

Fisheries TAC's and Quotas 2026

Sustainability Impact Assessment

October 2025

Sustainability Impact Assessment of 2026 Fishing Opportunities

1. Summary

This Sea Fisheries Sustainability Impact Assessment (SIA) draws its conclusions from a consultation process with all major stakeholders and expert contributions from the Marine Institute (MI) and Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM). The objective of the SIA is to look at the overall impacts the proposed fishing opportunities could have on the sustainability of the fishing sector from a biological, economic and social perspective.

In the past, the SIA was conducted in October/November after the EU Commission published its proposal for fishing opportunities for the coming year. The Commission's proposal would include the proposed Total Allowable Catches (TACs) and quotas for most stocks, except inshore and shellfish stocks not subject to TACs & Quotas.

Following the UK's withdrawal from the EU, the majority of stocks of relevance to Ireland – which were previously exclusively Union resources – are now shared resources under international law. This means that the Commission, on behalf of the EU, must consult with the UK (and in some cases both the UK and Norway) on the setting of fishing opportunities for these shared stocks. As a result, when the Commission publishes its TAC and Quota proposal, these shared stocks will be listed as *pro memoria* (*pm*).

The new EU-UK consultation process has resulted in changes to the timing and arrangements of the EU's TAC setting process. Consequently, the timing and procedures of the SIA process has been adjusted so that it can continue to provide a meaningful and effective contribution to how Ireland prepares for negotiations on fishing opportunities.

In light of this the SIA has been carried out before the Commission has released its proposal and before negotiations begin with the UK. In the event that an agreement is not secured, the EU-UK Trade and Co-operation Agreement provides that the parties set provisional TACs and quotas at the level advised by ICES (the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea).

The scientific analysis of the Sustainability Impact Assessment is based on the available ICES advice and will also take into account relevant reports of the EU Commission's Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF).

The consultation with stakeholders was based on the ICES advice, as well as the European Commission's Communication "*Sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2026*" and the accompanying Staff Working Document. The Commission's Communication gives a review of the implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and an initial

presentation on the main orientations that will shape the Commission proposals and negotiations with third countries on fishing opportunities. It is the preliminary step in the process of setting the TACs for the following year.

The main objective of the Commission's proposals for stocks in the Atlantic, North Sea and Baltic Sea will be to maintain or reach Fmsy (the fishing pressure which is expected to deliver maximum sustainable yield) for all Fmsy-assessed stocks. The Commission will base its proposals on ICES and STECF scientific advice including ecosystem considerations. The Commission has highlighted the importance of reaching a timely agreement with fishing partners on fishing opportunities and related measures in order to ensure sustainable exploitation of stocks and a level playing field for the EU fishing industry. This is particularly important, given the number of stocks which the EU now shares with third countries.

The fishing opportunities exercise represents an annual management cycle (biennial in the case of deep-sea stocks). The Commission's proposal will cover fishing opportunities that the Union establishes autonomously. It also features fishing opportunities resulting from multilateral or bilateral fisheries negotiations. The outcome is implemented by providing for internal allocation among Member States on the principle of *relative stability*. The Hague Preferences are not included in the Commission's proposal – these must be negotiated annually at the Fisheries Council. It is essential for Ireland that the Hague Preferences are applied for relevant stocks.

This annual exercise does not stand in the way of the introduction of long-term management approaches. The EU has made progress in this regard and certain stocks of commercial interest are now subject to multi-annual management plans; yearly TACs and effort ceilings must comply with those plans. A number of stocks of Irish interest fall under the Western Waters Multiannual Plan which was adopted in March 2019.

The Landing Obligation introduced by the CFP basic regulation (Regulation (EU) 1380/2013) was fully implemented from 2019 having been phased in since 2015. All species subject to catch limits, (i.e. managed under the TAC & Quota system), fall under the landing obligation. All catches of these species retained on board must be recorded and will be counted against national quota. While the overarching policy provides that all catches of certain stocks must be landed, it allows for some exemptions. The landing obligation does not apply to fish species covered by a high survivability exemption, those falling under *de minimis* exemptions, catches of prohibited species and fish which have been damaged by predators (e.g. seals).

Biological Assessment

In its Impact Assessment, the Marine Institute summarises the most up to date stock status information for 74 stocks of interest to Ireland, based on ICES and ICCAT advice. In the current analysis 62 stocks have status information to inform the catch advice for 2026. ICES and ICCAT will release new stock status evaluations for the remaining 12 stocks after the production of this report. For the purpose of the current analysis, the current stock status of those 12 stocks is assumed to have remained unchanged until the status evaluations are published. Therefore, the information presented here is considered to be preliminary.

The fishing pressure indicator shows the percentage of sustainably fished stocks has remained the same as 2025 at 57%. The percentage of stocks overfished also remains the same as last year at 19%. The percentage stocks with unknown fishing mortality status remains unchanged at 24%.

In terms of stock size (SSB or Spawning Stock Biomass), the number of stocks that are above MSY (Maximum Sustainable Yield) biomass trigger points ($MSY B_{trigger}$) has decreased from 50% last year to 46% this year. The number of stocks below the MSY biomass trigger point has increased from 26% to 30% and the number of stocks with unknown stock size status has remained at 24%.

While the long-term trend (since 2012) in terms of both fishing pressure and stock size still shows continual progress towards sustainability, the short-term trend (since 2021) in the state of fish stock size presents a growing concern of the impact of changing environmental conditions, on the productivity of certain species of fish.

Socio-Economic Assessment

Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) has carried out a socio-economic analysis as part of the Sustainability Impact Assessment considering proposed TAC and estimated the corresponding Member State quotas for 62 managed fish stocks of interest to Ireland, set according to Article 16 of the Common Fisheries Policy. The analysis assumes 100% uptake of quota but does not take account of quota carried over under inter annual flexibility allowed for under the CFP or quota swaps from other Member States.

Recognising the changes to the negotiation process around setting the annual TACs and Quotas, following from the UK's departure from the EU, the 2025 analysis of the projected fishing opportunities for 2026 has been carried out in September 2025 based on the best available information. Most TACs and quotas relevant to Ireland are set as part of the formal negotiations between the EU and UK, separate negotiations between the EU, Norway, and

the UK, as well as the Coastal States negotiations involving the EU, UK, Norway, Iceland, the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

As these negotiations had not concluded at the time this assessment was being carried out, the quota estimates presented are subject to change.

For the purposes of this assessment the following guidelines were used to estimate the 2026 Irish quotas:

1. For 54 stocks where ICES has provided advice for 2026, the implied TAC change has been applied to the 2025 quota or has been estimated based on historic Irish quota allocations. There are 5 further deepwater stocks included in the assessment which are not included in the tables in this report.
2. For *Nephrops* in area 7 (including the separate FU16 quota) there is an assumed rollover over 2025 quotas in the absence of ICES advice. Specific scenarios are also included to present similar trends in quota change from 2024 to 2025 plus decreases and increases of 5% and 10%.
3. For all other stocks where no advice has been provided by ICES it was assumed that 2024 quota rolled over for 2025 and therefore there will be no change.

