Saithe (*Pollachius virens*) in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a (North Sea, Rockall and West of Scotland, Skagerrak and Kattegat)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach is applied, catches in 2027 should be no more than 48 320 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 above F_{MSY} and F_{PA}, and spawning-stock size is below MSY $B_{trigger}$, B_{PA}, and B_{lim}.

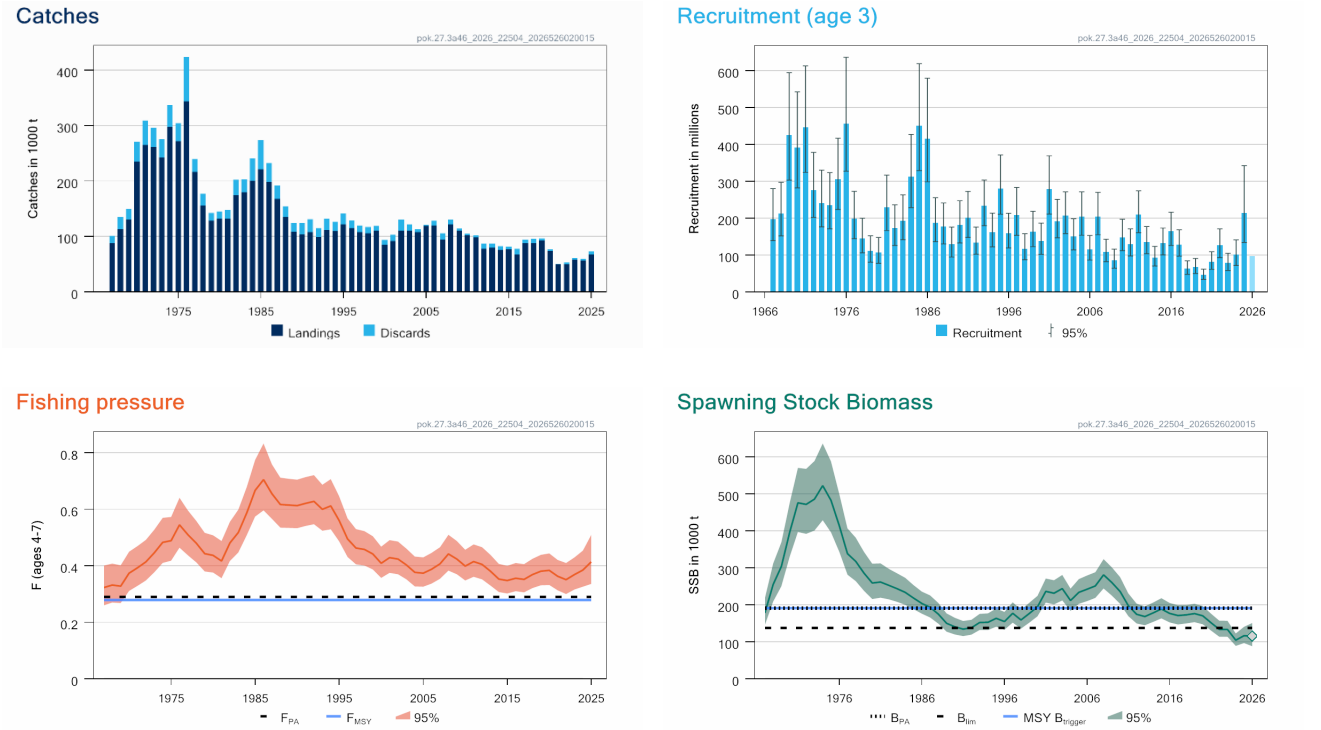

Figure 1 Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. Summary of the stock assessment. The assumed recruitment value for 2026 is shaded in a lighter colour. The spawning-stock biomass (SSB) estimate in 2026 (diamond) relies on the stochastic recruitment for age 3 (4% of SSB) and biological assumptions in the short-term forecast; ages 4–10+ are 2025 survivors. Landings and discards are for ages 3–10+ only, as used in the assessment. Discards include below minimum size (BMS) landings.

Catch scenarios

Table 1 Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. Values in the forecast and for the interim year.

Variable	Value	Notes
$F_{ages\ 4–7}$ (2026)	0.32	Based on catch constraint for 2026 and average exploitation pattern (2023–2025)
Spawning-stock biomass (SSB; 2027)	142 869	Short-term forecast (STF); tonnes
$R_{age\ 3}$ (2026–2028)	96 955	Resampled recruitments from the years 2016–2025 (geometric mean shown); thousands
Total catch (2026)	59 662*	Total allowable catch (TAC) for 2026 (EU-UK-Norway, 2025); tonnes
Projected landings (2026)	56 157	Based on the average discard rate by age (2023–2025); tonnes
Projected discards (2026)	3 505	Based on the average discard rate by age (2023–2025); tonnes

* Discrepancy with the actual TAC (59 661 tonnes) is due to stochastic implementation error in the STF.

Table 2 Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. Annual catch scenarios. All weights are in tonnes.

