

ICES Advice

Réunion du Conseil Consultatif des eaux Occidentales australes-CC-SUD

Sarah Gaichas
ACOM Vice Chair

SWWAC meeting, July 2026



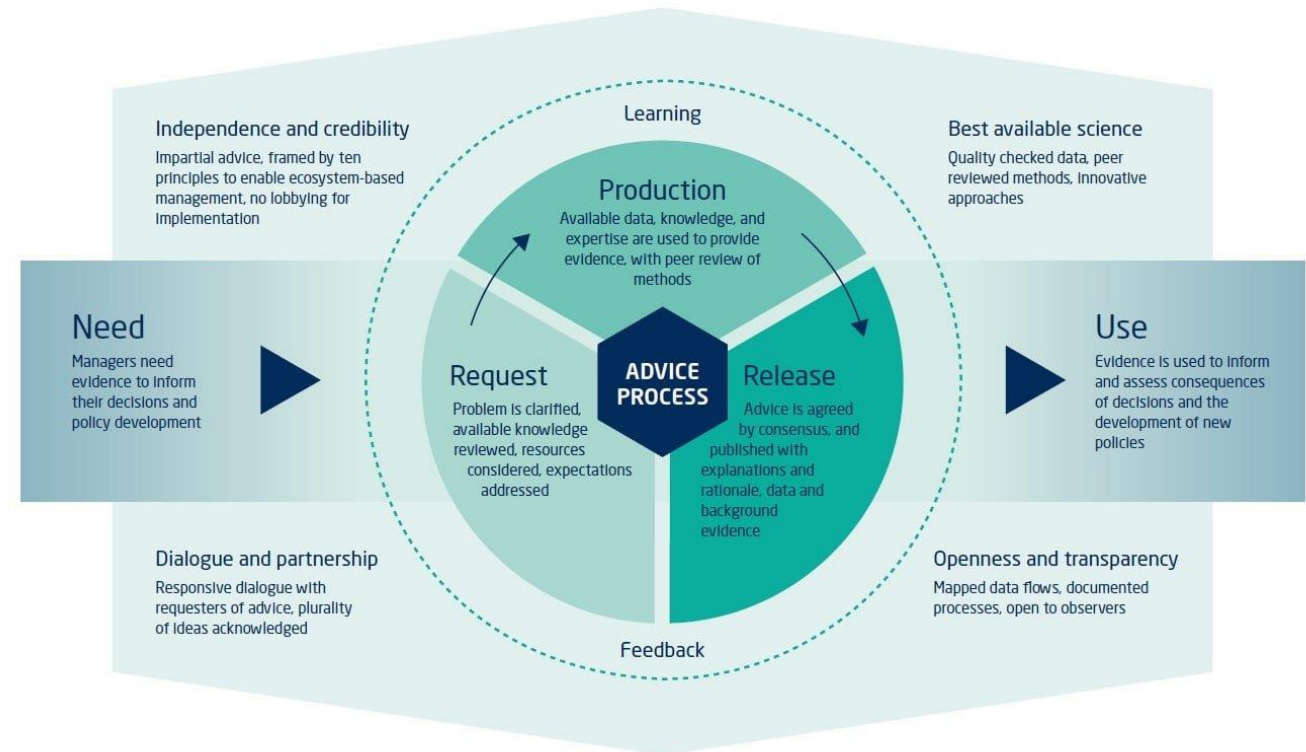
Governed by 10 principles of advice

ICES advice principles



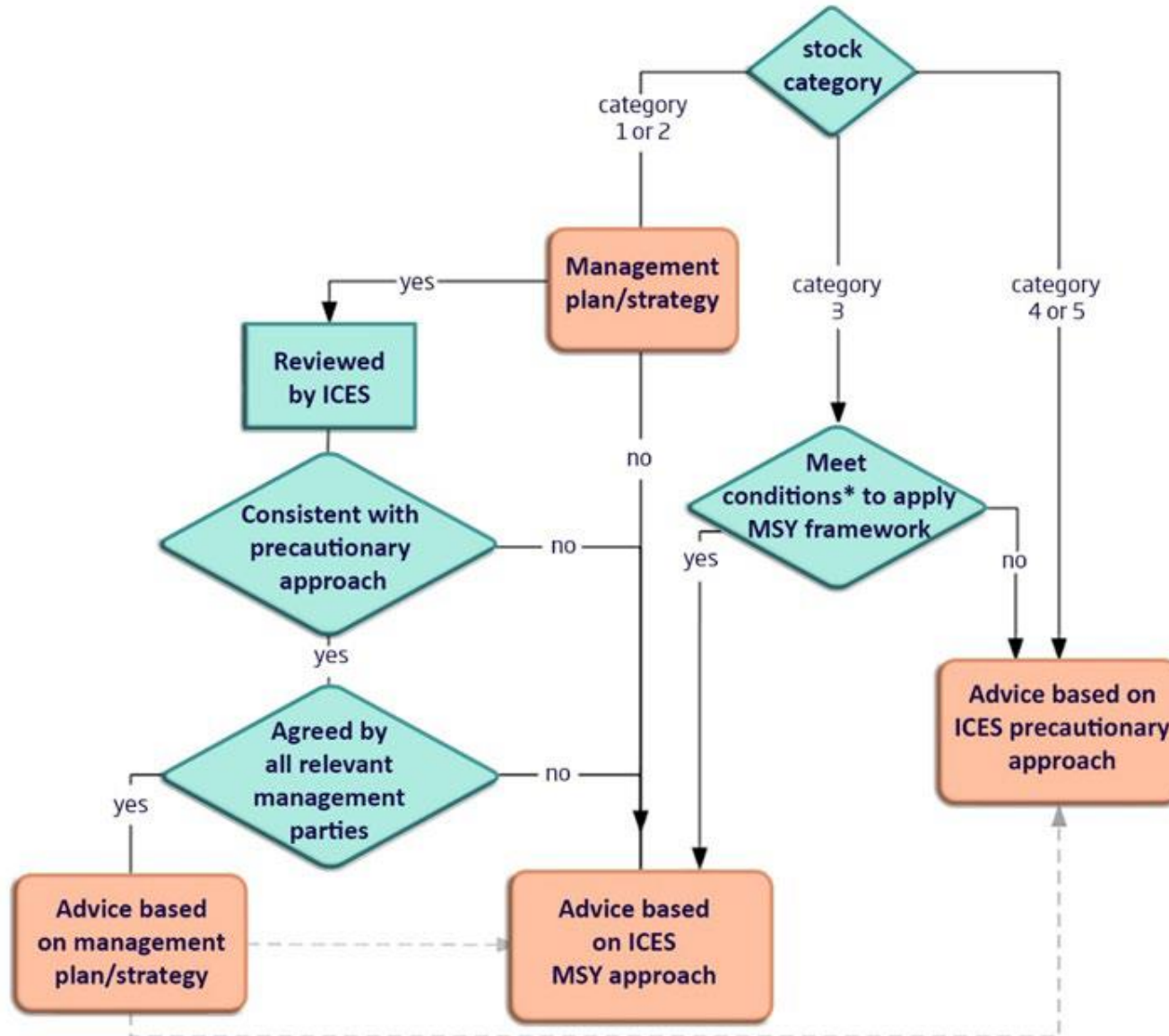
Advice Process

ICES advisory framework



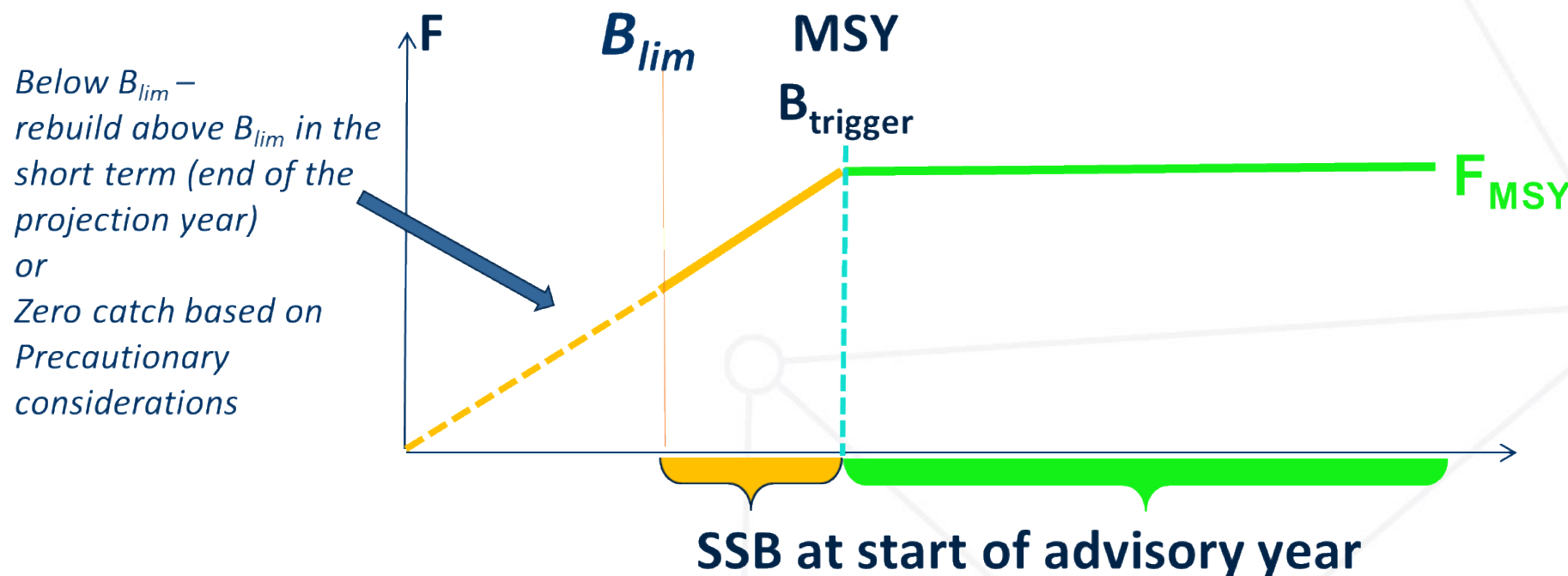
<https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.22116890>

Basis of advice



- Advice is based on clients requests and is consistent with their policy objectives and frameworks.
e.g. EU MAP
- Must be evaluated to be precautionary
- Type of assessment based on data available

ICES MSY approach for category 1 & 2 stocks



For more details, see 'Advice on fishing opportunities 2026'

Where to find the advice

- <https://ices-library.figshare.com/>

2026 collection

- https://ices-library.figshare.com/collections/_/8317945

- [AdviceXplorer](#)

- <https://ices-taf.shinyapps.io/advicexplorer/>

Stocks covered

Golfe de Gascogne et Eaux de la Péninsule Ibérique

Plie - plaice

Lieu jaune - pollack

Merlan -whiting

Golfe de Gascogne

Baudroies – white anglerfish

Cardines - megrims

Langoustines -nephrops

Merlu -hake

Sole -sole

Bar - sea bass

Eaux de la Péninsule Ibérique

Baudroies – black bellied and white anglerfish

Cardines - megrims

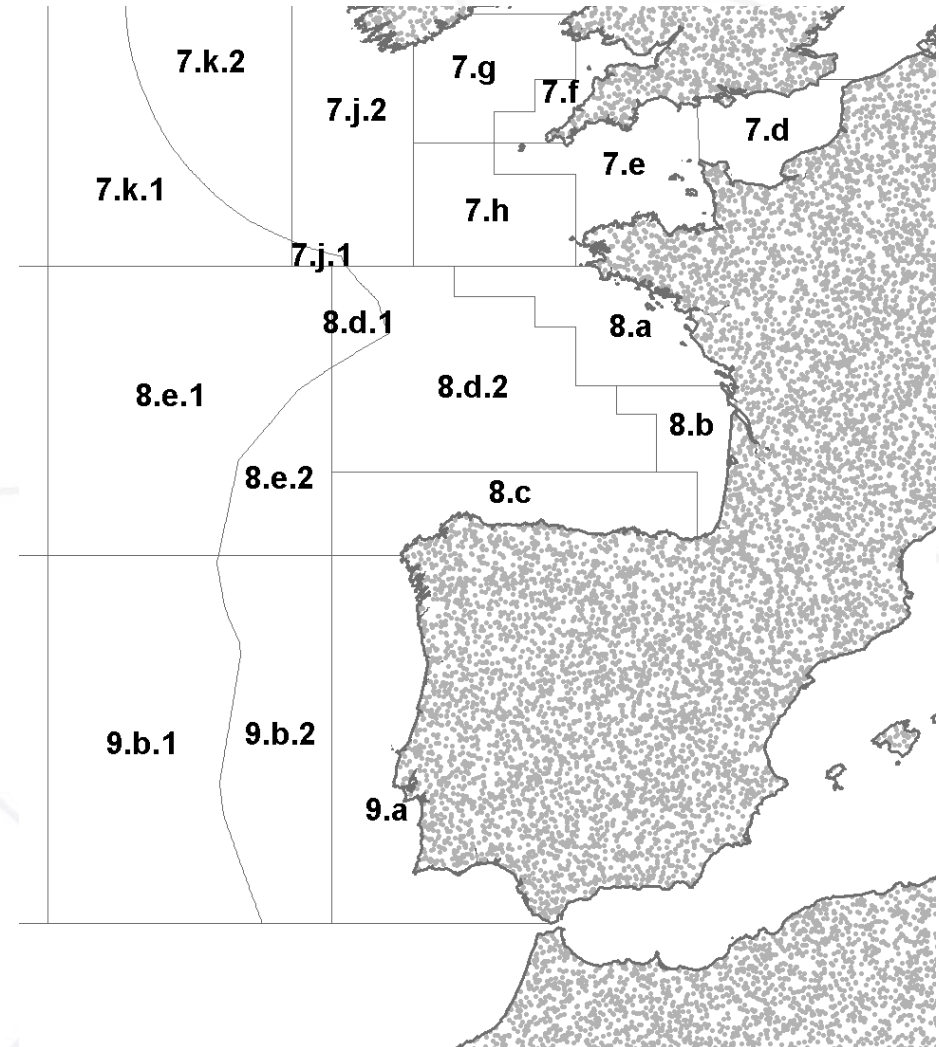
Langoustines -nephrops

Merlu - hake

Sole - sole

Anchois - anchovy

Bar –sea bass



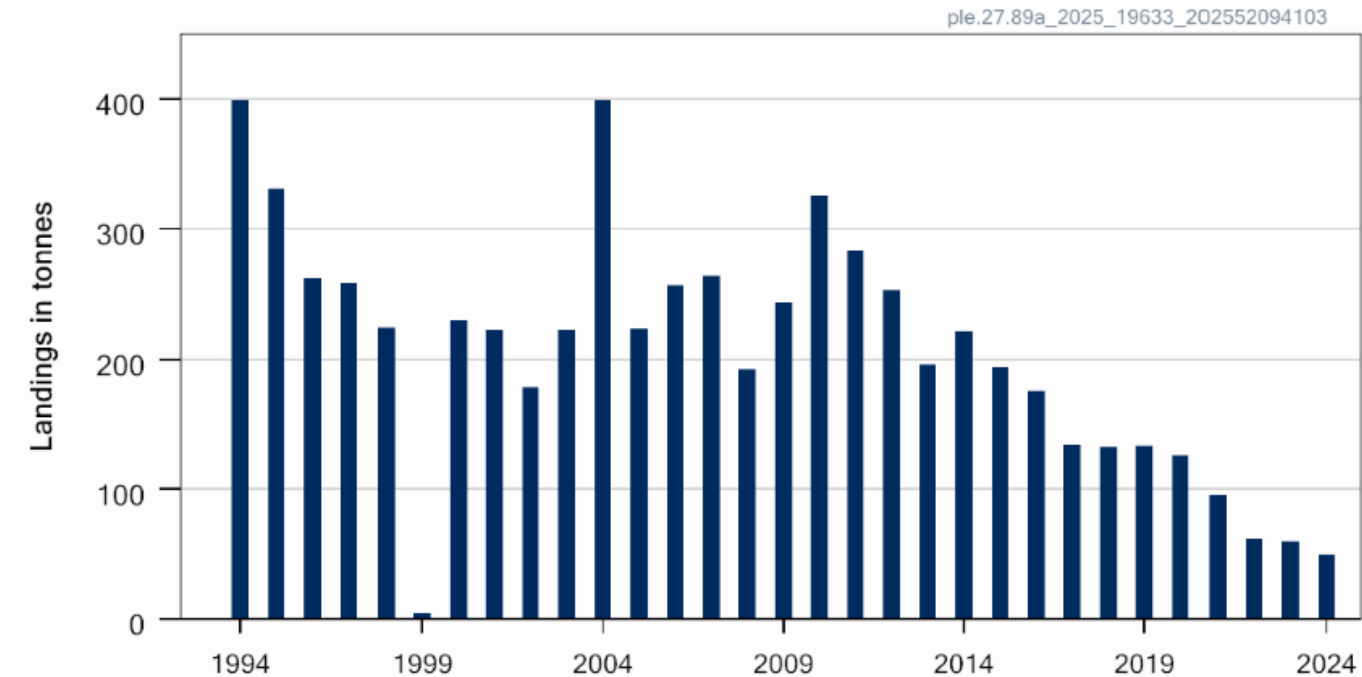
Golfe de Gascogne et Eaux de la Péninsule Ibérique

Plaice in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a (Bay of Biscay and Atlantic Iberian waters)

Advice for 2026, 2027, 2028 PA: Landings ≤ 99 t -20%

Can not quantify corresponding catches

Landings



- Category 6
- Can not assess status
- Discards likely >5% but uncertain – landings advice
- PA buffer applied – last applied 2023
- Stock definition uncertain
- Landings 2024 49 t

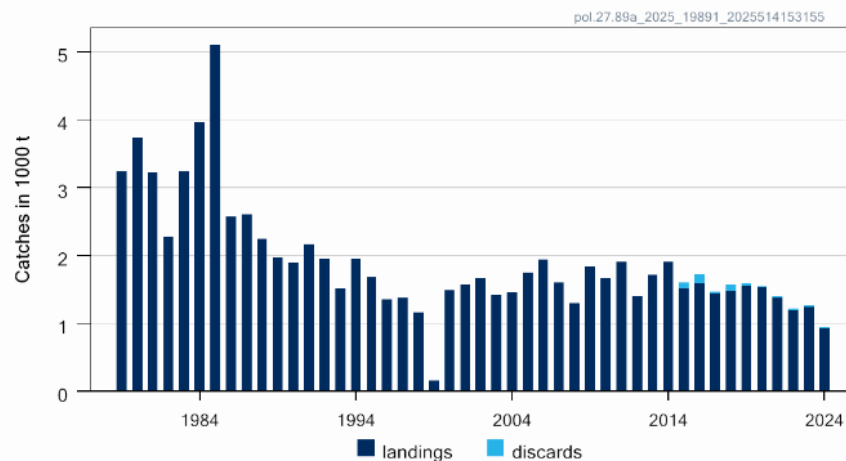
Recent advised landings	124 tonnes	
Discard rate	Unknown	
Precautionary buffer	Applied	0.8
Landings advice **	99 tonnes	
% advice change ***	-20%	

Pollack in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a (Bay of Biscay and Atlantic Iberian waters)

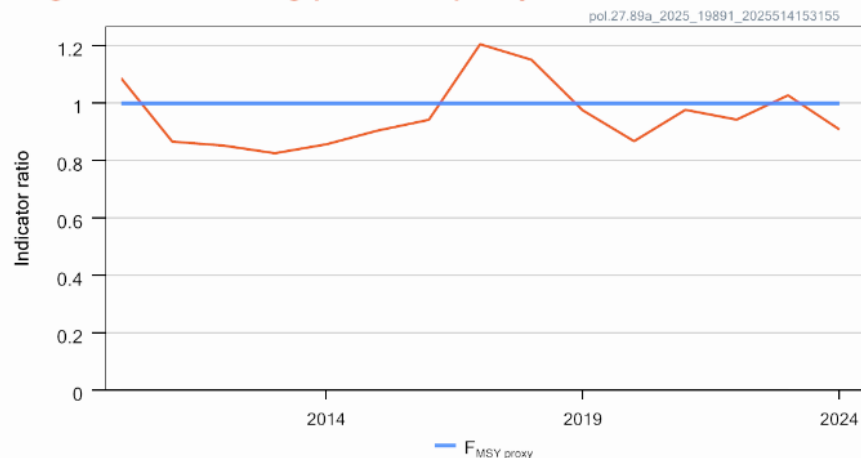
Advice for 2026 and 2027, MSY: commercial catch ≤ 703 t -21%

Can not quantify total catches – lack recreational catch

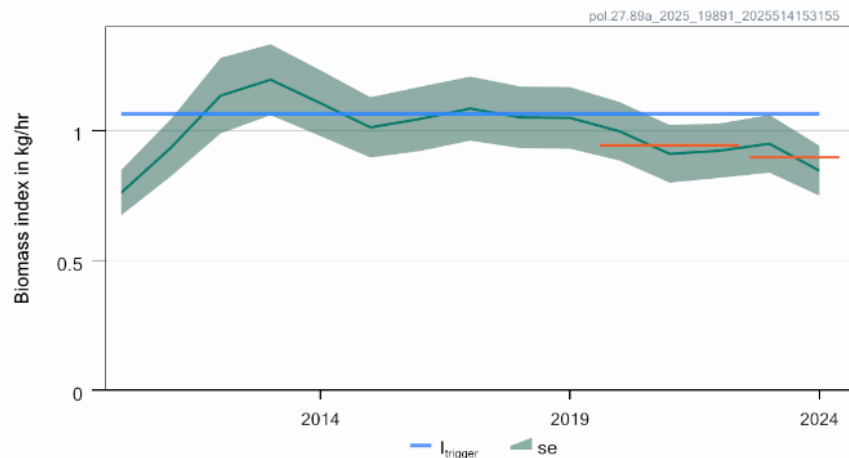
Catches



Length-based fishing pressure proxy



Biomass Index



- F below proxy
- Biomass below trigger
- Decline in advice – decline in biomass – below trigger
- Discards included in advice for first time
- Recreational catches not quantified

