

Plaice / Dab / Sole



Biology facts

Depth Range	demersal, 0-200 m (European Plaice) demersal, 20–150 m (Dab) demersal, 0–150 m (Common Sole)
Max Age	50 years (European Plaice) 12 years (Dab) 40 years (Common Sole)
Maturity Age	2-5 years (European Plaice) 2-5 years (Dab) 3-5 years (Common Sole)
Max Size	100 cm (European Plaice) 40 cm (Dab) 70 cm (Common Sole)
Max Weight	7 kg (European Plaice) 1 kg (Dab) 3 kg (Common Sole)
Prey	thin-shelled mollusks and polychaetes, detritus
Other	Plaice inhabit waters from the western Mediterranean Sea, along the coast of Europe to the White Sea and Iceland. Sole inhabits waters from the Northwest African coast and the Mediterranean Sea in the south to the Irish Sea, southern North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat in the north.

Fishery Facts

Latin Name	<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i> (European Plaice) <i>Limanda limanda</i> (Dab) <i>Solea solea</i> (Common Sole)
Fishing Method	bottom, demersal and beam trawls, Danish seines and gill netters

Spendenkonto

Postbank, KTO: 2 061 206, BLZ: 200 100 20

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Annual catch	113 581 t (FAO 1999), 83 200 t (FAO 2006) (European Plaice) 13 788 t (FAO 2006) (Dab) 43 879 t (FAO 1999), 37 056 t (FAO 2006) (Common Sole)
Management	ICES recommends a closure of the fishery in the Irish Sea in 2009. A recovery plan should be developed and implemented as a prerequisite to reopening the fishery. A multi-annual plan for the sustainable exploitation of the Western Channel Sole will be established. Years 2007-2009 are deemed a recovery plan, with subsequent years a management plan.
Main fishing nations	Netherlands 37 543 t and Denmark 23 123 t (FAO 1999) (European Plaice) Netherlands 5 210 t, Denmark 2 264 t (FAO 2008) (Dab) Netherlands 16 329 t and France 8 203 t (FAO 1999) (Common Sole)
Certification	The Hastings Fleet Dover Sole fishery of <i>Solea solea</i> has been certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) in 2005. The certified fishing method is a trammel net and the fishery is located within The Eastern English Channel, between Beachy Head and Dungeness.

Main Concerns

- **All species are often caught using beam trawling. This method results in significant disturbance to the sea floor, impacting marine habitats critical to the survival of ground fishes and other species. Trawling is indiscriminate, and along with targeted ground fish the gear takes unmarketable, illegal or undersized species that are fatally discarded, adding to the overall fishing mortality of many ground fish species.**
- **Up to 70% of the catch is unwanted and thrown back into the sea dead or dying.**
- **Many stocks of plaice are under high fishing pressure in European waters. Stocks in the Celtic Sea, Western Channel, Southwest Ireland and West of Ireland are in decline. The Irish Sea stock is the only stock classified as healthy with a sustainable fishing level.**
- **Due to overexploitation, only young Soles of 2-4 years old are common in catches and fish over 10 years old are scarce. Nevertheless, stocks in the North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, Eastern Channel and Celtic Sea are classified as healthy but fishing pressure is too high in some areas. Harvesting levels in the Irish Sea, Western Channel and Bay of Biscay are unsustainable.**

Main Sources

<http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/3359>
<http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/3354/en>
<http://www.fao.org/fishery/species/3361/en>

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<http://www.fishbase.org>

http://www.fishonline.org/search/simple/?fish_id=73

http://www.fishonline.org/search/simple/?fish_id=3

http://www.fishonline.org/search/simple/?fish_id=31

<http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2007/may/ple-kask.pdf>

<http://www.ices.dk/marineworld/fishmap/ices/pdf/plaice.pdf>

<http://www.ices.dk/marineworld/fishmap/ices/pdf/sole.pdf>

<http://www.ices.dk/committe/acom/comwork/report/2007/may/ple-kask.pdf>

http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/cr/cr_seafoodwatch/content/media/MBA_SeafoodWatch_AtlanticFlounderReport.pdf

Kelleher, K. 2005. Discards in the world's marine fisheries. An update. FAO Fisheries Technical Paper. No. 470. Rome, FAO. <http://www.fao.org/docrep/008/y5936e/y5936e00.htm>

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