






















SUMMARY OF 2017 ICES ADVICE FOR PELAGIC SPECIES

SEAFISH

	Date	Status of key stocks in 2016 and 2017 (more detail in the following pages)	ICES Catch advice	TAC for previous year	SSB Compared with previous yr	Pg
Blue whiting combined stock I-IX, XII & XIV	<u>Sept 2017</u>	Fishing mortality (F) has increased from a historical low in 2011 to above FMSY since 2014. Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has increased since 2010 and is above MSY Btrigger. Recruitment (R) in 2017 is estimated to be low, following a period of high recruitments	1,387,872 (2018)	1,342,330 (2017)		4
Barents Sea capelin	<u>Oct 2017</u>	The maturing component of the stock IS estimated to be much larger than estimated in 2016. The 2016 year class at age 1, is below the long-term average although higher than the 2014 and 2015 year classes.	205,000 (2018)	Zero (2017)		5
Capelin Iceland East Greenland Jan Mayen	<u>June 2017</u>	There are indications the SSB is 361,000t at spawning in March 2017 with more than a >95% probability that SSB is above precautionary limits of 150,000 t.	Zero (2017/18)	Zero in-season Final 299,000 (2016/17)		5
Herring N Sea autumn spawners	<u>May 2017</u>	Adult stock size is large enough, and fishing pressure is low enough, to ensure a sufficient amount of offspring can be produced but recruitment has been low in recent years but 2014 was strong.	517,891 (2018)	458,926 (2017)		6
Herring Icelandic summer spawners	<u>June 2017</u>	There are indications of poor recruitment and fishing pressure has been increasing.	38,712 (2017/18)	63,000 (2016/17)		6
Norwegian spring spawning herring	<u>Sept 2017</u>	The stock is declining and estimated to be below MSY Btrigger in 2017. Since 1998 four large year classes have been produced (1998, 1999, 2002, and 2004). All year classes since 2005 are estimated to be average or small.	546,472 (2018)	646,075 (2017)		7
Mackerel in the North East Atlantic	<u>Sept 2017</u>	Assessment was benchmarked in 2017 resulting in a downward revision in SSB estimates and upwards revision of F estimates. Various surveys give contradictory info. SSB is estimated to have decreased from 2016 to 2017.	550,948 (2018)	944,302 (2017)		8

	Date	Status of key stocks in 2017 (more detail in the following pages)	ICES Catch advice	TAC for previous year	SSB Compared with previous yr	Pg
Norway pout in the North Sea	Oct 2017	Stock size is highly variable from year to year, due to recruitment variability and a short life span. Spawning-stock biomass is above Bpa in 2017. Recruitments in 2014 and 2016 were high, while recruitments in 2015 and 2017 are below the long-term average recruitment.	151,955 (2018)	358,471 (2017)		9
Sandeel in the Dogger Bank (SA1)	Feb 2017	There is a risk that adult stock size is too small to produce a sufficient amount of offspring to maintain the stock. Fishing pressure has decreased from 2009. Improvement in SSB in 2016 and 2017.	255,956 (2017)	5,000 Monitoring (2016)		10
Sandeel in central and south N Sea (SA2)	Feb 2017	The number of young fish is low and there is a risk that the adult stock size is too small to produce a sufficient amount of offspring to maintain the stock. 2016 one of the largest recruitment in time series. Fishing pressure is thought to be very low.	175,941 (2017)	5,000 Monitoring (2016)		10
Sandeel in north/central N Sea (SA3)	Feb 2017	Adult stock is large enough to ensure an optimal use in the long term. Improvement in SSB in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Recruitment was above average in 2014 and low in 2015, but is highly uncertain in 2016.	74,176 (2017)	123,135 (2016)		10
Sandeel in north/central N Sea (SA4)	Feb 2017	Fishing pressure is thought to be very low. There has been an improvement in SSB.	54,043 (2017)	6,000 Monitoring (2016)		11
Sandeel in waters West of Scotland	June 2016	No information on adult stock size and fishing pressure is available.	Zero (2015)	Zero (2016)		11
Sandeel in Viking and Bergen Banks (SA5)	Feb 2017	The stock size is unknown, but it is probably low. Fishing pressure is unknown, but it is probably very low.	Zero (2017)	Zero (2016)		11
Sandeel in the Kattegat (SA6)	Feb 2017	The stock size and the fishing pressure are unknown, but they are thought to be very low.	175 (2017)	219 (2016)		11
Sandeel in Shetland (SA7)	Feb 2017	The stock size is unknown. Fishing pressure is unknown, but it is probably very low and stable.	Zero (2017)	Zero (2016)		11
Sprat in the Baltic	May 2017	Adult stock size is large enough; and fishing pressure has declined. SSB is increasing.	219,152 - 301,722 (2017)	314,000 (2016)		12