Pollack in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a (Bay of Biscay and Atlantic Iberian waters)

Not updated--Catch (2024) : 945 t (does not include recreational catch)



10

rfb

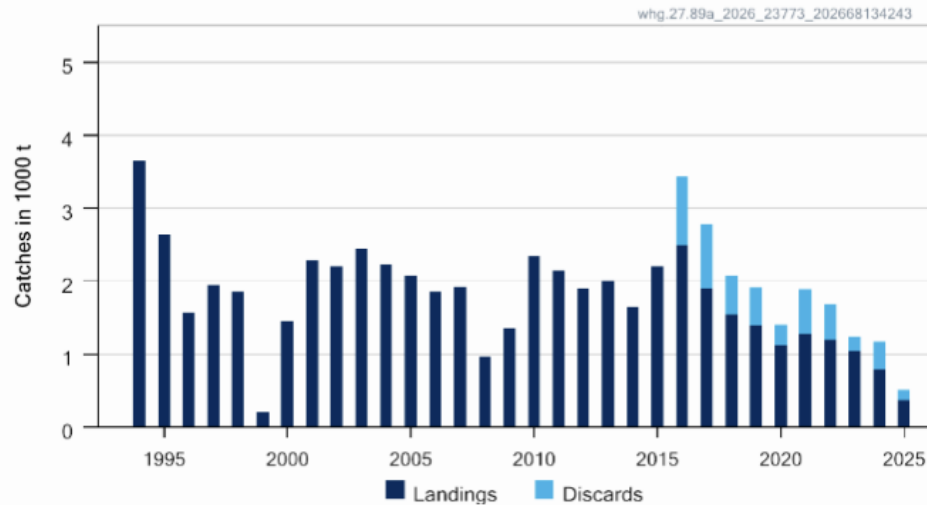
Previous catch advice	889 tonnes**	
Stock biomass trend		
Index A (2023, 2024)	0.90	
Index B (2020, 2021, 2022)	0.94	
r: index ratio (A/B)	0.95	
Fishing pressure proxy		
Mean catch length ($L_{\text{mean}} = L_{2024}$)	48.9 cm	
Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) proxy length ($L_F = M, 2024$)	44.4 cm	
f: multiplier for relative mean length in catches ($L_{\text{mean}}/L_F = M, 2024$)	1.10	
Biomass safeguard		
Last index value (I_{2024})	0.85	
Index trigger value ($I_{\text{trigger}} = I_{\text{loss}} \times 1.4$)	1.06	
b: multiplier for index relative to trigger $\min\{I_{2024}/I_{\text{trigger}}, 1\}$	0.79	
Precautionary multiplier to maintain biomass above B_{lim} with 95% probability		
m: multiplier (generic multiplier based on life history)	0.95	
RFB calculation ***	703 tonnes	
Stability clause (+20%/-30% compared to C_y , only applied if $b \geq 1$)	Not applied	
Catch advice for 2026 and 2027	703 tonnes	
Discard rate	1.91%	
Projected landings corresponding to advice	689 tonnes	
% advice change^	-21%	

$$Ay+1 = Ay \times r \times f \times b \times m$$

Whiting in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a (Bay of Biscay and Atlantic Iberian waters)

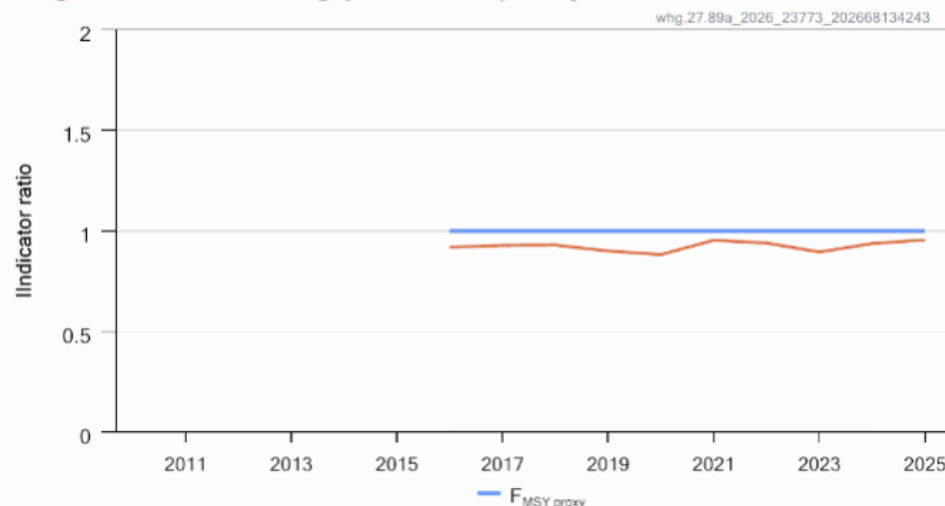
Advice for 2027 and 2028, MSY: Catch ≤ 664 t -45% from 1 215 t

Catches

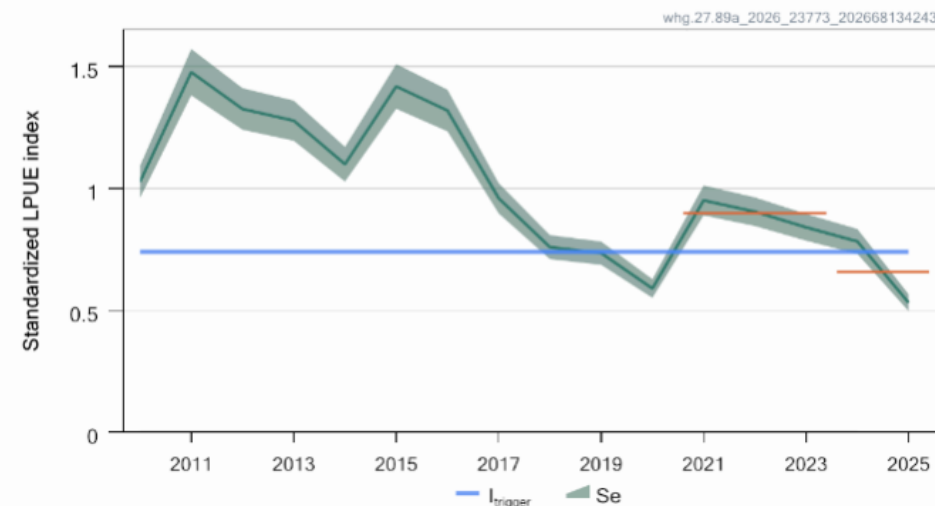


- Error discovered in the LPUE index used for the advice issued in 2025 (2026-2027 advice: 990 t)
- Included 2025 index, new 2026 advice: 1 215 t basis for 2027-2028 advice
- Fishing pressure below F_{MSY} proxy
- Stock size indicator below trigger
- Stock size declined further below the trigger

Length-based fishing pressure proxy



Biomass index



Whiting in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a (Bay of Biscay and Atlantic Iberian waters)

Catch (2025) : 513 t (27% discards)

Table 1 Whiting in Subarea 8 and Division 9.a. The basis for the catch scenarios*.

Previous catch advice (A_y , 2026 and 2027)	990 tonnes
Previous catch advice (A_y , 2026 and 2027, corrected)	1215 tonnes ^{^^}
Stock biomass trend	
Index A (2024, 2025)	0.66
Index B (2021, 2022, 2023)	0.90
r: index ratio (A/B)	0.73
Fishing pressure proxy	
Mean catch length ($L_{\text{mean}} = L_{2025}$)	316 mm
Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) proxy length ($L_F = M$, 2025)	302 mm
f: multiplier for relative mean length in catches ($L_{\text{mean}}/L_F = M$ 2025)	1.05
Biomass safeguard	
Last index value (I_{2025})	0.53
Index trigger value ($I_{\text{trigger}} = I_{\text{loss}} \times 1.4$)	0.74
b: multiplier for index relative to trigger $\min\{I_{2025}/I_{\text{trigger}}, 1\}$	0.71
Precautionary multiplier to maintain biomass above B_{lim} with 95% probability	
m: multiplier (generic multiplier based on life history)	Not applied (i.e. $m=1.0^{\text{^^}}$)
rfb calculation**	664 tonnes
Stability clause (+20%/-30% compared to A_y , only applied if $b = 1$)	Not applied
Catch advice for 2027 and 2028 ($A_y \times$ stability clause)	664 tonnes
Discard rate (average 2016-2025)	27%
Projected landings corresponding to advice***	485 tonnes
% advice change^	-45%

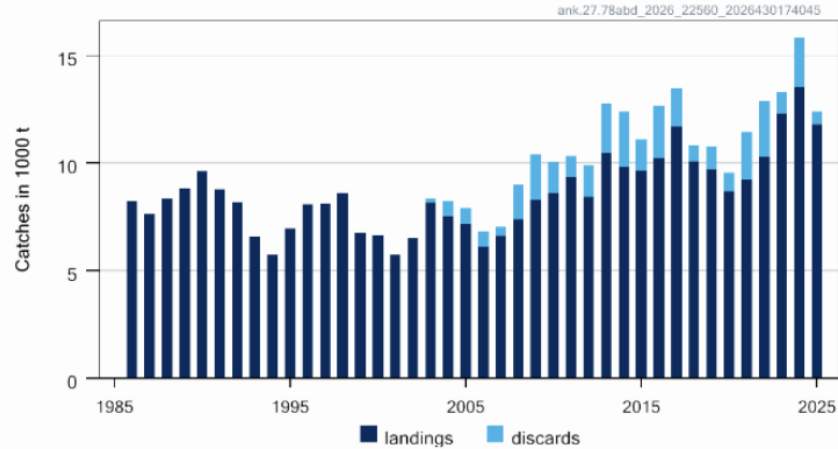
rfb

Golfe de Gascogne

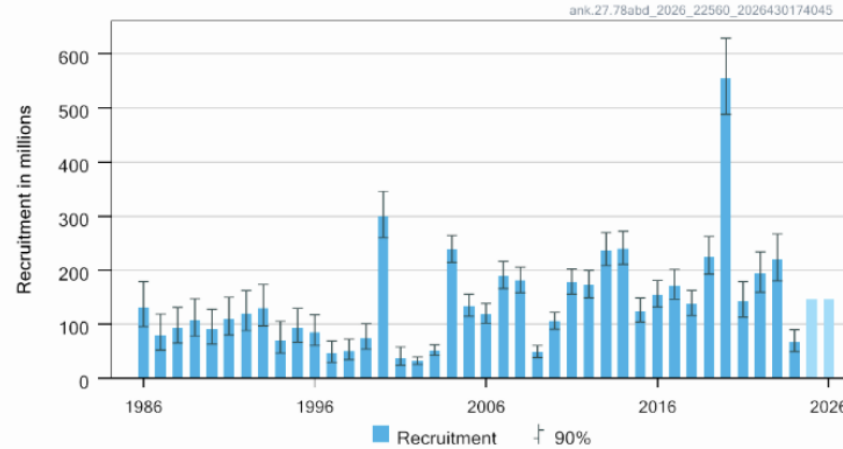
Black-bellied anglerfish in Subarea 7 and divisions 8.a–b, and 8.d

Advice for 2027 MSY: Catch $\leq 19\,130$ t advice -14.6%

Catches

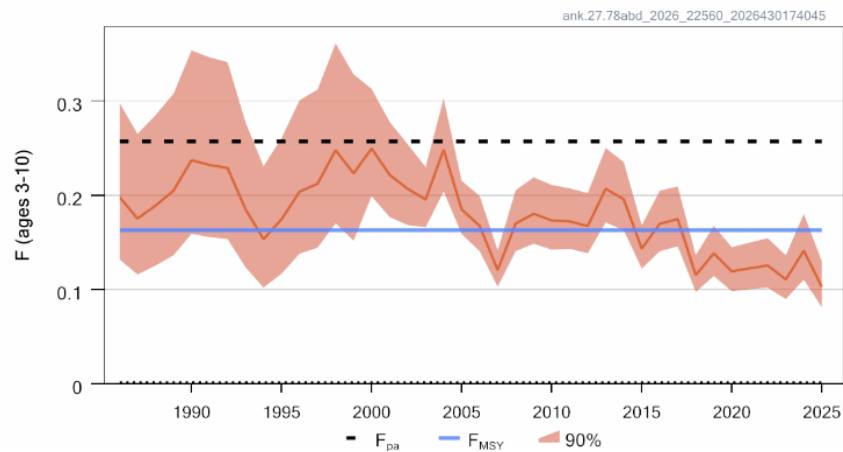


Recruitment (age 0)

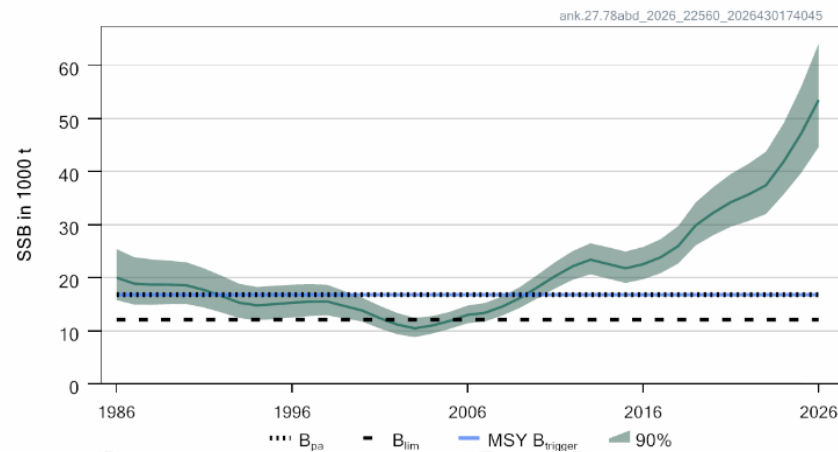


- F below F_{MSY}
- SSB above MSY $B_{trigger}$
- Decrease advice – downward revision of stock size

F



SSB



Black-bellied anglerfish in Subarea 7 and divisions 8.a–b, and 8.d

Catch (2025) = 12 406 t (5% discards)

F(2026) = 0.118 (average 2023-2025)

SSB (2027)= 56 386 > MSY_{Btrigger} (16 776) F_{MSY}= 0.163

Basis	Total catch (2027)	Projected landings (2027)	Projected discards (2027)	F _{ages 3–10} total (2027)	F _{ages 3–10} projected landings (2027)	F _{ages 3–10} projected discards (2027)	Spawning-stock biomass (SSB; 2028)	% SSB change*	% advice change**
ICES advice basis									
Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach = F _{MSY}	19130	16095	3035	0.163	0.157	0.0063	53961	-4.3	-14.6
Other options									
F = MAP^ F _{MSY lower}	13454	11323	2131	0.112	0.108	0.0044	56784	0.71	-40
F = MAP^ F _{MSY upper}	27711	23304	4407	0.24	0.24	0.0095	49712	-11.8	24
F = 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63514	12.6	-100
F _{PA}	28913	24314	4599	0.26	0.25	0.01	49119	-12.9	29
SSB ₂₀₂₈ = B _{lim}	107814	90050	17764	1.66	1.6	0.065	12073	-78.6	380
SSB ₂₀₂₈ = B _{PA} = MSY B _{trigger}	97053	81177	15876	1.33	1.28	0.052	16776	-70.3	330
SSB ₂₀₂₈ = SSB ₂₀₂₇	14253	11994	2258	0.119	0.114	0.0046	56386	0	-36
F = F ₂₀₂₆	14161	11917	2244	0.118	0.114	0.0046	56432	0.08	-37
Catch advice 2027 = catch advice 2026	22390	18835	3555	0.193	0.186	0.0075	52344	-7.2	0

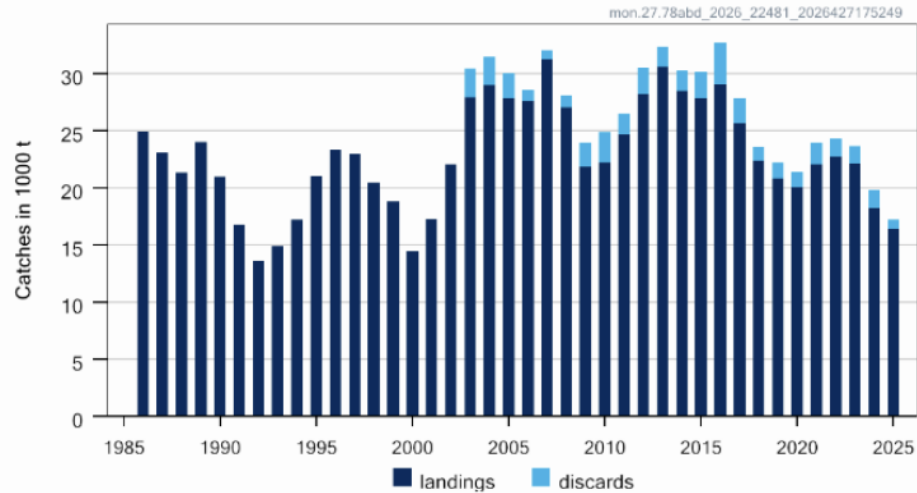
Length based stock synthesis

Note: Under combined TAC with white anglerfish – could lead to overexploitation of either species

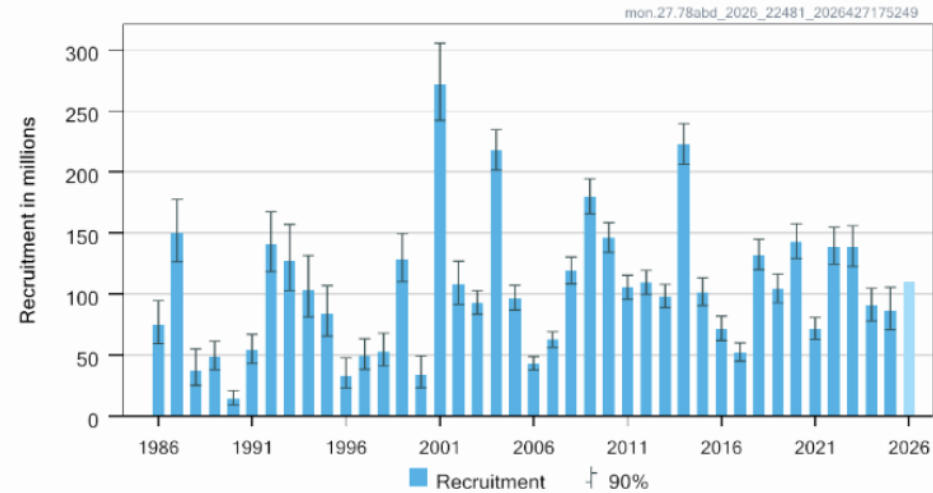
White anglerfish in Subarea 7 and div. 8.a-b,d (Celtic Sea, Bay of Biscay)

Advice for 2027 MSY: Catch $\leq 36\,980$ t advice +2.5%

Catches

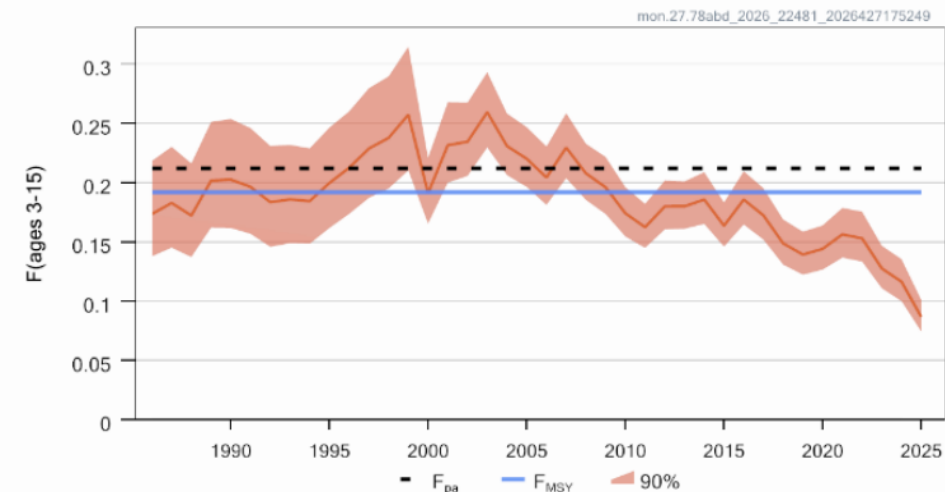


Recruitment (age 0)

