

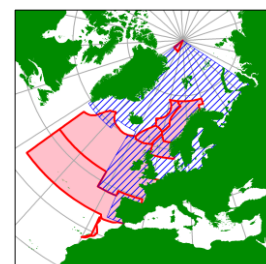
# NORTHEAST ATLANTIC MACKEREL

## Sub-areas I-8 and I4 and division 9.a



### ADVICE FOR 2024

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2024 should be no more than 739,386 t.

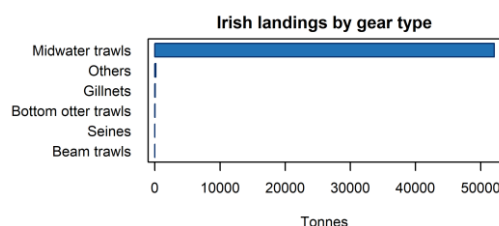


■ TAC/Management area  
■ Assessment area

### KEY POINTS

ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	No	
Advice Basis	MSY approach	Catch=739,386 t
Ranges	F <sub>MSY</sub> Range Lower	Not Appropriate
	F <sub>MSY</sub>	Catch=739,386 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*

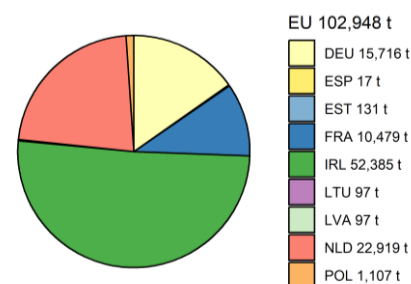
\* Commission delegated regulation 2022/2090



### MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- 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 2023 is approximately 1,147 kt. The advised catch for 2023 is 782 kt.
- The Irish 2023 quota of 52,385 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 2023.
- The Cornwall box is closed to directed trawling (Appendix III) and measures to protect the North Sea spawning component remain in place for 2023.

2023 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 since 2000, have resulted in an increased stock size and an expanded geographic distribution. SSB has been falling since 2015 although it remains above MSY B<sub>trigger</sub>. Catches have been consistently above the advice. Fishing mortality has been increasing since 2016 and is above F<sub>MSY</sub> in 2021 and 2022.
- In 2023, ICES reviewed the evidence regarding mackerel stock structure and concluded that NEA mackerel is a single stock with no separate spawning components. Management measures in place to protect spawning components have no biological basis. This review does not impact the assessment and catch advice which assumes a single stock.