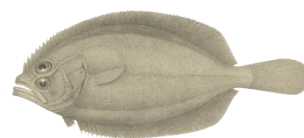


# CELTIC SEA AND BAY OF BISCAY MEGRIM

Divisions 7b-k and 8.a,b,d

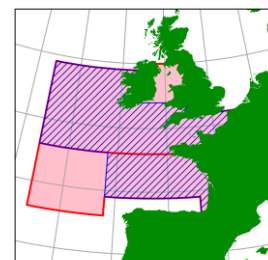


## ADVICE FOR 2023

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2023 should be no more than 23,596 t.

ICES notes the existence of a precautionary management plan, developed and adopted by one of the relevant management authorities for this stock.

Management of catches of the two megrim species, *L. whiffiagonis* and *L. boscii*, under a combined species TAC prevents effective control of the single-species exploitation rates, and could lead to the overexploitation of either species.

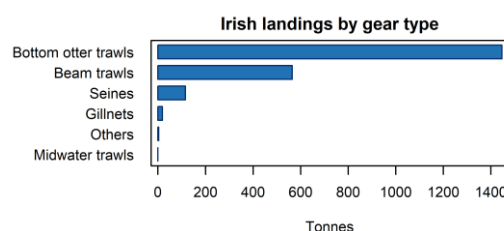


■ TAC/Management area  
■ Assessment area

## KEY POINTS

|                          |                              |   |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| ICES Assessment Category | I (Quantitative Assessment)  |   |
| Management Plan          | WWMAP (target)               |   |
| Advice Basis             | ICES MSY approach            | Catch=23,596 t                                      |
| F <sub>MSY</sub> Ranges  | F <sub>MSY</sub> Range Lower | Catch=15,101 t                                      |
|                          | F <sub>MSY</sub>             | Catch=23,596 t                                      |
|                          | F <sub>MSY</sub> Range Upper | Catch=38,191 t                                      |
| Landing Obligation       | From 2019                    | Area and gear specific <i>de minimis</i> exemption* |

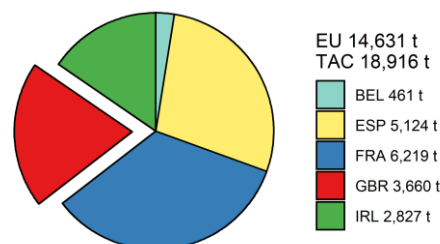
\* EU 2020/2015.



## MANAGEMENT IN 2022

- There are two TAC areas covering the assessment area. Ireland only has quota for the TAC in area 7. Up to 5% of the area 7 TAC may be fished in 8.a,b,d,e, there is currently no flexibility from 8.a,b,d,e to 7.
- The TACs cover two megrim species (megrim *L. whiffiagonis* and four-spot megrim *L. boscii*). There is no catch advice for four-spot megrim. This species normally constitutes less than 5% of total landings.

2022 Quota Allocation Area 7



## KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- Most Irish landings are taken as a by-catch in mixed fisheries and are landed with anglerfish, *Nephrops*, haddock, whiting, hake and other species. A small number of trips appear to specifically target megrim.
- The advice implies an Irish quota for 2023 of approximately 2,994 t. (assuming the same approach to four-spot megrim catches and the same allocation between area 7 and 8.a,b,d,e as recent years).
- The landings are usually lower than the TAC, mainly due to low uptake by France and Spain. In some years, the quota for Ireland has been restrictive.