








## SUMMARY OF 2020 ICES ADVICE FOR PELAGIC SPECIES

|  | Date of advice   | Status of key stocks in 2019 and 2020<br>(more detail in the following pages)  | ICES Catch advice        | TAC for previous year   | SSB Compared with previous yr   | Pg       |
|--|------------------|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|---|----------|
| <b>Blue whiting combined stock I-IX, XII &amp; XIV</b> | <b>Sept 2020</b> | Fishing mortality (F) is estimated to be above FMSY since 2014. Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has been decreasing since 2018; however, it is estimated to remain above MSY Btrigger. Recruitment (R) from 2017 to 2020 is estimated to be low, following a three-year period of high recruitment.           | <b>929,292 (2021)</b>    | <b>1,161,615 (2020)</b> |    | <b>4</b> |
| <b>Barents Sea capelin</b>                             | <b>Oct 2020</b>  | Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has been declining since 2018. Recruitment in 2019 is the lowest estimated since 1995. Maturing stock decreased from 2018 to 2019.  | <b>Zero (2021)</b>       | <b>Zero (2020)</b>      |    | <b>5</b> |
| <b>Capelin Iceland East Greenland Jan Mayen</b>        | <b>Nov 2019</b>  | The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) was estimated at 127,000 tonnes at the time of spawning in March 2019 - below Blim (150,000 t). The recruitment (the immature 1- and 2-year-old capelin) estimate from the acoustic survey in autumn 2019 is above the average of the time-series.                        | <b>169,520 (2020/21)</b> | <b>Zero (2019/20)</b>   |    | <b>5</b> |
| <b>Herring N Sea autumn spawners</b>                   | <b>May 2020</b>  | Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) fluctuated between 1.5 and 2.7 mt between 1998 and 2018, and in all years it was above MSY Btrigger. Very low recruitment in 2015 and 2017.   | <b>365,792 (2021)</b>    | <b>385,008 (2020)</b>   |    | <b>6</b> |
| <b>Herring Icelandic summer spawners</b>               | <b>June 2019</b> | The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) shows a declining trend since 2006 and it is now below MSY Btrigger. The fishing mortality (F) is currently below FMSY. Recruitment (R) shows a declining trend. The infection rates of Ichthyophonus infection remain high.  | <b>34,572 (2019/20)</b>  | <b>35,186 (2018/19)</b> |  | <b>6</b> |
| <b>Norwegian spring spawning herring</b>               | <b>Sept 2020</b> | Fishing mortality increased since 2015, but estimated to be below FMSY in 2018. The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has been declining since 2008, but is estimated to be above MSY Btrigger in 2019. Recruitment is estimated to be average or low since 2007 (2005 year-class).                             | <b>651,033 (2021)</b>    | <b>525,594 (2020)</b>   |  | <b>7</b> |
| <b>Mackerel in the North East Atlantic</b>             | <b>Sept 2020</b> | The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) is estimated to have increased since 2007, reaching a maximum in 2014, and has been declining since then. It has, however, remained above MSY Btrigger since 2008. The fishing mortality (F) has declined since 2003, and is estimated to have been below FMSY since 2016 | <b>852,284 (2021)</b>    | <b>922,064 (2020)</b>   |  | <b>8</b> |

