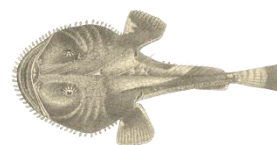


CELTIC SEA AND BAY OF BISCAY ANGLERFISH

Sub-area 7 and Divisions 8.a,b,d

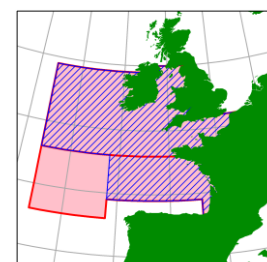


ADVICE FOR 2023

Black anglerfish (*Lophius budegassa*): ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2023 should be no more than 23,436 t.

White anglerfish (*Lophius piscatorius*): ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2023 should be no more than 34,540 t.

ICES also advises that management of black and white anglerfish under a combined-species TAC, prevents effective control of the single-species exploitation rates and could lead to the overexploitation of either species.



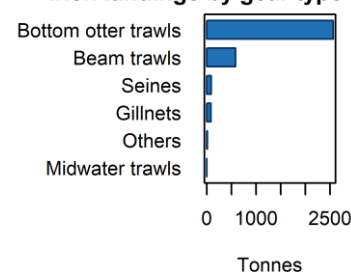
■ TAC/Management area
■ Assessment area

KEY POINTS

	Black anglerfish	White anglerfish
Assessment Cat	I (Quantitative Assessment)	I (Quantitative Assessment)
Management Plan	WWMAP (target species)	WWMAP (target species)
Advice Basis	MSY approach, Catch=23,436 t	MSY approach, Catch=34,540 t
F _{MSY} ranges	F _{lower} Catch=16,483 t	F _{lower} Catch=24,306 t
	F _{MSY} Catch=23,436 t	F _{MSY} Catch=34,540 t
	F _{upper} Catch=33,948 t	F _{upper} Catch=37,757 t
Landing Obligation	From 2019; Area and gear specific derogation*	From 2019; Area and gear specific derogation*

*EC 2020/2015

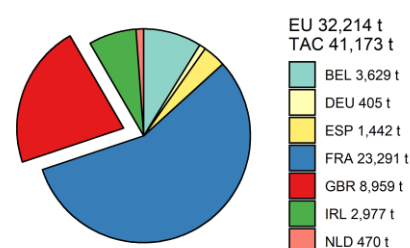
Irish landings by gear type



MANAGEMENT IN 2022

- The TAC applies to combined species of anglerfish because black and white anglerfish are often not separated in the landings. This can potentially lead to over-exploitation of one of the two species. However, both species are currently assessed to be well within safe biological limits.
- There are two TAC areas that cover these stocks: area 7 and area 8.a,b,d,e. Up to 10% of the Sub-area 7 TAC may be fished in Divisions 8.a,b,d,e, but there currently is no flexibility from 8.a,b,d,e to 7.

2022 Quota Allocation Area 7



KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- The advice for the combined species in the two TAC areas is 57,976 t. This implies a TAC for Sub-area 7 of 45,724 t with an Irish quota of 3,306 t – assuming the same allocation between the TAC areas as last year.
- The assessment for black anglerfish indicates that the stock is increasing and is fished below F_{MSY}. The stock was benchmarked in 2022 and this is the first time ICES has provided MSY advice for this stock (the advice was previously based on the precautionary approach). The catch advice for 2023 is 28% higher than the advice for 2022; this is due to an increasing stock size and the change in basis of the advice.
- The assessment for white anglerfish indicates that the stock is fished below F_{MSY}, the stock size peaked in 2020 and is now decreasing. The stock was benchmarked in 2022 and the perception of the stock size is unchanged but the estimated levels of fishing mortality and recruitment have changed. The catch advice is very similar to the advice for the previous year.
- Much of the Irish anglerfish landings come from highly mixed fisheries. They are caught together with megrim, *Nephrops*, haddock, hake and other species. In some areas anglerfish are specifically targeted, mainly along the edge of the continental shelf.