European plaice
North Sea and Skagerrak

**IDENTIFICATION**

**SCIENTIFIC NAME**
Pleuronectes platessa

**SPECIES NAMES**
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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Quality:</th>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 6 to ≥ 8</td>
<td>8.6 to 10</td>
<td>9.1 to 10</td>
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<tr>
<th>Stock Health:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Current Health</td>
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<td>&lt; 6 to 10</td>
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**FIPS**
No related FIPs

**MSC**
No related MSC fisheries