

Haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*) in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach is applied, catches in 2025 should be no more than 12 04 tonnes. ICES is not in a position to advise on the corresponding level of fishing effort.

Non-fisheries conservation considerations

ICES has not identified any conservation aspects other than those relating to the commercial fisheries.

Stock development over time

Fishing pressure on the stock is above F_{MSY} and below F_{pa} and F_{lim} ; spawning-stock size is above MSY $B_{trigger}$, B_{pa} , and B_{lim}

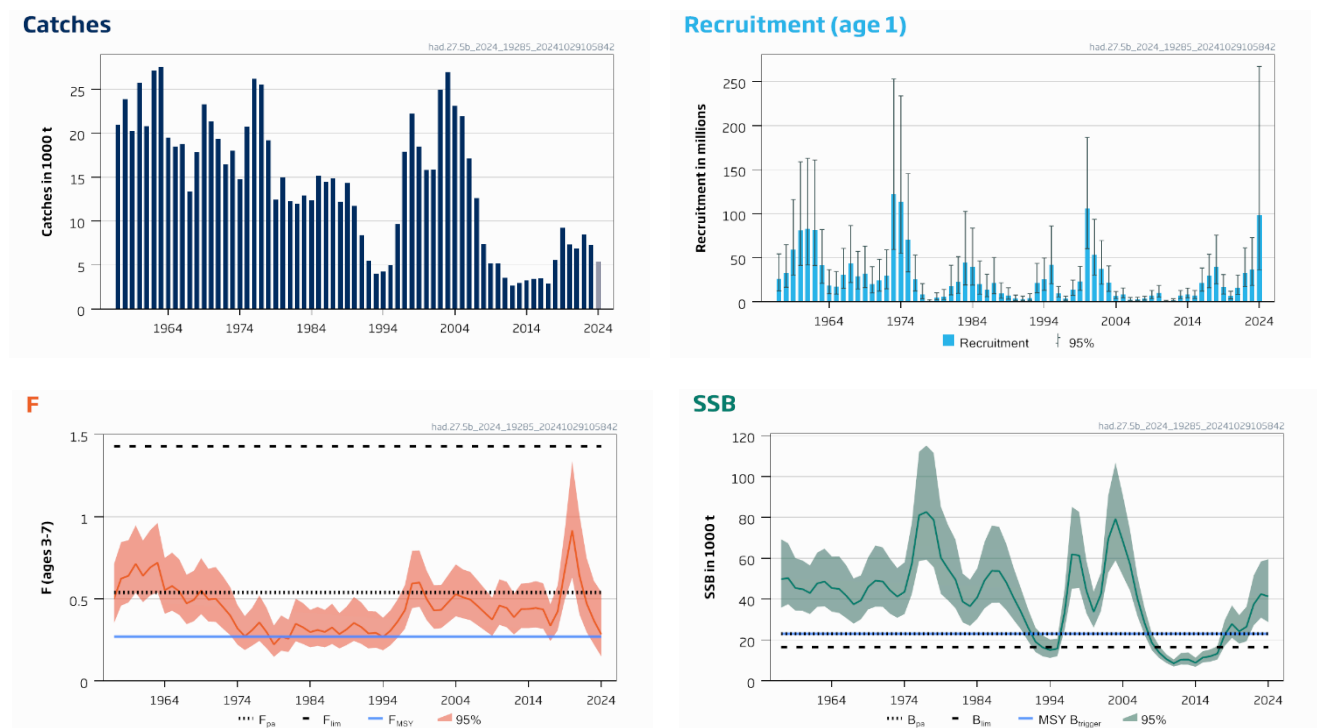


Figure 1 Haddock in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds). Summary of the stock assessment. Catches in 2024 are estimated for the full year based on reported catch in Q1–Q3, and used in the assessment to produce an estimate of F in 2024

Catch scenarios

Table 1 Haddock in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds). Assumptions made for the interim year and in the forecast.

Variable	Value	Notes
$F_{ages\ 3-7}$ (2024)	0.28	Based on catch estimate of 5 388 tonnes in 2024
SSB (2025)	72 480	In tonnes
$R_{age\ 1}$ (2025)	8 540	Median of resampled estimates from 2000–2023; in thousands

Variable	Value	Notes
Landings (2024)	5 388	Catch estimate for 2024 based on catch statistics to the end of September extrapolated to the entire year; in tonnes
Discards (2024)	0	Discard is considered negligible; in tonnes

Table 2 Haddock in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds). Annual catch scenarios. Weights are in tonnes.

