

Ireland whiting - trawl and seine

Overview

FIP Description

Whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) is an important species for Irish demersal fisheries. On average approximately 2,800 tonnes of whiting were landed in mixed demersal fisheries by Irish vessels between 2020 and 2022, 79% of these were caught in 7g. In 2022 landings were worth approximately €3.5 million for Irish vessels.

Whiting are widely distributed throughout Irish and European waters from the shallows down to depths of around 200m. Adults are found over sandy/muddy ground. Juveniles are most abundant in coastal waters.

Whiting are voracious feeders appearing in large shoals and feeding largely on crustaceans and small fish. Their fine sharp teeth reflect their predatory diet; hunting mobile prey in the water column. They are fast growing and can grow up to 20cm in their first year at which stage about 60% are sexually mature. At age 2 almost 100% of females and ~ 85% of males are fully mature.

The distribution of whiting landings by Irish vessels between 2017 and 2021 shows that most whiting were caught around the “Smalls” area in the Celtic Sea. The majority of Irish landings are from trips where whiting was the dominant species. The remainder are taken in a more mixed fishery and are landed with haddock, hake, megrim, anglerfish and *Nephrops*.

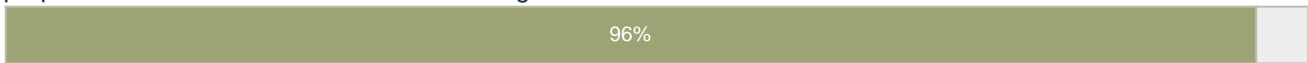
The vast majority of Irish whiting catches are made with trawls (otter trawls and seines).

Gear types bottom trawls/ seines with codend mesh size 80-100mm are responsible for the majority of the whiting catch by Irish vessels in the Celtic Sea. The fishery in the Celtic Sea is characterized as a mixed fishery, mainly targeting gadoid species, such as haddock (*Melanogrammus aeglefinus*), cod (*Gadus morhua*), and whiting (*Merlangius merlangus*) as well as anglerfish and megrim.

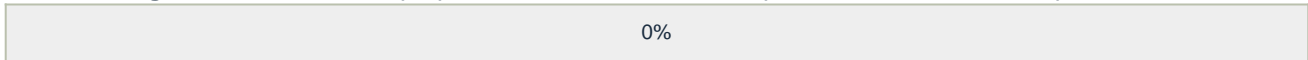
How is this FIP Doing?

Current Status:

% of Indicators Tracked Basic FIPs may focus their workplans on a subset of the indicators. This shows the proportion of total indicators the FIP is working on.



Actions Progress This shows the proportion of actions in the workplan that the FIP has completed.



Actions Overview This shows the proportion of actions that are behind schedule, on track, completed, or not yet started.

Behind	On Track	Complete	Future
0%	100%	0%	0%

Red Indicator Progress This shows the proportion of actions specifically addressing red indicators that are behind schedule, on track, completed, or not yet started. This helps users understand the progress the FIP is making on the biggest challenges in the fishery.

Behind	On Track	Complete	Future
0%	100%	0%	0%

FIP Progress Rating**FIP Objective(s)**

- To collect baseline information to improve the knowledge of the impact of the fishery on main in-scope species (Dec 2025).
- To work with Marine Institute scientists to identify barriers to achieving MSY and to improve the data available for management and decision making (Dec 2026).
- To examine stock rebuilding options for areas 7a and 7b-k (Dec 2025).
- To improve data provision and information on ETP and Out of Scope Species (Dec 2025).
- To communicate with fishery stakeholders in order to improve industry understanding of management measures, and rules under the Landing Obligation (April 2029).

FIP Type

Basic

FIP Stage

Stage 3: FIP Implementation

Start and Projected End Dates

March, 2024 -
April, 2029

Species**Common Name**

European Whiting

Scientific Name

Merlangius merlangus

Gear Type

[Bottom Trawl](#)

[Seine](#)

Location**FAO Major Fishing Area**

[Area 27 \(Atlantic, Northeast\)](#)

Exclusive Economic Zones**Country**

Ireland

Geographic Scope

Entire Country

Estimated Total FIP Landings

1900 metric tons

FIP Leads

Organization Name

Verifact

Organization Type

Consultant

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