Basis	Total catch (2027)	Projected landings (2027)	Projected discards* (2027)	Projected landings ##		F_{total} (ages 4–7) (2027)	$F_{projected\ landings}$ (ages 4–7) (2027)	$F_{projected\ discards}$ (ages 4–7) (2027)	Spawning-stock biomass (SSB; 2028)	% SSB change **	% total allowable catch (TAC) change #	% advice change #	Probability of SSB (2028) < B_{lim} (%)***
				Division 3.a and Subarea 4	Subarea 6								
ICES advice basis													
Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach: F = F_{MSY} × SSB (2027)/ MSY $B_{trigger}$	48 320	45 768	2 552	41 466	4 302	0.208	0.20	0.008	174 223	22	−19.0	−19.7	11.2
Other scenarios													
F = $F_{MSY\ lower}$ × SSB (2027)/MSY $B_{trigger}$	31 643	29 999	1 644	27 179	2 820	0.132	0.127	0.005	185 947	30	−47	−47	5.7
F = $F_{MSY\ lower}$	44 610	42 273	2 337	38 299	3 974	0.191	0.184	0.007	176 824	24	−25	−26	9.7
F = F_{MSY}	62 827	59 482	3 345	53 891	5 591	0.279	0.27	0.011	164 098	14.9	5.3	4.4	18.4
F = 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	208 459	46	−100	−100	1.26
F = F_{PA}	65 008	61 540	3 468	55 755	5 785	0.290	0.28	0.011	162 597	13.8	9.0	8.0	19.9
SSB (2028) = B_{lim}	102 045	96 569	5 476	87 492	9 077	0.50	0.48	0.019	137 653	−3.7	71	70	50
SSB (2028) = B_{PA} = MSY $B_{trigger}$	24 319	23 076	1 243	20 907	2 169	0.100	0.096	0.004	191 280	34	−59	−60	3.7
F = F_{2026}	70 447	66 688	3 759	60 419	6 269	0.32	0.31	0.012	158 791	11.1	18.1	17.1	23
TAC_{2026}	59 661	56 480	3 181	51 171	5 309	0.26	0.25	0.010	166 314	16.4	0	−0.84	16.8
TAC_{2026} −15%	50 714	48 033	2 681	43 518	4 515	0.22	0.21	0.009	172 526	21	−15.0	−15.7	12.2
TAC_{2026} +15%	68 610	64 943	3 667	58 838	6 105	0.31	0.30	0.011	160 051	12.0	15.0	14.0	22

Basis	Total catch (2027)	Projected landings (2027)	Projected discards* (2027)	Projected landings ##		F_{total} (ages 4–7) (2027)	$F_{projected\ landings}$ (ages 4–7) (2027)	$F_{projected\ discards}$ (ages 4–7) (2027)	Spawning-stock biomass (SSB; 2028)	% SSB change **	% total allowable catch (TAC) change #	% advice change #	Probability of SSB (2028) < B_{lim} (%)***
				Division 3.a and Subarea 4	Subarea 6								
TAC_{2026} −20%	47 730	45 210	2 520	40 960	4 250	0.21	0.198	0.008	174 628	22	-20.0	-21	11.0
TAC_{2026} +25%	74 577	70 587	3 990	63 952	6 635	0.34	0.33	0.014	155 934	9.1	25	24	26
P(SSB(2028) < B_{lim}) = 5%	28 446	26 972	1 474	24 437	2 535	0.118	0.114	0.004	188 235	32	-52	-53	5.0

* Including below minimum size (BMS) landings, assuming recent discard rate.

** SSB 2028 relative to SSB 2027.

*** The probability of SSB being below B_{lim} in 2028. This probability relates to the short-term probability of SSB < B_{lim} and is not comparable to the long-term probability of SSB < B_{lim} tested in simulations when estimating fishing mortality reference points.

Total advised catch in 2027 relative to the advice value (60 167 tonnes) and TAC (59 661 tonnes) in 2026.

Projected landings split according to the average in 1993–1998, as agreed by the relevant management authorities, i.e. 90.6% in Subarea 4 and Subdivision 3.a.20 and 9.4% in Subarea 6.

The decrease in catch advice (−19.7%) is mainly because of a changed perception of exploitation level and stock status due to a reduction of F_{MSY} and increase in B_{lim} and MSY $B_{trigger}$.

Basis of the advice

Table 3 Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach
Management plan	An EU multiannual management plan (MAP) has been agreed by the EU for this stock (EU, 2018). There is no agreement with Norway and UK regarding this plan, and it is not used as the basis of the advice for this shared stock. ICES was requested by EC and UK to provide advice based on ICES MSY approach and to include F_{MSY} ranges in the catch scenarios.

Quality of the assessment

In 2026, reference points were recalculated using an updated approach, which considers the time lag between advice publication and management implementation (ICES, 2024b, 2026).

Additionally, the data as well as the statistical model used to estimate maturity-at-age were revised, which led to a revision of the historical spawning-stock biomass (SSB). These changes contributed to a downwards revision of SSB in 2025 and 2026 to below B_{lim} and a lower target fishing mortality.

