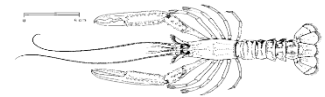


NEPHROPS FU17

(ARAN, GALWAY BAY AND SLYNE HEAD)

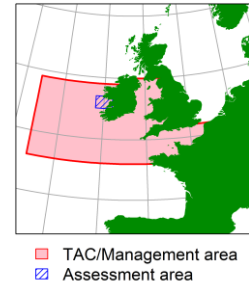
Division 7.b



ADVICE FOR 2024

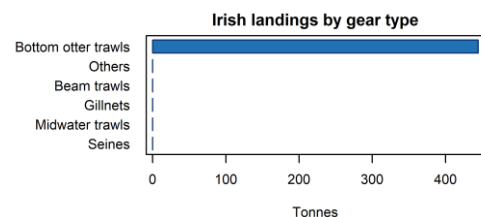
ICES advises that when the EU multiannual plan (MAP) for Western Waters and adjacent waters is applied, and assuming that discard rates and fishery selection patterns do not change from the average of the years 2020–2022, catches in 2024 that correspond to the F ranges in the MAP are between 395 t and 454 t.

To ensure that the stock in Functional Unit (FU) 17 is exploited sustainably, management should be implemented at the FU level. A transfer of advised catch from other FUs to FU 17 could lead to overexploitation.



KEY POINTS

ICES assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	WWMAP (target)	
Advice Basis	Management Plan **	Catch=454 t
Ranges	F _{MSY} Range Lower	Catch=569 t
	F _{MSY}	Catch=653 t
	F _{MSY} Range Upper***	Catch=653 t
Landing Obligation	From 2016	Gear specific high survivability exemption*
MSY B _{trigger} (million individuals)	540	



* 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.

KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- Abundance estimates from UWTV surveys on the Aran grounds have declined significantly since 2004 and have been at or below MSY B_{trigger} since 2012.
- More than 90% of the Irish landings of Aran grounds *Nephrops* come from trips where *Nephrops* was the dominant species, by-catch species include anglerfish, whiting, haddock and megrim.
- Long term average mean weights in landings and discards are used as the most appropriate values to calculate catch options on, to account for the variation seen over time.
- Under the Landing Obligation *Nephrops* fisheries in Sub-area 7 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: square mesh panels, seltra panel, sorting grid or separation panel.
- A high survivability exemption also applies to creel caught *Nephrops* in Sub-area 7.

2023 Quota Allocations for Sub-area 7