The so-called “Hague Preferences” are a result of an agreement made at the Fisheries Council meeting held on 30 October 1976 in The Hague. At the meeting, the Council of Ministers adopted a resolution that, amongst other things, provided Ireland (and several other Member States, including the UK) with these additional fishing opportunities. These Hague Preferences have been allocated to Ireland each year since the late 1980’s. The loss of these allocations, in their totality in 2026, would amount to a direct value of around €14 million.

Advice has been provided on 54 stocks, representing over 96% of the volume of Irish quota species and 80% of value in 2025. Of these, 35 whitefish stocks account for 82% of whitefish quota volume and 59% of value (the absence of *Nephrops* advice explains much of the value gap). Eleven pelagic stocks account for 98% of pelagic volume and 100% of value.

Overall outcome:

- Without any Hague Preferences gives a projected decrease of 28.5% by volume (from 182,078t to 130,262t) with an estimated direct value of €146 million a decrease of –€63 million from 2025. Demersal (whitefish) opportunities decrease by 5% (to 35,525t) valued at €7m value. Pelagic opportunities decrease by 35% with a reduced value of –€55m, driven mainly by mackerel reductions.
- Invoking the same Hague Preferences (17 in total) as in 2025 could add around 7,200 tonnes of quota with an estimated extra value of €14m to the first point of sale value, bringing the total value of predicted Irish quota to €160 million in 2026.

Given the absence of advice at the time of assessment for *Nephrops*, scenarios indicate a value range from €51m (–10%) to €63m (+10%), with a value of €57m in a rollover scenario, and €50m in the case of a similar change to 2024/25. This highlights the importance of *Nephrops* to vessel profitability and employment in key ports.

Based on BIM's employment model and recent port studies, the estimated potential direct employment impact could be as high as 837 employees. Including indirect and induced effects, the total potential impacted jobs could be 2,361 employees across the wider seafood economy.

2. Background

Fishing opportunities for each Member State are agreed on an annual basis in the EU Fisheries Council of Ministers on the basis of a proposal produced by the European Commission. The Sea Fisheries Sustainability Impact Assessment is conducted on an annual basis and is done in consultation with all major stakeholders.

As mentioned above, the timing and procedures of the SIA process have been adjusted so that it can continue to provide a meaningful and effective contribution to how Ireland prepares for negotiations on fishing opportunities. In light of this, the SIA has been carried out before the Commission has released its proposal and in time for the negotiations between the EU and the UK, which will begin on 04th November. Therefore, the ICES scientific advice has been used as the basis for this year's SIA.

EU-UK Negotiations on Fishing Opportunities for Shared Stocks

Following the UK's withdrawal from the EU, approximately 40 of Ireland's fish stocks which were previously exclusively Union resources are now shared resources under international law. The European Commission has sole competence to negotiate with Third Countries – such as the UK – on behalf of the EU, on the setting of fishing opportunities.

The first round of bilateral negotiations with the UK on setting fishing opportunities for 2026 for shared fish stocks will take place on the 04-06 November. The Commission has indicated that the aim is to complete the negotiations in good time before the December Fisheries Council (11-12 December). This will allow time for the Council to examine and approve the draft Written Record.

In the event that agreement with the UK cannot be reached by 20 December 2025, the Trade and Co-operation Agreement provides for each Party to set provisional TACs applying from 1

January at the level advised by ICES, with TACs for special stocks set in accordance with the guidelines to be adopted by the Specialised Committee on Fisheries.

3. Objectives

The objective of this document is to look at the overall impacts the potential fishing opportunities could have on the sustainability of the fishing sector from a biological, economic and social perspective and to put these conclusions before the houses of the Oireachtas for debate.

4. Process

4(a) Consultation:

Stakeholders were asked to comment on the ICES advice for fish stocks and the European Commission's Communication "*Sustainable fishing in the EU: state of play and orientations for 2026*" and the accompanying Staff Working Document.

From 10 September 2025, an online web portal on www.fishingnet.ie was activated to facilitate electronic submissions to be forwarded for consideration. The closing date for this call for submissions was close of business 03 October 2025.

In addition, a meeting of stakeholders was held on 08 October to further assist and inform consideration of Ireland's key priorities in advance of the negotiations with the UK.

Written submissions were received from IIMRO, KFO, ISWPO, IFPO and ISEFPO. The full contents of the submissions received will be made available on the website www.fishingnet.ie.

4 (b) Summary of main points submitted to the Consultation:

- In written submissions and at the Sustainability Impact Assessment Stakeholders' meeting, stakeholders welcomed the opportunity to express their views on the ICES scientific advice and fishing opportunities for 2026.
- Industry raised serious concerns about reductions in the scientific advice for key pelagic and whitefish stocks, and particularly for Mackerel (a decrease of 70% on 2025)
- Industry raised concerns regarding third countries setting unilateral and excessive TACs for pelagic stocks such as Mackerel. They also highlighted the need for agreement on sharing arrangements for the Coastal State stocks.
- Industry highlighted the complexity of mixed fisheries and the need to make provisions for bycatches of zero TAC advised stocks.
- In addition, industry noted the importance of access to Irish waters in the context of the EU's negotiations with third countries on fishing opportunities for shared stocks.
- Concerns were raised in relation to a number of other individual stocks including Blue Whiting, Pollock, Whiting, Sole, Cod, Haddock, Boarfish and Nephrops. These concerns were all noted.
- Industry expressed concerns on the economic viability of the sector given the impacts of the projected cuts in fishing opportunities and urged the Minister to engage with them to develop a package of measures to support the sector.
- Industry urged the Minister to invoke all Hague Preferences for stocks given the serious economic impacts associated with the reduction on catches by ICES.

5. The Marine Institute's assessment of the Biological Impacts

5 (a) Methodology

The Stock Book is produced annually by the Marine Institute's Fisheries Ecosystems Advisory Services (FEAS) team and provides up to date scientific information on the state of the fisheries resources exploited by the Irish fleet. It provides the latest scientific advice developed in 2025, which informs fishing opportunities for 2026. The Stock Book has been published by the Marine Institute (MI) since 1993 and has evolved considerably over time. It

continues to evolve to meet the needs of decision makers and stakeholders while addressing evolving EU and national legislation and policies.

The majority of the scientific advice presented here formulated by the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES). Relevant scientific advice from the EU's Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) are also used.

The ICES scientific advice for most demersal fish stocks is released in June each year. This is to facilitate consultation with industry and managers on available fishing opportunities for the coming year. ICES produces the remaining scientific advice in October and November. The STECF may also review the status of or give specific advice on fisheries matters. The current analysis is based on advice published up to (and including) 3 October 2025.

Scientific fisheries advice is developed by international scientists, including those from the Marine Institute, and produced via international organisations such as ICES and ICCAT, and expert committees of the EU such as STECF. This advice is based upon the latest available data, research, assessments and information on the fisheries resource. It is formulated by consensus, which does not imply unanimity of all experts but allows the expert groups and the international scientific organisations to communicate an advice based on best available science.

