## LING - LANGA

## Molva molva

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The common ling is one of the largest fish of the Gadiformes order reaching a maximum length of 200 cm , with a mean length of $\sim 80 \mathrm{~cm}$ according to data from the annual Icelandic spring groundfish survey. It has a grey dorsal side with a light-coloured ventral side and a touch of yellow in between. It is a demersal fish that preys on fish and invertebrates and can be found at depths 10 and 1300 meters but is most commonly caught at depths between 100 and 400 meters. It reaches sexual maturity at the age of $5-8$ years and $60-80$ centimetres total length. Ling spawns in May and June mostly along the edges of the south, southwest and west of the Icelandic continental shelf.

## THE FISHERY

The fishery for ling in Icelandic waters has not changed substantially in recent years. Around 150 longliners annually report catches of ling, around 50 gillnetters, around 60 trawlers and ten Nephrops boats. Most of ling is caught on longlines and the proportion caught by that gear has increased since 2000 to around $65 \%$ in 2009-2017. At the same time the proportion caught by gillnets has decreased from $20-30 \%$ in 2000-2007 to around $6 \%$ in 2017. Catches in trawls have varied less and have been at around $20 \%$ of Icelandic catches (Table 1).

Most of the ling caught by Icelandic longliners is caught at depths less than 300 m and by trawlers, less than 500 m (Figure 1). The main fishing grounds for ling as observed from logbooks are in the south, southwestern and western part of the Icelandic shelf (Figure 2). The main trend in the spatial distribution of catches according to logbook entries is the decreased proportion of catches caught in the southeast and increased catches on the western part of the shelf. Around $40 \%$ of ling catches are caught on the southwestern part of the shelf (Figure 3). In recent years the main fishing pressure has shifted towards shallower waters (Figure 1).

Table 1. Ling. Number of Icelandic boats and catches by fleet segment participating in the ling fishery from logbooks.
Tafla 1. Langa. Fjöldi íslenskra báta og afli eftir flota, sem taka pátt í veiðum á löngu á Îslandsmiðum samkvæmt afladagbókum.

| YEAR | NUMBER OF BOATS |  |  | CATCHES IN TONNES |  |  |  | SUM |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Longliners | Gillnetters | Trawlers | Longline | Gillnet | Trawl | Others |  |
| 2000 | 165 | 88 | 68 | 1537 | 703 | 729 | 236 | 3526 |
| 2001 | 146 | 114 | 57 | 1086 | 1056 | 492 | 223 | 3174 |
| 2002 | 128 | 92 | 56 | 1277 | 649 | 661 | 248 | 3111 |
| 2003 | 137 | 73 | 54 | 2207 | 453 | 580 | 336 | 3840 |
| 2004 | 144 | 67 | 68 | 2011 | 548 | 656 | 506 | 4000 |
| 2005 | 152 | 60 | 72 | 1948 | 517 | 1081 | 766 | 4596 |
| 2006 | 167 | 51 | 81 | 3733 | 634 | 1242 | 669 | 6577 |
| 2007 | 155 | 59 | 76 | 4044 | 667 | 1396 | 492 | 6889 |
| 2008 | 138 | 43 | 78 | 5002 | 509 | 1509 | 714 | 7993 |
| 2009 | 141 | 46 | 67 | 6230 | 747 | 1540 | 1096 | 9867 |
| 2010 | 156 | 50 | 68 | 6531 | 390 | 1537 | 1411 | 10143 |
| 2011 | 151 | 58 | 59 | 5595 | 241 | 1677 | 1279 | 9060 |
| 2012 | 156 | 48 | 58 | 7477 | 264 | 1398 | 1551 | 10952 |
| 2013 | 163 | 45 | 57 | 6781 | 354 | 2805 | 254 | 10194 |
| 2014 | 128 | 30 | 60 | 10342 | 673 | 2722 | 228 | 13965 |
| 2015 | 159 | 44 | 58 | 7765 | 655 | 1913 | 1218 | 11551 |
| 2016 | 137 | 46 | 60 | 5242 | 689 | 1833 | 820.6 | 8581 |
| 2017 | 132 | 40 | 61 | 4901 | 560 | 1541 | 700.4 | 7703 |



Figure 1. Ling. Depth distribution of ling catches from longlines, trawls and gillnets from Icelandic logbooks.
Mynd 1. Langa. Dýpi eftir veiðarfærum samkvæmt afladagbókum.


Figure 2. Ling. Geographical distribution (tonnes/square mile) of the Icelandic longline ling fishery since 2002 as reported in logbooks by the Icelandic fleet.
Mynd 2. Langa. Útbreið̌sla löngu (tonn/sjómílur) á Íslandsmiðum frá 2002 samkvæmt afladagbókum.


