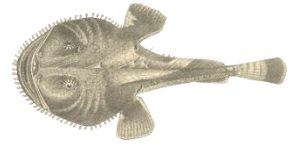


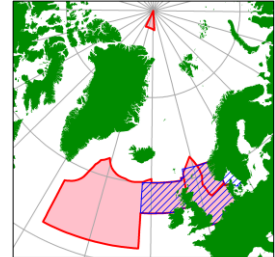
WEST OF SCOTLAND, ROCKALL AND NORTH SEA ANGLERFISH



Sub-areas 4 and 6 and Division 3.a

ADVICE FOR 2024

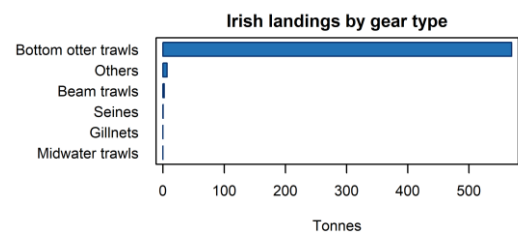
ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches should be no more than 9,881 t in each of the years 2023 and 2024.



■ TAC/Management area
■ Assessment area

KEY POINTS

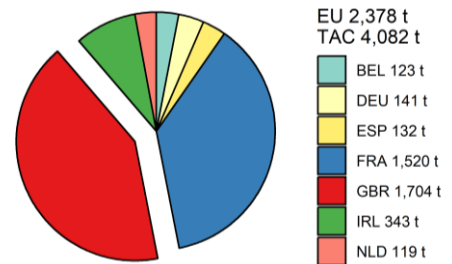
ICES Assessment Category	3 (rfb rule)	
Management Plan	NSMAP (target species)	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY approach	Catch=9,881 t
Ranges	F _{MSY} Range Lower	Not available
	F _{MSY}	Not available
	F _{MSY} Range Upper	Not available
Landing Obligation	From 2019	No derogations or exemptions apply



MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- Two species of *Lophius* occur in this area. Black anglerfish (*Lophius budegassa*) usually make up around 10% of the international landings but in some years this may be as much as 30%. The two species are assessed and managed as a single stock.
- There are three TAC areas that cover anglerfish in this area:
 - Union and UK waters of areas 2.a and 4
 - Norwegian waters of area 4
 - Union, UK and international waters of areas 6, 5.b, 12, 14.
 Ireland only has a quota for the 6, 5.b, 12, 14 area and generally relies on swaps to land its catches. France has the largest EU quota but usually takes less than a third of this. The UK has full quota uptake and is responsible for the vast majority of the international landings.
- There is a special condition that states that up to 20% of the area 6, 5b, 12, 14 quota may be fished in UK and Union waters of 2a and 4.

2023 Quota Allocations for area 6, 5.b, 12 and 14



KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- The advice is based on a survey index trend (decreasing) together with a fishing pressure proxy (F is above the reference point), a biomass safeguard (biomass is above the reference point) and precautionary multiplier. This would result in a reduction in catch advice of 36% but a stability clause limits the reduction in advice to 30%.
- Irish vessels mainly catch anglerfish in mixed fisheries with various gadoids and megrim near the Stanton Banks; with hake and other gadoids along the continental slope; and with megrim to the south of Rockall.
- Discard levels in this stock are estimated to be low (1.2% in 2021).