The Stock Book is presented annually to the MI's primary client, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) each December. The information contained within the Stock Book is of vital importance during the annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) at the various fisheries negotiations meetings. It also serves as a valuable reference throughout the year at other fisheries management meetings with the EU. The Stock Book is also of interest to a wider audience, including the fishing industry, marine scientists, managers, environmental NGO's, third level institutes, financial institutions and those with an interest in the status and management of marine fisheries resources in the waters around Ireland.

The Stock Book makes use of many technical terms and acronyms; these are explained the end of the book. Marine Institute scientists meet with stakeholders on a regular basis throughout the year to explain how advice is formulated and to discuss fisheries science issues e.g. through the Irish Fisheries Science Research Partnership forum, which consists of industry representatives, the Marine Institute and Bord Iascaigh Mhara.

The Stock Book is available electronically on the Marine Institute's web site at www.marine.ie and as an interactive app which can be found at <https://shiny.marine.ie/stockbook/>. The MI will endeavour to keep the electronic versions of the Stock Book up to date with any amendments which are released by the advisory authorities after this version goes to print.

While every effort has been made to ensure that the Stock Book contains the most up-to-date and accurate information, the final ICES, ICCAT, STECF reports and various cited reports should be consulted for the definitive advice.

More detailed information on specific stocks is available in the relevant ICES Working Group Reports. Definitive information on TAC areas and quota allocations should be obtained from the official EU Journal.

5 (b) Rationale for ICES Advice

ICES gives advice in the context of the policy objectives of its clients. Thus, ICES advice is based on a Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) approach. Where possible ICES provides analytical forecasts with a catch option consistent with F_{MSY} (or F_{MSY} ranges) for 2026. Where the SSB in 2025 is below the MSY $B_{trigger}$, ICES advises on a lower F (scaled by the degree to which biomass in 2025 is below the $B_{trigger}$). For stocks where Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) is below B_{lim} and there is no catch option which results in an SSB above B_{lim} in the catch year, ICES gives a zero-catch advice. In these cases, special TACs for unavoidable by-catch are set at a low level, because setting TACs to zero for species which are caught with other stocks would lead to a closure of multiple fisheries with serious socioeconomic impacts. For stocks where analytical forecasts are not possible ICES provides advice according to a set of procedures that follow the Precautionary Approach to fisheries management.

5 (c) Monitoring of the performance of the Common Fisheries Policy

Each year the European Commission reports on the progress made towards sustainable fishing in the EU. Article 50 of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP; Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013) stipulates: *“The Commission shall report annually to the European Parliament and to the Council on the progress on achieving maximum sustainable yield and on the situation of fish stocks, as early as possible following the adoption of the yearly Council Regulation fixing the fishing opportunities available in Union waters and, in certain non-Union waters, to Union vessels.”* STECF compiles a report on progress in achieving MSY objectives in line with the Common Fisheries Policy at the start of each year (STECF, 2025),

For the Northeast Atlantic the indicators provided by STECF show that stock status has significantly improved since 2003 but that many stocks are still overexploited. The percentage of stocks outside safe biological limits and over fished shows a declining trend since 2003. The STECF analysis is very much in line with the trends reported by the Marine Institute in section 5(e).

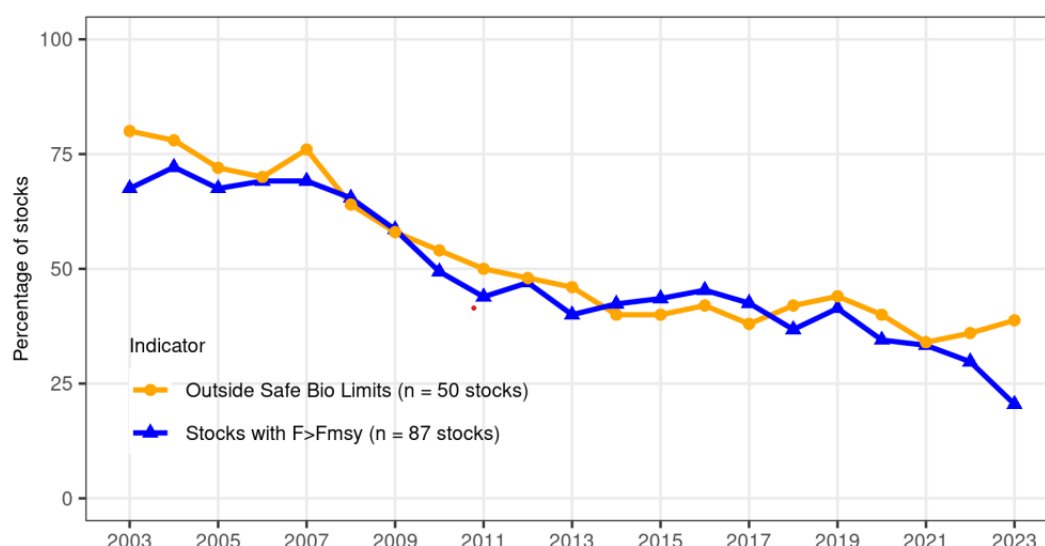


Figure 1: Trends in stock status in the NE Atlantic (both EU and non-EU waters) 2003-2023 (Source STECF, 2025). Two calculated percentages are presented: blue line: the proportion of overfished stocks ($F > F_{MSY}$) (out of a total of 87 stocks) and yellow line: the proportion of stocks outside safe biological limits SBL ($F > F_{pa}$ or $B < B_{pa}$) (out of a total of 50 stocks).

5 (d) Sustainability

In its simplest sense, sustainable use of renewable resources, whether it be forests or fish stocks, means that the resource can be used indefinitely. There are many definitions of sustainability. Fisheries can be defined as sustainable when they can be conducted over the long term at an acceptable level of biological and economic productivity, without leading to ecological changes that reduce the options available to future generations. These desired levels of biological and economic productivity are in part management decisions, but it is clear that for many stocks both could be greater than they are today.

Overfishing does not necessarily mean that a fish stock is at risk of extinction or collapse – it simply means that more could be caught with less fishing activity. Fishing at levels that maintain maximum sustainable yields means taking each year a proportion of fish that allows the remainder to grow and reproduce at their most productive level. Under these conditions, the long-term catches from fish stocks will be at their Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY). Fishing too hard means that fish will be caught too soon, too small and using too much fuel.

The Commission has outlined how the move to MSY should bring significant benefits and will mean a change from fishing intensively on scarce resources to fishing lightly on larger stocks. The same or larger quantities of fish should be caught, but with lower impact on the environment. Impacts of fishing on sea bottoms will be less, bycatches of vulnerable

organisms, including marine mammals and other endangered, threatened or protected species (ETP species) will decrease because the overall intensity of fishing will be less. Fuel costs will decrease significantly because it takes less fishing time to catch a tonne of fish from an abundant stock than from a scarce one. This will reduce carbon emissions as well as the fuel expenditure of fishing vessels.

