

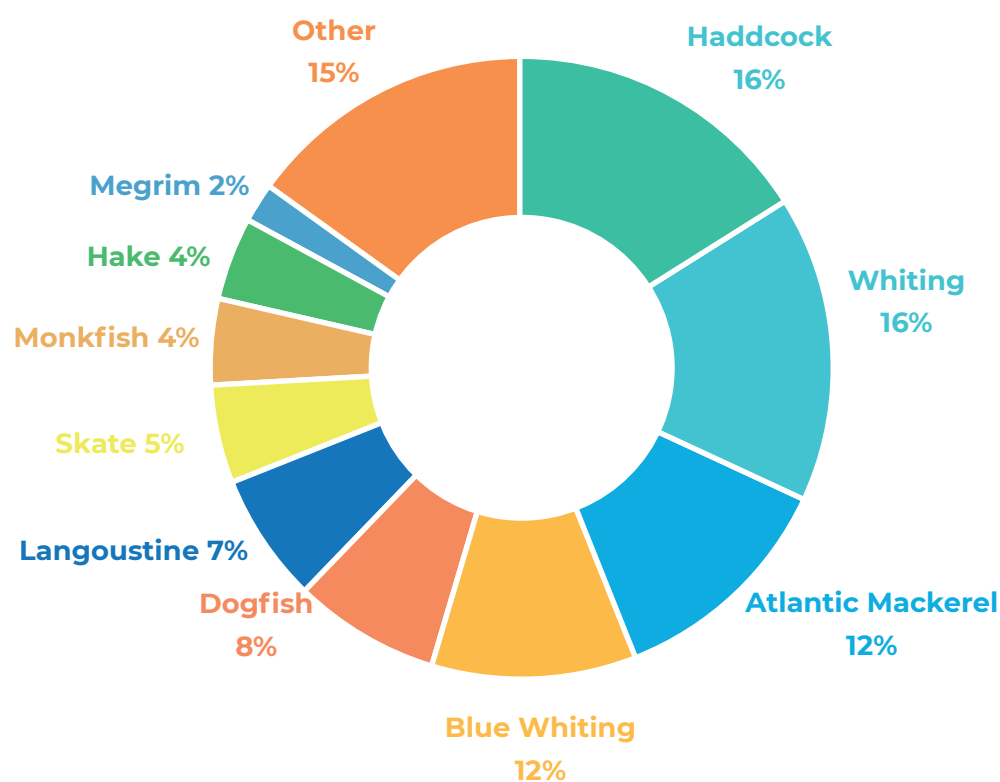
Approach to the available biomass from fishing fleet

The Irish seafood industry (i.e. sea-caught fish, farmed fish and farmed shellfish) contributed €596 million to the national economy and employed 16,150 people in 2019, mainly on the country's west coast.

Discards by the Irish fishing fleet

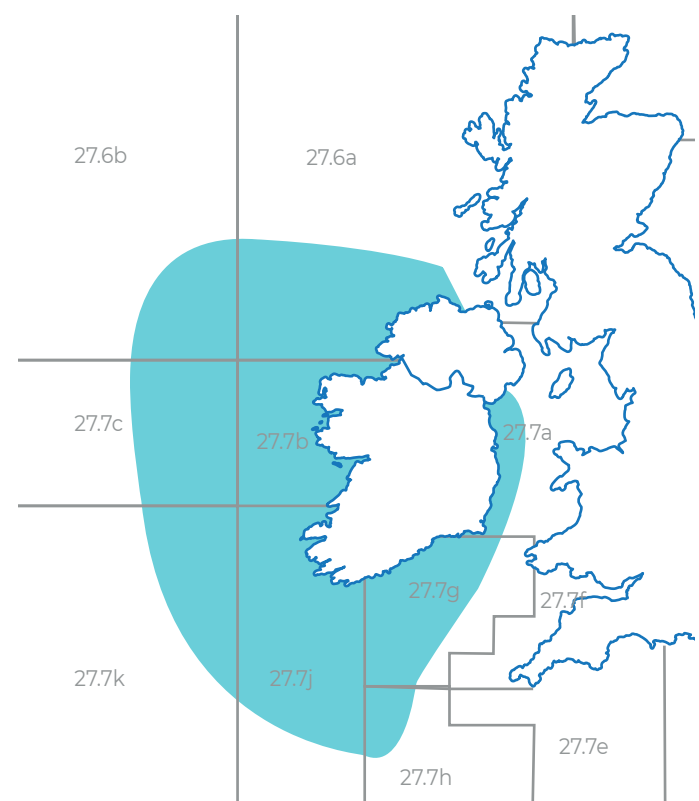
According to data from the European Commission's Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), Irish fish discard data was calculated as 88,000 tonnes in 2016. From 2003-2016, the average amount of Irish fish discarded was 134 thousand tonnes with a minimum of 67.5 tonnes in 2006 and a maximum of 478,000 tonnes in 2010.

