












## SUMMARY OF 2018 ICES ADVICE FOR PELAGIC SPECIES (up to June 2018)

	Date	Status of key stocks in 2017 and 2018 (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 2017</b>	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	<b>1,387,872 (2018)</b>	<b>1,342,330 (2017)</b>		<b>4</b>
<b>Barents Sea capelin</b>	<b>Oct 2017</b>	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.	<b>205,000 (2018)</b>	<b>Zero (2017)</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>Capelin Iceland East Greenland Jan Mayen</b>	<b>Nov 2017</b>	The SSB is estimated at 355,000 tonnes (median value) at spawning in March 2017 with A 95% probability of the SSB being above Blim (150,000 t).	<b>Zero (2018/19)</b>	<b>Zero (2017/18)</b>		<b>5</b>
<b>Herring N Sea autumn spawners</b>	<b>May 2018</b>	Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) fluctuated between 1.5 and 2.6 million tonnes between 1998 and 2017, and in all years it was above MSY Btrigger. Very low 2014 year class.	<b>311,572 (2019)</b>	<b>517,891 (2018)</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Herring Icelandic summer spawners</b>	<b>June 2018</b>	Strong year classes in 1999–2002 led to increase in SSB. Highest estimated levels in late 2000s. SSB declined since then due to high natural mortality caused by an Ichthyophonus infection (2009–2011).	<b>35,186 (2018/19)</b>	<b>38,712 (2017/18)</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Norwegian spring spawning herring</b>	<b>Sept 2017</b>	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.	<b>546,472 (2018)</b>	<b>646,075 (2017)</b>		<b>7</b>
<b>Mackerel in the North East Atlantic</b>	<b>Sept 2017</b>	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.	<b>550,948 (2018)</b>	<b>944,302 (2017)</b>		<b>8</b>

	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	<a href="#">Oct 2017</a>	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 (1r)	<a href="#">Feb 2018</a>	Stock size above precautionary reference points since 2016 but 2017 recruitment lowest in time-series (above-average recruitment in 2016). Fishing mortality fluctuated, mostly declining to slight increase in 2017.	134, 461 (2018)	255,956 (2017)		10
Sandeel in central and southern N Sea (2r)	<a href="#">Feb 2018</a>	Stock size below limit biomass level since 2004 (except in 2011), increasing in 2018 to above Bpa. Recruitment low since 2000. 2016 year class is estimated one of the largest in the time-series. Lowest recruitment on record in 2017. Fishing mortality increased in 2017	5,000 Monitoring (2018)	175,941 (2017)		10
Sandeel in north/central N Sea (3r)	<a href="#">Feb 2018</a>	SSB is increasing and has been above precautionary levels since 2015. Recruitment in 2016 among the highest but 2017 very low. Fishing mortality declined early 2000s and since fluctuated at low level.	108, 365 (2018)	74,176 (2017)		10
Sandeel in north/central N Sea (4)	<a href="#">Feb 2018</a>	Fishing mortality very low since 2006. SSB increased from 2009 to well above precautionary reference points. 2016 and 2017 year classes above long-term average.	59,345 (2018)	54,043 (2017)		11
Sandeel in waters West of Scotland	<a href="#">June 2018</a>	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)	<a href="#">Feb 2018</a>	The stock size is unknown, but it is probably low. Fishing pressure is unknown, but it is probably very low.	Zero (2018)	Zero (2017)		11
Sandeel in the Kattegat (6)	<a href="#">Feb 2018</a>	The stock size and the fishing pressure are unknown, but they are thought to be very low.	175 (2018)	175 (2017)		11
Sandeel in Shetland (7r)	<a href="#">Feb 2018</a>	The stock size is unknown. Fishing pressure is unknown, but it is probably very low and stable.	Zero (2018)	Zero (2017)		11
Sprat in the Baltic	<a href="#">May 2018</a>	Stock size is well above MSY Btrigger attributable to the strong year class of 2014. 2015 and 2016 year classes slightly below, and 2017 above, average. Fishing mortality declined recently - just above FMSY.	225,752 – 311,523 (2018)	219,152 - 301,722 (2017)		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	<a href="#">April 2018</a>	Stock size has been at or above MSY Bescapement since 2013. Fishing mortality has been higher than average for the last three years. Recruitment in 2017 is estimated to be above average, but with substantial uncertainty. Fishing year July to June.	177,545 2018-19	170,387 2017-18		12
Sprat in the Skaggerak/ Kattogat	<a href="#">April 2018</a>	The abundance index has been fluctuating over the time-series, without trend and with high interannual variability. The stock abundance index in 2018 is 136% higher than the average of the four preceding years.	7,506 (2018-19)	6,255 2017-18		13
Sprat in the Celtic Sea & West of Scotland	<a href="#">June 2017</a>	Adult stock size and fishing pressure are unknown.	2,800 (2018-19)	3,500 2016-17		13
Sprat in the English Channel	<a href="#">June 2018</a>	In 2017 the biomass index increased compared to the 2016 estimate, but it is still less than half the biomass estimated between 2013 and 2015. The harvest rate peaked in 2016.	1,883 (2019)	2,354 (2018)		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
<b>Inside safe biological limits</b>					
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.	<b>MAINTAINED</b>    <b>Spawning stock biomass</b>  1. Above trigger  2. Full reproductive capacity  3. Above

