## SAC GFCM <br> Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment



## SAC GFCM - Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment (SCSA)

Assessment form

Code: PIL0609Bel

| Date $^{*}$ | 5 | Oct | 2009 | Authors* | Bellido, J.M.1*, Garcia, E.1, Quintanilla, L.2, Torres, P2., Giráldez, |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :--- |


| Species <br> Scientific <br> name* | Sardina pilchardus - PIL | Species <br> common <br> name | Sardine, Sardina |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |  |

## Data Source

| GSA* $^{*}$ | $06-$ Northern Spain | Period of time* | $1994-2009$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

## Description of the analysis

| Type of data* | Landings, Length and biological <br> samplings. Tuning from Purse seiners | Data source* | Official Statistics, IEO Sampling Network, <br> Acoustic Survey |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Method of <br> assessment* | Provisional XSA analysis - Extended <br> Survivor Analysis | Software used* | VPA Suite. Lowestoft. 1995 \& FLR library |

## Sheets filled out

| B | P1 | P2a | P2b | G | A1 | A2 | A3 | Y | Other | D | Z | C |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | --- | 1 | 1 | 1 | -- | -- | 1 | 1 | 1 |

## Comments, bibliography, etc.

The provisional XSA analysis was not accepted as a basis for advice. The main reasons were the use of a common ALK for some years, and doubts about the natural mortality. The XSA analysis may be indicative of trends in recruitment and biomass, but the fishing mortality estimates are highly uncertain. Therefore the advise is based on direct evidences.

Bibliography (Published papers and books):
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Freon, P. and Misund, O.A., 1999. Dynamics of Pelagic Fish Distribution and Behaviour: Effects on Fisheries and Stock Assessment. Fishing News Books, UK, 348 pp.

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Sheperd, J.G., 1999. Extended Survivors Analysis: An improved method for the analysis of catch-atage data and abundance indices. Journal of Marine Science, 56: 584-591.

Bibliography (Technical Reports and grey literature):
Darby, C.D. and Flatman, S., 1994. Virtual Population Analysis, version 3.1 (Windows/DOS) user guide. Information Technology Series 1. CEFAS, Lowestoft, UK.

Reports from the SCSA and SAC of the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), available at http://www.fao.org/fi/body/rfb/GFCM/gfcm_home.htm and/or ftp://cucafera.icm.csic.es/pub/scsa/

Reports from the Assessment Working Groups of the International Council for the Explorration of the Seas (ICES), particularly the small pelagics assessment working group WGMHSA. Available at www.ices.dk

Reports from the SGMED Working Groups on the Mediterranean of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF). Available at http://fishnet.jrc.it/web/stecf.

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| Biology Somatic magnitude measured (LH, LC, etc)* |  |  |  | Total Length Units* |  | 1/2 centimeter |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sex | Fem | Mal | Both | Unsexed |  |  |
| Maximum size observed |  |  | 22 |  | Reproduction season | Oct-Mar |
| Size at first maturity |  |  | 13.3 |  | Reproduction areas | All the coast |
| Recruitment size |  |  | 8.5 |  | Nursery areas | Bays |

## Parameters used (state units and information sources)

|  |  |  | Sex |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Units | female | male | both | unsexed |
| Growth model | L | cm |  |  | 22 |  |
|  | K | year-1 |  |  | 0.4586 |  |
|  | t0 | year |  |  | -1.4157 |  |
|  | Data source | Otoliths |  |  |  |  |
| Length weight relationship | a |  |  |  | 0.0059 |  |
|  | b |  |  |  | 3.1406 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | M |  |  | M vector (see comments) |  |  |
|  | sex ratio (mal/fem) | 44/56 |  |  |  |  |

## Comments

ALK 2003-2007, combined ALK for 1994-2002, 2008 and 2009. Length Distributions 1994-2009.
Biological sampling 2004-2009 for Maturity at age and Weight-Length relationships.
Natural Mortality value (M) - Following the recommendation from the Workshop on Mediterranean Stock Assessment Standardization (SG-ECA/RST/MED 09-01), a vector (declining value of M with age) instead of a constant value was used. The vector was estimated using the ProdBiom method (Abella et al., 1997) based on Caddy (1991).