Most abundantly discarded in 2016



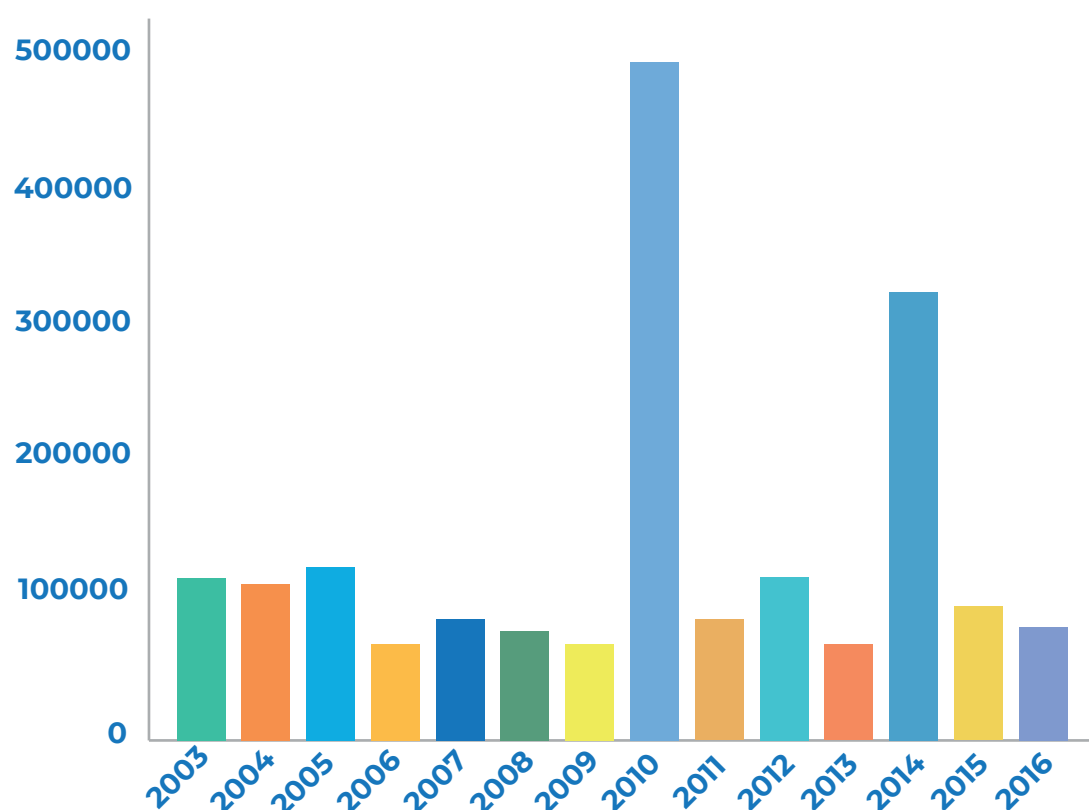
From 2003-2016, the top 10 most abundantly discarded fish include many of those listed above, but with the following added: Horse Mackerel (*Trachurus* spp), Atlantic Herring (*Clupea harengus*), and Edible Crab (*Cancer pagurus*). Over this time span, the most discarded fish by weight was the Horse Mackerel, with very huge discards in 2010 (376,000 tonnes) and 2014 (83,000 tonnes).

Focal areas of the Irish fishing fleet



In the Marine Institute and BIM's joint publication, Atlas of Demersal Discarding, Scientific Observations and Potential Solutions (2011), the focal areas of the Irish fishing fleet is broken into five areas, located within the ICES divisions: Celtic Sea, Irish Sea, Rockall, West of Ireland, and West of Scotland.

Discards evolution 2003-2016



Fish & Shellfish Waste in the Irish Fishing Auctions & Industry

In Ireland it's difficult to get information on sub-products from fish auctions. Fish are mostly pre-sold before they reach the pier. Those sold at auction are usually gutted at sea with no further processing so waste can be negligible.

From national data collected from the BIM (Irish Sea Fisheries Board) and the Marine Institute, we know that the bulk of waste from whitefish comes from filleting and secondary processing (12,636T). For pelagic species bulk waste has been estimated at 65,550T. Shellfish waste from processing has been estimated as 14,115T and comprises of mainly shells.

The biggest issue is the amount and location of the sub-products. Most of the factories are small and located in remote areas and protein companies have long distances to travel between them in order to collect similar waste. Therefore, this is reflected in the cost of waste disposal in Ireland which can be quite expensive.



Summary elaborated by Indigo Rock Marine Research Centre Ltd