## CAPELIN

Stock	TAC Tonnes	Status of stock	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	TAC advice	*SSB Status 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
<b>Reference points not fully defined</b>					
<b>Advice in October 2017</b>					
Barents Sea capelin Subareas I and II, excluding Division IIa west of 5°W	Zero (2018)	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.	<b>IMPROVING</b>  <b>Spawning stock biomass</b> 1. Undefined 2. Above 3. Undefined
<b>Advice in Nov 2017</b>					
Capelin in the Iceland East Greenland Jan Mayen area Subareas V and XIV and Division IIa west of 5°W	2017/18 Zero catch	The SSB is estimated at 355,000 tonnes (median value) at spawning in March 2017 with 95% probability of the SSB being above Blim (150,000 t). Estimates of SSB from 2016 onwards are based on a new method, not comparable with historic SSB estimates. Estimates of immature 1- and 2-year-old capelin from autumn 2017 acoustic surveys are low.	1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Undefined	ICES advises that when the harvest control rule agreed by the Coastal States is applied, the initial TAC for the fishing season 2018/2019 should be zero tonnes. The initial TAC should be revised based on acoustic survey information in autumn 2018. The final TAC should be set on the basis of survey information in autumn 2018 and winter 2018/2019.	<b>SAME</b>  <b>Spawning stock biomass</b> 1. Undefined 2. Full reproductive capacity 3. Above


## HERRING

Stock	TAC for 2018 Tonnes	Status of stock in 2018	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	TAC advice for 2019	*SSB Status 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
<b>Inside safe biological limits</b>					
Herring in IV and VIId North Sea, Eastern English channel - autumn spawners  <b>May 2018</b>	517,891	Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) fluctuated between 1.5 and 2.6 million tonnes between 1998 and 2017, and in all years it was above MSY Btrigger. Fishing mortality (F) has been below FMSY since 1996. Even though the size of the stock has been large, recruitment (R) has been relatively low since 2002, with the two lowest year classes falling within the last four years.	1. Appropriate  2. Harvested sustainably  3. Below	ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2019 should be no more than 311,572 t, which includes 291 040 t for the A-fleet. The advised catch in 2019 is substantially lower than last year's advice due to the very low 2014 year class. Activities that have a negative impact on the spawning habitat of herring should not occur.	<b>DECLINING</b>   <b>Spawning stock biomass</b>  1. Above trigger  2. Full reproductive capacity  3. Above
<b>Stocks at risk of being outside safe biological limits and below biomass action point BMSY-trigger</b>					
Herring Icelandic summer spawners Va  <b>June 2018</b>	38,712 2017/18	Strong year classes in 1999–2002 led to increase in 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. Harvest rate increased after being at low levels at the beginning of the Icht outbreak but is currently near the management target of 0.15.	1. Appropriate  2. Harvested sustainably  3. Appropriate	ICES advises that when the Iceland management plan is applied, catches in the fishing year 2018/2019 should be no more than 35,186 tonnes. The main reason for the 9.1% reduction in the advice is that the 2014 year class is low and the reference biomass is estimated to be in decline	<b>DECLINING</b>   <b>Spawning stock biomass</b>  1. Below trigger  2. Increased risk  3. Above trigger