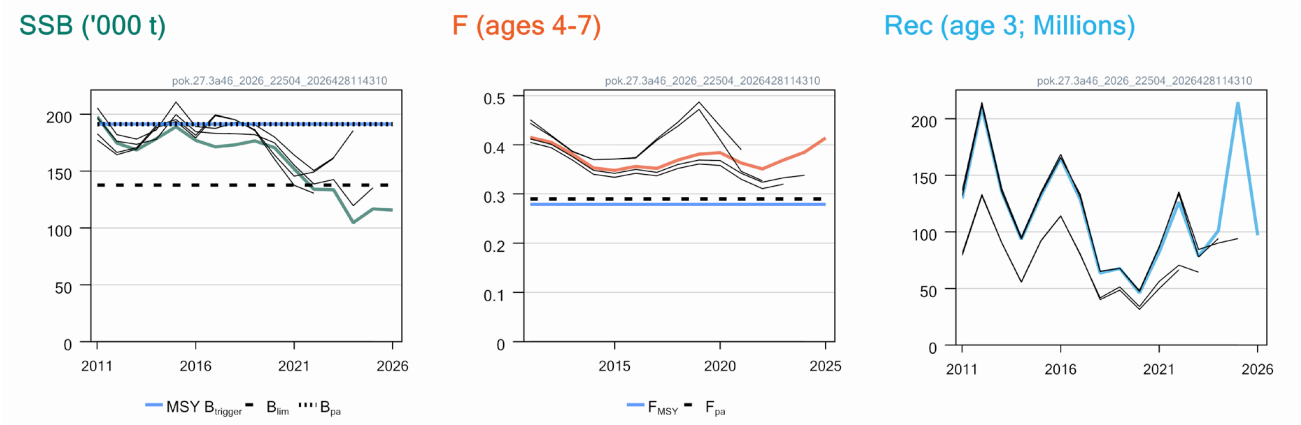

Figure 2 Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. Historical assessment results (final-year recruitment included for each line, corresponding to the forecast recruitment in the intermediate year). The reference points were revised in 2026, and only assessment results from the last year should be compared to the reference points indicated. Since 2024, the final-year spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has included age-3 forecast recruitment in the intermediate year (≈ 4% of SSB in 2026).

Issues relevant for the advice

Based on the short-term forecast assumptions presented in Table 1, and subject to the advice for 2027 being followed, the probability of the SSB being below B_{lim} at the beginning of 2028 is 11.2%. This risk could be mitigated by a further reduction in catch.

The advised catch is dependent on the assumed recruitment (age 3) for which limited information exists: 25% of the projected 2027 catches, and 25% of the SSB in 2028, consist of cohorts that have not yet been reliably observed in surveys. Because of the coastal distribution of the juveniles, it has not been possible to establish survey estimates for fish at young ages.

This stock is under EU landing obligation and Norway and UK national legislation on discards. Below minimum size (BMS) landings reported to ICES in 2016–2025 were low. Observations from sampling programmes show that discarding continues in Division 3.a and subareas 4 and 6. Discards in 2025 were 8% of the total catch by weight.

Reference points

Table 4 Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. Reference points, values, and their technical basis.

Framework	Reference point	Value	Technical basis	Source
Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach	MSY $B_{trigger}$	191 280	B_{PA}; tonnes	ICES (2026)
	F_{MSY}	0.279	Stochastic simulations (FLR mse package; Mosqueira and Jardim, 2026) based on the recruitment period 2004–2025 with segmented regression breakpoint fixed at B_{lim}	ICES (2026)
Precautionary approach	B_{lim}	137 653	Mean spawning-stock biomass (SSB) in 1990, 1992, and 2022, which are the three lowest SSB levels resulting in above median recruitment; tonnes	ICES (2026)
	B_{PA}	191 280	$B_{lim} \times \exp(1.645 \times \sigma)$, $\sigma = 0.20$; tonnes	ICES (2026)
	F_{PA}	0.290	The F that provides a 95% probability for SSB to be above B_{lim} (F_{P05} with advice rule)	ICES (2026)
EU Management plan (MAP)*	MAP MSY $B_{trigger}$	191 280	MSY $B_{trigger}$; tonnes	ICES (2026)
	MAP B_{lim}	137 653	B_{lim}; tonnes	ICES (2026)
	MAP F_{MSY}	0.279	F_{MSY}	ICES (2026)
	MAP range F_{lower}	0.191–0.279	Consistent with ranges resulting in no more than 5% reduction in long-term yield compared with MSY	ICES (2026)
	MAP range F_{upper}	0.279–0.290	Consistent with ranges resulting in no more than 5% reduction in long-term yield compared with MSY. Capped at F_{PA}.	ICES (2026)

* EU multiannual plan (MAP) for the North Sea (EU, 2018).

Basis of the assessment

Table 5 Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. Basis of the assessment and advice.

