

Norway lobster (*Nephrops norvegicus*) in Subarea 7, outside the functional units (southern Celtic Seas, southwest of Ireland)

ICES stock advice

ICES advises that when the precautionary approach is applied, wanted catches* should be no more than 188 tonnes in each of the years 2018, 2019, and 2020. ICES cannot quantify the corresponding total catches.

Stock development over time

The state of *Nephrops* outside the functional units (FUs) is unknown. Landings have fluctuated throughout the time-series and have been below average since 2013.

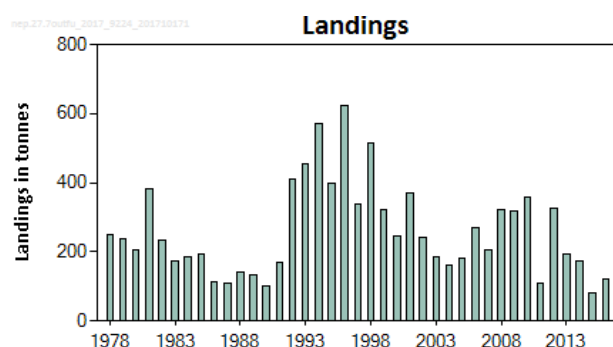


Figure 1 Norway lobster in Subarea 7, outside the functional units. ICES estimated landings (tonnes). Discard estimates are not available.

Stock and exploitation status

Table 1 Norway lobster in Subarea 7, outside the functional units. State of the stock and fishery relative to reference points.

		Fishing pressure				Stock size			
		2014	2015	2016		2015	2016	2017	
Maximum sustainable yield	F_{MSY}	?	?	?	Undefined	MSY	?	?	?
Precautionary approach	F_{pa} , F_{lim}	?	?	?	Undefined	B_{pa} , B_{lim}	?	?	?
Management plan	F_{MGT}	-	-	-	Not applicable	SSB_{MGT}	-	-	-
Qualitative evaluation	-	?	?	?	Unknown	-	?	?	?
									Undefined
									Undefined
									Not applicable
									Unknown

Catch options

The ICES framework for category 5 stocks was applied (ICES, 2012). For stocks without information on abundance or exploitation, ICES considers that a precautionary reduction of catches should be implemented unless there is ancillary information clearly indicating that the current level of exploitation is appropriate for the stock. The precautionary buffer was last applied in 2013. Therefore, the precautionary buffer was applied to the advice this year.

*“Wanted catch” is used to describe the catch that would be landed in the absence of the EU landing obligation (EC, 2015).

Table 2 Norway lobster in Subarea 7, outside the functional units. The basis for the catch options.

Recent advised wanted catch* for 2017	235 tonnes	
Discard rate	Unknown	
Precautionary buffer	Applied	0.8
Wanted catch advice**	188 tonnes	
Total catch advice	Unknown	

* “Wanted” catch is used to describe *Nephrops* that would be landed in the absence of the EU landing obligation.

** [recent advised wanted catch] × [precautionary buffer].

Basis of the advice

Table 3 Norway lobster in Subarea 7, outside the functional units. The basis of the advice.

Advice basis	Precautionary approach.
Management plan	ICES is not aware of any agreed precautionary management plan for Norway lobster in this area.

Quality of the assessment

For rectangles in Subarea 7 that are outside of the functional units, only landings data are available. ICES is unable to quantify the total catch corresponding to the advice.

Issues relevant for the advice

Nephrops outside the current FUs are not considered to be separate stocks but rather represent small populations of *Nephrops* outside the identified stock units (FUs). The level of recruitment to these patches is unknown; it is, however, likely that there is some donation of recruits from the major stock units (O’Sullivan *et al.*, 2015).

From 2016, fisheries catching *Nephrops* in Subarea 7 are covered by the EU landings obligation (EU, 2015). Creel fisheries are exempted from the landings obligation, with a *de minimis* exemption consisting of a 6% discard rate by weight for the trawl fishery in 2018 (reduced from 7% in 2016 and 2017). There is no information available for discards from areas outside the FUs.

