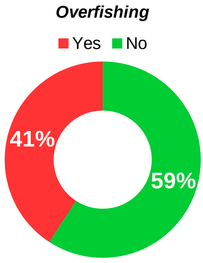
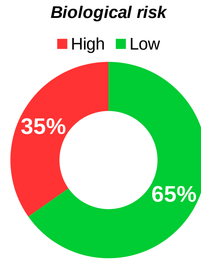
Status of Fish Stocks in Europe
(2018)

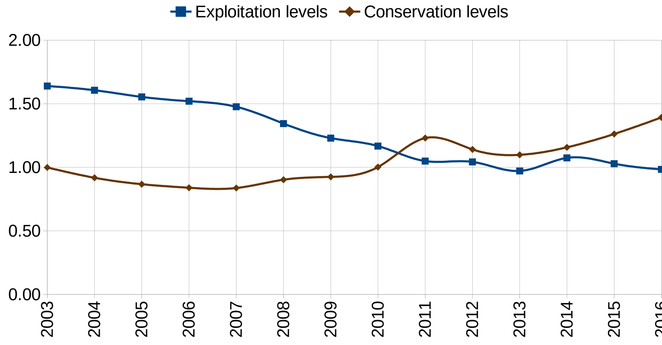
Northeast Atlantic

2016





Trends over time



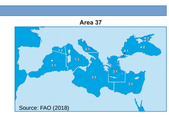
How to read the plot:

The blue line refers to mortality caused by fishing, which should be below 1.

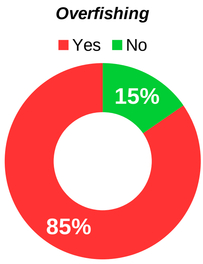
The brown line represents weight of the adult population. Ideally it should be above 1 and show an increasing trend.

The figure above shows that over time conservation levels are increasing (in brown) and exploitation levels improving (in blue). Nevertheless, many stocks remain overfished, 40% in 2016, and/or in biological risk, 35% in 2016 (pie charts). Progress to achieved optimal exploitation (MSY) until 2016 seems too slow to ensure that all stocks will meet policy objectives by 2020.

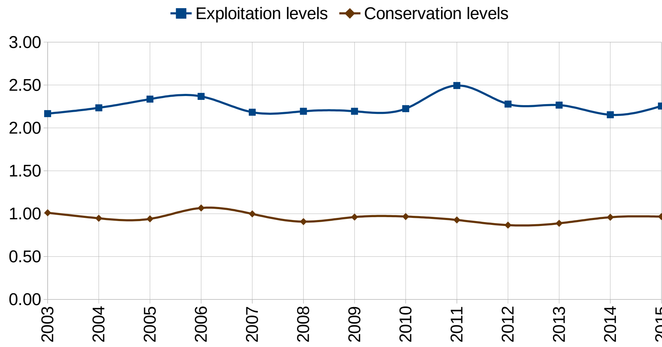
Mediterranean and Black Sea



2015



Trends over time



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In the Mediterranean Sea and Black sea stocks remain in a very poor situation, with no change apparent in terms of fishing pressure or stock biomass. In 2015 85% of the stocks were overfished (pie chart).

Short glossary:

- *MSY: "maximum sustainable yield". The maximum catch a natural resource can provide each year for a long time, in theory forever, which requires that fishing activity doesn't reduce the stock reproductive capacity below its maximum productivity level.*
- *Overfishing: the situation of having a fishing pressure larger than the level which produces catches equal to MSY.*
- *Biological risk: same as "safe biological limits". A stock is within safe biological limits, or exploited at low biological risk, when there's no overfishing and the adult biomass of the stock is in its maximum productivity;*
- *Exploitation level: fishing mortality relative to the MSY reference value;*
- *Conservation level: weight of adult biomass relative to the 2003 value.*

Infographics: Ernesto Jardim <ernesto.jardim@ec.europa.eu>. ISBN 978-92-79-86640-1, doi:10.2760/433699, KJ-04-18-552-EN-N. European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC), Via Enrico Fermi 2749, 21027 Ispra (VA), Italy
Source: STECF, 2018. Monitoring the performance of the Common Fisheries Policy (STECF-Adhoc-18-01). pp 102

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