| Age | M |
| :---: | :---: |
| 0 | 1.20 |
| 1 | 0.46 |
| 2 | 0.34 |
| 3 | 0.29 |
| 4 | 0.26 |
| $5+$ | 0.25 |


| Data source | Official Statistics, IEO Sampling Network, Acoustic | Year (s) ${ }^{*}$ | 1994-2009 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Data aggregation (by year, average <br> figures between years, etc.) | By year 1994-2008 |  |  |

## Fleet and catches (please state units)

|  | Country | GSA | Fleet Segment | Fishing Gear Class | Group of Target Species | Species |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Operational Unit 1* | ESP | 06 | $\begin{gathered} \text { G- Purse Seine ( } 6-12 \\ \text { metres) } \end{gathered}$ | 02 - Seine Nets | 31 - Small gregarious pelagic | PIL |
| Operational Unit 2 | ESP | 06 | H - Purse Seine (12-24 metres) | 02 - Seine Nets | 31 - Small gregarious pelagic | PIL |
| Operational Unit 3 | ESP | 06 | F - Trawl (>24 metres) | 02 - Seine Nets | 31 - Small gregarious pelagic | PIL |
| Operational Unit 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Operational Unit 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |


| Operational Units* | Fleet <br> (n${ }^{\circ}$ of <br> boats)* | Kilos or <br> Tons | Catch <br> (species <br> assessed) | Other species <br> caught | Discards <br> (species <br> assessed) | Discards <br> (other species <br> caught) | Effort <br> units |
| ---: | ---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ESP 06 G 02 31- PIL | 4 | Tons | 7896 |  |  |  |  |
| ESP 06 H 02 31-PIL | 111 | Tons |  |  |  |  |  |
| ESP 06 F 02 31-PIL | 17 | Tons |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total | 132 |  | 7896 |  |  |  |  |


| Legal minimum size | 11 cm TL |
| :--- | :--- |

## Comments

The catch (landings) is not split by Fleet segments. It comprises 7896 Tons in 2009 for the three Operational Units. Although landings are not still separated by Fleet segments we can provide a segmentation of the pelagic fleet in GSA06, with number of boats for every fleet segment:

The Fleet Segment Purse Seine (6-12 metres) comprises 4 boats in 2009
The Fleet Segment Purse Seine (12-24 metres) comprises 111 boats in 2009
The Fleet Segment Purse Seine (greater than 24 metres) comprises 17 boats in 2009
Then, and because that landing aggregation, we prefer to fill pages P 2 a and P 2 b considering the three fleet segments as an unique pelagic fleet.

Landing Ports are shown in the attached Figure. Sampling ports are highlighted in blue.Tuning data from acoustic survey ECOMED (2003-2009) and MEDIAS (2009) were used.

## Comments



| Data source* | Official Statistics, IEO Sampling Network | OpUnit 1* | ESP 06 G 02 31-PIL |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

Time series

| Year* | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Catch | 32274 t | 36142 t | 36972 t | 30275 t | 18762 t | 20817 t |
| Minimum size | 9.5 cm | 6 cm | 9 cm | 9 cm | 8 cm | 6.5 cm |
| Average size Lc | 16.66 cm | 16.78 cm | 16.72 cm | 16.9 cm | 16.56 cm | 16.84 cm |
| Maximum size | 19.5 cm | 20 cm | 20 cm | 20.5 cm | 20.5 cm | 22 cm |
| Fleet | 223 |  | 207 | 179 | 157 | 161 |


| Year | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Catch | 24874 t | 22081 t | 29381 t | 23984 t | 14123 t | 7896 t |
| Minimum size | 6.5 cm | 9 cm | 9 cm | 9.5 cm | 9.0 cm | 8.5 cm |
| Average size Lc | 17.02 cm | 16.87 cm | 16.08 cm | 17.81 cm | 16.9 cm | 17.82 cm |
| Maximum size | 23.5 cm | 22.5 cm | 22.5 cm | 22.5 cm | 22.0 cm | 22.00 cm |
| Fleet | 155 | 147 | 139 | 132 | 132 | 132 |