	Date	Status of key stocks in 2016 and 2017 (more detail in the following pages)	ICES Catch advice	TAC for previous year	SSB Compared with previous yr	Pg
Sprat in the North Sea	April 2017	Adult stock size is large enough and fishing pressure is low enough to ensure a sufficient amount of offspring can be produced. Fishing mortality and recruitment increased in 2016. Fishing year July to June.	170,387 2017-18	125,541 2016-17		12
Sprat in the Skaggeak/ Kattegat	April 2017	Stock abundance index fluctuates with high inter-annual variability. The stock abundance index in 2017 is 27% lower than the average of the four preceding years.	6,255 2017-18	9,773 2016-17		13
Sprat in the Celtic Sea and waters West of Scotland	June 2017	Adult stock size and fishing pressure are unknown.	2,800 For 2018 and 2019	3,500 2016 and 2017		13
Sprat in the English Channel	June 2017	Adult stock size is unknown, but it is probably decreasing. Fishing pressure is unknown.	2,354 (2018)	3,678 (2017)		13

KEY

Fishing mortality – Removals from a stock by fishing.

Spawning Stock Biomass – total weight of all sexually mature fish in the stock.

MSY – **Maximum Sustainable Yield.**

FMSY – fishing at levels that catch the maximum proportion of a fish stock that can safely be removed on a continuous basis.

BMSY – spawning stock biomass that results from fishing at FMSY for a long time.

PA – **Precautionary Approach**

FPA – precautionary reference point for fishing mortality.

BPA – precautionary reference point for spawning stock biomass.

Mg'ment – **Management Plan** – agreed by all parties to maintain/rebuild stocks.


Btrigger – Value of spawning stock biomass that triggers a specific management action.

Cpue – Catch per unit effort. **Lpue** – Landing per unit effort.



W catch is 'Wanted catch' - (see sprat) is used to describe fish that would be landed in the absence of the EU landing obligation. The 'unwanted catch' refers to the component that was previously discarded.

In the following tables a very simple statement has been included on the status of the spawning stock biomass in comparison with the previous year. This is an estimate based on ICES stock status information and is not necessarily definitive.



BLUE WHITING


Stock	TAC for 2017 Tonnes	Status of stock in September 2017	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	TAC advice for 2018	*SSB Status 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Inside safe biological limits					
Blue whiting combined stock Sub-areas I-IX, XII and XIV Sept 2017	1,342,330 tonnes	Fishing mortality (F) has increased from a historical low in 2011 to above FMSY since 2014. Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has increased since 2010 and is above MSY Btrigger. Recruitment (R) in 2017 is estimated to be low, following a period of high recruitments. The EU industry reported that the fishery for blue whiting in 2017 was very good. High catch rates were maintained all through the season and the vessels had no difficulty catching their allocations. There was a higher proportion of smaller blue whiting in the catch in the Spring this year (Feb, March and April) than in the previous year. The industry considers recruitment to have been good over the last three years.	1. Above 2. Harvested sustainability 3. Above	ICES advises that when the long term management strategy agreed by the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Norway is applied, catches in 2018 should be no more than 1,387,872 tonnes. There is no management plan for blue whiting in this area. ICES evaluated a NEAFC request concerning an alternative management plan to a 2008 plan (to one agreed in 2008) in May 2013 and in October 2013. No agreement on the application of this new plan has been obtained. There is no agreement between the participating nations about catch allocation. This has resulted in catches exceeding the advice given by ICES.	MAINTAINED  Spawning stock biomass 1. Above trigger 2. Full reproductive capacity 3. Above

CAPELIN


Stock	TAC for 2017 Tonnes	Status of stock in 2017	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	TAC advice for 2018	*SSB Status 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Reference points not fully defined					
Advice in October 2017					
Barents Sea capelin Subareas I and II, excluding Division IIa west of 5°W	Zero	The maturing component of the stock in autumn 2017 was estimated by the acoustic survey to be much larger than estimated in 2016. The estimate of the 2016 year class at age 1, using the results of the survey conducted in Sept 2017, is below the long-term average although higher than the 2014 and 2015 year classes.	1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Undefined	ICES advises that when the management plan of the Joint Norwegian–Russian Fisheries Commission (JNRFC) is applied, catches in 2018 should be no more than 205,000 tonnes.	IMPROVING  Spawning stock biomass 1. Undefined 2. Above 3. Undefined
Advice in June 2017					
Capelin in the Iceland East Greenland Jan Mayen area Subareas V and XIV and Division IIa west of 5°W	2016/17 Zero catch 199,000 Final TAC	Indicates SSB of 361,000t at spawning in March 2017. >95% probability SSB above Blim (150,000 t). Method to estimate natural mortality revised to take predator abundance into account so SSB estimate in 2016 not comparable with historic estimates. 2014 year class/ immature 1- and 2-year-old capelin from autumn 2016 acoustic survey are low.	1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Undefined	ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, the initial quota in 2017/2018 should be zero tonnes. The initial quota should be revised based on in-season acoustic survey information in autumn 2017. Final TAC should be set on the basis of survey information in autumn 2017 and winter 2017/2018.	IMPROVING  Spawning stock biomass 1. Undefined 2. Full reproductive capacity 3. Above

