

Northern Shrimp in Division 3M










Advice September 2014 for 2015

Recommendation

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, and provided in the context of the precautionary approach framework (FC Doc. 04/18).

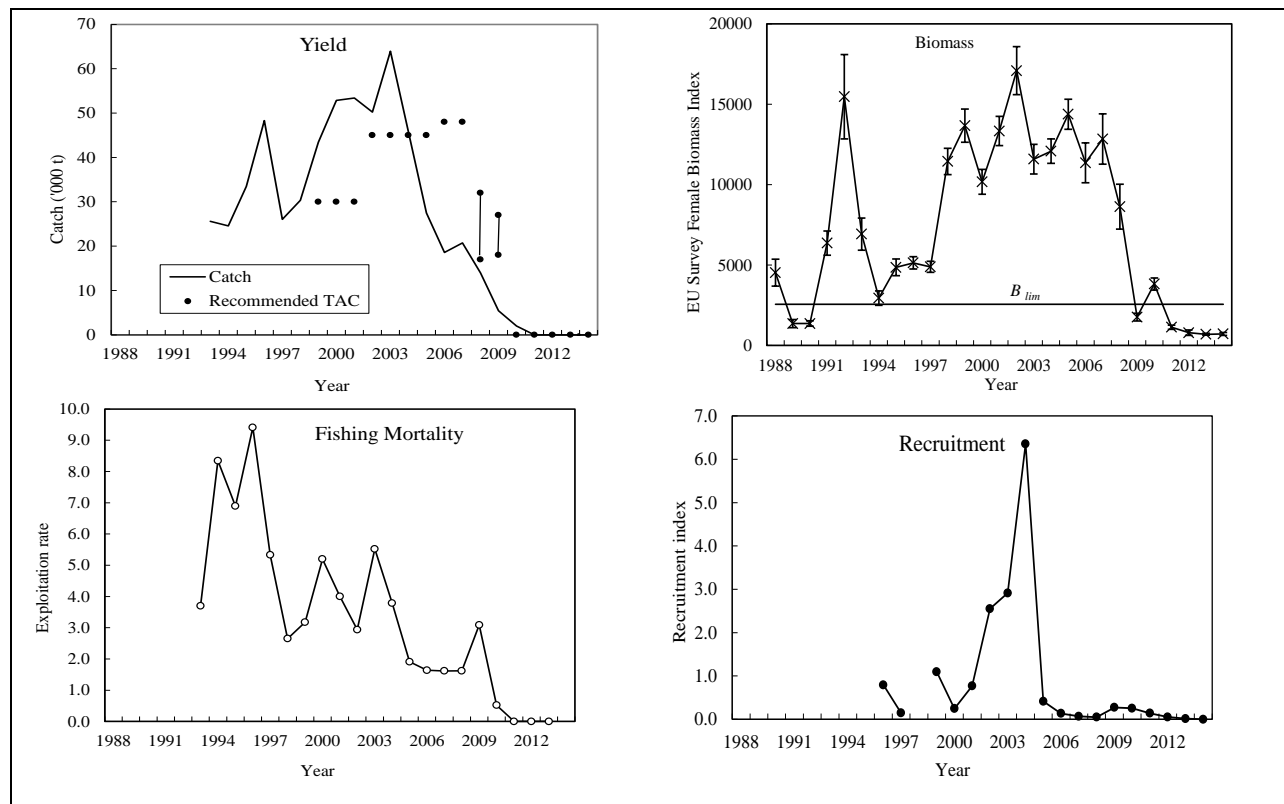
Convention objectives	Status	Comment/consideration	
Restore to or maintain at B_{msv}		Stock below B_{lim}	 OK
Eliminate overfishing		No directed fishery	 Intermediate
Apply Precautionary Approach		B_{lim} defined. No fishing mortality reference point defined	 Not accomplished
Minimise harmful impacts on living marine resources and ecosystems		VME closures in effect, no directed fishery, sorting grids mandatory	 Unknown
Preserve marine biodiversity		Cannot be evaluated	

Management unit

The Northern Shrimp stock on Flemish Cap is considered to be a separate population.

Stock status

Following several years of low recruitment, the spawning stock has declined, and has remained below B_{lim} since 2011. Due to continued poor recruitment there are concerns that the stock will remain at low levels.



Reference points

Scientific Council considers that a female survey biomass index of 15% of its maximum observed level (2564) provides a proxy for B_{lim} (SCS Doc. 04/12).

Projections

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

Assessment

No analytical assessment is available. Evaluation of stock status is based upon fishery and research survey data.

This stock is typically assessed annually. The next full assessment is currently scheduled for 2015. Scientific Council suggests this stock be moved to biennial assessments.

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

The drastic decline of shrimp biomass since 2007 correlates with the increase of the cod stock in Div. 3M. It is uncertain whether this represents a causal relationship and/or the result of an environmental factor.

Results of modelling suggest that, in unexploited conditions, cod would be expected to be a highly dominant component of the system, and high shrimp stock sizes, like the ones observed in the 1998 – 2007 period, would not be a stable feature in the Flemish Cap.

Fishery

This fishery is effort-regulated. The effort allocations were reduced by 50% in 2010 and a moratorium was imposed in 2011. Catches are expected to be close to zero in 2014.

Recent catches were as follows:

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
NIPAG	21 000	13 000	5 000	2 000	0	0	0	0 ¹
STATLANT 21	17642	13431	5374	1976	0	0	0	
Effort (Agreed Days)	10555	10555	10555	5227	0	0	0	
¹ To September 2014								

Effects of the fishery on the ecosystem

No fishery.

Special comments

None

Source of Information

SCR Doc. 14/049, 050