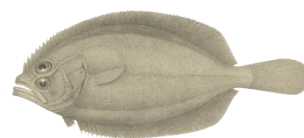


# ROCKALL MEGRIM

## Division 6.b



### ADVICE FOR 2023

ICES advise that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2023 should be no more than 1,022 t.

ICES notes the existence of a precautionary management plan, developed and adopted by some of the relevant management authorities for this stock.

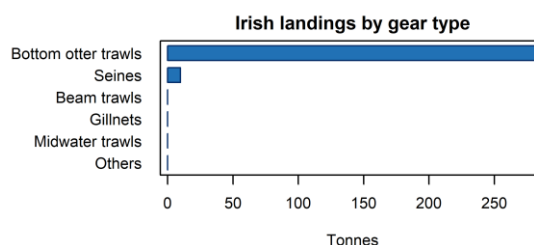
Management should be implemented at the stock level.



■ TAC/Management area  
▨ Assessment area

### KEY POINTS

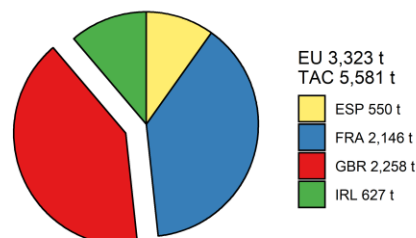
ICES Assessment Category	2 (Quantitative assessment)	
Management Plan	WWMAP (target)	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY Approach	Catch=1,022 t
Ranges	F <sub>MSY</sub> Range Lower	Not Available
	F <sub>MSY</sub>	Catch=1,116 t
	F <sub>MSY</sub> Range Upper	Not Available
Landing Obligation	From 2019	No derogation or exemptions



### MANAGEMENT IN 2022

- The TAC for this stock covers Subarea 6 and United Kingdom and international waters of 5b; international waters of 12 and 14.
- A separate assessment is carried out for Megrim in 4.a and 6.a. The stock at Rockall (6.b) and on the northern shelf (4.a and 6.a) are currently fished sustainably; however, management of two stocks under a single TAC could lead to over-exploitation of one stock.
- There are special conditions allowing quota flexibilities between TAC areas; 20% of the 4 and 2.a quota may be fished in United Kingdom, Union and international waters of 6.a north of 58°30'N and 25% of the 6 and 5.b quota may be fished in United Kingdom and Union waters of 2.a and 4.
- Official Landings in areas 6 are well below the TAC (39%); uptake by France is low at 6% and Ireland utilises its full quota allocation.

#### 2022 Quota Allocations



### KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- This stock was benchmarked in 2021 and the assessment category was changed from 3 to 2; this meant that MSY advice could be provided.
- Most Irish landings in Subarea 6 are taken south of Rockall at depths below 200m in a fishery targeting anglerfish. Some catches of megrim also occur in the fishery targeted at haddock closer to Rockall in shallower water.
- In 2021 Ireland had the highest landings followed by the UK and Spain, with the majority coming from demersal otter trawls.
- Fishing mortality has been stable in recent years and remains below F<sub>MSY</sub>. Stock biomass appears stable and above B<sub>MSY</sub>.