

NEPHROPS FU14 (IRISH SEA, EAST)



Division 7.a

ADVICE FOR 2023

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 2019–2021, catches in 2023 should be no more than 789 t.

To ensure that the stock in Functional Unit 14 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

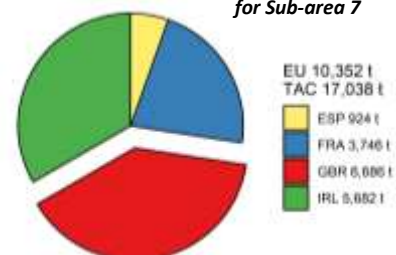
ICES assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	WWMAP (target); No management plan has been agreed between all the relevant management authorities.	
Advice Basis	MSY approach	Catch=789 t
Ranges	F _{MSY} Range Lower	Catch=653 t
	F _{MSY}	Catch=789 t
	F _{MSY} Range Upper	Catch=789 t
Landing Obligation	From 2016	Gear specific high survivability exemption*
MSY B _{trigger} (million individuals)	350	

*Described below under Key Stock Considerations, details in (EU 2020/2015).

MANAGEMENT IN 2022

- The current TAC area and stock assessment area do not match.
- Since 2016, EU 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).

2022 Quota Allocations for Sub-area 7



KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- The advised catch of 789 t results in projected landings advice of 735 t (assuming that discard rates and fishery selection patterns do not change from the average of the years 2019–2021).
- 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.