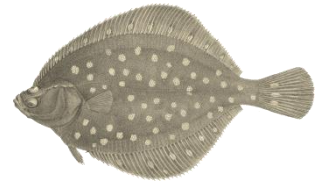


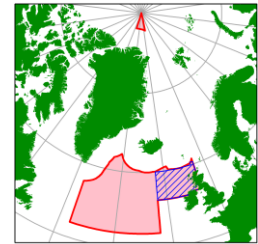
WEST OF SCOTLAND AND ROCKALL PLAICE

Sub-area 6



ADVICE FOR 2024

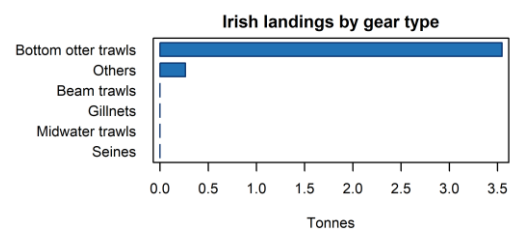
The status of this stock is unknown and there is no ICES advice.



■ TAC/Management area
■ Assessment area

KEY POINTS

ICES Assessment Category	Not Appropriate	
Management Plan	WWMAP (bycatch)	
Advice Basis:	None	Not Appropriate
Ranges	F_{MSY} Range Lower	Not Appropriate
	F_{MSY}	Not Appropriate
	F_{MSY} Range Upper	Not Appropriate
Landing Obligation	From 2019	No derogations or exemptions



MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- The TAC area covers Sub-areas 6, 12 and 14 and Division 5.b.
- There are no explicit management plans for this stock.

KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- Irish landings of plaice in this area are mainly taken as a minor bycatch in mixed fisheries and are mainly landed with anglerfish, whiting and megrim.
- Irish catch rates (LPUE) of plaice declined in the early 2000s and has declined to the lowest observed in 2022 (Figure 1), this is partially due to a change in fishing patterns with less trawling in inshore areas where plaice occur.

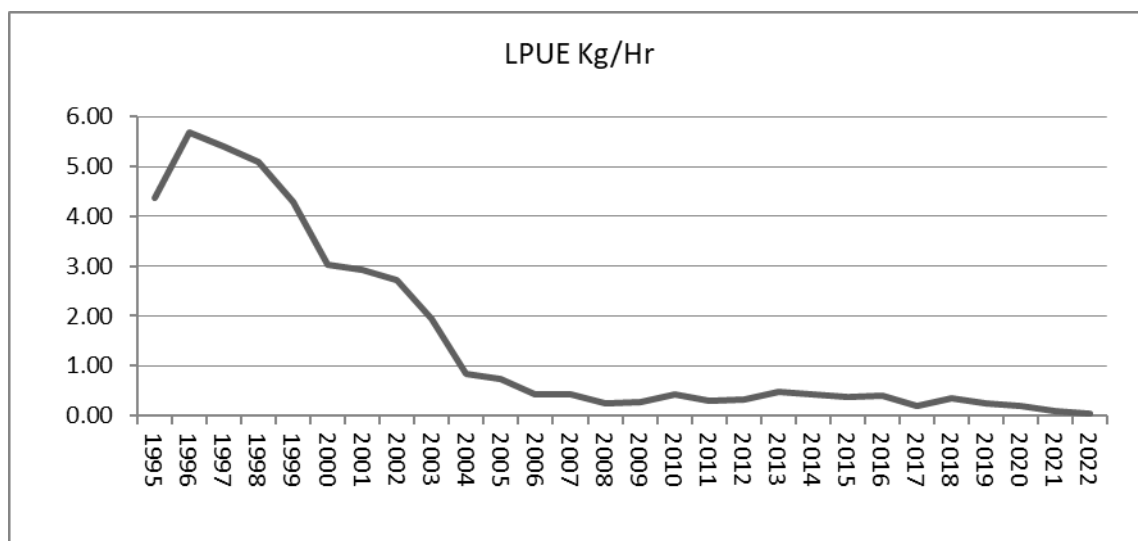
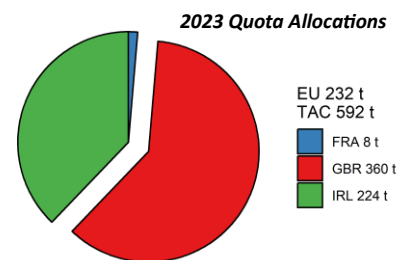


Figure 1. Irish LPUE (Kg/Hour) from ICES Sub-area 6

Table 1. Plaice Division 6.a Landings (Source ICES Official Catch Statistics)

Country	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Belgium	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	-	-
Denmark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<1	<1	<1	7	<0.5
Faeroe Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
France	66	67	58	50	44	55	40	57	57	49	44	24	62	23
Germany	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Germany, Fed. Rep. of	-	-	-	-	-	-	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	-	-	-
Ireland	352	338	392	464	425	565	649	660	403	516	649	579	670	560
Netherlands	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	204	-	-	-	-	-
Norway	<1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spain	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UK -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	11	37
ENG+Wales+N.Irl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UK - ENG+Wales	123	88	65	58	65	38	41	31	34	19	9	-	-	-
UK - N. Ireland	4	2	1	4	2	2	4	-	4	7	24	-	-	-
UK - Scotland	731	864	1049	1065	947	967	1070	1065	1046	1149	1000	1185	1097	1433
Un. Sov. Soc. Rep.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1276	1360	1565	1641	1483	1628	1804	1813	1748	1743	1727	1816	1847	2053

Country	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Belgium	-	25	8	30	13	19	19	18	19	9	-	-	-	-
Denmark	<1	-	<1	<1	<1	-	<1	-	-	<1	-	<1	-	-
Faeroe Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
France	19	16	4	6	1	2	1	-	1	<1	<1	<1	<1	-
Germany	<1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Germany, Fed. Rep. of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ireland	357	339	360	401	499	528	418	309	233	187	146	150	62	46
Netherlands	-	-	-	-	-	19	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norway	<1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UK -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ENG+Wales+N.Irl	61	80	135	77	62	67	39	34	18	10	18	6	5	1
UK - ENG+Wales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UK - N. Ireland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UK - Scotland	1292	1095	1181	1344	1266	1052	973	657	387	491	323	243	130	15
Un. Sov. Soc. Rep.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1729	1555	1688	1858	1841	1687	1461	1018	658	697	487	399	197	62

Table 1. Plaice Division 6.a Landings (Source ICES Official Catch Statistics) continued.