Figure 3. Ling. Catch distribution and proportions by area according to logbooks.
Mynd 3. Langa. Afli eftir svæðum ásamt h/utfalli innan hvers svæðis samkvæmt afladagbókum.

## LANDINGS TRENDS

In 1950 to 1971 landings of ling in Icelandic waters ranged between 7000 tonnes to 15000 tonnes. Landings decreased between 1972 and 2005 to between 3000 tonnes to 7000 tonnes as a result of foreign vessels being excluded from the Icelandic EEZ. In 2001 to 2010 catches increased substantially from one year to another and reached 11000 tonnes in 2010 and remained at that level until 2014, apart from 2011 catches of 9.600 tonnes, when the catches increased to 16000 tonnes. This catch level has not been reached since the early seventies. (Table 5 and Figure 4).


Figure 4. Ling. Nominal landings.
Mynd 4. Langa. Landað̌ur afli.

## DATA AVAILABLE

In general sampling is considered good from commercial catches from the main gears (longlines and trawls). Sampling does seem to cover the spatial distribution of catches for longlines and trawls but less so for gillnets. Similarly, sampling does seem to follow the temporal distribution of catches (WGDEEP 2012).

## LANDINGS AND DISCARDS

Landings by Icelandic vessels are given by the Icelandic Directorate of Fisheries. Landings of Norwegian and Faroese vessels are given by the Icelandic Coast Guard. Discarding is banned by law in the Icelandic demersal fishery. Based on limited data, discard rates in the Icelandic longline fishery for ling are estimated very low ( $<1 \%$ in either numbers or weight) (WGDEEP, 2011:WD02). Measures in the management system such as converting quota share from one species to another are used by the fleet to a large extent and this is thought to discourage discarding in mixed fisheries. A description of the management system is given in the area overview.

## LENGTH COMPOSITIONS

An overview of available length measurements is given in Table 2. Most of the measurements are from longlines. The number of available length measurements has been increasing in recent years in line with increased landings. Length distributions from the Icelandic longline and trawling fleet are presented in Figure 5.

Table 2. Ling. Number of available length measurements from Icelandic commercial catches.
Tafla 2. Langa. Fjöldi lengdarmælinga úr afla íslenskra skipa.

| YEAR | LONGLINES | GILLNETS | D. SEINE | TRAWLS | SUM |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2000 | 1624 | 566 | 0 | 383 | 2573 |
| 2001 | 1661 | 493 | 0 | 37 | 2191 |
| 2002 | 1504 | 366 | 0 | 221 | 2091 |
| 2003 | 2404 | 300 | 0 | 280 | 2984 |
| 2004 | 2640 | 348 | 46 | 141 | 3175 |
| 2005 | 2323 | 31 | 101 | 499 | 2954 |
| 2006 | 3354 | 645 | 0 | 1558 | 5557 |
| 2007 | 3661 | 0 | 76 | 400 | 4137 |
| 2008 | 5847 | 357 | 15 | 969 | 7188 |
| 2009 | 9014 | 410 | 0 | 966 | 10390 |
| 2010 | 7322 | 57 | 0 | 2345 | 9724 |
| 2011 | 7248 | 0 | 150 | 1995 | 9393 |
| 2012 | 12770 | 85 | 150 | 2748 | 15753 |
| 2013 | 10771 | 267 | 122 | 2337 | 13497 |
| 2014 | 6448 | 1286 | 120 | 5053 | 13610 |
| 2015 | 3315 | 1563 | 0 | 5667 | 10545 |
| 2016 | 2483 | 2039 | 0 | 3673 | 8195 |
| 2017 | 1636 | 485 | 0 | 3189 | 5310 |



Figure 5. Ling. Length distributions from the Icelandic longline fleet (black line and grey area) and trawls (red lines) from 2002-2017.

Mynd 5. Langa. Lengdardreifing úr línuveiðum (svört lína og grátt svæði) og botnvörpu veiðum (rauðar línur) frá 20022017.

## AGE COMPOSITIONS

A limited number of otoliths collected in 2010 were aged and a considerable difference in growth rates was observed between the older data and the 2010 data (WGDEEP, 2011:WD07). Substantial progress has been made since 2010. Now aged otoliths are available from the 2000 onwards (Table 3). Most of the ling caught in the Icelandic spring survey is between age 5 and 8 but from longlines the age is between 6 and 9 .