Selectivity Remarks





 $\begin{array}{lllllllllllllllll}\text { Age } 4 & 6667 & 2983 & 3459 & 263 & 3219 & 343 & 5734 & 6247 & 1408 & 326 & 859 & 6123 & 1399 & 16573 & 15991 & 719\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lllllllllllllllll}\text { Ages } 5 & 1375 & 450 & 515 & 75 & 387 & 319 & 672 & 946 & 123 & 515 & 3198 & 144 & 1000 & 2450 & 2490 & 3555\end{array}$


## Structure by size or age



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| :--- | ---: |
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| Data source* | Official Statistics, IEO Sampling Network | OpUnit 1* | ESP 06 G 0231 - PIL |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

## Regulations in force and degree of observance of regulations

Fishing license: fully observed
Minimum landing size 11 cm : not fully observed (Some landings under minimum size in some specific ports).
No fishing allowed on weekend. Time at sea 12 hours per day and 5 days a week: fully observed Several technical measures regulations (gear and mesh size, engine, GRT, etc...): not fully observed Temporary fishing closure (two months, variable along the time series): fully observed.

## Accompanying species

The most important are:
Anchovy (Engraulis encrasicolus)
Mediterranean Horse Mackerel (Trachurus mediterraneus)
Other Horse Mackerels (Trachurus trachurus and Tachurus picturatus)
Mackerel (Scomber scombrus)
Chub Mackerel (Scomber japonicus)
Round sardinella (Sardinella aurita)
Bogue (Boops boops)
$\square$

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## Time series

| Model | Cohorts | Pseudocohorts |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| (mark with X) | X |  |


| Equation used | VPA | Tunig method | XSA |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $\#$ | Purse seiners | Sears | Software |
|  | VPA95. Lowestoft suite |  |  |
| $\mathrm{F}_{\text {terminal }}$ | Not relevant to XSA |  |  |

## Population results (please state units)

|  | Sizes | Ages |  | Amount | Biomass |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Minimum | 8.5 | 0 | Recruitment | 2300 millions |  |
| Average | See page 2a |  | Average population | See coments below |  |
| Maximum | 22 | $5+$ | Virgin population |  |  |
| Critical |  |  | Turnover |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Average mortality

|  | Gear |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Total |  |  |  |  |  |
| $F_{1}$ | Fbar=1.20 |  |  |  |  |  |
| $F_{2}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| $Z$ | See Comments |  |  |  |  |  |

(F1 and F2 represent different possible calculations. Please state them)

## Comments

Reference F is Fbar1-3 (average of ages 1 to 3 are considered the reference ages of this fishery). Following the recommendation from the Workshop on Mediterranean Stock Assessment Standardization (SG-ECA/RST/MED 09-01), a vector instead of a constant value was used. The vector was estimated using the ProdBiom method (Abella et al., 1997) based on Caddy (1991).

An exploratory analysis was conducted estimating a Log Catch Curves analysis. Log Catch Curves show no conflicts between ages and cohorts follow the standard pattern level of an exploited cohort when entering and passing through the fishery. Log Catch Curves can be seen in the figure below.

Landings decrease in 2009, reaching up 7896 t , which represents the lowest landings of the assessed time series. Fishing mortality is at a moderate-high level (F09=0.1.20), lower to that of 2008 (2.52). Recruitment in 2009 ( 2300 millions) is higher to 2008 ( $\mathrm{R} 08=1155$ millions) following a decreasing trend from 2003 onwards. The trend of the recruitments is so important as they can affect seriously to the stock health. Both Total Biomass (TB=52960 t) and Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB=25970 t) in 2009 are also the between the lowest of the time series.

| Sex $^{*}$ | Both | Gear $^{*}$ | Purse seiners | Analysis \# $^{*}$ | XSA |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