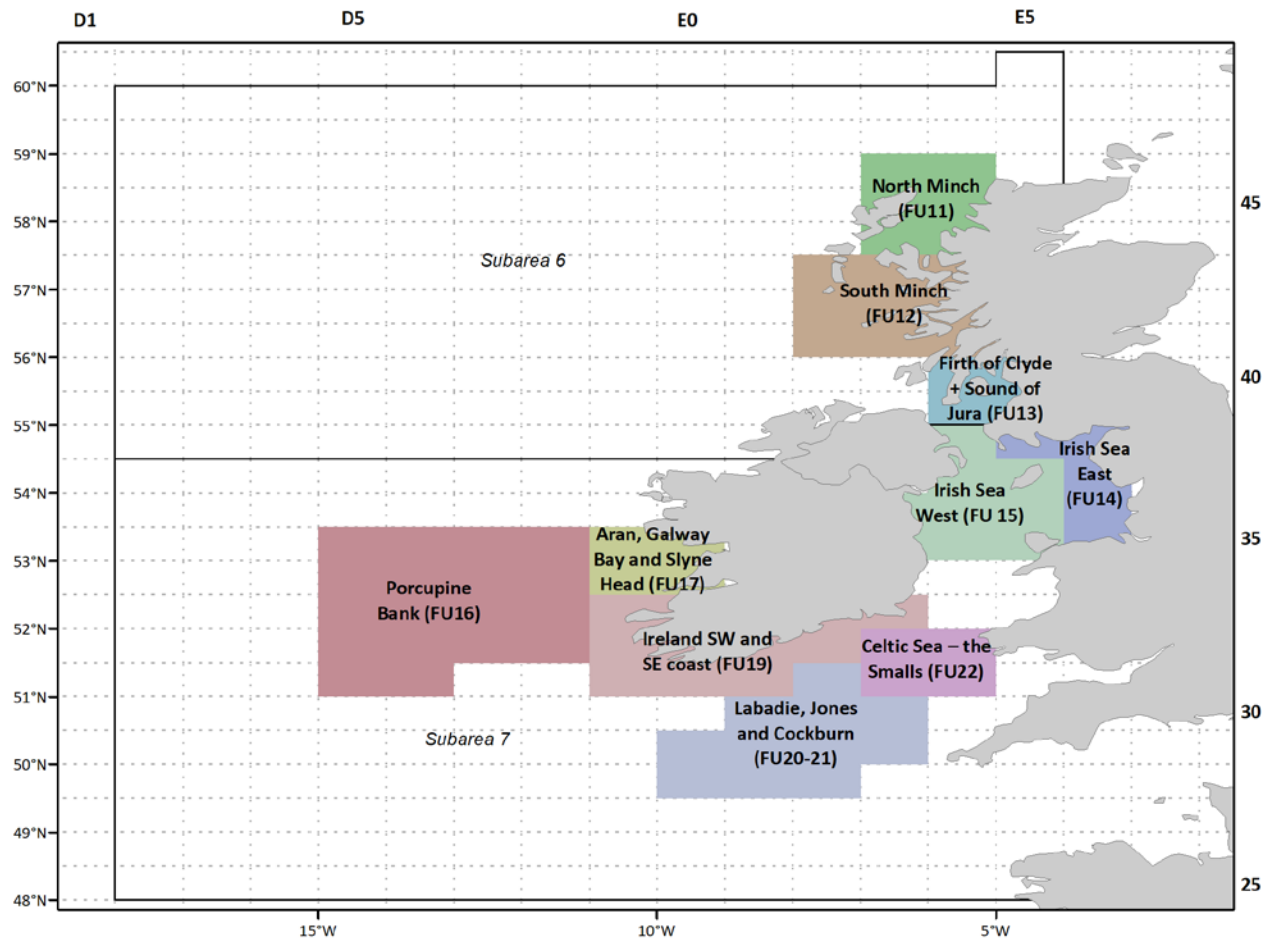


Figure 2 Norway lobster functional units in Subareas 6 and 7.

Reference points

No reference points are defined for this stock.

Basis of the assessment

Table 4 Norway lobster in Subarea 7, outside the functional units. Basis of the assessment and advice.