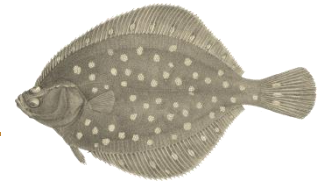
Country	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Belgium	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Denmark	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Faeroe Islands	<1	<1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
France	-	-	-	-	-	-	<1	-	-	-	-
Germany	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Germany, Fed. Rep. of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ireland	28	32	17	13	28	17	13	24	21.2	29.9	29.7
Netherlands	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-
Norway	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	-
Spain	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UK - ENG+Wales+N.Irl	1	3	<1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UK - ENG+Wales	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UK - N. Ireland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UK - Scotland	44	44	32	34	30	29	39	40	49.8	55.5	70
Un. Sov. Soc. Rep.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	73	79	49	47	58	46	53	64	71	85.4	99.7

Country	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*	2022*
Belgium	-	-	-	-	-	-
Denmark	-	-	-	-	-	-
Faeroe Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-
France	<1	-	-	-	-	<0.5
Germany	-	-	-	-	-	-
Germany, Fed. Rep. of	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ireland	18	35.2	25.2	14	9	4
Netherlands	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norway	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spain	-	-	-	-	-	-
UK - ENG+Wales+N.Irl	-	293.9	292.9	91	47	14
UK - ENG+Wales	-	-	-	-	-	-
UK - N. Ireland	-	-	-	-	-	-
UK - Scotland	112	-	-	-	-	-
Un. Sov. Soc. Rep.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	130	329.1	318.1	105	56	18

* Data are preliminary for 2021 and 2022

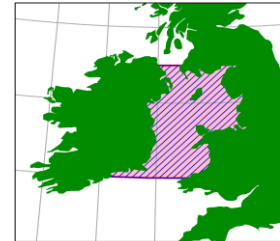
IRISH SEA PLAICE

Division 7.a



ADVICE FOR 2024

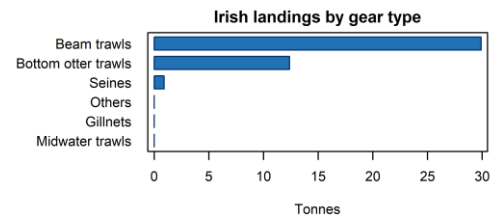
ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied catches in 2024 should be no more than 1,902 t.



■ TAC/Management area
■ Assessment area

KEY POINTS

ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	WWMAP (bycatch)	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY approach	Catch = 1,902 t
Ranges	F _{MSY} Range Lower	Not Applicable (bycatch)
	F _{MSY}	Catch = 1,902 t
	F _{MSY} Range Upper	Not Applicable (bycatch)
Landing Obligation	From 2019	High survivability exemption*



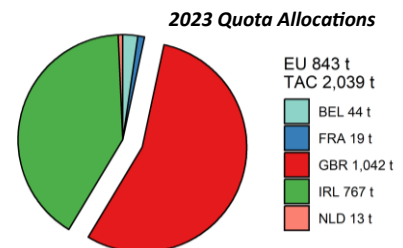
* Described below under Key Stock Considerations, details in (EC 2020/2015).

MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- The TAC and the assessment area are the same.

KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- The stock size peaked in 2016 and due to poor recruitment has declined since and is now just above MSY $B_{trigger}$ with fishing mortality below F_{MSY} since 2008.
- Irish landings of this stock are caught as a minor bycatch in a mixed fishery and are mainly landed with *Nephrops* and haddock.
- Landings from Irish fleets have decreased in recent years from 315 t in 2018 to 43 t in 2022, well below the quota.
- Discards are high with 73% (by weight) of the catch being discarded in 2022.
- Discards of plaice are considered to have a survivability of about 40%. Under the Landing Obligation Irish Sea plaice have a high survivability exemption. This exemption applies to beam trawls (≤ 221 kW or ≤ 24 m) within 12 nm of the coast, and towing for less than 90 minutes; and beam trawls (> 221 kW) using flip-up rope or benthic release panel (EC 2020/2015).



Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in Division 7.a (Irish Sea)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied catches in 2024 should be no more than 1902 tonnes.

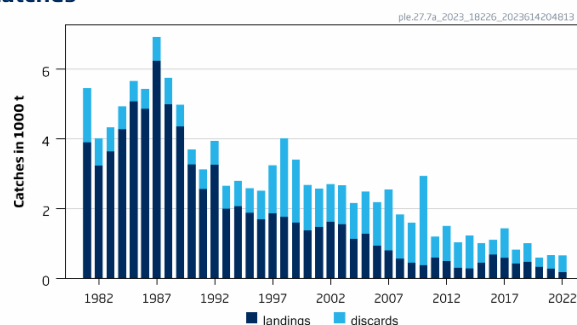
ICES advice on conservation aspects

ICES has not identified any conservation aspects.

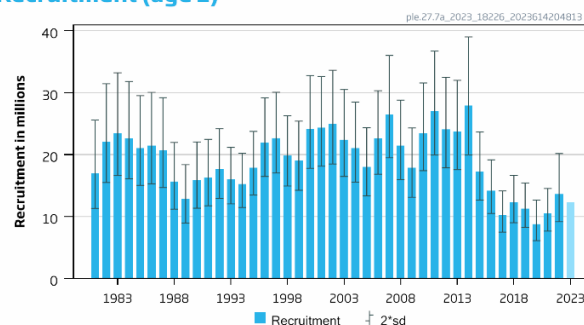
Stock development over time

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

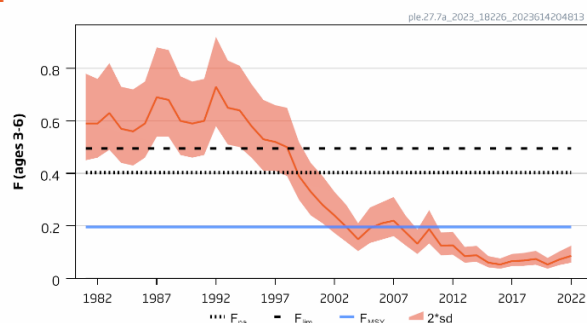
Catches



Recruitment (age 1)



F



SSB

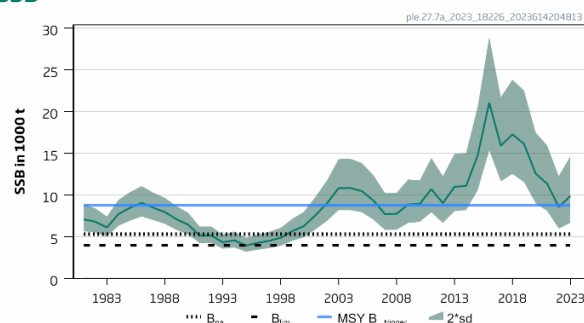


Figure 1 Plaice in Division 7.a. Summary of the stock assessment. The assumed recruitment value for 2023 is shaded in a lighter colour.

Conservation status

ICES is not aware of any information on stock/species-specific conservation status.

Catch scenarios

Table 1 Plaice in Division 7.a. Assumptions made for the interim year and the forecast.