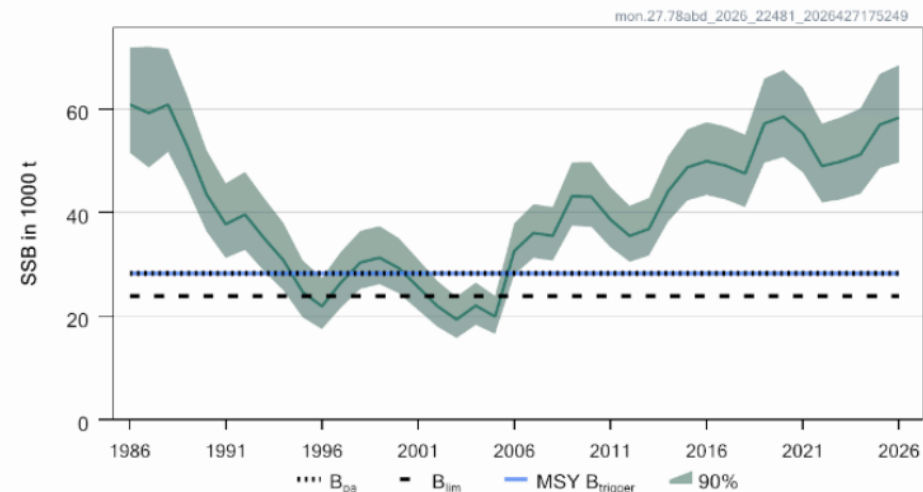


- F below F_{MSY}
- SSB above MSY $B_{trigger}$
- Small increase in biomass

F



SSB



White anglerfish in Subarea 7 and div. 8.a-b,d (Celtic Sea, Bay of Biscay)

Catch (2025) : 17 228 t (4.7 % discards)

F(2026) = 0.087 (Average 2023-2025, scaled to 2025);

SSB (2027)= 65 874 > MSY_{Btrigger} (28 275 t) F_{MSY}= 0.192

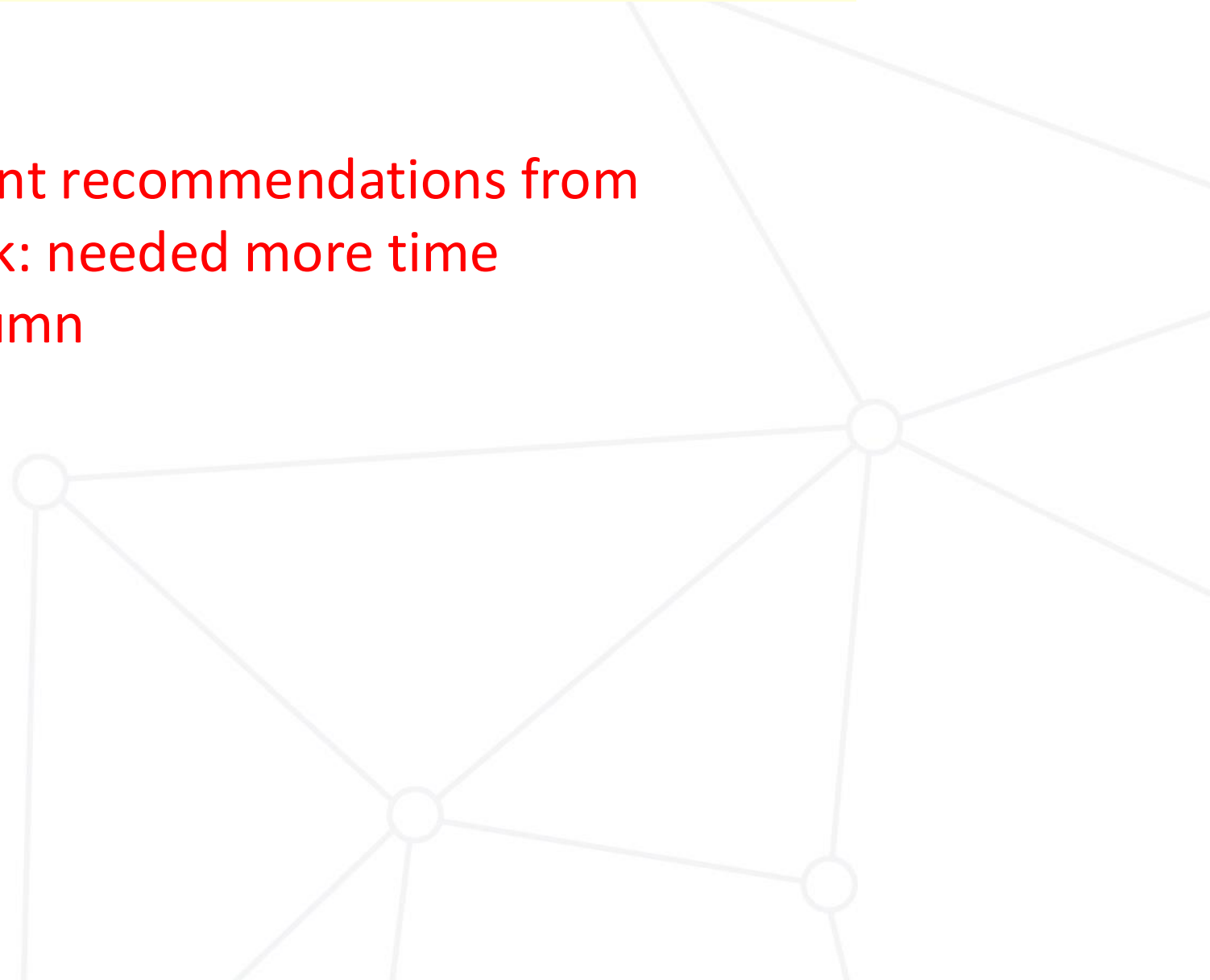
Basis	Total catch (2027)	Projected landings (2027)	Projected discards (2027)	F _{ages 3–15} total (2027)	F _{ages 3–15} projected landings (2027)	F _{ages 3–15} projected discards (2027)	Spawning -stock biomass (SSB) (2028)	% SSB change *	% advice change^
ICES advice basis									
Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach = F _{MSY}	36980	32978	4002	0.192	0.19	0.00153	66744	1.32	2.5
Other scenarios									
F = MAP^^ F _{MSY} lower	26015	23204	2811	0.131	0.13	0.00104	71154	8.02	-28
F = MAP^^ F _{MSY} upper	40429	36051	4378	0.212	0.21	0.00168	65359	-0.78	12.0
F = 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	81641	24	-100
F _{PA}	40429	36051	4378	0.212	0.21	0.00168	65359	-0.78	12.0
SSB ₂₀₂₈ = B _{lim}	145694	129434	16259	1.176	1.17	0.0093	23868	-64	303
SSB ₂₀₂₈ = B _{PA} = MSY B _{trigger}	134169	119280	14890	1.013	1.01	0.0080	28275	-57	271
SSB ₂₀₂₈ = SSB ₂₀₂₇	39146	34908	4238	0.205	0.2	0.00163	65874	0	8.5
F = F ₂₀₂₆	17621	15719	1902	0.087	0.086	0.00069	74534	13.2	-51
Catch advice 2027 = catch advice 2026	36090	32185	3905	0.187	0.185	0.00149	67102	1.86	0

Length based
age
structured
stock
synthesis

Note: Under combined TAC with black bellied anglerfish – could lead to overexploitation of either species

Advice for 2027

- Advice Delayed
- Continuing to implement recommendations from review level benchmark: needed more time
- Hope to release in autumn

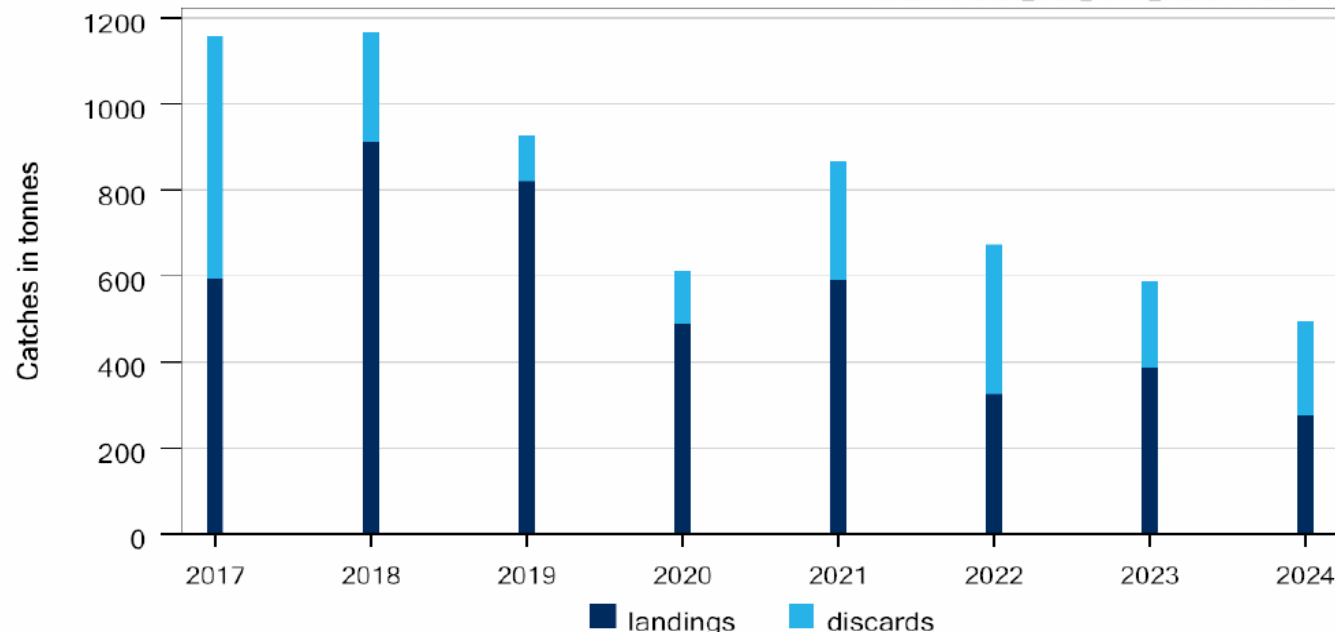


Four-spot megrim in divisions 7b-k, 8a-b and 8d

Advice for 2026, 2027 and 2028 : PA: catch $\leq$ 694t -20%

Catches

ldb.27.7b-k8abd_2025_19667_202557091203



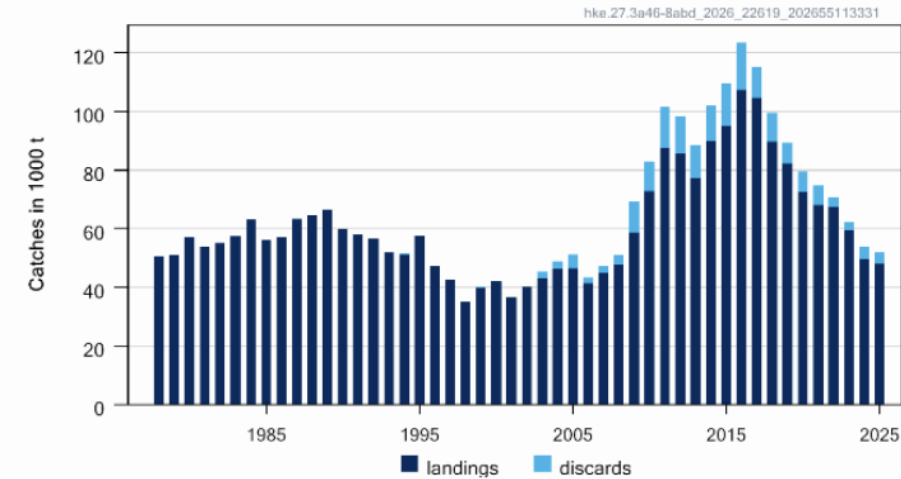
- Can not assess status
- PA buffer applied
- Two species not separated in landing statistics
- TAC combined with megrim

Advice for 2024–2025	867 tonnes	
Discard rate (2022–2024)	44%	
Precautionary buffer	Applied	0.8
Catch advice for each of the years 2026, 2027, and 2028	694 tonnes	
% advice change	–20%	

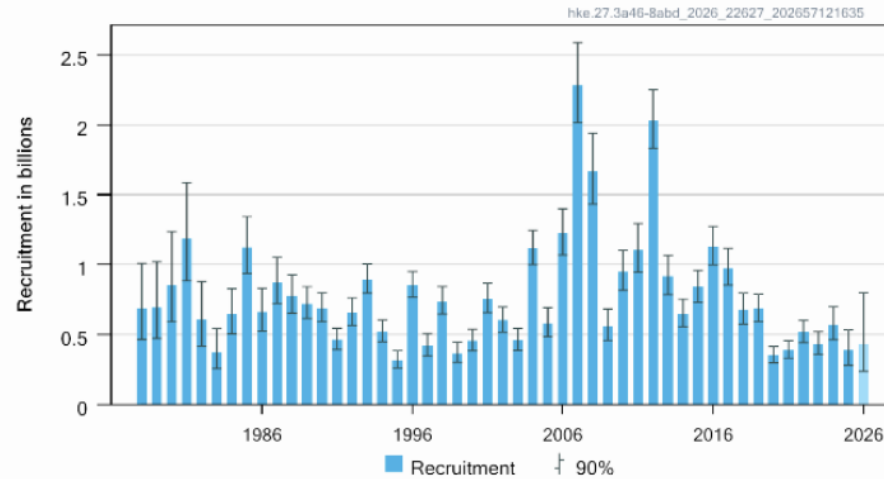
Hake – Northern stock (3.a, 4, 6, 7, 8.abd)

Advice for 2027 MSY: Catch $\leq 46\,824$ t advice -14.7%

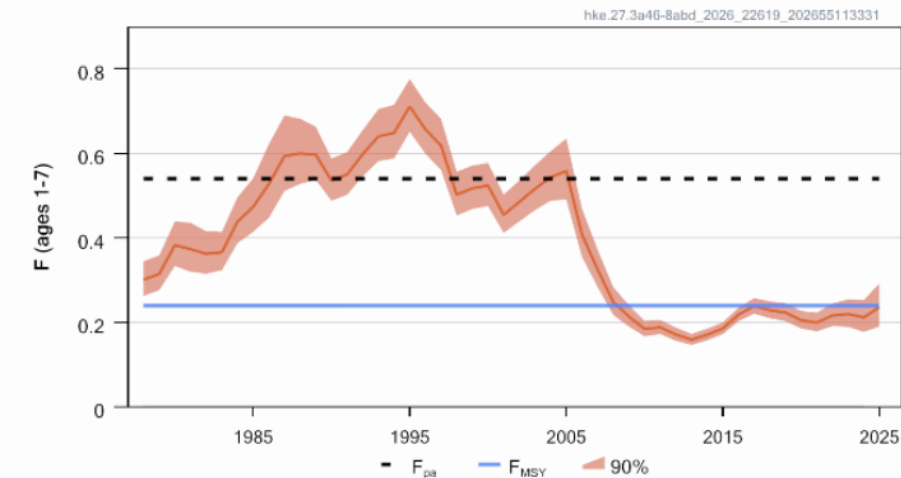
Catches



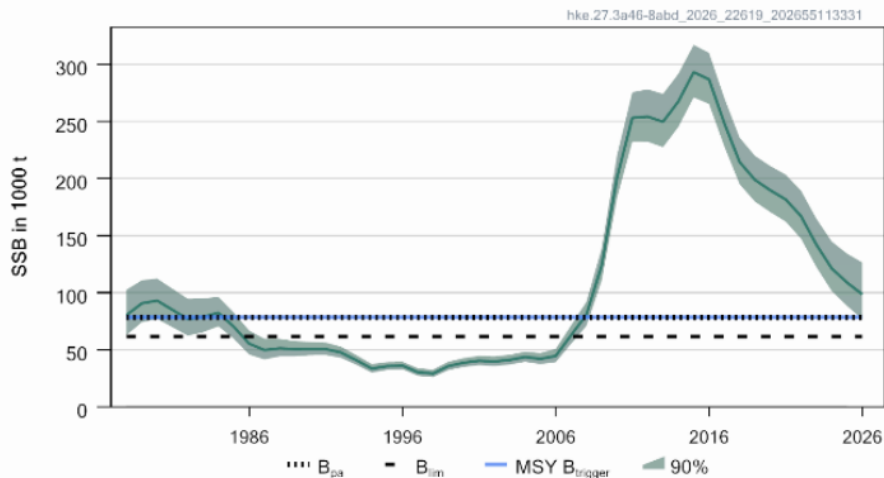
Recruitment (age 0)



F



SSB (female-only)



- F at F_{MSY}
- SSB above $MSY B_{trigger}$ but decreasing
- Decreasing trend and downward revision of stock size, recent recruitment used in forecast
- Stock area does not correspond to the TAC areas

Hake – Northern stock (3.a, 4, 6, 7, 8.abd)

Catch (2025) : 51 834 t (7.3 % discards)

F (2026) = 0.22 (Average F₂₀₂₃₋₂₀₂₅)

SSB (2027)= 95 857 > MSY_{Btrigger} (78 405t) F_{MSY}= 0.24

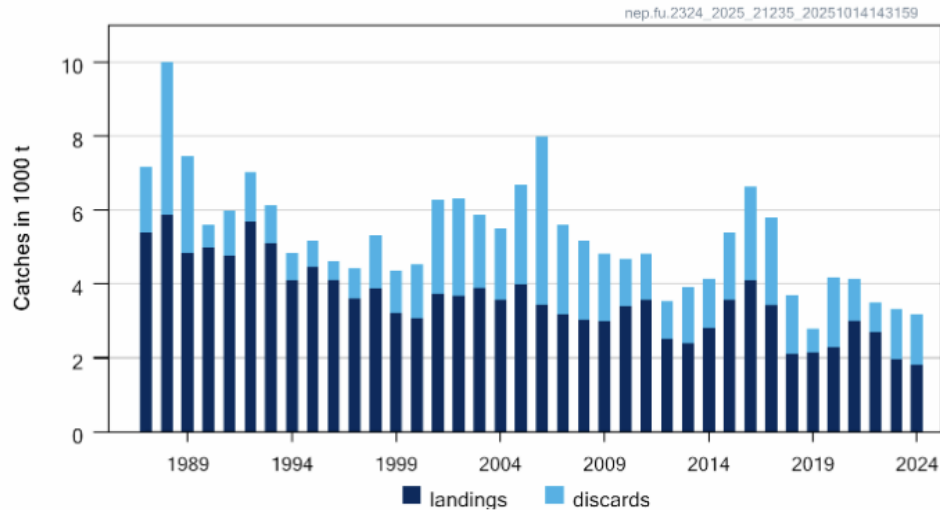
Length based
and sex
disaggregated
stock synthesis

Basis	Total catch (2027)	Projected landings (2027)	Projected discards (2027)	F _{ages 1–7} total (2027)	F _{ages 1–7} projected landings (2027)	F _{ages 1–7} projected discards (2027)	Spawning-stock biomass (SSB) (2028)	% SSB change *	% advice change **	% Probability SSB < B _{lim} in 2028 ***
ICES advice basis										
Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach = F _{MSY}	46824	43255	3569	0.24	0.22	0.0185	89670	-6.5	-14.7	< 1
Other scenarios										
EU MAP^: F _{MSY}	46824	43255	3569	0.24	0.22	0.0185	89670	-6.5	-14.7	< 1
F = MAP^: F _{MSY lower}	29924	27699	2225	0.147	0.136	0.0109	100613	5.0	-46	< 1
F = MAP^: F _{MSY upper}	66443	61215	5227	0.37	0.34	0.029	77137	-20	21	3
F = 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	120277	25	-100	< 1
F = F _{PA}	88208	80988	7220	0.54	0.49	0.044	63483	-34	61	42
SSB (2028) = B _{lim}	91316	83792	7524	0.56	0.52	0.047	61563	-36	66	52^^
SSB (2028) = B _{PA} = MSY B _{trigger}	64443	59391	5053	0.36	0.33	0.028	78405	-18.2	17.4	2.2
SSB (2028) = SSB(2027)	37244	34446	2799	0.187	0.173	0.0141	95857	0	-32	< 1
F = F ₂₀₂₆	43416	40123	3292	0.22	0.21	0.0169	91866	-4.2	-21	< 1
Catch (2027) = TAC (2026)	54912	50673	4239	0.29	0.27	0.023	84479	-11.9	0	< 1

Nephrops FU 23-24 (divisions 8a and 8b)

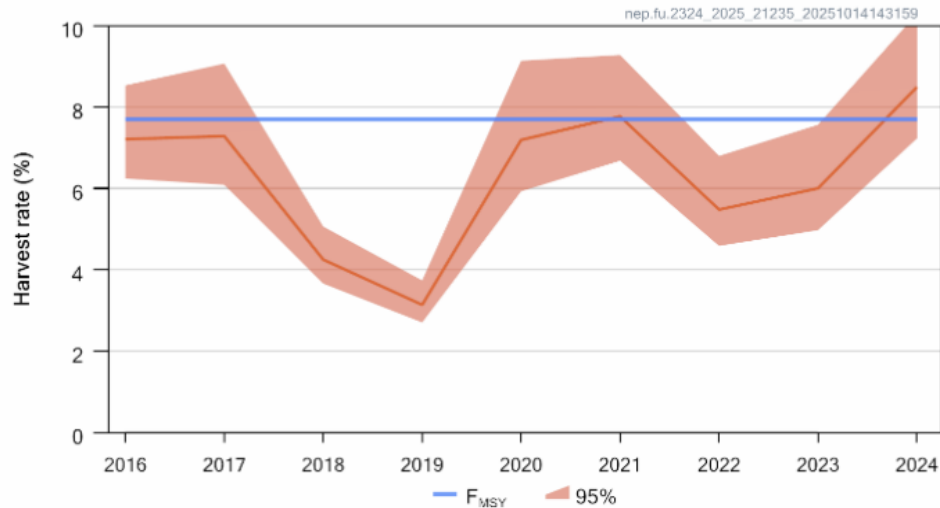
Advice 2026: MAP Catch $\leq 4\,014$ t +54%