ICES stock data category	1 (ICES, 2025).
Assessment type	Analytical age-based assessment model (SAM) used also in the forecast* (ICES, 2026)
Input data	Commercial catches (international landings, below minimum size (BMS) landings, discards, and age frequencies from catch sampling); one survey index (Delta-GAM IBTS Q3 [G2829] and Q4 [G0339], SWC-IBTS Q4 [G4299], SCOWCGFS Q4 [G4815], IE-IGFS Q4 [G7212], ages 3–8); combined commercial CPUE index scaled to the exploitable biomass (French, German, and Norwegian trawler fleets). Time-varying stock weights-at-age and maturity-at-age are model-based estimates using survey data only. Age-varying natural mortality is assumed to be constant in time.
Discards, below minimum size (BMS) landings, and bycatch	Discards are included in the assessment. BMS landings for Norway are included with landings in the assessment since 2016; all other BMS landings (about 1 tonne in 2025) are included with the discards.
Indicators	None
Other information	Last benchmarked in 2024 (ICES, 2024a); reference points recalculated in 2026 (ICES, 2026)
Working group	Working Group on the Assessment of Demersal Stocks in the North Sea and Skagerrak (WGNSSK)

* View assessment in Transparent Assessment Framework (TAF).

History of the advice, catch, and management

Table 6a Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. **Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Division 3.a (Skagerrak and Kattegat)**. ICES advice, total allowable catches (TACs), official landings, and ICES catch estimates (**all ages**). All weights are in tonnes. Values of official and ICES landings for the period 1987 to 2001 are presented to the nearest thousand tonnes. TAC values are presented to the nearest thousand tonnes. Note that before 2000, the advice was provided for two separate areas: Subarea 4 and Division 3.a, and Subarea 6. Official landings submitted as confidential ("C" in the table) are not published in this advice, and total landings are therefore not calculated ("NC").

Year	Stock			Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Division 3.a (Skagerrak and Kattegat)			
	ICES advice	Total catch corresponding to advice	Landings corresponding to advice	Agreed TAC	Official landings	ICES landings[#]	ICES discards[##]
1987	Reduce F		< 198000	173000	154000	149000	
1988	60% of F (86); TAC		156000	165000	113000	107000	
1989	No increase in F; TAC		170000	170000	92000	92000	
1990	No increase in F; TAC		120000	120000	85000	88000	
1991	No increase in F; TAC		125000	125000	93000	99000	
1992	No increase in F; TAC		102000	110000	92000	92000	
1993	70% of F (91) ~ 93000 t		93000	93000	99000	105000	
1994	Reduce F by 30%		72000	97000	90000	102000	
1995	No increase in F		107000	107000	97000	113000	
1996	No increase in F		111000	111000	96000	110000	
1997	No increase in F		113000	115000	86000	103000	
1998	Reduce F by 20%		97000	97000	88000	100000	
1999	Reduce F to F_{pa}		104000	110000	108000	107000	
2000	Reduce F by 30%		81000	85000	85000	87000	
2001	Reduce F by 20%		96000	87000	88000	90000	
2002	$F < F_{PA}$		< 148000	135000	115000	105632	18394
2003	$F < F_{PA}$		< 193000	165000	107470	106257	9916
2004	$F < F_{PA}$*		< 234000	190000	103608	102746	7464
2005	F according to management plan*		< 150000	145000	111970	113388	6558
2006	F according to management plan ($< F_{PA}$)*		< 135900	123000	113350	111845	6909
2007	F according to management plan ($< F_{PA}$)*		< 136000	123000	91417	92602	11828
2008	F according to management plan ($< F_{PA}$)*		< 150000	136000	115413	115471	7378
2009	F according to management plan ($< F_{PA}$)*		< 139000	126000	103882	105973	3774
2010	F according to management plan ($< F_{PA}$)*		< 118000	107000	90755	96767	4071
2011	See scenarios			94000	89427	91528	3837
2012	F according to management plan ($< F_{PA}$)*		< 87550	79000	69241	70864	6396
2013	Management plan (TAC +15%)*		< 100684	91220	71508	71406	6392
2014	Management plan (TAC −15%)*		< 85581	77536	68538	69372	5824
2015	Management plan	< 80097		66006	69677	69403	4603
2016	EU-Norway management strategy	≤ 75049		65696	62658	62504	10693
2017	Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach	≤ 140653		100287^^	83594	81570	6339

Year	Stock			Subarea 4 (North Sea) and Division 3.a (Skagerrak and Kattegat)			
	ICES advice	Total catch corresponding to advice	Landings corresponding to advice	Agreed TAC	Official landings	ICES landings[#]	ICES discards[##]
2018	MSY approach	≤ 118460		105793^^	80531	81866	7004
2019	MSY approach	≤ 103327		93614	87476	87649	4595
2020	MSY approach	≤ 88093		79813	69739	69858	3152
2021	MSY approach	≤ 65687		59512	46188	46947	865
2022	MSY approach	≤ 49614		44950	45071	46147	4374
2023	MSY approach	≤ 58912		53374	55683	56880	3202
2024	MSY approach	≤ 73815		66876	53139^	54099	4206
2025	MSY approach	≤ 79071		71638	NC	65945	5627
2026	MSY approach	≤ 60167		54053			
2027	MSY approach	≤ 48320					

* Single-stock boundary and the exploitation of this stock should be conducted in the context of mixed fisheries.
[#] Since 2016, landings estimated by ICES have included the Norwegian component of below minimum size (BMS) landings.
[##] Since 2016, discards estimated by ICES have included all BMS landings except the Norwegian component.
^ Preliminary.
^^ Includes top-up (4.1% in 2017, 12.57% in 2018).

