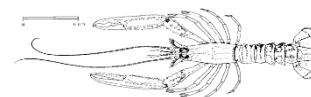


NEPHROPS FU20 AND 21 (CELTIC SEA)



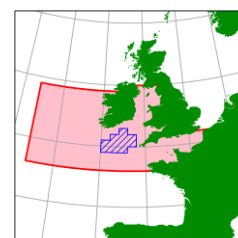
Division 7.g and 7.h.

ADVICE FOR 2023

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 2019–2021, catches in 2023 should be no more than 1,803 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.

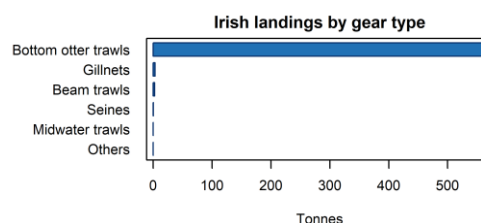


■ TAC/Management area
■ Assessment area

KEY POINTS

ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	WVWMA (target); No management plan has been agreed between all the relevant management authorities.	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY approach	Catch=1,803 t
Ranges	F _{MSY} Range Lower	Catch=1,773 t
	F _{MSY}	Catch=1,803 t
	F _{MSY} Range Upper	Catch=1,803 t
Landing Obligation	From 2016	Gear specific high survivability exemption*
MSY B _{trigger} (million individuals)	450	

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

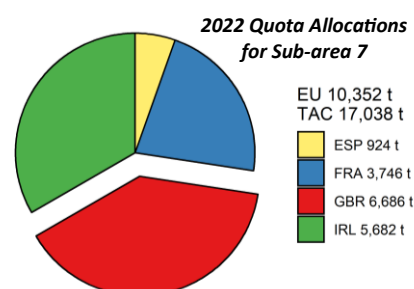


MANAGEMENT IN 2022

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

KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- The advised catch of 1,803 t results in projected landings advice of 1,620 t (assuming that discard rates and fishery selection patterns do not change from the average of the years 2019–2021).
- In recent years (2019-2021) Ireland is the main participant in this *Nephrops* fishery accounting for 81% of the landings.
- The decrease in catch advice for 2023 compared to last year is directly linked to the decreased estimate of stock abundance in 2022. The latest estimate of stock abundance is above MSY B_{trigger} and the third lowest observed in the time series.
- In 2020 and also in 2021 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 related to COVID-19.
- 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.

Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) in divisions 7.g and 7.h, functional units 20 and 21 (Celtic Sea)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

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 2019–2021, catches in 2023 should be no more than 1803 tonnes.

To ensure that the stock in functional units (FUs) 20–21 is exploited sustainably, management should be implemented at the level of the combined FU 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 FU level.

Stock development over time

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



Figure 1 Norway lobster in divisions 7.g and 7.h, functional units 20–21. Summary of the stock assessment. Catches (discard data only available from 2012), harvest rate (sum of landings and dead discards in numbers divided by stock abundance), and stock abundance (underwater TV survey).