

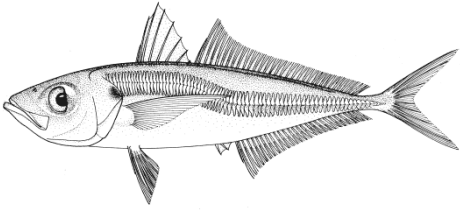
Fishery Profile
https://www.fishsource.org/fishery_page/4516

This profile last updated on 14 December 2015

Atlantic horse mackerelNE Atlantic southern stock

 Fishery:  EU  Portugal  Bottom trawls

IDENTIFICATION


SCIENTIFIC NAME
Trachurus trachurus
SPECIES NAME(S)

Atlantic horse mackerel

COMMON NAMES

Atlantic horse mackerel, European horse mackerel, scad, Southern horse mackerel

STOCK IDENTIFICATION

The southern stock is one of four stocks of horse mackerel in the Northeast Atlantic - [Western](#), [North Sea](#), [Saharo-Mauritanian](#) - that have been distinguished based on genetic, parasite, morphometric, otolith and life history trait analyses ([Abaunza et al. 2008](#)), but the boundaries of their distribution areas have not been conclusively determined (ICES, 2009a). The border between the southern and the western horse mackerel stocks may, therefore, lie at the level of Cape Finisterre on the coasts of Galicia at 43°N while the southern limit of the southern horse mackerel stock is not as evident due to the lack of samples from the north of Africa (ICES, 2015). Since 2010 the management area and advice area have been identical (ICES, 2012a).


RELATED LINKS:

- [European Commission \(EC\)](#)
- [International Council for the Exploration of the Sea \(ICES\)](#)

ASSESSMENT

Strengths

Management area and advice area are the same since 2010. Fishers' compliance has been strong. In 2014, set TAC followed the scientific advice but in 2015, managers set TAC below the scientific advice. Fishing mortality (0.044) has decreased since 2010 and is well below F_{MSY} . Recruitment in 2011 and 2012 was well above long-term average. The outputs of the assessment of this stock show no signs of depletion and indicate a sustainable exploitation level.

Weaknesses

No management objectives have been explicitly defined and no reference points proposed. Confidence intervals for the assessment are very wide, showing a high uncertainty in the estimates. A single TAC is set for all *Trachurus* species. The most recent assessment is more uncertain than usual due to the missing IBTS survey in 2012.

SCORES

Management Quality:

Management Strategy	Managers Compliance	Fishers Compliance
≥ 6	10	10

Stock Health:

Current Health	Future Health
≥ 6	10

FIPS

No related FIPs

MSC

No related MSC fisheries

RECOMMENDATIONS

CATCHERS & REGULATORS

- Advocate and support scientific institutions on establishing biomass reference points.
- Catchers to provide data on the environmental impact of trawls.

RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN

- Write to ICES requesting that biomass reference points for the stock are developed.
- Ask your supply chain to review, in association with catchers, the environmental impact of their trawl and seine gear and provide a response on status and any ongoing mitigation projects.
- Contact the Pelagic Regional Advisory Council advising that the fishery does not presently meet your sustainability sourcing criteria and requesting advice on any planned mitigation and /or improvements.