Variable	Value	Notes
F_{age3-6} (2023)	0.071	$F_{sq} = F_{average}(2020-2022)$.
SSB (2024)	10583	Short-term forecast; in tonnes
R_{age1} (2023 and 2024)	12246	Median resampled recruitment (2015–2022) as estimated by a stochastic projection; in thousands
Total catch (2023)	664	Short term forecast; in tonnes
Projected landings (2023)	269	Assuming average landings pattern (2020–2022); in tonnes
Projected discards (2023)	395	Assuming average discard pattern (2020–2022); in tonnes
Discard survival rate	40%	Catchpole <i>et al.</i> (2015)

Variable	Value	Notes
Projected surviving discards (2023)	158	Assuming an average discard pattern (2020–2022) where 40% of the discards survive; in tonnes
Projected dead discards (2023)	237	Assuming an average discard pattern (2020–2022) where 60% of the discards die; in tonnes

Table 2 Plaice in Division 7.a. Annual catch scenarios. All weights are in tonnes.

Basis	Total catch (2024)	Projected landings (2024)	Projected Surviving discards (2024)	Projected dead discards (2024)	Total projected discards* (2024)	F _{total} (2024)	F _{projected} landings (2024)	F _{projected} discards ** (2024)	SSB (2025)	% SSB change ***	% advice change ^
ICES advice basis											
MSY approach: F = F _{MSY}	1902	769	453	680	1133	0.196	0.055	0.141	10054	–5	–6.7
Other scenarios											
F = F _{MSY lower}	1323	535	315	473	788	0.133	0.037	0.096	10526	–0.53	–35
F = F _{MSY upper}	2748	1111	655	982	1637	0.29	0.082	0.21	9404	–11.1	35
F = F _{pa}	3623	1465	863	1295	2158	0.4	0.112	0.29	8674	–18	78
F = 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11538	9	–100
F = F _{lim}	4308	1742	1026	1540	2566	0.5	0.138	0.36	8196	–23	111
SSB ₂₀₂₅ = B _{lim}	12607	5099	3003	4505	7508	3	0.84	2.2	2064	–80	520
SSB ₂₀₂₅ = B _{pa}	8330	3369	1985	2977	4961	1.23	0.34	0.88	5294	–50	310
SSB ₂₀₂₅ = MSY B _{trigger}	3539	1431	843	1265	2108	0.39	0.109	0.28	8757	–17.3	74
Rollover advice	2039	825	486	729	1214	0.21	0.059	0.152	9962	–5.9	0
F = F ₂₀₂₃	720	291	172	257	429	0.071	0.0197	0.051	10976	3.7	–65
SSB ₂₀₂₅ = SSB ₂₀₂₄	1242	502	296	444	740	0.125	0.035	0.09	10583	0	–39

* Dead + surviving projected discards.

** F_{projected} discards concerns dead projected discards only.

*** SSB 2025 relative to SSB 2024.

^Advice value for 2024 relative to the advice value for 2023 (2039 tonnes).

The change in advice is due to a downward revision in the stock biomass.

Basis of the advice

Table 3 Plaice in Division 7.a. The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	MSY approach
Management plan	The EU multiannual plan (MAP) for stocks in Western Waters and adjacent waters (EU, 2019) takes into account bycatch of this species. There is no agreed shared management plan with UK for this stock, and ICES provides advice according to ICES MSY approach.

Quality of the assessment

Weights-at-age sampled from a portion of the beam trawl fleet’s landings and discards showed a substantial decline in 2022 compared to previous years; this was not observed in other fleets or in the UK (E&W)-BTS-Q3 survey. As a result of the differing trends, the discard and landing weights-at-age were replaced by the average of 2019–2021.

Low fishing pressure and recent below-average recruitment results in an increasing proportion of the stock being contained within the modelled plus-group (47% of biomass in the last five years is age 8+). The assessment and forecast have increased uncertainty as a consequence of this, and a pattern of retrospective SSB downscaling is seen in the recent history of the assessment.

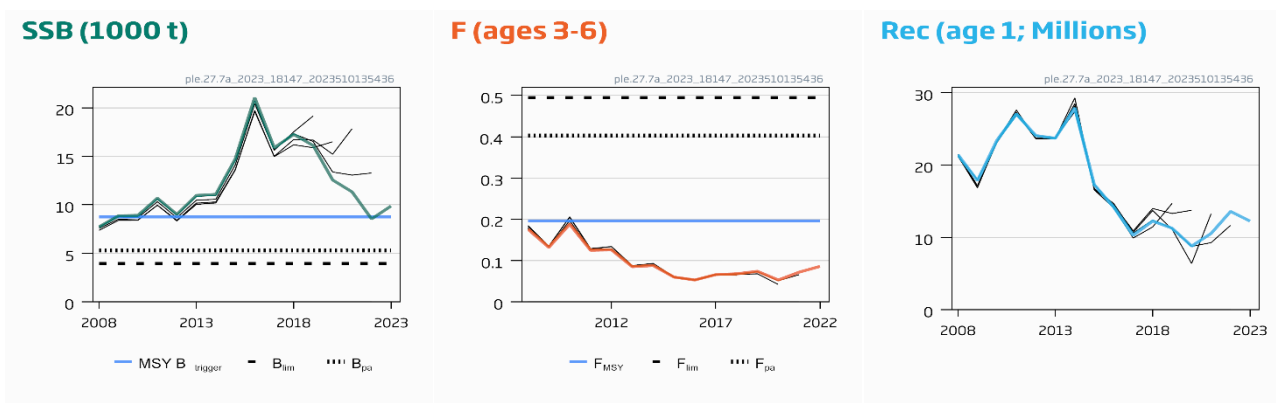


Figure 2 Plaice in Division 7.a. Historical assessment results (final-year SSB estimate and recruitment assumption included).

Issues relevant for the advice

Since 2004, the majority of the catch has been discarded (60% average discard by weight).

Reference points

Table 4 Plaice in Division 7.a. Reference points, values, and their technical basis.

Framework	Reference point	Value	Technical basis	Source
MSY approach	MSY B _{trigger}	8757	Lower 5th percentile of B _{MSY} ; in tonnes	ICES (2018)
	F _{MSY}	0.196	Stochastic simulations with segmented regression (1981–2017)	ICES (2018)
	F _{MSY lower}	0.133	F at 95% MSY (below F _{MSY}), based on simulation using a segmented regression stock–recruitment relationship (EqSim)	ICES (2018)
	F _{MSY upper}	0.293	F at 95% MSY (above F _{MSY}), based on simulation using a segmented regression stock–recruitment relationship (EqSim)	ICES (2018)
Precautionary approach	B _{lim}	3958	B _{loss} = minimum SSB observed; in tonnes	ICES (2018)
	B _{pa}	5294	B _{lim} × exp(1.645 × σ); σ = 0.177; in tonnes	ICES (2018)
	F _{lim}	0.50	F with 50% probability of SSB < B _{lim}	ICES (2018)
	F _{pa}	0.403	F _{P05} ; the F that leads to SSB ≥ B _{lim} with 95% probability	ICES (2018, 2021)
Management plan	SSB _{mgt}	Not applicable		
	F _{mgt}	Not applicable		

Basis of the assessment

Table 5 Plaice in Division 7.a. Basis of the assessment and advice.