|  | Date of advice | Status of key stocks in 2019 and 2020<br>(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 2020       | Stock size is highly variable from year to year, due to recruitment variability and a short life span. Spawning-stock biomass above Bpa most of time series. Recruitment in 2018 and 2019 was above the long-term average.   | 254,038 (2021)         | 167,105 (2020)           |                               | 9  |
| Sandeel in the Dogger Bank (1r)            | Feb 2020       | The spawning-stock biomass was below precautionary levels at the beginning of 2019. Recruitment in 2018 was slightly above the mean following very low recruitment in 2017.  | 113,987 (2020)         | 91,906 (2019)            |                               | 10 |
| Sandeel in central and southern N Sea (2r) | Feb 2020       | SSB below limit biomass level since 2004 (except in 2011), increasing in 2018 but decreasing 2019. Since 2000 recruitment low. 2016 year class one of the largest in the time-series. Lowest recruitment on record in 2017 and low in 2018. Fishing mortality low in 2018. | 62,658 (2020)          | 5,000 Monitoring (2019)  |                               | 10 |
| Sandeel in north/central N Sea (3r)        | Feb 2020       | SSB has been above precautionary levels since 2015. Recruitment in 2019 5 <sup>th</sup> highest on record, whilst 2018 above long-term average. Fishing mortality (F) declined in early 2000s low since but increasing.  | 155,072 (2019)         | 133,610 (2019)           |                               | 10 |
| Sandeel in north/central N Sea (4)         | Feb 2020       | Fishing mortality low since 2005, increased 2018, decreased 2019. SSB fluctuated. 2019 above the long-term average, following the low recruitment of 2018.   | 39,611 (2020)          | 5,000 Monitoring (2019)  |                               | 11 |
| Sandeel in waters West of Scotland         | June 2018      | 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.  | No TAC (2018)          | No TAC (2017)            |                               | 11 |
| Sandeel in Viking and Bergen Banks (5r)    | Feb 2019       | The stock size is unknown, but it is probably low. Fishing pressure is unknown, but it is probably very low.   | Zero (2019/20)         | Zero (2018)              |                               | 11 |
| Sandeel in the Kattegat (6)                | Feb 2019       | The stock size and the fishing pressure are unknown, but they are thought to be very low.  | 175 (2019/20)          | 175 (2018)               |                               | 11 |
| Sandeel in Shetland (7r)                   | Feb 2019       | The stock size is unknown. Fishing pressure is unknown, but it is probably very low and stable.  | Zero (2019/20)         | Zero (2018)              |                               | 11 |
| Sprat in the Baltic                        | May 2020       | SSB is above MSY Btrigger. Increase in SSB in 2016–2017 due to strong 2014 year class (2015–2018 below or close to average, 2019 above average). Fishing mortality remained above FMSY since 2002.   | 181,567-316,833 (2021) | 169,965 - 233,704 (2020) |                               | 12 |

|  | Date of advice    | Status of key stocks in 2019 and 2020<br>(more detail in the following pages)   | ICES Catch advice        | TAC for previous year  | SSB Compared with previous yr | Pg        |
|--|-------------------|---|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Sprat in the Skagge- rak/ Kattegat/ North Sea</b> | <b>April 2020</b> | The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has been above MSY Bescapement since 2013. Fishing mortality (F) has been higher than average for the last four years. Recruitment (R) is estimated to have been below the long-term average, but above the average of the last ten years. | <b>207,807 (2020-21)</b> | <b>138,726 2019-20</b> |                               | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Sprat in the West of Scotland/S. Celtic Sea</b>   | <b>June 2019</b>  | Adult stock size and fishing pressure are unknown.  | <b>2,800 (2020-21)</b>   | <b>2,800 2018-19</b>   |                               | <b>13</b> |
| <b>Sprat in the English Channel</b>                  | <b>June 2020</b>  | In 2019, the biomass index increased compared to the 2018 estimate (but still less than half the value between 2013 and 2015). The harvest-rate index peaked in 2016, but has declined since. The harvest rate for 2019 was half the 2018 value.                            | <b>1,446 (2021)</b>      | <b>1,506 (2020)</b>    |                               | <b>13</b> |

**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 2020<br>Tonnes | Status of stock in September 2020   | *Fishing mortality -<br>1. MSY<br>2. PA<br>3. Mg'ment Plan  | TAC advice for 2021   | *SSB Status<br>1. MSY<br>2. PA<br>3. Mg'ment plan  |
|--|------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Inside safe biological limits</b>   |                        |   |   |   |  |
| Blue whiting combined stock<br>Sub-areas I-IX, XII and XIV<br><br>September 2020 | 1,161,615 tonnes       | <p>Fishing mortality (F) is estimated to be above FMSY since 2014. Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has been decreasing since 2018; however, it is estimated to remain above MSY Btrigger. Recruitment (R) from 2017 to 2020 is estimated to be low, following a three-year period of high recruitment.</p> <p>The assessment uses data from one survey only, as the International Blue Whiting Spawning Stock Survey (IBWSS), which was cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 disruption. But low recruitment in the most recent years is confirmed by a number of other surveys. This low recruitment will result in a decrease in stock size, as well as a reduction in fishing opportunities in the coming years.</p> | 1. Above<br><br>2. Harvested sustainability<br><br>3. Above | <p>ICES advises that when the long-term management strategy agreed by the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, and Norway is applied, catches in 2021 should be no more than 929,292 tonnes.</p> <p>A long-term management strategy was agreed by the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, and Norway in 2016. ICES has evaluated the strategy and found it to be precautionary.</p> <p>SSB is declining and recent recruitments have been low, which caused a reduction in the advised TAC, capped at -20% applying the long-term management strategy.</p> | <p><b>DECLINING</b></p>  <p><b>Spawning stock biomass</b></p> 1. Above trigger<br><br>2. Full reproductive capacity<br><br>3. Above |