Data Input data for XSA

## Data



## Input Parameters GSA06

- Growth Parameters:
Linf = 22
$k=0.4586$
$t_{0}=-1.41$
- Length-weight relationship:
$a=0.006$
$b=3.14$
- Natural Mortality Vector PRODBIOM (Abella et al.1997):

| Age | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | Prom Prom(1-3)


| $M$ | 1.20 | 0.46 | 0.34 | 0.29 | 0.26 | 0.25 | 0.47 | 0.36 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

- Maturity at Age

| Age | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| PropMat | 0.38 | 0.85 | 0.99 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 |

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Assessment form

| Sex $^{*}$ | Both | Gear*$^{*}$ | Purse Seiners | Analysis \#* | XSA |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |

## Population in figures



Fishing mortality rates

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Assessment form Sheet other

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Other assessment methods
$\square$


| SAC GFCM - Sub-Committee on Stock Assessment (SCSA) |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| Assessment form | Sheet D <br> Diagnosis |

Code: PIL0609Bel
Indicators and reference points

| Criterion | Current <br> value | Units | Reference <br> Point | Trend | Comments |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| B |  |  |  |  | Not Reference Point defined yet |
| SSB |  |  |  |  | Not Reference Point defined yet |
| F |  |  |  |  | Not Reference Point defined yet |
| Y |  |  |  |  | Not Reference Point defined yet |
| CPUE |  |  |  |  | Not Reference Point defined yet |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

Stock Status* Use one (or both) of the following two systems for the stock assessment status description

|  | E | ? - (or blank) Not known or uncertain. Not much information is available to make a judgment; |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | E | U - Underexploited, undeveloped or new fishery. Believed to have a significant potential for expansion in total production; |
|  | E | M - Moderately exploited, exploited with a low level of fishing effort. Believed to have some limited potential for expansion in total production; |
|  | $\square$ | F - Fully exploited. The fishery is operating at or close to an optimal yield level, with no expected room for further expansion; |
|  | [ | O - Overexploited. The fishery is being exploited at above a level which is believed to be sustainable in the long term, with no potential room for further expansion and a higher risk of stock depletion/collapse; |
|  | C | D - Depleted. Catches are well below historical levels, irrespective of the amount of fishing effort exerted; |
|  | C | R - Recovering. Catches are again increasing after having been depleted or a collapse from a previous; |


|  | Exploitation rate |  | Stock abundance |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\square$ | No or low fishing | L | Virgin or high abundance | L | Depleted |
|  | E | Moderate fishing | C | Intermediate abundance |  | Uncertain / Not |
|  | $\square$ | High fishing mortality | 6 | Low abundance | L | assessed |
|  | © | Uncertain / Not assessed |  |  |  |  |

## Comments

Lacking a reliable analytic assessment, the advice is based on evidence in the fishery and survey data. The catches have had a strong downwards trend throughout the time series (which goes back to 1994.) The 2009 catch is the lowest on record. In the length composition in the catches, the balance between small and large fish has been relatively stable, except in 2009, it si strongly skewed towards small fish.
According to the survey, the recruitment has declined gradually since 2003, but with a stronger year class in 2009. Fish from age 1 and upwards has been almost absent in the survey since 2007, and has virtually disappeared in 2009 ..
This evidence points in the direction of the recruitment as a main driving force in the population dynamics, where the stock and catches have declined as a result of a declining recruitment. In addition, the length distributions and age distributions indicate that older fish is depleted more rapidly in recent years, in particular after 2007. The reason for that is not clear, but the fishery must be at least partly responsible. Migration to other areas is not likely as the the same trends are seen in GSA07. The stock biomass in itself is not known, but it seems likely that it has declined in line with the decline in the catches and survey index.

Although the recruitment in 2009 is encouraging, the incoming year class now dominates the stock almost completely. The exploitation rate is not known, but it is likely that it is high, as the year classes are depelted rapidly. To improve the situation and restore a normal age composition in the stock and thereby facilitate further good recruitments, a reduction in the exploitation rate seems necessary.