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
<b>Inside safe biological limits</b>					
<p>Norwegian spring spawners (Atlanto-Scandian) herring. ICES sub area I, divisions IIa, Va, Vb.</p> <p>September 2017</p>	646,075	<p>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.</p>	<p>1. Below</p> <p>2. Harvested sustainably</p> <p>3. Below</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>DECLINING</b></p>  <p><b>Spawning stock biomass</b></p> <p>1. Below trigger</p> <p>2. Increased risk</p> <p>3. Below</p>




## 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
<b>Inside safe biological limits</b>					
<p>Mackerel in the North East Atlantic (combines Southern, Western and North Sea spawning components).</p> <p>September 2017</p>	944,302	<p>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.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Above</li> <li>2. Harvested sustainably</li> <li>3. Not applicable</li> </ol>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>Spawning stock biomass</b></p> <p><b>DECLINING</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 2017 Tonnes	Status of stock in October 2017	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	TAC advice for 2018 <sup>7</sup>	*SSB Status 1. MSY 2. PA 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 2017</b></p>	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>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appropriated</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. 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><b>MAINTAINED</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**

<b>Stock</b>	<b>TAC for 2017 Tonnes</b>	<b>Status of stock in February 2018</b>	<b>*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan</b>	<b>TAC advice for 2018</b>	<b>*SSB Status  1. MSY 2. PA 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>1r</b> Sandeel Central and southern North Sea, Dogger Bank	255,956	<b>1r</b> SSB above precautionary reference points since 2016. 2017 recruitment lowest in time-series. Above-average recruitment in 2016. Fishing mortality fluctuated, declining trend since the mid-2000s to slight increase in 2017.	<b>1r</b> 1. Unknown 2. Unknown 3. Not applicable	<b>1r</b> – ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2018 should be no more than 134,461 tonnes.	<b>SAME</b> 1. Above escapement 2. Full reproductive capacity 3. Not applicable
<b>2r</b> Sandeel Central and South North Sea	175,941	<b>2r</b> SSB below limit biomass level since 2004 (except in 2011), increasing in 2018 to above Bpa. Recruitment low since 2000. 2016 year class is estimated one of the largest in the time-series. Lowest recruitment on record in 2017. Fishing mortality fluctuated since 2007. Increased in 2017.	<b>2r</b> 1. Unknown 2. Unknown 3. Not applicable	<b>2r</b> - ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, there should be zero catch in 2018. A monitoring TAC in 2018 - catches should not exceed 5,000 t and with an associated sampling protocol.	<b>IMPROVING</b> 1. Above escapement 2. Full reproductive capacity 3. Not applicable
<b>3r</b> Sandeel North and Central North Sea, Skaggerak	74,176	<b>3r</b> SSB is increasing and has been above precautionary levels since 2015. Recruitment in 2016 among the highest but 2017 very low. Fishing mortality declined early 2000s and since fluctuated at low level.	<b>3r</b> 1. Unknown 2. Unknown 3. Not applicable	<b>3r</b> – ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2018 should be no more than 108,365 tonnes.	<b>IMPROVING</b> 1. Above escapement 2. Full reproductive capacity 3. Not applicable

