

## Capelin in Divisions 3NO






Advice June 2013 for 2014-2015





### Recommendation for 2014-2015

No directed fishery.

### Management objectives

No explicit management plan or management objectives defined by Fisheries Commission. General convention objectives (GC Doc. 08-03) are applied. Advice is based on qualitative evaluation of biomass indices in relation to historic levels.

Convention objectives	Status	Comment/consideration
Restore to or maintain at $B_{msy}$		$B_{msy}$ unknown, stock at low level
Eliminate overfishing		No directed fishery
Apply Precautionary Approach		Reference points not defined
Minimise harmful impacts on living marine resources and ecosystems		VME closures in effect, no directed fishing
Preserve marine biodiversity		No directed fishery

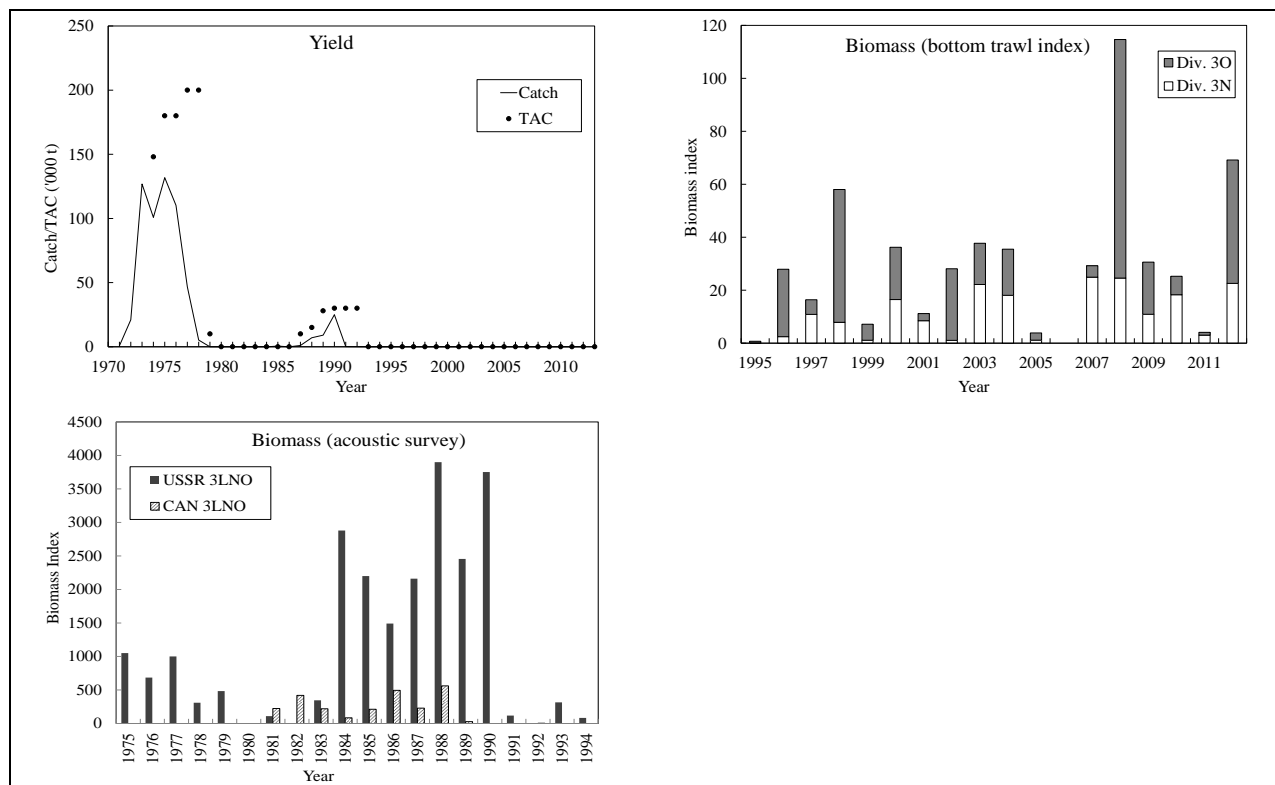
 OK  
 Intermediate  
 Not accomplished  
 Unknown

### Management unit

The capelin stock is distributed in Div. 3NO, mainly on the Grand Bank.

### Stock status

Acoustic surveys series terminated in 1994 indicated a stock at a low level. Biomass indices from bottom trawl surveys have not indicated a change in stock status since then.



**Reference points**

Not defined.

**Projections**

Quantitative assessment of risk at various catch options is not possible for this stock at this time.

**Assessment**

Assessment was based on evaluation of trends in acoustic survey data (1975 – 1994) and bottom trawl surveys (1995 – 2012). Bottom-trawling is not a satisfactory basis for a stock assessment of a pelagic species and survey results are indicative only.

Next full assessment is planned for 2015.

*Human impact*

Low fishery related mortality due to moratorium and low bycatch in other fisheries. Other sources (e.g. pollution, shipping, oil-industry) are considered minor.

*Biological and Environmental Interactions*

Changes in growth, maturity and recruitment are linked to temperature on the Grand Banks. Recent increases in temperature (STACFEN 2013) may provide more favorable conditions for capelin. Cod in Div. 3NO has increased slightly in recent years, and may cause increased natural mortality through predation.

**Fishery**

Capelin is caught in a directed trawl fishery. There is low bycatch in other trawl fisheries. The fishery is regulated by quota and has been under moratorium since 1995, and there have been no reported catches since 1993.

**Effects of the fishery on the ecosystem**

No fishery.

**Special comments**

Bottom-trawling is not a satisfactory basis for a stock assessment of a pelagic species and survey results are indicative only. Investigations to evaluate the status of capelin stock should utilize trawl acoustic surveys to allow comparison with historical time series.

**Source of Information**

SCR Doc. 13/46