

WEST OF SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN NORTH SEA MEGRIM

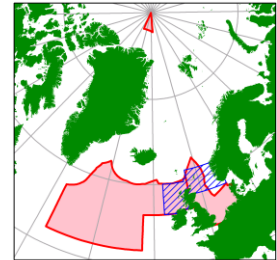


Sub-areas 4.a & 6.a

ADVICE FOR 2023

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2023 should be no more than 7,200 t.

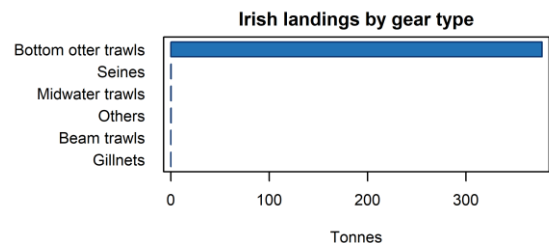
ICES notes the existence of a precautionary management plan, developed and adopted by some of the relevant management authorities for this stock.



■ TAC/Management area
■ Assessment area

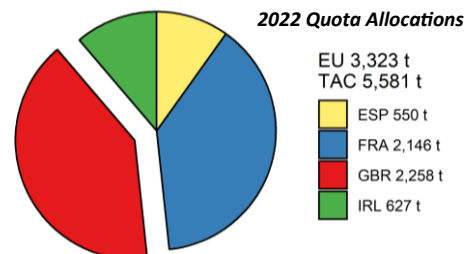
KEY POINTS

ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	WWMAP (target)	
Advice basis	ICES MSY approach	Catch=7,200 t
Ranges	F_{MSY} Range Lower	Catch=5,550 t
	F_{MSY}	Catch=7,200 t
	F_{MSY} Range Upper	Catch=7,200 t
Landing Obligation	From 2019	No derogations or exemptions



MANAGEMENT IN 2022

- There are two TAC areas, the first covers the United Kingdom and Union waters of 4 and United Kingdom waters of 2.a. The second covers Sub-area 6 and United Kingdom and international waters of 5.b; international waters of 12 and 14. Ireland has no quota in the TAC area 2.a and 4.
- There are special conditions allowing quota flexibilities between TAC areas; 20% of the 4 and 2.a quota may be fished in United Kingdom, Union and international waters of 6a north of 58°30'N and 25% of the 6 and 5.b quota may be fished in United Kingdom and Union waters of 2.a and 4.
- For assessment purposes, megrim in 4.a and 6.a are considered a single stock; with megrim in 6.b a separate stock. The assessment areas are therefore incompatible with the TAC areas.
- Official Landings in areas 6 are well below the TAC (39%); uptake by France is low at 6% and Ireland usually utilises its full quota allocation.



KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- Megrim landings in 6.a are taken as a by-catch in mixed fisheries primarily landed with haddock, other gadoids and anglerfish. Irish Landings in 2021 were 378 tonnes; representing a large increase compared to recent years.
- Irish discards are primarily from bottom otter trawls targeting mixed demersal fish with a mesh size 100-119mm.
- The state of the stock has not changed substantially since last year; fishing mortality has remained below F_{MSY} since 2002, and biomass has been above $MSY B_{trigger}$ for the entire time series.