

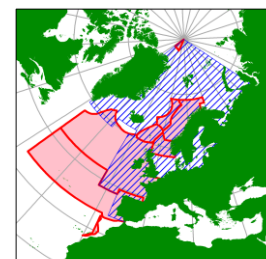
# NORTHEAST ATLANTIC MACKEREL

Sub-areas 1-8 and 14 and division 9.a



## ADVICE FOR 2023

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2023 should be no more than 782,066 t.

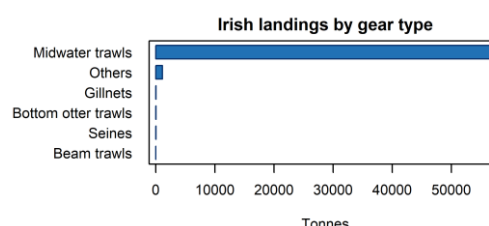


■ TAC/Management area  
■ Assessment area

## KEY POINTS

ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	No	
Advice Basis	MSY approach	Catch=782,066 t
Ranges	F <sub>MSY</sub> Range Lower	Not Appropriate
	F <sub>MSY</sub>	Catch=782,066 t
	F <sub>MSY</sub> Range Upper	Not Appropriate
Landing Obligation	From 2015	Area and gear specific <i>de minimis</i> and survivability exemptions in 2021-23*

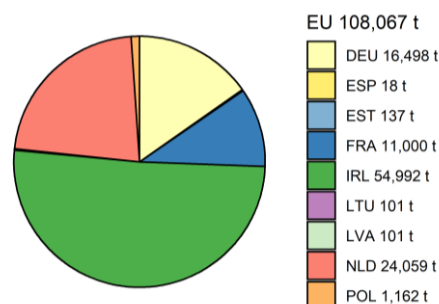
\* Commission delegated regulation 2020/2015



## MANAGEMENT IN 2022

- There is currently no agreed long-term management strategy involving all nations fishing this stock.
- Historically, the TAC has been divided into a North Sea TAC (EU and Norway), a Western TAC (EU, Norway and Faroes), a Southern TAC (EU) and a NEAFC TAC (Coastal States, Iceland and Russia). However, there has been no sharing agreement involving all fishing parties since 2008 and a 2014 agreement between the EU, Norway and the Faroes ceased after 2020. Norway and the Faroes subsequently declared increased quotas in 2021-22. The remaining parties (including the UK following its departure from the EU) declared unilateral quotas such that the total expected catch for 2022 is approximately 1,131 kt. The advised catch for 2022 is 795 kt.
- The Irish 2022 quota of 54,992 t was derived from the Western TAC and may be fished in UK waters of 4.a during the periods 1<sup>st</sup> Jan to 14<sup>th</sup> Feb and 1<sup>st</sup> Aug to 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2022.
- The Cornwall box is closed to directed trawling (Appendix III) and measures to protect the North Sea spawning component remain in place.

2022 EU quota allocation for 6, 7, 8abde; EU and international waters of 5.b; international waters of 2.a, 12 and 14 (Western TAC)



## KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- A number of above average year classes between 2000 and 2011 resulted in an increased stock size and an expanded geographic distribution. SSB has been falling since 2014 with catches consistently above advice, although it remains above MSY  $B_{trigger}$ . Fishing mortality has been increasing since 2016 and is above  $F_{MSY}$  in 2020 and 2021.
- An evaluation of long-term management strategies for NEA Mackerel was conducted in 2020 following a request from the EU, Norway and the Faroe Islands. A range of harvest rule parameters that are both precautionary in the long

term and maximise long term yield were identified. The evaluations also resulted in revised reference point estimates with  $F_{MSY}$  estimated to be 0.26, reflecting the increased stock productivity observed over the past 20 years.

