

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

ICES stock advice

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches should not increase. This corresponds to zero catch in each of the years 2017 and 2018.

Stock development over time

Only catch statistics are available. The available information is inadequate to evaluate stock status or trends. The state of the stock is therefore unknown.

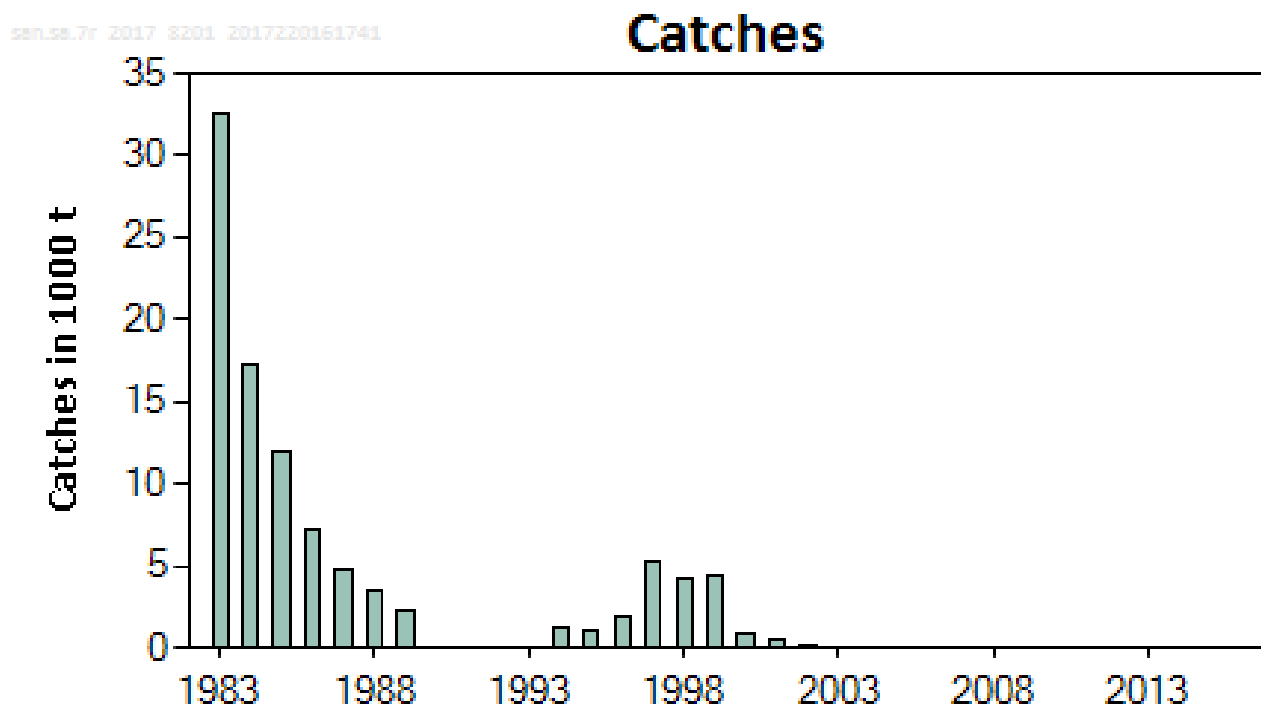


Figure 1 Sandeel in the Shetland area, Sandeel Area 7r. ICES estimates of catches (in thousand tonnes).

Stock and exploitation status

Table 1 Sandeel in the Shetland area, Sandeel Area 7r. State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points.

	Fishing pressure			Stock size				
		2014	2015	2016	2015	2016	2017	
Maximum sustainable yield	F_{MSY}	?	?	?	$MSY B_{escapement}$?	?	?
Precautionary approach	F_{pa}, F_{lim}	?	?	?	B_{pa}, B_{lim}	?	?	?
Management plan	F_{MGT}	-	-	-	SSB_{MGT}	-	-	-
Qualitative evaluation	-	→	→	→	-	?	?	?

Catch options

For stocks without information on abundance or exploitation ICES considers that a precautionary reduction of catches should be implemented, unless there is ancillary information clearly indicating that the current level of exploitation is appropriate for the stock (ICES, 2012).

For this stock, current catches are zero. ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, no increase in the fisheries should take place unless there is evidence that this will be sustainable (ICES, 2012). This corresponds to zero catch in both 2017 and 2018.

Table 2 Sandeel in the Shetland area, Sandeel Area 7r. The catch options. For stocks in ICES categories 3–6, one catch option is possible.

Recent advised catch (2016)		0 tonnes
Discard rate		Negligible
Precautionary buffer	Not applicable	-
Catch advice		0 tonnes

Basis of the advice

Table 3 Sandeel in the Shetland area, Sandeel Area 7r. The basis of the advice.

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 advice is expected to remain unchanged for several years unless information on stock status becomes available.

In 2017, the name of this sandeel area was changed from Sandeel Area 7 to Sandeel Area 7r because of a change in the statistical rectangles included in the stock area (ICES, 2017a).