Good Environmental Status (GES) for commercially exploited fish stocks is also a descriptor used under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). Ireland's progress towards GES between 2013 and 2018 has been evaluated with respect to the original Directive and newly established criteria, elements and methodological standards as set out in Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848 and amending Commission Directive (EU) 2017/845. The assessment covers both stocks managed under the CFP and those managed nationally, which are fished in Irish MSFD waters. The analysis covers a broader range of stocks (177) than referred to in the Marine Institutes Stock Book (74). A key finding is that there has been a substantial improvement in fishing mortality, assessed under Criterion D3C1 set out in Commission Decision 2017/848 (DHPLG, 2020). Of the commercially exploited stocks that were assessed in both cycles, there was an 80% improvement in the fishing mortality criterion. It is concluded that a total of 34 stocks have achieved GES, while the environmental status of 99 stocks is currently unknown. In the case of 44 other stocks, GES is not being achieved.

5 (e) Preliminary Summary of the Resource Base Status Assessment

ICES and ICCAT evaluate the state of the resource base in relation to pressure and state indicators. These indicators are fishing mortality (F) in the last data year relative to an F target (F_{MSY} or a proxy of F_{MSY}) and Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) in the year of the assessment in relation to a biomass trigger point (if a stock falls below this, fishing mortality should be reduced to avoid further decline). The Marine Institute aims to give an overview of progress towards management targets by reporting of the status of 74 fish stocks that are of relevance to Ireland in a consistent way each year. The current document provides a preliminary version of this analysis and once the advice for all stocks has been published. The final analysis is included in the Marine Institute's annual publication The Stock Book.

Table 1 summarises the fishing pressure status relative to F_{MSY} of the 74 reference stocks and compares with the same evaluation presented in previous years. The preliminary number of sustainably fished stocks has remained the same as last year at 42 (57% of the stocks evaluated). The number of stocks overfished at 14 (19%) has also remained the same. The number of stocks with unknown status is also unchanged at 18 (24%).

Table 2 compares the state of the fish stocks in terms of SSB in relation to biomass trigger points with the same evaluation presented in previous years. The preliminary number of stocks that are above MSY biomass trigger points has decreased by three since last year to 34

(46%) and the number of stocks below MSY biomass trigger points is has increased by three to 22 (30%). The number of stocks with unknown biomass status remains the same at 19 (26%).

Table 1: Summary of Marine Institute evaluation of fishing mortality in relation to F_{MSY} for stocks of interest to Ireland.

Fishing pressure status	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Fished Below F_{MSY} stocks	24	20	25	26	28	31	33	35	33	35	40	37	42	42
percentage	41%	34%	34%	36%	38%	42%	45%	47%	45%	47%	53%	50%	57%	57%
Fished above F_{MSY} stocks	14	14	22	19	15	17	16	13	13	11	16	19	14	14
percentage	24%	24%	30%	26%	20%	23%	22%	18%	18%	15%	21%	26%	19%	19%
F status unknown stocks	21	25	26	27	31	26	25	26	28	28	19	18	18	18
percentage	36%	42%	36%	38%	42%	35%	34%	35%	38%	38%	25%	24%	24%	24%
Total number of stocks	59	59	73	72	74	74	74	74	74	74	75	74	74	74

Table 2: Summary of Marine Institute evaluation of SSB in relation to biomass reference points for stocks of interest to Ireland.

Spawning Stock Biomass status	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Biomass above MSY $B_{trigger}$ stocks	19	19	17	20	22	27	26	25	25	26	36	39	37	34
percentage	32%	32%	23%	28%	30%	36%	35%	34%	34%	35%	48%	53%	50%	46%
Biomass below MSY $B_{trigger}$ stocks	10	6	12	14	19	15	16	16	15	14	15	17	19	22
percentage	17%	10%	16%	19%	26%	20%	22%	22%	20%	19%	20%	23%	26%	30%
Biomass status unknown stocks	30	34	44	38	33	32	32	33	34	34	24	18	18	18
percentage	51%	58%	60%	53%	45%	43%	43%	45%	46%	46%	32%	24%	24%	24%
Total number of stocks	59	59	73	72	74	74	74	74	74	74	75	74	74	74

Detailed analysis

A detailed breakdown of the evaluations of stock status in relation to sustainable fishing rates and biomass levels as given in previous Stock Books is presented in Table 3. Note that stock status in a certain year may be retrospectively adjusted as improved data become available. Such adjustments are not included in Table 3 where information is reported as of the time.

Status of individual stocks varies over time but show a long-term positive trend since 2012 (Figure 2), this demonstrates gradual progress towards long term sustainable utilisation of the commercial fish resources. It should be noted that while the trend in reduction in fishing pressure has been consistent over time, the response in improving biomass has been less consistent.

There are 13 changes in status of stocks between the 2024 and 2025 assessments (Table 4).

The status of F in relation to F_{MSY} changed for 6 stocks:

- For boarfish 6-8 and whiting 7b-k fishing pressure was estimated to be just below F_{MSY} last year and is now above.
- For herring 1 & 2 and pollack 6 & 7 benchmark reviews of the assessment and stock status indicate fishing pressure below F_{MSY} .
- For North Sea horse mackerel the F reference points were withdrawn this year and therefore fishing pressure relative to F_{MSY} not defined while for Northeast Atlantic ling, a proxy F reference point was proposed, and the stock is presently estimated to be fished above this reference point.

The status of SSB in relation to the reference points changed for 7 stocks.

- For 5 stocks the SSB declined below $MSY B_{trigger}$: Northern shelf cod, Celtic sea haddock (7b-k), herring 6a North, Northeast Atlantic mackerel and North sea saithe.
- The 2025 assessment for Western horse mackerel indicates the stock is above $MSY B_{trigger}$
- Seabass (North sea, Irish sea and Celtic) was reviewed through the benchmark process and SSB is now estimated to be above the revised reference point.

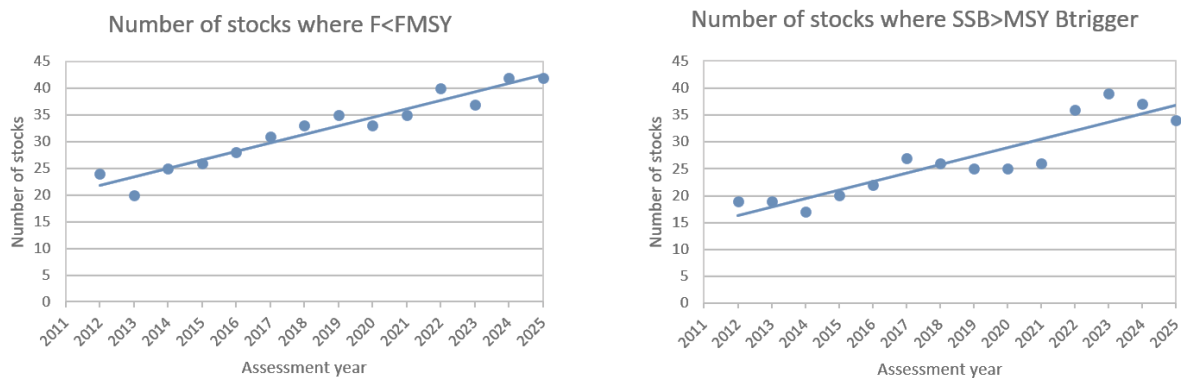


Figure 2: Number of stocks assessed to be fished below F_{MSY} (left) and where SSB is above $MSY B_{trigger}$ (right) each year, with trends indicated by the line.