## CAPELIN

| Stock   | TAC<br>Tonnes         | Status of stock in Oct & Nov 2019 and 2020   | *Fishing mortality -<br>1. MSY<br>2. PA<br>3. Mg'ment Plan | TAC advice for 2020 and 2021   | *SSB Status<br>1. MSY<br>2. PA<br>3. Mg'ment plan   |
|---|-----------------------|--|--|--|---|
| <b>Reference points not fully defined</b>   |                       |  |  |  |   |
| <b>Advice in October 2020</b>   |                       |  |  |  |   |
| Barents Sea capelin Subareas I and II, excluding Division IIa west of 5°W.<br><br><b>October 2020. Abbreviated advice</b>                                   | Zero (2020)           | In Nov 2019 spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has been declining since 2018. The estimate of recruitment (age 1) has been low since 2014, and below time-series average. Recruitment in 2019 is the lowest estimated since 1995. Maturing stock decreased from 2018 to 2019, and remains below the harvest control rule (HCR) limit to allow a fishery. | 1. Undefined<br>2. Undefined<br>3. Undefined               | ICES advises that when the management plan of the Joint Norwegian–Russian Fisheries Commission (JNRFC) is applied, there should be zero catch in 2021.   | <b>SAME</b><br><br><br><b>Spawning stock biomass</b><br><br>1. Below possible reference point<br>2. Below<br>3. Not above with 95% probability |
| <b>Advice in Nov 2019</b>   |                       |  |  |  |   |
| Capelin in the Iceland East Greenland Jan Mayen area Subareas V and XIV and Division IIa west of 5°W<br><br><b>November 2019 New advice due 30 Nov 2020</b> | 2019/20<br>Zero catch | The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) was estimated at 127,000 tonnes at the time of spawning in March 2019 - below Blim (150,000 t). The recruitment (the immature 1- and 2-year-old capelin) estimate from the acoustic survey in autumn 2019 is above the average of the time-series.  | 1. Undefined<br>2. Undefined<br>3. Undefined               | ICES advises that when the harvest control rule agreed in 2015 by the Coastal States is applied, the initial TAC for the fishing season July 2020–March 2021 should be 169,520 tonnes. The Icelandic Marine and Freshwater Research Institute will provide updated catch advice based on acoustic survey information in autumn 2020/winter 2021. | <b>SAME</b><br><br><br><b>Spawning stock biomass</b><br><br>1. Undefined<br>2. Full reproductive capacity<br>3. Below                         |


