

# BLUE WHITING



## Subareas 1-9, 12 and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)

### ADVICE FOR 2023

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2023 should be no more than 1,359,629 t.

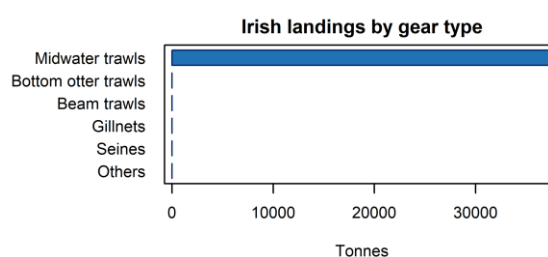


■ TAC/Management area  
■ Assessment area

### KEY POINTS

ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management plan	Yes (European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Norway in 2016)	
Advice Basis	MSY	Catch=1,359,629 t
	F <sub>MSY</sub> Range Lower	Not Available
Ranges	F <sub>MSY</sub>	Catch=1,359,629 t
	F <sub>MSY</sub> Range Upper	Not Available
Landing Obligation	From 2015	Fleet specific <i>de minimis</i> exemption for 2021-2023*

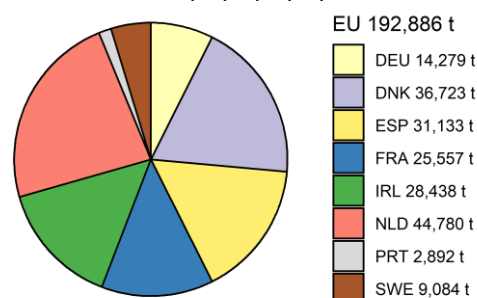
\* Commission delegated regulation 2020/2015



### MANAGEMENT IN 2022

- A long-term management strategy was agreed by the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Norway in 2016. ICES evaluated the strategy in 2016 and found it to be precautionary.
- Since 2014, no sharing agreement has been in place between the Coastal States for the blue whiting stock and total catches have exceeded advice.
- In 2022, the catch is estimated at 1,107,529 t (based on declared quotas and expected uptake), substantially in excess of the catch advice of 752,736 t.
- Ireland has a share of the EU quota, in Sub-areas 1-7, Divisions 8.a, 8.b, 8.d, 8.e and Sub-areas 12 and 14.
- A separate EU quota exists for 8.c, 9 and 10. There is no Irish quota in these areas.
- The EU TAC may be adjusted subject to transfers in the EU- Norway agreement.

#### 2022 Quota Allocations for EU parties – Divisions 1 – 7, 8a, 8b, 8d, 8e, 12 and 14



### KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- Following three consecutive years of below average recruitment, stock size declined between 2017 and 2021. However, recruitment in 2021 is strong and leads to an increase in stock size and consequently higher catch advice for 2023.

- The long-term management strategy was evaluated in 2016 and did not take into account consistent deviations from the management strategy catch advice, nor the suspension of TAC change limits when the change is greater than 40%. Therefore, the long-term management strategy may no longer be precautionary and the advice is given on the basis of the MSY approach.

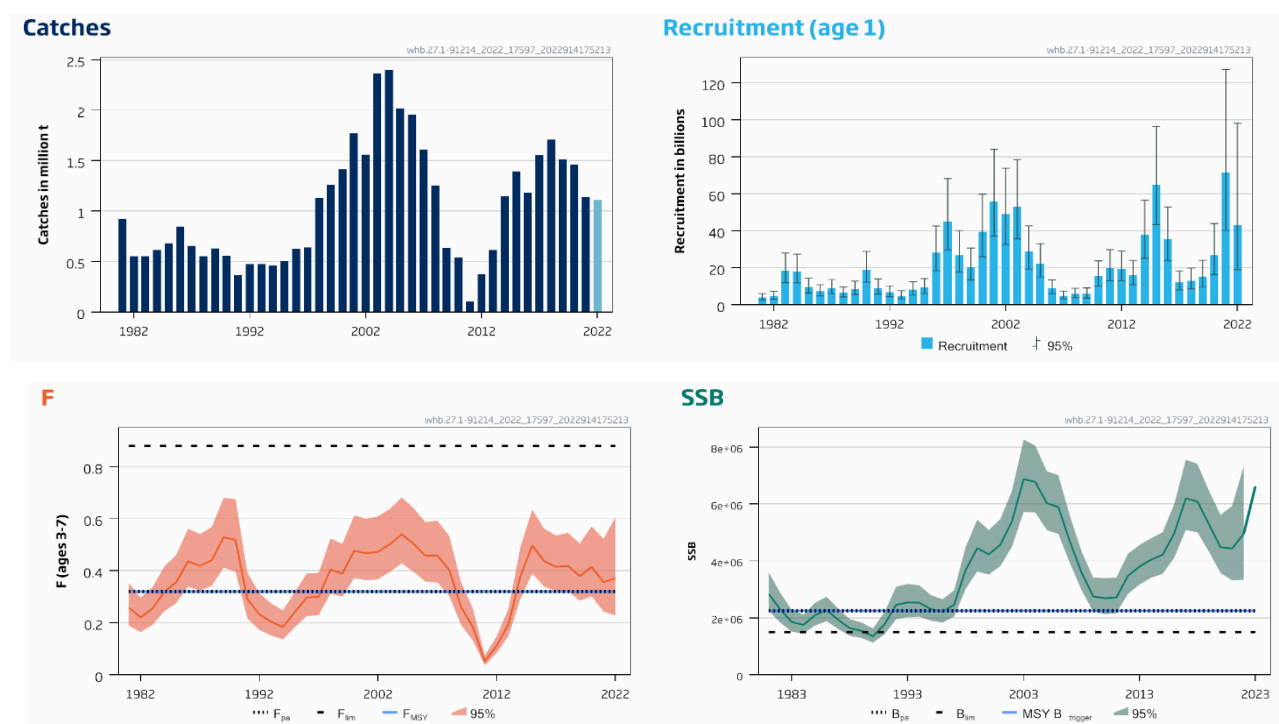
## Blue whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*) in Subareas 1–9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent water)

### ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2023 should be no more than 1 359 629 tonnes.

### Stock development over time

Fishing pressure on the stock is above  $F_{MSY}$  and  $F_{pa}$  but below  $F_{lim}$ ; spawning-stock size is above MSY  $B_{trigger}$ ,  $B_{pa}$ , and  $B_{lim}$ .



**Figure 1** Blue whiting in subareas 1–9, 12, and 14. Summary of the stock assessment. The catch estimate for 2022 is preliminary. The assumed recruitment value for 2023 is shaded in a lighter colour.