Table 6b Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. **Subarea 6 (Rockall and West of Scotland)**. ICES advice, total allowable catches (TACs), official landings, and ICES catch estimates (**all ages**). All weights are in tonnes. Values of official and ICES landings for the period 1987 to 2001 are presented to the nearest hundred tonnes. TAC values are presented to the nearest thousand tonnes. Note that before 2000, the advice was provided for two separate areas: Subarea 4 and Division 3.a, and Subarea 6. Official landings submitted as confidential ("C" in the table) are not published in this advice, and total landings are therefore not calculated ("NC").

Year	Stock			Subarea 6 (Rockall and West of Scotland)			
	ICES advice	Total catch corresponding to advice	Landings corresponding to advice	Agreed TAC	Official landings	ICES landings[#]	ICES discards[##]
1987	Reduce F		19000	27800	32500	31400	
1988	60% of F (86); TAC		35000	35000	32800	34200	
1989	No increase in F; TAC		20000	30000	22400	25600	
1990	No increase in F; TAC		24000	29000	18000	19900	
1991	No increase in F; TAC		21000	22000	17900	17000	
1992	No increase in F; TAC		< 19000	17000	10800	11800	
1993	70% of F (91) ~ 93000 t		6300	14000	14500	13900	
1994	Reduce F by 30%			14000	13000	12800	
1995	No increase in F		-	16000	10600	11800	
1996	No increase in F		10200	13000	9400	9400	
1997	No increase in F			12000	8600	9400	
1998	Reduce F by 20%		4800	10900	7400	8400	
1999	Reduce F to F_{PA}		4800	7500	6800	7300	
2000	Reduce F by 30%		81000	7000	6400	5900	
2001	Reduce F by 20%		96000	9000	8700	8400	
2002	$F < F_{PA}$		< 148000	14000	5600	5519	3150

Year	Stock			Subarea 6 (Rockall and West of Scotland)			
	ICES advice	Total catch corresponding to advice	Landings corresponding to advice	Agreed TAC	Official landings	ICES landings[#]	ICES discards[##]
2003	$F < F_{PA}$		< 193000	17100	5220	5789	2242
2004	$F < F_{PA}$*		< 234000	20000	4810	4982	620
2005	F according to management plan*		< 150000	15000	7623	6456	1637
2006	F according to management plan ($< F_{PA}$)*		< 135900	13000	9759	9474	1675
2007	F according to management plan ($< F_{PA}$)*		< 136000	13000	7102	6602	584
2008	F according to management plan ($< F_{PA}$)*		< 150000	14000	7717	6712	981
2009	F according to management plan ($< F_{PA}$)*		< 139000	13000	6439	6294	521
2010	F according to management plan ($< F_{PA}$)*		< 118000	11000	6117	6263	412
2011	See scenarios			10000	7492	6917	502
2012	F according to management plan ($< F_{PA}$)*		< 87550	8000	7558	7549	2887
2013	Management plan (TAC +15%)*		< 100684	9464	8534	8653	1397
2014	Management plan (TAC −15%)*		< 85581	8045	6864	7020	512
2015	Management plan	< 80097		6848	7580	7534	405
2016	EU–Norway management strategy	≤ 75049		6816	5852	5573	181
2017	Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach	≤ 140653		10404^^	7453	7116	139
2018	MSY approach	≤ 118460		10215^^	7706	6641	322
2019	MSY approach	≤ 103327		9713	4790	4875	59
2020	MSY approach	≤ 88093		8280	4074	4081	32
2021	MSY approach	≤ 65687		6175	3434	3534	64
2022	MSY approach	≤ 49614		4664	3421	3533	33
2023	MSY approach	≤ 58912		5538	2164	2340	363
2024	MSY approach	≤ 73815		6939	2128^	2095	213
2025	MSY approach	≤ 79071		7433	NC	1887	263
2026	MSY approach	≤ 60167		5608			
2027	MSY approach	≤ 48320					

* Single-stock boundary and the exploitation of this stock should be conducted in the context of mixed fisheries.

[#] Since 2016, landings estimated by ICES have included the Norwegian component of below minimum size (BMS) landings.

[##] Since 2016, discards estimated by ICES have included all BMS landings except the Norwegian component.

^ Preliminary.

^^ Includes top-up (4.1% in 2017, 4.76% in 2018).

History of the catch and landings

Table 7 Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. Catch distribution by fleet in 2025, as estimated by ICES for **ages 3–10+ only** and used in the assessment.

Catch	Landings*				Discards**			
73 382 tonnes	Bottom otter trawl 85.2%	Purse seine 6.1%	Gillnet 3.9%	Other 4.8%	Bottom otter trawl 98%	Purse seine 1.0%	Gillnet 0.6%	Other 0.4%
	67 683 tonnes				5 698 tonnes			

* Landings include the Norwegian component of below minimum size (BMS) landings.
** Discards include BMS landings from EU and UK fleets.