## HERRING

| Stock   | TAC advice<br>Tonnes | Status of stock in 2019  | *Fishing mortality -<br>1. MSY<br>2. PA<br>3. Mg'ment Plan                     | TAC advice for 2021   | *SSB Status<br>1. MSY<br>2. PA<br>3. Mg'ment plan  |
|---|----------------------|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Inside safe biological limits</b>  |                      |  |  |   |  |
| Herring in IV and VIId North Sea, Eastern English channel - autumn spawners<br><br><b>May 2020</b><br><b>Abbreviated advice</b> | 385,008 in 2020      | <b>NOTE: 2019 advice.</b> Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) fluctuated between 1.5 and 2.7 mt between 1998 and 2018 - in all years it was above MSY Btrigger. Fishing mortality (F) has been below FMSY since 1996. Recruitment relatively low since 2002, and v low in 2015 and 2017. Fishing pressure is below FMSY, FPA, and Flim; spawning stock size above indicators. | 1. Below<br><br>2. Harvested sustainably<br><br>3. Not applicable              | ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2021 should be no more than 365,792 t.<br><b>NOTE: 2019 advice.</b> The advice for 2020 is for an increase in catch but a reduction in stock size is expected in the coming years due to the lack of strong incoming year classes and a reduction in the contribution of the strong 2013 year class. | <b>DECLINING</b><br><br><b>Spawning stock biomass</b><br><br>1. Below trigger<br><br>2. Full reproductive capacity<br><br>3. Not applicable |
| <b>Stocks at risk of being outside safe biological limits and below biomass action point BMSY-trigger</b>                       |                      |  |  |   |  |
| Herring Icelandic summer spawners Va<br><br><b>June 2019</b>  | 35,186 2018/19       | The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) shows a declining trend since 2006 and it is now below MSY Btrigger. The fishing mortality (F) is currently below FMSY. Recruitment (R) shows a declining trend since highest value in 2002. Fishing pressure on the stock is below FMSY, Fpa, and Flim. Spawning stock size is below MSY Btrigger and between Bpa and Blim.          | 1. Appropriate<br><br>2. Harvested sustainably<br><br>3. Within expected range | ICES advises that when the Iceland management plan is applied, catches in the fishing year 2019/2020 should be no more than 34,572 tonnes. SSB has declined since 2009 because of high natural mortality caused by an Ichthyophonus infection (2009–2011 and 2017–2018) and decreasing recruitment. The infection rates of Icht remain high.                        | <b>DECLINING</b><br><br><b>Spawning stock biomass</b><br><br>1. Below trigger<br><br>2. Increased risk<br><br>3. Above trigger            |

## HERRING contd


| Stock  | TAC for 2029<br>Tonnes | Status of stock in October 2019   | *Fishing mortality -<br>1. MSY<br>2. PA<br>3. Mg'ment Plan | TAC advice for 2021  | *SSB Status<br>1. MSY<br>2. PA<br>3. Mg'ment plan  |
|--|------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| <b>Inside safe biological limits</b>   |                        |   |  |  |  |
| Norwegian spring spawners (Atlanto-Scandian) herring. ICES sub area I, divisions IIa, Va, Vb.<br><br><b>September 2020. Abbreviated advice</b> | 524,594                | The advice for 2021 is 24% higher than that for 2020 due to an upward revision in the 2016 year class, which contributes more to the catches in 2021.<br><br>As reported in Oct 2019 fishing mortality has increased since 2015, but is estimated to be below FMSY in 2018. The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has been declining since 2008, but is estimated to be above MSY Btrigger in 2019. Recruitment is estimated to be average or low since 2007 (2005 year-class) | 1. Above<br><br>2. Harvested sustainably<br><br>3. Above   | ICES advises that when the long-term management strategy agreed by the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway, and the Russian Federation is applied, catches in 2021 should be no more than 651,033 tonnes.<br><br>A long-term management strategy was agreed by the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway, and Russia in 2018. ICES has evaluated the long-term management strategy and found it to be precautionary. | <b>SAME</b><br><br><br><br><b>Spawning stock biomass</b><br><br>1. Above trigger<br><br>2. Full reproductive capacity<br><br>3. Above |

