Nephrops FU19

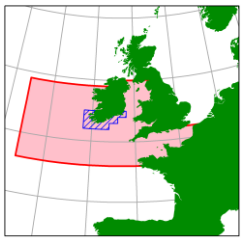
(South East and South West coast of Ireland)

Division 7.a, 7.g, and 7.j.

Advice for 2024

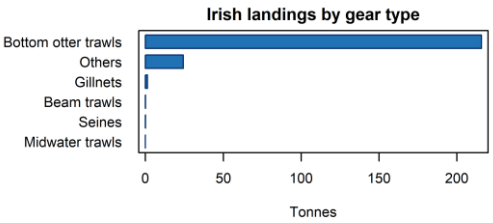
ICES advises that when the EU multiannual plan (MAP) for Western waters and adjacent waters is applied, and assuming that discard rates and fishery selection patterns do not change from the average of the years 2020-2022, catches in 2024 that correspond to the F ranges in the MAP are between 224 t and 248 t.

To ensure that the stock in Functional Unit (FU) 19 is exploited sustainably, management should be implemented at the FU level. A transfer of advised catch from other FUs to FU 19 could lead to overexploitation.



Key Points

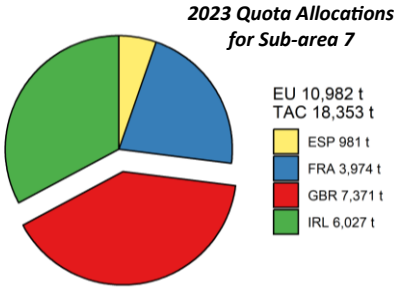
ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	WWMAP (target)	
Advice Basis	Management Plan**	Catch=248 t
Ranges	F_{MSY} Range Lower	Catch=432 t
	F_{MSY}	Catch=484 t
	F_{MSY} Range Upper***	Catch=484 t
Landing Obligation	From 2016	Gear specific high survivability exemption*
MSY $B_{trigger}$ (million individuals)	430	



* Described below under Key Stock Considerations, details in (EC 2020/2015).

** *FMSY* × stock abundance (2024)/MSY $B_{trigger}$

*** FMSY upper = FMSY for this stock.



Management in 2023

- The current TAC area and stock assessment area do not match.

Key Stock Considerations

- The advised catch of 248 t results in projected landings advice of 170 t (assuming that discard rates and fishery selection patterns do not change from the average of the years 2020–2022).
- The decrease in catch advice for 2024 compared to previous years is directly linked to the decreased estimate of stock abundance in 2023.
- Total abundance shows a declining trend since the start of the time series.
- The average discard rate by weight in the trawl fishery for FU 19 over the last three years is 32%. This is high relative to other areas because on-board tailing (keeping only the tail) of the catch is not as prevalent as in other FUs around Ireland.
- Around 60% of the Irish landings of FU 19 *Nephrops* come from trips where *Nephrops* was the dominant species. The remainder are taken in a more mixed fishery and are mainly landed with anglerfish, megrim, whiting and haddock.

- Under the Landing Obligation *Nephrops* fisheries in Sub-area 7 have a high survivability exemption, based on studies which showed a survivability of about 64% (BIM, 2017). This exemption applies to bottom trawls (OTT, OTB, TBS, TBN, TB, PTB, OT, PT, TX) with a mesh size ≥100 mm or with a mesh size 70-99 mm in combination with highly selective gear options such as: square mesh panels, seltra panel, sorting grid or separation panel.
- A high survivability exemption also applies to creel caught *Nephrops* in Sub-area 7.

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Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) in divisions 7.a, 7.g, and 7.j, Functional Unit 19 (Irish Sea, Celtic Sea, eastern part of southwest of Ireland)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the EU multiannual plan (MAP) for Western Waters and adjacent waters is applied, and assuming that discard rates and fishery selection patterns do not change from the average of the years 2020–2022, catches in 2024 that correspond to the F ranges in the MAP are between 224 and 248 tonnes.