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## Management advice and recommendations*

The stock has declined over many years, partly due to reduced recruitment and partly to poor survival ov the recruits. Most likely, the stock has been increasingly overexploited in recent years. The 2009 year class looks promising, but it is necessary to preserve that year class to restore a normal stock structure and facilitate better future recruitments. Unless the recruitment levels increase in the near future, this fishery will be being exploited at above a level which is believed to be sustainable in the long term, with no potential room for further expansion and a higher risk of stock depletion/collapse. Therefore, a substantial reduction in exploitation is advised.

Taking into account the possible link between GSA06 and GSA07, which includes parallell changes in the ecosystem in the most recent years, it is also advised to harmonize management measures in the two areas, to ensure that they are restricctive in both areas.

Advice for scientific research*

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| Assessment form | Sheet $C$ <br> Comments |
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## Comments*

Landings have decreased gradually since 1998, from over 32000 tons to less than 8000 tons.
There are indications both in the surveys and the catch data that the recruitment has declined over the last ten years. The XSA assessment is not acceptable as a basis for the advise but may give indications of the trend in biomass and the recruitment which are both strongly declining.

Conclusions - Management considerations:
This stock is at a low level. Unless the recruitment levels increase in the near future, this fishery will be being exploited at above a level which is believed to be sustainable in the long term, with no potential room for further expansion and a higher risk of stock depletion/collapse.

## Abstract for SCSA reporting



## Fisheries (brief description of the fishery)*

Sardine (Sardina pilchardus) and anchovy (Engraulis encrasicolus) are the main target species of the purse seine fleet in Northern Spain GSA06, but other species with lower economical importance are also captured, sometimes representing a high percentage of the capture: horse mackerel (Trachurus spp.), mackerel (Scomber spp.), frigate mackerel (Auxis rochei), Atlantic saury (Scomberesox saurus) and gilt sardine (Sardinella aurita).

This report is exclusively focused on fishery of sardine.

## Source of management advice*

(brief description of material -data- and methods used for the assessment)
Fishery assessment by VPA methods of the Spanish sardine stock GSA06 is shown. VPA Lowestoft software suite was used and XSA was the assessment method. A separable VPA was also run as exploratory analysis for both stocks. Stochastic short term projections were also produced.

Data used:
Landings from 1994-2009 from all Fishery ports from GSA06.
ALK 2004-2009, combined ALK for 1994-2003. Length Distributions 1994-2009.
Biological sampling 2004-2009 for Maturity at age and Weight-Length relationships.
Tuning data from acoustic survey ECOMED (2003-2008) and Medias (2009).

## Stock Status*

O - Overexploited. The fishery is being exploited at above a level which is believed to be sustainable in the long term, with no potential room for further expansion and a higher risk of stock depletion/collapse;

## Exploitation rate

## Stock abundance

Uncertain / Not assessed

## Comments

Lacking a reliable analytic assessment, the advice is based on evidence in the fishery and survey data. The catches have had a strong downwards trend throughout the time series (which goes back to 1994.) The 2009 catch is the lowest on record. In the length composition in the catches, the balance between small and large fish has been relatively stable, except in 2009 , it si strongly skewed towards small fish.
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Although the recruitment in 2009 is encouraging, the incoming year class now dominates the stock almost completely. The exploitation rate is not known, but it is likely that it is high, as the year classes are depelted rapidly. To improve the situation and restore a normal age composition in the stock and thereby facilitate further good recruitments, a reduction in the exploitation rate seems necessary.

## Management advice and recommendations*

The stock has declined over many years, partly due to reduced recruitment and partly to poor survival ov the recruits. Most likely, the stock has been increasingly overexploited in recent years. The 2009 year class looks promising, but it is necessary to preserve that year class to restore a normal stock structure and facilitate better future recruitments. Unless the recruitment levels increase in the near future, this fishery will be being exploited at above a level which is believed to be sustainable in the long term, with no potential room for further expansion and a higher risk of stock depletion/collapse. Therefore, a substantial reduction in exploitation is advised.

Taking into account the possible link between GSA06 and GSA07, which includes parallell changes in the ecosystem in the most recent years, it is also advised to harmonize management measures in the two areas, to ensure that they are restricctive in both areas.

Advice for scientific research*
$\square$

