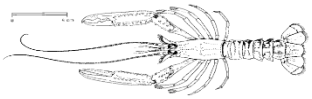
Nephrops FU15 (Irish Sea, West)



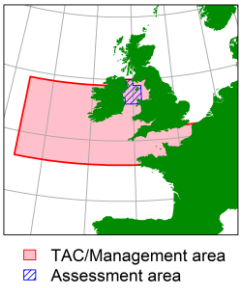
Division 7.a

Advice for 2024

ICES advises that when the MSY approach 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 should be no more than 12,008 t.

To ensure that the stock in Functional Unit 15 is exploited sustainably, management should be implemented at the functional unit level.

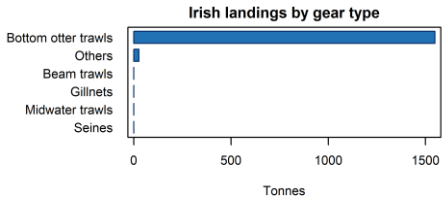
ICES notes the existence of a management plan, developed and adopted by one of the relevant management authorities for subarea 7. ICES considers this plan to be precautionary when implemented at the Functional Unit level.



Key Points

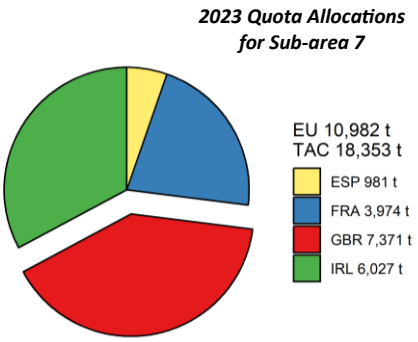
ICES assessment Category	1 (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	WWMAP (target); No management plan has been agreed between all the relevant management authorities.	
Advice Basis	MSY approach	Catch=12,008 t
Ranges	F_{MSY} Range Lower	Catch=8,181 t
	F_{MSY}	Catch=12,008 t
	F_{MSY} Range Upper**	Catch=12,008 t
Landing Obligation	From 2016	Gear specific high survivability exemption*
MSY $B_{trigger}$ (million individuals)	3,000	

* Described below under Key Stock Considerations, details in (EU 2020/2015).
** FMSY upper = FMSY for this stock.



Management in 2023

- The current TAC area and stock assessment area do not match.
- Since 2016, fisheries catching *Nephrops* in Division 7.a have been covered by the EU Landing Obligation. Pot, trap and creel and in 2021 most trawl fisheries had a high survivability exemption under the Landing Obligation (there are negligible creel fisheries in this area).
- Irish vessels (>12 m) fishing *Nephrops* in the Irish Sea are required to use one of four highly selective gears and a cod end mesh size >80mm (S.I. No. 510 of 2016 and EU 2021/2324).



Key Stock Considerations

- The advised catch of 12,008 t results in projected landings advice of 10,045 t (assuming that discard rates and fishery selection patterns do not change from the average of the years 2020–2022).
- Irish landings of Irish Sea *Nephrops* are taken in a highly targeted fishery; in 2022 97% of the landings came from trips targeting *Nephrops*.

- Under the Landing Obligation *Nephrops* trawl fisheries in Division 7a 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: 300mm square mesh panels, seltra panel, 35 mm sorting grid, CEFAS Netgrid or Flip-flap trawl (EU 2021/2324).
- A high survivability exemption also applies to creel caught *Nephrops* in Sub-area 7.

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Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) in Division 7.a, Functional Unit 15 (Irish Sea, West)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the MSY approach 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 should be no more than 12 008 tonnes.

To ensure that the stock in Functional Unit (FU) 15 is exploited sustainably, management should be implemented at the FU level.

ICES notes the existence of a management plan, developed and adopted by one of the relevant management authorities for Subarea 7. ICES considers this plan to be precautionary when implemented at the FU level.

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES has not identified any conservation aspects.

Stock development over time

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

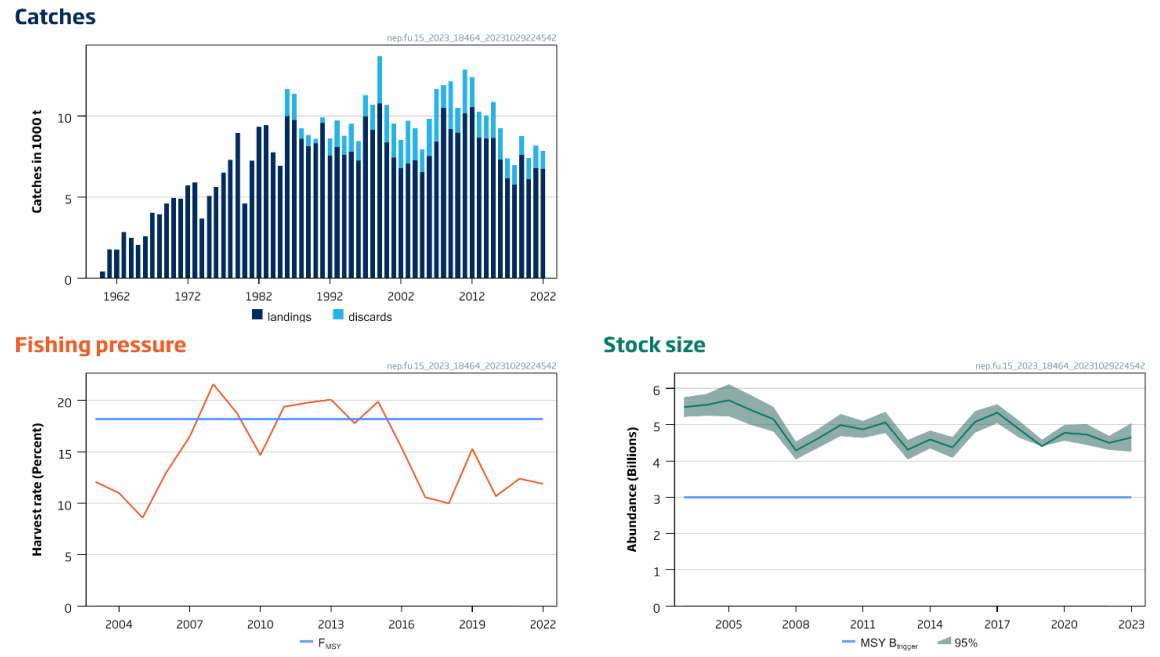

Figure 1 Norway lobster in Division 7.a, Functional Unit 15. Summary of the stock assessment. Catches (discard data are only available since 1986), harvest rate (sum of landings and dead discards in numbers, divided by stock abundance), and stock abundance (underwater TV survey). Harvest rates between 2003 and 2006 may be underestimated because of under-reporting of landings.