

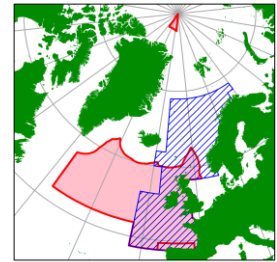
WESTERN HORSE MACKEREL

Sub-area 8 and Divisions 2.a, 4.a, 5.b, 6.a, 7.a–c and 7.e–k



ADVICE FOR 2024

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

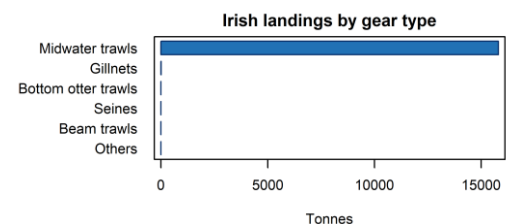


■ TAC/Management area
■ Assessment area

KEY POINTS

| ICES Assessment Category | I (Quantitative Assessment) | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Management Plan | No | |
| Advice Basis | ICES MSY approach | Catch=0 t |
| | F_{MSY} Range Lower | Not available |
| Ranges | F_{MSY} | Catch=73,124 t |
| | F_{MSY} Range Upper | Not available |
| Landing Obligation | From 2015 | Area and gear specific de minimis exemptions in 2021-23* |

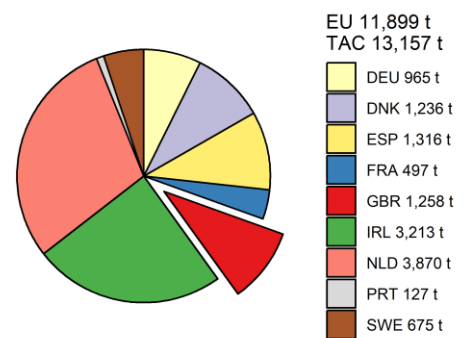
* Commission delegated regulation 2022/2290



MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- The TAC only applies to EU and UK waters. No directed fisheries for horse mackerel are permitted under this TAC.
- There are occasional fisheries outside the TAC area that are not limited by the TAC.
- Since 2005, ICES advice for the Western Stock has included Division 8.c, although the EU continues to set a separate TAC for Division 8.c.
- Up to 5% of the quota may be fished in United Kingdom and EU waters of Divisions 2.a and 4.a before 30th June and counted against the North Sea Horse Mackerel quota.
- Up to 5% of the quota may consist of bycatches of boarfish, haddock, whiting and mackerel provided that, in combination with provisions for other bycatch species, the total does not exceed 9% of the quota.

2023 quota allocation for Divisions 2.a, 4.a, 5.b, 6, 7.a–c, 7.e–k, 8abde, 12 and 14



KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- The 2023 assessment shows the same trend as the previous assessment, the SSB is still below B_{lim} and is forecasted to remain below B_{lim} (834,480 t) in 2025 under all catch scenarios.
- Fishing mortality has been revised upward with the current estimate above F_{MSY} (0.074) and between F_{pa} (0.079) and F_{lim} (0.103).
- In the past, the stock and fishery have been dependent on occasional high recruitments. Recruitment estimates for 2014-2018 are considered the highest since 2008; however estimates have been low since 2019.
- The Pelagic Advisory Council proposed a rebuilding plan for this stock in 2020 and it was reviewed by ICES in 2021. The plan was not adopted by the European Commission and the United Kingdom.