European sprat
North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat

Fishery: North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat (European Union Subarea 4, Norway, Midwater trawls)

IDENTIFICATION

SCIENTIFIC NAME(S)
Sprattus sprattus

SPEICES NAME(S)
European sprat

ASSESSMENT

Stock Structure
- The newly assessed stock unit is indicated to be in a healthy condition.
- The F_msy, designed to ensure the advice strategy is precautionary, despite uncertainty in forecasts of abundance.

Uncertainty remains with regard to the boundary of this stock with sprat from the Baltic Sea and English Channel.

Assessment of the new area excludes sprat in the Norwegian fjords. There is uncertainty regarding the boundary of this stock with sprat from the Baltic Sea and English Channel.

European Commission to develop a multi-species, ecosystem-based framework to improve management.

The EU landing obligation in place (since early 2015), should facilitate continued discarding; and discards of sprat are considered negligible.

The newly assessed stock unit is indicated to be in a healthy condition.

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management plan, with specific management objectives for the pelagic fisheries in the North Sea and associated areas.

- Ensure that managers set the TAC in line with scientific advice.
- Engage with the EU Pelagic Advisory Council (https://www.pelagic-ac.org) directly or through one of the General Assembly members, to ensure sustainable exploitation.
- 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.