**Blackbellied angler**

**Southern Celtic Sea and Bay of Biscay**

**Fishery:** Southern Celtic Sea and Bay of Biscay (EC 7b-k, 8a-bd, United Kingdom)  
**Type:** Single boat bottom trawls

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**ASSESSMENT**

**Strengths**
- The average stock biomass indicator in the last two years is higher than the average of the 3 previous years for both species, and the abundance index suggests medium recruitment for *L. piscatorius* and the highest observed for *L. budegassa* (ICES 2014b, 2014d).
- Underreporting of landings is thought to have decreased as a result of improved enforcement (ICES 2012a).
- Effort has decreased steadily and the stock is not expected to be overexploited as current catch levels are maintained (ICES 2014a).
- Biological sampling is carried out by the countries contributing most to catches.

**Weaknesses**
- No biological reference points are set.
- Agency problems and difficulties estimating and quantifying discards of small anglerfish have led to uncertainty in catch estimates and advice and contributed to the lack of an analytical assessment.
- The majority of anglerfish catches (for both species) consist of immature fish.
- There are indications that discarding of small anglerfish has increased in recent years.
- Management of the two anglerfish species under a combined TAC prevents effective control of the single-species exploitation rates and could potentially lead to overexploitation of either species (ICES 2014b, 2014d).
- In the last two years TAC has been set at higher levels than ICES advice.
- There is a mismatch since ICES advice applies to an area (Divisions VIIb–k and VIIIa,b,d) smaller than the management area (Subarea VII and Subdivisions VIIIa,b,d,e) for which the TAC is established (ICES 2014b, 2014d).

**SCORING**

**Management Quality:**
- **Managers Compliance:** 7.8
- **Fishers Compliance:** 10

**Stock Health:**
- **Current Health:** ≥ 6
- **Future Health:** ≥ 6

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**RELATED LINKS**
- European Commission (EC)
- International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

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**SCORES**

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<th>Management Quality</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
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<td>&lt; 6</td>
<td>7.8</td>
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**FIPS**
- United Kingdom monkfish – gillnet/trawl:
  Stage 3, Progress Rating C, Type Fp, Evaluation Start Date: 1 Jul 2018

**MSC**
- No related MSC fisheries