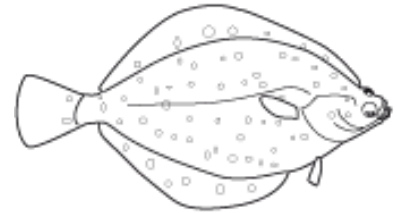


Explanations on the ICES advice for 2024



Plaice North Sea

Due to a strong decrease in the fishing effort of the main flatfish fleets since the beginning of the 2000s, the fishing pressure on plaice has decreased significantly since then. It has been below F_{MSY} since 2007. The calculated recruitment has been mostly above average since 2010. Spawning stock biomass has increased significantly in recent decades, reaching its highest level in 2014. Since then, the stock has declined slightly due to natural fluctuations, but remains well above all biomass reference points.

The ICES catch recommendation under the MSY approach for 2024 for plaice from the North Sea and Skagerrak combined is no more than 155,015 tonnes. This is slightly above last year's recommendation (+3.1%). The total catch in recent years has always been well below the maximum recommended catch, as it does not seem profitable to fish out the quotas. High fuel costs are likely to further worsen the situation for flatfish trawlers.

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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>