

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 2026 should be no more than 19 653 tonnes. ICES is not in a position to advise on the corresponding level of fishing effort.

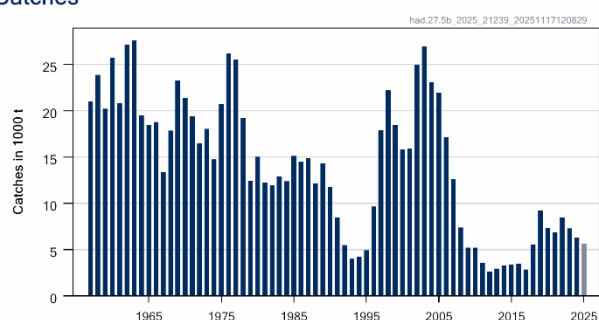
Non-fisheries conservation considerations

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

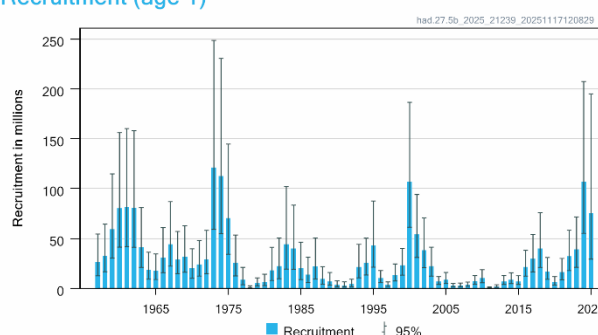
Stock development over time

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

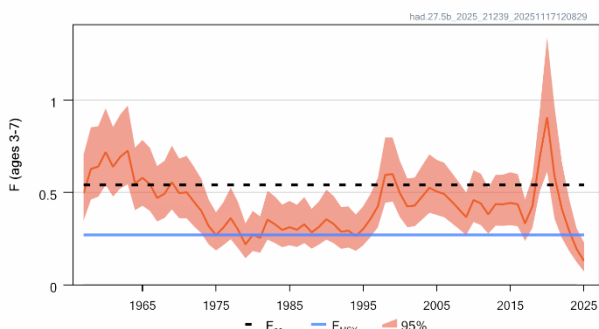
Catches



Recruitment (age 1)



F



SSB

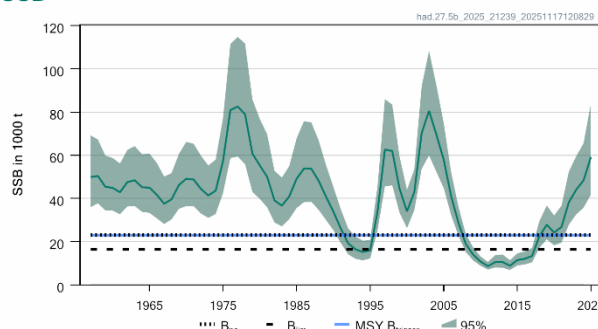


Figure 1 Haddock in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds). Summary of the stock assessment. Catch in 2025, shaded in a lighter colour, is estimated for the full year based on reported catch in Q1–Q3 and used in the assessment to produce an estimate of F in 2025

Catch scenarios

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

Variable	Value	Notes
$F_{ages\ 3-7}$ (2025)	0.130	Based on catch estimate of 5 647 tonnes in 2025
Spawning-stock biomass (SSB; 2026)	115 904	In tonnes
$R_{age\ 1}$ (2026)	10 186	Median of resampled estimates from 2000–2024; in thousands
Landings (2025)	5 647	Catch estimate for 2025 based on catch statistics to the end of September extrapolated to the entire year; in tonnes
Discards (2025)	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 (2026)	F _{ages 3–7} (2026)	Spawning-stock biomass (SSB; 2027)	% SSB change*	% advice change**
ICES advice basis					
Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach: F _{MSY}	19 653	0.27	144 088	24	61
Other scenarios					
F = 0	0	0	166 605	44	–100
F = F ₂₀₂₅	10 591	0.135	154 814	34	–13
F = F _{PA}	34 377	0.54	126 893	9	182

* SSB 2027 relative to SSB 2026 (115 904 tonnes).

** The advice value for 2026 relative to the advice value for 2025 as issued in 2024 (12 204 tonnes).

The advice for 2026 is higher than the advice in 2025 because of an increasing stock size as a result of very high recent recruitment and recent low fishing mortality.

The fishing mortality in 2025 differs slightly between the assessment (F = 0.130, based on catch-at-age data of 5 647 tonnes) and the forecast (F = 0.135).

