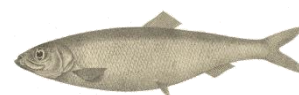


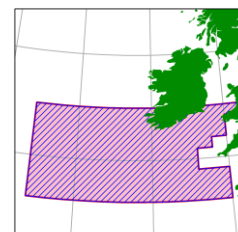
# CELTIC SEA HERRING



Divisions 7.a South of 52°30' North, 7.g–h, and 7.j–k (Irish Sea, Celtic Sea, and southwest of Ireland)

## ADVICE FOR 2024

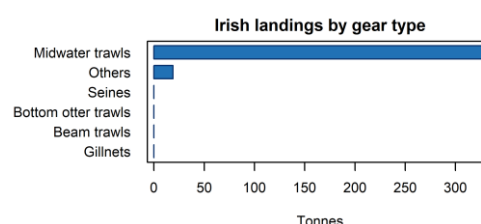
ICES advises that when the MSY approach and precautionary considerations are applied, there should be zero catch in 2024.



■ TAC/Management area  
■ Assessment area

## KEY POINTS

ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	No	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY approach*	Catch=0 t
Ranges	F <sub>MSY</sub> Range	Not Appropriate
	Lower	
	F <sub>MSY</sub>	Catch=4,927 t
	F <sub>MSY</sub> Range Upper	Not Appropriate
Landing Obligation	From 2015	No derogations or exemptions

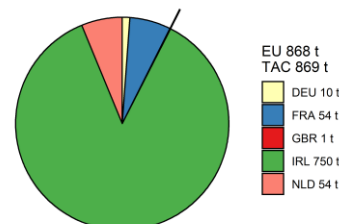


\* Under the ICES MSY approach, when spawning stock biomass (SSB) is below  $B_{lim}$  and no catch scenario enables the stock to recover above  $B_{lim}$  in one year, the advised fishing mortality is 0.

## MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- The Celtic Sea Herring Management Advisory Committee was established in 2005 to provide industry input to the management of the Irish Celtic Sea herring fishery.
- Council set a TAC of 869 t based on the catch level considered appropriate by ICES to allow the continued collection of samples. The Irish quota for 2023 is 750 t.
- Spawning Box C (see Appendix IV) will be closed as part of the triennial spawning box closures that are enshrined in EC legislation.
- The fishery in Division 7.aS is confined to vessels of <17 m LOA.
- The UK, Netherlands, France and Germany can fish for herring in the Irish territorial limits from 6–12 nm, however, in recent years they have not fished in this area.
- The Irish quota is allocated to individual vessels on a weekly basis in two pools, one for the main fishery and one for the sentinel fishery in Division 7.aS.
- The TAC is set by calendar year but the assessment is carried out for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- In 2023 the fishery opened earlier than previous years, on the 20<sup>th</sup> August.
- When less than 10 % of the total catches by live weight are below the minimum conservation reference size of 20 cm, the MCRS shall not apply.

2023 Quota Allocations



## KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- There has not been full uptake of the monitoring TAC of 869 t since it was first applied in 2020. In 2022, uptake was low with 350 t taken.
- Recruitment has been below average since 2013. Due to the current low SSB the incoming recruitments for 2023 and 2024 are expected to be low.
- The SSB has been below  $B_{lim}$  since 2016. There are no catch scenarios that will rebuild the stock above  $B_{lim}$  by 2025.
- Genetic work on stock identification of the Irish Sea and Celtic Sea herring populations is on-going. Tools to identify fish from each population have been developed and indicate mixing of mature and immature individuals primarily in the area to the west of the Isle of Man.



Published 30 June 2023

**Herring (*Clupea harengus*) in divisions 7.a South of 52°30'N, 7.g–h, and 7.j–k (Irish Sea, Celtic Sea, and southwest of Ireland)**

### ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the MSY approach and precautionary considerations are applied, there should be zero catch in 2024.

### ICES advice on conservation aspects

Activities that have a negative impact on the spawning habitat of herring are considered a source of risk for the species.

For the time being, ICES has not identified any further conservation actions.

### Stock development over time

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