

IRISH SEA WHITING

Division 7.a



ADVICE FOR 2023

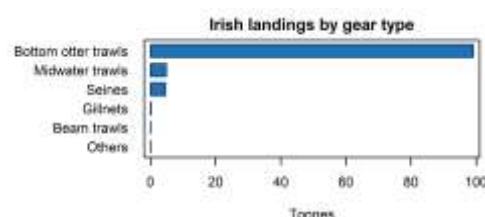
ICES advises that when the MSY approach and precautionary considerations are applied, there should be zero catches in 2022 and 2023.

In response to an EC request ICES provided a technical service on unavoidable by-catches which states “forecasted bycatch levels in 2022 are 1,125 t, using a model of whiting bycatch in the *Nephrops* fishery and assuming 8,476 t of *Nephrops* catches in 2023. This is expected to result in a 1% increase in SSB of whiting in 2024”.



KEY POINTS

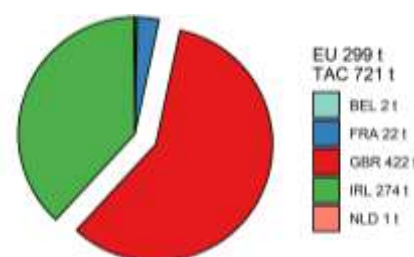
ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative assessment)	
Management Plan	WWMAP (bycatch)	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY Approach	Catch=0 t
Ranges	F _{MSY} Range Lower	Not appropriate (bycatch)
	F _{MSY}	Not available
	F _{MSY} Range Upper	Not appropriate (bycatch)
Landing Obligation	From 2019	No derogations or exemptions



2022 Quota Allocations

MANAGEMENT IN 2022

- The stock area does not include landings taken or reported in 33E2 and 33E3, these ICES rectangles accounted for an average of 27% of the ICES Division 7.a landings over the last five years. The TAC management area covers all of Division 7.a.



KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- The stock is still well below B_{lim} and shows no signs of recovery.
- The majority of whiting caught are discards in the *Nephrops* fishery and are below MCRS. Despite the introduction of several technical measures to reduce finfish catch and discards in the *Nephrops* fishery, the total discards estimates remain high. In 2021, 95% of the total catch of 1,662 t was discarded (1,571 t).
- Forecasted bycatch levels for 2022 are 1,125 t, using a model of whiting bycatch in the *Nephrops* fishery and assuming 8,476 t of *Nephrops* catches in 2023. This is expected to result in a 1% increase in whiting SSB in 2024.
- Whiting is a potential choke species for *Nephrops* fisheries in the Irish Sea.

Further information on this stock can be found in the 2021 Stock Book.