Basis of the advice

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

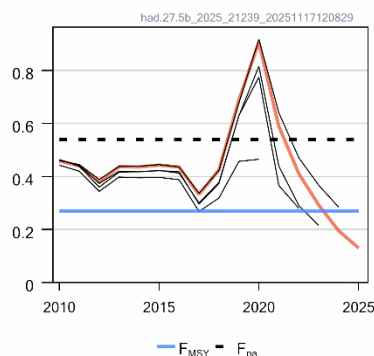
Advice basis	Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach
Management plan	A management plan (Fiskidagaskipan og umsitingarættan, 2019) was implemented in 2021, but ICES has not been requested to evaluate it

Quality of the assessment

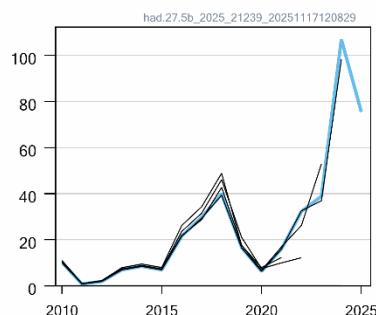
Starting with the summer survey in 2021, there was a change in survey vessel and a further change in survey footgear in the summer 2024 survey. The indices have not been adjusted for these changes and therefore may not be directly comparable.

Relative to last year's assessment, the 2024 spawning-stock biomass (SSB) has been revised upwards and fishing mortality downwards.

F (ages 3–7)



Rec (age 1; Millions)



SSB (1000 t)

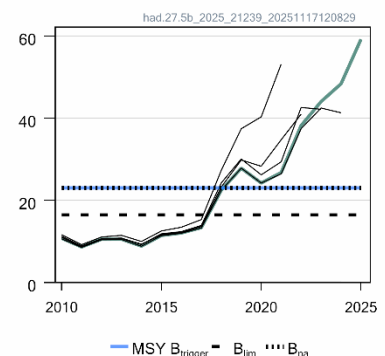


Figure 2

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. Only assessments from 2022 and onwards are comparable because of a revision in assessment methods (ICES 2022). The final year F in 2025 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 umsitingarætlan, 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. All weights are in tonnes.

Framework	Reference point	Value	Technical basis	Source
Maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach	MSY $B_{trigger}$	23 030	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	The lowest biomass that has led to good recruitment; in 1994 from the 2022 assessment	ICES (2022)
	B_{PA}	23 030	$B_{lim} \times \exp(1.645 \times \sigma)$, where $\sigma = 0.204$	ICES (2022)
	F_{PA}	0.54	F_{P05} ; the F that leads to spawning-stock biomass (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, 2025)
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		6318
2025	MSY approach	≤ 12204		
2026	MSY approach	≤ 19653		

* Not applicable since 1997.

History of the catch and landings

Table 7 Haddock in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds). Catch distribution by fleet in 2024 as estimated by ICES. Weights are in tonnes.

Catch	Landings		Discards
6 318	Longlines 73%	Trawls 27%	Negligible
	6 318		

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	UK (England)	France	Germany	Iceland	Norway	UK (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

Year	Faroe Islands	UK (England)	France	Germany	Iceland	Norway	UK (Scotland)	Spain	Greenland	Russia	Total
2009	5087	0	2	0	0	11	91	0	6	0	5197
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
2024*	5631	627	1	0	0	59	0	0	0	0	6318

* Preliminary.

Summary of the assessment

Table 9 Haddock in Division 5.b (Faroes grounds). Assessment summary. Recruitment is in thousands. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	Recruitment (age 1)			Spawning-stock biomass (SSB)			Total catch	Fishing pressure (ages 3–7)		
	Low	R	High	Low	SSB	High		Low	F	High
1957	12633	26238	54495	35966	49899	69229	20995	0.35	0.50	0.71
1958	16602	32708	64436	37749	50404	67303	23871	0.46	0.63	0.85
1959	30450	59145	114881	34478	45443	59895	20239	0.48	0.64	0.86
1960	41323	80375	156331	34347	44912	58726	25727	0.54	0.72	0.96
1961	41796	81852	160299	32694	42870	56213	20831	0.48	0.64	0.85
1962	41133	80682	158258	36262	47591	62459	27151	0.52	0.69	0.92
1963	21062	41338	81135	36504	48435	64265	27571	0.54	0.73	0.97
1964	9338	18419	36332	33800	45210	60471	19490	0.40	0.55	0.74
1965	8829	17464	34544	33320	45024	60838	18479	0.43	0.58	0.78
1966	15653	30916	61061	30815	41709	56454	18766	0.40	0.55	0.74
1967	22265	44034	87086	28148	37573	50153	13381	0.34	0.47	0.64
1968	14683	28939	57033	30308	39598	51736	17852	0.36	0.49	0.67
1969	16189	31883	62793	35205	46174	60560	23272	0.41	0.56	0.75
1970	10201	20138	39756	36455	49131	66214	21361	0.36	0.50	0.68
1971	12264	24222	47841	36415	48779	65341	19393	0.36	0.50	0.70
1972	14717	29280	58254	33012	44439	59822	16485	0.32	0.45	0.64
1973	59259	121408	248737	30994	41388	55268	18035	0.28	0.40	0.57
1974	54836	112493	230775	32791	43597	57965	14773	0.22	0.32	0.46
1975	34107	70268	144767	42460	57240	77163	20715	0.186	0.27	0.39
1976	12429	25777	53459	58673	80904	111558	26211	0.22	0.31	0.45
1977	3622	8741	21093	59397	82570	114783	25555	0.25	0.36	0.53
1978	433	1065	2619	55811	78975	111754	19200	0.198	0.30	0.45
1979	2326	4943	10504	42945	60722	85857	12424	0.144	0.22	0.33
1980	2714	6197	14147	39775	55285	76841	15016	0.183	0.27	0.40
1981	7847	17969	41147	35878	50025	69749	12233	0.174	0.25	0.37
1982	9654	22128	50724	28891	39063	52816	11937	0.25	0.35	0.51
1983	19262	44337	102056	27061	36673	49699	12894	0.23	0.33	0.48
1984	19072	39903	83483	30438	40911	54987	12378	0.20	0.30	0.43
1985	8752	20120	46253	35580	49119	67809	15143	0.21	0.31	0.45
1986	5874	13563	31316	38261	53839	75761	14477	0.21	0.30	0.43
1987	9404	21846	50751	38425	53769	75240	14882	0.23	0.33	0.48
1988	4051	9371	21679	34691	48162	66864	12178	0.196	0.28	0.41