ICES stock data category	5 (ICES, 2016).
Assessment type	No assessment.
Input data	International landings (ICES, 2017).
Discards and bycatch	Unknown.
Indicators	None.
Other information	None.
Working group	Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE)

Information from stakeholders

There is no additional available information for this stock.

History of the advice, catch, and management

Table 5 Norway lobster in Subarea 7, outside the functional units. ICES advice and landings. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	ICES advice	Predicted landings corresponding to advice	TAC*	ICES landings	ICES discards
2009	Precautionary approach	< 200	24650	326	Na
2010	Precautionary approach	< 200	22432	366	Na
2011	Precautionary approach	< 200	21759	123	Na
2012	No increase in catches	-	21759	353	Na
2013	Precautionary approach	< 200	23065	204	Na
2014	Precautionary approach (decrease landings by 20% with respect to the 2010–2012 average)	< 235	20989	174	Na
2015	Precautionary approach (same value of landings as advised for 2014)	< 235	21619	80	Na
2016	Precautionary approach (same value of wanted catch as advised for 2014)	≤ 235	23348	118	Na
2017	Precautionary approach (same value of wanted catch as advised for 2014)	≤ 235	25356		
2018	Precautionary approach (latest advised catch, PA buffer applied)	≤ 188			
2019	Precautionary approach (same value of wanted catch as advised for 2018)	≤ 188			
2020	Precautionary approach (same value of wanted catch as advised for 2018)	≤ 188			

* The TAC applies to all of Subarea 7.

Na = not available.

History of the catch and landings

Table 6 Norway lobster in Subarea 7, outside the functional units. Catch distribution by fleet in 2016 as estimated by ICES.

Catch (2016)	Landings	Discards
Unknown	Almost 100% otter trawl	Unknown
	118 tonnes	

Table 7 Norway lobster in Subarea 7, outside the functional units. History of landings; ICES estimates of landings by country. All weights are in tonnes.

Year	Belgium	France	Rep. of Ireland	Spain	UK	Total landings
1978				249	0	249
1979				237	0	237
1980				205	0	205
1981				382	0	382
1982				228	6	234
1983				168	6	174
1984				186	1	187
1985				151	43	194
1986				80	33	113
1987				58	49	107
1988				62	78	140
1989				88	46	134
1990				87	15	102
1991				131	38	169
1992				317	92	409
1993			62	323	70	455
1994			220	260	90	570
1995			100	188	109	397
1996			96	404	123	623
1997			112	81	147	340
1998			145	166	203	514
1999		51	136	88	47	322
2000		41	65	107	31	243
2001		26	104	217	21	368
2002		17	119	87	19	243
2003		0	152	34	0	186
2004		0	88	61	12	161
2005		0	125	50	5	180
2006		0	140	26	104	270
2007		0	89	23	94	206
2008		0	76	24	222	322
2009		0	29	209	79	316
2010		0	120	155	84	359
2011		0	92	0	17	110
2012	1.4	1	194	92	37	325
2013	0.0	38	106	35	15	194
2014	0.2	0	119	31	24	174
2015	0.4	0	65	2	13	80
2016	0.3	25	38	2	54	118

Summary of the assessment

There is no assessment for Norway lobster in this area.

Sources and references

EU. 2015. COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2015/2438 of 12 October 2015 establishing a discard plan for certain demersal fisheries in north-western waters. Official Journal of the European Union, L 336: 29–35.
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32015R2438&from=EN>.

ICES. 2016. Advice basis. *In* Report of the ICES Advisory Committee, 2016. ICES Advice 2016, Book 1, Section 1.2.

ICES. 2017. Report of the Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE), 9–18 May 2017, ICES Headquarters, Copenhagen, Denmark. ICES CM 2017/ACOM:13. 1464 pp.

O’Sullivan, D., Lordan, C., Doyle, J., Berry, A., and Lyons, K. 2015. Metapopulation connectivity via larval transport of the Norway lobster *Nephrops norvegicus* in waters around Ireland: a modelled approach. Marine Ecology Progress Series, 534: 95–106. DOI: 10.3354/meps11397.