

# NEPHROPS FU 11-13 AND OUTSIDE FUs



## (NORTH WEST OF IRELAND AND WEST OF SCOTLAND)

### Division 6.a

#### ADVICE FOR 2023

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, and assuming that discard rates and fishery selection patterns do not change from the average of the years 2019–2021, catches and landings in 2023 should be no more than the advice in the table below. The TAC is normally set based on the sum of the ICES landings advice because the landings obligation permits discarding through a high survivability exemption.

Stock Area (Functional Unit)	Catches (Tonnes)	Landings (Tonnes)
North Minch (FU11)	3,784	3,688
South Minch (FU12)	5,242	5,103
Firth of Clyde (FU13)	4,122	3,866
Sound of Jura (FU13)	474	445
Other rectangles	*	< 209

\* ICES cannot quantify the corresponding total catches.

To ensure that the stock in Functional Unit (FU) 11, 12 and 13 is exploited sustainably, management should be implemented at the Functional Unit level.

ICES notes the existence of a management plan, developed and adopted by one of the relevant management authorities for subarea 6. ICES considers this plan to be precautionary when implemented at the Functional Unit level.



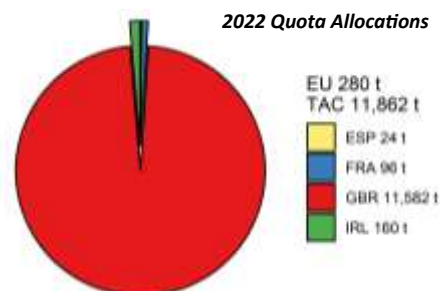
#### KEY POINTS

FU		I1	I2	I3 Clyde	I3 Jura
ICES Assessment Category		I (Quantitative Assessment)			
Management Plan		WWMAP (target); No management plan has been agreed between all the relevant management authorities.			
ICES advice basis		ICES MSY approach			
Ranges	F <sub>MSY</sub> Lower	Catch=2,943 t	Catch=4,165 t	Catch=2,702 t	Catch=371 t
	F <sub>MSY</sub>	Catch=3,784 t	Catch=5,242 t	Catch=4,122 t	Catch=474 t
	F <sub>MSY</sub> Upper	Catch=3,784 t	Catch=5,242 t	Catch=4,122 t	Catch=474 t
Landing Obligation		From 2016		Gear specific high survivability exemption*	
MSY B <sub>trigger</sub> (million individuals)		540	1,020	580	160

\* Described below under Key Stock Considerations, details in (EU 2020/2015).

## MANAGEMENT IN 2022

- The current TAC area and stock assessment area do not match. The TAC area covers Sub-area 6 and Division 5.b. Division 6.a contains three main fisheries, the North Minch (FU 11), South Minch (FU 12) and Firth of Clyde (FU 13) there are also landings outside these FUs.
- Since 2016, EU fisheries catching *Nephrops* in Division 6.a have been covered by the EU landing obligation. Pot, trap and creel and in 2021 most trawl fisheries had a high survivability exemption under the Landing Obligation.



## KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- Irish landings mainly come from outside Functional Units that are not currently assessed using UWTV surveys.
- The sum of the single stock projected landings advice for all functional units in 6 is 13,311 t. This is a 12.2% increase on the landings advice given last year and the 2022 TAC of 11,862 t.
- Under the Landing Obligation *Nephrops* trawl fisheries have a high survivability exemption, based on studies which showed a survivability greater than 50% in Sub-area 6.a (Fox and Albalat, 2018<sup>1</sup>). This exemption applies to otter trawls (OTT, OTB, TBS, TBN, TB, PTB, OT, PT, TX) with a mesh size of 80-110 mm within twelve nautical miles of the coast (EU 2020/2015). There is also a high survivability exemption for creel caught *Nephrops* in Sub-area 6a.

For ICES advice on *Nephrops* in 6.a – please see:

<https://www.ices.dk/advice/Pages/Latest-Advice.aspx>