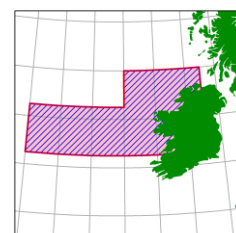


NORTH WEST AND WEST OF IRELAND HERRING

(Divisions 6.a South and 7.b-c)

ADVICE FOR 2023

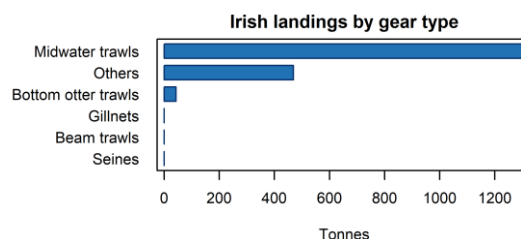
ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2023 should be no more than 1,892 t.



■ TAC/Management area
■ Assessment area

KEY POINTS

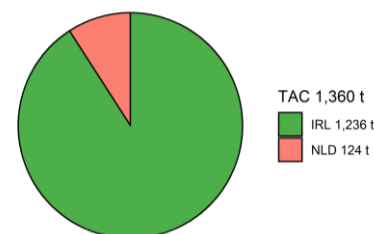
ICES Assessment Category	3 (Survey biomass trend)	
Management Plan	No	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY approach	Catch=1,892 t
Ranges	F_{MSY} Range Lower	Not Appropriate
	F_{MSY}	Not available
	F_{MSY} Range Upper	Not Appropriate
Landing Obligation	From 2015	No derogations or exemptions



MANAGEMENT IN 2022

- From 2016 until 2021, ICES gave one advice for the two stocks in the combined area 6.aN, 6.aS, and 7.b-c. The 56°N boundary between 6.aS/7.b-c and 6.aN is not biologically meaningful. Created in 1981, it corresponds roughly to the boundary of the Irish and UK fishery patrol zones, or “EEZs”. The boundary cuts through both the summer feeding grounds and the winter spawning grounds, and thus the fishing grounds also.
- Since 2015 all targeted herring fishing is prohibited in the part of the ICES zones subject to this TAC between 56°N and 57°30'N, with the exception of a six nautical mile limit measured from the baseline of the United Kingdom's territorial sea.
- In 2016, a scientific monitoring fishery (4,840 t) was considered appropriate by ICES to allow the collection of samples for the two stocks and to continue the time series.
- In 2022, a TAC of 4,840 t was agreed and was split for 6.b, 6.aN and UK and international waters of 5.b, (3,480 t, 72%) and 6.aS and 7b-c (1,360 t, 28%).
- Irish quota in 6.aS, 7.b-c is allocated to vessels in 4 different size categories.
- The Irish herring fishery in 6.a opened on 1st November 2022.
- Irish and Dutch vessels are not allowed to fish herring inside the UK (Scottish) 6-12 nautical mile limits, including the outlying Hebridean Islands (Appendix VI). German and French vessels have access to herring fishing between 6 and 12 nautical miles in Scottish waters in most areas, though not the mainland limits east of the Butt of Lewis.

2022 Quota Allocations for Herring in 6.aS, 7.b-c



KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- This stock was benchmarked in 2022 and is now assessed separately from herring in 6.a North. This was made possible by the development of a genetically split acoustic survey index, which is used as an indicator of stock development.
- The split survey biomass index is available from 2014-2021. The index has increased annually from the lowest observed level in 2016 (36,707 t) with the 2021 biomass index over 189,000 t.
- Ireland is the main participant in this fishery with the monitoring TAC taken close to the coast when the stocks are geographically isolated. Genetic sampling of the catch is required as the stocks recover and the fishing expands.