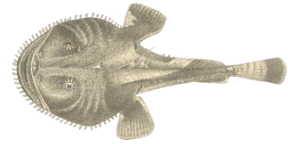


CELTIC SEA AND BAY OF BISCAY ANGLERFISH

Sub-area 7 and Divisions 8.a,b,d

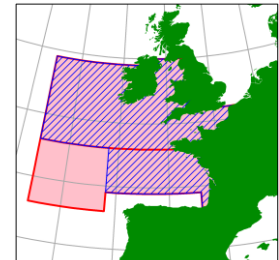


ADVICE FOR 2024

Black anglerfish (*Lophius budegassa*): ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2024 should be no more than 25,579 t.

White anglerfish (*Lophius piscatorius*): ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2024 should be no more than 35,502 t.

ICES also advises that management of black and white anglerfish under a combined-species TAC, prevents effective control of the single-species exploitation rates and could lead to the overexploitation of either species.



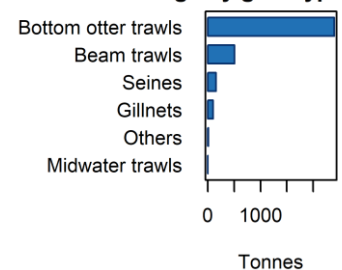
■ TAC/Management area
■ Assessment area

KEY POINTS

	Black anglerfish	White anglerfish
Assessment Cat	I (Quantitative Assessment)	I (Quantitative Assessment)
Management Plan	WWMAP (target species)	WWMAP (target species)
Advice Basis	MSY approach, Catch=25,579 t	MSY approach, Catch=35,502 t
F _{MSY} ranges	F _{lower} Catch=17,990 t	F _{lower} Catch=24,976 t
	F _{MSY} Catch=25,579 t	F _{MSY} Catch=35,502 t
	F _{upper} Catch=37,050 t	F _{upper} Catch=38,811 t
Landing Obligation	From 2019; Area and gear specific derogation*	From 2019; Area and gear specific derogation*

*EC 2020/2015

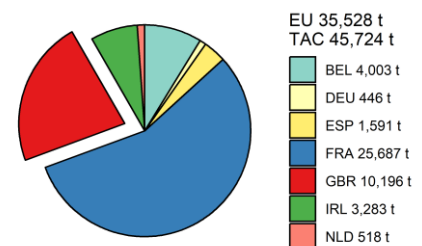
Irish landings by gear type



MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- The TAC applies to combined species of anglerfish because black and white anglerfish are often not separated in the landings. This can potentially lead to over-exploitation of one of the two species. However, both species are currently assessed to be well within safe biological limits.
- There are two TAC areas that cover these stocks: area 7 and area 8.a,b,d,e. Up to 10% of the Sub-area 7 TAC may be fished in Divisions 8.a,b,d,e, but there currently is no flexibility from 8.a,b,d,e to 7.

2023 Quota Allocation Area 7



KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- The advice for the combined species in the two TAC areas is 61,081 t. This implies a TAC for Sub-area 7 of 48,173 t with an Irish quota of 3,430 t – assuming the same allocation between the TAC areas as last year.
- The assessment for black anglerfish indicates that the stock is increasing and is fished below F_{MSY}. The catch advice for 2024 is 9% higher than the advice for 2023; this is due to an increasing stock size.
- The assessment for white anglerfish indicates that the stock is fished below F_{MSY}, the stock size peaked in 2020 and has decreased slightly since. The catch advice is 3% higher than the advice for the previous year.
- Much of the Irish anglerfish landings come from highly mixed fisheries. They are caught together with megrim, *Nephrops*, haddock, hake and other species. In some areas anglerfish are specifically targeted, mainly along the edge of the continental shelf.