To ensure that the stock in Functional Unit (FU) 19 is exploited sustainably, management should be implemented at the FU level. A transfer of advised catch from other FUs to FU 19 could lead to overexploitation.

ICES advice on conservation aspects

ICES has not identified any conservation aspects.

Stock development over time

Fishing pressure on the stock is below F_{MSY}, and stock size is below MSY $B_{trigger}$.

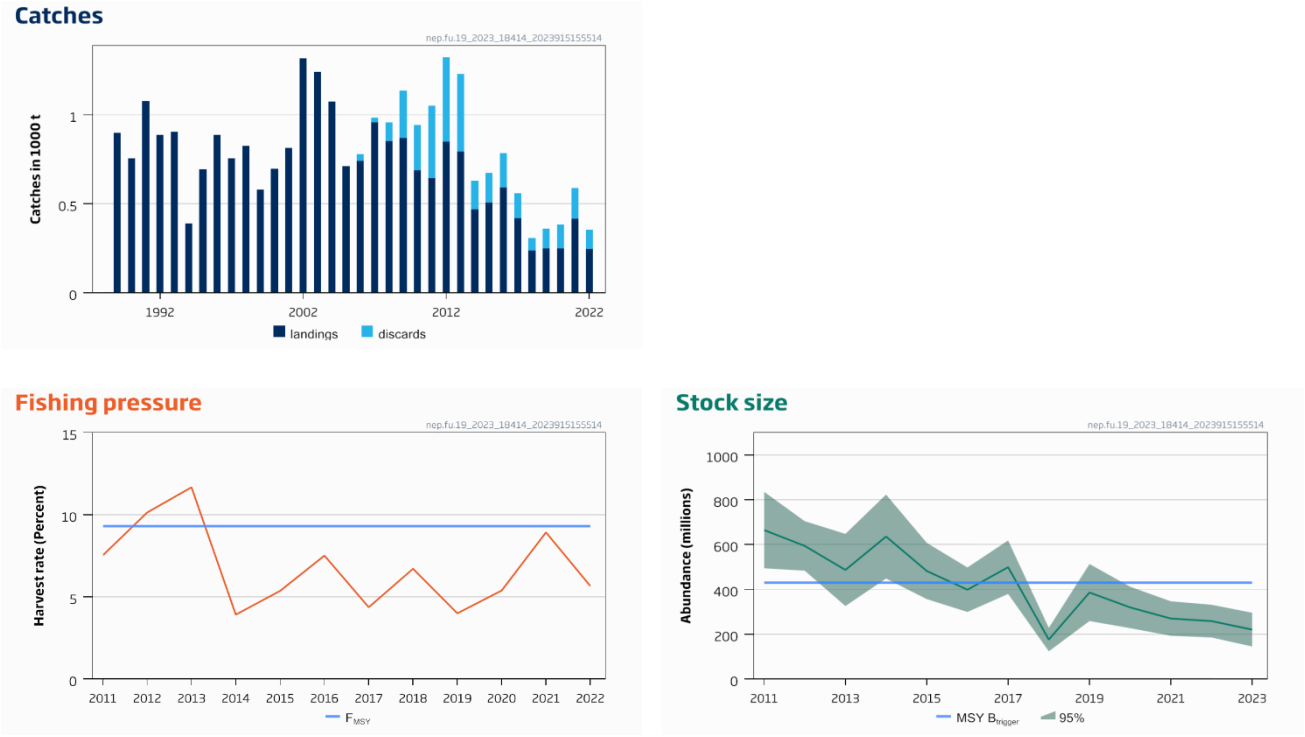

Figure 1 Norway lobster in divisions 7.a, 7.g, and 7.j, Functional Unit 19. Summary of the stock assessment. Catches (discards are only available from 2006 onwards), harvest rate (sum of landings and dead discards in numbers divided by stock abundance), and stock abundance (underwater TV survey).