Catches

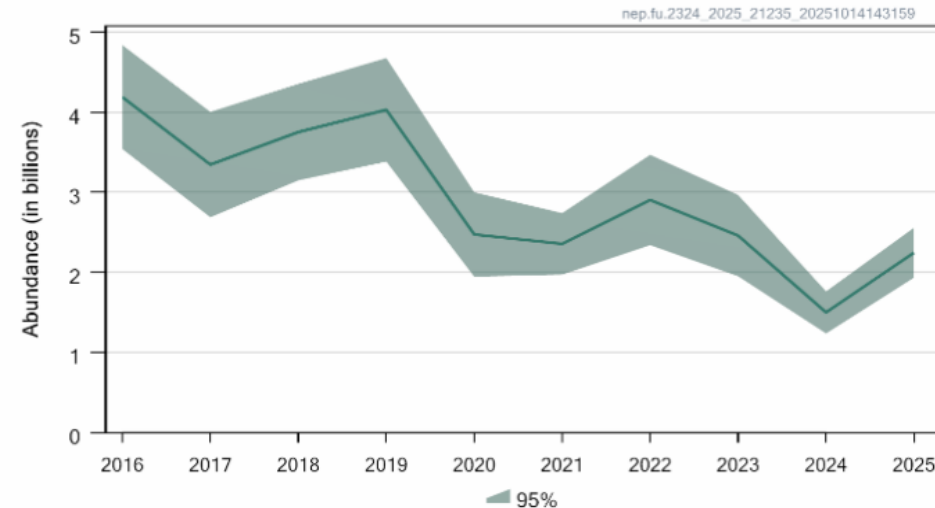


- Advice for 2027 will be released October
- F above F_{MSY} proxy
- No biomass reference point
- Increase in stock size
- Reviewed and confirmed observed UWTV survey increase

Fishing pressure



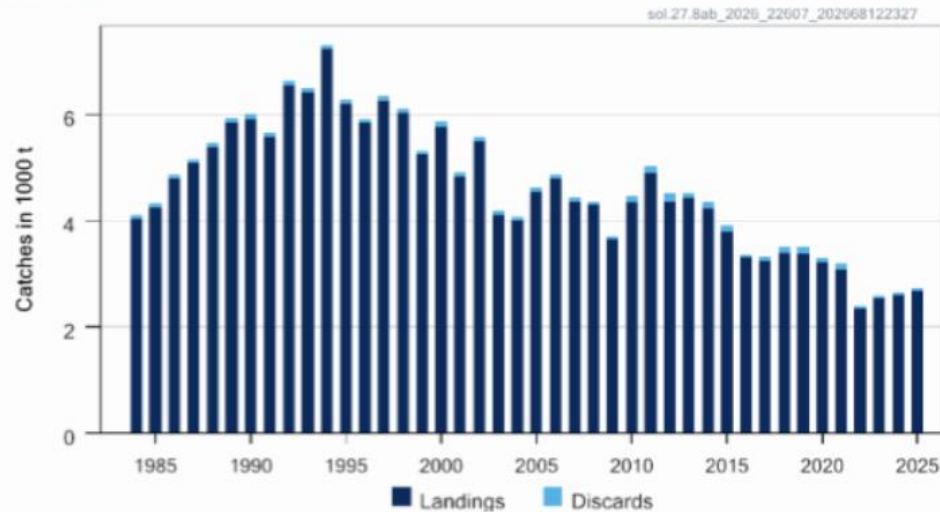
Stock size



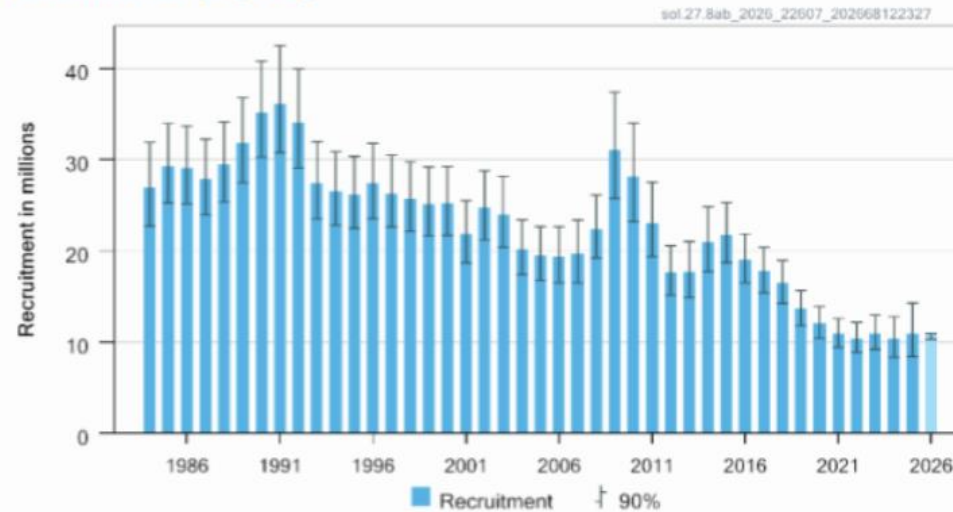
Sole in divisions 8a-b

Advice for 2027: EU MAP: Catch 1 498 - 2 271 t advice -10 to -8.5%

Catches

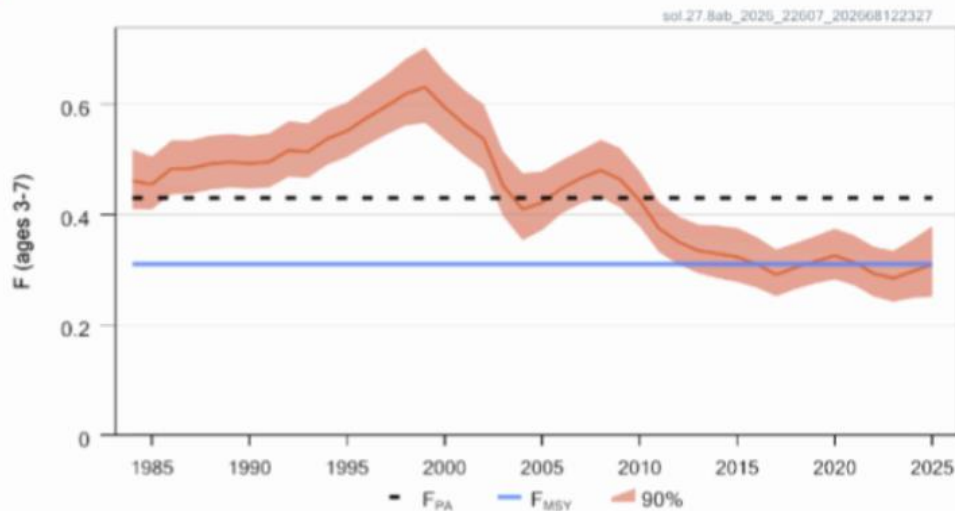


Recruitment (age 2)

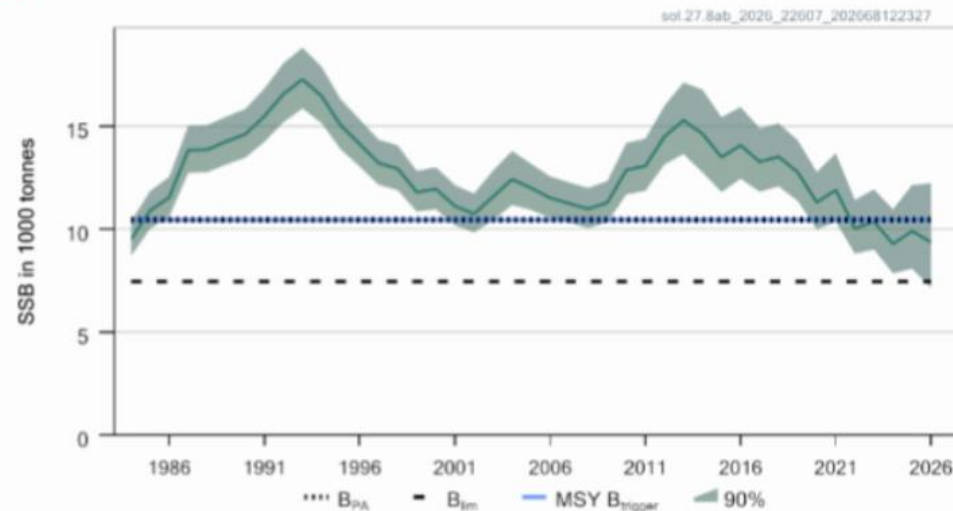


- F at F_{MSY}
- SSB below $MSY B_{trigger}$ but above B_{PA} and B_{lim}
- Decreasing stock trend and reduced F below $MSY B_{trigger}$

F



SSB



Sole in divisions 8a-b

Catch (2025) : 2 737 (2.2% discards)

$F(2026) = 0.30$ (average F 2023-2025)

$SSB(2027) = 9\,052\text{ t} < MSY_{B_{trigger}} (10\,460\text{ t}) \quad F_{MSY} = 0.31$

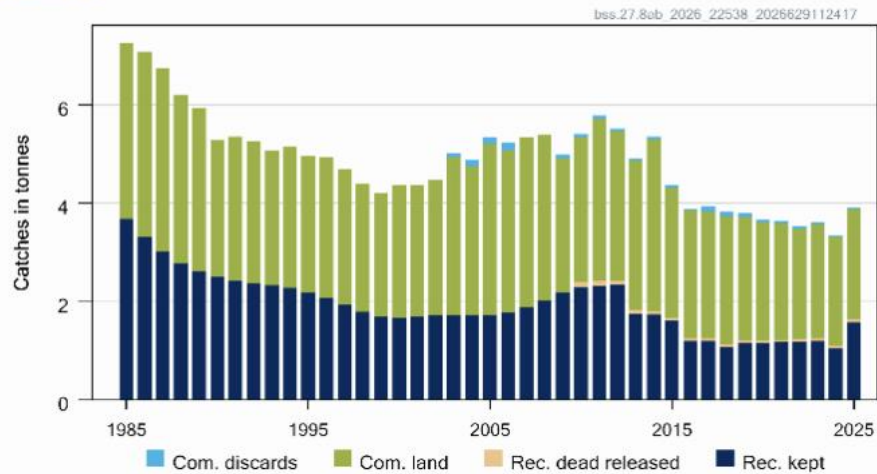
SAM

Basis	Total catch (2027)	Projected landings (2027)	Projected discards (2027)	$F_{ages\ 3-7\ total}$ (2027)	Spawning-stock biomass (SSB; 2028)	% SSB change #	% total allowable catch (TAC) change ##	% advice change ^^	% Probability $SSB < B_{lim}$ in 2028*
ICES advice basis									
EU MAP ^: $F = F_{MSY} \times \frac{SSB_{2027}}{MSY\ B_{trigger}}$	2271	2257	14	0.27	9039	-0.1	-8.5	-8.5	6.2
EU MAP ^: $F = F_{MSY\ lower} \times \frac{SSB_{2027}}{MSY\ B_{trigger}}$	1498	1489	9	0.17	9899	9.4	-39.6	-10	1.10
Other scenarios									
F_{MSY}	2552	2537	15	0.31	8812	-2.7	2.8	2.8	11.1
$F_{MSY\ lower}$	1732	1723	9	0.2	9653	6.6	-30.2	-30.2	2.0
$F = 0$	0	0	0	0	11323	25	-100	-100	< 1
F_{PA}	3374	3354	20	0.43	7965	-12	35.9	35.9	31
$SSB_{2028} = B_{lim}$	3866	3843	23	0.512	7470	-17.5	56	56	50
$SSB_{2028} = B_{PA} = MSY\ B_{trigger}$	921	916	5	0.102	10460	15.6	-63	-63	< 1
$SSB_{2028} = SSB_{2027}$	2308	2294	14	0.274	9052	0	-7.0	-7.0	7.0
$F = F_{2025}$	2560	2545	15	0.31	8752	-3.3	3.1	3.1	11.1
Total catch equal to TAC_{2026}	2482	2468	14	0.299	8897	-1.7	0	0	10.4
Probability of $(SSB_{2028} < B_{lim}) = 5\%$	2116	2104	12	0.25	9314	2.9	-14.7	-14.7	5.0

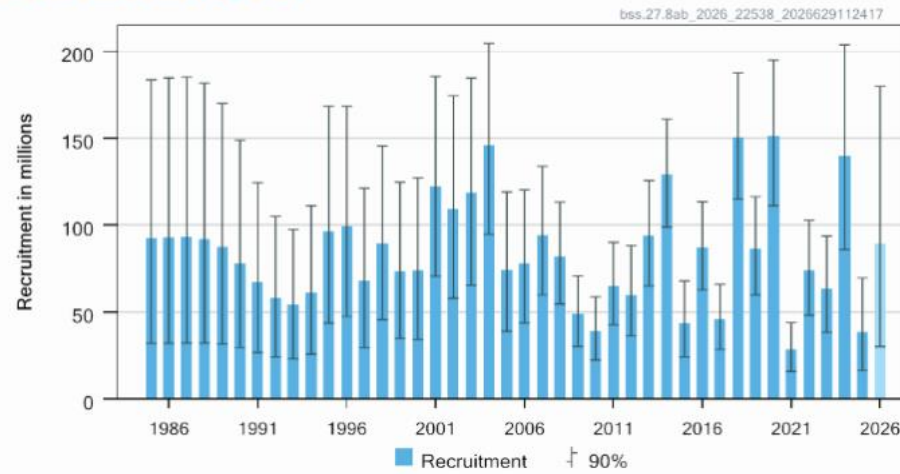
Sea bass in divisions 8a-b

Advice for 2027 EU MAP: total removals 5 975 -7 088 t -7%

Catches

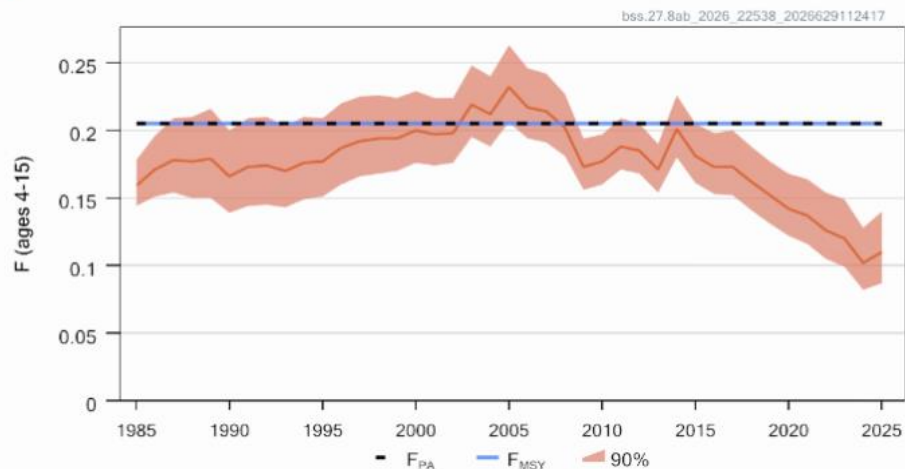


Recruitment (age 0)

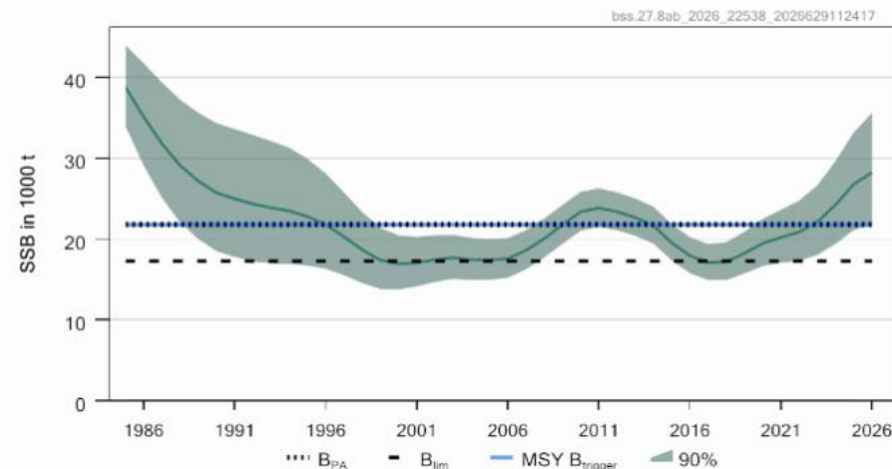


- F below F_{MSY}
- SSB above MSY
 $B_{trigger}$
- Downward revision in stock size
- Recreational data still uncertain – limited data

F



SSB



Sea bass in divisions 8a-b

Catch (2025) : 3 425 t (1 936 t com, 222 t comm. disc, 1 140 rec kept, 127 t rec dead released)
 $F(2026) = 0.111$ Average F 2023-2025

$SSB(2027) = 28\,268\text{ t} > MSY_{B_{trigger}} (21\,782\text{ t})$ $F_{MSY} = 0.205$

Basis	bss.27.8ab sea bass stock												
	Total removals (2027) [#]	Commercial landings (2027)	Recreational kept (2027)	Commercial discards (2027)	Recreational dead released (2027)	Survival recreational released (2027)	$F_{ages\,4-15}$ total removals (2027)	$F_{ages\,4-15}$ commercial landings (2027)	$F_{ages\,4-15}$ recreational kept (2027)	Spawning-stock biomass (SSB; 2028)	% SSB change ^{##}	% advice change ^{###}	% Probability SSB < B_{lim} in 2028*
ICES advice basis													
EU MAP [^] : F_{MSY}	7088	4407	2496	84	101	1921	0.205	0.126	0.079	25469	-9.9	-7.0	1
$F = MAP^{\wedge} : F_{MSY\,lower}$	5975	3714	2104	71	85	1619	0.170	0.104	0.066	26353	-6.8	-7.0	< 1
Other scenarios													
$F = 0^{^^}$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31155	10.2	-100	< 1
$F = F_{PA} = F_{MSY\,upper}$	7088	4407	2496	84	101	1921	0.205	0.126	0.079	25469	-9.9	-7.0	1
$SSB_{2028} = B_{lim}$	17656	10976	6217	210	252	4785	0.61	0.38	0.24	17273	-39	132	53**
$SSB_{2028} = MSY\,B_{trigger} = B_{PA}$	11778	7322	4147	140	168	3192	0.37	0.23	0.142	21782	-23	55	7
$SSB_{2028} = SSB_{2027}$	3580	2226	1261	43	51	970	0.099	0.061	0.038	28268	0	-53	< 1
$F = F_{2026}$	4000	2487	1409	48	57	1084	0.111	0.068	0.043	27931	-1.19	-47	< 1
Total removals advice (2027) = total removals advice (2026)	7618	4736	2683	91	109	2065	0.22	0.136	0.086	25049	-11.4	0	2

No TAC in this area –technical measures; Age and length based SS3 including rec. catches

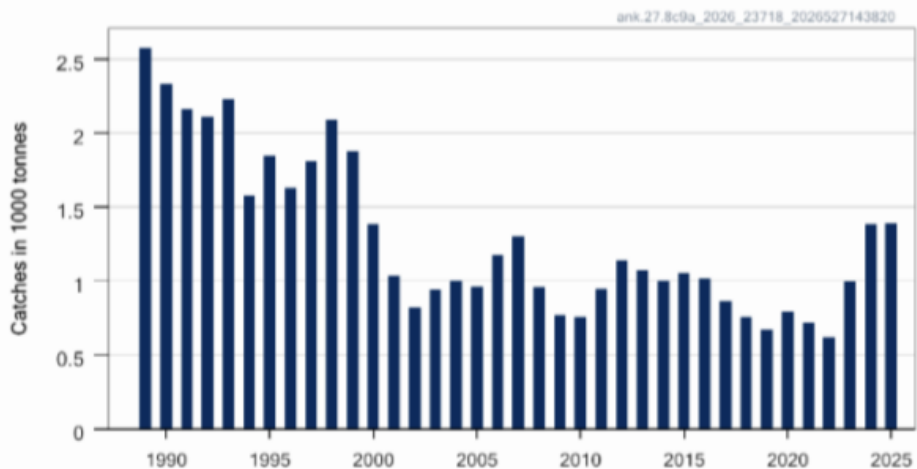
Eaux de la Péninsule Ibérique

Black-bellied anglerfish in divisions 8c and 9a

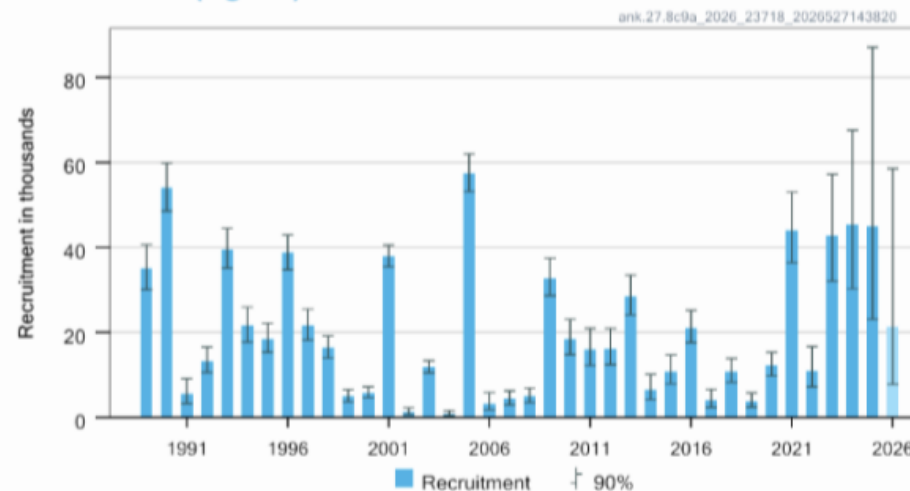
Advice for 2027 MAP: Catch 1 905 to 3 377 t advice +58%

