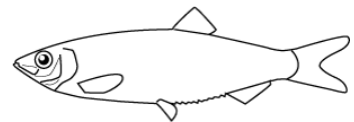


## Explanations on the ICES Advice for 2026

### Baltic sprat



Sprat is one of the species benefiting from the changed environmental conditions in the Baltic Sea. However, the biomass of this currently largest fish stock in the Baltic Sea (a good 570,000 tonnes of spawning biomass) has continued to decline and in 2025 will be only slightly above the reference value for the maximum sustainable yield (MSY). Fishing mortality has increased and thus remains far too high. However, after three weak years, the 2024 year class appears to be strong, and spawning biomass is expected to increase in 2026 and 2027. The catch recommendation for 2026 is therefore 36% higher than for 2025. Stock assessment is becoming more uncertain because Russian data is no longer being reported following Russia's suspension from ICES.

German fisheries exploit this resource with two large (approx. 50 metre long) and a few smaller trawlers, mainly for the production of fishmeal and fish oil.

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<https://www.thuenen.de/en/thuenen-topics/fisheries/understanding-fish-stock-developments-scientific-basis-for-sustainable-use/ices-advice-on-fishing-opportunities-whats-behind-it>