Table 8a Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. **Subarea 4 and Division 3.a**. History of commercial landings; the official landings and below minimum size (BMS) landings are presented by area for each country participating in the fishery, along with the total allowable catches (TACs) and ICES estimates (**all ages**). All weights are in tonnes. Official landings submitted as confidential ("C" in the table) are not published in this advice, and total landings are therefore not calculated ("NC").

Country	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Belgium	22	28	15	18	7	27	15	2	2	3	5	6
Denmark	7991	7498	7470	5443	8066	8802	8018	6331	5171	5691	4871	4432
Faroe Isl.	558	463	60	15	108	841	146	2	8	3	1	0
France	13628	11830	16953	15083	15881	7203	4582*	13856*	14093*	8475	7910	11574
Germany	9589	12401	14397	12791	14140	13410	11193	10235	8052	9687	8562	7902
Greenland	403	1042	924	564	888	927	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ireland	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lithuania	0	149	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	3	40	28	5	3	16	3	24	34	168	42	75
Norway	62783	68122	61318	45396	61465	57708	52712	46809	33289	35701	37519	35631
Poland	0	1100	1084	1384	1407	988	654	584	0	0	0	0
Portugal	0	0	227	68	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Russia	0	35	2	5	5	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sweden	2249	2132	1745	1380	1640	1363	1545	1334	1306	1401	1272	1129
UK (E/W/NI)	457	960	9128**	9265**	11804**	12584**	11887**	10250**	7287**	10379**	8356**	8928**
UK (Scotland)	5924	6170										
Total reported	103608	111970	113350	91417	115413	103882	90755	89427	69241	71508	68538	69677
Unallocated	−862	1418	−1505	1185	58	2091	6012	2101	1623	−102	834	−274
BMS landings												
ICES estimate#	102746	113388	111845	92602	115471	105973	96767	91528	70864	71406	69372	69403
TAC	190000	145000	123250	123250	135900	125934	107000	93600	79320	91220	77536	66006

Country	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	2025*
Belgium	16	15	14	6	5	11	5	7	4	16
Denmark	4084	5690	7017	5275	3777	2946	2280	2261	2514	3077
Faroe Isl.	18	16	4	14	28	0	< 1	0	0	1
France	10794	10334	12598	11361	9487	9133	9778	11738	9286	8366
Germany	6279	7943	7952	7055	6858	4460	4280	4163	4423	3921
Greenland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ireland	0	0	0	< 1*	4*	0*	1*	0	0	3
Lithuania	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	5	0	0
Netherlands	112	191	267	178	181	140	51	127	138	c
Norway	31596	49580	38787	50306	39558	20460	20841	28064	27448	35746
Poland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Russia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sweden	1198	1186	1316	1413	1181	1001	1087	1082	1184	1048

Country	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	2025*
UK (E/W/NI)	8561**	8640**	12575**	11868**	8657**	8037**	6748**	8236**	8143**	12504
UK (Scotland)										
Total reported	62658	83594	80531	87476	69739	46188	45071	55683	53139	NC
Unallocated	−154	−2024	1335	173	119	759	1076	1197	960	
BMS landings		< 1	11	20	10	4	4	6	8	6
ICES estimate[#]	62504	81570	81866	87649	69858	46947	46147	56880	54099	65945
TAC	65696	100287[#]	105793[##]	93614	79813	59512	44950	53374	66876	71638

* Official values are preliminary.
** Scotland + E/W/NI combined.
[#] Since 2016, landings estimated by ICES include the Norwegian component of BMS landings.
[##] Includes top-up (4.1% in 2017, 12.57% in 2018).

Table 8b Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. **Subarea 6**. History of commercial landings; the official landings and below minimum size (BMS) landings are presented by area for each country participating in the fishery, along with the total allowable catches (TACs) and ICES estimates (**all ages**). All weights are in tonnes. Official landings submitted as confidential ("C" in the table) are not published in this advice, and total landings are therefore not calculated ("NC").

Country	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Denmark	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0
Faroe Islands	34	25	76	32	23	60	24	5	6	25	29	6
France	3053	3954	6092	4327	4170	2102	2008	2357	2612	3814	2904	3484
Germany	4	373	532	580	148	298	257	0	9	0	0	0
Ireland	95	168	267	322	288	407	520	359	364	313	128	105
Netherlands	0	0	3	36	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Norway	16	20	28	377	78	68	121	240	5	715	442	677
Russia	6	25	7	2	50	4	2	0	0	0	9	1
Poland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spain	2	3	6	3	4	8	18	31	13	21	9	15
Sweden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UK (E/W/NI)	37	133	2748**	1424**	2955**	3491**	3168**	4500**	4549**	3646**	3324**	3286**
UK (Scotland)	1563	2922										
Total reported	4810	7623	9759	7102	7717	6439	6117	7492	7557	8534	6864	7580
Unallocated	172	−1167	−285	−500	−1005	−145	146	−575	−8	119	156	−46
BMS landings												
ICES estimate[#]	4982	6456	9474	6602	6712	6294	6263	6917	7549	8653	7020	7534
TAC	20000	15044	12787	12787	14100	13066	11000	9570	8230	9464	8045	6848

