## WEST OF SCOTLAND AND ROCKALL SOLE

#### Sub-area 6



### **ADVICE FOR 2024**

The status of this stock is unknown and there is no ICES advice.

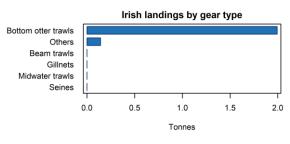
There is no basis to give advice for this stock. However, FEAS note that preliminary catch data show international catches averaging 9.8 t for the past 3 years, which is well below the TAC.



# TAC/Management areAssessment area

### **KEY POINTS**

ICES Assessment Category	Not Appropriate	
Management Plan	No*	
Advice Basis	None	Not Appropriate
Ranges	F <sub>MSY</sub> Range Lower	Not Appropriate
	F <sub>MSY</sub>	Not Available
	F <sub>MSY</sub> Range Upper	Not Appropriate
Landing Obligation	From 2017	No derogations or exemptions



<sup>\*</sup>Sole 6.a is not specifically mentioned in WWMAP, which lists sole 5, 6.b, 12 & 14.

### **MANAGEMENT IN 2023**

• The TAC area covers Sub-areas 6, 12, 14 and EU, UK and international waters of Division 5.b.

### **KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS**

- The minimum mesh size of bottom trawls (TRI) and seines is >120 mm which is too large to target sole effectively.
- There is a large decrease in reported landings by Ireland in 2022, declining from 12 t in 2021 to 2.1 t in 2022.

