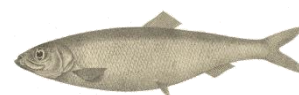


IRISH SEA HERRING

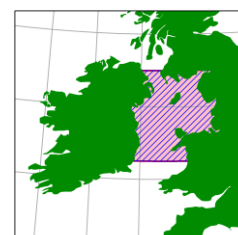


Division 7.a North of 52°30' (Irish Sea)

ADVICE FOR 2023

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2023 should be no more than 7,309 t.

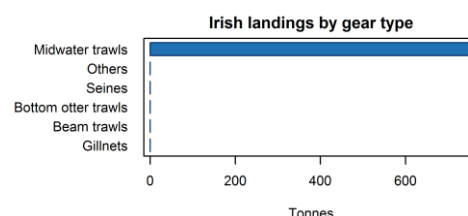
FEAS notes that further work is required to quantify the mixing between Celtic Sea and Irish Sea herring stocks in the Irish Sea.



■ TAC/Management area
■ Assessment area

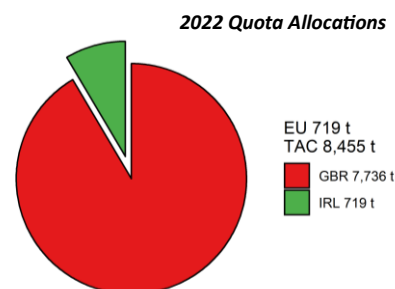
KEY POINTS

ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	No	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY approach	Catch=7,309 t
Ranges	F_{MSY} Range Lower	Not Appropriate
	F_{MSY}	0.266
	F_{MSY} Range Upper	Not Appropriate
Landing Obligation	From 2015	No derogations or exemptions



MANAGEMENT IN 2022

- The stock and management units are both ICES Division 7.aN.
- There are two closed areas in operation to protect the spawning stock during part of the spawning season and to prevent exploitation of juveniles. These measures were introduced during the period of the industrial fishery in the Irish Sea (1969 – 1979). The area off County Louth and County Down is closed from the 21st September – 31st December and the Douglas Bank area, east of the Isle of Man is closed from 21st September until 15th November (Appendix VI).
- Vessels of less than 40 feet in length may fish within the Down-Louth seasonal closed box, but only using driftnets of mesh size ≥ 54 mm.
- Republic of Ireland vessels are not permitted to fish herring in any part of the 0-12 nautical mile limits off England, Wales, Scotland or east of the Isle of Man. Republic of Ireland vessels are permitted to fish in waters between 6-12 nautical miles, west of the Isle of Man.
- In 2022 the fishery in the Irish Sea opened on the 19th of September and closes on the 19th of November. The Irish quota in 7.aN is allocated to vessels on a lottery basis.



KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- SSB has been above the reference points since 2005 and F has been below the reference points since 2004.
- Average catches from 2005-2017 were around 4,750 t. From 2018-2021 the average catch increased to over 7,000 t due to increased TACs. Ireland caught close to their full quota in 2018 - 2021.
- The assessment is carried out on a mixed stock and may overestimate the Irish Sea stock due to the presence of herring from other stocks.
- Genetic work on stock identification of the Irish Sea and Celtic Sea herring populations is on-going. Tools to identify fish from each population have been developed but are soon to be applied.