Table 3: Details of FEAS evaluation of fishing mortality in relation to F_{MSY} and SSB in relation to biomass reference points for stocks of interest to Ireland.

	Fishing Mortality Status															SSB Status														
Stock	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025		
Albacore tuna NEA																														
Anglerfish 3a,4,6																														
Anglerfish 7.8																														
Anglerfish (black) 7.8																														
Anglerfish (white) 7.8																														
Basking Shark NEA																														
Blonde ray 4a,6																														
Blonde ray 7a,fg																														
Blue whiting NEA																														
Bluefin tuna																														
Boarfish 6,7,8																														
Cod 6a																														
Cod 4,6a,7d,20																														
Cod 6b																														
Cod 7a																														
Cod 7e-k																														
Cuckoo ray 6,7,8abde																														
Grey gurnard 6,7																														
Haddock 4,6a,20																														
Haddock 6b																														
Haddock 7a																														
Haddock 7b-k																														
Hake Northern																														
Herring 1,2																														
Herring 6aN																														
Herring 6a,S,7bc																														
Herring 6a,7bc																														
Herring 7aN																														
Herring 7a,S,7g-k																														
Horse mackerel NS																														
Horse mackerel W																														
Ling NEA																														
Mackerel NEA																														
Megrim 4,6a																														
Megrim 6b																														
Megrim 7b-k,8abde																														
Nephrops 6 no FU																														
Nephrops 7 no FU																														
Nephrops FU11																														
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Nephrops FU19																														
Nephrops FU20-21																														
Nephrops FU22																														
Other rays 6,7																														
Plaice 7a																														
Plaice 7bc																														

Table 4: Stocks with a status change between the 2024 and 2025 assessments.

Fishing pressure			Spawning stock biomass		
Stock	F status		Stock	B status	
	2024	2025		2024	2025
Boarfish 6,7,8			Cod 4,6a,7d,20		
Herring 1,2			Haddock 7b-k		
Horse mackerel NS			Herring 6aN		
Ling NEA			Horse mackerel W		
Pollack 6,7			Mackerel NEA		
Whiting 7b-k			Saithe 4,6,3a		
			Sea Bass 4bc,7ad-h		

= $F < F_{msy}$
 = $F > F_{msy}$
 = F unknown or F_{msy} undefined

= $B > MSY B_{trigger}$
 = $B < MSY B_{trigger}$
 = B unknown MSY $B_{trigger}$ undefined

6. Bord Iascaigh Mhara assessment of the Socio-economic Impacts

Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM) has carried out a socio-economic analysis as part of the Sustainability Impact Assessment considering proposed Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and corresponding Member State quotas for the managed fish stocks of interest to Ireland, set according to Article 16 of the Common Fisheries Policy. The analysis assumes 100% uptake of quota but does not take account of quota carried over under inter-annual flexibility allowed for under the CFP or quota swaps from other Member States.

Recognising the changes in the negotiation process for setting the annual TACs and quotas following the UK's departure from the EU, the 2025 analysis of projected fishing opportunities for 2026 was conducted in October 2025, based on the best available information. Most TACs and quotas relevant to Ireland are set as part of the formal negotiations between the EU and UK, separate negotiations between the EU, Norway, and the UK, as well as the Coastal States negotiations involving the EU, UK, Norway, Iceland, The Faroe Islands and Greenland.

At the time of this assessment, no agreement has been reached in any of the negotiations on the final TACs and associated quotas. These negotiations are ongoing and therefore the quota estimates presented are subject to change.

Additionally, the analysis has been completed with and without the additional fishing opportunities, allocated to Ireland on an annual and ongoing basis under certain circumstances. These so-called "Hague Preferences" are a result of an agreement made at the Fisheries Council meeting held in October 1976 in The Hague. At the meeting, the Council of Ministers adopted a resolution that, amongst other things, provided Ireland with these

additional fishing opportunities. These Hague Preferences have been allocated to Ireland each year since the late 1980's.

As in previous years, this year's assessment was conducted before the EU published its fishing opportunities proposals. Therefore, the estimates included here are based on ICES stock assessments and the scientific advice provided. The Marine Institute has provided a summary of the advice for stocks of relevance to the Irish fleet in document 'Marine Institute Summary of Advice'. This document shows the regional sea, stock name, fishing mortality and biomass indicators, advice for 2026, the change in advice, the implied Total Allowable Catch (TAC) change, the advice in 2025, the overall TAC for 2025 broken down into divisions where relevant, Irish quota in 2025 before swaps, and the TAC code. Further advice was provided in the document 'Sea Fisheries Sustainability Impact Assessment Stakeholder Consultation', (Table 1) on 9th September 2025. Advice was released by ICES on 30th September for mackerel, boarfish, horse mackerel in western waters, and blue whiting. The Marine Institute provided an updated summary of advice on the 2nd October.

In this analysis, the quotas for the Irish fleet in 2025 are adjusted based on the implied TAC change indicator mentioned above.

Overall, the analysis has a number of caveats, namely:

- It does not take into account any future swaps or issues with choke species.
- Quota has been estimated from provided stock advice for 54 stocks, representing 96% of the volume of Irish quota species and 78% of the value in 2025.
- Advice on 40 whitefish stocks has been provided representing 82% of the Irish whitefish quota volume and 59% of the value (lack of *Nephrops* advice accounts for significant share of quota value). For completeness an estimate for *Nephrops* is included.
- Advice on 14 pelagic species has been provided. However, it must be noted that using a single average first point of sale price per species can significantly affect the value attributed to pelagic species given the volumes landed. For example, for mackerel, the estimated value for 2026 quota is €26,876,202 at €1,660 per tonne versus €40,427,500 at €2,500 per tonne. The reduction in Irish quota value in 2026 equates to a loss of between €48 - €58m using this price ranges.

6 (a) Assessment of Economic Impact

The methodology used in this analysis to estimate the socioeconomic impact of TAC changes on the Irish seafood sector is detailed in 'A methodology to measure the social impact of the EU quota setting procedure' (Curtin & Keatinge, 2018).¹ For those stocks that currently have provisional advice allocated, the current set of proposals will see a net decrease in fishing opportunity (quotas) of 26% by volume amounting to an estimated direct income decrease of €50m (with Hagues). This decrease does not consider the cost structure of the fleet or include impacts of rising operational costs, fluctuations in fish prices, or inflation. **This figure is only the net change in potential first point of sale and does not consider any additional value from the Hagues.**

There is a 5% decrease in fishing opportunities for the demersal sector (whitefish) with a net estimated loss of €7m (assuming no change with *Nephrops*). There is a 35% decrease in fishing opportunities for the pelagic sector. The total direct loss is €63 million (without Hagues) due to the proposed widespread reductions in pelagic quotas and in whitefish quotas in area 7.