ICES stock data category	1 (ICES, 2023a)
Assessment type	Age-based analytical assessment (SAM; Nielsen and Berg, 2014; ICES, 2023b) that uses landings and discards in the model and in the forecast.
Input data	Commercial catch-at-age data; three survey indices UK (E&W)-BTS-Q3 (B6596), NIGFS-WIBTS-Q1 (G7144), and NIGFS-WIBTS-Q4 (G7655); fixed maturity ogive; natural mortality constant over the years and different across the ages; discard survival rate.
Discards and bycatch	Discard values available from 2004. Estimates of modelled discards for 1981–2003 (WKIRISH3; ICES, 2017).
Indicators	None
Other information	Last benchmark in 2017 (WKIRISH3; ICES, 2017). Reference points updated in 2018 (ICES, 2018).
Working group	Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE)

History of the advice, catch, and management

Table 6 Plaice in Division 7.a. History of ICES advice, the agreed TAC, official landings, and ICES estimates of landings and discards. Weights are in tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Catch corresponding to advice	Landings corresponding to advice	Agreed TAC	Official landings	ICES landings	ICES discards*
1987	F high; no long-term gains in increasing F	-	5000	5000	5600	6220	-
1988	No increase in F	-	4800	5000	4400	5005	-
1989	80% of F (87); TAC	-	5800	5800	4200	4372	-
1990	Halt decline in SSB; TAC	-	5100	5100	4000	3275	-
1991	Rebuild SSB to SSB (90); TAC	-	3300	4500	2800	2554	-
1992	70% of F (90)	-	3000	3800	3200	3267	-
1993	F = 0.55 ~ 2800 tonnes	-	2800	2800	2000	1996	-
1994	Long-term gains in decreasing F	-	< 3700	3100	2051	2066	735
1995	Long-term gains in decreasing F	-	2400	2800	2024	1874	717
1996	No long-term gain in increasing F	-	2500	2450	1874	1707	812
1997	No advice	-	-	2100	1954	1871	1373
1998	No increase in F	-	2400	2400	1803	1765	2263
1999	Keep F below F_{pa}	-	2400	2400	1566	1600	1796
2000	Keep F below F_{pa}	-	< 2300	2400	1443	1371	1306
2001	Keep F below F_{pa}	-	< 2400	2000	1488	1473	1100
2002	Keep F below F_{pa}	-	< 2800	2400	1591	1623	1085
2003	No increase in F	-	1900	1675	1544	1559	1109
2004	F < F_{pa}	-	1600	1340	1134	1143	1031
2005	F < F_{pa}	-	2970	1608	1270	1281	1210
2006	F < F_{pa}	-	5900	1608	937	934	1254
2007	F < F_{pa}	-	6500	1849	802	805	1744
2008	F < F_{pa}	-	5200	1849	563	563	1268
2009	No long-term gains in increasing F above $F_{0.1}$	-	1430	1430	457	457	1132
2010	No long-term gains in increasing F above $F_{0.1}$	-	1630	1630	377	378	2561
2011	Effort should be consistent with no increase in catches	-	-	1627	596	595	603
2012	Catches should not increase	-	-	1627	507	503	1010
2013	Landings should be no more than 2% more than recent landings (last three years)	-	< 490	1627	339	303	725
2014	Catches should be no more than 1% more than recent catches (last three years)	< 1827	< 497	1220	282	287	943
2015	Catches should be no more than recent catches (last three years)	< 1244	< 394	1098	439	440	572
2016	Precautionary approach (same advised catch value as given for 2015)	≤ 1244	≤ 343	1098	679	682	414
2017	Precautionary approach	≤ 1493	≤ 436	1098	585	586	852
2018	MSY approach	≤ 3336	≤ 1793	1793	435	435	395
2019	MSY approach	≤ 3503		3075	225 ^c	465	537
2020	Precautionary approach	≤ 5640		2790	332	330	271
2021	MSY approach	≤ 2846		2846	279**	276	392
2022	MSY approach	≤ 2925***		2747	179**	180	484
2023	MSY approach	≤ 2039		2039			
2024	MSY approach	≤ 1902					

* Total discards (dead and surviving components).

** Preliminary.

*** Updated in 2022 from 2747 tonnes.

^c Incomplete/missing as a result of part of the data being unavailable under data confidentiality clauses.

History of the catch and landings

Table 7 Plaice in Division 7.a. Catch distribution by fleet in 2022 as estimated by ICES*.

Catch		Landings			Discards		
Dead 71%	Surviving 29%	Beam trawl	Otter trawl	Other gears	Beam trawl	Otter trawl	Other gears
663 tonnes		74%	23%	3%	78%	19%	3%
		180 tonnes			484 tonnes		
					60% dead		40% surviving

* The figures in the table are rounded. Calculations were done with unrounded inputs, and computed values may not match exactly when calculated using the rounded figures in the table.

Table 8 Plaice in Division 7.a. History of commercial catch and landings for each country participating in the fishery; both the official and ICES estimated values are presented. Weights in tonnes.

Year	Belgium	France	Ireland	Netherlands	UK (NI, E & W)	UK (Isle of Man)	UK (Scotland)	Total official landings	ICES discards	ICES estimates of catches
1994	332	13	547	-	1082	14	63	2051	863	2801
1995	327	10	557	-	1050	20	60	2024	747	2592
1996	344	11	538	69	878	16	18	1874	832	2518
1997	459	8	543	110	798	11	25	1954	1285	3246
1998	327	8	730	27	679	14	18	1803	1952	4028
1999	275	5	541	30	687	5	23	1566	1657	3397
2000	325	14	420	47	610	6	21	1443	1223	2678
2001	482	9	378	-	607	1	11	1488	1070	2573
2002	636	8	370	-	569	1	7	1591	1135	2708
2003	628	7	490	-	409	1	9	1544	1077	2668
2004	431	2	328	-	369	0	4	1134	1031	2173
2005	566	9	272	-	422	0	1	1270	1210	2492
2006	343	2	179	0	413	0	0	937	1254	2188
2007	194	2	194	0	412	0	0	802	1744	2549
2008	157	2	102	0	300	1	1	563	1268	1830
2009	197	0	73	0	184	1	2	457	1132	1588
2010	138	0	89	0	147	0	3	377	2561	2939
2011	332	0	118	0	146	0	0	596	603	1198
2012	236	0	107	0	164	0	0	507	1010	1511
2013	144	0	103	0	92	0	0	339	725	1028
2014	100	0	123	0	59	0	0	282	943	1230
2015	115	0	244	0	80	0	0	439	572	1012
2016	82	0	541	-	56	-	-	679	414	1096
2017	77	0	446	-	62	1	-	585	852	1438
2018	53	0	316	-	66	0	-	435	395	830
2019	168	0	^c	-	57	-	-	225 ^c	537	1002
2020	84	-	177	-	70	1	-	332	271	601
2021*	101	0	107	-	70	1	-	279	392	668
2022*	101	0	43	-	35	0	0	179	484	663

* Preliminary official landings.