- F below F_{MSY}
- SSB (female only) above MSY $B_{trigger}$
- Updated settings: upward revision + increasing trend in stock size
- Two species not separated in landing statistics
- TAC combined with white anglerfish

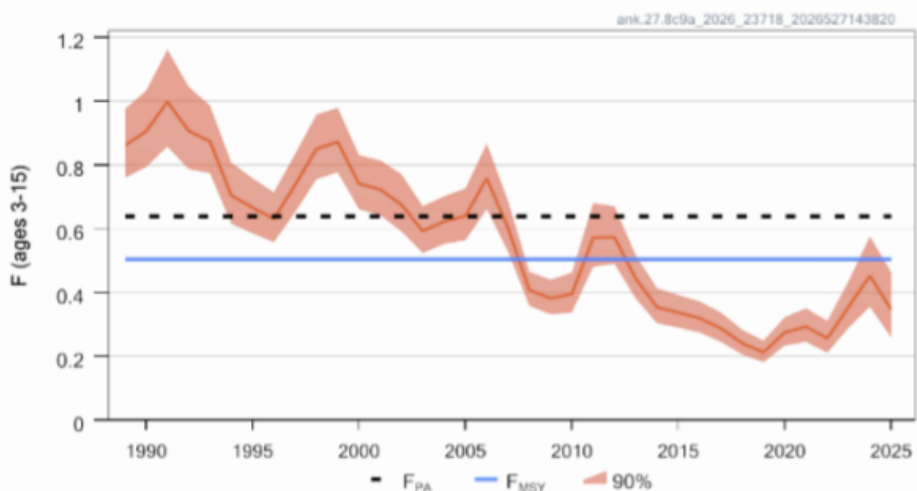
Catches



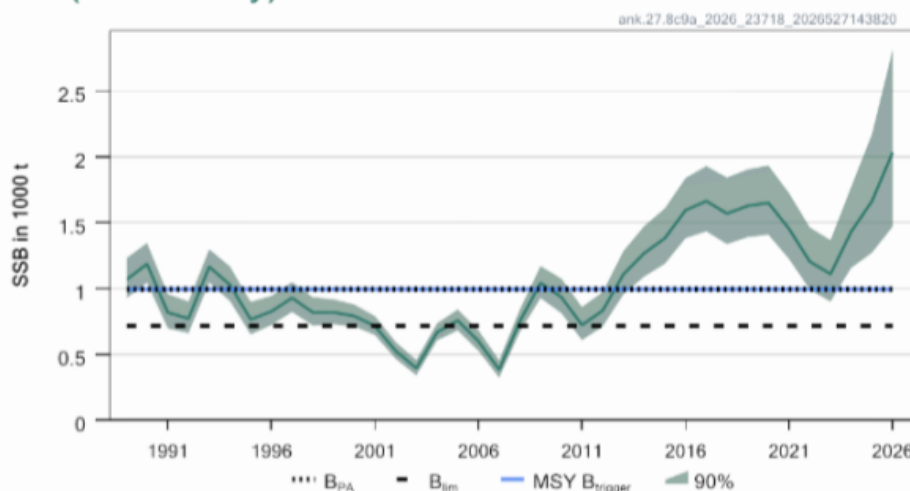
Recruitment (age 0)



F



SSB (female-only)



Black-bellied anglerfish in divisions 8c and 9a

Catch (2025) : 1 388t (negligible discards)

$F(2026) = 0.38$ (average F 2023-2025)

SSB female only (2027)= 2 556 t > $MSY_{Btrigger}$ (994 t) $F_{MSY}=0.504$



29

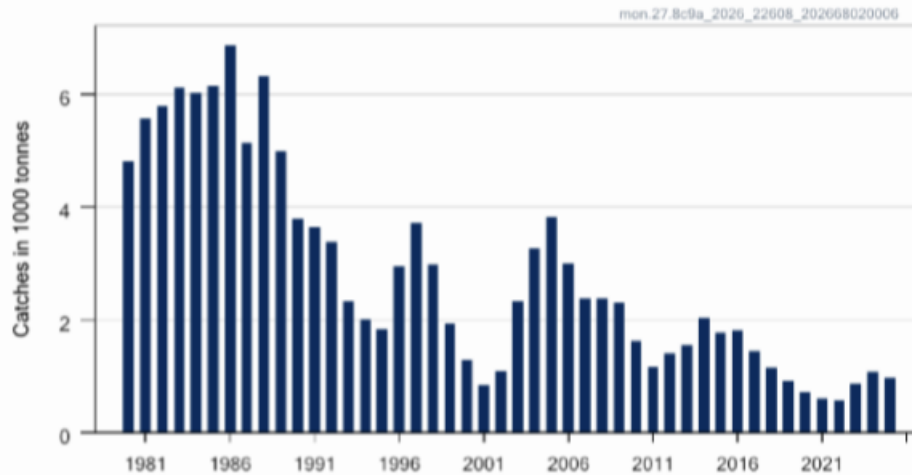
Basis	Total catch (2027)	$F_{ages\ 3-15\ total}$ (2027)	Spawning-stock biomass (SSB; 2028)	% SSB change **	% advice change ***	% Probability SSB < B_{lim} (2028) ^
ICES advice basis						
EU MAP*: F_{MSY}	2786	0.504	2753	7.7	58	< 1
$F = MAP* F_{MSY\ lower}$	1905	0.324	3174	24	60	< 1
$F = MAP* F_{MSY\ upper}$	3377	0.639	2478	-3.1	88	< 1
Other scenarios						
$F = 0$	0	0	4117	61	-100	< 1
$F=F_{PA}$	3377	0.639	2478	-3.1	92	< 1
$SSB(2028) = B_{lim}$	7651	2.34	715	-72	334	55^^
$SSB(2028) = B_{PA} = MSY\ B_{trigger}$	6880	1.87	994	-61	290	12
$SSB_{2028} = SSB_{2027}$	3208	0.60	2556	0	82	< 1
$F = F_{2026}$	2208	0.38	3028	18.5	25	< 1
Catch advice 2027 = catch advice 2026	1762	0.30	3243	27	0	< 1

SS3 benchmarked 2025, 2026 model reweighting update and recalculated reference points

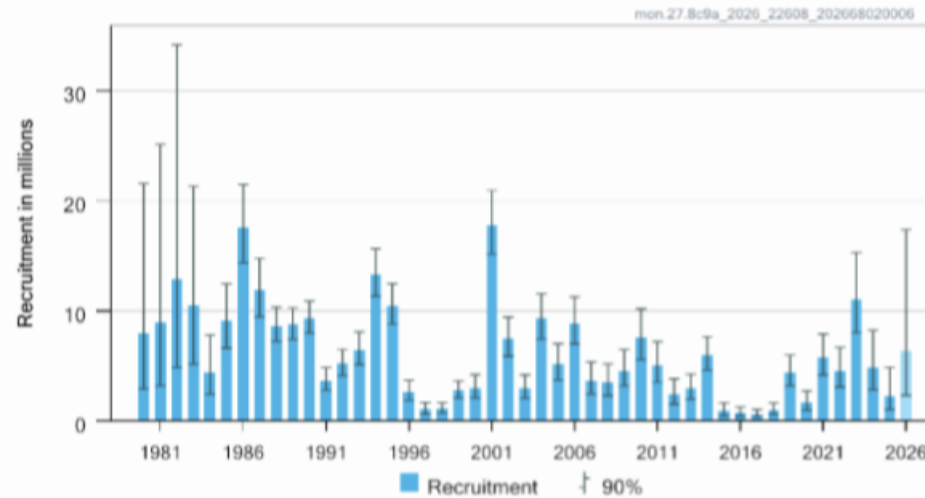
White anglerfish in divisions 8c and 9a

Advice for 2027 EU MAP: Catch 2 841 – 4 619 t advice + 4.4%

Catches

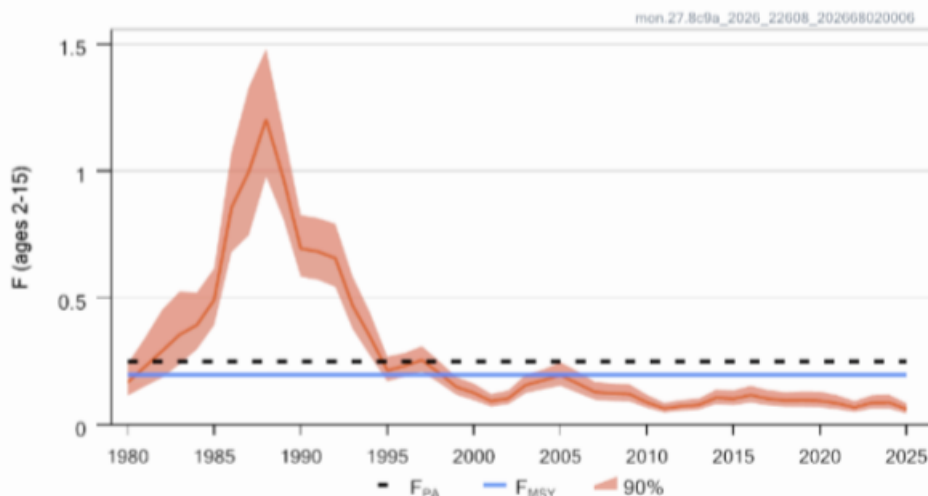


Recruitment (age 0)

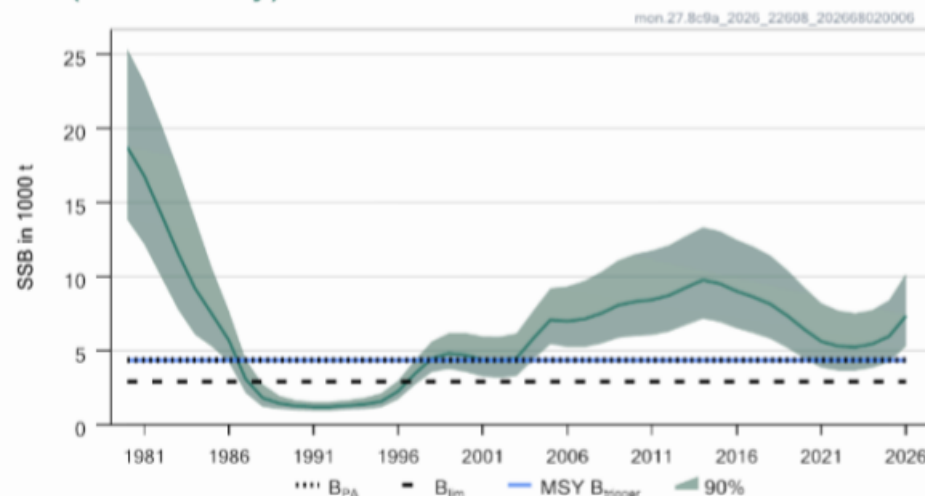


- F below F_{MSY}
- SSB above MSY
 $B_{trigger}$
- Increasing stock trend
- No index for older fish
- Two species not separated in landing statistics
- TAC combined with black-bellied anglerfish

F



SSB (female-only)



White anglerfish in divisions 8c and 9a

Catch (2025) : 1079 t (negligible discards)

$F(2026)=0.080$ (Average 2023-2025)

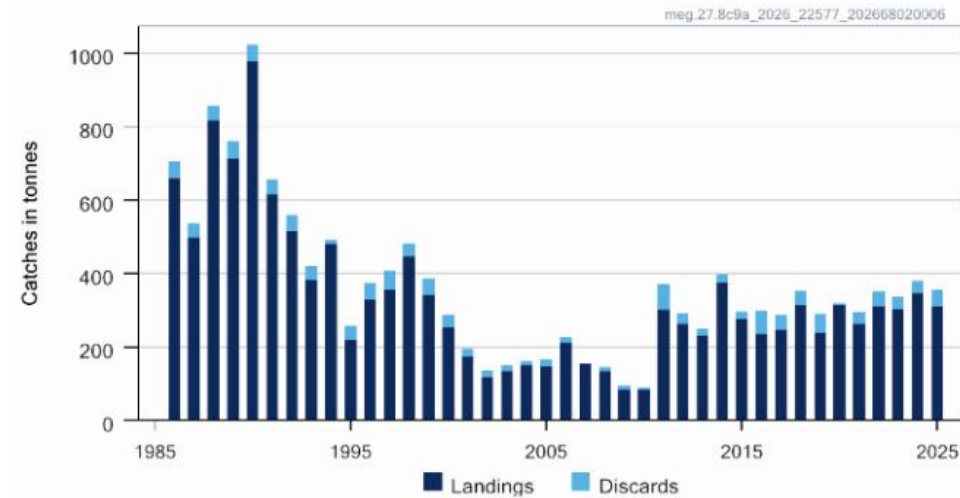
SSB female only (2027) = 8 616 t > $MSY_{Btrigger}$ (4 373 t) $F_{MSY}=0.198$

Basis	Total catch (2027)	$F_{ages\ 2-15\ total}$ (2027)	Spawning-stock biomass (SSB; 2028)	% SSB change **	% advice change ***	% Probability SSB < B_{lim} (2028) ^
ICES advice basis						
EU MAP*: F_{MSY}	3777	0.198	7915	-8.1	4.4	< 1
$F = MAP* F_{MSY\ lower}$	2841	0.144	8441	-2.0	4.4	< 1
$F = MAP* F_{MSY\ upper}$	4619	0.25	7441	-13.6	4.3	< 1
Other options						
$F = 0$	0	0	10039	16.5	-100	< 1
F_{PA}	4619	0.25	7441	-13.6	28	< 1
$SSB(2028) = B_{lim}$	12618	1.08	2936	-66	250	48^^
$SSB(2028) = B_{PA} = MSY\ B_{trigger}$	10069	0.71	4373	-49	178	2.4
$SSB_{2028} = SSB_{2027}$	2532	0.127	8616	0	-30	< 1
$F = F_{2026}$	1642	0.08	9116	5.8	-55	< 1
Catch advice 2027 = catch advice 2026	3619	0.189	8004	-7.1	0	< 1

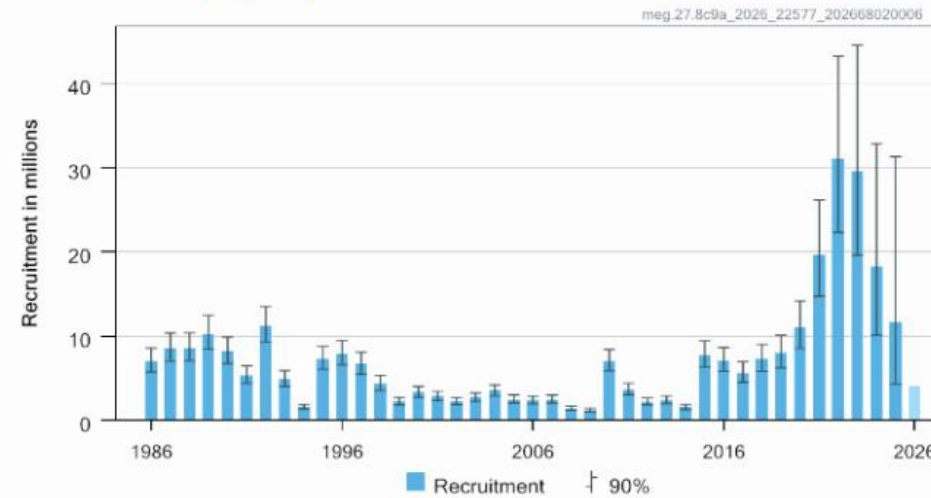
Megrim in divisions 8c and 9a

Advice for 2027 EU MAP: Catch 1 342 – 2 987 t advice -8%

Catches

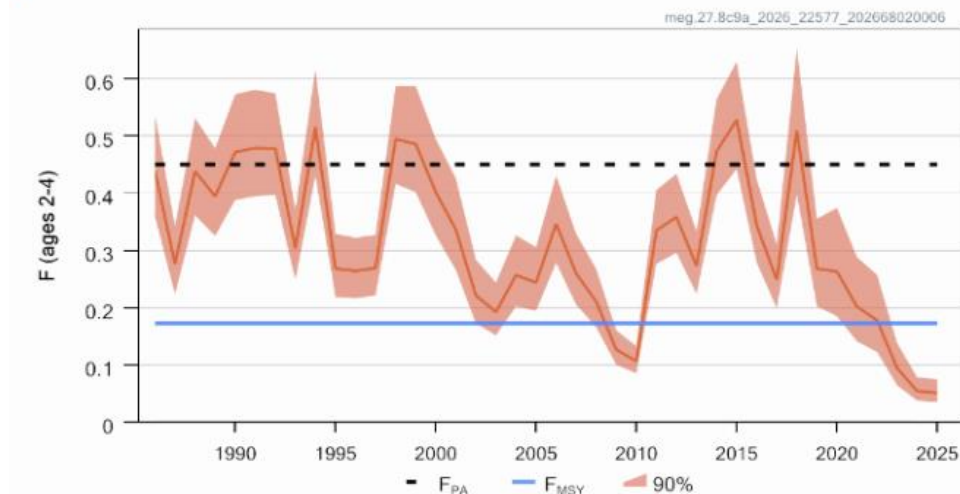


Recruitment (age 1)

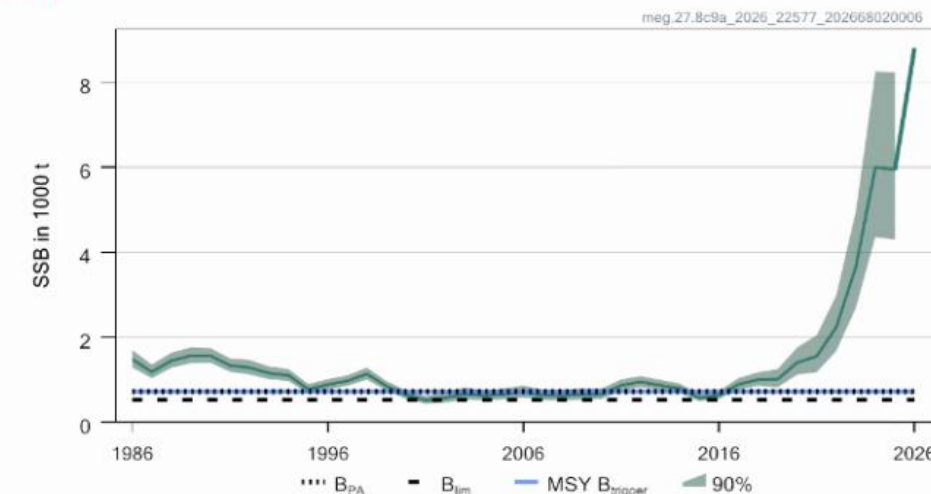


- F below F_{MSY}
- SSB above MSY $B_{trigger}$
- Two species not separated in landing statistics
- TAC combined with four spot megrim
- Downward revision and decreasing recruitment

F



SSB



Megrim in divisions 8c and 9a

Catch (2025): 356 t (12.6% discards)

$F(2026) = 0.067$ (Average 2023-2025)

$SSB(2027) = 9\,549\text{ t} > MSY_{B_{trigger}} (725\text{ t})$ $F_{MSY} = 0.173$

A4A

Basis	Total catch (2027)	Projected landings (2027)	Projected discards (2027)	$F_{\text{ages 2-4 total}} (2027)$	$F_{\text{ages 2-4 projected landings}} (2027)$	$F_{\text{ages 1-2 Projected discards}} (2027)$	SSB (2028)	% SSB change*	% advice change^^
ICES advice basis									
EU MAP^: F_{MSY}	1985	1935	51	0.173	0.134	0.060	8341	-12.7	-8.1
$F = MAP^$ $F_{MSY \text{ lower}}$	1342	1308	34	0.112	0.087	0.039	9110	-4.6	-8.0
$F = MAP^$ $F_{MSY \text{ upper}}$	2987	2908	78	0.284	0.216	0.097	7151	-25	-8.3
Other scenarios									
$F = 0$	0	0	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	10718	12.2	-100
F_{PA}	4292	4177	116	0.45	0.348	0.156	5611	-41	99
$SSB(2028) = B_{PA} = MSY B_{trigger}$	8643	8359	284	1.99	1.58	0.69	725	-92	300
$SSB(2028) = B_{lim}$	8842	8545	297	2.245	1.734	0.779	532	-94	310
$SSB_{2028} = SSB_{2027}$	974	949	25	0.079	0.061	0.028	9549	0.00	-55
$F = F_{2026}$	829	808	21	0.067	0.052	0.023	9724	1.82	-62
Catch advice 2027 = Catch advice 2026	2161	2105	56	0.191	0.147	0.066	8132	-14.8	0

