European pilchard

**NW Africa southern**

**Fishery Profile**

**SPECIES NAME(S)**
European pilchard, Sardine, European sardine

**SCIENTIFIC NAME**
*Sardina pilchardus*

**SCORES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Management Quality</th>
<th>Management Strategy</th>
<th>Managers Compliance</th>
<th>Fishers Compliance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≥ 6</td>
<td>≥ 6</td>
<td>&lt; 6</td>
<td>≥ 6</td>
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**STOCK IDENTIFICATION**

- **European pilchard profiles** presented on FishSource reflect two assessment units delineated by the FAO Working Group on Small Pelagic Fish in Northwestern Africa, (FAO-2018). One was in zones “A + B” (Central) and another in zone “C” (Southern).
- The recent work of (Shukgalter 2013) supports the distinction of these two stock units.
- The Southern stock unit, considered here, reflects the population occurring in the waters of Morocco and countries south, between Cap Blanc at 26ºN through the southern limit of the species extent; while the Central stock unit reflects an entirely Moroccan population from Cap Blanc north to Cap Bonjour at 37ºN.
- In addition to the West African stocks, FishSource considers the following assessment units throughout the species' distribution:
  - Western (ICES Divisions 8.a, b, and 1.b) and Day of Bisay, Southern Celtic Sea and English Channel (ICES Divisions B, D, and Subarea 7).

**Fishery:**
European pilchard

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **Support the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission and Morocco in their concerns for the Mauritainian small pelagic fishery.**
- **IMROP has flagged bycatch and catch underreporting as a particular concern based on past studies (sharks, mammals and turtles).**
- **There is no fishery management plan, no national TAC, and no harvest control rule for sardine or small pelagics in Mauritania.**
- **A variety of IUU fishing activities are indicated to be persistent, but are poorly documented in the region; complex foreign fishing arrangements add ambiguity.**
- **The stock structure remains somewhat uncertain.**
- **Some species in the mixed stock fishery are overexploited - including Atlantic and Common horse mackerel, and mord and Madranean sardinella.**
- **Bycatch limits are defined for each of the Moroccan and Mauritanean fisheries.**
- **Purse-seining and pelagic trawling are not expected to have significant effects on the seabed ecosystem.**
- **There is a national fishery management framework in place.**

**SCORES**

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<tr>
<th>Management Quality</th>
<th>Current Health</th>
<th>Future Health</th>
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**FIPs**
no related FIPs

**MSC**
no related MSC fisheries
efforts to develop a strategic plan for management of the small pelagic fisheries in the region. The management plan should include species-specific TACs, joint setting of TACs, and consideration of how environmental variability may affect stocks.

- Work with scientists to understand the uncertainties in the stock assessment and improve the different assessment models and input data (catches, discards, biological data) to reduce the level of uncertainty in the assessment and to work towards resolving the differences between the models.
- Encourage management authorities to release stock assessment results sooner and improve transparency of subsequent management actions, including the setting of catch or effort limits.
- Ask the government/regional authorities to continue to improve catch and discard reporting and to publish fishery compliance information, especially for Mauritania.
- Work with scientists to conduct studies to clarify the stock structure of northwest African pilchard/sardine.
- Press managers to implement a recovery strategy for other target species in the multi-species fishery to ensure that all such species are at least above biologically-based limit reference points (or proxies for the point of recruitment impairment), especially for Cunene and Atlantic horse mackerels, and round and Madeiran sardinellas.
- Work with scientists and managers to expand the at-sea observer programme to provide representational coverage of all components of the fishery to better understand catches and discards, as well as interactions with habitats and all types of bycatch.