

IRISH SEA COD

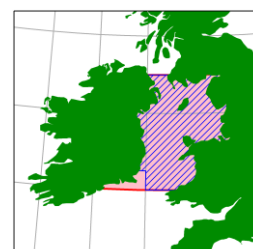
Division 7.a



ADVICE FOR 2023

ICES advises that when the MSY approach and precautionary considerations are applied, there should be zero catch in 2023.

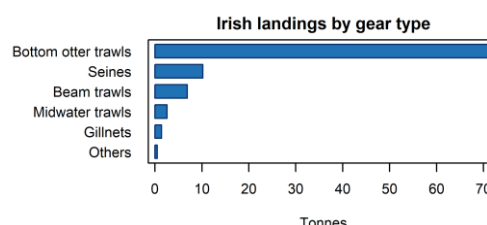
ICES notes the existence of a precautionary management plan, developed and adopted by one of the relevant management authorities for this stock.



■ TAC/Management area
■ Assessment area

KEY POINTS

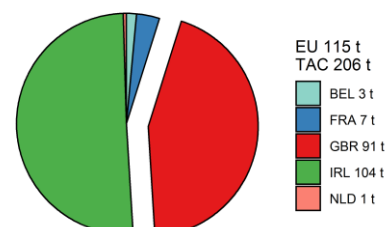
ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	WWMAP (target)	
Advice Basis	MSY approach	Catch=0 t
Ranges	F _{MSY} Range Lower	Catch=704 t
	F _{MSY}	Catch=908 t
	F _{MSY} Range Upper	Catch=1,093 t
Landing Obligation	From 2019	No derogations or exemptions.



MANAGEMENT IN 2022

- The TAC Area covers Division 7.a, which corresponds to the assessment area, however Irish landings taken or reported from 33E2 and 33E3 (off Waterford & Wexford), are transferred into the Celtic Sea assessment (Division 7.e-k).
- The 2021 reallocation of 52 t accounted for 28% of Irish Sea (Division 7.a) landings and 8% of Celtic Sea (Divisions 7.b-k) landings. The TAC management area covers all of ICES Division 7.a.
- The TAC is exclusively for by-catches. No directed fisheries are permitted under this quota.
- This stock is considered to be a target stock in the Western Waters MAP regulation ((EU) 2019/472) but given the state of the stock no directed fisheries are permitted.
- All Irish TR2 vessels targeting *Nephrops* in 7.a must use highly selective gears i.e. SELTRA trawl, large mesh (300mm) square mesh panels or sorting grid as a condition of national license obligations.

2022 Quota Allocations



KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- This stock was benchmarked in 2022 and the new assessment carried out this year showed that stock biomass in 2022 is the lowest recorded since 2011.
- In the past cod were mainly taken as a bycatch in the *Nephrops* fisheries. In 2021, 37% of landings are from vessels targeting demersal fish and 33% are from vessels targeting *Nephrops*.
- An EU funded tagging study which concluded in 2019, has indicated some outward migration of mature cod into the Celtic Sea. This needs to be further investigated to determine stock assessment implications.
- ICES has provided catch scenarios which take into account ecosystem considerations (F_{eco}) for the first time this year. Irish Sea cod are suffering from reduced productivity according to the ecosystem indicator (based on sea surface temperature).