Sandeels nei, Central and Southern North Sea

Fishery: Central and Southern North Sea, EU North Sea SA 2, Germany
Small mesh bottom trawls

ASSESSMENT

Strengths
- Stock assessments are now conducted separately for each of the sandeel management areas in the North Sea.
- The combination of a new assessment model "fSAF-effort" with the specific area-based approach is considered to have improved the quality of the assessment. This stock was benchmarked in 2016 and revised biological reference points were set.
- 2016 year class is estimated to be one of the largest in the time-series which together with the advised catch is expected to lead an increase in the SSB to above MSY escapement by 2018.
- Bycatch of other species is low.
- There is a close monitoring of the stock status in place.
- Managers follow scientific advice.

Weaknesses
- There are no fishing reference points defined and management plan is still in need of development.
- Reproductive biomass has dropped below the biomass limit reference point (Blim) and it is considered "Below escapement level/Reduced reproductive capacity".
- Possible effects of the fishery in PET species and over the seabed needs to be evaluated.

SCORES

Management Quality:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 6</td>
<td>≥ 8</td>
<td>≥ 8</td>
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Stock Health:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>4.6</td>
<td>10</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

FIPS

No related FIPs

MSC

No related MSC fisheries

RECOMMENDATIONS

RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN
- Press regional advisory bodies, national fisheries administrations and the European Commission to develop a multi-species, ecosystem-based management plan for North Sea pelagic fisheries, including a harvest control rule(s).
- Ensure these recommendations are represented to the EU Pelagic Advisory Council (https://www.pelagic-ac.org/) directly or through one of the General Assembly members.
- Engage as a stakeholder in all MSC certifications for this stock and support the MSC Client groups to ensure all conditions attached to the Certifications are fully addressed.