^c Incomplete/missing as a result of part of the data being unavailable under data confidentiality clauses.

Summary of the assessment

Table 9 Plaice in Division 7.a. Assessment summary. Recruitment is in thousands and weights in tonnes. 'High' and 'Low' refer to 2 × standard deviation.

Year	Recruitment at age 1			SSB			Landing s*	Dead discards*	Surviving discards*	Fishing mortality ages 3–6		
	Low	Value	High	Low	Value	High				Low	Value	High
1981	11300	16999	25572	5638	7073	8873	3903	940	627	0.45	0.59	0.78
1982	15499	22082	31461	5500	6798	8403	3238	476	317	0.46	0.59	0.76
1983	16617	23495	33219	5012	6099	7421	3637	422	281	0.49	0.63	0.82
1984	16092	22623	31805	6309	7703	9405	4278	394	263	0.44	0.57	0.73
1985	15019	21058	29526	6923	8462	10342	5085	349	232	0.43	0.56	0.72
1986	15257	21415	30059	7415	9059	11067	4867	340	227	0.46	0.59	0.75
1987	14684	20708	29203	6993	8477	10276	6244	413	275	0.54	0.69	0.88
1988	11182	15676	21975	6540	7949	9661	5002	451	301	0.54	0.68	0.87
1989	8931	12815	18388	5802	7089	8661	4362	377	251	0.47	0.6	0.77
1990	11345	15815	22047	5275	6449	7885	3272	262	174	0.46	0.59	0.75
1991	11728	16238	22483	4237	5137	6229	2557	344	229	0.47	0.6	0.76
1992	12895	17667	24204	4242	5140	6229	3260	409	272	0.58	0.73	0.92
1993	12044	15972	21182	3562	4326	5254	2000	395	264	0.51	0.65	0.83
1994	11440	15217	20243	3707	4559	5606	2067	441	294	0.5	0.64	0.81
1995	13487	17896	23747	3198	3943	4861	1874	430	287	0.46	0.58	0.74
1996	16454	21900	29148	3425	4252	5280	1706	487	325	0.41	0.53	0.68
1997	17039	22637	30074	3634	4500	5573	1873	824	549	0.41	0.52	0.66
1998	14927	19808	26285	3901	4863	6063	1765	1358	905	0.39	0.5	0.65
1999	14232	19017	25410	4497	5666	7138	1600	1078	719	0.3	0.39	0.52
2000	17779	24146	32793	4920	6262	7971	1372	784	523	0.24	0.33	0.44
2001	18132	24319	32617	5860	7568	9775	1473	660	440	0.21	0.28	0.39
2002	18488	24934	33629	6899	9002	11746	1624	651	434	0.173	0.24	0.33
2003	16451	22408	30521	8188	10816	14288	1559	665	443	0.139	0.196	0.28
2004	15542	21041	28487	8174	10827	14341	1142	618	412	0.104	0.149	0.21
2005	13347	18030	24356	7926	10466	13822	1282	726	484	0.135	0.191	0.27
2006	16831	22589	30316	7041	9332	12369	934	752	502	0.148	0.21	0.29
2007	19485	26495	36027	5805	7706	10230	806	1046	698	0.161	0.22	0.31
2008	15974	21452	28808	5841	7734	10240	563	761	507	0.126	0.176	0.24
2009	13107	17852	24314	6632	8868	11857	455	679	453	0.093	0.132	0.186
2010	17395	23438	31582	6779	8918	11734	378	1536	1024	0.133	0.188	0.26
2011	19965	27075	36717	7917	10689	14432	594	362	241	0.088	0.125	0.175
2012	17866	24088	32477	6635	9017	12253	501	606	404	0.09	0.126	0.177
2013	17587	23725	32007	8059	10968	14927	303	435	290	0.06	0.085	0.12
2014	19965	27912	39023	8179	11082	15016	287	566	377	0.063	0.088	0.124
2015	12628	17289	23669	10552	14733	20570	440	343	229	0.042	0.06	0.085
2016	10479	14175	19174	15327	21058	28930	684	249	166	0.037	0.053	0.076
2017	7464	10277	14150	11634	15892	21708	586	511	341	0.047	0.066	0.093
2018	8999	12246	16665	12505	17256	23811	435	237	158	0.048	0.068	0.097
2019	8233	11261	15402	11536	16117	22517	465	322	215	0.052	0.074	0.105
2020	6096	8792	12681	9024	12565	17495	330	162	108	0.037	0.053	0.078
2021	7640	10535	14529	8067	11333	15921	276	235	157	0.051	0.072	0.103
2022	9158	13587	20160	5964	8548	12251	180	290	193	0.06	0.086	0.125
2023		12246*		6660	9877	14648						

* Landings and discards are ICES estimates, which are used as assessment inputs. Discard estimates are available from 2004; prior to 2004 discard values were reconstructed.

** Median resampled recruitment (2015–2022) as estimated by a stochastic projection.

Sources and references

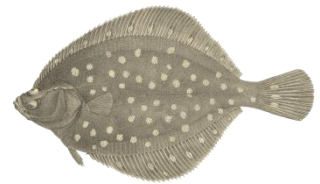
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Recommended citation: ICES. 2023. Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in Division 7.a (Irish Sea). *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2023. ICES Advice 2023, ple.27.7a. <https://doi.org/10.17895/ices.advice.21840978>

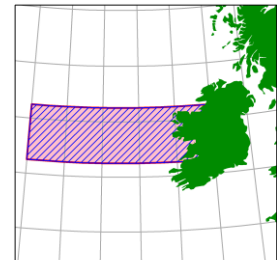
WEST OF IRELAND PLAICE

Divisions 7.b-c



ADVICE FOR 2024

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, landings should be no more than 15 tonnes in each of the years 2024, 2025, and 2026.

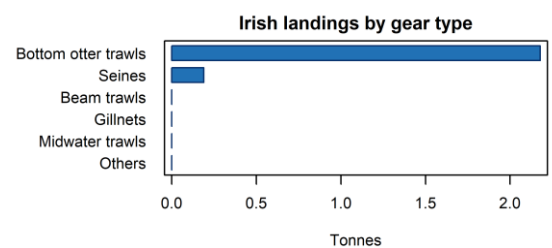


■ TAC/Management area
■ Assessment area

KEY POINTS

ICES Assessment Category	6 (Bycatch only assessment)	
Management Plan	WVWMAP (bycatch)	
Advice Basis	ICES PA approach	Landings=15 t
Ranges	F _{MSY} Range Lower	Not available
	F _{MSY}	Not available
	F _{MSY} Range Upper	Not available
Landing Obligation	From 2019	High survivability exemption*

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

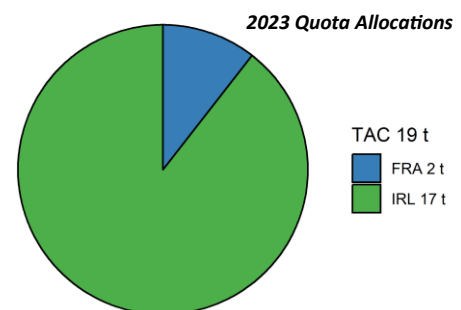


MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- The TAC and the assessment area are the same.
- Recent landings have been well below the TAC.

KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- The reduction in advice for 2024 to 2026 (~20%) is due to the application of the precautionary buffer.
- Irish landings of this stock are caught by otter trawlers, as a minor bycatch in a mixed fishery.
- Discarded plaice are considered to have a survivability of approximately 40%. An exemption to the Landing Obligation applies to beam trawls (≤ 221 kW or ≤ 24 m) within 12nm of the coast, and towing for less than 90 minutes; and beam trawls (>221 kW) using flip-up rope or benthic release panel (EC 2020/2015) in ICES division 7.a to 7.k. There are no Irish beam trawls operating in this area. An exemption to the Landing Obligation also applies to Scottish seines in this area.



Plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*) in Divisions 7.b–c (West of Ireland)

ICES stock advice

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, landings should be no more than 15 tonnes in each of the years 2024, 2025, and 2026.

ICES advice on conservation aspects

ICES has not identified any conservation aspects.

Stock development over time

ICES cannot assess the stock and exploitation status relative to MSY and precautionary approach (PA) reference points because information to define reference points is not available.

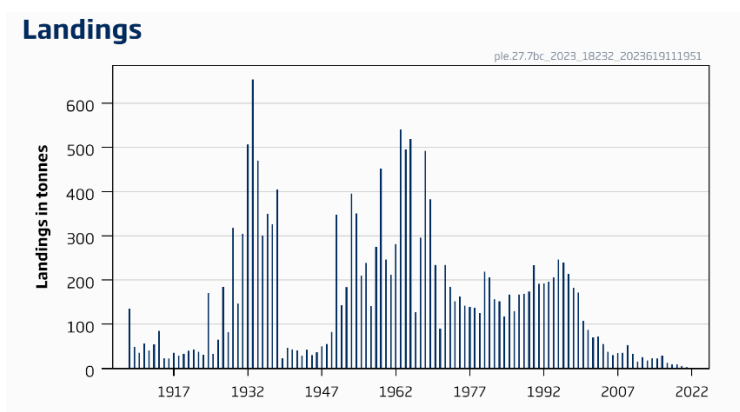


Figure 1 Plaice in divisions 7.b–c. Official landings 1908–2018 and 2021–2022 and ICES estimated landings 2019–2020.

Conservation status

ICES is not aware of any information on stock/species-specific conservation status.

Catch scenarios

ICES framework for category 6 stocks was applied (ICES, 2012). For stocks without information on abundance or exploitation, ICES considers that a precautionary reduction of catches should be implemented where there is no ancillary information clearly indicating that the current level of exploitation is appropriate for the stock. The precautionary buffer was last applied in 2020 (for the 2021–2023 advice); and, with no new information available to support the current level of catches, the precautionary buffer is applied for the 2024 advice. Discarding is known to take place but cannot be fully quantified.

Table 1 Plaice in divisions 7.b–c. The basis for the catch scenarios.*

Advised landings (2021–2023)	19 tonnes	
Discard rate	Unknown	
Precautionary buffer	Applied	0.8
Landings advice**	15 tonnes	
% advice change***	–20	

* The figures in the table are rounded. Calculations were done with unrounded inputs, and computed values may not match exactly when calculated using the rounded figures in the table.

** [Recent advised landings] × [precautionary buffer].

*** Advice value for 2024 relative to the advice value for 2023.

Basis of the advice

Table 2 Plaice in divisions 7.b–c. The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	Precautionary approach
Management plan	The EU multiannual plan (MAP) for stocks in the Western Waters and adjacent waters (EU, 2019) takes bycatch of this species into account. ICES provides advice according to ICES precautionary approach.

Quality of the assessment

Catches in this area are too low to support the collection of the necessary information for an assessment of the stock status.

Issues relevant for the advice

Discard estimates are highly variable and uncertain.

Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

Basis of the assessment

Table 3 Plaice in divisions 7.b–c. Basis of the assessment and advice.

ICES stock data category	6 (ICES, 2023a)
Assessment type	No assessment
Input data	Landings
Discards and bycatch	Unknown
Indicators	None
Other information	None
Working group	Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE)

History of the advice, catch, and management

Table 4 Plaice in divisions 7.b–c. ICES advice and official landings. Weights are in tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Predicted catch corresponding to advice	Agreed TAC	Official landings
1993	-	-	-	196
1994	-	-	-	206
1995	-	-	-	246
1996	-	-	-	251
1997	-	-	-	209
1998	-	-	-	161
1999	-	-	-	159
2000	-	-	-	130

Year	ICES advice	Predicted catch corresponding to advice	Agreed TAC	Official landings
2001	-	-	240	78
2002	No advice	-	180	70
2003	Reduce TAC to recent landings	90	160	65
2004	Reduce TAC to recent av. landings (2000–2002)	77	160	54
2005	Reduce TAC to recent av. landings (2001–2003)	65	160	37
2006	Reduce TAC to recent av. landings (2002–2004)	55	144	32
2007	Reduce TAC to recent av. landings (2003–2005)	40	122	35
2008	Reduce TAC to recent av. landings (2004–2006)	40	110	31
2009	Same advice as last year	33	94	52
2010	Reduce TAC to recent av. landings (2006–2008)	33	80	33
2011	No advice	-	78	18
2012	No increase in catch	-	78	29
2013	20% reduction in catches (last 3 years' average)	< 30	74	18
2014	Same catch advice as for 2013	< 30	74	23
2015	Same catch advice as for 2013	< 30	74	22
2016	Precautionary approach (same advised landings value as given for 2015)	≤ 30	74	29
2017	Precautionary approach (same advised landings value as provided for 2016)	≤ 30	74	12
2018	Precautionary approach	≤ 24	74	9
2019	Precautionary approach (same advised landings value as provided for 2018)	≤ 24	74	1 ^c
2020	Precautionary approach (same advised landings value as provided for 2018)	≤ 24	74	< 1 ^c
2021	Precautionary approach	≤ 19	19	3*
2022	Precautionary approach (same advised landings value as provided for 2021)	≤ 19	19	2*
2023	Precautionary approach (same advised landings value as provided for 2021)	≤ 19	19	
2024	Precautionary approach	≤ 15		
2025	Precautionary approach (same advised landings value as provided for 2024)	≤ 15		
2026	Precautionary approach (same advised landings value as provided for 2024)	≤ 15		

* Preliminary.

^c Incomplete/missing, as part of the data is unavailable under data confidentiality clauses.

History of the catch and landings

Table 5 Plaice in divisions 7.b–c. Catch distribution by fleet in 2022 as estimated by ICES.

