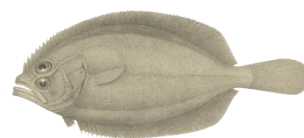


CELTIC SEA AND BAY OF BISCAY MEGRIM

Divisions 7b-k and 8.a,b,d



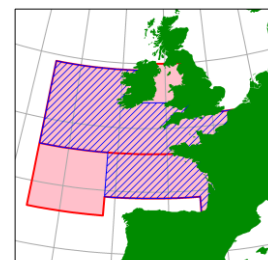
ADVICE FOR 2024

Megrim (*Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis*): ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2024 should be no more than 23,303 tonnes.

Four-spot megrim (*Lepidorhombus boscii*): ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, catches in each of the years 2023, 2024, and 2025 should be no more than 867 tonnes.

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

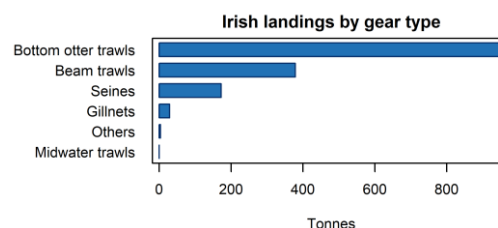
The use of combined species TAC for the two megrim species, megrim (*Lepidorhombus whiffiagonis*) and four-spot megrim (*Lepidorhombus boscii*), prevents effective control of the single-species exploitation rates and could lead to the overexploitation of either species.



■ TAC/Management area
■ Assessment area

KEY POINTS

ICES Assessment Category for <i>L. whiffiagonis</i>	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	WWMAP (target)	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY approach	Catch=23,303 t
F _{MSY} Ranges	F _{MSY} Range Lower	Catch=14,912 t
	F _{MSY}	Catch=23,303 t
	F _{MSY} Range Upper	Catch=37,722 t
Landing Obligation	From 2019	Area and gear specific <i>de minimis</i> exemption*

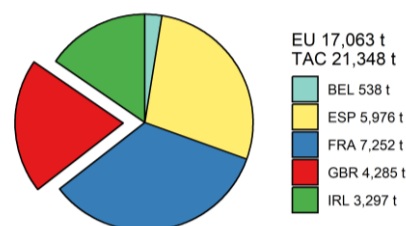


* EU 2020/2015.

MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- There are two TAC areas covering the assessment area. Ireland only has quota for the TAC in area 7. Up to 35% of the area 7 TAC may be fished in 8.a,b,d,e, there is currently no flexibility from 8.a,b,d,e to 7.
- The TACs cover two megrim species (megrim *L. whiffiagonis* and four-spot megrim *L. boscii*). There is separate ICES catch advice for four-spot megrim since 2023.

2023 Quota Allocation Area 7



KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- Most Irish landings are taken as a by-catch in mixed fisheries and are landed with anglerfish, *Nephrops*, haddock, whiting, hake and other species. A small number of trips appear to specifically target megrim.
- The combined advice for both species for 2024 is 24,170 t. This implies an Irish quota for 2024 of approximately 3,397 t. (assuming the same allocation between area 7 and 8.a,b,d,e as recent years).
- The landings are usually lower than the TAC, mainly due to low uptake by France and Spain. In some years, the quota for Ireland has been restrictive.