## MACKEREL

| Stock   | TAC for 2020<br>Tonnes  | Status of stock in Sept 2020  | *Fishing mortality. Key -<br>1. MSY<br>2. PA<br>3. Mg'ment Plan   | TAC advice for 2021   | *SSB Status<br>1. MSY<br>2. PA<br>3. Mg'ment plan  |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| <b>Inside safe biological limits</b>  |   |   |   |   |  |
| <p>Mackerel in the North East Atlantic (NEA) (combines Southern, Western and North Sea spawning components).</p> <p><b>September 2020.</b></p> <p><b>August 2020 ICES was asked to advise on long-term management strategies for NEA mackerel. Their response was published on 3 Aug. Their Management Evaluation Strategy (MSE) tool provides a useful instrument to explore a wider range of uncertainties associated with NEA mackerel stock assessment.</b></p> | <p>922,064</p> <p>No internationally agreed quotas. Values presented are the sum of unilateral quotas (including quotas and transfers).</p> | <p>The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) is estimated to have increased since 2007, reaching a maximum in 2014, and has been declining since then. It has, however, remained above MSY Btrigger since 2008. The fishing mortality (F) has declined since 2003, and is estimated to have been below FMSY since 2016. There has been a succession of large year classes since 2001, with year classes since 2011 estimated to be above average. As in previous years, the assessment indicates conflicting signals between some of the data sources. The International Ecosystem Summer Survey in the Nordic Seas (IESSNS) index has remained at high levels since 2013, while the triennial egg survey index has been at low levels since 2016.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Below</li> <li>2. Harvested sustainably</li> <li>3. Not applicable</li> </ol> | <p>ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2021 should be no more than 852,284 tonnes.</p> <p>The advised catch for 2021 is slightly lower than the advice for 2020, because there has been a downward revision of the 2019 SSB as well as a continued decline in SSB, though this was partly offset by the upward revision of the FMSY value used for the advice.</p> | <p><b>Spawning stock biomass</b></p> <p><b>SAME</b></p>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Above trigger</li> <li>2. Full reproductive capacity</li> <li>3. Not applicable</li> </ol> |



## NORWAY POUT

| Stock   | TAC for 2020<br>Tonnes | Status of stock in October 2020   | *Fishing mortality -<br>1. MSY<br>2. PA<br>3. Mg'ment Plan  | TAC advice for 2021  | *SSB Status<br>1. MSY<br>2. PA<br>3. Mg'ment plan  |
|---|------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| <b>Inside safe biological limits</b>  |                        |   |   |  |  |
| <p>Norway pout in the North Sea and Skagerrak &amp; Kattegat Subarea IV and Division IIIa</p> <p><b>October 2020 Abbreviated advice</b></p> | 167,105                | <p>As reported in Oct 2019 the stock size is highly variable from year to year, due to recruitment variability and a short life span. Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) is estimated to have been fluctuating above Bpa for most of the time-series. Fishing mortality (F) declined between 1985 and 1995 and has been fluctuating at a lower level since 1995. Recruitment in 2018 and 2019 was above the long-term average. 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> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undefined</li> <li>2. Undefined</li> <li>3. Not applicable</li> </ol> | <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.</p> <p>ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches from 1 November 2020 to 31 October 2021 should be no more than 254,038 tonnes. The change in advice (+52%) compared to last year's advice results from an upward revision of SSB as well as the strong 2018–2020 year classes.</p> | <p><b>INCREASING</b></p>  <p><b>Spawning stock biomass</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undefined</li> <li>2. Full reproductive capacity</li> <li>3. Not applicable</li> </ol> |



## SANDEEL

| Stock   | TAC for 2019 Tonnes | Status of stock in February 2019 and February 2020  | *Fishing mortality -<br>1. MSY<br>2. PA<br>3. Mg'ment Plan     | TAC advice for 2019/2020 and 2020  | *SSB Status<br><br>1. MSY<br>2. PA<br>3. Mg'ment plan   |
|---|---------------------|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Sandeel in North Sea IV and IIIa – divided into sub areas 1r, 2r, 3r, 4, 5r, 6 and 7r.</b> |                     |   |  |  |   |
| <b>Reference points not fully defined</b>   |                     |   |  |  |   |
| <b>1r</b> Sandeel Central and southern North Sea, Dogger Bank<br><br><b>Feb 2020</b>          | 91,916 (2019)       | <b>1r</b> SSB below precautionary reference points at start of 2020. 2019 recruitment is slightly above mean, but higher in 2018. Fishing mortality at long-term average last two years.  | <b>1r</b><br>1. Undefined<br>2. Undefined<br>3. Not applicable | <b>1r</b> – ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2020 should be no more than 113,987 tonnes. | <b>SAME</b><br>1. Below escapement<br>2. Reduced reproductive capacity<br>3. Not applicable       |
| <b>2r</b> Sandeel Central and South North Sea<br><br><b>Feb 2020</b>                          | 5,000 (2019)        | <b>2r</b> SSB increased above precautionary reference points in 2018 but dropped below limit biomass level in 2020. Since 2000 recruitment low (2016 one of the largest in the time-series). In 2019 slightly above the long-term average but fishing mortality low.            | <b>2r</b><br>1. Undefined<br>2. Undefined<br>3. Not applicable | <b>2r</b> – ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2020 should be no more than 62,658 tonnes.  | <b>DECREASING</b><br>1. Below escapement<br>2. Reduced reproductive capacity<br>3. Not applicable |
| <b>3r</b> Sandeel North and Central North Sea, Skaggerak<br><br><b>Feb 2020</b>               | 133,610 (2019)      | <b>3r</b> SSB has been above Bpa (MSY Bescapement) since 2015. The recruitment 2019 5 <sup>th</sup> highest on record, whilst recruitment in 2018 above long-term average. Fishing mortality (F) declined in the early 2000s, been low since but increased in last three years. | <b>3r</b><br>1. Undefined<br>2. Undefined<br>3. Not applicable | <b>3r</b> – ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2020 should be no more than 155,072 tonnes. | <b>IMPROVING</b><br>1. Above escapement<br>2. Full reproductive capacity<br>3. Not applicable     |