As with the assessment in 2025, the issue of quota for whiting in division 7d is important to note. The advice recommends a zero quota for whiting in 7bc-ek while the advice for whiting in 7d recommends an increase of 42%. Irish quota for this stock would increase by over 3,000 tonnes to 10,624 tonnes in 2026, an increase of over €5.3m. Despite having a quota of over 5,000 tonnes for this stock in 2024 virtually no landings were recorded. This quota has an estimated value of around €13m in 2026. However, based on current activity this is unlikely to be realised.

This quota has an economic value that can be converted into real value when it is fished, landed and sold. The model used by BIM applies a value to this quota increase. However, the model also accounts for how (and where) the Irish fleet fishes each stock and so due to minimal landings from division 7d in 2023 (pre quota split and the latest year of data utilised in the model) the final impact on employment is negative as the model accounts for the fact that this quota goes unfished.

To ensure the model accurately reflects current fishing activity and any changes that may have occurred in 2024, the SFPA quota uptake statistics for the year 2024 have been analysed. The most recent data provided shows that uptake by the start of October 2024 for whiting in division 7d is 0% (table 5). This suggests that the Irish quota remained unfished in 2024, thereby indicating that the model results accurately reflect reality.

¹ Curtin, R. & Keatinge, M. (2018) A methodology to measure the social impact of the EU quota setting procedure, *Marine Policy*, Volume 95, 248-255. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpol.2018.05.023>

Regional analysis of economic impacts

All quota species of interest to the Irish fishing fleet are grouped into four tables namely Area VI Whitefish Stocks, Area VII Whitefish Stocks, Area VI, VII and Other Whitefish Stocks, and Pelagic Stocks.

Area VI Whitefish Stocks

In Area 6, 12 whitefish stocks have been assessed and Irish quota estimated. The biggest impact from Cod 6a, with quota falling from 131 in 2025 to 0 in 2026, a value decline of €810,000. Estimating a bycatch quota and Hagues for this stock, set at 55 tonnes would reduce the impact in line with 2025 figures. Monkfish quota falls from 890 tonnes to 824 tonnes, a value decline of €300,000.

Haddock 6b sees the implied TAC increase by 100% which would lead to Irish quota for this stock increasing from 622 to 1,239 tonnes, a value increase of €1.35m. Overall, for the 12 stocks with advice for 2026 and estimated quota, the total volume decrease is 9% with the associated value decreasing by €1m. Invoking all relevant Hagues would increase the quota and end up with a net gain of €1m.

Area VII Whitefish Stocks

A total of 20 Area VII stocks are assessed for 2026. Seventeen show quota decreases, two are unchanged (megrim 7, small eyed ray 7f g), and two increase (plaice 7h j k, pollack 7). By value, there are two strong negative impacts (over €1m: cod 7b k 8 9 10 –€1.26m; saithe –€1.13m), five moderate negatives (€0.1–€0.6m: anglerfish 7 –€0.44m; haddock 7b k 8 9 10 –€0.53m; haddock 7a –€0.45m; plaice 7a –€0.39m; common sole 7a –€0.45m), and the remainder are low impacts (absolute value under €0.1m). The largest positive is pollack 7 with an increase of €0.75m.

Overall, the Area VII whitefish totals fall from 25,757 t to 22,972 t (–6%) with an associated value impact of –€4m. Applying all Hague Preferences in the region softens the outcome to 23,509 t (–4%) and –€2m. *Nephrops* in area 7 is assumed to be unchanged (see below for *Nephrops* scenarios) with a value of €55 m.

Area VI, VII and Other Whitefish Stocks

Ten stocks were assessed at the time of writing. The hake stock sees TACs and quotas falling by 5% which would result in Irish quota falling from 1,730 to 1,642 tonnes, with value declining by €340,000. Advice for ling recommends a 33% reduction in TACs and quotas which reduces predicted Irish quota from 752 to 542 tonne with an associated decreases in value of €430,000.

Advice for spurdog recommends a +14% increase in TAC which would increase Irish quota from 2,325 to 2,905 tonnes, a value increase of over €400,000. Advice for skates and rays recommends a 19% increase, raising quota from 1,145 to 1,359 tonnes, worth an additional €410,000.

Overall, for the stocks assessed volume increases by 2% (+120 tonnes) but value declines by 3% (-€1.4m).

Pelagic Stocks

All pelagic stocks have been considered in the assessment. One of these recommends no change (albacore), eight recommend TAC reductions (mackerel, western horse mackerel in western waters and in the North Sea, blue whiting, herring 6aN, Irish sea herring, Celtic Sea herring, and boarfish) and two recommend a TAC increase (herring in Arctic waters and in 6aS, 7bc).

Advice for mackerel recommends a 70% reduction in TAC which would reduce Irish quota from 39,914 to an estimated 10,907 tonnes (without Hagues), a decrease in value of €48m. Blue whiting advice recommends a 41% decrease in TAC reducing Irish quota from 51,263 to 33,321 tonnes, a decrease in value of €5m. Boarfish advice recommends a 22% reduction, decreasing quota from 26,462 to 20,538 tonnes, a value decrease of €2m. Celtic sea herring advice recommends a 100% reduction in quota, reducing Irish quota from 750 tonnes in 2025 to zero in 2026, a loss of €440,000.

Advice recommends an increase of 20% for herring in 6AS, 7bc increasing quota from 2,600 to 2,971 tonnes worth an additional €220,000.

Overall, the impact of proposed pelagic quota changes for 2026 (with 100% volume coverage), shows volume decreasing by 3% (without Hagues) with an associated value decline of 36% (-€56m).

Pelagic fisheries underpin a substantial share of Ireland's seafood economy and export earnings. In 2025 the RSW fleet generated around €100 million in first point of sale value. The pelagic value chain supports an estimated 611 people (vessels 288, processing 323) and is a key driver of exports, which totalled €137 million in 2024 (notably mackerel €94m, blue whiting €19m, horse mackerel €8m). This footprint extends beyond direct employment to logistics, engineering, cold-chain services, and local retail, meaning shocks to pelagic quotas transmit quickly through coastal economies and processing plants.

Results are also highly price sensitive. Based on current ICES advice, the mackerel reduction implies a value loss of about €48 million based on an average price of €1,660/t, rising to roughly €58m if industry-quoted prices of over €2,000/t are realised. Across all pelagic species taken together, the potential value loss is approximately €55 million at the €1,660/t mackerel

price assumption, this loss reduces to around €48 million if all Hague Preferences for pelagic stocks are invoked.

Port Level

The impact in terms of value is assessed at the port level. Of the top ten ports, all 10 show losses in value.

