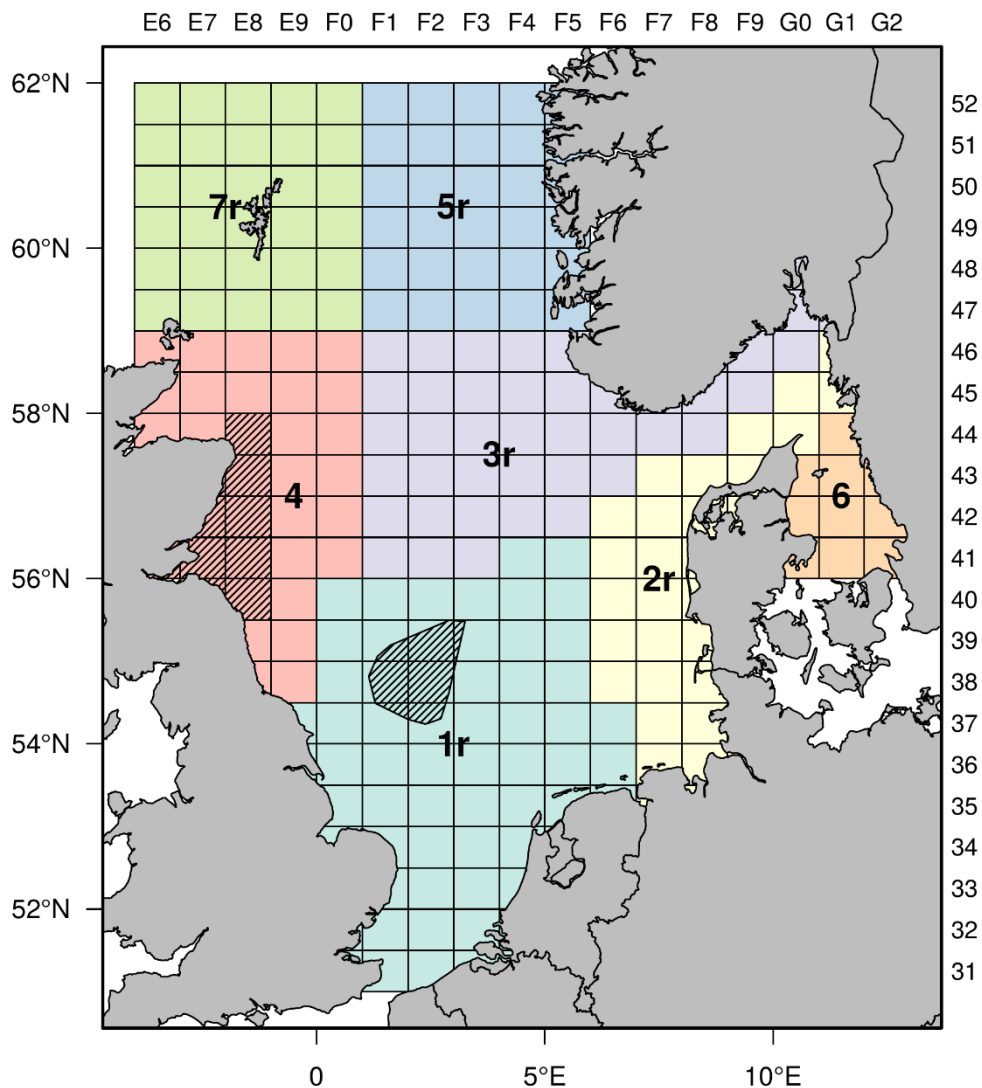


Figure 2 Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r. Stock areas for the seven sandeel stocks. The closed area in Sandeel Area 1 (Dogger Bank) and 4 is shown with hatched markings.

Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

Basis of the assessment

Table 3 Sandeel in Division 4.a Sandeel Area 7r. The basis of the assessment.

ICES stock data category	5 (see 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 benchmarked 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 7r. History of ICES advice, the agreed TAC, and ICES estimates of catch. Weights are in tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Catch corresponding to advice	TAC	ICES catch SA 7	ICES catch SA 7r ^
2005	No advice			0	
2006	No advice			0	
2007	No advice			0	
2008	No advice			0	
2009	No advice			0	
2010	No advice			0	
2011	No increase in effort unless there is evidence that this is sustainable.		0	0	
2012	No increase in effort unless there is evidence that this is sustainable.		0	0	
2013	No increase in effort unless there is evidence that this is sustainable.	0	0	0	
2014	No new advice, same as for 2013	0	0	0	
2015	Precautionary approach	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			

* Preliminary

^ ICES statistical rectangles included in this sandeel area have changed since the 2017 advice.

History of catch and landings

Table 5 Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r. Catch distribution by fleet in 2022 as estimated by ICES (in tonnes).

Total catch	Landings	Discards
0	0	0

Table 6 Sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r. History of catch (in tonnes) as estimated by ICES.

Year	Catch
1983	32543
1984	17223
1985	11966
1986	7226
1987	4710
1988	3503
1989	2344
1990	0
1991	0
1992	0
1993	0
1994	1164
1995	1042
1996	2010
1997	5211
1998	4157
1999	4334
2000	970
2001	543
2002	186
2003	0
2004	0
2005	0
2006	0
2007	0
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.](#)

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