Table 3. Ling. Number of available aged otoliths from the commercial catches.
Tafla 3. Langa. Fjöldi aldursgreindra kvarna úr afla.

| YEAR |  | LONGLINES | GILLNETS | D. SEINE | TRAWLS |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{2 0 0 0}$ | 650 | 200 | 0 | TOTAL |  |
| $\mathbf{2 0 0 1}$ | 550 | 193 | 0 | 150 | $\mathbf{1 0 0 0}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 0 2}$ | 519 | 166 | 0 | 37 | $\mathbf{7 8 0}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 0 3}$ | 900 | 100 | 0 | 150 | $\mathbf{8 3 5}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 0 4}$ | 750 | 100 | 46 | 150 | $\mathbf{1 1 5 0}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 0 5}$ | 750 | 0 | 0 | 100 | $\mathbf{9 9 6}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 0 6}$ | 1137 | 288 | 0 | 231 | $\mathbf{9 8 1}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 0 7}$ | 1300 | 0 | 50 | 550 | $\mathbf{1 9 7 5}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 0 8}$ | 1950 | 150 | 0 | 100 | $\mathbf{1 4 5 0}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 0 9}$ | 2550 | 150 | 0 | 365 | $\mathbf{2 4 6 5}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 1 0}$ | 2498 | 50 | 0 | 400 | $\mathbf{3 1 0 0}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 1 1}$ | 2546 | 0 | 80 | 700 | $\mathbf{3 3 9 8}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 1 2}$ | 4031 | 50 | 50 | 941 | $\mathbf{3 2 9 6}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 1 3}$ | 2863 | 100 | 50 | 800 | $\mathbf{5 0 7 2}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 1 4}$ | 743 | 225 | 20 | 913 | $\mathbf{1 9 0 1}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 1 5}$ | 595 | 300 | 0 | 1003 | $\mathbf{1 8 9 8}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 1 6}$ | 440 | 345 | 0 | 680 | $\mathbf{1 4 6 5}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 1 7}$ | 310 |  |  | 595 | $\mathbf{9 9 0}$ |

## CATCH, EFFORT AND RESEARCH VESSEL DATA

## CATCH PER UNIT OF EFFORT AND EFFORT DATA FROM THE COMMERCIAL FLEETS

The CPUE estimates of ling in Icelandic waters have not been considered representative of stock abundance.

## ICELANDIC SURVEY DATA

Indices: The Icelandic spring groundfish survey, which has been conducted annually in March since 1985, covers the most important distribution area of the ling fishery. In addition, the autumn survey was commenced in 1996 and expanded in 2000 however a full autumn survey was not conducted in 2011 and therefore the results for 2011 are not presented. A detailed description of the Icelandic spring and autumn groundfish surveys is given in the stock annex.
Figure 6 shows both a recruitment index and the trends in biomass from both surveys. Length distributions from the spring survey are shown in Figure 7 (abundance) and changes in spatial distribution the spring survey are presented in Figure 8.


Figure 6. Ling. a) Total biomass indices, b) biomass indices larger than $40 \mathrm{~cm}, \mathrm{c}$ ) biomass indices larger than 80 cm and d) abundance indices $<40 \mathrm{~cm}$. The lines with shaded area show the spring survey index from 1985 and the points with the vertical lines show the autumn survey from 1997. The shaded areas and vertical lines indicate +/-standard error.
 niðurstöður úr stofnmælingu botnfiska að vori og punktar niðurstöður úr stofnmælingu að hausti. Skyggð svæði og lódréttar línur sýna stað̃alskekkju.


Figure 7. Ling. Length distributions ( 3 cm grouping) from the spring survey since 1985.
Mynd 7. Langa. Lengdardreifing úr stofnmælingu botnfiska að vori (3 cm lengdarhópar) síðan 1985.


Figure 8. Ling. Estimated survey biomass in the spring survey by year from different parts of the continental shelf (upper figure) and as proportions of the total (lower figure).
Mynd 8. Langa. Áætluð vísitala úr stofnmælingu botnfiska að vori eftir árum og svæððum landgrunnsins (efri mynd) og hlutfall milli hluta (neð̌ri mynd).

## DATA ANALYSES

There have been no marked changes in the number of boats participating in the ling fishery in Iceland. Most of ling catches are taken at depths less than 250 meters (Figure 1). Spatial distribution of catches has been similar since 2000 with around $80 \%$ of catches caught on the western and southwestern part of the shelf (Figures 2 and 3).

Sampling from commercial catches of ling is considered good; both in terms of spatial and temporal distribution of samples in relation to landings (WGDEEP 2012). Mean length as observed in length samples from longliners decreased from 2000-2008 from around 91 to 80 cm (Figure 5). This may be the result of increased recruitment in recent years rather than increased fishing effort. Mean length has varied in the period 2009-2016 between $82-92 \mathrm{~cm}$ with no clear trend. It is premature to draw conclusions from the limited age-structured data. It can only be stated that most of the ling caught in the Icelandic spring survey is between age 5 and 9; but from longlines the age is between 6 to 10 .

