**European plaice** North Sea and Skagerrak

**Assessment**

**Strengths**
- A precautionary place and sole management plan is in operation; goal of stage one (recovery plan) is achieved. The plaice spawning stock is at a historic 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:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Compliant Managers</th>
<th>Compliant Fishers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 6 to ≤ 8</td>
<td>8.6 to 10</td>
<td>9.1 to 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Stock Health:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 6 yrs</td>
<td>8.9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**FIPS**

For related FPs:

**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- CVO pulse sole & plaice: Withdrawn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.