

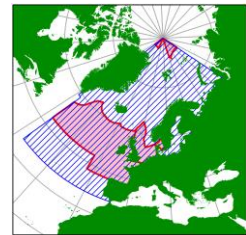
SPURDOG IN THE NORTHEAST ATLANTIC

Sub-areas I-I4



ADVICE FOR 2024

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2023 and 2024 should be no more than 17,353 t and 17,855 t, respectively.



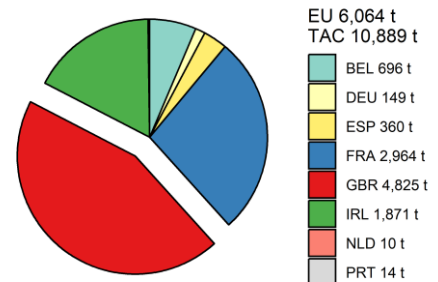
■ TAC/Management area
■ Assessment area

KEY POINTS

ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
ICES advice basis (MSY approach)	HR=HR _{MSY}	Catch=17,353 t
MSY Range	Not applicable	
Management Plan	No	
Landing Obligation	Does not apply	Not applicable (prohibited species*)

* Exemption for permitted bycatch in fisheries implementing an avoidance scheme.

2023 Spurdog TAC



MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- A TAC of 10,889 t was allocated for ICES Divisions 6, 7 and 8 in 2023, of which Ireland has a quota of 1,871 tonnes. A Maximum Landing Length of 100cm applies.

KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- The advice for spurdog is provide by ICES every two years there is no update to the advice given last year.
- Spurdog have low productivity and are vulnerable to fishing because they form dense aggregations that can be easily targeted.
- A maximum landing length of 100cm applies. This is the same figure as was in place in 2009 and 2010 before the TAC was set at zero in 2011. Although the 100cm maximum size was not based on scientific advice it does have some good biological rational. All individuals >100cm are likely to be mature females.
- Spurdog over the maximum length of 100cm accounted for 5% by number and 10% by weight in the 2023 Marine Institute sampling data.
- The conservation benefits of the maximum size restriction is dependent on discard survival and fishers avoidance behaviour both of which are very difficult to measure in practice.

Further information on this stock can be found in the 2022 Stock Book.