IDENTIFICATION

SCIENTIFIC NAME
Solea solea

SPECIES NAME(S)
Common sole, European Dover sole

STOCK IDENTIFICATION
Several studies indicated absence of population structure for sole populations in the Northeast Atlantic (Rolland et al., 2007). Recently, Cuveliers et al. (2012) revealed a clear genetic structure for sole in this region with at least three different populations: Kattegat/Skagerrak region, the North Sea and the Bay of Biscay, and with indications for a fourth population, namely the Irish/Celtic Sea. This study supports the current approach by ICES for assessing sole as biological stock units in the North Sea (ICES subarea IV), Skagerrak and Kattegat (ICES Division IIIa and Subdivisions 22–24) and Bay of Biscay (ICES Divisions VIIIa,b). Adjacent sole assessment units defined by ICES—although not clearly identified as biological stocks—are: Eastern Channel (ICES Division VIIa), Western Channel (ICES Division VIIa), Celtic Sea (ICES Divisions VIIIa,g), Irish Sea (ICES Division VIIa) S. of Ireland (ICES Divisions VIIIa,b) and Irish Sea (ICES Division VIIb,c) and Atlantic Iberian waters (ICES Divisions VIIIc and IXa).

RELATED LINKS:
- European Commission (EC)
- International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

ASSESSMENT

Strengths
The stock has been within safe biological limits since 2012 and objectives of stage 1 (i.e., stock rebuilding) are currently met. IUU fishing is not an issue. A precautionary management plan is in place.

Weaknesses
Stock recovery can be related to strong year classes rather than to management options. Fishing mortality is decreasing but remains slightly above FMSY.

Options
Mesh size and minimum land size should be revised to promote discards’ reduction (of plaice) and benefit the stock. The recent increase in discard should also be investigated. Fishing mortality should continue to be reduced. Objectives, TAC procedures and effort limitations will be redefined in line with the second stage of the management plan.

The only remaining open condition set under the MSC certification is the revision of the rebuilding strategy.

SCORES

- Management Quality: ≥ 8
- Managers Compliance: 9.5
- Fishers Compliance: 10

Stock Health:
- Current Health: 9.3
- Future Health: 9

FIPS
No related FIPs

MSC
- CVI sole Gilbert: Withdrawn

RECOMMENDATIONS

CATCHERS & REGULATORS
1. Please provide links to publicly available information on this fishery via the “Feedback” tab.
2. To apply to develop content for this profile register and log in and follow the links to “contribute to” / “edit this profile”. If you need more information, please use the “Contact Us” button above, and reference the full name of this profile.

RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN
1. This profile is not currently at the top of our priority list for update/development, and we can’t at this time provide an accurate prediction of when it will be developed. To speed up evaluation of the sustainability status of non-prioritized fisheries we have initiated a program whereby industry can directly contact SFP-approved analysts to develop a FishSource profile on a fishery. More information on the External Contributor Program is available at http://www.sustainablefish.org/fisheries-information.