Advice for 2027

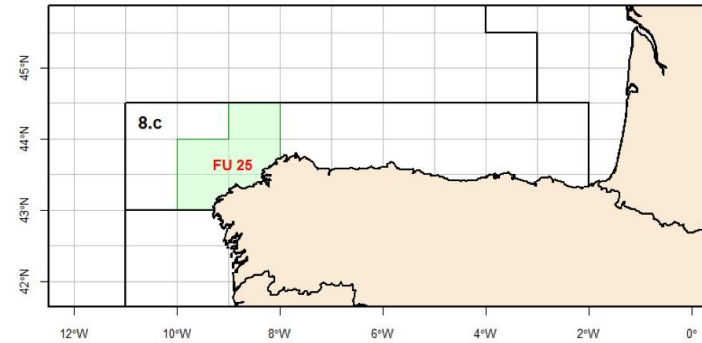
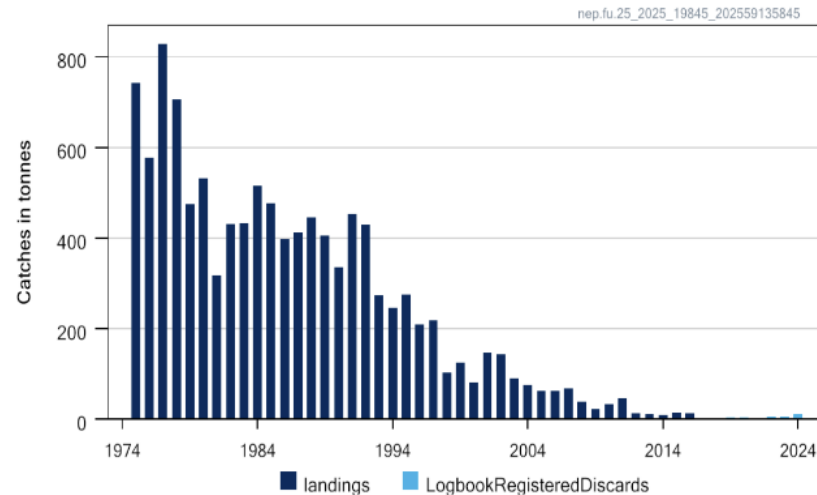
- Advice Delayed
- Continuing to implement recommendations from review level benchmark: needed more time
- Hope to release in autumn

Nephrops in division 8c FU 25

Advice for 2026, 2027, 2028 MSY:

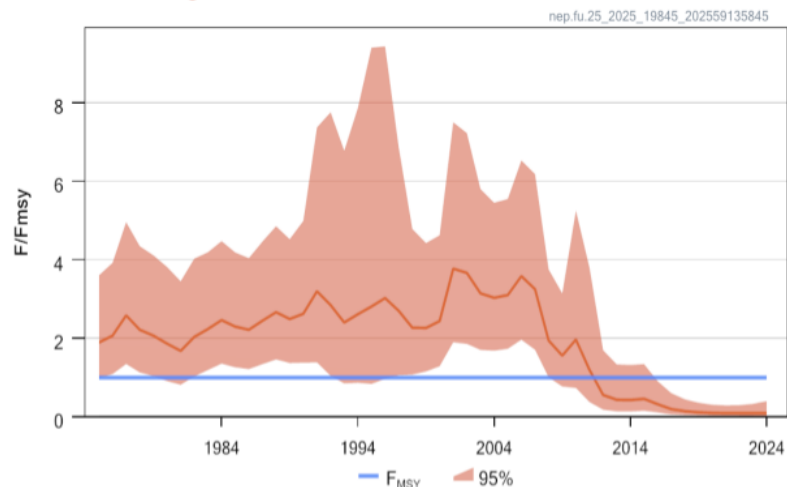
Catch= 0 t No change

Catches

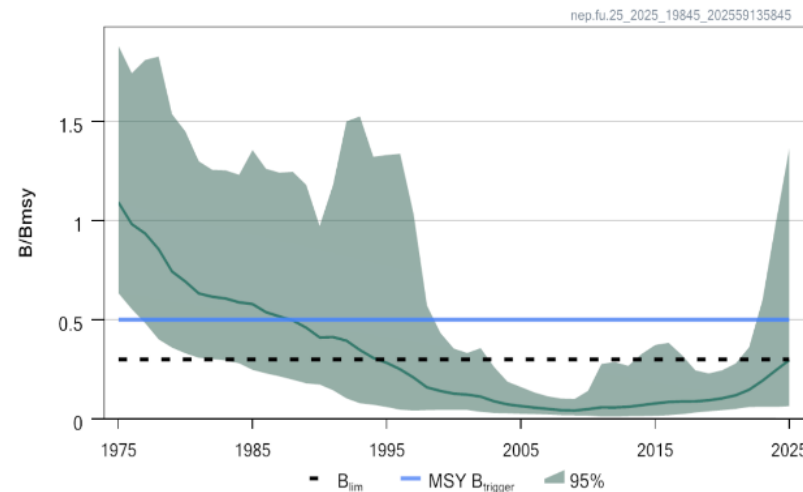


- Advice released 2025
- Fishing pressure below F_{MSY}
- Since 1995, spawning stock below B_{lim}
- High uncertainty in recent stock increase
- SPiCT model

Relative Fishing Pressure



Relative Biomass

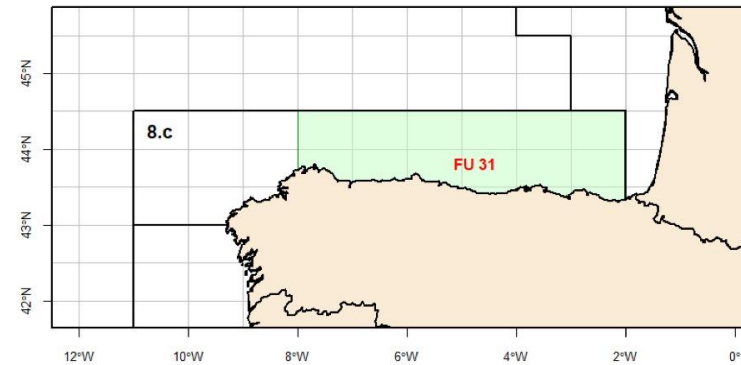
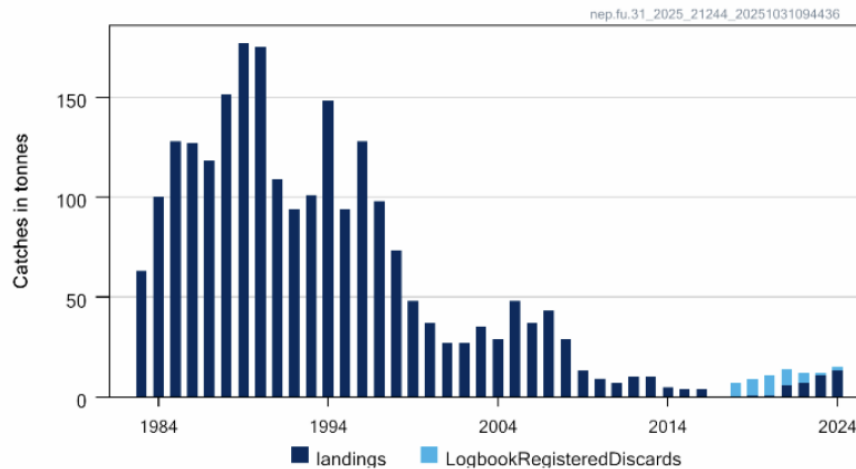


Nephrops in division 8c FU 31

Advice for 2026 and 2027 MSY:

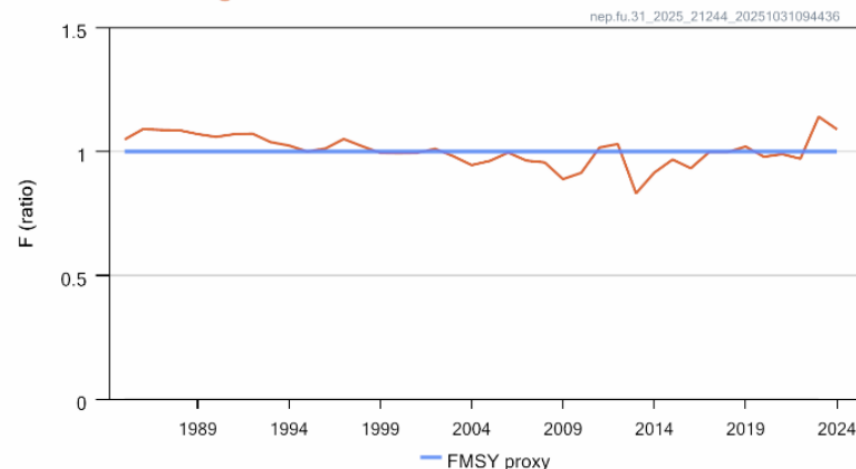
Catch ≤ 35 t advice +20%

Catches

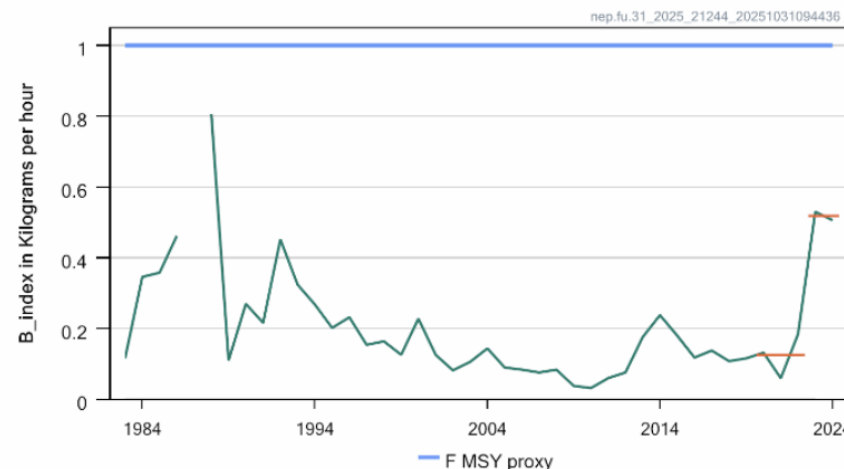


- Advice released 2025
- Fishing pressure above F_{MSY} proxy
- Biomass above $I_{trigger}$
- Stability clause limits increase to 20%
- rfb rule

Relative Fishing Pressure



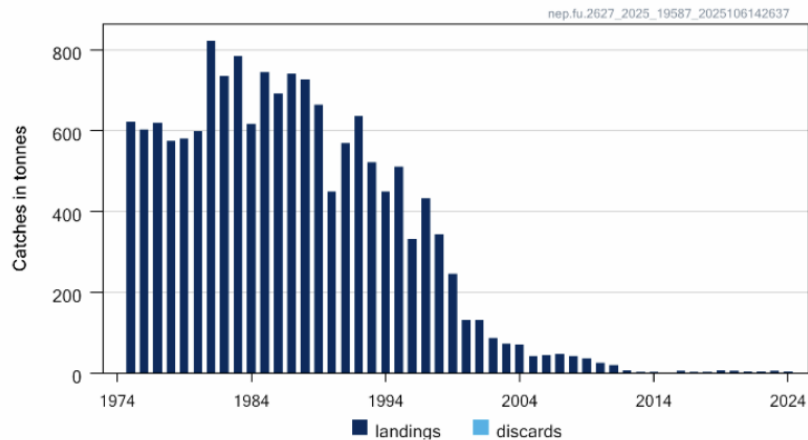
Relative Biomass



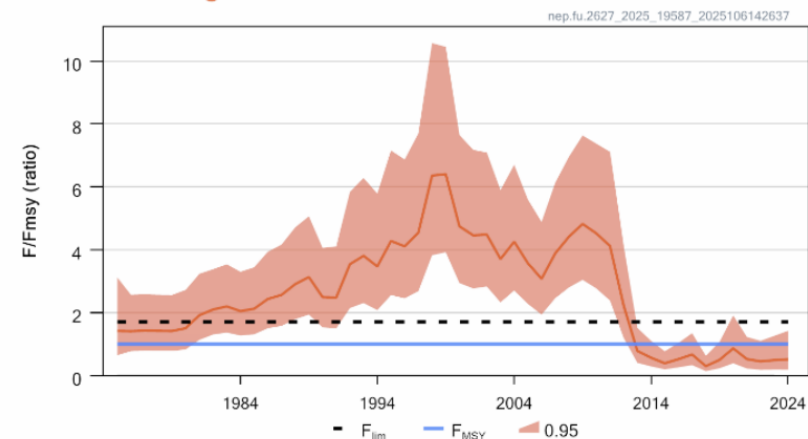
Nephrops in division 9a FU 26-27

Advice for 2026, 2027 and 2028 MSY: Catch= 0 t no change

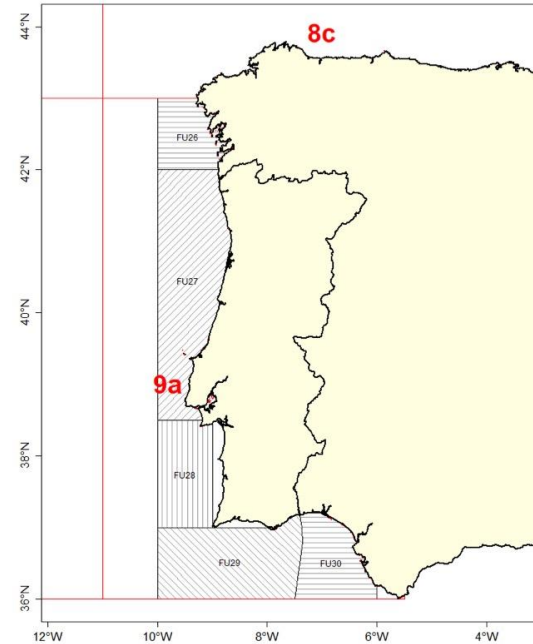
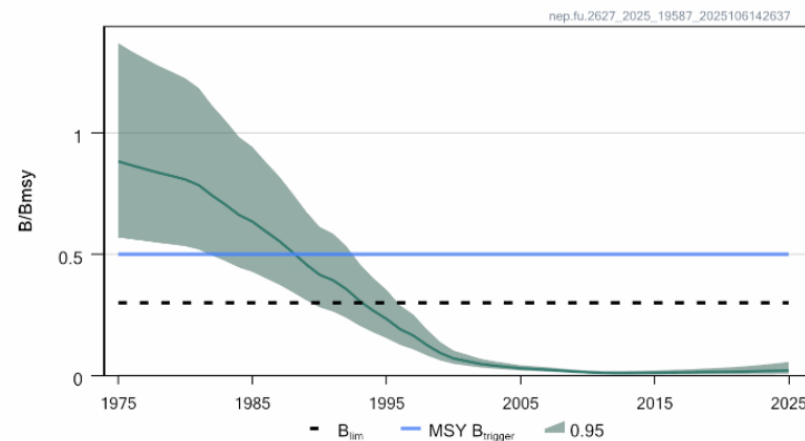
Catches



Relative Fishing Pressure



Relative Biomass

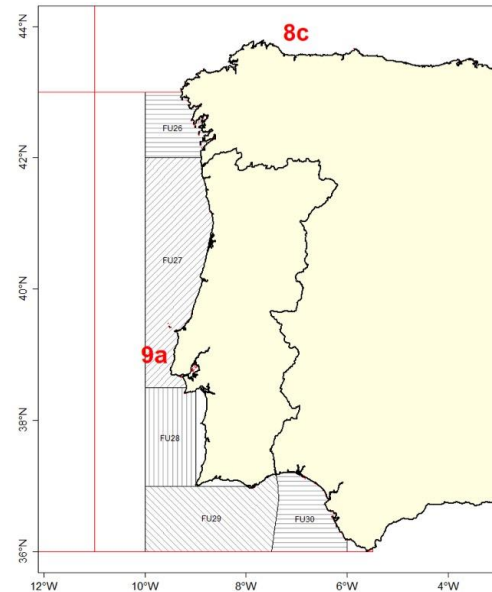
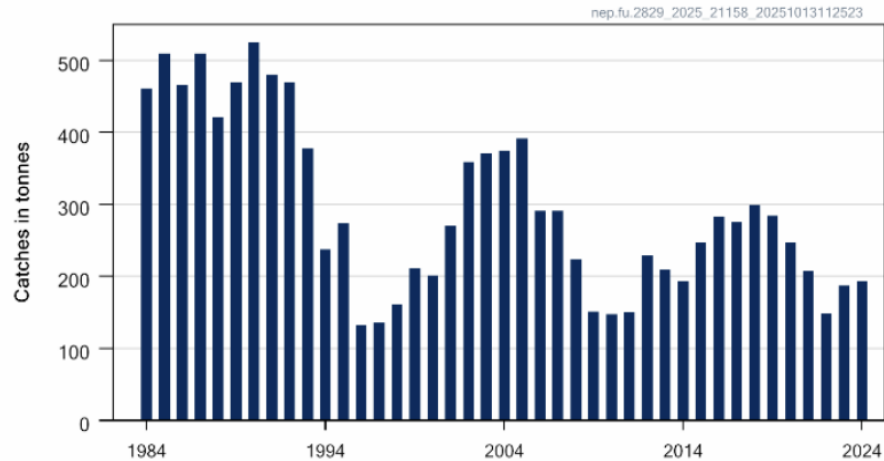


- Advice released 2025
- Fishing pressure below F_{MSY}
- Since 1994, spawning stock below B_{lim}

Nephrops in division 9a FU 28-29

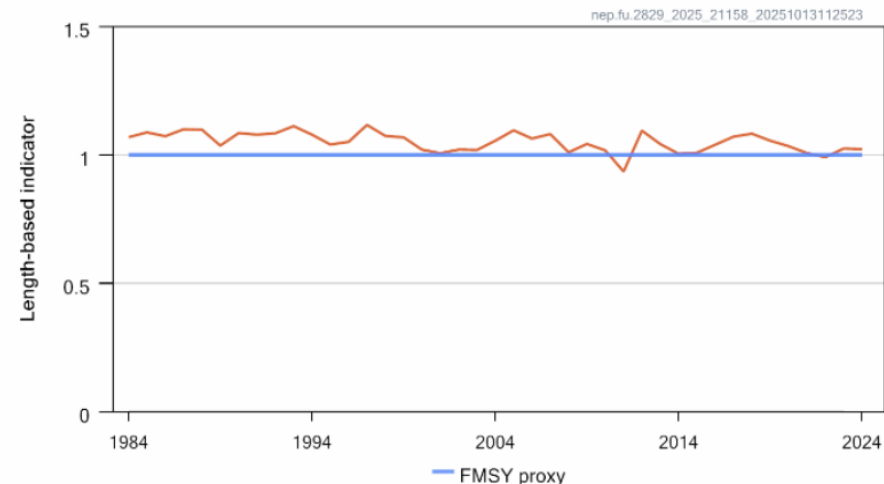
Advice for 2026 and 2027 MSY: Catch ≤ 170 t -20%

Catches

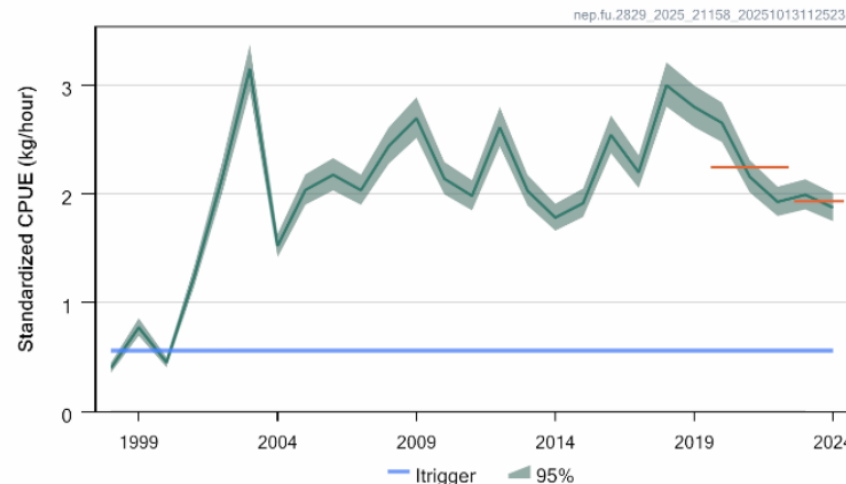


- Advice released 2025
- Fishing pressure above F_{MSY} proxy
- Stock above $I_{trigger}$
- Advice lower: decline in biomass index
- rfb rule