**SANDEEL contd**

| <b>Stock</b>   | <b>TAC for 2018 Tonnes</b> | <b>Status of stock in February 2019</b>   | <b>*Fishing mortality -<br/>1. MSY<br/>2. PA<br/>3. Mg'ment Plan</b> | <b>TAC advice for 2019 and 2020</b>   | <b>*SSB Status<br/><br/>1. MSY<br/>2. PA<br/>3. Mg'ment plan</b>                  |
|--|----------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| <b>Sandeel in North Sea IV and IIIa –divided into sub areas 1r, 2r, 3r, 4, 5r, 6 and 7r.</b> |                            |   |  |   |   |
| <b>Reference points not fully defined</b>  |                            |   |  |   |   |
| <b>Area 4</b> Sandeel North and Central North Sea<br><b>Feb 2020</b>                         | Zero (2019)                | <b>4</b> Fishing mortality low since 2005, increased 2018, decreased 2019. SSB fluctuated. 2019 above the long-term average, following the low recruitment of 2018. | <b>Area 4</b><br>1. Undefined<br>2. Undefined<br>3. Not applicable   | <b>Area 4</b> – ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2020 should be no more than 39,611 tonnes.                               | <b>DECLINING</b><br>1. Below escapement<br>2. Increased risk<br>3. Not applicable |
| <b>5r</b> Sandeel North North Sea Viking and Bergen Bank<br><b>Feb 2019</b>                  | Zero                       | <b>5r</b> No landings have occurred since 2007. Available information is inadequate to evaluate stock status or trends so status is unknown.                        | <b>5r</b><br>1. Undefined<br>2. Undefined<br>3. Not applicable       | <b>5r</b> - ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches should not increase. This corresponds to zero catch in 2019 and 2020. | <b>SAME</b><br>1. Unknown<br>2. Unknown<br>3. Not applicable                      |
| <b>Area 6</b> Sandeel Skagerrak, Kattegat and Belt Sea<br><b>Feb 2019</b>                    | <175                       | <b>6</b> Available information is inadequate to evaluate stock status or trends. The state of the stock is therefore unknown.                                       | <b>Area 6</b><br>1. Undefined<br>2. Undefined<br>3. Not applicable   | <b>Area 6</b> - ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches should be no more than 175 tonnes in 2019 and 2020.               | <b>SAME</b><br>1. Unknown<br>2. Unknown<br>3. Not applicable                      |
| <b>7r</b> Sandeel Shetland area<br><b>Feb 2019</b>   | Zero                       | <b>7r</b> The available information is inadequate to evaluate stock status or trends. The state of the stock is therefore unknown.                                  | <b>7r</b><br>1. Undefined<br>2. Undefined<br>3. Not applicable       | <b>7r</b> - ICES advises that when precautionary approach is applied, catches should not increase. This corresponds to zero catch in 2019/2020.         | <b>SAME</b><br>1. Unknown<br>2. Unknown<br>3. Not applicable                      |
| <b>Sandeel</b> in 6a West of Scotland<br><br><b>June 2018</b>                                | No TAC                     | The fishery started early 1980s - peaked mid-1980s. Fishery is not restricted but landings close to zero since 2001.  | 1. Unknown<br>2. Unknown<br>3. Not applicable                        | ICES has not been requested to provide advice on fishing opportunities for this stock.  | <b>SAME</b><br>1. Unknown<br>2. Unknown<br>3. Not applicable                      |