Year	Recruitment (age 1)			Spawning-stock biomass (SSB)			Total catch	Fishing pressure (ages 3–7)		
	Low	R	High	Low	SSB	High		Low	F	High
1989	3016	6929	15918	30006	40794	55459	14325	0.22	0.31	0.45
1990	1450	3323	7614	25316	33899	45393	11726	0.25	0.36	0.52
1991	1254	2863	6535	19407	26100	35101	8429	0.23	0.33	0.48
1992	1770	4043	9237	14144	19250	26199	5476	0.195	0.29	0.42
1993	10504	21546	44196	12074	16449	22409	4026	0.20	0.29	0.42
1994	13354	25914	50288	11341	15233	20460	4252	0.184	0.26	0.38
1995	21222	43115	87596	12224	15953	20820	4948	0.21	0.30	0.43
1996	5690	10082	17865	25194	33896	45604	9642	0.26	0.36	0.49
1997	1825	3415	6390	45595	62617	85994	17924	0.31	0.43	0.58
1998	7342	13428	24558	46058	61993	83440	22210	0.44	0.60	0.80
1999	13212	22987	39992	33333	44457	59295	18482	0.45	0.60	0.80
2000	61242	106907	186622	26248	34001	44044	15799	0.37	0.50	0.67
2001	30913	53941	94123	34513	42971	53500	15891	0.31	0.42	0.58
2002	20659	38183	70573	53721	70293	91977	24929	0.32	0.43	0.58
2003	12201	22449	41303	59891	80571	108391	26942	0.35	0.48	0.64
2004	3858	6775	11896	52331	69528	92376	23100	0.39	0.53	0.71
2005	4758	8713	15957	44759	57859	74793	21944	0.38	0.51	0.68
2006	1475	2709	4976	32259	41043	52220	17154	0.37	0.49	0.66
2007	1581	2894	5298	22788	28722	36201	12631	0.34	0.45	0.61
2008	1990	3527	6254	15163	18883	23517	7393	0.30	0.41	0.56
2009	3870	7062	12887	11294	14000	17353	5197	0.27	0.37	0.50
2010	5519	10186	18800	8821	10781	13177	5203	0.34	0.46	0.62
2011	434	831	1589	7076	8666	10613	3546	0.32	0.44	0.60
2012	1034	1926	3589	8050	10535	13787	2634	0.28	0.38	0.53
2013	3802	6984	12829	7925	10551	14047	2924	0.32	0.44	0.60
2014	4658	8500	15513	6886	8868	11421	3252	0.32	0.44	0.60
2015	3787	6965	12807	8998	11464	14605	3421	0.32	0.44	0.61
2016	12233	21623	38223	9421	12066	15455	3470	0.32	0.44	0.60
2017	16376	29790	54191	10465	13375	17093	2863	0.24	0.33	0.46
2018	20980	39921	75961	17113	22492	29562	5549	0.31	0.43	0.59
2019	9024	16710	30941	21094	27839	36740	9218	0.51	0.69	0.94
2020	3347	6312	11906	18276	24234	32136	7329	0.61	0.91	1.34
2021	8604	16069	30011	19553	26785	36690	6882	0.36	0.59	0.97
2022	17861	32290	58376	27855	38223	52450	8444	0.25	0.41	0.66
2023	21167	38917	71550	32596	44064	59566	7310	0.183	0.29	0.46
2024	55169	106984	207462	35730	48393	65543	6318	0.124	0.195	0.31
2025	29229	75510	195069	41761	59250	84063	5647*	0.073	0.130	0.23

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

Sources and references

Fiskidagaskipan og umsitingarætlan. Frágreiðing og tilmæli frá arbeiðsbólkinum at gera uppskot til umsitingarætlan og at eftirma skipanina í fiskiskapinum eftir botnfiski undir Føroyum (Fisheries management plan and harvest control rule for cod, haddock and saithe in Faroese waters [in Faroese]). 2019. 34 pp. https://lms.cdn.fo/media/12444/fiskidagaskipan-og-umsitingar%C3%A6tlan-fr%C3%A1grei%C3%B0ing-fr%C3%A1-arbei%C3%B0sb%C3%B3lki-mai-2019.pdf?s=k4aSmLc1W4eXb_RidnITC-WYwDA

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