

# IRISH SEA SOLE

## Division 7.a



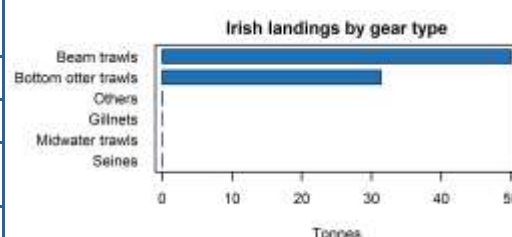
### ADVICE FOR 2023

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2023 should be no more than 605 t.



### KEY POINTS

ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	WWMAP (bycatch)	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY approach	Catch=605 t
Ranges	F <sub>MSY</sub> Range Lower	Not Appropriate (bycatch)
	F <sub>MSY</sub>	Catch=605 t
	F <sub>MSY</sub> Range Upper	Not Appropriate (bycatch)
Landing Obligation	From 2019	De minimis up to 3%*

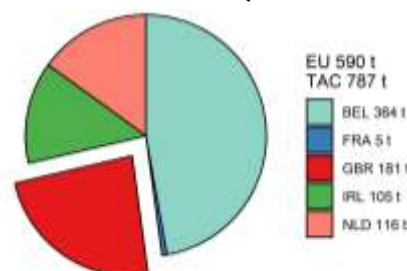


\* Beam trawlers using mesh size 80-119mm with increased selectivity (EC 2020/2015)

### MANAGEMENT IN 2022

- The stock and management units are both ICES Division 7.a.
- The TAC is set at 787 t. The EU component is 590 t and the Irish quota allocation is 105 t.

#### 2022 Quota Allocations



### KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- The stock is now estimated to be above MSY  $B_{trigger}$  after a period of better recruitment and low fishing mortality.
- Discard data is not included in the assessment but shows an increase in recent years from 3.6% (2016-2018) to 11.5% (2019-2021). If this increase in discarding continues, it might be recommended to include discards in the assessment.
- Irish landings of Irish Sea sole are mainly taken as a minor bycatch in mixed fisheries targeting rays and plaice in the St. George's Channel and to a lesser extent also in the *Nephrops* fishery. Most landings are from beam trawlers but an increasing proportion of landings are from the otter trawl fleets.