

Explanations on the ICES Advice for 2024

Baltic sprat



Sprat is one of the beneficiaries of the changed environmental conditions in the Baltic Sea. The biomass of this currently largest fish stock in the Baltic Sea (just under one million tons of spawning biomass) has been well within the green zone for many years, but fishing pressure is currently somewhat too high.

The German fishery exploit this resource with two large (about 50 meters long) and a few smaller trawlers, mainly for the production of fish meal and fish oil. The 2019 and 2020 year classes were above average, while the 2021 and 2022 year classes were rather weak.

ICES recommends a 10.3% reduction in catch (compared to the allowed catch for 2023) to a maximum of 241,604 tons in 2024 based on the multi-year management plan. This amount includes the Russian autonomous quota of about 45,000 tons. The stock calculation will be more uncertain in the future because Russian data will no longer be submitted, after Russia has been suspended from ICES.

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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>