

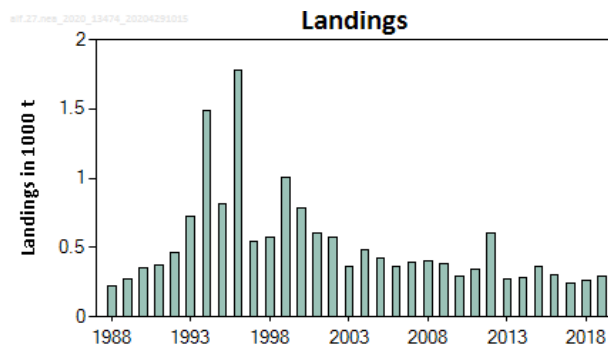
## Alfonsinos (*Beryx* spp.) in subareas 1–10, 12, and 14 (the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)

### ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, landings should be no more than 224 tonnes in each of the years 2021 and 2022. ICES cannot quantify the corresponding catches.

Note: This advice sheet is abbreviated due to the Covid-19 disruption. The previous advice issued for 2019 and 2020 is attached as Annex 1.

### Stock development over time



**Figure 1** Alfonsinos in the Northeast Atlantic. Landings (thousand tonnes) from the main fishing areas for the two alfonsino species (*Beryx splendens* and *Beryx decadactylus*) combined.

### Stock and exploitation status

**Table 1** Alfonsinos in the Northeast Atlantic. State of the stock and the fishery relative to reference points.

		Fishing pressure			Stock size					
		2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019			
Maximum sustainable yield	$F_{MSY}$	?	?	?	Unknown	$MSY B_{trigger}$	?	?	?	Unknown
Precautionary approach	$F_{pa}, F_{lim}$	?	?	?	Unknown	$B_{pa}, B_{lim}$	?	?	?	Unknown
Management plan	$F_{MGT}$	—	—	—	Not applicable	$B_{MGT}$	—	—	—	Not applicable
Qualitative evaluation	-	?	?	?	Unknown	-	?	?	?	Unknown

### Catch scenarios

**Table 2** Alfonsinos in the Northeast Atlantic. The basis for the catch scenarios \*.

Advised landings for 2019–2020 issued in 2018	224 tonnes
Discard rate	Unknown
Precautionary buffer	Not applied (last applied in 2018)
Landings advice **	224 tonnes
% advice change ***	0%

\* The figures in the table are rounded. Calculations were carried out with unrounded inputs and computed values may not match precisely when calculated using the rounded figures in the table.

\*\* Equal to [Advised landings for 2019–2020].

\*\*\* Advice value for 2021–2022 relative to the advice value for 2019–2020.

### Issues relevant for the advice

In subareas 6–9 and Division 10.a.2, these species are classified as Category 4 in the NEAFC categorization of deep-sea species/stocks, which implies that fisheries are primarily restricted to coastal state exclusive economic zones (EEZs). Therefore, management measures are not taken by NEAFC unless complementary to coastal state conservation and management measures (NEAFC, 2016).

For seamounts and ridges in the NEAFC regulatory area in Subarea 10, these species are classified as Category 3 in the NEAFC categorization of deep-sea species/stocks, which implies that NEAFC requires measures to respond in a timely and adequate manner to new deep-sea species fishing activity within the NEAFC Regulatory Area (NEAFC, 2016).

### History of the advice, catch, and management

**Table 3** Alfonsinos in the Northeast Atlantic. ICES advice, the agreed TAC, and ICES landings. Weights are in tonnes.

Years	ICES advice	Predicted landings corresp. to advice	Predicted catch corresp. to advice	EU TAC*	ICES landings
2003	Fishery should not be allowed to expand, unless proven to be sustainable and accompanied by programmes to collect data on (by)catch				361
2004	Biennial				485
2005	Fisheries accompanied by programmes to collect data on (by)catch		-	328	422
2006	Biennial		-	328	367
2007	Fishery should not be allowed to expand, unless proven to be sustainable		-	328	396
2008	Biennial		-	328	407
2009	Fishery should not be allowed to expand, unless proven to be sustainable		-	328	383
2010	Biennial		-	328	291
2011	Fisheries should not be allowed to expand, and a reduction in catches should be considered		-	328	340
2012	No new advice, same as 2011		-	328	605
2013	20% Reduction in catches (average of the last 3 years)	-	280	312	272
2014	No new advice, same as 2013	-	280	296	282
2015	Same catch advice as 2013	-	280	296	365
2016	Same advice as 2015	-	280	296	300
2017	Precautionary approach (same value as advised catches for 2016)	≤ 280	-	280	240
2018	Precautionary approach (same value as advised catches for 2016)	≤ 280	-	280	266
2019	Precautionary approach	≤ 224	-	252	294
2020	Precautionary approach	≤ 224	-	252	
2021	Precautionary approach	≤ 224	-		
2022	Precautionary approach (same value as advised catches for 2021)	≤ 224	-		

\* TAC for EU vessels within the EU and international waters of subareas 3–10, 12, and 14.

**Table 4** Alfonsinos in the Northeast Atlantic. Landings inside and outside the NEAFC regulatory area (RA), as estimated by ICES.

Year	Inside the NEAFC RA (tonnes)	Outside the NEAFC RA (tonnes)	Total landings (tonnes)	Proportion inside the NEAFC RA (%)
2015	141	224	365	39
2016	48	252	300	16.0
2017	0	240	240	0
2018	0	266	266	0
2019	5	289	294	1.70

## Summary of the assessment

There is no assessment for alfonosinos in this area.

## Sources and references

ICES. 2020. Working Group on the Biology and Assessment of Deep-sea Fisheries Resources (WGDEEP). ICES Scientific Reports, 2:38. <http://doi.org/10.17895/ices.pub.6015>.

NEAFC. 2016. The NEAFC approach to conservation and management of deep-sea species and categorization of deep-sea species/stocks. Adopted at the 35th Annual Meeting, November 2016. <https://www.neafc.org/basictexts>.

*Recommended citation:* ICES. 2020. Alfonso (Beryx spp.) in subareas 1–10, 12, and 14 (the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters). In Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2020. ICES Advice 2020, alf.27.nea. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.5823>.