

BLUE WHITING



Subareas 1-9, 12 and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent waters)

ADVICE FOR 2024

ICES advises that when the long-term management strategy agreed by the Norway, the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, and the United Kingdom is applied, catches in 2024 should be no more than 1,529,754 t.

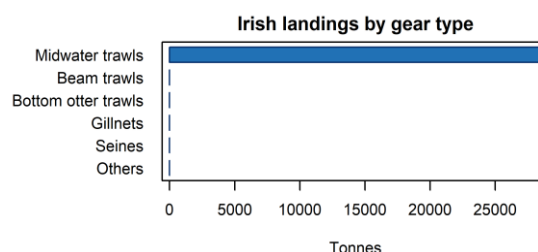


■ TAC/Management area
■ Assessment area

KEY POINTS

ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management plan	Yes (European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Norway in 2016 and by the UK in 2021)	
Advice Basis	Long term management strategy	Catch=1,529,754 t
	F _{MSY} Range Lower	Not Appropriate
Ranges	F _{MSY}	Catch=1,529,754 t
	F _{MSY} Range Upper	Not Appropriate
Landing Obligation	From 2015	Fleet specific <i>de minimis</i> exemption for 2021-2023*

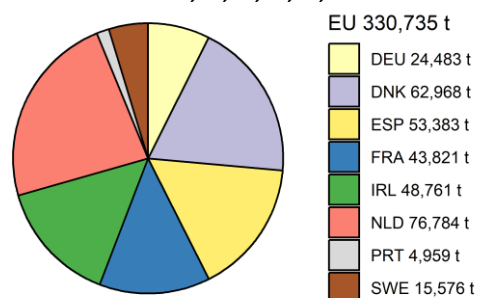
* Commission delegated regulation 2020/2015



MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- A long-term management strategy was agreed by the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland and Norway in 2016, and subsequently by the UK in 2021. ICES evaluated the strategy and found it to be precautionary.
- Since 2014, no sharing agreement has been in place between the Coastal States for the blue whiting stock and total catches have exceeded advice.
- In 2023, the catch is estimated at 1,672,378 t (based on declared quotas and expected uptake), substantially in excess of the catch advice of 1,359,629 t.
- Ireland has a share of the EU quota, in Sub-areas 1-7, Divisions 8.a, 8.b, 8.d, 8.e and Sub-areas 12 and 14.
- A separate EU quota exists for 8.c, 9 and 10. There is no Irish quota in these areas.
- The EU TAC may be adjusted subject to transfers in the EU- Norway agreement.

2023 Quota Allocations for EU parties – Divisions 1 – 7, 8a, 8b, 8d, 8e, 12 and 14



KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- Following three consecutive years of below average recruitment (2017-2019), SSB declined between 2017 and 2021. However, recruitment is strong in 2021 and 2022 and leads to an increase in stock size and consequently higher catch advice for 2024.

- The long-term management strategy was evaluated in 2016 and did not take into account consistent deviations from the management strategy catch advice. Failing to follow the catch advice may result in increased risk for the stock to fall below B_{lim} and loss of catch in the long term.

Blue whiting (*Micromesistius poutassou*) in Subareas 1–9, 12, and 14 (Northeast Atlantic and adjacent water)

ICES advice on fishing opportunities

ICES advises that when the long-term management strategy agreed by Norway, the European Union, the Faroe Islands, Iceland, and the United Kingdom is applied, catches in 2024 should be no more than 1 529 754 tonnes.

ICES advice on conservation aspects

ICES has not identified any conservation aspects.

Stock development over time

Fishing pressure on the stock is above F_{MSY} and F_{pa} but below F_{lim} ; spawning-stock size is above $MSY B_{trigger}$, B_{pa} , and B_{lim} .

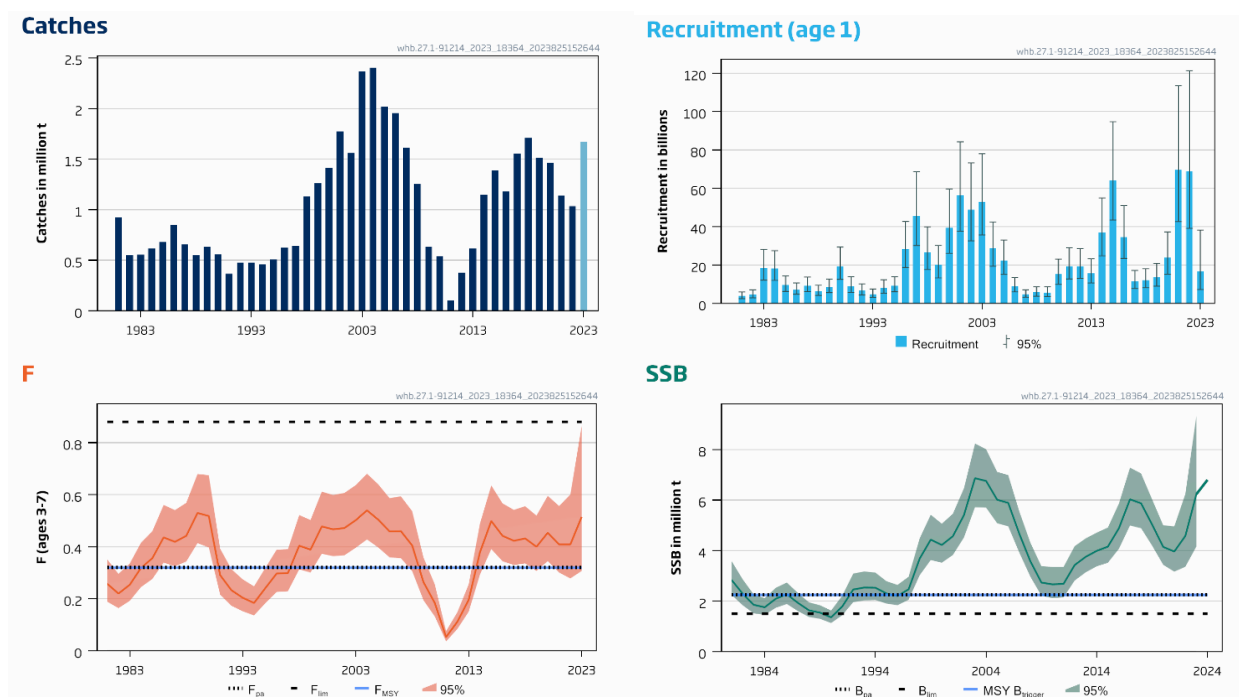


Figure 1 Blue whiting in subareas 1–9, 12, and 14. Summary of the stock assessment. The catch estimate for 2023 is preliminary.

Conservation status

ICES is not aware of any information on stock/species-specific conservation status.