Country	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024*	2025*
Denmark	0	5	1	7	0	0	0	0	< 1	< 1
Faroe Islands	7	13	21	7	3	2	0	0	< 1	< 1
France	2299	3968	3626	1336	1263	1316	1217	543	511	666
Germany	9	< 1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	< 1
Ireland	185	171	231*	109*	125*	72*	133*	115*	39	45
Netherlands	12	3	100	4	< 1	3	0	10	0	C
Norway	555	633	955	478	1	0	< 1	1	1	1
Russia	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Poland	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	C
Spain	15	4	7	24	15	38	21	5	< 1	C
Sweden	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UK (E/W/NI)	2770**	2652**	2764**	2824**	2666**	2001**	2050**	1589**	1575**	1142**
UK (Scotland)										
Total reported	5852	7453	7706	4790	4074	3434	3421	2264	2128	NC
Unallocated	−279	−337	−1065	85	7	100	112	76	−33	NC
BMS landings		0	31	< 1	< 1	< 1	< 1	< 1	0	0
ICES estimate[#]	5573	7116	6641	4875	4081	3534	3533	2340	2095	1887
TAC	6816	10404[##]	10215[##]	9713	8280	6175	4664	5538	6939	7433

*Official values are preliminary.

**Scotland + E/W/NI/IOM combined.

[#] Since 2016, landings estimated by ICES have included the Norwegian component of BMS landings.

[##] Includes top-up (4.1% in 2017, 4.76% in 2018).

Table 8c Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. **Subareas 4 and 6 and Division 3.a**. History of commercial landings; the ICES estimates (**all ages**) and total allowable catches (TACs). All weights are in tonnes.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
ICES estimate[#]	107728	119844	121320	99204	122184	112267	103030	98446	78414	80059	76392
TAC	210000	160044	136037	136037	150000	139000	118000	103170	8755	100684	85581
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
ICES estimate[#]	76936	68077	88686	88507	92524	73938	50482	49680	59221	56194	67831
TAC	72854	72512	110691[##]	116008[##]	103327	88093[##]	65687	49614	58912	73815	79071

[#] Since 2016, landings estimated by ICES include Norwegian component of below minimum size (BMS) landings.

[##] Agreed upon TAC, including landings top-up.

Table 9 Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. Landings from inside and outside the NEAFC regulatory areas (RAs; subdivision 27.6.b.1), as estimated by ICES and based on official landings reported by area by countries participating in the fishery, as well as total declared landings. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	Inside the NEAFC RAs	Outside the NEAFC RAs	Total landings	Percentage inside the NEAFC RAs
2021*	2.3	49582	49584	< 1%
2022*	1.10	48264	48265	< 1%
2023*	0.55	57284	57285	< 1%
2024*	0.82	55275	55275	< 1%
2025*	0	67023	67023	0

* Official values are preliminary.

Summary of the assessment

Table 10 Saithe in subareas 4 and 6, and in Division 3.a. Assessment summary. Recruitment is in thousands; weights in tonnes. "Low" and "High" refer to 95% confidence intervals.

