

IRISH SEA PLAICE

Division 7.a



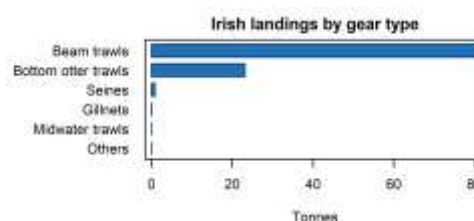
ADVICE FOR 2023

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, total catches in 2023 should be no more than 2,039 t.



KEY POINTS

ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	WWMAP (bycatch)	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY approach	Catch 2,039 t
Ranges	F_{MSY} Range Lower	Not Applicable (bycatch)
	F_{MSY}	Catch 2,039 t
	F_{MSY} Range Upper	Not Applicable (bycatch)
Landing Obligation	From 2019	High survivability exemption*



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

MANAGEMENT IN 2022

- The TAC and the assessment area are the same.

KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- Stock size increased after 2013 and is above MSY $B_{trigger}$ with fishing mortality below F_{MSY} since 2011.
- Irish landings of this stock are caught as a minor bycatch in a mixed fishery, and are mainly landed with *Nephrops* and haddock.
- Landings from Irish fleets have decreased in recent years from 315 t in 2018 to 107 t in 2021, well below the quota.
- Discards are high with 58% (by weight) of the catch being discarded in 2021.
- Discards of plaice are considered to have a survivability of about 40%. Under the Landing Obligation Irish Sea plaice have a high survivability exemption. This exemption applies to beam trawls (≤ 221 kW or ≤ 24 m) within 12 nm of the coast, and towing for less than 90 minutes; and beam trawls (> 221 kW) using flip-up rope or benthic release panel (EC 2020/2015). This is unlikely to affect Irish fisheries as there are few Irish beam trawls operating in this area.

2022 Quota Allocations