Stock	TAC for 2017 Tonnes	Status of stock in February 2018	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	TAC advice for 2018	*SSB Status  1. MSY 2. PA 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>Area 4</b> Sandeel North and Central North Sea	54,043	<b>4</b> Fishing mortality very low since 2006. SSB increased from 2009 to well above precautionary reference points. 2016 and 2017 year classes above long-term av.	<b>Area 4</b> 1. Unknown 2. Unknown 3. Not applicable	<b>Area 4</b> – ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2018 should be no more than 59,345 tonnes.	<b>IMPROVING</b> 1. Above escapement 2. Full reproductive capacity 3. Not applicable
<b>5r</b> Sandeel North North Sea Viking and Bergen Bank	Zero	<b>5r</b> 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.	<b>5r</b> 1. Undefined 2. Undefined 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 2017 and 2018.	<b>SAME</b> 1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable
<b>Area 6</b> Sandeel Skagerrak, Kattegat and Belt Sea	<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> 1. Undefined 2. Undefined 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 2017 and 2018.	<b>SAME</b> 1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable
<b>7r</b> Sandeel Shetland area	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> 1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable	<b>7r</b> - ICES advises that when precautionary approach is applied, catches should not increase. This corresponds to zero catch in 2017 and 2018.	<b>SAME</b> 1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable
<b>Sandeel in 6.a West of Scotland</b>  <b>June 2018</b>	No TAC	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. Unknown 2. Unknown 3. Not applicable	ICES has not been requested to provide advice on fishing opportunities for this stock.	<b>SAME</b> 1. Unknown 2. Unknown 3. Not applicable

**SPRAT**

Stock	TAC for 2018 Tonnes	Status of stock in April and May 2018	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	TAC advice for 2019	*SSB Status 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
<b>Inside safe biological limits</b>					
Sprat in the Baltic Subdivisions 22 – 32  May 2018	219,152 - 301,722	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, while the 2017 year class is estimated to be above average. Fishing mortality has declined in recent years to just above FMSY.	1. Above 2. Harvested sustainably 3. Above	ICES advises that when the EU multiannual plan (MAP) is applied, catches in 2019 that correspond to the F ranges in the plan are between 225,752 tonnes and 311,523 tonnes. According to the MAP, catches higher than those corresponding to FMSY (301,125 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.	<b>SAME</b>    1. Above trigger 2. Full reproductive capacity 3. Above
Sprat in the North Sea Subarea IV  April 2018	170,387 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018	The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has been at or above MSY Bescapement since 2013. Fishing mortality has been higher than average for the last three years. Recruitment in 2017 is estimated to be above average, 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 2018 to 30 June 2019 should be no more than 177,545 tonnes.	<b>SAME</b>    1. Above trigger 2. Full reproductive capacity 3. Not applicable

Stock	TAC for 2018 Tonnes	Status of stock in April and June 2018	*Fishing mortality - 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment Plan	TAC advice for 2019	*SSB Status 1. MSY 2. PA 3. Mg'ment plan
<b>Reference points not fully defined</b>					
Sprat in Skagerrak & Kattegat Division IIIa  <b>April 2018</b>	6,255 1 July 2017 to June 2018	The abundance index has been fluctuating over the time-series, without trend and with high interannual variability. The stock abundance index in 2018 is 136% higher 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 2018 to 30 June 2019 should be no more than 7,506 tonnes	<b>INCREASING</b>  1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable
Sprat in Subarea VI and Divisions VIIa-c and f-k (Celtic Sea and West of Scotland)  <b>June 2017</b>	<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.	<b>SAME</b>  1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable
Sprat in Divisions VII d,e (Celtic Sea and West of Scotland)  <b>June 2018</b>	2,354	In 2017 the biomass index increased compared to the 2016 estimate, but it is still less than half the biomass estimated between 2013 and 2015. The harvest rate peaked in 2016.	1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable	ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catch in 2019 should be no more than 1,883 tonnes.	<b>DECREASING</b>  1. Undefined 2. Undefined 3. Not applicable

**For further information:**

ICES advice

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

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**2 August 2018**