

North East Atlantic Porbeagle

No ACFM information has been included for this stock

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Fisheries Science Services

FSS – SINGLE STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

FSS agree with the ICES advice that no directed fishing on Porbeagle be permitted on the basis of their life history and vulnerability to fishing. FSS further agrees with ICES and STECF advice that measures be taken to reduce by-catch to the lowest possible levels.

FSS note the German proposal to add porbeagle to Appendix II of CITES. FSS advises that this listing is consistent with the implementation of the ICES and FSS advice, because it requires that trade in the species can only take place when it can be demonstrated that catches come from a sustainably managed population. In addition, CITES listing would require that future fisheries for this species are accompanied by programmes to determine sustainable harvesting levels. However FSS note that this does not apply to internal EU trade in this species. Therefore a CITES Appendix II listing would only apply to foreign trade into/out of the EU of porbeagles. In the case of NE Atlantic stock, the only non-EU fishing countries are Norway and Faroe Islands.

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

- There is no TAC for porbeagle.
- EC Regulation 1185/2003 prohibits the removal of shark fins of this species, and subsequent discarding of the body. This regulation is binding on EC vessels in all waters and non-EC vessels in Community waters (see basking shark section).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Available information from Norwegian and Faeroese fisheries shows that landings declined strongly in the 1970s and these fisheries ceased in the ICES area. These fisheries have not resumed, implying that the stock has not recovered, at least in the areas where those fisheries took place.
2. The available information from the French fishery suggests that CPUE reached a peak in 1994 and afterwards has declined. The CPUE has been stable at a much lower level since 1999, despite a relatively constant

- number of vessels involved.
3. There is no information to evaluate stock status. The directed fishery for porbeagle stopped in the late 1970s due to very low catch rates. Sporadic small fisheries have occurred since that time. The only regular, directed target fishery that still exists is the French fishery.
4. The high market value of this species means that it is thought that a directed fishery would develop if there was an increase in porbeagle abundance.
5. The species is a valuable by-catch, caught in small numbers, in several Irish fisheries.
6. Porbeagle is a highly migratory and schooling species. Sporadic targeted fisheries develop on these schools and such fisheries are highly profitable.
7. High seas tuna fisheries may take porbeagle as a by-catch.
8. Experience from surface longline fishing shows that porbeagles are usually captured alive. Therefore, a mitigation policy might be implemented by releasing porbeagle.
9. The productivity of the recently assessed NW Atlantic stock is likely to be similar to that of the NE Atlantic stock. In the NW Atlantic landings declined from over 8,000 t to about 500 t by the early 1970s. Landings of around 350 t in the 1970s and 1980s appeared sustainable and the stock recovered slowly. In the 1990s, landings increased to about 2,000 t annually, and the stock declined. It can be concluded that recovery time for the NE Atlantic stock is likely to be at least as long (>25 years), even if catches are at lowest possible level.
10. Porbeagle may be reported as porbeagle, "various sharks nei" or as "Sharks, rays, skates, etc. nei" in the official statistics. This means that the landings reported as porbeagle is likely an underestimation of the total landing of porbeagle from the NE Atlantic. If fishing on this stock is continued, a minimum requirement would be to record catches by species.
11. In 2006 Germany has proposed that porbeagle be added to Appendix II of CITES (Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species). Appendix II listing requires that the species may only be exported, re-exported or introduced from the high seas if a permit has been issued by the relevant national authorities. Such a permit may only be issued when the management authorities are satisfied that such trade will not be detrimental to the survival of the species. The CITES listing only regulates international trade and does not affect trade within the EU.

Table 1.1 Available landing data for porbeagle in ICES area. From ICES and member data. Must be considered an underestimate.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Denmark	48	87	81	91	94	87	72	69	86	108	74	76	0	21	20	3
Faroe Islands	120	69	302	179	505	372	82	96	66	10	.	8	10	14	.	.
France	575	305	462	642	816	643	475	494	419	371	354	367	448	434	377	301
Germany	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	2	+	16	+	3	5	6	5
Ireland	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	2	6	.	11	18	.
Netherlands	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	+	+	.	.
Norway	45	35	43	24	26	28	31	19	28	34	23	17	0	5	24	11
Portugal	2	1	+	1	1	1	1	1	1	+	1	.	.	+	1	.
Spain	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	31	125	681	1002	1507	932	16	89	10	.
Sweden	2	2	4	3	+	+	1	1	+	+	+	1	+	+	5	.
UK	9	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	8	11	12	6	.	.	.
	801	499	892	941	1442	1131	693	805	1284	1536	1988	1419	483	579	462	320

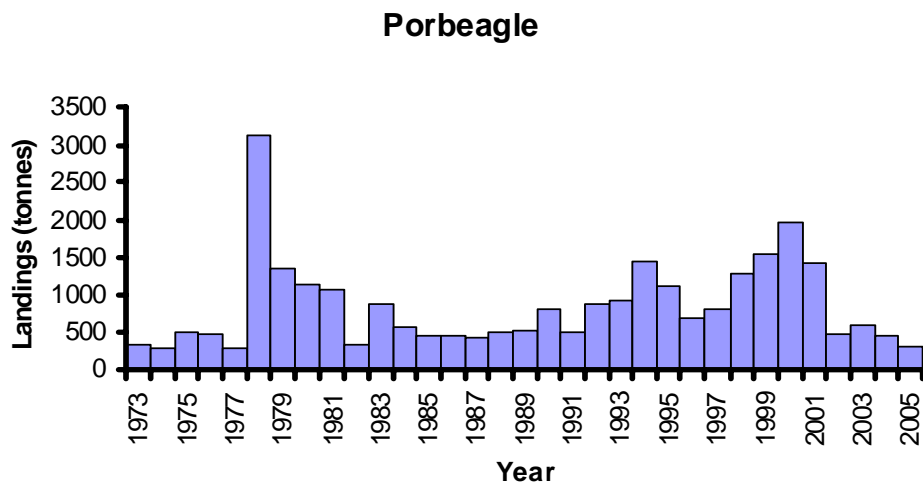


Figure 1.1 Available landings data for porbeagle in ICES area. It is not clear if data are complete for any year.