Catch	Landings		Discards
unknown	otter trawl 92%	other 8%	unknown
	2 tonnes		

Table 6 Plaice in divisions 7.b–c. History of commercial catch and landings; both the official and ICES estimated values are presented for each country. Weights are in tonnes.

Year	France	UK	Ireland	Others	Total	ICES estimates
1908	0	0	135	0	135	
1909	0	0	49	0	49	
1910	0	0	36	0	36	
1911	0	2	54	0	56	
1912	0	1	40	0	41	
1913	0	0	54	0	54	
1914	0	0	85	0	85	
1915	0	1	23	0	24	
1916	0	0	22	0	22	
1917	0	0	36	0	36	
1918	0	0	29	0	29	
1919	0	1	32	0	33	
1920	0	25	15	0	40	
1921	0	9	34	0	43	
1922	0	1	37	0	38	
1923	0	1	30	0	31	
1924	0	4	166	0	170	
1925	0	5	28	0	33	
1926	13	10	42	0	65	
1927	126	14	45	0	185	
1928	40	7	35	0	82	
1929	262	25	31	0	318	
1930	96	6	44	0	146	
1931	238	8	58	0	304	
1932	411	19	76	0	506	
1933	595	29	29	0	653	
1934	406	31	33	0	470	
1935	249	18	33	0	300	
1936	265	47	37	0	349	
1937	242	59	25	0	326	
1938	359	25	20	0	404	
1939	0	0	24	0	24	
1940	0	0	47	0	47	
1941	0	0	43	0	43	
1942	0	0	41	0	41	
1943	0	0	29	0	29	
1944	0	0	42	0	42	
1945	0	0	30	0	30	
1946	0	5	32	0	37	
1947	0	9	36	5	50	
1948	0	8	47	0	55	
1949	0	20	63	0	83	
1950	289	16	42	0	347	
1951	100	12	31	0	143	
1952	120	18	46	0	184	
1953	340	8	48	0	396	
1954	273	5	72	0	350	
1955	111	3	96	0	210	
1956	174	1	64	0	239	
1957	80	1	60	0	141	
1958	204	0	71	0	275	
1959	392	5	54	0	451	
1960	197	3	46	0	246	
1961	182	0	30	0	212	
1962	239	0	42	0	281	
1963	471	2	67	0	540	
1964	427	2	66	0	495	
1965	417	2	99	0	518	
1966	0	1	127	0	128	

Year	France	UK	Ireland	Others	Total	ICES estimates
1967	182	2	112	0	296	
1968	403	0	89	0	492	
1969	281	2	99	0	382	
1970	124	0	110	0	234	
1971	0	1	89	0	90	
1972	110	0	124	0	234	
1973	60	1	124	0	185	
1974	45	1	106	0	152	
1975	10	0	153	0	163	
1976	9	0	133	0	142	
1977	4	0	135	0	139	
1978	16	0	122	0	138	
1979	6	0	117	2	125	
1980	12	0	142	65	219	
1981	9	4	135	58	206	
1982	8	4	122	22	156	
1983	37	0	108	7	152	
1984	2	6	110	0	118	
1985	10	7	150	0	167	
1986	11	5	114	0	130	
1987	13	1	153	0	167	
1988	9	2	157	0	168	
1989	1	14	159	0	174	
1990	11	92	130	0	233	
1991	9	3	179	0	191	
1992	3	9	180	0	192	
1993	2	3	191	0	196	
1994	1	5	200	0	206	
1995	5	2	239	0	246	
1996	1	2	248	0	251	240
1997	3	0	206	0	209	213
1998	0	1	160	0	161	183
1999	0	2	157	0	159	172
2000	31	0	99	0	130	108
2001	8	0	70	0	78	87
2002	17	2	51	0	70	71
2003	7	0	56	2	65	72
2004	14	0	39	1	54	55
2005	12	0	25	0	37	38
2006	11	0	20	1	32	30
2007	12	0	23	0	35	34
2008	9	0	21	1	31	35
2009	7	0	45	0	52	53
2010	6	0	27	0	33	33
2011	2	0	16	0	18	16
2012	9	0	20	0	29	26
2013	3	0	15	0	18	18
2014	6	0	17	0	23	23
2015	7	0	15	0	22	22
2016	12	0	17	0	29	29
2017	1	0	11	0	12	12
2018	2	< 1	7	0	9	9
2019	< 1	0	< 1 ^c	< 1	1 ^c	9
2020	< 1	0	0 ^c	< 1	< 1 ^c	6
2021*	< 1	0	3	< 1	3	3
2022*	< 1	0	2	< 1	2	2

* Preliminary official landings.

^c Incomplete/missing, as part of the data is unavailable under data confidentiality clauses.

Summary of the assessment

There is no assessment for plaice in this area.

Sources and references

EU. 2019. Regulation (EU) 2019/472 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019 establishing a multiannual plan for stocks fished in the Western Waters and adjacent waters, and for fisheries exploiting those stocks, amending Regulations (EU) 2016/1139 and (EU) 2018/973, and repealing Council Regulations (EC) No 811/2004, (EC) No 2166/2005, (EC) No 388/2006, (EC) No 509/2007 and (EC) No 1300/2008. Official Journal of the European Union, L 83. 17 pp. <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/472/oj>

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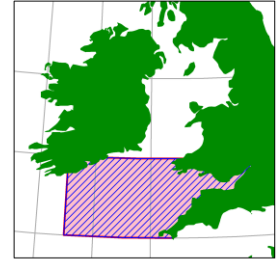
CELTIC SEA PLAICE

Divisions 7.f and 7.g



ADVICE FOR 2024

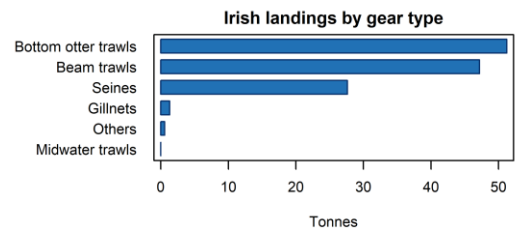
ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches should be no more than 402 tonnes in each of the years 2023 and 2024.



■ TAC/Management area
■ Assessment area

KEY POINTS

ICES Assessment Category	3 (Trend based assessment)	
Management Plan	WWMAP (bycatch)	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY approach	Catch=402 t
Ranges	$F_{MSY\ proxy}$ Range Lower	Not Applicable
	$F_{MSY\ proxy}$	Not Available
	$F_{MSY\ proxy}$ Range Upper	Not Applicable
Landing Obligation	From 2019	High survivability exemption*



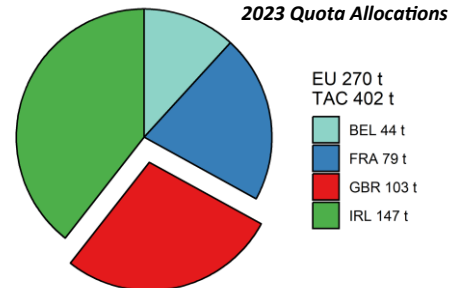
* Described below under Key Stock Considerations, details in (EC 2020/2015).

MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- The TAC and the assessment area are the same.
- Recent landings have been below the TAC.

KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- Currently fishing pressure is above the $F_{MSY\ proxy}$ and the stock-size index is below MSY $B_{trigger\ proxy}$.
- Irish landings of Celtic Sea plaice are taken as a minor bycatch in mixed fisheries and are mainly landed with whiting and other gadoids, megrim and anglerfish.
- Discards have increased in recent years, with 38% of the catch discarded (average 2019-2021). The majority of discards for this stock are from beam trawlers. Discards of plaice from Irish otter trawls operating in this area range in size between 20-30cm (MCRS 27cm).
- Discards of plaice are considered to have a survivability of about 40%. Under the Landing Obligation Celtic Sea plaice have a high survivability exemption. This exemption applies to otter trawls; trammel nets; Scottish seines; and beam trawls (≤ 221 kW or ≤ 24 m) within 12nm of the coast, and towing for less than 90 minutes; and beam trawls (> 221 kW) using flip-rope or benthic release panel (EC 2020/2015).



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

Plaice in Division 7.f–g Landings by country 1997-2022

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Belgium	594	540	371	224	241	248	221	212	168	172
UK (Engl. & Wales)	258	176	170	134	136	105	127	87	55	88
France	329	298		287	262	186	165	145	132	106
Ireland	78	135	115	76	45	79	51	45	44	48
Total reported	1259	1149	656	721	684	618	564	489	399	414
Unallocated	-42	-82	312	-3	30	24	30	21	-13	-10
Landings used by WG	1217	1067	968	718	714	642	594	510	386	404
Catch as used by WG	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	784	707	857
Discards as used by WG*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	274	321	453

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Belgium	194	188	216	188	210	203	185	182	185	243
UK	61	63	55	54	45	45	41	25	25	27
France	104	70	NA	136	98	125	106	155	111	108
Ireland	58	64	63	63	67	76	80	49	59	52
Total reported	417	385	NA	442	420	450	412	411	381	430
Unallocated	-7	52	-1	-9	7	-8	-2	-1	0	0
Landings used by WG	410	437	481	442	427	442	414	410	381	431
Catch as used by WG	1698	1020	1089	1112	1534	1565	1688	1183	1159	1002
Discards as used by WG*	1288	583	608	670	1107	1123	1274	772	778	571

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021^	2022^
Belgium	179	204	263	332	269	300
UK	38	40	45	47	48	40
France	108	127	84	47	51	51
Spain			1	<1	0.5	5
Netherlands			<1	<1		
Ireland	63	51	**	110	106	128
Total reported	388	422	394 **	536	476	524
Unallocated	1	0	-2	0	2	-2
Landings used by WG	389	422	642	536	468	522
Catch as used by WG	1284	930	831	893	846	748
Discards as used by WG*	895	508	189	357	378	226

* Discard estimated by the working group.

** Incomplete / missing due to part of the data being unavailable under national GDPR clauses.

^Preliminary official landings.

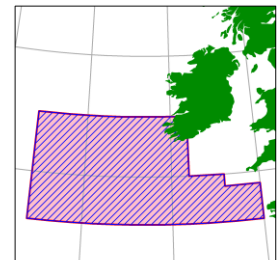
SOUTHWEST OF IRELAND PLAICE

Divisions 7.h-k



ADVICE FOR 2024

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches should be no more than 132 t in each of the years 2023 and 2024.

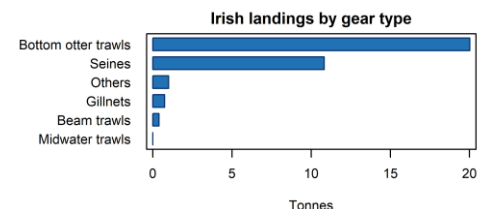


■ TAC/Management area
■ Assessment area

KEY POINTS

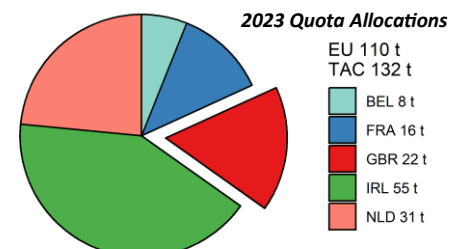
ICES Assessment Category	3 (Trend Based Assessment)	
Management Plan	WWMAP (bycatch)	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY approach	Catch=132 t
Ranges	F _{MSY} Range Lower	Not Applicable
	F _{MSY}	Not Available
	F _{MSY} Range Upper	Not Applicable
Landing Obligation	From 2019	High survivability exemption*

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



MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- The TAC and assessment area covers 7.h-k and the TAC is exclusively for by-catch.
- The Irish quota has not been restrictive since 2014.



KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- The stock was benchmarked in 2021, and advice is now produced using a trends based assessment using a new combined survey index.
- Fishing pressure is below the F_{MSY proxy}, and the stock size index is above MSY B_{trigger proxy}.
- Irish landings of this stock are caught as a minor bycatch in a mixed fishery and are mainly landed with megrim, anglerfish, haddock and whiting.
- As a result of the documented high survivability of discarded plaice, a high survivability exemption is currently in place. This exemption applies to beam trawls (≤ 221 kW or ≤ 24 m) within 12 nm of the coast, and towing for less than 90 minutes; and beam trawls (> 221 kW) using flip-up rope or benthic release panel (EC 2020/2015). This is unlikely to affect Irish fisheries as there are few Irish beam trawls operating in this area. An exemption to the Landing Obligation also applies to Scottish seines in this area.

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

Plaice in Division 7.h–k Landings by country 1995-2022

Year	BEL	FRA	IRL	UK	OTH	Official landings	ICES landings
1995	0	60	321	286	0	667	
1996	0	48	305	155	52	560	
1997	0	69	344	138	0	551	
1998	0	49	286	106	13	454	
1999	45	0	299	82	1	437	
2000	4	54	200	76	7	341	
2001	27	50	160	73	3	313	
2002	69	45	155	59	2	330	
2003	20	32	127	56	6	241	
2004	67	32	91	36	6	232	224
2005	32	20	90	28	0	170	167
2006	22	36	66	18	1	143	143
2007	7	30	72	20	13	141	124
2008	25	13	73	12	1	124	133
2009	1	44	72	32	0	149	143
2010	<1	54	66	35	0	155	150
2011	4	58	72	44	0	178	172
2012	2	62	99	38	0	201	193
2013	0	49	52	40	0	141	137
2014	4	52	82	15	0	153	147
2015	0	60	25	18	0	103	107
2016	7	46	32	15	0	100	99
2017	11	53	42	10	0	116	114
2018	17	35	32	0	11	95	96
2019	6	17	c	9	2	34 c	64
2020	7	12	12	7	1	39	39
2021^	9	14	15	8	<1	46	48
2022^	8	11	1c	14	0	35c	

Incomplete / missing due to part of the data being unavailable under national GDPR clauses.

^Preliminary official landings.