Ling in both in the spring and autumn surveys are mainly found in the deeper waters south and west off Iceland. Both the total biomass index and the index of the fishable biomass ( $>40 \mathrm{~cm}$ ) in the March survey gradually decreased until 1995 (Figure 5). In the years 1995 to 2003 these indices were half of the mean from 1985-1989. In 2003 to 2007, the indices increased and have been for the last five years the highest in the time-series. The index of the large ling ( 80 cm and larger) shows similar trend as the total biomass index (Figure 5). The recruitment index of ling, defined here as ling smaller than 40 cm , also showed a similar increase in 2003 to 2007 and but then decreased by around $25 \%$ and remained at that level until
2010. Then the juvenile index fell to a very low level in 2014 but has since then started showing signs of an upward trend (Figure 5). However, the increase in the juvenile index is very uncertain as it is simply some variation in the length distribution of the survey but not a distinct peak (Figure 6).

The shorter autumn survey shows that biomass indices were low from 1996 to 2000 but have increased since then (Figures 5). There is a consistency between the two survey series; the autumn survey biomass indices are however derived from substantially fewer ling caught. Also, there is an inconsistency in the recruitment indices $(<40 \mathrm{~cm})$, where the autumn survey shows much lower recruitment, in absolute terms compared with the spring survey (Figure 5). This discrepancy is likely a result of much lower catchability of small ling (due to different gears) in the autumn survey, where ling less than 40 cm has rarely been caught.

Changes in spatial distribution as observed in surveys: According to the spring survey most of the increase in recent years in ling abundance is in the western area, but an increase can be seen in most areas. However most of the index in terms of biomass comes from the southwestern area or around 40\% compared to around $30 \%$ between 2003 and 2011. A similar pattern is observed in the autumn survey.

## ANALYTICAL ASSESSMENT ON LING USING GADGET

In 2014 a model of Ling in Icelandic waters developed in the Gadget framework (see http://www.hafro.is/gadget for further details) was benchmarked for the use in assessment. As part of a Harvest Control Evaluation requested by Iceland this stock was benchmarked in 2017 (WKICEMSE 2017). Several changes were made to the model setup and settings which are described in the Stock Annex.

## DATA USED AND MODEL SETTINGS

Data used for tuning are given in the stock annex.
Model settings used in the Gadget model are described in more detail in the stock annex.

DIAGNOSTICS

## OBSERVED AND PREDICTED PROPORTIONS BY FLEET

Overall fit to the predicted proportional length and age-length distributions is close to the observed distributions. (Figures 9 to 12). In the initial years of the spring the observed length proportions appear have greater noise in, however as the number of samples caught the noise level decreases. Similarly, for gears where only a small portion of the ling catch is caught, such as the gillnet, the overall noise is greater than for those gears with greater number of samples.


Figure 9. Ling. Fitted proportions-at-length from the Gadget model (black lines) compared to observed proportions in the spring survey (green lines and points).

Mynd 9. Langa. Hlutfall eftir lengdarflokkum úr Gadget líkani (svartar línur) samanborið við fengin h/utföll í vorralli (grænar línur og punktar).


Figure 10. Ling. Fitted proportions-at-age from the Gadget model (black lines) compared to observed proportions in the spring survey catches (green lines and points).

Mynd 10. Langa. Hlutfall eftir aldursflokkum úr Gadget líkani (svartar línur) samanborið við fengin hlutföll í vorralli (grænar línur og punktar).


Figure 11. Ling. Fitted proportions-at-length from the Gadget model (black lines) compared to observed proportions from longline catches (green lines and points).

Mynd 11. Langa. Hlutföll eftir lengdarflokkum úr Gadget líkani (svartar línur) samanborið við fengin hlutföl/ úr línuveiðum (grænar línur og punktar).


Figure 12. Ling. Fitted proportions-at-age from the Gadget model (black lines) compared to observed proportions in longline catches (green lines and points).
Mynd 12. Langa. Hlutfall eftir aldursflokkum úr Gadget líkani (svartar línur) samanborið við fengin hlutföll úr línuveiðum (grænar línur og punktar).

