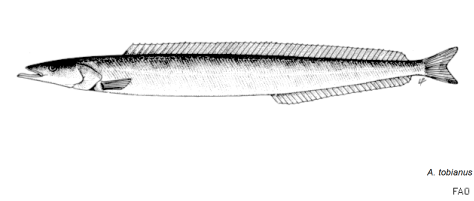


Sandeels nei Central Eastern North Sea

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 present 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 SA3 area: Central Eastern North Sea. Since 2017, the name of this management area changed to Sandeel Area 3r because of a change in the statistical rectangles (divisions 4.a–b and Subdivision 20) 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

- EU and Norway have used real-time monitoring for setting TACs within the fishing year.
- Stock assessments are now conducted separately for each of the sandeel management areas in the North sea. This stock was benchmarked in 2016 and revised biologic reference points were set.
- High recruitment in 2013, 2014, 2016 and 2018 lead to an increase of reproductive biomass in recent years and the stock is considered at full reproductive capacity.
- Fishing mortality (F) in recent years has been below the long-time average but has increased since 2016.
- Catches have been below the TAC
- Some effort towards ecosystem-based management has been made in the past.
- Misreporting in the Danish fleet has been overcome with the introduction of the "only one fishing area per trip" rule.

Weaknesses

- Recruitment in 2017 is estimated to be low.
- The large retrospective pattern in the recruitment leads to overestimation of the recruitment.
- Limited effort data available and incomplete coverage by the dredge surveys increase the uncertainty in the stock assessment.
- Sandeel in SA 3r is not jointly managed by the EU and Norway and there is no agreed management plan that applies to all of SA 3r.

SCORES

Management Quality:

Management Strategy	Managers Compliance	Fishers Compliance
≥ 6	≥ 8	10

Stock Health:

Current Health	Future Health
10	7.3

FIPS

No related FIPs

MSC

- DFPO and DPPO North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat sandeel, sprat and Norway pout:

MSC Certified

- Norway sandeel, pout and north sea sprat:

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.
- For stocks with high and increasing fishing mortality, poor recruitment and/or low stock status push managers to be responsive to the status of the stock and make precautionary management decisions.
- Engage as a stakeholder in all fisheries in the MSC certification programme for this stock and support the MSC Client groups to ensure all conditions attached to the Certifications are fully addressed and, where stock depletion has occurred, fishing mortality is appropriately reduced to ensure rapid stock recovery.

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.

 ASSESSMENT UNIT	 MANAGEMENT UNIT	 FLAG COUNTRY	 FISHING GEAR
Central Eastern North Seamng	Norway/EU North Sea SA 3	Denmark	Small mesh bottom trawls
		Norway	Small mesh bottom trawls
		United Kingdom	Small mesh bottom trawls

Management Unit

 MANAGEMENT UNIT	ORGANIZATION	FISHING AREA
Norway/EU North Sea SA 3	Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries (DoF), European Commission (EC)	FAO 27.4.b, FAO 27.4.a, FAO 27.3.a, ICES Sandeel Area 3r