

# NEPHROPS FU20 AND 21 (CELTIC SEA)



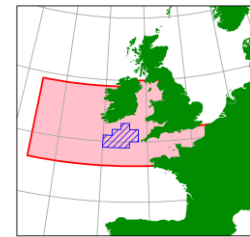
Division 7.g and 7.h.

## ADVICE FOR 2024

ICES advises that when the MSY approach 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 should be no more than 1,865 t.

To ensure that the stock in Functional Unit 20 - 21 is exploited sustainably, management should be implemented at the level of the combined Functional Unit 20 - 21.

ICES notes the existence of a management plan, developed and adopted by one of the relevant management authorities for subarea 7. ICES considers this plan to be precautionary when implemented at the Functional Unit level.



■ TAC/Management area  
■ Assessment area

## KEY POINTS

ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	VWVWMAP (target); No management plan has been agreed between all the relevant management authorities.	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY approach	Catch=1,865 t
Ranges	F <sub>MSY</sub> Range Lower	Catch=1,834 t
	F <sub>MSY</sub>	Catch=1,865 t
	F <sub>MSY</sub> Range Upper**	Catch=1,865 t
Landing Obligation	From 2016	Gear specific high survivability exemption*
MSY B <sub>trigger</sub> (million individuals)	450	

\* Described below under Key Stock Considerations, details in (EU 2020/2015).

\*\* FMSY upper = FMSY for this stock.

## MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- The current TAC area and stock assessment area do not match.

## KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- The advised catch of 1,865 t results in projected landings advice of 1,728 t (assuming that discard rates and fishery selection patterns do not change from the average of the years 2020–2022).
- In recent years (2020–2022) Ireland is the main participant in this *Nephrops* fishery accounting for 81% of the landings.
- Since 2020 there was a notable reduction in the catch and effort by the Irish OTB fleet targeting *Nephrops* in this area. There are various factors contributing to this including market issues.
- Two-thirds of the Irish landings of Celtic Sea *Nephrops* come from trips where *Nephrops* was the dominant species. The remainder are taken in a more mixed fishery and are mainly landed with megrim, anglerfish, cod and other gadoid species.
- Recent three-year average for mean weight in landings and discards are used as inputs to calculate catch options. Sampling levels for landings and discards in this stock remain low, which is an added source of uncertainty.
- 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.