## MODEL FIT

Figure 13 shows the overall fit to the survey indices described in the stock annex. In general, the model appears to follow the stock trends historically. Furthermore, the terminal estimate is not seen to deviate substantially from the observed value for most length groups, with model overestimating the abundance in the two largest length groups. Looking at the first three length groups (20-50,50-60,60-70) the model appears to discount the recruitment peak observed between 2005 and 2010 as the increase is not observed in the bigger length classes to the same degree. Summed up over survey biomass the model overestimates the biomass in the terminal years.


Figure 13. Ling. Fitted spring survey index by length group from the Gadget model (black line) and the observed number of ling caught in the survey (points). The green line indicates the difference between the terminal fit and the observations.
Mynd 13. Langa. Lífmassa vísitala úr Gadget líkani (svartar línur) eftir stærðarflokkum borin saman við fenginn fjölda langa í vorralli (punktar). Grænar línur sýna muninn á samsvörun gagna og líkans við lok tímabilsins.

## RESULTS

The results are presented in Table 6 and Figure 14. Recruitment peaked in 2009 to 2010 but has decreased and is estimated in 2013 to 2015 to be at low level. Spawning-stock biomass has increased since 2000 and is now estimated the highest SSB estimate in the time-series. Similarly, harvestable biomass is estimated at its highest level in the time-series. Fishing mortality for fully selected ling (age 14-19) has decreased from 0.66 in 2009 to 0.25 in 2015.
This year's assessment shows a downward revision of SSB and an upward revision of fishing mortality compared to the 2014 and 2015 assessments (Figure 15). The reason for this revision is the 'one-way trip' in the data and as the model is now getting closer to the terminal total survey index there is a downward revision of biomass. Therefore, when running an analytical retrospective analysis, a very similar pattern is observed (Figure 16). Nevertheless, some slight inconsistencies were found in input data and catches used in the model. The catches in the model have been updated with official ICES catches as presented in Table 5.


Figure 14. Ling. Estimated biomass, spawning stock biomass (SSB), fishing mortality for fully selected fishes and harvest rate, recruitment and total catches. The dashed line in the SSB plot represents $B_{p a}$. The solid line in the harvest rate plot indicates the target harvest rate used in the harvest control rule, whereas the dashed lines indicate the bounds of the realized harvest rates resulting from the harvest control rule given the uncertainty in the assessment.

Mynd 14. Langa. Áætlaður heildarlífmassi, lífmassi hrygningarstofns, dánartala og veiðidánartala, nýliðun og heildarafli. Brotin lína við lífmassa hrygningarstofns sýnir gátmörk ( $B_{p a}$ ). Heil lína við veiðihlutfall sýnir pað gildi sem stefnt er að̀ með aflareglu, en brotnar línur sýna pau mörk sem búast má viơ vegna óvissu í stofnmati.

## REFERENCE POINTS

At the WKDEEP-2014 benchmark meeting for ling in 5.a the following reference points were adopted.

| REFERENCE POINT | VALUE |  |
| :--- | :---: | :--- |
| MSY B ${ }_{\text {trigger }}$ | 9.5 kt | Based on $\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{pa}}$ |
| $\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{MSY}}$ | $0.24 \mathrm{y}^{-1}$ | Based on stochastic simulations |
| $\mathrm{B}_{\lim }$ | 8.6 kt | Median of the lowest SSB |
| $\mathrm{B}_{\mathrm{pa}}$ | 9.5 kt | Based on the $97.5 \%$ quantile of the lowest SSB |

As part of the WKICEMSE 2017 HCR evaluations, the following reference points were defined for the stock.


The management plan proposed by Iceland is:
The spawning-stock biomass trigger (MGT $B_{\text {trigger }}$ ) is defined as 9.93000 tonnes, the reference biomass is defined as the biomass of ling $70+\mathrm{cm}$ and the target harvest rate $\left(H R_{M G T}\right)$ is set to 0.18 . In the assessment year ( Y ) the TAC for the next fishing year (September 1 of year Y to August 31 of year $Y+1$ ) is calculated as follows:
When SSBY is equal or above MGT Btrigger:
$\mathrm{TAC}_{\mathrm{Y} / \mathrm{y}+1}=$ HRMGT $^{*}$ Bref, y

When SSBy is below MGT Btrigger:
$\mathrm{TACy}_{\mathrm{Y} / \mathrm{y}+1}=\mathrm{HR}_{\mathrm{mgT}^{*}}\left(\mathrm{SSB}_{\mathrm{y}} / \mathrm{MGT} \mathrm{B}_{\text {trigger }}\right){ }^{*} \mathrm{~B}_{\text {ref }, \mathrm{y}}$

WKICEMSE 2017 concluded that the HCR was precautionary and in conformity with the ICES MSY approach.

