

WEST OF SCOTLAND WHITING

Division 6.a



ADVICE FOR 2023

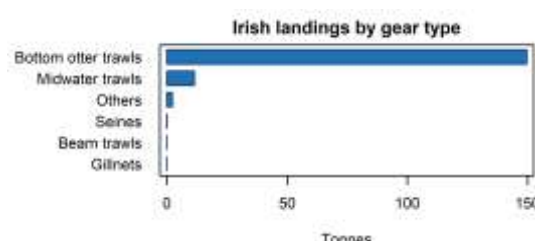
ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2023 should be no more than 4,155 t.



■ TAC/Management area
■ Assessment area

KEY POINTS

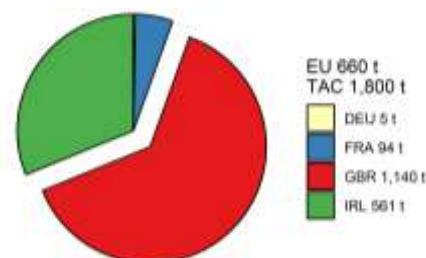
ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative assessment)	
Management Plan	WWMAP (by-catch)	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY approach	Catch=4,155 t
Ranges	F _{MSY} Range Lower	Catch=3,472 t
	F _{MSY}	Catch=4,155 t
	F _{MSY} Range Upper	Catch=4,155 t
Landing Obligation	From 2019	No derogations or exemptions



2022 Quota Allocations

MANAGEMENT IN 2022

- The assessment area is 6.a while the TAC management area covers ICES sub-area 6 and UK and international waters of 5.b and international waters 12 and 14.
- The 2022 TAC was set at 1,800 t, an EU quota of 660 t, with an associated Irish quota of 561 t, exclusively for bycatches no directed fisheries are allowed. This TAC is well below the ICES advice for 2022 of 4,114 t.



KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- The assessment was benchmarked in 2021, resulting in the stock being changed from a category 5 stock to a category I stock. The assessment includes revised catch and survey data and updated biological parameters and also accounts for changes in fishery selectivity.
- Irish landings of whiting to the west of Scotland are mainly taken as a minor bycatch in mixed fisheries and are mainly landed with haddock and megrim.
- Catches of whiting were mainly discarded up to 2020 but the discard rate declined significantly to 23% by weight in 2021.