European sprat
North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat

### IDENTIFICATION

**SPECIES NAME(S)**
- European sprat

**RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN**
No related MSC fisheries
No related FIPs

### ASSESSMENT

**Strengths**
- Analytical assessment, conducted in the North Sea since 2019, has expanded to include the Skagerrak and Kattegat population in a single unit. Biomass reference points for the new unit were defined in 2018, including a revised fishing mortality cap (F<sub>MP</sub>). The merging of the North Sea and Skagerrak and Kattegat into a single assessment unit has improved the performance of the stock assessment model.

**Challenges**
- The newly assessed stock unit is indicated to be in a healthy condition.
- The F<sub>M</sub> cap designed to ensure the advice strategy is precautionary, despite uncertainty in forecasts of abundance.
- Since 2017, the timing of TACs and management advice for Subarea 4 in the North Sea (where the majority of the catch occurs) has been aligned (for the period 1 July - 30 June of the following year).

### STOCK IDENTIFICATION

**Fishery:** European sprat
This profile last updated on 18 July 2019

**SCIENTIFIC NAME**
Sprattus sprattus

**RELATED LINKS:**
- European Union Division 3a
- Sweden
- United States

**STOCK IDENTIFICATION**

**SCIENTIFIC NAME**
Sprattus sprattus

**SOURCES NAMES:***
- European sprat

**STOCK IDENTIFICATION**

**SCIENTIFIC NAME**
Sprattus sprattus

**RELATED LINKS:**
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- International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)
- Global Fishing Watch (GFN)

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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.