## COMMENTS ON THE ASSESSMENT

At WKICEMSE 2017 the assessment was benchmarked. Various settings were changed from the previous assessment. Therefore, the assessment in 2017 is not directly comparable to previous assessments of this stock.

## MANAGEMENT

The Icelandic Ministry of Industries and Innovation (MII) is responsible for management of the Icelandic fisheries and implementation of legislation. The Ministry issues regulations for commercial fishing for each fishing year ( 1 September-31 August), including an allocation of the TAC for each stock subject to such limitations. Ling in 5.a has been managed by TAC since the 2001/2002 fishing year.
Landings have exceeded both the advice given by MFRI and the set TAC from 2002/2003 to 2012/2013 but amounted to less than two thirds in 2015/2016 (Table 4). Overshoot in landings in relation to advice/TAC has been decreasing steadily since the 2009/2010 fishing year, with an overshoot of $53 \%$ to $35 \%$ in 2010/2011, $24 \%$ in 2011/2012 and $4 \%$ in 2012/2013. The reasons for the implementation errors are transfers of quota share between fishing years, conversion of TAC from one species to another and
catches by Norway and the Faroe Islands by bilateral agreement. The level of those catches is known in advance but has until recently not been taken into consideration by the Ministry when allocating TAC to Icelandic vessels. There is no minimum landing size for ling.

There are agreements between Iceland, Norway and the Faroe Islands relating to a fishery of vessels in restricted areas within the Icelandic EEZ. Faroese vessels are allowed to fish 5600 t of demersal fish species in Icelandic waters which includes maximum 1200 tonnes of cod and 40 t of Atlantic halibut. The rest of the Faroese demersal fishery in Icelandic waters is mainly directed at tusk, ling and blue ling. Further description of the Icelandic management system can be found in the stock annex.

Table 4. Ling. Recommended TAC, national TAC set by the Ministry, and landings (tonnes) by fishing year (1 September to 31 August).

Tafla 4. Langa. Ráðgjöf Hafrannsóknastofnunar um hámarksafla, ákvörðun stjórnvalda og landaður afli (tonn) eftir fiskveiðiárum.

| FISHING YEAR | ADVICE | NATIONAL-TAC | LANDINGS |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{1 9 9 9 / 2 0 0 0}$ |  |  | $\mathbf{3 9 6 1}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 0 0 / 2 0 0 1}$ |  |  | $\mathbf{3 4 5 1}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 0 1 / 2 0 0 2}$ | 3000 | 3000 | $\mathbf{2 9 6 8}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 0 2 / 2 0 0 3}$ | 3000 | 3000 | $\mathbf{3 7 1 5}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 0 3 / 2 0 0 4}$ | 3000 | 3000 | $\mathbf{4 6 0 8}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 0 4 / 2 0 0 5}$ | 4000 | 4000 | $\mathbf{5 2 3 8}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 0 5 / 2 0 0 6}$ | 4500 | 5000 | $\mathbf{6 9 6 1}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 0 6 / 2 0 0 7}$ | 5000 | 5000 | $\mathbf{7 6 1 7}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 0 7 / 2 0 0 8}$ | 6000 | 7000 | $\mathbf{8 5 6 0}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 0 8 / 2 0 0 9}$ | 6000 | 7000 | $\mathbf{1 0 4 8 9}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 0 9 / 2 0 1 0}$ | 6000 | 7000 | $\mathbf{1 0 7 1 3}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 1 0 / 2 0 1 1}$ | 7500 | 7500 | $\mathbf{1 0 0 9 5}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 1 1 / 2 0 1 2}$ | 8800 | 9000 | $\mathbf{1 1 1 3 3}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 1 2 / 2 0 1 3}$ | 12000 | 11500 | $\mathbf{1 2 4 4 5}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 1 3 / 2 0 1 4}$ | 14000 | 13500 | $\mathbf{1 4 9 8 3}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 1 4 / 2 0 1 5}$ | 14300 | 13800 | $\mathbf{1 3 1 6 6}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 1 5 / 2 0 1 6}$ | 16200 | 15000 | $\mathbf{1 1 2 2 9}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 1 6 / 2 0 1 7}$ | 9343 | 8143 | $\mathbf{8 4 2 6}$ |
| $\mathbf{2 0 1 7 / 2 0 1 8}$ | 8598 | 7598 |  |
| $\mathbf{2 0 1 8 / 2 0 1 9}$ | 6255 |  |  |

## MFRI-ADVICE

The advice for 2019 states: MFRI advises on the basis of an MSY approach that catches should be no more than 6255 tonnes. All catches are assumed to be landed.

## MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

All the signs from commercial catch data and surveys indicate that ling is at present in a good state. This is confirmed in the Gadget assessment. However, the drop in recruitment since 2010 will result in decrease in sustainable catches in the near future.

