Sandeels nei

**IDENTIFICATION**

**SCIENTIFIC NAME**
Ammodytes spp.

**SPECIES NAME(S)**
Sandeels nei, Sandlances nei

**STOCK IDENTIFICATION**
The complete stock structure of North Sea sandeel is unclear, and although several reproductively isolated sub-populations have been identified, some exchange appears to take place between neighbouring populations in early life stages. From 2010 onwards ICES has presented advice for the North sea sandeel divided into 7 management areas, based on the assumption that this will better reflect the stock structure and enable improved management avoiding local depletion (ICES, 2010a). This profile represents the Dogger Bank area – SA1. Since 2017, the name of this management area changed to Sandeel Area 1r because of a change in the statistical rectangles (divisions 4b–c,) included in management area (ICES, 2017).

**RELATED LINKS:**
- European Commission (EC)
- Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries (DoF)
- International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

**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 “SMM-effort” with the specific area based approach is considered to have improved the quality of the assessment.
- Spawning stock biomass (SSB) has been recovering from lowest values (2013-2014) and is now above the precautionary biomass level and the stock has been considered to be at “Full reproductive capacity”.
- In recent years, EU have used real-time monitoring for setting TACs within the fishing year, explicitly taking in consideration areas known to be commerically depleted.
- Misreporting in the Danish fleet has been overpassed with the introduction of the only one fishing area per trip rule.
- Closures of depleted areas and for certain periods are used as a management measure on a local scale. Several coastal areas and zones of known deep-water coral communities in the North Sea have been closed to fishing.
- Dogger Bank has been approved by the European Commission as a Site of Community Importance (SCI).

**Weaknesses**
- There are no fishing reference points defined.
- A management plan needs to be developed.
- Additional information on the gears interaction with bottom habitat is needed
- Additional information on the effects of sandeel removal on ETP stocks, as well as direct accounting for sandeels as forage in the harvest control rule, are needed
- Fishing mortality has recently increased substantially
- Current recruitment is below average and the fishery is working on older individuals.

**SCORES**

**Management Quality:**
- **Management Strategy**: 6
- **Managers Compliance**: 10
- **Fishers Compliance**: 10

**Stock Health:**
- **Current Health**: 10
- **Future Health**: 7.3

**FIPS**
No related FIPs

**MSC**
- DFJP and DMP: North-Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat sandeel, sprat and herring quota:
- MSC Certified

**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.
- 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.

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