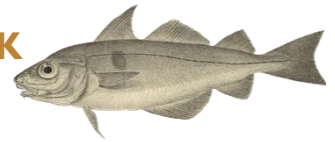


# WEST OF IRELAND AND CELTIC SEA HADDOCK

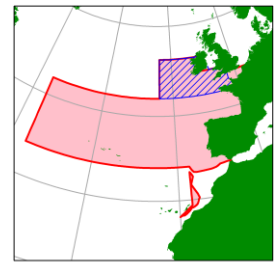
## Divisions 7.b-k



### ADVICE FOR 2024

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2024 should be no more than 8252 t.

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

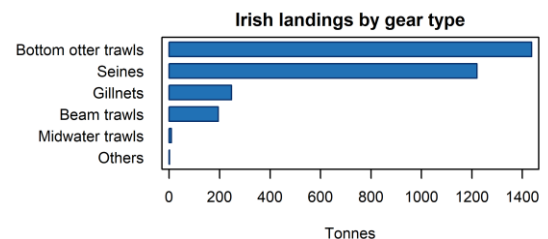


■ TAC/Management area  
■ Assessment area

### KEY POINTS

ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	WWMAP (target); No management plan has been agreed between all the relevant management authorities.	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY approach	Catch=8,252 t
Ranges	F <sub>MSY</sub> Range Lower	Catch=5,492 t
	F <sub>MSY</sub>	Catch=8,252 t
	F <sub>MSY</sub> Range Upper	Catch=11,318 t
Landing Obligation	From 2019	De minimis up to 5%*

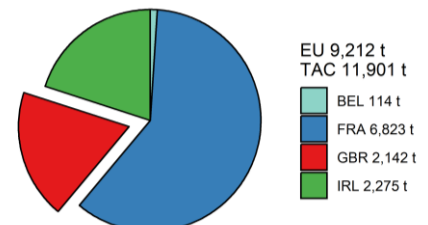
\* Caught using bottom trawls, seines and beam trawls with mesh  $\geq 80$ mm, and requiring reporting (EU 2020/2015).



### MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- The stock assessment area consists of 7.b-k and two rectangles in the south of the Irish Sea, (ICES Division 7.a, rectangles 33E2 and 33E3). This differs to the TAC area, 7.b-k, 8, 9 and 10.
- The reallocation of landings from 33E2 and 33E3 has generally increased since introduced in 2006. The 2022 reallocation of 865 t is the largest to date and accounted for 10% of the assessed Division 7.b-k landings.
- The TAC has been restrictive since 2010, resulting in high discarding.

#### 2023 Quota Allocations



### KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- Owing to extremely low 2022 recruitment and the reduced estimate of stock size the advised catch for 2024 is 31% lower than that given for 2023.
- International discarding of catch has reduced in the past two years (20 and 24% respectively). The reduction in discarding in 2022 may be due to the low abundance of young fish in the stock following the low 2022 recruitment.
- Celtic Sea haddock are caught in mixed fisheries, primarily with whiting, megrim, anglerfish, *Nephrops* and other species. Haddock are rarely specifically targeted but comprise the main component of fishing on demersal species and are widely distributed, making it difficult to control fishing mortality on the stock.
- The zero catch advised for Celtic sea cod and associated low quotas since 2019 will result in cod continuing to be a choke species for all demersal fleets.