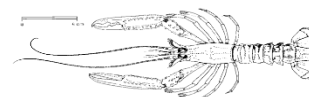


NEPHROPS FU14 (IRISH SEA, EAST)



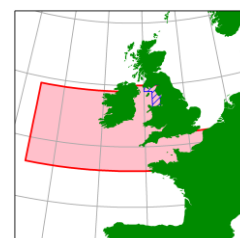
Division 7.a

ADVICE FOR 2024

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 2016–2022, catches in 2024 should be no more than 222 t.

To ensure that the stock in Functional Unit 14 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 7. ICES considers this plan to be precautionary when implemented at the Functional Unit level.



■ TAC/Management area
■ Assessment area

KEY POINTS

ICES assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	WWMAP (target); No management plan has been agreed between all the relevant management authorities.	
Advice Basis	MSY approach**	Catch=222 t
Ranges**	F _{MSY} Range Lower	Catch=336 t
	F _{MSY}	Catch=406 t
	F _{MSY} Range Upper***	Catch=406 t
Landing Obligation	From 2016	Gear specific high survivability exemption*
MSY B _{trigger} (million individuals)	350	

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

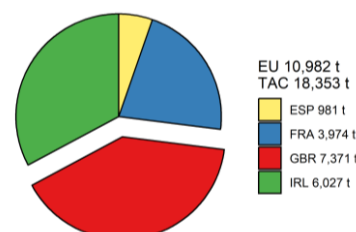
** FMSY × stock abundance (2024)/MSY B_{trigger}

*** FMSY upper = FMSY for this stock.

MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- The current TAC area and stock assessment area do not match.
- Since 2016, EU fisheries catching *Nephrops* in Division 7.a have been covered by the EU landing obligation. Pot, trap and creel and most trawl fisheries had a high survivability exemption under the Landing Obligation (there are negligible creel fisheries in this area).
- Irish vessels (>12 m) fishing *Nephrops* in the Irish Sea are required to use one of four highly selective gears and a cod end mesh size >80mm (S.I. No. 510 of 2016 and EU 2021/2324).

2023 Quota Allocations for Sub-area 7



KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- The advised catch of 222 t results in projected landings advice of 210 t (assuming that discard rates and fishery selection patterns do not change from the average of the years 2016–2022).
- Under the Landing Obligation *Nephrops* trawl fisheries in Division 7a have a high survivability exemption, based on studies which showed a survivability of about 64% (BIM, 2017). This exemption applies to bottom trawls (OTT, OTB, TBS, TBN, TB, PTB, OT, PT, TX) with a mesh size ≥100 mm or with a mesh size 70-99 mm in

- combination with highly selective gear options such as: 300mm square mesh panels, seltra panel, 35 mm sorting grid, CEFAS Netgrid or Flip-flap trawl (EU 2021/2324).
- A high survivability exemption also applies to creel caught *Nephrops* in Sub-area 7.

Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) in Division 7.a, Functional Unit 14 (Irish Sea, East)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

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 2016–2022, catches in 2024 should be no more than 222 tonnes.

To ensure that the stock in Functional Unit (FU) 14 is exploited sustainably, management should be implemented at the FU level.

ICES notes the existence of a management plan, developed and adopted by one of the relevant management authorities for Subarea 7. ICES considers this plan to be precautionary when implemented at the FU level.

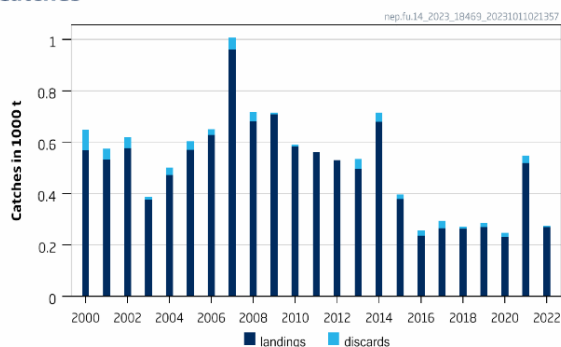
ICES advice on conservation aspects

ICES has not yet identified any conservation aspects.

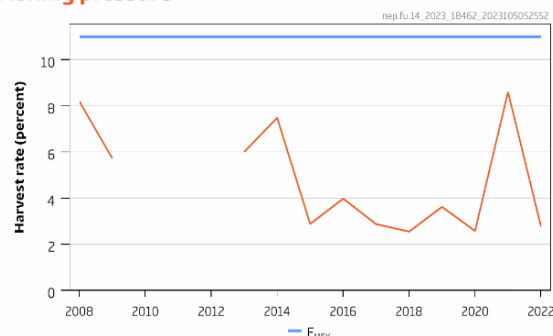
Stock development over time

Fishing pressure on the stock is below F_{MSY} , and stock size is below $MSY B_{trigger}$.

Catches



Fishing pressure



Stock size

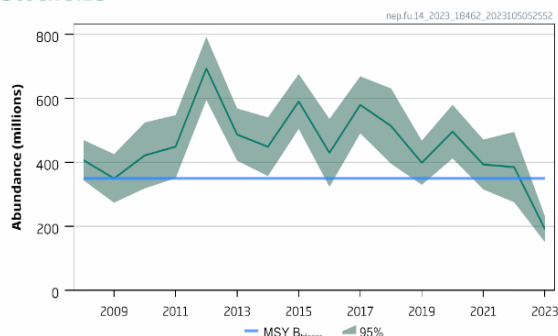


Figure 1 Norway lobster in Division 7.a, Functional Unit 14. Summary of the stock assessment. Catches, harvest rate (sum of landings and dead discards in numbers, divided by stock abundance), and stock abundance (underwater TV survey). No reliable harvest rate estimates exist for the period 2010–2012 because of insufficient catch sampling.