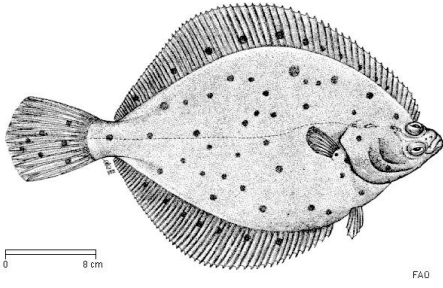


European plaice North Sea and Skagerrak

Fishery:  EU/Norway  Norway  Single boat bottom otter 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

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.