Fishing Pressure indicator



Biomass index

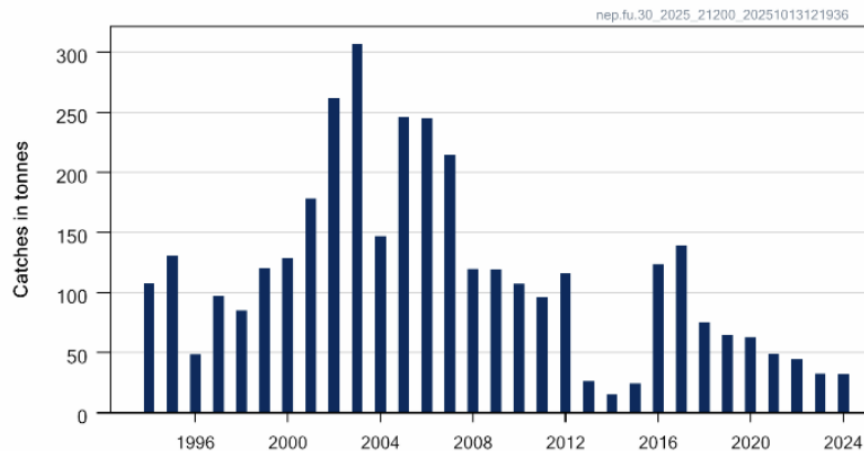


Nephrops in division 9a FU 30

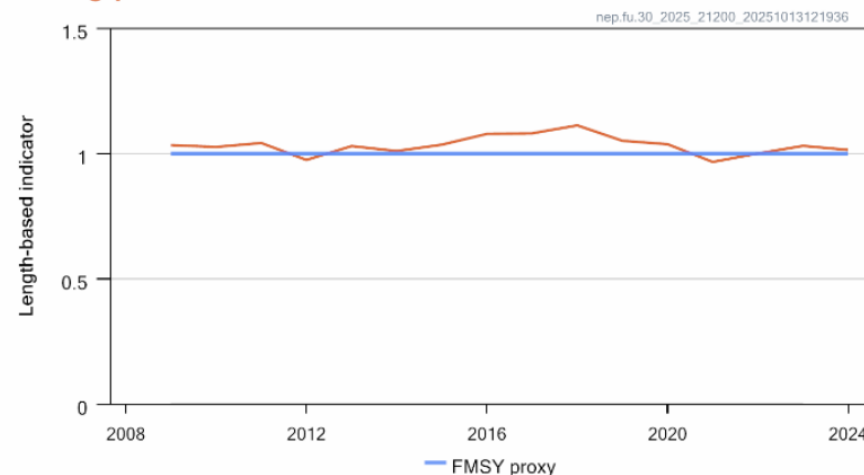
Advice for 2026 and 2027 MSY: Catch ≤ 15 t -41%

- Advice released 2025
- Fishing pressure above $F_{MSY\ proxy}$
- Stock below $I_{trigger}$
- Advice lower: decline in biomass index and biomass safeguard
- rfb rule

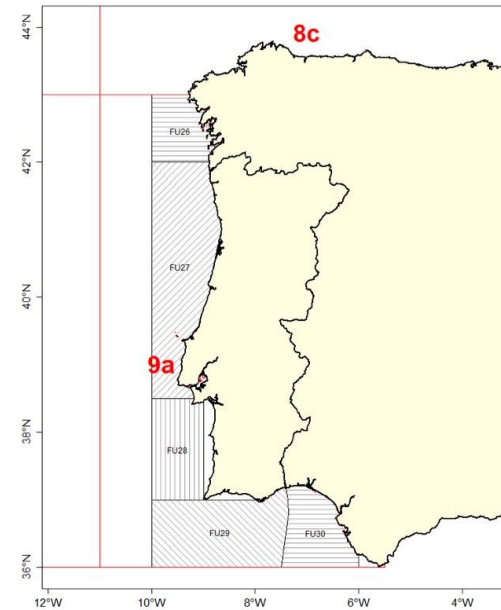
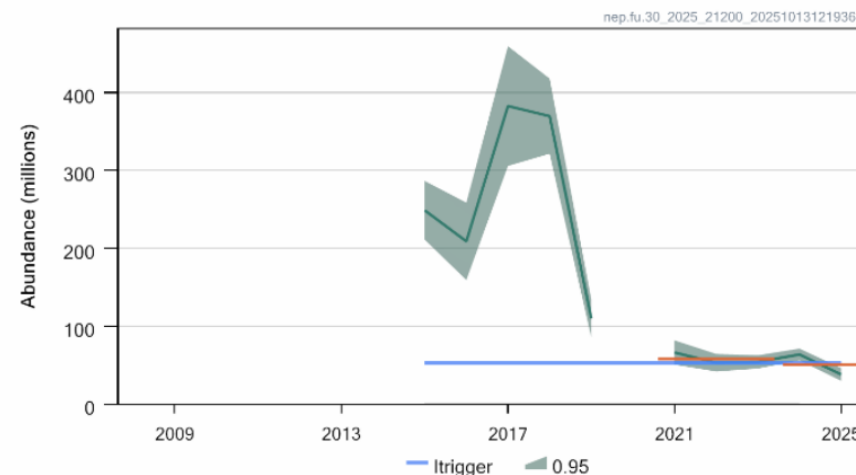
Catches



Fishing pressure

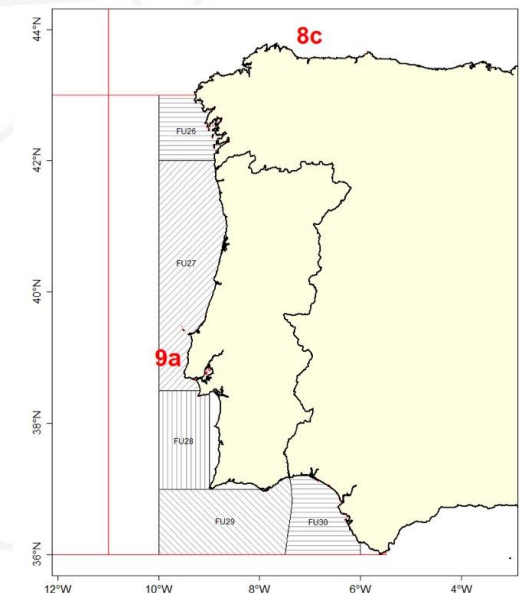
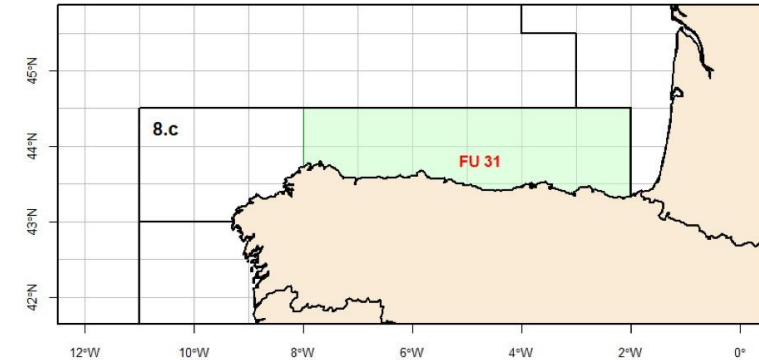


Stock size



Benchmark for three stocks in 2026

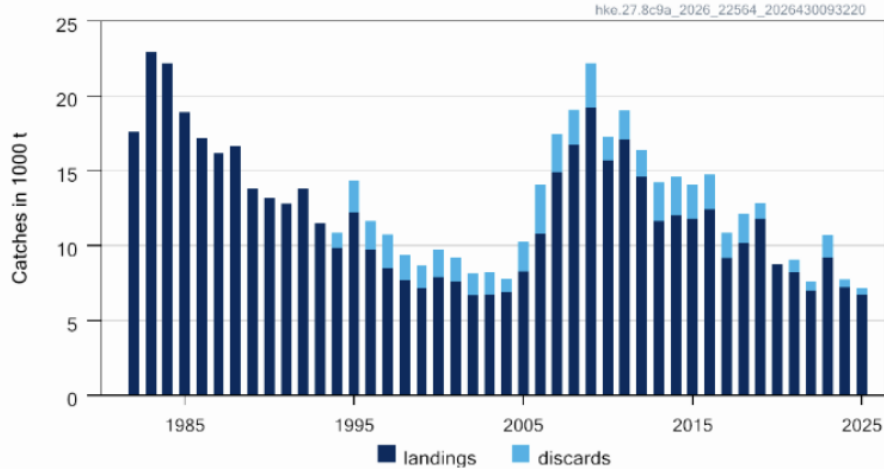
- WKBMSYSPiCT4
- Nephrops FU2829, 30, 31
- Improved input data and tested new SPiCT models
 - Catch time series corrected
 - Indices standardized
 - Many model configurations tested
- SPiCT Cat 2 assessment approved for FU2829
 - Advice should be based on a precautionary catch fractile, not exceeding the 15th percentile.
- Updated rfb rules approved for FU 30, 31
 - FU 30: use improved indices in rfb and revisit the SPiCT model when longer time series are available
 - FU 31: use improved indices in rfb and continue development of the SPiCT model



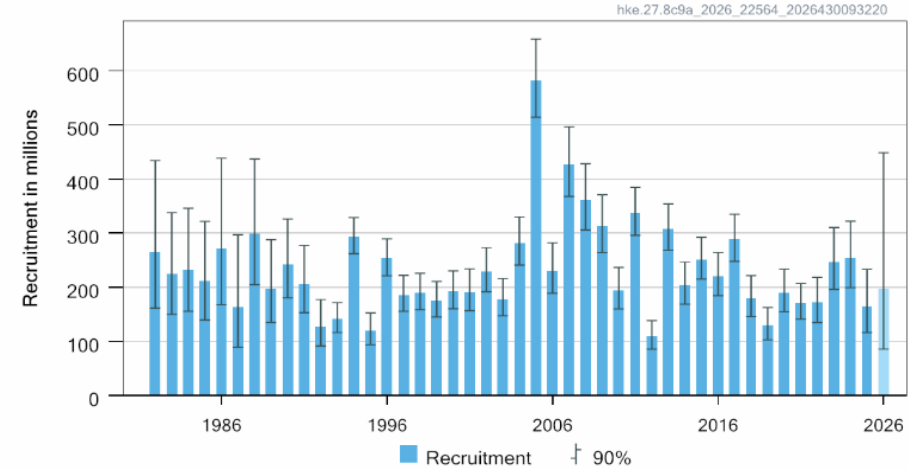
Hake in division 8c and 9a: southern stock

Advice for 2027 EU MAP: Catch 8 420 – 15 985 t advice -20%

Catches

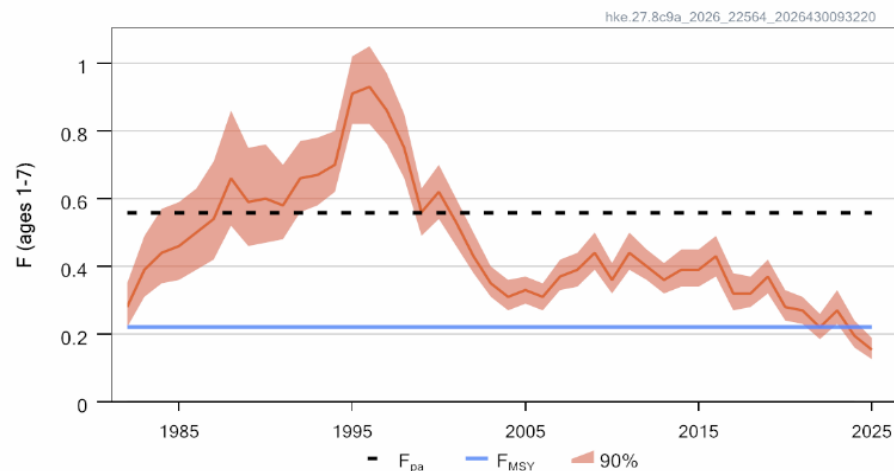


Recruitment (age 0)

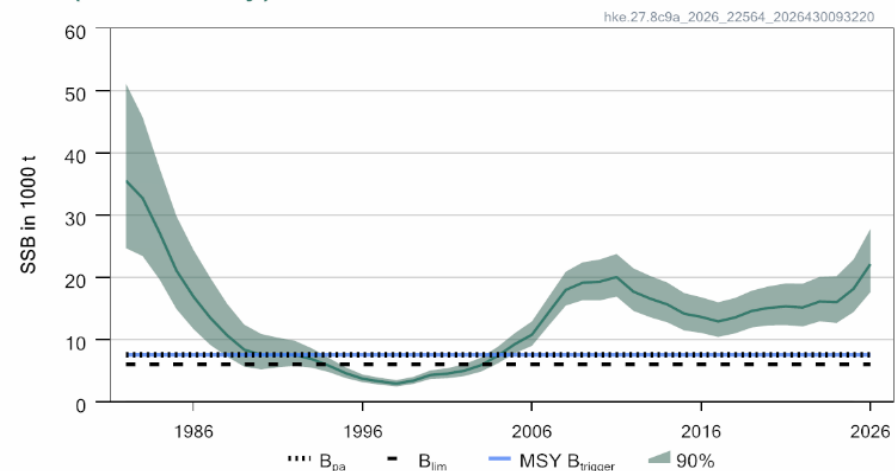


- SSB females only
- F below F_{MSY}
- SSB above MSY
 $B_{trigger}$
- Downward revision in biomass and recent lower recruitments used in forecast

F



SSB (female-only)



Hake in division 8c and 9a: southern stock

Catch (2025): 7 191 t (6% discards)

F (2026) =0.21 (Average 2023-2025)

SSB (2027) = 24 313 t > MSY_{Btrigger} (7 556 t) F_{MSY} =0.221

Basis	Total catch (2027)	Projected landings (2027)	Projected discards (2027)	F _{ages 1-7} total (2027)	F _{ages 1-7} projected landings (2027)	F _{ages 1-7} projected discards (2027)	Spawning-stock biomass (SSB; 2028)	% SSB change *	% total allowable catch (TAC) change^	% advice change^^	% Probability SSB < B _{lim} (2028) **
ICES advice basis											
EU MAP F = F _{MSY} ^^^	11886	11412	474	0.22	0.21	0.0088	24328	0	-32	-20	< 1
EU MAP F = F _{MSY} lower	8420	8092	328	0.151	0.145	0.0059	26451	8.8	-52	-20	< 1
EU MAP F = F _{MSY} upper	15985	15327	658	0.31	0.3	0.0128	21857	-10.1	-8.4	-21	< 1
Other scenarios											
F = 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31717	30	-100	-100	< 1
F = F _{PA}	25445	24311	1134	0.56	0.54	0.025	16338	-33	46	71	< 1
SSB (2028) = B _{lim}	45258	42704	2554	1.44	1.36	0.081	6011	-75	159	204	55***
SSB (2028) = B _{PA} = MSY B _{trigger}	41990	39733	2257	1.23	1.16	0.066	7556	-69	141	182	16.2
SSB (2028) = SSB (2027)	11911	11436	475	0.22	0.21	0.0088	24313	0	-32	-20	< 1
F = F ₂₀₂₆	11206	10761	445	0.21	0.2	0.0083	24743	1.77	-36	-25	< 1
Catch advice 2027 = TAC ₂₀₂₆	17445	16719	726	0.35	0.34	0.0146	20987	-13.7	0	17.0	< 1

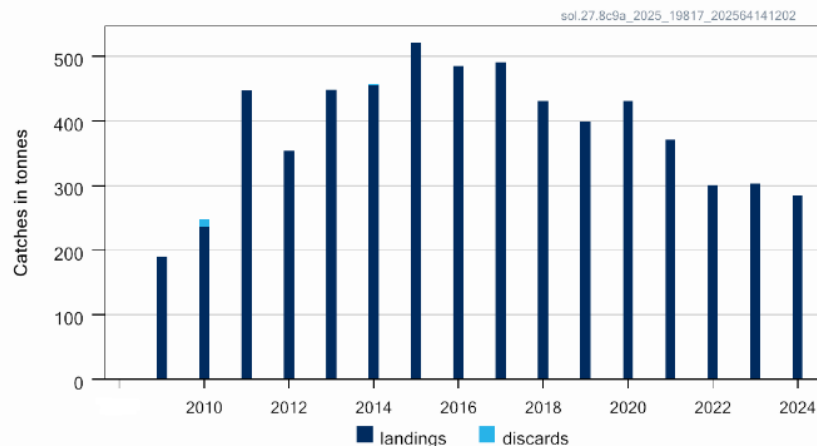
Length based and sex disaggregated stock synthesis

Sole in division 8c and 9a

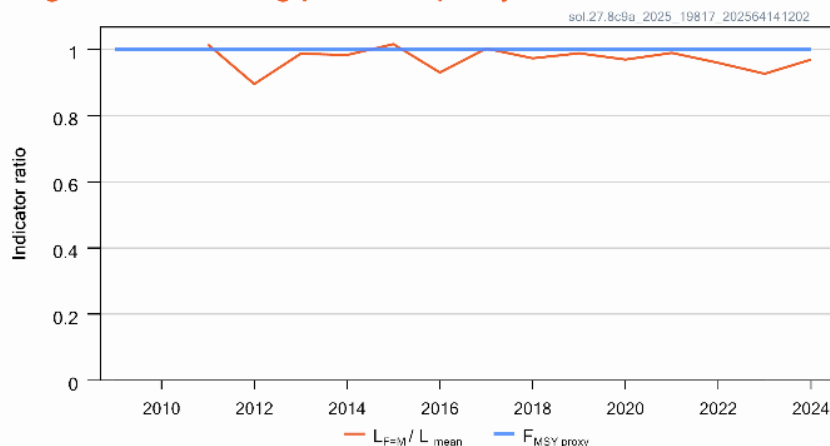
Advice for 2026 and 2027 MSY: Catch ≤ 190 t -9.1%

- F below F_{MSY}
- Stock size increased but below $I_{trigger}$
- Decrease in advice: below trigger so biomass safeguard below 1
- All sole species under single TAC

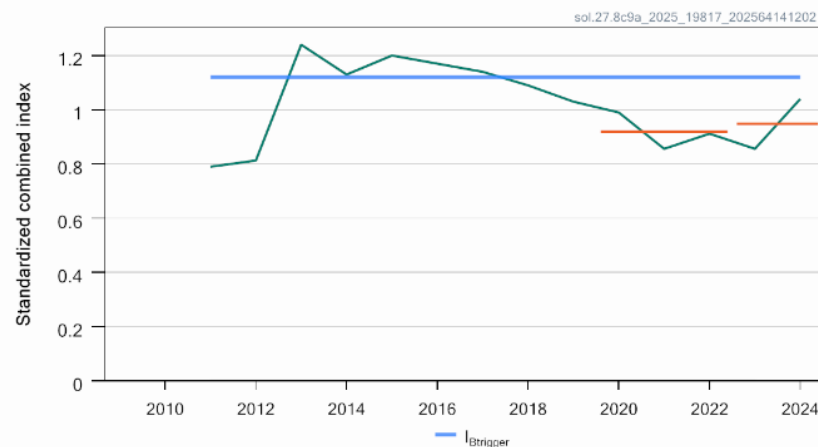
Catches



Length-based fishing pressure proxy



Biomass index



Sole in division 8c and 9a

Not updated--Catch (2024) : 285 t (negligible discards)

rfb
rule

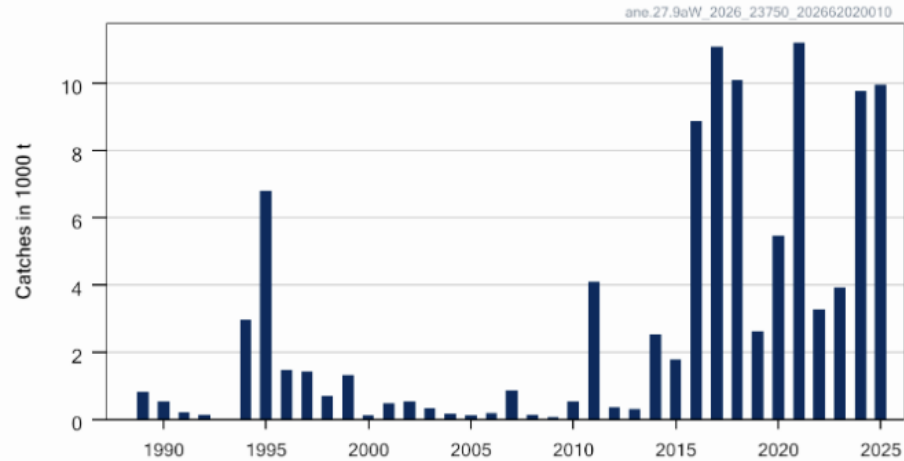
Previous catch advice A_y (2024, 2025)	209 tonnes	
Stock biomass trend		
Index A (2023, 2024)	0.95	
Index B (2020, 2021, 2022)	0.92	
r: index ratio (A/B)	1.03	
Fishing pressure proxy		
Mean catch length ($L_{\text{mean}} = L_{2024}$)	34.9 cm	
Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) proxy length ($L_F = M_{2022}$)	33.1 cm	
f: multiplier for relative mean length in catches ($L_{\text{mean}}/L_F = M_{2022}$)	1.06	
Biomass safeguard		
Last index value (I_{2024})	1.04	
Index trigger value ($I_{\text{trigger}} = I_{\text{loss}} \times 1.4$)	1.12	
b: multiplier for index relative to trigger $\min\{I_{2024}/I_{\text{trigger}}, 1\}$	0.93	
Precautionary multiplier to maintain biomass above B_{lim} with 95% probability		
m: multiplier (generic multiplier based on life history)	0.90	
RFB calculation**	190 tonnes	
Stability clause (+20%/−30% compared to A_y , only applied if $b \geq 1$)	Not applied	
Discard rate	Negligible	
Catch advice for 2026 and 2027 ($A_y \times$ stability clause)	190 tonnes	
Projected landings corresponding to advice	190 tonnes	
% advice change^	−9.1%	

$$A_{y+1} = A_y \times r \times f \times b \times m$$

Anchovy in the western part of Division 9.a (western Iberian waters)