HERRING


Stock	TAC for 2017 Tonnes	Status of stock in May 2017	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	TAC advice for 2018	*SSB Status 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Inside safe biological limits					
Herring in IV and VIId North Sea, Eastern English channel - autumn spawners May 2017	458,926	Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) fluctuated between 1.1 and 2.3 million tonnes from 1997 to 2016, in all years above Bpa. Fishing mortality (F) has been below FMSY since 1996. Since 2003, recruitment (R) has been low despite the large size of the stock. 2014 recruitment was strong and has contributed to the increase in the spawning stock.	1. Below 2. Harvested sustainably 3. Below	ICES advises that when the European Union (EU)–Norway management strategy is applied, catches in 2018 >517,891 t, including 491,355 t for the A-fleet. All catches are assumed to be landed. Activities that have a negative impact on the spawning habitat of herring should not occur.	IMPROVING  Spawning stock biomass 1. Above trigger 2. Full reproductive capacity 3. Above
Stocks at risk of being outside safe biological limits and below biomass action point BMSY-trigger					
Herring Icelandic summer spawners Va June 2017	63,000 2016/17	Strong year classes in 1999–2002 led to increase in the spawning-stock biomass (SSB). Highest estimated levels in late 2000s. SSB declined since then due to high natural mortality caused by an Ichthyophonus infection (2009–2011) and poor recruitment - currently below MSY Btrigger. Fishing mortality increasing - currently above FMSY.	1. Above 2. Harvested sustainably 3. Not applicable	ICES advises that when the proposed Iceland management plan is applied, catches in the fishing year 2017/2018 should be no more than 38,712 tonnes.	SAME  Spawning stock biomass 1. Below trigger 2. Increased risk 3. Not applicable

Stock	TAC for 2017 Tonnes	Status of stock in September 2017	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	TAC advice for 2018	*SSB Status 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Inside safe biological limits					
Norwegian spring spawners (Atlanto-Scandian) herring. ICES sub area I, divisions IIa, Va, Vb. September 2017	646,075	Fishing mortality has had an overall declining trend since 2010 and was well below FMSY in 2016. The stock is declining and estimated to be below MSY Btrigger in 2017. Since 1998 four large year classes have been produced (1998, 1999, 2002, and 2004). All year classes since 2005 are estimated to be average or small. The perception of the stock has not changed since last year's assessment. This year's forecast deals with the intermediate year (2017) in a different way from what was done in 2016. Over the last year the EU pelagic industry has conducted its fishery on the traditional fishing grounds. No changes in distribution have been observed. The fishery in 2016 and 2017 has been characterized by large shoals in both the January fishery and in the autumn season, with higher catch rates than in previous years.	1. Below 2. Harvested sustainably 3. Below	ICES advises that when the long-term management plan agreed by the EU, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway, and Russia in 1999 is applied, catches in 2018 should be no more than 546,472 tonnes. For the fishing seasons 2013, 2014 and 2015 a lack of agreement between the countries on their TAC share led to autonomous quotas from the individual parties. This year's forecast deals with the intermediate year (2017) in a different way from what was done in 2016. This is because the approach used in 2016 was forecasting substantial change in the selection pattern for the intermediate and forecast years relative to what had been estimated for the final years in the assessment, and it was unclear if such a change was realistic.	DECLINING  Spawning stock biomass 1. Below trigger 2. Increased risk 3. Below

