

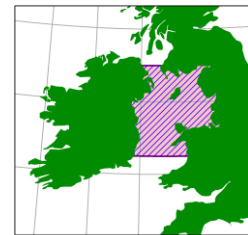
IRISH SEA HERRING



Division 7.a North of 52°30' (Irish Sea)

ADVICE FOR 2024

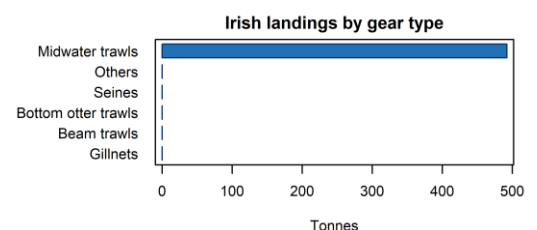
ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2024 should be no more than 7,279 t.



■ TAC/Management area
■ Assessment area

KEY POINTS

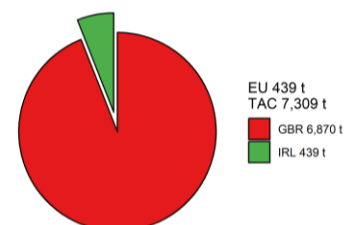
ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	No	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY approach	Catch=7,279 t
Ranges	F_{MSY} Range Lower	Not Appropriate
	F_{MSY}	Catch=7,279 t
	F_{MSY} Range Upper	Not Appropriate
Landing Obligation	From 2015	No derogations or exemptions



MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- The stock and management units are both ICES Division 7.aN.
- There are two closed areas in operation to protect the spawning stock during part of the spawning season and to prevent exploitation of juveniles. These measures were introduced during the period of the industrial fishery in the Irish Sea (1969 – 1979). The area off County Louth and County Down is closed from the 21st September – 31st December and the Douglas Bank area, east of the Isle of Man is closed from 21st September until 15th November (Appendix VI).
- Vessels of less than 40 feet in length may fish within the Down-Louth seasonal closed box, but only using driftnets of mesh size ≥ 54 mm.
- Republic of Ireland vessels are not permitted to fish herring in any part of the 0-12 nautical mile limits off England, Wales, Scotland or east of the Isle of Man. Republic of Ireland vessels are permitted to fish in waters between 6-12 nautical miles, west of the Isle of Man.
- In 2023 the fishery in the Irish Sea was open from the 18th of September to the 18th of November. The Irish quota in 7.aN is allocated to vessels on a lottery basis.

2023 Quota Allocations



KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- SSB has been above the reference points since 2005 and F has been below the reference points since 2004.
- Average catches from 2005-2017 were around 4,750 t. From 2018-2022 the average catch increased to over 7,200 t due to increased TACs. Ireland caught close to their full quota in 2018 - 2021. There was lower uptake in 2022 with 492 t taken.
- The assessment is carried out on a mixed stock and may overestimate the Irish Sea stock due to the presence of herring from other stocks.

- Genetic work on stock identification of the Irish Sea and Celtic Sea herring populations is on-going. Tools to identify fish from each population have been developed and indicate mixing of mature and immature individuals primarily in the area to the west of the Isle of Man.

Herring (*Clupea harengus*) in Division 7.a North of 52°30'N (Irish Sea)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2024 should be no more than 7279 tonnes.

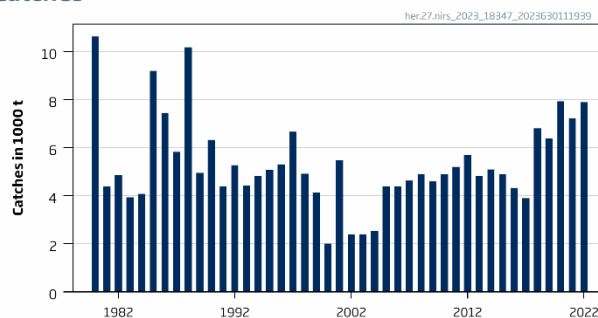
ICES advice on conservation aspects

Activities that have a negative impact on the spawning habitat of herring are considered as a source of risk for the species. For the time being, ICES has not identified any further conservation actions.

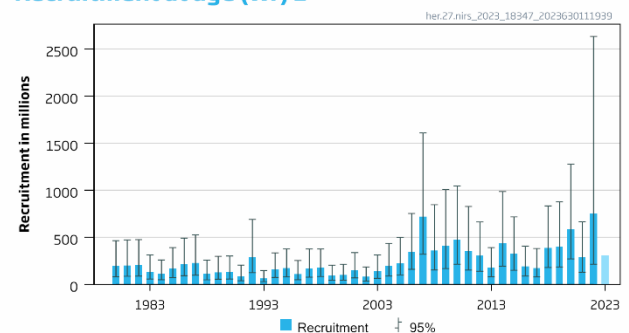
Stock development over time

Fishing pressure on the stock is below F_{MSY} , and spawning-stock size is above MSY $B_{trigger}$, B_{pa} , and B_{lim} .

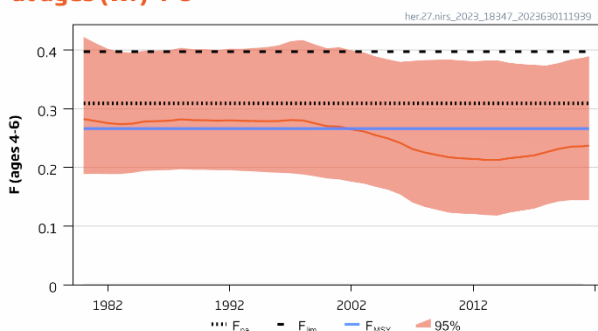
Catches



Recruitment at age (wr) 1



F at ages (wr) 4-6



SSB

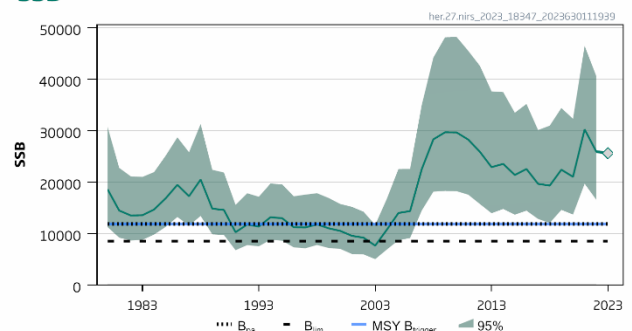


Figure 1 Herring in Division 7.a North of 52°30'N. Summary of the stock assessment. The assumed final-year recruitment value is in a lighter shade, and the predicted SSB is shown with a grey diamond. Wr is winter ring.

Conservation status

ICES is not aware of any information on stock/species-specific conservation status.