European pilchard
Bay of Biscay, Southern Celtic Seas and English Channel

**SPECIES NAME(S)**
European pilchard, Sardine, European sardine

**S C I E N T I F I C N A M E**
*Sardinia pilchardus*

**STOCK IDENTIFICATION**
Several studies have been conducted to understand European pilchard stock structure, which is widely distributed in the Northeast and Eastern Central Atlantic, and the Mediterranean and Black Sea (e.g. Spanakis et al., 1989; Tinti et al., 2002). Kasapidis et al. (2004, 2006; Laurent et al., 2007; Chlaida et al., 2009; Atarhouch et al., 2006; Silva et al., 2006; Kasapidis et al., 2012; Chlaida et al., 2013). Further research is needed considering uncertainties (Kasapidis et al., 2012; ICES, 2016). Thus here we consider the following assessment units along the European pilchard distribution:

- **Bay of Biscay, Southern Celtic Seas and English Channel**
- **NW Africa central (zone A+ B); 12ºN – 26ºN** and **NW Africa southern (zone C); 26ºN – the southern extent of the species distribution**

**ASSESSMENT**

**Strengths**
For the first time, ICES provided a qualitative advice for data-limited stocks based on combined abundance indicators. The stock is not managed through international TACs but some measures are defined at the national level, like quotas, number of days at sea, minimum landing size. Fishing mortality is considered as sustainable, below natural mortality and close to FMSY. Recruitment in 2013 is the higher in the time series. Fishers’ compliance is deemed to be strong. The impact of purse-seines on the seabed is limited.

**Weaknesses**
The impact of Driftnets and Ring nets on Protected, Endangered and Threatened species and on the seabed ecosystem is negligible. Bycatch is not truly understood. Recruitment of the species is highly dependent on environmental variables. The stock structure is identified and based on genetic results but further research is needed to take into account migration to the European pilchard stock.

**Options**
A specific management strategy, with adequate reference points, should be developed. Data collection on bycatch species should include all fleet operating in the certified fishing area. A sampling program should be conducted in ICES area V9 and catches from all countries made available in order to improve the stock assessment. The stock structure is identified and based on genetic results but further research is needed to take into account migration to the European pilchard stock.

**SCORES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Quality</th>
<th>Stock Health</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Managers Compliance</td>
<td>Fishers Compliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Health</td>
<td>Future Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≥ 6</td>
<td>≥ 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FIPS**
for related FPs

**MSC**
Cornwall Sardine, UK:
MSC Recertified

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**R E T A I L E R S & S U P P LY C H A I N**
Monitor the progress in closing out conditions placed upon the MSC certification of the fishery and if agreed timelines are met, offer assistance in closing conditions where possible.