Basis	Total catch (2025)	F _{ages 3–7} (2025)	SSB (2026)	% SSB change*	% advice change**
ICES advice basis					
Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach: F _{MSY}	12 204	0.27	106958	48	0.49
Other scenarios					
F = 0	0	0	122751	69	–100
F = F ₂₀₂₄	13087	0.29	105652	46	8
F = F _{pa}	20924	0.54	95766	32	72
F = F _{lim}	36667	1.43	76378	5	202

* SSB (2026) relative to SSB (2025) (72 480 tonnes).

** The advice value for 2025 relative to the advice value for 2024 as issued in 2023 (12 145 tonnes).

Basis of the advice

Table 3 Haddock in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds). The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach
Management plan	A management plan (Fiskidagaskipan og umsitingarættan, 2019) was implemented in 2021, but ICES has not been requested to evaluate it

Quality of the assessment

The assessment of SSB and F in 2024 and 2023 indicates a trend for overestimating SSB and underestimating F. The estimate of recruitment for 2021 and 2022 has been revised upwards considerably and the recruitment of 2023 has been revised downwards.

The relationship between catches from January to September and total year catch gives a preliminary estimate of catch in 2024 that is well below the ICES advice.

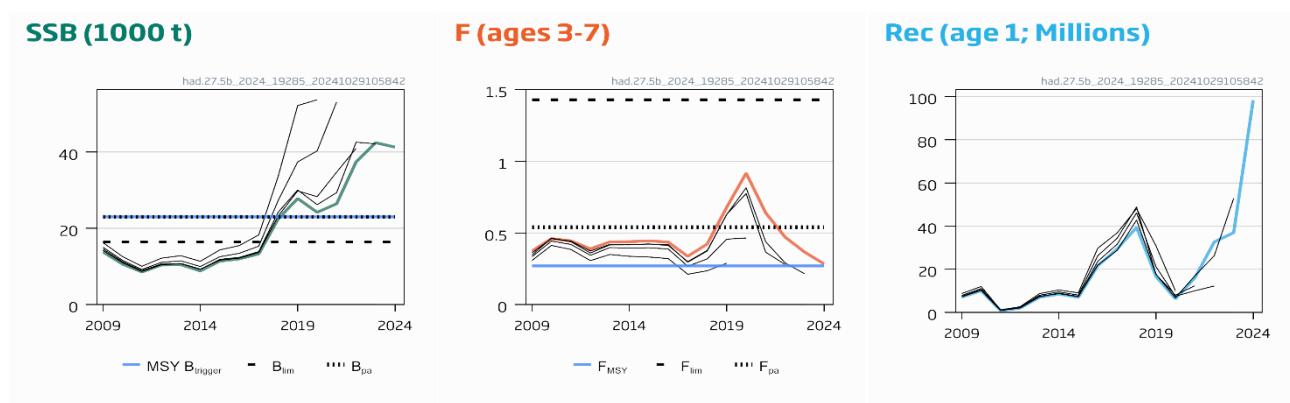


Figure 2 Haddock in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds). Historical assessment results. Results of the last five assessments are plotted, with the solid coloured line representing the current assessment. The plot does not show the line for fishing mortality that ends in 2021 because this year's assessment estimated fishing mortality in the current year (year y), while the last year in previous assessments was the last full calendar year (year y–1). The final year F in 2024 for the current assessment is based on estimated catch.

Issues relevant for the advice

Faroe Plateau cod and Faroe haddock are caught in a mixed fishery.

In 2021, the Faroese authorities implemented a management plan (Fiskidagaskipan og umsitingarættan, 2019) with a control rule that regulates the number of fishing days for cod, haddock, and saithe in the Faroe Plateau fishery. The management plan has not been evaluated by ICES; therefore, ICES bases its advice on the MSY approach.

ICES cannot quantify the relationship between effort and F for this stock.

Reference points

Table 4 Haddock in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds). Reference points, values, and their technical basis.