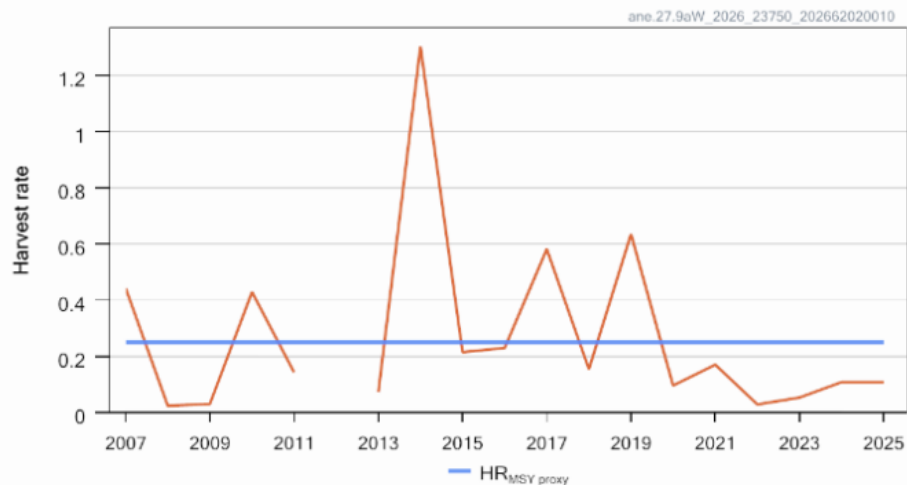
Advice for 1 July 2026- 30 June 2027 MSY: Catch $\leq 16\,323$ t -29%

Catches

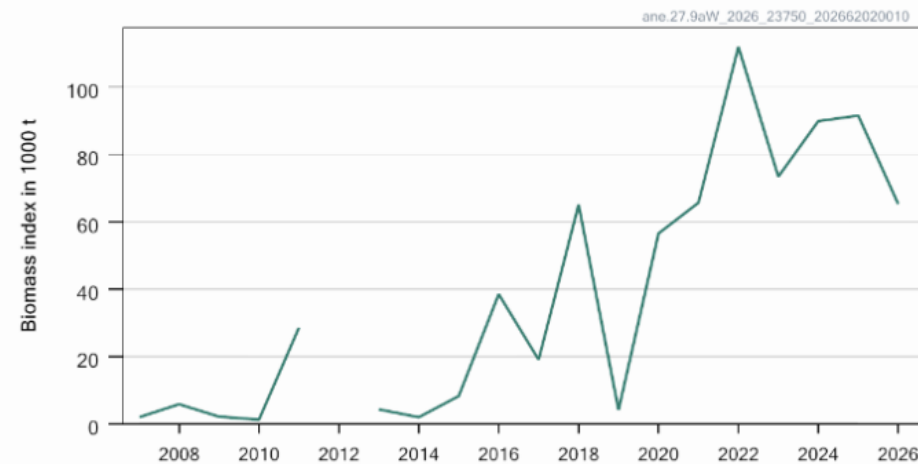


- F below F_{MSY} proxy
- No biomass reference point
- Decrease in advice: decrease in biomass index
- Cat 3 chr

Harvest Rate



Biomass Index



Anchovy in the western part of Division 9.a (western Iberian waters)

Catch (2025) : 12 940 t (negligible discards <1 t)

Table 1 Anchovy in the western part of Division 9.a (western Iberian waters). The basis for the catch scenarios. *

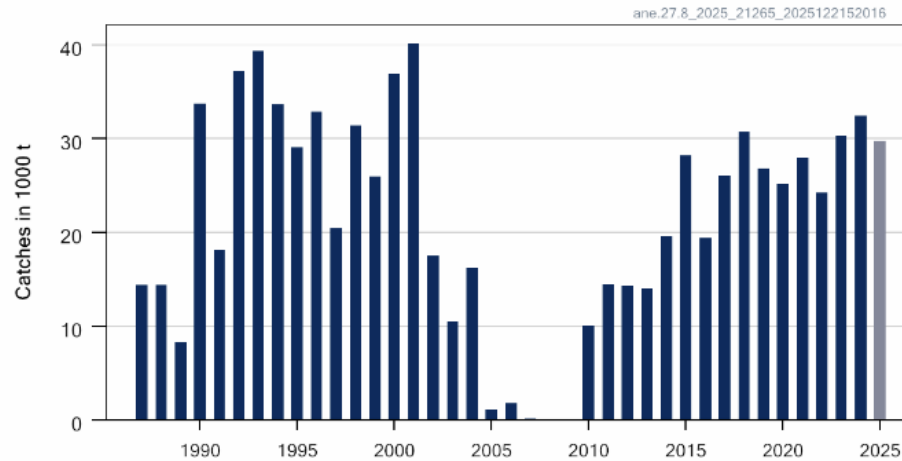
Previous catch advice Ay (advised catch for 01 July 2025–30 June 2026)	22 871 tonnes
Biomass index	
I: most recent biomass index (I_{2026})	65 291 tonnes
Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) proxy harvest rate	
HR _{MSY proxy} : MSY proxy harvest rate (derived through a management strategy evaluation [MSE])	0.25
<i>chr</i> calculation**	
Discard rate	Negligible
Catch advice Ay+1 for 01 July 2026–30 June 2027	16 323 tonnes
% advice change***	–29%

chr rule

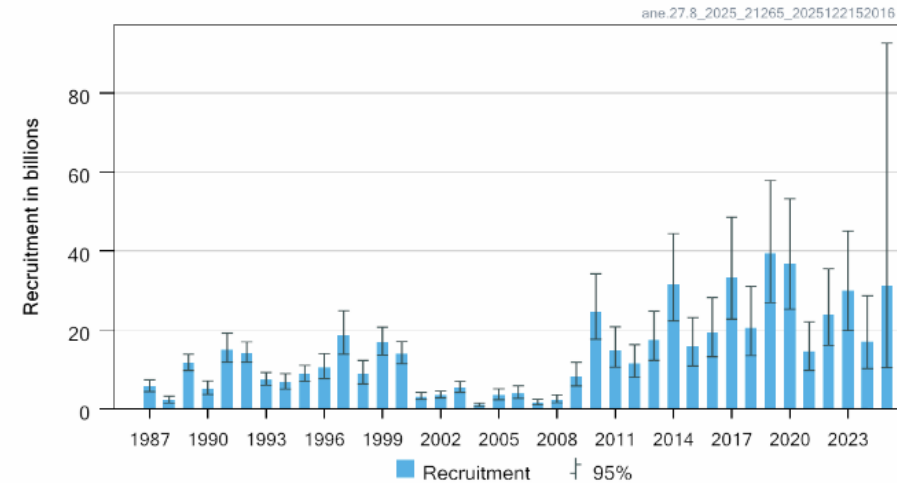
Anchovy in the in Subarea 8 (Bay of Biscay)

Advice for 2026 EU Mgt Plan: Catch $\leq 33\,000$ t +8%

Catches

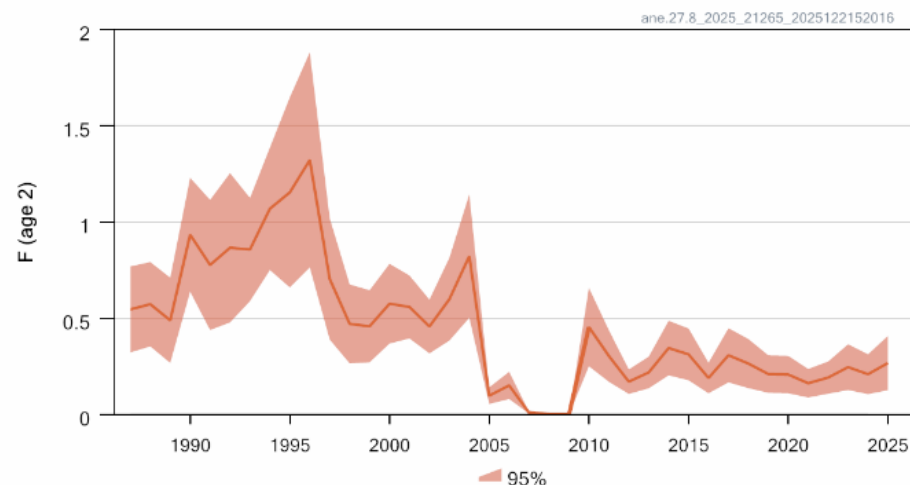


Recruitment (age 0)

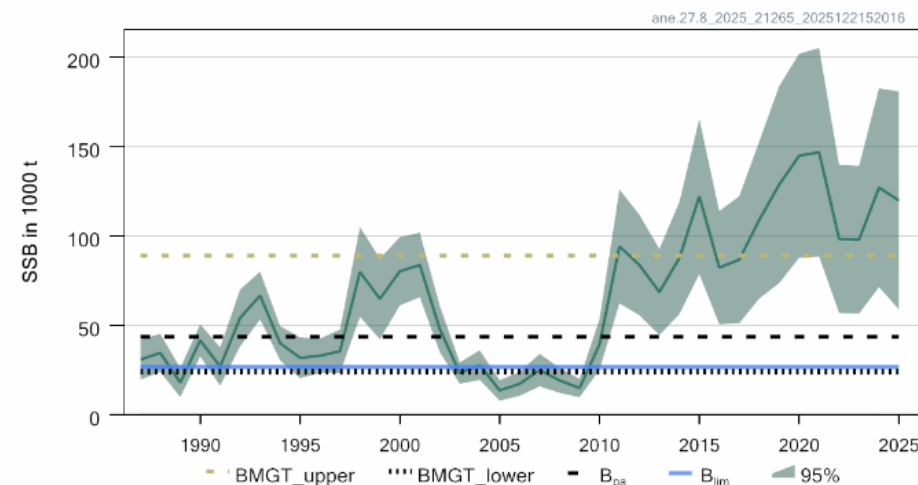


- Advice released in December 2025
- No F reference point
- SSB above B_{lim}
- Increase in stock size
- Catch (2025): 32565, < 1% discard

F



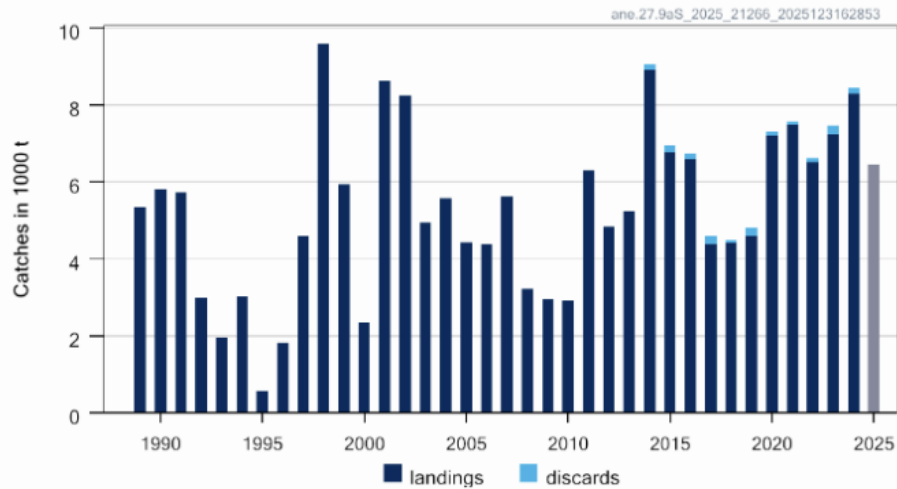
SSB



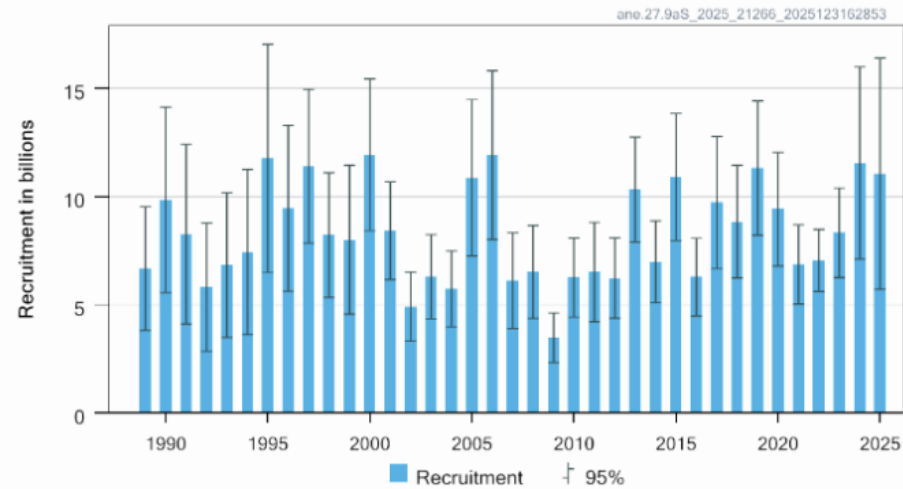
Anchovy in the in the southern part of Division 9.a

Advice for 2026 PA: Catch $\leq 11\,639\text{ t} + 60\%$

Catches

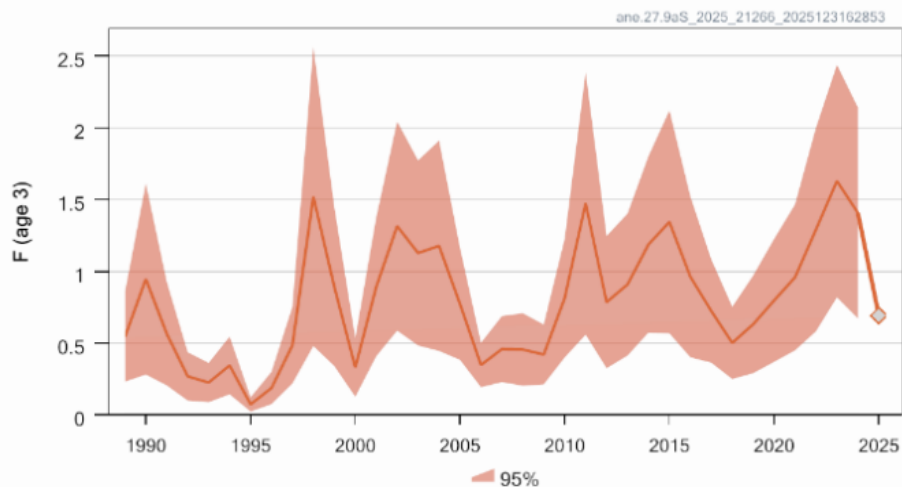


Recruitment (age 0)

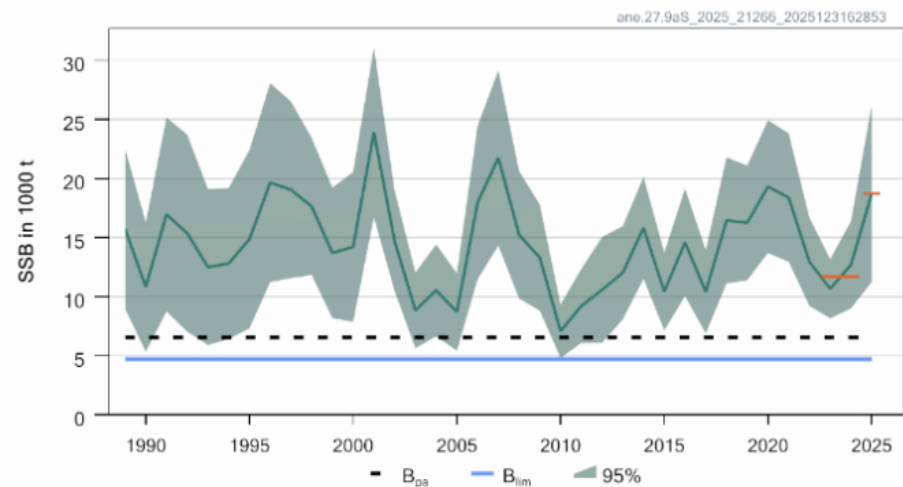


- Advice released in December 2025
- No F reference point
- SSB above B_{lim}
- Increase in stock size
- Catch (2025): 8451, < 2% discard

F



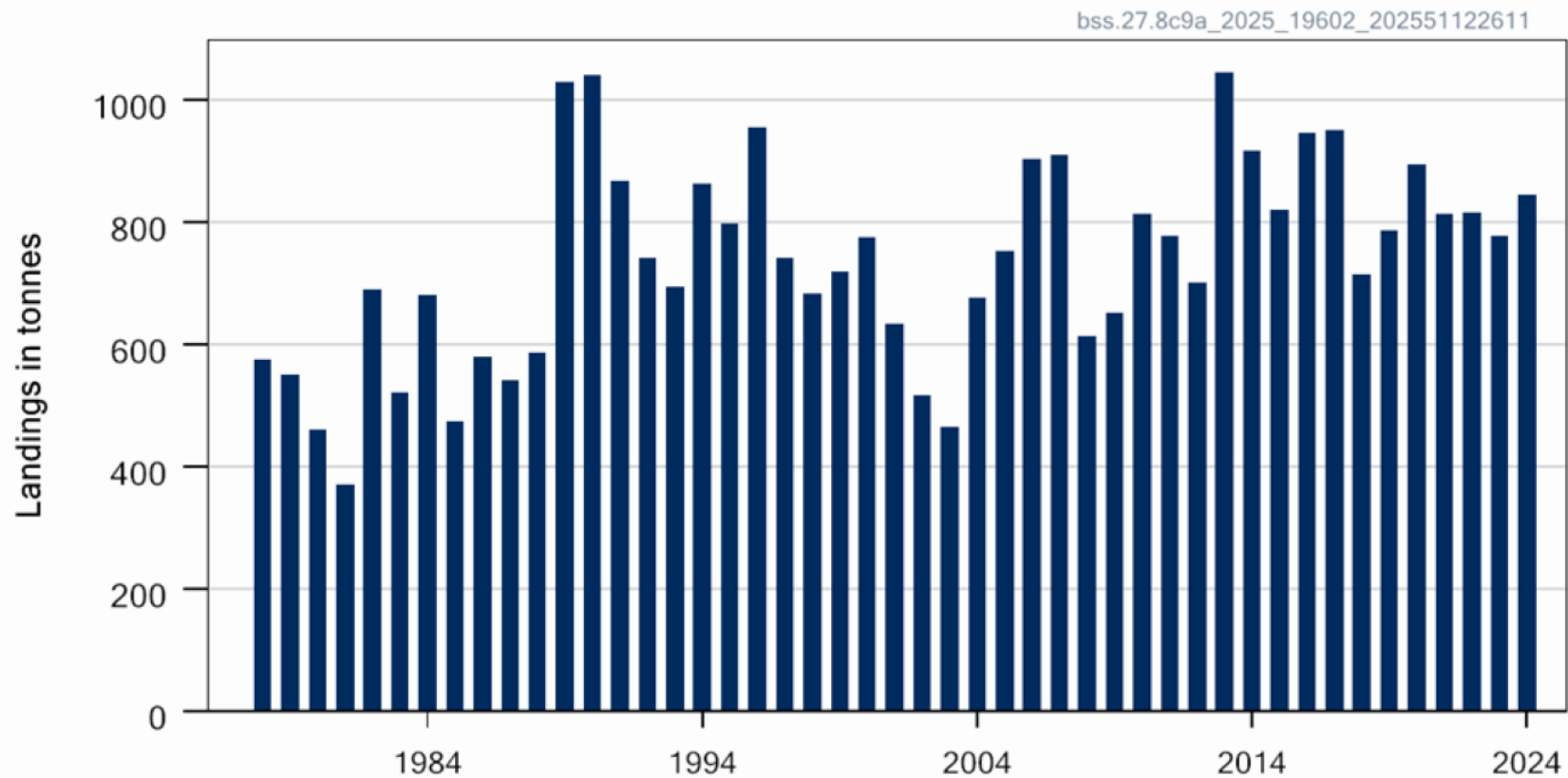
SSB



Sea bass in division 8c and 9a

Advice for 2026, 2027 and 2028: PA: Catch $\leq$ 306 t no change

Landings



- Category 5
- Can not assess status
- PA buffer applied
- Recreational catch substantial but unquantified
- No TAC in this area
- Landings 2024 846 t

Advised commercial catch (for 2024 and 2025)	382 tonnes	
Discard rate	Negligible	
Precautionary buffer	Applied	0.8
Commercial catch advice ^	306 tonnes	
% advice change	-20%	

Upcoming benchmarks (2028)

- Sardine (*Sardina pilchardus*) in divisions 8.a, 8.b, and 8.d (Bay of Biscay) **pil.27.8abd**
- Pollack (*Pollachius pollachius*) in Subarea 8 and in Division 9.a (Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Iberian waters) **pol.27.89a**
- Sole (*Solea solea*) in divisions 8.c and 9.a (Cantabrian Sea, Atlantic Iberian waters) **sol.27.8c9a**

Thank you

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ICES Assessment Categories



Category 1 – *Stocks with quantitative assessments*; includes stocks with full analytical assessments and forecasts that are either age-/length-structured or based on production models.

Category 2 – *Stocks with analytical assessments and forecasts that are only treated qualitatively as well as stocks with surplus production models, e.g. SPiCT, JABBA, without an MSE;*

Category 3 – *Stocks for which survey-based assessments or exploratory assessments indicate trends*; includes stocks for which survey, trends-based assessment, or other indices and life history information are available

Category 4 – *Nephrops stocks where information on possible abundance can be inferred and stocks for which a reliable time-series of catch can be used to approximate MSY.*

Category 5 – *Stocks for which either only data on landings or a short time-series of catch are available*

Category 6 – *Stocks for which there are negligible landings and stocks caught in minor amounts as bycatch*