

SPURDOG IN THE NORTHEAST ATLANTIC

Sub-areas I-I4



ADVICE FOR 2023

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2023 and 2024 should be no more than 17,353 t and 17,855 t, respectively.

The advice for 2023 and 2024 is a non-zero catch because the recent benchmark has led to a change in the perception of the stock and reference points.



KEY POINTS

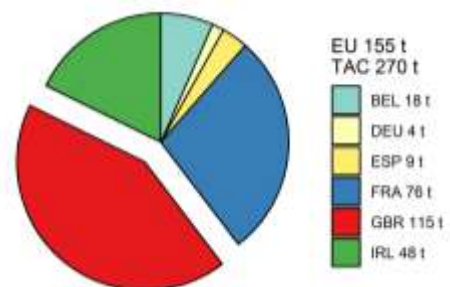
ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
ICES advice basis (MSY approach)	HR=HR _{MSY}	Catch=17,353 t
MSY Range	Not applicable	
Management Plan	No	
Landing Obligation	Does not apply	Not applicable (prohibited species*)

* Exemption for permitted bycatch in fisheries implementing an avoidance scheme.

MANAGEMENT IN 2022

- A bycatch TAC of 270 t is only available for countries that have a dedicated spurdog avoidance bycatch programme. Ireland was allocated a quota of 48 t under this TAC but there is no bycatch avoidance in place in Ireland.

2022 Spurdog Bycatch Avoidance TAC



KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- A new benchmark assessment of spurdog was conducted in 2021. Several improvements were made to the stock assessment model and input data used. The new assessment showed that fishing mortality is currently very low and the stock is recovering. The 2022 spurdog assessment shows the stock has now surpassed the limit reference point B_{lim} and MSY $B_{trigger}$, therefore, ICES has advised a non zero TAC for the first time since 2010.
- Spurdog have low productivity and are vulnerable to fishing because they form dense aggregations that can be easily targeted.
- A maximum landings size of 100cm was in place in 2009 and 2010 before the TAC was set at zero in 2011.