

IRISH SEA COD

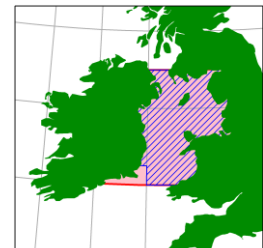
Division 7.a



ADVICE FOR 2024

ICES advises that when the MSY approach and precautionary considerations are applied, there should be zero catch in 2024.

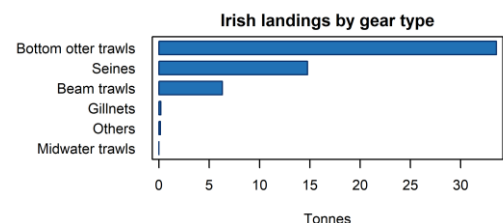
ICES notes the existence of a precautionary management plan, developed and adopted by one of the relevant management authorities for this stock.



■ TAC/Management area
■ Assessment area

KEY POINTS

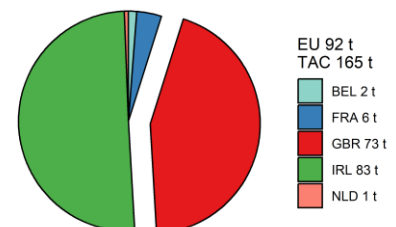
ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	VWVWMAP (target)	
Advice Basis	MSY approach and precautionary considerations	Catch = 0 t
Ranges	F _{MSY} Range Lower	Catch=1,007 t
	F _{MSY}	Catch=1,216 t
	F _{MSY} Range Upper	Catch=1,536 t
Landing Obligation	From 2019	No derogations or exemptions.



MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- The TAC Area covers Division 7.a, which corresponds to the assessment area, however Irish landings taken or reported from 33E2 and 33E3 (off Waterford & Wexford), are transferred into the Celtic Sea assessment (Division 7.e-k). The 2022 reallocation of 30 t accounted for 23% of Irish Sea (Division 7.a) landings and 5% of Celtic Sea (Divisions 7.b-k) landings. The TAC management area covers all of ICES Division 7.a.
- The TAC is exclusively for by-catches. No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota.
- This stock is considered to be a target stock in the Western Waters MAP regulation ((EU) 2019/472) but given the recent state of the stock no directed fisheries were permitted in 2023.
- All EU fishing vessels operating with bottom trawls or seines in ICES division 7a (Irish Sea) with a cod-end mesh size equal to or larger than 70 mm and smaller than 100 mm and with catches comprising more than 30 % of Norway lobster shall use one of the following gears: large mesh (300mm) square mesh panels, SELTRA panel, sorting grid with a 35mm bar spacing, CEFAS Netgrid or Flip-flap trawl.

2023 Quota Allocations



KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- ICES provides zero-catch advice for this stock in 2024, based on precautionary considerations. This is for two main reasons; the forecast is very sensitive to the 2021 recruitment estimate (which may be overestimated) and because the stock is expected to decline below B_{lim} again in 2026 because the 2022 recruitment is estimated to be very weak.
- The assessment estimates a very low fishing mortality in the last decade, despite this the stock is struggling to rebuild. Recruitment remains low relative to the pre-1992 levels indicating lower productivity.
- In recent years more of the catch is taken by vessels targeting demersal fish than those targeting *Nephrops*.
- An EU funded tagging study which concluded in 2019, has indicated some outward migration of mature cod into the Celtic Sea. This needs to be further investigated to determine stock assessment implications.
- ICES has provided catch scenarios which take into account ecosystem drivers (F_{eco}). The inclusion of F_{eco} into the ICES advice framework is under development.