Currently the longline and trawl fishery represent 95\% of the total fishery, while the remainder is assigned to gillnets. Should those proportions change dramatically, so will the total catches as the selectivity of the gillnet fleet is substantially different from other fleets.

Table 5. Ling. Catches by country (Source STATLANT).
Tafla 5. Langa. Afli á Íslandsmiðum flokkað eftir pjóðum.

| YEAR | BELGIUM | FAROE | GERMANY | ICELAND | NORWAY | UK | TOTAL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1980 | 445 | 607 | 0 | 3149 | 423 | 0 | 4624 |
| 1981 | 196 | 489 | 0 | 3348 | 415 | 0 | 4448 |
| 1982 | 116 | 524 | 0 | 3733 | 612 | 0 | 4985 |
| 1983 | 128 | 644 | 0 | 4256 | 115 | 0 | 5143 |
| 1984 | 103 | 450 | 0 | 3304 | 21 | 0 | 3878 |
| 1985 | 59 | 384 | 0 | 2980 | 17 | 0 | 3440 |
| 1986 | 88 | 556 | 0 | 2946 | 4 | 0 | 3594 |
| 1987 | 157 | 657 | 0 | 4161 | 6 | 0 | 4981 |
| 1988 | 134 | 619 | 0 | 5098 | 10 | 0 | 5861 |
| 1989 | 95 | 614 | 0 | 4896 | 5 | 0 | 5610 |
| 1990 | 42 | 399 | 0 | 5153 | 0 | 0 | 5594 |
| 1991 | 69 | 530 | 0 | 5206 | 0 | 0 | 5805 |
| 1992 | 34 | 526 | 0 | 4556 | 0 | 0 | 5116 |
| 1993 | 20 | 501 | 0 | 4333 | 0 | 0 | 4854 |
| 1994 | 3 | 548 | 0 | 4049 | 0 | 0 | 4600 |
| 1995 | 0 | 463 | 0 | 3729 | 0 | 0 | 4192 |
| 1996 | 0 | 358 | 0 | 3670 | 20 | 0 | 4048 |
| 1997 | 0 | 299 | 0 | 3634 | 0 | 0 | 3933 |
| 1998 | 0 | 699 | 0 | 3603 | 0 | 0 | 4302 |
| 1999 | 0 | 500 | 0 | 3973 | 120 | 1 | 4594 |
| 2000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3196 | 67 | 3 | 3266 |
| 2001 | 0 | 362 | 2 | 2852 | 116 | 1 | 3333 |
| 2002 | 0 | 1629 | 0 | 2779 | 45 | 0 | 4453 |
| 2003 | 0 | 565 | 2 | 3855 | 108 | 5 | 4535 |
| 2004 | 0 | 739 | 1 | 3721 | 139 | 0 | 4600 |
| 2005 | 0 | 682 | 1 | 4311 | 180 | 20 | 5194 |
| 2006 | 0 | 960 | 1 | 6283 | 158 | 0 | 7402 |
| 2007 | 0 | 807 | 0 | 6592 | 185 | 0 | 7584 |
| 2008 | 0 | 1366 | 0 | 7736 | 176 | 0 | 9278 |
| 2009 | 0 | 1157 | 0 | 9610 | 172 | 0 | 10939 |
| 2010 | 0 | 1095 | 0 | 9867 | 168 | 0 | 11130 |
| 2011 | 0 | 588 | 0 | 8743 | 249 | 0 | 9580 |
| 2012 | 0 | 875 | 0 | 10706 | 248 | 0 | 11829 |
| 2013 | 0 | 1030 | 0 | 10212 | 294 | 0 | 11445 |
| 2014 | 0 | 1738 | 0 | 12450 | 158 | 0 | 13930 |
| 2015 | 0 | 1233 | 0 | 11553 | 250 | 0 | 12862 |
| 2016 | 0 | 1072 | 0 | 8582 | 230 | 0 | 9884 |
| 2017* | 0 | 828 | 0 | 7692 | 244 | 0 | 8766 |

*Preliminary.

