

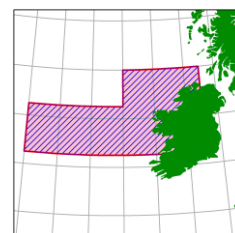
NORTH WEST AND WEST OF IRELAND HERRING

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



ADVICE FOR 2024

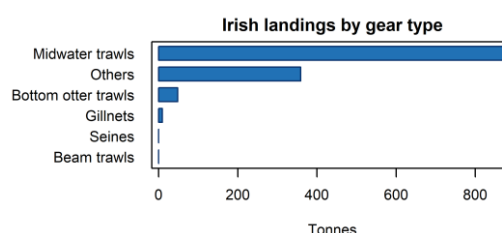
ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2024 should be no more than 2,270 t.



■ TAC/Management area
■ Assessment area

KEY POINTS

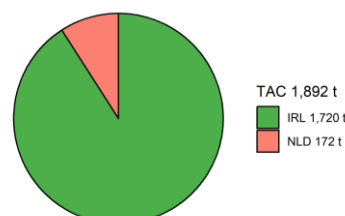
ICES Assessment Category	3 (Survey biomass trend)	
Management Plan	No	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY approach	Catch=2,270 t
Ranges	F _{MSY} Range Lower	Not Appropriate
	F _{MSY}	Not available
	F _{MSY} Range Upper	Not Appropriate
Landing Obligation	From 2015	No derogations or exemptions



MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- Since 2022 ICES gives separate advice for the 6.aN and 6.aS/7.b-c herring populations. These populations mix across the stock areas.
- In 2023, a TAC of 1,892 t was agreed for herring in 6.aS/7.b-c. This supersedes the scientific monitoring TAC which was in place from 2016-2022.
- 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 2023, the 2012 Herring Management Policy in relation to 6.aS/7.b-c quota allocations was reviewed, resulting in a set quantity (350 t) of herring being made available for non-ringfenced vessels (vessels < 20m in length overall) when the TAC is below 7,000 t.
- The Irish herring fishery in 6.aS/7.b-c opened on 29th October 2023.
- Irish and Dutch vessels are not allowed to fish herring inside the UK (Scottish) 6-12 nautical mile limits, including the outlying Hebridean Islands. 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.

2023 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 2014-2022. The index has shown an increasing trend since the lowest observed level in 2016 (36,707 t), with the 2022 biomass index at 147,199 t.
- Ireland is the main participant in this fishery. Genetic sampling of the catch is required as the stocks recover and the fishing expands.