

Norway lobster Irish Sea West

 Fishery:  Irish Sea West  European Union, Division 7a  Ireland  Twin bottom otter trawls

IDENTIFICATION



SCIENTIFIC NAME

Nephrops norvegicus

SPECIES NAME(S)

Norway lobster, nephrops

STOCK IDENTIFICATION

There has been a particular focus on defining the parameters of importance for assessment and management, such as growth and maturation size as well as size frequencies at different depths and sediment types. There are variations in the biological parameters of *Nephrops* from different grounds in the North Atlantic East and in the Mediterranean, which have received a lot of attention over the years (e.g.; Farmer, 1975; ICES, 2004b, 2006; Ulmestrand and Eggert, 2001).

Differences in *N. norvegicus* population demographic structure among geographical sectors, as well as in total mortality, appear to be highly related to different exploitation levels. Abelló et al., 2002

Low levels of differentiation were found between Norway lobster populations and there were no signs of an Atlantic–Mediterranean divide or of an isolation-by-distance scheme of differentiation. (Stamatis et al, 2004).

Stocks are assessed at a Functional Unit (FU) level. Each FU correspond to a specific habitat area. However, this units are managed at ICES Division level.

Thus, *Nephrops* management areas fall within the TAC regime of the European CFP, although allocated TACs do not coincide totally with the Functional Units.

Currently, there are no management plans applicable to the species.



RELATED LINKS:

- [European Commission \(EC\)](#)
- [International Council for the Exploration of the Sea \(ICES\)](#)

ASSESSMENT

Strengths

The assessment process was benchmarked in 2009, and is based on an underwater TV (UWTV) survey which is considered to be very precise. Fishers' compliance with set TACs (entire Subarea VII) is strong. Current abundance levels are well above the MSY Btrigger.

Weaknesses

Despite ICES' advice that management should be at the functional unit (FU) level, TACs are still set globally for Subarea VII. No specific management objectives are known for the stock. There is some by-catch of other species, such as plaice, whiting and cod.

Options

Develop a precautionary management plan for the fishery, with appropriate reference points. Management of *Nephrops* should be implemented at the Functional Unit level. Improve selectivity of this fishery, as recommended by ICES.

SCORES

Management Quality:

	Managers Compliance	Fishers Compliance
Management Strategy	NOT YET SCORED	NOT YET SCORED
	< 6	

Stock Health:

	Future Health
Current Health	NOT YET SCORED
	NOT YET SCORED

FIPS

No related FIPs

MSC

No related MSC fisheries

RECOMMENDATIONS

RETAILERS & SUPPLY CHAIN

- Start a fishery improvement project (FIP) to address the lack of publicly available information on this fishery. For advice on starting a FIP, see SFP's Seafood Industry Guide to FIPs and other resources at <https://www.sustainablefish.org/Programs/Professional-Guidance/FIP-Toolkit-Resources>.
- Encourage scientists to share their studies/publications with FishSource by commenting on the profile and uploading a hyperlink to the document.
- Work with the government and scientists on the collection of data and make them accessible online.