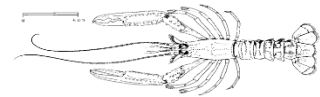


# NEPHROPS FU22 (THE SMALLS)



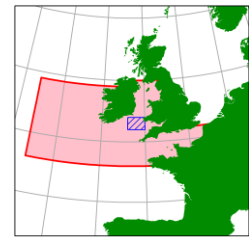
Division 7.g and 7.f.

## ADVICE FOR 2024

ICES advises that when the MSY approach is applied, and assuming that discard rates and fishery selection patterns do not change from the average of the years 2020–2022, catches in 2024 should be no more than 1,912 t.

To ensure that the stock in Functional Unit (FU) 22 is exploited sustainably, management should be implemented at the FU level.

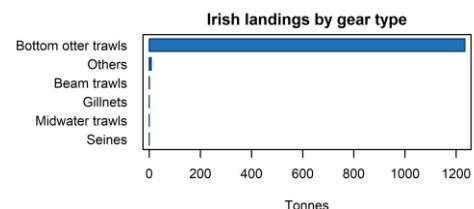
ICES notes the existence of a management plan, developed and adopted by one of the relevant management authorities for Subarea 7. ICES considers this plan to be precautionary when implemented at the FU level.



■ TAC/Management area  
■ Assessment area

## KEY POINTS

ICES Assessment Category	I (Quantitative Assessment)	
Management Plan	WWMAP (target); No management plan has been agreed between all the relevant management authorities.	
Advice Basis	ICES MSY approach**	Catch=1,912 t
Ranges	F <sub>MSY</sub> Range Lower	Catch=1,945 t
	F <sub>MSY</sub>	Catch=2,441 t
	F <sub>MSY</sub> Range Upper***	Catch=2,441 t
Landing Obligation	From 2016	Gear specific high survivability exemption*
MSY B <sub>trigger</sub> (million individuals)	990	



\* Described below under Key Stock Considerations, details in (EU 2020/2015).

\*\* FMSY × stock abundance (2024)/MSY B<sub>trigger</sub>

\*\*\* FMSY upper = FMSY for this stock.

## MANAGEMENT IN 2023

- The current TAC area and stock assessment area do not match.

## KEY STOCK CONSIDERATIONS

- The advised catch of 1,912 t results in projected landings advice of 1,695 t (assuming that discard rates and fishery selection patterns do not change from the average of the years 2020–2022).
- The decrease in catch advice for 2024 compared to last year is directly linked to the decreased estimate of stock abundance in 2023. The latest estimate of stock abundance is below MSY B<sub>trigger</sub> and is the third lowest observed in the time series.
- In recent years (2020–2022) Ireland is the main participant in this *Nephrops* fishery accounting for 97% of the landings.
- Nearly 90% of Irish landings of the Smalls grounds *Nephrops* come from trips where *Nephrops* was the dominant species. The remainder are taken in a more mixed fishery and are mainly landed with whiting, cod, and anglerfish.
- Under the Landing Obligation *Nephrops* fisheries in Sub-area 7 have a high survivability exemption, based on studies which showed a survivability of about 64% (BIM, 2017). This exemption applies to bottom trawls (OTT, OTB, TBS, TBN, TB, PTB, OT, PT, TX) with a mesh size ≥100 mm or with a mesh size 70–99 mm in combination with highly selective gear options such as: square mesh panels, seltra panel, sorting grid or separation panel.
- A high survivability exemption also applies to creel caught *Nephrops* in Sub-area 7.

