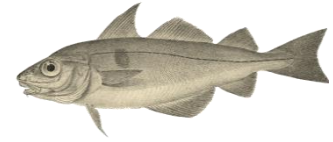


WEST OF SCOTLAND, NORTH SEA AND SKAGERRAK HADDOCK

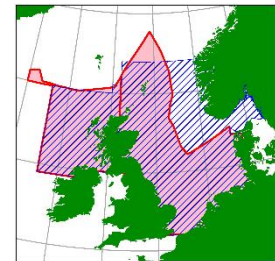


Division 6.a, Sub-area 4 and Sub-division 20

ADVICE FOR 2024

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, total catches in 2024 should be no more than 149,024 t.

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

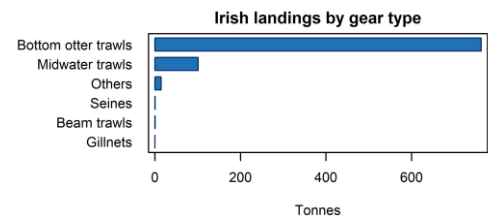


■ TAC/Management area
■ Assessment area

KEY POINTS

ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	NSMAP (target); Not agreed between EU, UK & Norway	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY approach	Catch=149,024 t
Ranges	F _{MSY} Range Lower	Catch=118,955 t
	F _{MSY}	Catch=149,024 t
	F _{MSY} Range Upper	Catch=149,024 t
Landing Obligation	From 2016	Below MCRS <i>De minimis</i> up to 3%*

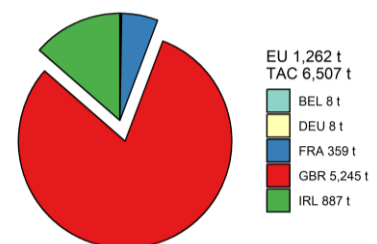
* Maximum of annual catch by bottom trawls with mesh size up to 119 mm and requiring reporting (EU 2020/2015).



MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- ICES advice was split across three TAC areas. The Irish quota is from the TAC covering 6.a and United Kingdom and international waters of 5.b. The 2023 TAC was set at 6,507 t with an Irish quota of 887 t.
- Up to 25 % of the quota may be fished in United Kingdom and Union waters of 2a and 4.
- From 2013 to 2019 the Irish fleet caught its full quota, this was not the case in 2020 or 2021. In 2022 the full Irish quota was again caught.

2023 Quota Allocations in 6a



KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- Most of the Irish landings of haddock in Division 6.a come from trips that target haddock. The remainder are taken from a more mixed fishery and are mainly landed with megrim, anglerfish and other gadoid species.
- The TAC for this stock is linked to the North Sea and is negotiated as part of an EU, UK and Norway agreement.
- Advice has increased notably for the last four years owing to incoming recruitment since 2019 that has been above preceding low levels since the early 2000s. Irregular strong recruitment events have been a feature of the stock in the past, resulting in sporadic increases in SSB. Decreased fishing pressure has also contributed to the increase in the stock size.