Framework	Reference point	Value	Technical basis	Source
Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach	MSY $B_{trigger}$	23 030 t	B_{pa}	ICES (2022)
	F_{MSY}	0.27	Stochastic simulations based on a segmented regression stock–recruitment relationship	ICES (2022)
Precautionary approach	B_{lim}	16 458 t	The lowest biomass that has led to good recruitment	ICES (2022)
	B_{pa}	23 030 t	$B_{lim} \times \exp(1.645 \times \sigma)$, where $\sigma = 0.204$	ICES (2022)
	F_{lim}	1.43	Stochastic simulations (ICES, 2022) that give a 50% probability of $SSB > B_{lim}$	ICES (2022)
	F_{pa}	0.54	F_{P05} , the F that leads to $SSB \geq B_{lim}$ with 95% probability	ICES (2022)
Management plan	SSB_{mgt}	Not applicable		
	F_{mgt}	Not applicable		

Basis of the assessment

Table 5 Haddock in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds). Basis of the assessment and advice.

ICES stock data category	1 (ICES, 2023)
Assessment type	SAM with catch-at-age data and age-disaggregated indices, using catches in the model and in the forecast (ICES, 2024).
Input data	Commercial catches (mainly Faroese catches, ages and length frequencies from catch sampling); survey indices (FO-GFS-Q1 [G1264], and FO-GFS-Q3 [G3284]); annual maturity data from FO-GFS-Q1 (G1264); natural mortality set at 0.2. Preliminary estimate of catch-at-age in the year (January to September) in which the assessment is carried out
Discards and bycatch	Discarding is considered negligible
Indicators	None
Other information	Interbenchmark in 2022 (ICES, 2022)
Working group report	Northwestern Working Group (NWWG)

History of the advice, catch, and management

Table 6 Haddock in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds). ICES advice and catch. Weights are in tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Catch corresponding to advice	Agreed total allowable catch (TAC)*	ICES catch
1987	No increase in F	17000		14882
1988	No increase in F	18000		12178
1989	No increase in F	11000		14325
1990	No increase in F	11000		11726
1991	Total allowable catch (TAC)	11000		8429
1992	TAC	13000–15000		5476
1993	Reduction in F	8000		4026
1994	No fishing	0	6200	4252
1995	No fishing	0	6200	4948
1996	TAC	8300	12600	9642

Year	ICES advice	Catch corresponding to advice	Agreed total allowable catch (TAC)*	ICES catch
1997	F = F(95)	9300		17924
1998	F = F(96)	16000		22210
1999	F < proposed F_{pa} (0.25)	9000		18482
2000	F < proposed F_{pa} (0.25)	22000		15799
2001	F < proposed F_{pa} (0.25)	20000		15891
2002	No fishing	0		24929
2003	F < proposed F_{pa} (0.25)	12000		26942
2004	F < proposed F_{pa} (0.25)	21000		23100
2005	F < proposed F_{pa} (0.25)	19000		21944
2006	F < proposed F_{pa} (0.25)	18000		17154
2007	F < 0.20	16000		12630
2008	F_{pa}	14000		7388
2009	No fishing and recovery plan	0		5196
2010	No fishing and recovery plan	0		5202
2011	No direct fishing; minimize bycatch, implement recovery plan	0		3546
2012	No direct fishing; minimize bycatch, implement recovery plan	0		2634
2013	No direct fishing; minimize bycatch, implement recovery plan	0		2924
2014	No direct fishing; minimize bycatch, implement recovery plan	0		3252
2015	No direct fishing; minimize bycatch, implement recovery plan	0		3421
2016	No direct fishing; minimize bycatch, implement recovery plan	0		3470
2017	Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach ($F \leq 0.17$)	≤ 3500		2863
2018	MSY approach ($F \leq 0.165$)	≤ 4570		5549
2019	MSY approach	≤ 7366		9218
2020	MSY approach	≤ 11590		7329
2021	MSY approach	≤ 11440		6882
2022	MSY approach	≤ 8639		8444
2023	MSY approach	≤ 11853		7310
2024	MSY approach	≤ 12145		
2025	MSY approach	≤ 12204		

* Not applicable since 1997.

History of the catch and landings

Table 7 Haddock in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds). Catch distribution by fleet in 2023 as estimated by ICES. Weights are in tonnes.

