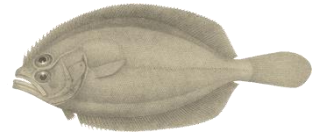


ROCKALL MEGRIM

Division 6.b

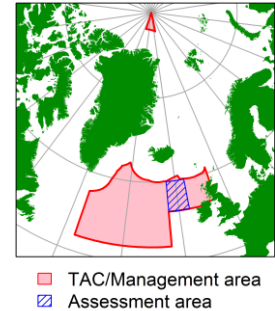


ADVICE FOR 2024

ICES advise that when the MSY approach is applied, catches in 2024 should be no more than 1,115 t.

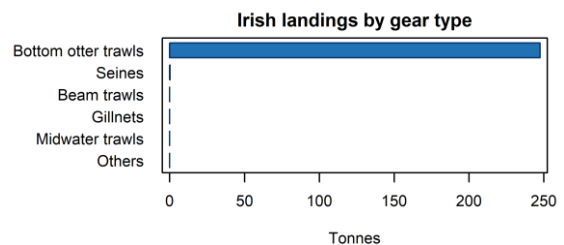
ICES notes the existence of a precautionary management plan, developed and adopted by some of the relevant management authorities for this stock.

Management should be implemented at the stock level.



KEY POINTS

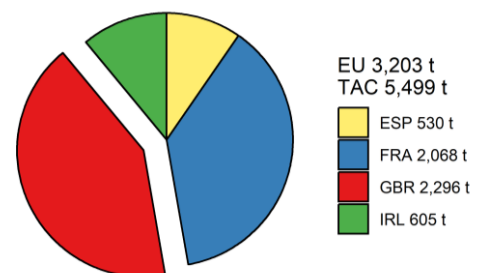
ICES Assessment Category	2 (Quantitative assessment)	
Management Plan	WWMAP (target)	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY Approach	Catch=1,115 t
Ranges	F_{MSY} Range Lower	Not Available
	F_{MSY}	Catch=1,278 t
	F_{MSY} Range Upper	Not Available
Landing Obligation	From 2019	No derogation or exemptions



MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- The TAC for this stock covers Subarea 6 and United Kingdom and international waters of 5b; international waters of 12 and 14.
- A separate assessment is carried out for Megrim in 4.a and 6.a. The stock at Rockall (6.b) and on the northern shelf (4.a and 6.a) are currently fished sustainably; however, management of two stocks under a single TAC could lead to over-exploitation of one stock.
- There are special conditions allowing quota flexibilities between TAC areas; 20% of the 4 and 2.a quota may be fished in United Kingdom, Union and international waters of 6.a north of 58°30'N and 25% of the 6 and 5.b quota may be fished in United Kingdom and Union waters of 2.a and 4.
- Official Landings in areas 6 are well below the TAC (39%); uptake by France is low at 6% and Ireland utilises its full quota allocation.

2023 Quota Allocations



KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- The advice is based on the 35th percentile of predicted catch distribution under $F = F_{MSY}$, which is more precautionary than using the 50th percentile.
- Most Irish landings in Subarea 6 are taken south of Rockall at depths below 200m in a fishery targeting anglerfish. Some catches of megrim also occur in the fishery targeted at haddock closer to Rockall in shallower water.
- In 2022 Ireland had the highest landings followed by the UK and Spain, with the majority coming from demersal otter trawls.
- Fishing mortality has been stable in recent years and remains below F_{MSY} . Stock biomass appears stable and above B_{MSY} .