

American plaice in Divisions 3LNO

Advice June 2026 for 2027 and beyond

Recommendation for 2027 and beyond

The Scientific Council did not undertake a full assessment for this stock. Advice for American plaice in Divs. 3LNO is provided based on an Interim Monitoring Report which indicates that there is no change in the status of this stock. Scientific Council reiterates the advice that, in accordance with the rebuilding plan, there should be no directed fishing on American plaice in Divs. 3LNO until an assessment indicates a very low probability of being below B_{lim} . Bycatch of American plaice should be kept to the lowest possible level and restricted to unavoidable bycatch in fisheries directing for other species.

During the 2025 Annual meeting, the Commission requested that in June 2026, advice should be provided for 2027-2028 for Divs. 3LNO American plaice. Consistent with the SC's recommendations since June 2024 and considering the workload of the SC, a full assessment was not performed.

An Interim Monitoring Report updating the most recent survey indices and catch was prepared by the Scientific Council and presented in plenary. Based on current information there is no change in the status of this stock.

SC reiterates that there will be no full assessment until interim monitoring shows that conditions have changed or a benchmark process has been completed. SC has identified this stock as a priority for undertaking a benchmark process, and a proposed workplan to facilitate this work is outlined in Commission request #12. This workplan is expected to be completed in early 2028, with a full assessment of American plaice in 3LNO in June 2028.