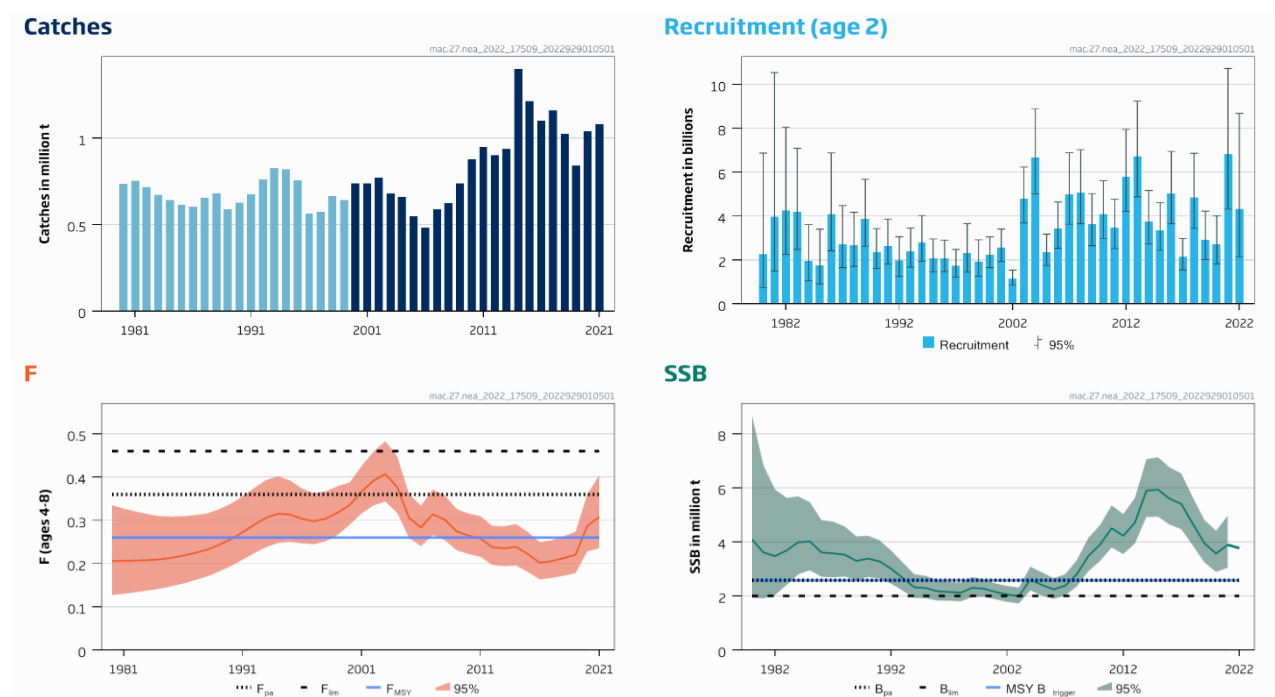
## Mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) in subareas 1–8 and 14, and in Division 9.a (the Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)

### ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2023 should be no more than 782 066 tonnes.

### Stock development over time

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



**Figure 1** Mackerel in subareas 1–8 and 14, and in Division 9.a. Summary of the stock assessment. Catches prior to 2000 have been down-weighted in the assessment because of the considerable underreporting suspected to have taken place in this period. Abundance estimates of age 0 and 1 from the assessment model poorly reflect year-class strength and therefore recruitment is shown at age 2.

### Catch scenarios

**Table 1** Mackerel in subareas 1–8 and 14, and in Division 9.a. Values in the forecast and for the interim year.

Variable	Value	Notes
$F_{ages\ 4-8}$ (2022)	0.36	From the forecast for 2022, based on assumed catch in 2022
SSB (2022) at spawning time	3 769 326	From the forecast for 2022; in tonnes
$R_{age\ 0}$ (2022–2023)	4 497 060	Geometric mean of the abundance at age 0 (1990–2020); in thousands
Total catch (2022)	1 131 416	Sum of expected landings and discards, accounting for the interannual transfers from 2021; in tonnes