MACKEREL

Stock	TAC for 2017 Tonnes	Status of stock in September 2017	*Fishing mortality. Key - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	TAC advice for 2018	*SSB Status 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Inside safe biological limits					
Mackerel in the North East Atlantic (combines Southern, Western and North Sea spawning components). September 2017	944,302	SSB is estimated to have increased in the late 2000s and remained above MSY Btrigger since 2008. Fishing mortality (F) has declined from high levels in mid-2000s, but remains above FMSY with a succession of large year classes since the early 2000s. Assessment was benchmarked in 2017 resulting in a downward revision in SSB estimates and upwards revision of F estimates. Surveys give contradictory info - 2016 egg survey suggests a decrease in SSB since 2013 - the abundances-at-age from the IESSNS index increased between those years. SSB is estimated to have decreased from 2016 to 2017. Over last nine years pelagic industry encountered large shoals of mackerel over entire distribution area which has expanded both south and north.	1. Above 2. Harvested sustainably 3. Not applicable	The EU, Faroe Islands, and Norway have agreed on a long-term management strategy for NEA mackerel. ICES has not yet evaluated this management strategy and not all parties involved in the mackerel fishery have taken part in the agreement. ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2018 should be no more than 550,948 tonnes. ICES further advises that the existing measures to protect the North Sea spawning component should remain in place.	Spawning stock biomass DECLINING  1. Above trigger 2. Full reproductive capacity 3. Not applicable

NORWAY POUT



Stock	TAC for 2017 Tonnes	Status of stock in October 2017	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	TAC advice for 20187	*SSB Status 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Inside safe biological limits					
Norway pout in the North Sea and Skagerrak & Kattegat Subarea IV and Division IIIa October 2017	358,471	<p>The stock size is highly variable from year to year, due to recruitment variability and a short life span. Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) is above Bpa in 2017. Fishing mortality (F) has been fluctuating at a lower level than previously since 1995. Recruitments in 2014 and 2016 were high, while recruitments in 2015 and 2017 are below the long-term average recruitment.</p> <p>The directed fishery for Norway pout was closed in 2005, the first half of 2006, and in 2007, as well as in the first half of 2011 and 2012. Historically, the fisheries have resulted in bycatches of other species, particularly whiting, blue whiting, haddock, saithe, and herring. Bycatches of these species have been low in the recent decade.</p>	1. Appropriated 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable	<p>Due to the short-lived nature of this species a preliminary TAC is set every year, which is updated on the basis of advice in the first half of the year. TAC was not taken in 2008, 2009 or 2010 probably due to high fishing (fuel) costs in these years, and bycatch regulations in 2009 and 2010 (mainly in relation to whiting bycatch). There was a less than 30% uptake of ICES advised TAC for 2012 (late opening of the fishery at end of quarter 3 in 2012). In 2013 the quota uptake was also below 30%.</p> <p>ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches during 1 November 2017 to 31 October 2018 should be no more than 151,955 tonnes.</p>	<p>MAINTAINED</p>  <p>Spawning stock biomass</p> 1. Undefined 2. Full reproductive capacity 3. Not applicable




SANDEEL

Stock	TAC for 2016 Tonnes	Status of stock in February 2017	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	TAC advice for 2017	*SSB Status 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Sandeel in North Sea IV and IIIa – divided into sub areas SA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.					
Reference points not fully defined					
SA 1 Sandeel Dogger Bank	Monitoring TAC 5,000	SA 1 - SSB between (Blim) and Bpa in 2015, in 2016 and 2017 above Bpa. In 2015 recruitment second lowest in time-series, above-average in 2016. Fishing mortality (F) has decreased from 2009 onwards.	SA 1 1. Unknown 2. Unknown 3. Not applicable	SA 1 – ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2017 should be no more than 255, 956 tonnes.	IMPROVING 1. Above escapement 2. Full reproductive capacity 3. Not applicable
SA 2 Sandeel Central and South North Sea	Monitoring TAC 5,000	SA 2 – SSB below the precautionary reference point since 2000, and below limit biomass level last 2 years. Recruitment low since 2000 but 2016 one of the largest in the time-series. Fishing mortality declined substantially from 2006 and is low at present.	SA 2 1. Unknown 2. Unknown 3. Not applicable	SA 2 - ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2017 should be no more than 175, 941 tonnes.	IMPROVING 1. Below escapement 2. Reduced reproductive capacity 3. Not applicable
SA 3 Sandeel Skagerrak and Kattegat, North and Central North Sea	123,135	SA 3 – SSB was below Blim in 2013 but increased and was above precautionary levels in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Recruitment was above average in 2014 and low in 2015. In 2016 it is highly uncertain.	SA 3 1. Unknown 2. Unknown 3. Not applicable	SA 3 – ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2017 should be no more than 74,176 tonnes.	SAME 1. Above trigger 2. Full reproductive capacity 3. Not applicable

