

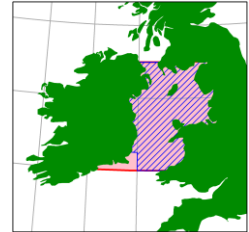
IRISH SEA WHITING

Division 7.a



ADVICE FOR 2024

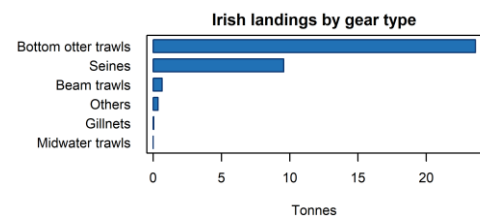
ICES advises that when the MSY approach and precautionary considerations are applied, there should be zero catches in 2024 and 2025.



TAC/Management area
Assessment area

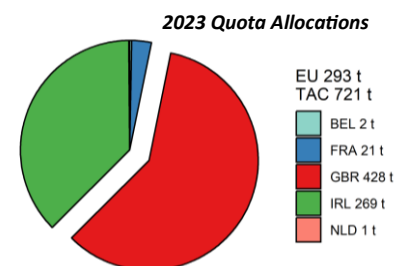
KEY POINTS

ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative assessment)	
Management Plan	WWMAP (bycatch)	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY Approach	Catch=0 t
Ranges	F _{MSY} Range Lower	Not appropriate (bycatch)
	F _{MSY}	Not available
	F _{MSY} Range Upper	Not appropriate (bycatch)
Landing Obligation	From 2019	No derogations or exemptions



MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- The stock area does not include landings taken or reported in 33E2 and 33E3, these ICES rectangles accounted for an average of 24% of the ICES Division 7.a landings over the last five years. The TAC management area covers all of Division 7.a.



KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- The stock is still well below B_{lim} and shows no signs of recovery.
- The majority of whiting caught are discards in the *Nephrops* fishery and are below MCRS. Despite the introduction of several technical measures to reduce finfish catch and discards in the *Nephrops* fishery, the total discards estimates remain high. In 2022, 95% of the total catch of 1,043 t was discarded (986 t).
- Whiting is a potential choke species for *Nephrops* fisheries in the Irish Sea.