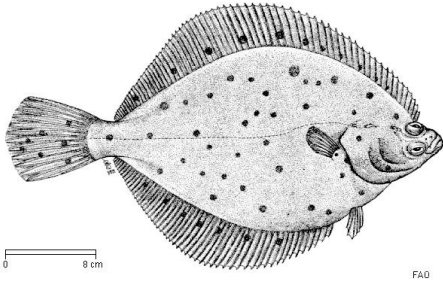


# European plaice North Sea and Skagerrak

 Fishery: [EU/Norway](#) [Netherlands](#) [Bottom trawls](#)

## IDENTIFICATION



### SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Pleuronectes platessa*

### SPECIES NAME(S)

European plaice

### STOCK IDENTIFICATION

It has been recently determined; based on larval drift, otolith characteristics, genetics, and tagging studies; that plaice in the North Sea and Skagerrak conforms a single stock, and a combined assessment and advice was conducted in 2015 (ICES, 2015a,b).



### RELATED LINKS:

- [European Commission \(EC\)](#) , [Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries \(DoF\)](#)
- [International Council for the Exploration of the Sea \(ICES\)](#)

## ASSESSMENT

### Strengths

- A precautionary plaice and sole management plan is in operation; goal of stage one (recovery plan) is achieved. The plaice spawning stock is at a historical high and increasing further.
- Mixed fisheries advice takes into consideration the status of other North Sea species.
- Uncertainty in the assessment has been resolved.

### Weaknesses

- Bottom trawls, with high bycatch rates and impacts on the sea bed, dominate catches.
- Rules of the second stage of the management plan are not yet defined. Changes in management measures have contributed to increased discarding of undersized plaice in the southern North Sea.

## SCORES

### Management Quality:

Management Strategy	Managers Compliance	Fishers Compliance
≥ 6 to ≥ 8	8.6 to 10	9.1 to 10

### Stock Health:

Current Health	Future Health
< 6 to 10	< 6 to 8.9

## FIPS

No related FIPs

## MSC

- Cooperative Fishery Organisation (CVO) North Sea plaice and sole:  
MSC Certified
- CVO pulse sole & plaice:  
Withdrawn

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN

- 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.