Table 6. Ling. Results from the Gadget assessment. Estimates of biomass, biomass $40+\mathrm{cm}$, spawning-stock biomass (SSB) in thousands of tonnes and recruitment (millions), harvest rate (HR) and fully selected fishing mortality.
Tafla 6. Langa. Niðurstöður úr Gadget stofnmati. Áætlaður heildarlífmassi, lífmassi 40 cm og stærri, hrygningarstofns (SSB) í púsundum tonna og nýlið̀un (milljónir), veiðidánartala og dánartala.

| YEAR | BIOMASS | B75 | SSB | REC3 | CATCH | HR | F |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1982 | 20,49 | 16,78 | 17,43 | 6,48 | 4,99 | 0,31 | 0,33 |
| 1983 | 19,52 | 13,26 | 14,63 | 0,87 | 5,12 | 0,40 | 0,42 |
| 1984 | 17,75 | 10,91 | 11,19 | 2,72 | 3,88 | 0,36 | 0,40 |
| 1985 | 17,97 | 11,09 | 11,17 | 4,05 | 3,45 | 0,31 | 0,36 |
| 1986 | 19,53 | 12,27 | 11,72 | 1,61 | 3,60 | 0,30 | 0,39 |
| 1987 | 20,57 | 13,52 | 12,50 | 2,13 | 4,97 | 0,38 | 0,51 |
| 1988 | 20,23 | 13,26 | 12,91 | 2,62 | 5,85 | 0,45 | 0,67 |
| 1989 | 18,95 | 12,74 | 12,06 | 4,62 | 5,55 | 0,45 | 0,74 |
| 1990 | 18,71 | 11,30 | 11,32 | 3,91 | 5,56 | 0,50 | 0,73 |
| 1991 | 18,71 | 10,12 | 10,11 | 1,20 | 5,79 | 0,58 | 0,79 |
| 1992 | 17,72 | 9,64 | 9,63 | 3,16 | 5,09 | 0,53 | 0,78 |
| 1993 | 17,72 | 10,30 | 10,24 | 1,82 | 4,71 | 0,47 | 0,79 |
| 1994 | 17,60 | 11,21 | 10,41 | 2,32 | 4,11 | 0,37 | 0,61 |
| 1995 | 18,01 | 11,96 | 11,21 | 3,01 | 3,97 | 0,33 | 0,47 |
| 1996 | 18,73 | 12,41 | 11,82 | 2,18 | 4,07 | 0,33 | 0,44 |
| 1997 | 19,11 | 12,94 | 12,25 | 2,11 | 3,91 | 0,30 | 0,38 |
| 1998 | 19,55 | 13,38 | 12,93 | 1,97 | 4,35 | 0,33 | 0,42 |
| 1999 | 19,34 | 12,93 | 12,92 | 2,91 | 4,62 | 0,36 | 0,45 |
| 2000 | 19,06 | 13,05 | 12,65 | 2,84 | 3,28 | 0,25 | 0,33 |
| 2001 | 20,28 | 13,85 | 13,28 | 4,23 | 3,36 | 0,24 | 0,33 |
| 2002 | 22,23 | 14,72 | 14,18 | 3,31 | 4,53 | 0,31 | 0,38 |
| 2003 | 23,22 | 15,02 | 14,41 | 4,42 | 4,28 | 0,28 | 0,33 |
| 2004 | 25,17 | 15,80 | 15,50 | 5,27 | 4,63 | 0,29 | 0,34 |
| 2005 | 27,62 | 17,13 | 16,60 | 6,84 | 5,20 | 0,30 | 0,36 |
| 2006 | 30,81 | 18,01 | 17,80 | 6,19 | 7,43 | 0,42 | 0,50 |
| 2007 | 32,49 | 18,16 | 17,93 | 9,72 | 7,62 | 0,42 | 0,50 |
| 2008 | 36,07 | 19,17 | 19,04 | 9,13 | 9,28 | 0,49 | 0,57 |
| 2009 | 39,25 | 19,37 | 19,67 | 10,83 | 10,95 | 0,57 | 0,69 |
| 2010 | 42,46 | 20,31 | 20,51 | 11,40 | 11,15 | 0,54 | 0,62 |
| 2011 | 47,02 | 22,92 | 22,56 | 7,55 | 9,65 | 0,41 | 0,46 |
| 2012 | 52,91 | 28,19 | 27,42 | 5,07 | 11,83 | 0,42 | 0,47 |
| 2013 | 55,55 | 32,78 | 32,15 | 2,80 | 11,54 | 0,35 | 0,40 |
| 2014 | 56,41 | 37,28 | 36,59 | 3,06 | 14,25 | 0,38 | 0,46 |
| 2015 | 52,68 | 38,03 | 37,14 | 2,55 | 13,04 | 0,35 | 0,42 |
| 2016 | 48,19 | 37,30 | 35,85 | 3,20 | 9,88 | 0,27 | 0,32 |
| 2017 | 45,69 | 36,76 | 35,29 | 3,85 | 8,77 | 0,24 | 0,28 |
| 2018 | 43,80 | 34,75 | 34,20 | 5,44 |  |  |  |

