

# ROCKALL HADDOCK

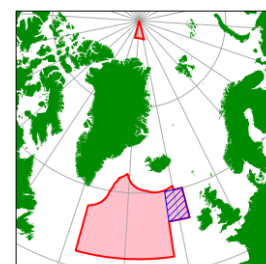
## Division 6.b



### ADVICE FOR 2024

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, catches should be no more than 4,078 t in each of the years 2023 and 2024.

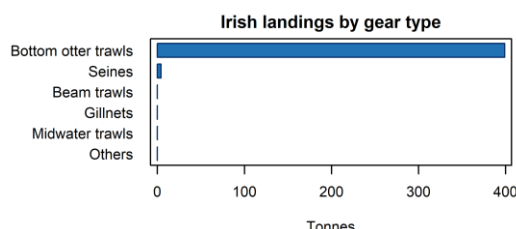
ICES notes the existence of a precautionary management plan, developed and adopted by some of the relevant management authorities for this stock.



■ TAC/Management area  
■ Assessment area

### KEY POINTS

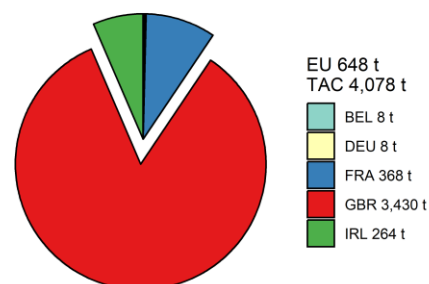
ICES Assessment Category	3 (Trend-Based Assessment)	
Management Plan	WWMAP (target); No management plan has been agreed between all the relevant management authorities.	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY approach	Catch=4,078 t
Ranges	F <sub>MSY</sub> Range Lower	Not available
	F <sub>MSY</sub>	Not available
	F <sub>MSY</sub> Range Upper	Not available
Landing Obligation	From 2016	No derogations or exemptions



### MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- There is no internationally agreed TAC for haddock in Division 6.b. Since 2004 an autonomous TAC has been set for EU fleets (and UK fleets since 2021) operating in Division 6.b and Sub-areas 12 and 14.
- Part of Division 6.b falls (since 1999) within international waters fished by non EU vessels (mainly Russian).
- Following the NEAFC agreement in March 2001, NEAFC has maintained an area closure to all fishing except long-lining in the SW corner of the Rockall Bank, this continued in 2023. Data are inadequate to fully evaluate the impact of this measure on the stock status.

#### 2023 Quota Allocations



### KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- Most of the Irish landings of Rockall haddock come from trips where haddock was the dominant species. They are mainly landed with megrim, anglerfish and saithe.
- The main Irish fleet catching haddock from Division 6.b uses otter trawls although there have also been some reported landings from demersal seiners since 2014.
- Advice for 2023 and 2024 was down by 30% on the 2022 advice owing to a change in assessment basis and a decline in the survey biomass indices. The advice reduction was capped to 30% by the new assessment.
- Since 2021 fishing vessels have been excluded from within 12 nautical miles of Rockall. Prior to this the Irish haddock fishery operated on the bank both within and beyond 12 nm of Rockall.
- In 2022 ICES assessed the efficacy of the Rockall haddock closure for the protection of juvenile haddock, concluding that the overall impact of the current closure area continues to be difficult to assess. The Rockall Haddock Box does coincide with areas of high juvenile and adult haddock densities, with high densities also

observed outside the box to the northeast. For most years since the closure, haddock densities of age classes I+ have been higher inside than outside the box.

Table 1. Haddock Division 6.b Landings (Source ICES Advice and Official Catch Statistics)

Year	Faroe Islands	France	Iceland	Ireland	Norway	Portugal	Russian Federation	Spain	UK (E.W. & NI)	UK (Scot.)	UK (total)	Total
1996	-	-	-	747	24	-	-	1	293	5753	-	6818
1997	-	-	+	895	24	-	-	22	165	4114	-	5220
1998	-	-	-	704	40	4	-	21	561	3768	-	5098
1999	-	-	167	1021	61	-	458	25	288	3970	-	5990
2000	-	5	-	824	152	-	2154	47	36	2470	-	5688
2001	-	2	-	357	70	-	630	51	-	1205	-	2315
2002	-	-	-	206	49	-	1630	7	+	1145	-	3037
2003	-	-	-	169	60	-	4237	19	56	1607	-	6148
2004	-	-	-	19	32	-	5844	-	-	411	-	6306
2005	-	-	-	105	33	-	4708	-	-	332	-	5178
2006	2	+	-	41	123	-	2154	5	1	439	-	2765
2007	2	-	-	338	84	-	1282	+	8	1635	-	3349
2008	16	-	-	721	36	-	1669	1	-	1779	-	4222
2009	10	1	-	352	71	-	55	+	-	2951	-	3440
2010	42	-	-	169	65	-	198	+	-	2931	-	3405
2011	2	+	-	123	40	-	-	-	-	1732	-	1897
2012	53	-	-	31	48	-	1	-	-	577	-	710
2013	-	-	-	105	121	-	4	-	-	596	-	826
2014	24	2	-	94	55	-	388	-	-	1152	-	1713
2015	1	-	-	190	66	-	136	-	-	-	2052	2445
2016	+	-	-	362	63	-	-	-	-	-	2160	2585^
2017	+	-	-	500	26	-	153	-	-	-	3907	4586
2018	-	-	-	431 <sup>#</sup>	16	-	-	-	-	-	3418	3865 <sup>#</sup>
2019	-	8	-	4 <sup>#</sup>	13	-	245	1	-	-	6536	6807 <sup>#^</sup>
2020	-	-	-	679	14	-	133	+	-	-	4575	5401^
2021	+	+	-	510	-	-	20	-	-	-	3558	4088^
2022*	25	-	-	403	-	-	-	-	-	-	3565	3994^

\* Preliminary official landings.

+ <0.5 tonnes.

<sup>#</sup> Incomplete: part of the data being unavailable under data confidentiality clauses.

^ Including below minimum size (BMS) landings.