## SPRAT

| Stock  | TAC for 2020/2021<br>Tonnes           | Status of stock in April and May 2020  | *Fishing mortality -<br>1. MSY<br>2. PA<br>3. Mg'ment Plan  | TAC advice for 2020/2021  | *SSB Status<br>1. MSY<br>2. PA<br>3. Mg'ment plan  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Inside safe biological limits</b>   |                                       |  |   |   |  |
| Sprat in the Baltic Subdivisions 22 – 32<br><br>May 2020   | Between 169,965 – 233,704 (2020)      | The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) is above MSY Btrigger. The increase in SSB in 2016–2017 is attributable to the strong year class of 2014. The 2015–2018 year classes are below or close to average, while the 2019 year class is above average. Fishing mortality (F) has remained above FMSY since 2002.                       | 1. Above<br>2. Harvested sustainably<br>3. Within the range | ICES advises when the EU multiannual plan (MAP) for the Baltic Sea is applied, catches in 2021 that correspond to the F ranges are between 181,567 tonnes and 316,833 tonnes. Catches higher than those corresponding to FMSY (247,952 tonnes) can only be taken under conditions specified in the MAP, whilst the entire range is considered precautionary when applying the ICES advice rule. | <b>SAME</b><br><br><br><br>1. Above trigger<br>2. Full reproductive capacity<br>3. Above trigger    |
| Sprat in the Skagerrak & Kattegat Division IIIa and North Sea Subarea IV<br><br>April 2020<br>Abbreviated advice | 138,726<br>1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020 | <b>NOTE 2019 ADVICE:</b> The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) at 1 July has been above MSY Bescapement since 2013. Fishing mortality (F) has been higher than average for the last four years. Recruitment (R) at 1 July in 2018 is estimated to have been below the long-term average, but above the average of the last ten years. | 1. Undefined<br>2. Undefined<br>3. Not applicable           | ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in the period from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 should be no more than 207,807 tonnes.   | <b>SAME</b><br><br><br><br>1. Above trigger<br>2. Full reproductive capacity<br>3. Not applicable |

**SPRAT contd**

| <b>Stock</b>  | <b>TAC for 2019</b><br><b>Tonnes</b> | <b>Status of stock in June 2019</b>  | <b>*Fishing mortality -</b><br><b>1. MSY</b><br><b>2. PA</b><br><b>3. Mg'ment Plan</b> | <b>TAC advice for 2020</b>  | <b>*SSB Status</b><br><b>1. MSY</b><br><b>2. PA</b><br><b>3. Mg'ment plan</b>   |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Reference points not fully defined</b>   |                                      |  |  |   |   |
| Sprat in Subarea VI and Divisions VIIa-c and f-k (West of Scotland and southern Celtic Sea)<br><br><u>June 2019</u> | <2,800                               | The information available is insufficient to evaluate stock trends and exploitation. Stock identity for this species in this area is not defined.  | 1. Unknown<br>2. Unknown<br>3. Not applicable  | ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches should be no more than 2,800 tonnes in 2020 and 2021. | <b>SAME</b><br><br>1. Unknown<br>2. Unknown<br>3. Not applicable           |
| Sprat in Divisions VII d,e (English Channel)<br><br><u>June 2020</u>  | 1,506                                | In 2019, the biomass index increased compared to the 2018 estimate (but still less than half the value between 2013 and 2015). The harvest-rate index peaked in 2016, but has declined since. The harvest rate for 2019 was half the 2018 value. | 1. Undefined<br>2. Undefined<br>3. Not applicable                                      | ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches in 2021 should be no more than 1,446 tonnes.          | <b>INCREASING</b><br><br>1. Undefined<br>2. Undefined<br>3. Not applicable |

**For further information:**

ICES advice

<http://www.ices.dk/community/advisory-process/Pages/Latest-advice.aspx>

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