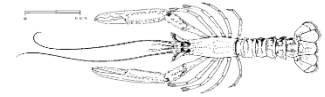


# NEPHROPS FU11-13 AND OUTSIDE FUs



## (NORTH WEST OF IRELAND AND WEST OF SCOTLAND)

### Division 6.a

#### ADVICE FOR 2024

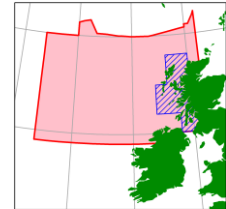
ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, and assuming that discard rates and fishery selection patterns do not change from the average of the years 2020–2022, catches and landings in 2024 should be no more than the advice in the table below. The TAC is normally set based on the sum of the ICES landings advice because the landings obligation permits discarding through a high survivability exemption.

Stock Area (Functional Unit)	Catches (Tonnes)	Landings (Tonnes)
North Minch (FU11)	4,218	4,107
South Minch (FU12)	4,696	4,557
Firth of Clyde (FU13)	3,870	3,685
Sound of Jura (FU13)	657	625
Other rectangles	*	< 167

\* ICES cannot quantify the corresponding total catches.

To ensure that the stock in Functional Unit (FU) 11, 12 and 13 is exploited sustainably, management should be implemented at the Functional Unit level.

ICES notes the existence of a management plan, developed and adopted by one of the relevant management authorities for subarea 6. ICES considers this plan to be precautionary when implemented at the Functional Unit level.



□ TAC/Management area  
□ Assessment area

#### KEY POINTS

FU		11	12	13 Clyde	13 Jura	Outside FU
ICES Assessment Category		I (Quantitative Assessment)				5 (Landings only)
Management Plan		WWMAP (target); No management plan has been agreed between all the relevant management authorities.				
ICES advice basis		ICES MSY approach				ICES PA approach Landings < 167 t
Ranges	F <sub>MSY</sub> Lower	Catch=3,281 t	Catch=3,733 t	Catch=2,537 t	Catch=513 t	Ranges not available
	F <sub>MSY</sub>	Catch=4,218 t	Catch=4,696 t	Catch=3,870 t	Catch=657 t	
	F <sub>MSY</sub> Upper	Catch=4,218 t	Catch=4,696 t	Catch=3,870 t	Catch=657 t	
Landing Obligation		From 2016; Gear specific high survivability exemption*				
MSY B <sub>trigger</sub> (million individuals)		540	960	580	160	Not applicable

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

## MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- The current TAC area and stock assessment area do not match. The TAC area covers Sub-area 6 and Division 5.b. Division 6.a contains three main fisheries, the North Minch (FU 11), South Minch (FU 12) and Firth of Clyde (FU 13) there are also landings outside these FUs.
- Since 2016, EU fisheries catching *Nephrops* in Division 6.a have been covered by the EU landing obligation. Pot, trap and creel most trawl fisheries had a high survivability exemption under the Landing Obligation.



## KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- Irish landings mainly come from outside Functional Units that are not currently assessed using UWTV surveys.
- The sum of the single stock projected landings advice for all functional units in 6 is 13,141 t. This is a 1% decrease on the landings advice given last year and the 2023 TAC of 13,311 t.
- Under the Landing Obligation *Nephrops* trawl fisheries have a high survivability exemption, based on studies which showed a survivability greater than 50% in Sub-area 6.a (Fox and Albalat, 2018<sup>1</sup>). This exemption applies to otter trawls (OTT, OTB, TBS, TBN, TB, PTB, OT, PT, TX) with a mesh size of 80-110 mm within twelve nautical miles of the coast (EU 2020/2015). There is also a high survivability exemption for creel caught *Nephrops* in Sub-area 6a.

**For ICES advice on *Nephrops* in 6.a – please see:**

<https://www.ices.dk/advice/Pages/Latest-Advice.aspx>

Fox, C., and Albalat, A. 2018. Post-catch survivability of discarded Norway lobsters (*Nephrops norvegicus*): Further investigations within the large-scale fleet operation. Final project report FIS projects FIS015. Fisheries Innovation Scotland. 219 pp. <https://fiscot.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/fis015-revised.pdf>