

WESTERN HORSE MACKEREL



Sub-area 8 and Divisions 2.a, 4.a, 5.b, 6.a, 7.a–c and 7.e–k

ADVICE FOR 2023

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied there should be zero catch in 2023.

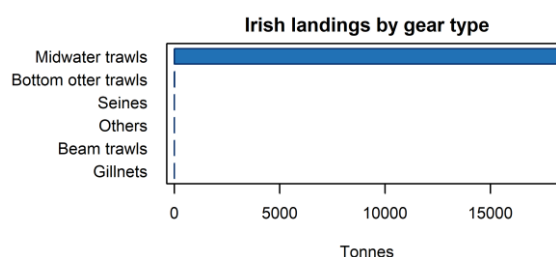


□ TAC/Management area
□ Assessment area

KEY POINTS

ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	No	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY approach	Catch=0 t
	F_{MSY} Range Lower	Not available
Ranges	F_{MSY}	Catch=73,950 t
	F_{MSY} Range Upper	Not available
Landing Obligation	From 2015	Area and gear specific de minimis exemptions in 2021-23*

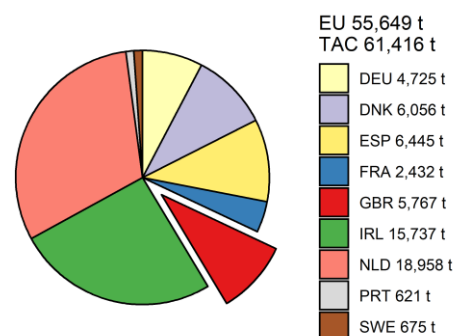
* Commission delegated regulation 2020/2015



MANAGEMENT IN 2022

- The TAC only applies to EU and UK waters. There are occasional fisheries outside the TAC area that are not limited by the TAC.
- Since 2005, ICES advice for the Western Stock has included Division 8.c, although the EU continues to set a separate TAC for Division 8.c.
- Up to 5% of the quota may be fished in United Kingdom and EU waters of Divisions 2.a and 4.a before 30th June and counted against the North Sea Horse Mackerel quota.
- Up to 5% of the quota may consist of bycatches of boarfish, haddock, whiting and mackerel provided that, in combination with provisions for other bycatch species, the total does not exceed 9% of the quota.

2022 quota allocation for Divisions 2.a, 4.a, 5.b, 6, 7.a–c, 7.e–k, 8abde, 12 and 14



KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- The 2022 assessment shows the same trend as the previous assessment, but rescales the absolute level of SSB and F . SSB is below B_{lim} (834,480 t) and forecast to remain below in 2024 under all catch scenarios.
- F has been revised upward with the current estimate above F_{MSY} (0.074) and between F_{pa} (0.079) and F_{lim} (0.103).
- In the past, the stock and fishery have been dependent on occasional high recruitments. Recruitment estimates for 2014-2018 were around average but are estimated to be low from 2019 -2021.
- The Pelagic Advisory Council have proposed a rebuilding plan for this stock. This was reviewed by ICES in 2021 and was found to be precautionary in the long term. A catch scenario consistent with the plan has been provided by ICES this year. The recovery time frame will differ from that indicated during the evaluation as the perception of the stock has changed following the 2022 assessment.