

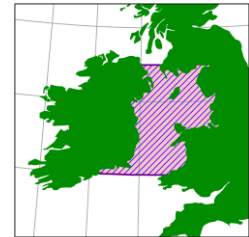
IRISH SEA SOLE

Division 7.a



ADVICE FOR 2024

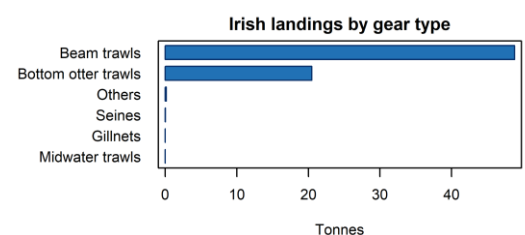
ICES advises that when the MSY approach and precautionary considerations are applied, there should be zero catch in 2024.



■ TAC/Management area
■ Assessment area

KEY POINTS

ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	WWMAP (bycatch)	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY approach with precautionary considerations	Catch= 0 t
Ranges	F _{MSY} Range Lower	Catch= 375 t
	F _{MSY}	Catch= 461 t
	F _{MSY} Range Upper	Not applicable
Landing Obligation	From 2019	De minimis up to 3%*

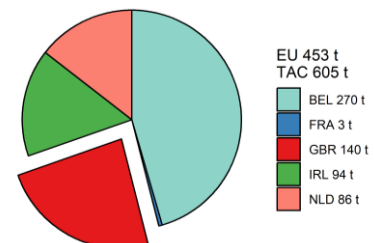


* Beam trawlers using mesh size 80-119mm with increased selectivity (EC 2020/2015)

MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- The stock and management units are both ICES Division 7.a.
- The TAC is set at 605 t. The EU component is 453 t and the Irish quota allocation is 94 t.

2023 Quota Allocations



KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- The stock is estimated to be below MSY $B_{trigger}$ and B_{pa} but above B_{lim} following a period of low recruitment and increasing fishing mortality.
- Zero catch advice is given because the SSB is likely to be over-estimated in the forecast. A catch option of 203t is provided, however it is unlikely that the stock would reach B_{lim} in 2025 given the biased over-estimation of SSB observed in the forecast in recent years.
- Discard data is not included in the assessment but shows an increase in recent years from 3.5% (2016-2018) to 12.8% (2019-2022). This stock is scheduled for benchmark in 2024 with the aim to include discards in the assessment.
- Irish landings of Irish Sea sole are mainly taken as a minor bycatch in mixed fisheries targeting rays and plaice in the St. George's Channel and to a lesser extent also in the *Nephrops* fishery. Most landings are from beam trawlers but an increasing proportion of landings are from the otter trawl fleets.