- Killybegs sees the highest losses of all ports with quota value declining by €49m, with mackerel the main contributor to this decline.
- Dunmore East sees the next highest quota value losses at €2.7m with haddock 7b-k, megrim 7 and whiting 7bce-k being the main contributors to this loss.
- Castletownbere has quota losses of €2.5m, with Celtic Sea haddock, megrim 7 and whiting accounting for most of this loss.
- Kilmore Quay loses quota valued at €2.1m (megrim 7 and haddock 7b-k, the main contributors).
- Union Hall loses quota of a value of €451,000 (megrim 7, haddock 7b-k and hake the main contributors).
- Ros a Mhíl sees quota losses of €322,000 (haddock 7b-k, whiting and megrim 7 the main contributors)
- Greencastle sees losses of €313,000 (cod 6b and haddock 7b-k the main contributors).
- Dingle sees quota losses of €250,000 (hake, megrim 7 and haddock 7b-k the main contributors).
- Howth loses quota worth €117,000 and Clogherhead has losses less than €30,000 in quota value.

No port sees an increase in quota value.

6 (b) Hague Preferences

At its meetings in 1976 the Council of the EEC adopted a resolution that, amongst other things, provided Ireland (including Great Britain) with additional fishing opportunities, on an annual and ongoing basis under certain circumstances.

The Hague preferences are quantities of fish that Ireland and the UK can invoke under certain circumstances. For example, if Ireland do not achieve quotas greater than these figures, they may invoke the Hague preferences. These additional fishing opportunities, traditionally referred to as 'The Hague Preferences', have been allocated to Ireland each year since the late 1980's. However, they are not set out in the Commission's proposal and must be agreed by Council.

Two scenarios are considered for 2026: (i) The same 17 Hague Preferences are invoked on the same basis as in 2024 (for 2025 quota), and (ii) no Hague Preferences invoked. For 2026, modelling predicts that invoking the Hague Preferences across the listed stocks would increase Irish quota by around 7,200 tonnes and raise landed value loss from €49 million (no Hague) to €63 million, a net uplift of €14 million (+28%).

The gain is concentrated across the 17 stocks, the top five being;

- Mackerel (MAC/2CX14) contributes €8.7 million of the uplift on an additional 5,264 t.
- Cod 7b–k, 8, 9, 10 (COD/7XAD34) adds €1.2 million on +244 t.
- Haddock 5b 6a (HAD/5BC6A) adds €1 million on +488 t.
- Whiting 56–14 (WHG/56-14) adds €0.50 million on +275 t.
- Saithe 56–14 (POK/56-14) adds €0.38 million on +269 t.

These results underline the continuing importance of the Hague Preferences in supporting access to key stocks, stabilising revenues for dependent fleets, and sustaining processing throughput in exposed coastal regions.

6 (c) Nephrops Scenarios

Additional scenarios have been modelled for the *Nephrops* stock in Area 7, reflecting the uncertainty in scientific advice and the significant role this stock plays for the Irish fleet and coastal communities. The scenarios consider outcomes ranging from no change in quota to reductions of 5% and 10%, as well as potential increases of 5% and 10%.

- No change in quota would maintain the value at approximately €57.16 million in 2026, broadly in line with 2025 levels.
- A similar percentage change to 2024/25 would lower the value to €50.16 million, a reduction of almost €7 million compared with a rollover scenario.
- A 5% cut in quota would reduce the value to €54.31 million, while a 10% cut would lower it further to €51.45 million, increasing pressure on vessel profitability and employment.
- Conversely, a 5% increase would raise the value to €60.03 million, and a 10% increase would boost it to €62.89 million, strengthening revenues and helping to stabilise employment.

These outcomes illustrate the central importance of the *Nephrops* fishery to Ireland, particularly for vessels operating from the ports of Clogherhead, Howth, Union Hall,

Castletownbere, and Ros a Mhíl. Even modest changes in quota levels translate into significant differences in landed value, with direct consequences for profitability, processing throughput, and associated jobs in these regions.

6 (d) Employment

The employment figures presented here are indicative scenario outputs, not forecasts. They show the potential number of jobs affected under the quota assumptions used in this assessment, holding other factors constant (e.g., fleet behaviour, prices, costs, swaps, and seasonality). They should not be interpreted as confirmed redundancies. In practice, impacts may materialise through a combination of reduced days at sea, lower crew earnings, partial layoffs, redeployment within firms, or natural turnover, and they may be mitigated by swaps, prices, or operational adjustments.

On this basis, the central estimate indicates that up to 837 direct jobs could be affected in the catching sector. When wider indirect and induced effects across processing and local services are included, the potential total impact is up to 2,361 jobs. These figures reflect the model's application of standard regional multipliers and recent port dependency profiles; actual outcomes will depend on realised quota uptake, achieved prices, fuel and operating costs, timing of fisheries, and any subsequent management decisions (including *Nephrops* outcomes and Hague Preferences).

To ensure transparency, the county breakdown below should be read as potential jobs affected rather than definite job losses. Results are rounded and subject to change as negotiations conclude and market conditions evolve.

County	Direct Employment Impact	Total Employment Impact
Donegal	-359	-1,120
Cork	-143	-396
Galway	-132	-340
Wexford	-62	-167
Kerry	-56	-142
Waterford	-46	-108
Mayo	-22	-56
Louth	-13	-25
Meath	-2	-7
Dublin	-1	-3
Grand Total	-837	-2,361

6 (e) Conclusion

The overall impact of the TAC and quota proposals received so far is a decrease of ~51,816 tonnes decreasing quota value by €60m to the Irish fleet. Pelagic stocks see the greatest quota reduction of 35% with an estimated negative impact of €53 million (without Hagues). The Demersal fleets also see reduction of 5% with an estimated loss of €7 m (without Hagues). The impact of *Nephrops* is not yet known but scenario estimates that take into account no change from 2025, or a reduction of up to 10%, would result in an estimated value between €57 million and €51 million.

While the value of quota decreases the fact, as outlined earlier, that the Irish fleet is not currently exploiting the whiting fishery in 7d sees the estimated value of landings for 2026 decline further. Additionally, this valuation only takes into account the first point of sale value and does not consider how other factors such as vessel cost structures and pressure from increased costs, or fluctuation fish prices, will affect the profitability of the fleet. The analysis indicates that, under the quota scenarios modelled, up to 837 direct jobs could be affected in the catching sector; including indirect and induced effects across the wider seafood economy, the potential total impact could be up to 2,361 jobs. These figures are indicative and may change with final TAC/quota decisions, realised prices, fleet behaviour, and any mitigating measures (e.g., swaps, Hague Preferences).

Overall, the 2026 quota outlook signals significant pressures, especially in pelagic fisheries, which will have significant impacts on vessel earnings, processing throughput, and export performance. The pelagic value chain supports about 611 people and underpinned export receipts of about €137 million in 2024. Outcomes are highly sensitive to prices and to final decisions on TACs and quotas. Invocation of Hague Preferences can partly cushion the impact.

A breakdown of all quota changes is shown in the following tables.