Catch	Landings		Discards
7310 tonnes	Longlines 60%	Trawls 40%	Negligible
	7 310 tonnes		

There are no reported catches in NEAFC regulatory areas.

Table 8 Haddock in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds). History of commercial catch by country. Weights are in tonnes.

Year	Faroe Islands	England	France	Germany	Iceland	Norway	Scotland	Spain	Greenland	Russia	Total
2000	15185	19	6	1	0	403	185	0	0	0	15799
2001	15406	4	8	2	0	323	148	0	0	0	15891
2002	24474	11	2	6	4	255	177	0	0	0	24929
2003	26419	14	4	1	0	319	185	0	0	0	26942
2004	22589	8	0	6	0	246	186	49	0	16	23100
2005	20616	1	0	0	0	257	1070	0	0	0	21944
2006	16975	1	12	1	0	58	106	0	1	0	17154
2007	12499	0	4	0	0	69	50	0	9	0	12631
2008	7284	0	3	0	0	31	65	0	0	10	7393
2009	5087	0	2	0	0	11	91	0	6	0	5197

Year	Faroe Islands	England	France	Germany	Iceland	Norway	Scotland	Spain	Greenland	Russia	Total
2010	5110	0	1	0	0	6	73	0	12	0	5202
2011	3544	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3546
2012	2631	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2634
2013	2924	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2924
2014	2827	350	0	0	0	2	74	0	0	0	3252
2015	2966	428	1	0	0	5	21	0	0	0	3421
2016	3201	252	5	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	3470
2017	2771	86	1	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	2863
2018	5383	143	0	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	5549
2019	9010	167	0	0	0	42	0	0	0	0	9218
2020	7095	183	1	0	0	50	0	0	0	0	7329
2021	6859	0	4	0	0	20	0	0	0	0	6882
2022	8195	240	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	8444
2023*	6695	587	0	0	0	28	0	0	0	0	7310

* Preliminary.

Summary of the assessment

Table 9 Haddock in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds). Assessment summary. Recruitment is in thousands. Catch and spawning-stock biomass (SSB) are in tonnes.

Year	Recruitment			SSB			Total Catch	F		
	Low	Midpoint	High	Low	Midpoint	High		Low	Midpoint	High
1957	12470	26067	54488	35734	49787	69365	20995	0.35	0.50	0.71
1958	16555	32805	65004	37494	50254	67357	23871	0.46	0.62	0.85
1959	30388	59393	116083	34341	45416	60062	20239	0.48	0.64	0.86
1960	41450	81170	158951	34201	44871	58870	25727	0.54	0.71	0.95
1961	41888	82624	162976	32659	42965	56522	20831	0.48	0.64	0.86
1962	41276	81511	160967	36189	47670	62794	27151	0.52	0.69	0.92
1963	21078	41587	82052	36478	48589	64720	27571	0.54	0.72	0.96
1964	9260	18349	36362	33839	45399	60907	19490	0.41	0.55	0.75
1965	8732	17352	34482	33203	45015	61029	18479	0.43	0.58	0.78
1966	15421	30600	60720	30666	41635	56526	18766	0.40	0.55	0.74
1967	21928	43579	86609	27988	37459	50137	13381	0.35	0.47	0.65
1968	14607	28926	57280	30076	39406	51631	17852	0.36	0.50	0.67
1969	16114	31887	63096	34958	45984	60487	23272	0.41	0.55	0.75
1970	10148	20132	39937	36276	49028	66264	21361	0.36	0.50	0.68
1971	12235	24286	48208	36220	48648	65341	19393	0.36	0.50	0.70
1972	14785	29591	59225	32853	44325	59804	16485	0.32	0.45	0.64
1973	59487	122693	253058	30851	41269	55206	18035	0.28	0.40	0.57
1974	54978	113373	233791	32692	43553	58023	14773	0.22	0.32	0.46
1975	34047	70409	145604	42370	57294	77474	20715	0.188	0.27	0.40
1976	12288	25562	53173	58560	81033	112129	26211	0.22	0.31	0.45
1977	3500	8517	20726	59292	82643	115190	25555	0.24	0.36	0.52
1978	422	1048	2600	55596	78759	111574	19200	0.199	0.30	0.45
1979	2231	4773	10214	42534	60211	85236	12424	0.147	0.22	0.34
1980	2684	6164	14156	39270	54692	76171	15016	0.184	0.27	0.40
1981	7837	18058	41607	35490	49546	69169	12233	0.177	0.26	0.37
1982	9656	22268	51352	28603	38750	52498	11937	0.24	0.35	0.50
1983	19163	44362	102698	26905	36515	49557	12894	0.23	0.33	0.48
1984	19023	39912	83739	30350	40902	55124	12378	0.21	0.30	0.43
1985	8697	20101	46456	35484	49137	68042	15143	0.21	0.31	0.45
1986	5825	13521	31385	38160	53847	75983	14477	0.21	0.30	0.43
1987	9237	21574	50392	38300	53750	75432	14882	0.23	0.33	0.47
1988	4011	9330	21702	34535	48065	66896	12178	0.198	0.29	0.41
1989	2995	6920	15985	29797	40623	55383	14325	0.22	0.32	0.45
1990	1446	3332	7679	25160	33766	45314	11726	0.24	0.35	0.51