Year	Recruitment (age 3)			Spawning-stock biomass			Landings ^,*	Discards ^,**	Fishing pressure (ages 4–7)		
	Low	R	High	Low	SSB	High			Low	F	High
1967	139108	197539	280512	145345	178164	218392	88339	12992	0.26	0.32	0.40
1968	152259	212781	297362	208631	255126	311984	113741	20818	0.27	0.33	0.41
1969	303340	424715	594654	250431	304295	369743	130580	19713	0.27	0.33	0.40
1970	282135	391318	542755	329768	396092	475755	235012	35817	0.31	0.37	0.45
1971	324187	445837	613137	397123	476116	570822	265356	43821	0.33	0.39	0.47
1972	202198	276658	378537	392183	472030	568135	261914	34567	0.35	0.41	0.49
1973	176567	241566	330493	401013	486075	589180	242513	32651	0.38	0.45	0.53
1974	171371	235475	323558	428906	522600	636763	298347	38674	0.41	0.48	0.57
1975	223586	305290	416851	396353	483023	588644	271610	33035	0.42	0.49	0.57
1976	327655	456610	636319	343668	414882	500854	343898	79449	0.46	0.55	0.64
1977	144618	198724	273075	281607	338610	407153	216393	23520	0.44	0.51	0.60
1978	106161	145712	199998	264266	317740	382033	155124	21727	0.41	0.48	0.56
1979	80743	111031	152680	237901	285911	343610	128352	14295	0.38	0.44	0.52
1980	77642	107199	148009	215772	259287	311579	131897	13392	0.38	0.44	0.51
1981	166488	229747	317044	219512	261899	312471	132273	15971	0.36	0.42	0.49
1982	126067	172665	236487	214996	253029	297791	174336	27775	0.42	0.48	0.56
1983	141721	193196	263368	208174	243857	285655	180040	22978	0.45	0.52	0.60
1984	228552	312487	427247	200046	233828	273315	200843	39723	0.51	0.59	0.68
1985	329032	451301	619005	188329	218508	253523	220870	52802	0.57	0.67	0.78
1986	298853	416152	579491	176183	203954	236103	198605	34190	0.60	0.71	0.83
1987	136458	186791	255690	165812	193537	225897	167503	24877	0.57	0.66	0.76
1988	130232	177340	241488	149114	174995	205369	135176	19076	0.54	0.62	0.71
1989	94632	129120	176177	127416	150234	177139	108892	15707	0.53	0.62	0.71
1990	132780	181270	247467	119927	140762	165217	103831	20619	0.53	0.61	0.71
1991	147882	200759	272543	115582	134566	156669	108071	22902	0.54	0.62	0.71
1992	102656	134471	176145	119489	138218	159882	99745	15792	0.55	0.63	0.72
1993	179606	233493	303549	132103	152418	175857	111499	21119	0.52	0.60	0.69
1994	122365	161776	213881	131951	152920	177222	109621	17138	0.53	0.61	0.71
1995	211141	280106	371595	140866	163747	190346	121795	19395	0.49	0.56	0.65
1996	119500	159725	213491	132650	155039	181205	114968	13928	0.43	0.50	0.57
1997	153725	208760	283496	151797	177398	207318	107348	12755	0.41	0.46	0.53
1998	87481	117606	158105	135594	159278	187101	106126	11096	0.40	0.46	0.52
1999	122824	163926	218782	151730	176711	205804	110531	8936	0.39	0.44	0.51
2000	102337	138197	186623	169025	194860	224643	85781	8014	0.36	0.41	0.47
2001	211307	279341	369279	206206	236639	271564	91741	11118	0.38	0.43	0.49
2002	146789	192058	251288	201224	231716	266829	110911	18936	0.37	0.42	0.49
2003	158273	207330	271592	211953	244132	281195	110282	11374	0.35	0.40	0.46
2004	114282	150645	198580	183826	211874	244202	107356	6436	0.33	0.38	0.43
2005	153774	204316	271471	202742	233951	269964	118625	2592	0.33	0.37	0.43
2006	86556	115189	153294	210144	242398	279602	120414	8297	0.34	0.39	0.45
2007	155183	204780	270229	218877	251334	288604	94958	11375	0.35	0.41	0.47
2008	82220	108422	142975	244277	281331	324006	121618	8269	0.38	0.44	0.51
2009	64631	86655	116184	225020	260605	301817	110972	3548	0.37	0.42	0.49
2010	111981	148651	197331	202764	236310	275407	102128	2595	0.35	0.40	0.46
2011	97776	129371	171175	169327	197864	231211	98034	3972	0.36	0.42	0.48
2012	160746	209996	274336	149676	174568	203601	78144	8905	0.35	0.41	0.47
2013	103730	135751	177657	144901	168548	196055	79859	7412	0.33	0.38	0.44
2014	70600	93486	123793	154051	178391	206576	76057	6115	0.31	0.35	0.41
2015	100387	131983	173524	163482	188946	218377	76748	4697	0.30	0.35	0.40
2016	126122	165177	216326	152501	176977	205382	67620	10052	0.31	0.36	0.41

Year	Recruitment (age 3)			Spawning-stock biomass			Landings ^,*	Discards ^,**	Fishing pressure (ages 4–7)		
	Low	R	High	Low	SSB	High			Low	F	High
2017	97366	128137	168632	147037	171267	199490	88225	6362	0.31	0.35	0.41
2018	47738	63576	84667	149847	173025	199788	88328	7118	0.32	0.37	0.43
2019	50190	67587	91012	153346	176534	203227	92390	4244	0.33	0.38	0.44
2020	34147	45997	61958	147537	170576	197213	73791	3029	0.33	0.38	0.44
2021	61571	82003	109215	130642	151904	176625	50124	827	0.31	0.36	0.42
2022	93129	126282	171237	113870	133980	157642	49558	4250	0.30	0.35	0.41
2023	58363	78254	104924	113570	133598	157157	57795	3246	0.32	0.37	0.43
2024	72037	100901	141330	89012	104613	122948	56074	4229	0.33	0.39	0.45
2025	134403	214587	342609	96689	116722	140907	67683	5698	0.34	0.41	0.51
2026		96955***		102288#	115676#	199092#					

^ ICES estimates; landings, and discards for **ages 3–10+ only**, as used in the assessment.
* Since 2016, landings include the Norwegian component of below-minimum size (BMS) landings.
** Since 2016, discards include below minimum size (BMS) landings from EU and UK fleets.
*** Recruitment in 2026 is the geometric mean of resampled recruitment estimates from 2016 to 2025.
# SSB 2026 is the STF, composed of 2025 survivors (age 4–10+) and stochastic recruitment assumption 2026 (age 3; ≈ 4% of SSB).

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