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 SA2 area: South Eastern North Sea. Since 2017, the name of this management area changed to Sandeel Area 2r because of a change in the statistical rectangles (divisions 4.b-c and Subdivision 20) included in management area (ICES, 2017).

**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 “SMS-effort” with the specific area based approach is considered to have improved the quality of the assessment. This stock was benchmarked in 2016 and revised biologic reference points were set.
- 2016 year class is estimated to be one of the largest in the time-series which together with the advised catch is expected to lead an increase in the SSB to above MSY escapement by 2018.
- Bycatch of other species is low.
- There is a close monitoring of the stock status in place.
- Managers follow scientific advice.

**Weaknesses**
- There are no fishing reference points defined and management plan is still in need of development.
- Reproductive biomass has dropped below the biomass limit reference point (Blim) and it is considered “Below escapement level/Reduced reproductive capacity”.
- Possible effects of the fishery on PET species and over the seabed needs to be evaluated.

**SCORES**

**Management Quality:**

- Management Strategy: ≥ 6
- Managers Compliance: ≥ 8
- Fishers Compliance: ≥ 8

**Stock Health:**

- Current Health: 4.6
- Future Health: 10

**FIPS**

- No related FIPs

**MSC**

- DFPS and DPPS: North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat sandeel, sprat and horse mackerel: 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(s).
- 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.
Fisheries

Within FishSource, the term "fishery" is used to indicate each unique combination of a flag country with a fishing gear, operating within a particular management unit, upon a resource. That resource may have a known biological stock structure and/or may be assessed at another level for practical or jurisdictional reasons. A fishery is the finest scale of resolution captured in FishSource profiles, as it is generally the scale at which sustainability can most fairly and practically be evaluated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSESSMENT UNIT</th>
<th>MANAGEMENT UNIT</th>
<th>FLAG COUNTRY</th>
<th>FISHING GEAR</th>
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<tr>
<td>Central and Southern North Sea</td>
<td>EU North Sea SA 2</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Small mesh bottom trawls</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Small mesh bottom trawls</td>
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Management Unit

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>FISHING AREA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU North Sea SA 2</td>
<td>European Commission (EC)</td>
<td>ICES Sandeel Area 2r, FAO 27.2a, FAO 27.2b, FAO 27.2c</td>
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Assessment Unit Profile

https://www.fishsource.org/stock_page/1902

This profile last updated on 6 October 2016