

NEPHROPS FUI 7

(ARAN, GALWAY BAY AND SLYNE HEAD)



Division 7.b

ADVICE FOR 2023

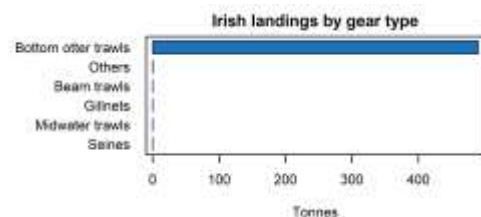
ICES advises that when the EU multiannual plan (MAP) for Western Waters and adjacent waters is applied, and assuming that discard rates and fishery selection patterns do not change from the average of the years 2019–2021, catches in 2023 that correspond to the F ranges in the MAP are between 316 t and 363 t.

To ensure that the stock in Functional Unit 17 is exploited sustainably, management should be implemented at the Functional Unit level.



KEY POINTS

ICES assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	WVWMAP (target)	
Advice Basis	Management Plan	Catch=363 t
Ranges	F _{MSY} Range Lower	Catch=316 t
	F _{MSY}	Catch=363 t
	F _{MSY} Range Upper	Catch=363 t
Landing Obligation	From 2016	Gear specific high survivability exemption*
MSY B _{trigger} (million individuals)	540	



* Described below under Key Stock Considerations, details in (EU 2020/2015).

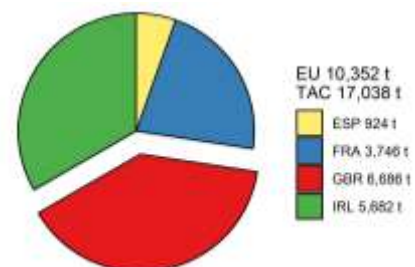
MANAGEMENT IN 2022

- The current TAC area and stock assessment area do not match.

KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- The 2022 UWTV survey was not deemed robust enough for the assessment because of the reduced number of stations completed due to poor weather and considerable vessel downtime. As such, the stock size is unknown for 2022. The assessment and advice is therefore based on the 2021 UWTV survey.
- The advised catch of 363 t results in projected landings advice of 312 t (assuming that discard rates and fishery selection patterns do not change from the average of the years 2019–2021).
- Abundance estimates from UWTV surveys on the Aran grounds have declined significantly since 2004 and have been at or below MSY B_{trigger} from 2012 to 2021.
- More than 90% of the Irish landings of Aran grounds *Nephrops* come from trips where *Nephrops* was the dominant species, by-catch species include anglerfish, whiting, haddock and megrim.
- Long term average mean weights in landings and discards are used as the most appropriate values to calculate catch options on, to account for the variation seen over time.

2022 Quota Allocations for Sub-area 7



- Under the Landing Obligation *Nephrops* fisheries in Sub-area 7 have a high survivability exemption, based on studies which showed a survivability of about 64% (BIM, 2017). This exemption applies to bottom trawls (OTT, OTB, TBS, TBN, TB, PTB, OT, PT, TX) with a mesh size ≥ 100 mm or with a mesh size 70-99 mm in combination with highly selective gear options such as: square mesh panels, seltra panel, sorting grid or separation panel.
- A high survivability exemption also applies to creel caught *Nephrops* in Sub-area 7.

Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) in Division 7.b, Functional Unit 17 (west of Ireland, Aran grounds)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the EU multiannual plan (MAP) for Western Waters and adjacent waters is applied, and assuming that discard rates and fishery selection patterns do not change from the average of the years 2019–2021, catches in 2023 that correspond to the F ranges in the MAP are between 316 and 363 tonnes.

To ensure that the stock in Functional Unit (FU) 17 is exploited sustainably, management should be implemented at the FU level.

Stock development over time

Fishing pressure on the stock is at F_{MSY} , and stock size unknown for 2022.

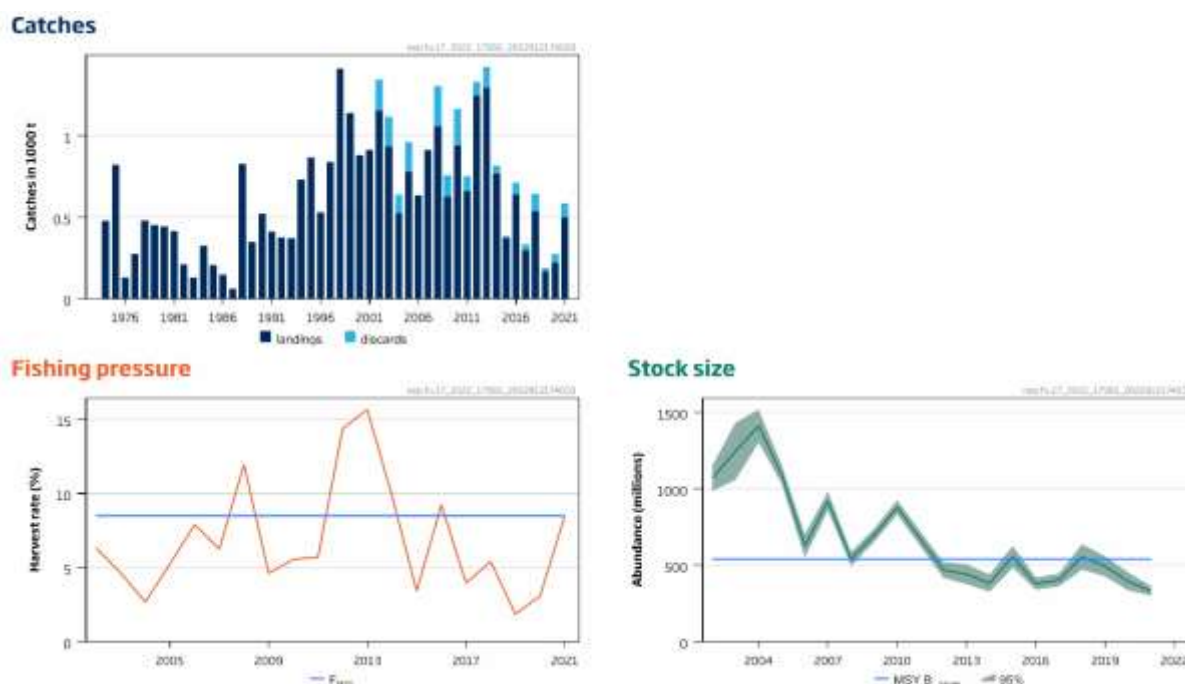


Figure 1 Norway lobster in Division 7.b, Functional Unit 17. Summary of the stock assessment. Catches (discard data are only available since 2002), harvest rate (sum of landings and dead discards in numbers, divided by stock abundance), and stock abundance (underwater TV survey). UWTV survey was not carried out in 2022 and so the 2022 survey estimate is an assumption.