Stock	TAC for 2016 Tonnes	Status of stock in February 2017	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	TAC advice for 2017	*SSB Status 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Sandeel in North Sea IV and IIIa –divided into sub areas SA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.					
Reference points not fully defined					
SA 4 Sandeel North and Central North Sea	Monitoring TAC <6,000	SA 4 – Survey data indicate that 2009 and 2014 year classes large, and 2016 well above long-term average. Uncertainty in SSB and recruitment.	SA 4 1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable	SA 4 – ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2017 should be no more than 54,043 tonnes.	IMPROVING 1. Above escapement 2. Full reproductive capacity 3. Not applicable
SA 5 Sandeel North North Sea Viking and Bergen Bank	Zero	SA 5 - No landings have occurred since 2004 (except for 4 t in 2007). Available information is inadequate to evaluate stock status or trends so status is unknown.	SA 5 1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable	SA 5 - ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches should not increase. This corresponds to zero catch in 2017 and 2018.	SAME 1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable
SA 6 Sandeel Skagerrak and Kattegat Division IIIA	<219	SA 6 - Available information is inadequate to evaluate stock status or trends. The state of the stock is therefore unknown.	SA 6 1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable	SA 6 - ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches should be no more than 175 tonnes in 2017 and 2018.	SAME 1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable
SA7 Sandeel Shetland area	Zero	SA 7 - The available information is inadequate to evaluate stock status or trends. The state of the stock is therefore unknown.	SA 7 1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable	SA 7 - ICES advises that when precautionary approach is applied, catches should not increase. This corresponds to zero catch in 2017 and 2018.	SAME 1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable
Sandeel in 6.a West of Scotland June 2016	Zero	The fishery started in the early 1980s and peaked around the mid-1980s. Even though the fishery is not restricted, landings have been close to zero since 2001.	1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable	ICES cannot give catch advice for this stock for 2017 and 2018. It recommends that catches should not increase unless there is evidence that this will be sustainable.	SAME 1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable

SPRAT

Stock	TAC for 2017 Tonnes	Status of stock in April and May 2017	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	TAC advice for 2018	*SSB Status 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Inside safe biological limits					
Sprat in the Baltic Subdivisions 22 – 32 May 2017	314,000	The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) is well above MSY Btrigger. The recent increase in SSB is attributable to the strong year class of 2014. The 2015 and 2016 year classes are estimated slightly below average. Fishing mortality has declined in recent years and is now below FMSY.	1. Below 2. Harvested sustainably 3. Within range	ICES advises that when the EU multiannual plan (MAP) is applied, catches in 2018 that correspond to the F ranges in the plan are between 219,152 tonnes and 301,722 tonnes. According to the MAP, catches higher than those corresponding to FMSY (291.715 tonnes) can only be taken under conditions specified in the MAP. ICES advises that a spatial management plan is considered for the fisheries that catch sprat.	SAME  1. Above trigger 2. Full reproductive capacity 3. Above trigger
Sprat in the North Sea Subarea IV April 2017	125,541 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017	The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has been at or above MSY Bescapement since 2013. Fishing mortality has been higher in the last two years. Recruitment in 2016 is estimated to be the highest on record, but with substantial uncertainty.	1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable	ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in the period from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 should be no more than 170,387 tonnes.	IMPROVING  1. Above trigger 2. Full reproductive capacity 3. Not applicable

Stock	TAC for 2017 Tonnes	Status of stock in April and June 2017	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	TAC advice for 2018	*SSB Status 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
Reference points not fully defined					
Sprat in Skagerrak & Kattegat Division IIIa April 2017	9,773 8,144 July 2016 to June 2017	The abundance index has been fluctuating without trend over the time-series with high interannual variability. The stock abundance index in 2017 is 27% lower than the average of the four preceding years.	1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable	ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 should be no more than 6,255 tonnes.	DECREASING  1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable
Sprat in Subarea VI and Divisions VIIa-c and f-k (Celtic Sea and West of Scotland) June 2017	<3,500	The information available is insufficient to evaluate stock trends and exploitation. Stock identity for this species in this area is not defined.	1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable	ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches should be no more than 2,800 tonnes in 2018 and 2019.	SAME  1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable
Sprat in Divisions VIIId,e (Celtic Sea and West of Scotland) June 2017	3,678	The acoustic survey declined in 2015, and decreased significantly in 2016. The harvest rate index increased in 2016 due to a drop in the biomass index, while catches remained stable.	1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable	ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catch in 2018 should be no more than 2,354 tonnes.	DECREASING  1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable

For further information:

ICES advice

<http://www.ices.dk/community/advisory-process/Pages/Latest-advice.aspx>**For further information contact:** Karen Green.**T:** 07515 993499**E:** k_green@seafish.co.uk**20 October 2017**