(1) AREA VI WHITEFISH STOCKS

AREA VI WHITEFISH STOCKS 2026						
SPECIES	ICES AREA	Quota 2025 (tonnes)	Quota 2026 (tonnes)	Predicted Quota 2026 with Hagues (tonnes)	Value Impact Millions	Value Impact with Hagues Millions
Cod	6a; 5b	131	55	132	-€0.39	€0.00
Cod	6b; 5b	11	5	12	-€0.03	€0.00
Megrim	5b; 6; 12 14	614	567	567	-€0.17	-€0.17
Anglerfish	6; 5b; 12 14	890	824	824	-€0.30	-€0.30
Haddock	5b 6a	1,304	795	1,283	-€1.12	-€0.05
Haddock	6b	622	1,239	1,239	€1.35	€1.35
Whiting	6; 5b; 12 14	1,435	1,278	1,553	-€0.28	€0.21
Plaice	6; 5b; 12 14	224	215	223	-€0.02	€0.00
Pollack	6; 5b; 12 14	11	13	13	€0.01	€0.01
Saithe	6; 5b, 12 14	366	86	355	-€0.49	-€0.02
Common sole	6; 5b; 12 14	46	46	46	€0.00	€0.00
Norway lobster	6; 5b	184	184	184	€0.00	€0.00
Sub-total		5,838	5,305	6,431	-€1.45	€1.04

(2) AREA VII WHITEFISH STOCKS

AREA VII WHITEFISH STOCKS 2026						
SPECIES	ICES AREA	Quota 2025 (tonnes)	Quota 2026 (tonnes)	Predicted Quota 2026 with Hagues (tonnes)	Value Impact (Millions)	Value Impact with Hagues (Millions)
Cod	7a	82	74	83	-€0.04	€0.00
Cod	7b, 7c, 7e-k, 8, 9 10	335	91	334	-€1.26	€0.00
Megrim	7	3,038	3,038	3,038	€0.00	€0.00
Anglerfish	7	3,367	3,272	3,272	-€0.44	-€0.44
Haddock	7b-k, 8, 9 10	1,182	941	1,076	-€0.53	-€0.23
Haddock	7a	692	486	486	-€0.45	-€0.45
Whiting	7a	258	236	259	-€0.04	€0.00
Whiting	7b-k	8,759	8,749	8,749	-€0.02	-€0.02
Plaice	7a	396	246	273	-€0.39	-€0.32
Plaice	7b 7c	13	12	14	€0.00	€0.00
Plaice	7f 7g	40	7	46	-€0.08	€0.01
Plaice	7h, 7j 7k	53	55	55	€0.00	€0.00
Pollack	7	48	224	224	€0.75	€0.75
Saithe	7, 8, 9 10 Nor S 62° N	690	41	83	-€1.13	-€1.06
Small-eyed Ray	7f 7g	8	8	8	€0.00	€0.00
Common sole	7a	94	65	81	-€0.45	-€0.20
Common sole	7b 7c	14	12	14	-€0.03	-€0.01
Common sole*	7f 7g	33	27	27	-€0.09	-€0.09
Common sole	7h, 7j 7k	77	76	76	-€0.01	-€0.01
Norway lobster	7	5,313	5,312	5,312	-€0.01	-€0.01
Norway lobster	FU16	1,265	0	0	€0	€0.00
Sub-total		25,757	22,972	23,509	-€4	-€2.06

* NO Hague for SOL 7fg invoked in line with 2025.

(3) AREA VI, VII AND OTHER WHITEFISH STOCKS

AREA VI, VII & OTHER WHITEFISH STOCKS 2026						
SPECIES	ICES AREA	Quota 2025 (tonnes)	Quota 2026 (tonnes)	Predicted Quota 2026 with Hagues (tonnes)	Value Impact (Millions)	Value Impact with Hagues (Millions)
Cod	Nor 1 2	290	0	0	-€1.49	-€1.49
Hake	6 7; 5b; 12 14	1,730	1,642	1,642	-€0.34	-€0.34
Ling	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14	752	542	542	-€0.43	-€0.43
Blue Ling	2 4	2	1	1	€0.00	€0.00
Blue Ling	5b, 6 7	30	30	30	€0.00	€0.00
Tusk	5, 6 7	381	381	381	€0.00	€0.00
Greenland halibut	2a 4; 5b 6	20	19	19	€0.00	€0.00
Skates and rays	6a, 6b, 7a-c 7e-k	1,145	1,359	1,359	€0.39	€0.39
Undulate Ray	7d 7e	381	367	367	€0.00	€0.00
Picked dogfish	1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12 14	2,325	2,905	2,905	€0.41	€0.41
Sub-total		7,056	7,247	7,247	-€1.47	-€1.47

(4) PELAGIC STOCKS

PELAGIC STOCKS 2026						
SPECIES	ICES AREA	Quota 2025 (tonnes)	Predicted Quota 2026 (tonnes)	Predicted Quota 2026 with Hagues (tonnes)	Value Impact without Hagues (Millions)	Value Impact with Hagues (Millions)
Mackerel	2a, 5b, 6, 7, 8, 12, 14	39,914	10,907	16,171	-€48.21	-€39.5
Horse mackerel	2-4-6-7-8-5b 12 14	16,406	16,038	16,038	-€0.36	-€0.36
Horse mackerel	4b, 4c 7d	16	19	19	€0.00	€0.0
Blue whiting	1-8, 12 14	51,263	33,321	33,321	-€5.06	-€5.1
Herring	1 2	2,080	2,764	2,764	€0.33	€0.3
Herring	5b, 6b 6aN	403	192	348	-€0.10	€0.0
Herring	6aS, 7b, 7c	2,600	2,971	3,120	€0.18	€0.3
Herring	7a	52	29	29	-€0.01	€0.0
Herring	7g, 7h, 7j 7k	750	750	750	€0.00	€0.0
Northern Albacore	Atlantic Ocean	3,968	3,881	3,881	-€0.22	-€0.2
Greater silver smelt	3a 4	8	9	9	€0.00	€0.0
Greater silver smelt	5, 6 7	635	635	635	€0.00	€0.0
Boarfish	6, 7 8	26,462	20,538	20,538	-€2.14	-€2.1
Blue shark	Atlantic Ocean	1	1	1	€0.00	€0.0
Sub-total		144,557	92,054	97,623	-€56	-€47

(5) Potential employment impact

Employment Impact	Number
Total Direct Impact (FTE)	-545
Total (incl. Upstream) Impact FTE	-1,524
Total Direct Impact (Total Employees)	-837
Total (incl. Upstream) Impact (Total Employees)	-2,361

	Potential Direct Employment Impact	Potential Total Employment Impact
Donegal	-359	-1,120
Cork	-143	-396
Galway	-132	-340
Wexford	-62	-167
Kerry	-56	-142
Waterford	-46	-108
Mayo	-22	-56
Louth	-13	-25
Meath	-2	-7
Dublin	-1	-3
Grand Total	-837	-2,361