

Sea bass (*Dicentrarchus labrax*) in divisions 4.b–c, 7.a, and 7.d–h (central and southern North Sea, Irish Sea, English Channel, Bristol Channel, and Celtic Sea)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

Please note: This advice was updated in October 2024 (ICES, 2024b)

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, total removals[‡] in 2025 should be no more than 2 776 tonnes.

ICES notes the existence of a precautionary management plan, developed and adopted by one of the relevant management authorities for this stock.

Non-fisheries conservation considerations

Conservation aspects and associated management measures may exist at a national or regional level but were not reviewed by ICES.

Stock development over time

Fishing pressure on the stock is below F_{MSY} , and spawning-stock sizes are below $MSY B_{trigger}$ and between B_{pa} and B_{lim} .

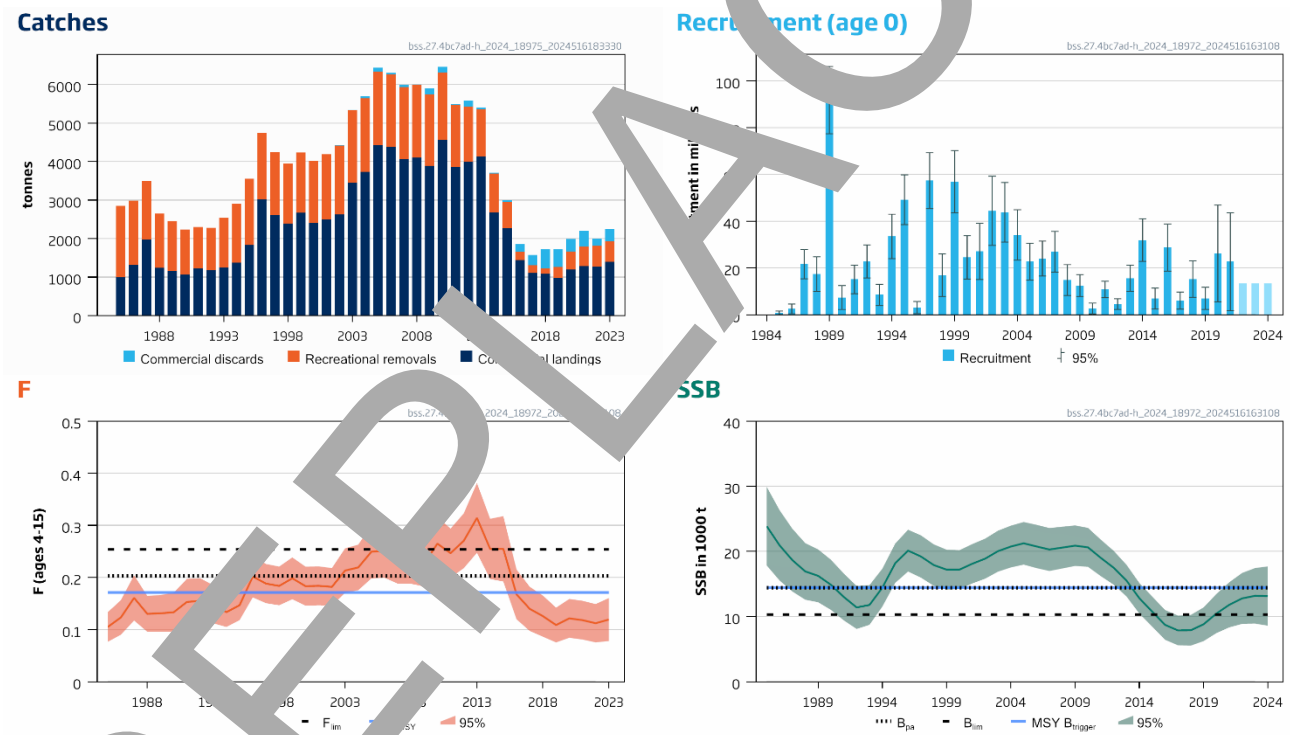


Figure 1. Sea bass in divisions 4.b–c, 7.a, and 7.d–h. Summary of the stock assessment. Recreational removals are model estimates based on a survey in 2012 and implemented management measures. Discard estimates are available since 2012. Fishing mortality (F) is shown for the combined commercial and recreational fisheries. The assumed recruitment values for 2022–2024 are shaded in a lighter colour.

[‡] Total removals include both commercial and recreational catches, taking mortality of released fish into account (estimated at approximately 5%).