Year	Recruitment			SSB			Total Catch	F		
	Low	Midpoint	High	Low	Midpoint	High		Low	Midpoint	High
1991	1251	2873	6596	19320	26010	35016	8429	0.23	0.33	0.48
1992	1759	4043	9295	14062	19148	26074	5476	0.198	0.29	0.43
1993	10255	21177	43729	11978	16330	22263	4026	0.20	0.29	0.42
1994	13052	25495	49800	11208	15074	20273	4252	0.187	0.27	0.39
1995	20535	42040	86063	12031	15741	20594	4948	0.22	0.31	0.43
1996	5485	9792	17481	24841	33460	45069	9642	0.26	0.36	0.50
1997	1805	3407	6430	45051	61952	85192	17924	0.32	0.43	0.59
1998	7269	13404	24717	45482	61331	82702	22210	0.44	0.59	0.79
1999	13106	22957	40210	32974	44044	58831	18482	0.45	0.60	0.80
2000	60379	106170	186687	26004	33712	43706	15799	0.37	0.50	0.67
2001	30357	53333	93698	34136	42539	53009	15891	0.32	0.43	0.58
2002	20009	37323	69618	52933	69325	90792	24929	0.32	0.43	0.59
2003	11850	21995	40827	58893	79328	106854	26942	0.36	0.48	0.65
2004	3776	6673	11793	51379	68388	91028	23100	0.39	0.53	0.71
2005	4623	8540	15774	44048	57005	73772	21944	0.38	0.51	0.68
2006	1449	2683	4969	31743	40439	51518	17154	0.37	0.50	0.67
2007	1551	2863	5283	22398	28274	35691	12631	0.34	0.46	0.61
2008	1974	3525	6295	14943	18628	23221	7393	0.31	0.42	0.56
2009	3805	7001	12883	11143	13822	17145	5197	0.28	0.37	0.51
2010	5391	10042	18705	8700	10645	13025	5203	0.34	0.46	0.62
2011	435	839	1621	6981	8556	10486	3546	0.33	0.45	0.61
2012	1030	1937	3641	7945	10407	13633	2634	0.28	0.39	0.53
2013	3760	6969	12918	7862	10478	13964	2924	0.32	0.44	0.59
2014	4604	8476	15605	6855	8834	11383	3252	0.32	0.44	0.60
2015	3765	6982	12949	8953	11413	14548	3421	0.33	0.45	0.61
2016	12100	21569	38451	9366	12001	15376	3470	0.32	0.44	0.60
2017	15994	29394	54023	10410	13302	16998	2863	0.24	0.34	0.47
2018	20470	39366	75706	17042	22484	29665	5549	0.31	0.42	0.58
2019	8853	16552	30949	21003	27853	36937	9218	0.50	0.68	0.93
2020	3300	6289	11983	18207	24227	32237	7329	0.63	0.92	1.34
2021	8450	16024	30387	19281	26460	36312	6882	0.41	0.64	1.01
2022	17380	32621	61224	27165	37461	51659	8444	0.30	0.47	0.75
2023	18720	36945	72912	30882	42496	58480	7310	0.22	0.37	0.61
2024	36188	98334	267198	28721	41336	59491	5388*	0.149	0.28	0.54

* Catch estimate based on catch statistics to the end of September extrapolated to the entire year.

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