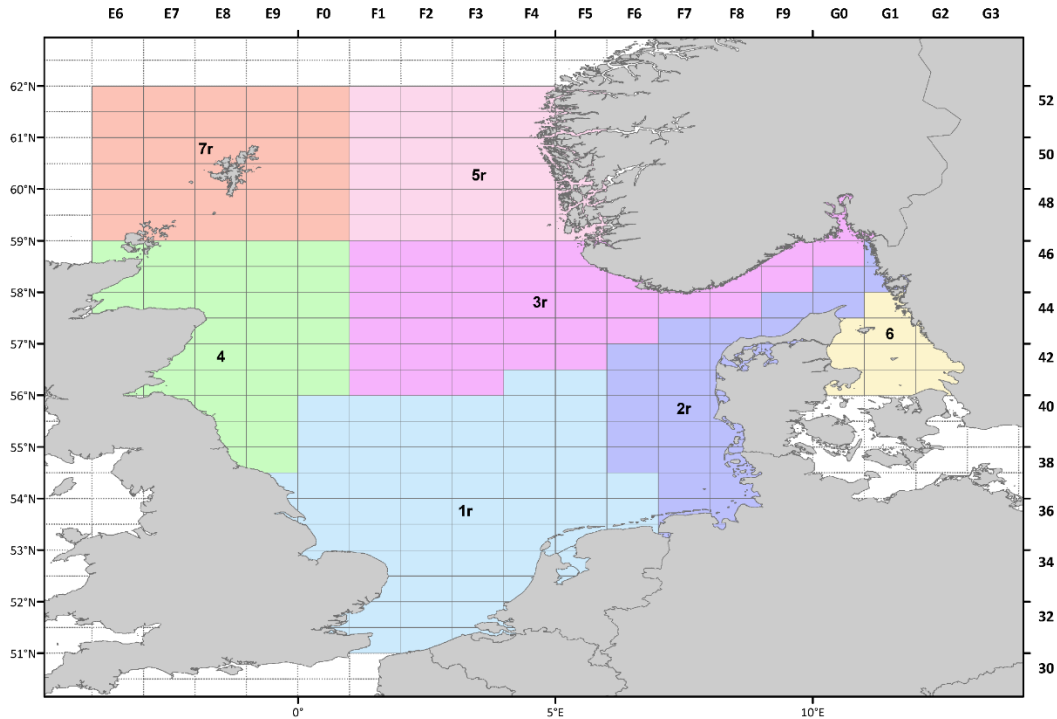


Figure 2 Sandeel in the Shetland area, Sandeel Area 7r. Sandeel are largely sedentary after settlement and form a complex of local (sub-)stocks in the North Sea. To avoid local depletion, ICES advice for sandeel is provided separately for seven areas in Division 3.a and Subarea 4. Advice for sandeel in Division 4.a, Sandeel Area 7r is defined as rectangles 47–52 E6–F0. ICES revised this sandeel area by ICES statistical rectangle at the 2016 benchmark (ICES, 2017a).

Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

Basis of the assessment

Table 4 Sandeel in the Shetland area, Sandeel Area 7r. The basis of the assessment.

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

Information from stakeholders

There is no available information.

History of advice, catch, and management

Table 5 Sandeel in the Shetland area, 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	EU TAC	ICES catch SA 7	ICES catch SA 7r
2005	No advice			0	0
2006	No advice			0	0
2007	No advice			0	0
2008	No advice			0	0
2009	No advice			0	0
2010	No advice			0	0
2011	No increase in effort unless there is evidence that this is sustainable.		0	0	0
2012	No increase in effort unless there is evidence that this is sustainable.		0	0	0
2013	No increase in effort unless there is evidence that this is sustainable.	0	0	0	0
2014	No new advice, same as for 2013	0	0	0	0
2015	Precautionary approach	0	0	0	0
2016	Precautionary approach	0	0	0*	0*
2017	Precautionary approach	0			
2018	Precautionary approach	0			

* Preliminary.

History of catch and landings

Table 6 Sandeel in the Shetland area, Sandeel Area 7r. Catch distribution by fleet in 2016 as estimated by ICES (in tonnes).

Total catch (2016)	Landings	Discards
0	0	0

Table 7 Sandeel in the Shetland area, 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

* The catch time-series was revised in 2017.

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.

ICES. 2016. General context of ICES advice. *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2016. ICES Advice 2016, Book 1, Section 1.2.

ICES. 2017a. Report of the Benchmark Workshop on Sandeel Stocks (WKSAND), 31 October–4 November 2016, Bergen, Norway. ICES CM 2016/ACOM:33.

ICES. 2017b. Sandeel in Division 3.a and Subarea 4. Section 9 *in* Report of the Herring Assessment Working Group for the Area South of 62°N (HAWG), 16–22 March 2017, ICES HQ, Denmark. ICES CM 2017/ACOM:07. Available separately at the [HAWG website](#).