

EU DGMARE  
UK

**Our Ref:** C.4.a/LWC/mo

10 May 2024

**Subject:** Joint non-recurrent request concerning a revision of the 2024 advice for sole in the Irish Sea based on the outcome of the benchmark

Dear Agnieszka, Michelle,

Thank you for the non-recurrent request to ICES concerning a revision of the 2024 advice for sole in the Irish Sea based on the outcome of the benchmark. ICES can respond to this by end of May 2024, however, would like to raise the very short timeline provided by DGMARE and UK not to be operational and future requests should avoid having such short deadlines.

Please see the suggested process in terms of finalising the request in the attached proposal for process and timeline as well as the suggested budget and let us know if you can agree to this.

| Budget item      | Days | Cost in EURO (€) |
|------------------|------|------------------|
| ACOM Leadership  | 0.5  | 450              |
| ICES Secretariat | 6    | 2998             |
| TOTAL            |      | 3448             |

Best wishes,



Lotte Worsøe Clausen, Head of the Advice Department  
ICES Secretariat



**ICES**  
**CIEM**

International Council for  
the Exploration of the Sea  
Conseil International pour  
l'Exploration de la Mer

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## ICES Request Form

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Request from  | Joint request from EU and UK  |
| Contact within organisation   | _____   |
| Content contact person  |   |
| Request announced   |   |
| Request received  |   |
| Answer deadline client  |   |
| Request code (client)   | <b>24_02 EU-UK Irish Sea Sole benchmark</b>   |
| Request code (ICES)   |   |
| Request   | To publish revised 2024 advice for sole in the Irish Sea based on the outcome of the benchmark.   |
| Request to ICES:  |   |
| <p><b>Background:</b><br/>Irish Sea sole is subject to ICES zero-catch advice for sole in the Irish Sea (SOL.27.7a) for 2024. The EU and the UK note that the stock will be subject to a benchmark process by ICES in February 2024.</p> <p><b>Description of requested work:</b><br/>The EU and UK note that the benchmark for Irish Sea sole is taking place from 19-23rd of February 2024. The EU and UK have agreed that upon the completion of this benchmark exercise, to request ICES to publish revised advice based on the outcome of the benchmark as soon as practically possible with a view to amend the fishing opportunities for 2024 in the event that the benchmark leads to a change in the perception of the stock. Consequently, the EU and UK would like to receive revised advice no later than 31 May or earlier if practically possible. This information will be used to amend the fishing opportunities for Irish Sea sole in 2024 if appropriate.</p> <p><b>Preferred deadline:</b> May 2024</p> |   |
| Planning ICES   | Process linked to WGCSE. Work will be performed ahead of the WGCSE meeting where the new benchmark, updated assessment and forecast will be presented. The updated advice sheet will be drafted at the WGCSE and subject to an internal audit. To expedite the special request the advice sheet will be then following the Baltic advisory process rather than the Celtic Seas. |
| WG(s) involved  | Working Group for the Celtic Seas Ecoregion (WGCSE)   |
| Preparation timing  | 30 April- 3 May   |

|                       |                                 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Review group          | 8-9 May (Internal audit, WGCSE) |
| Advice drafting group | 13-16 May (ADGBS)               |
| ACOM Webex            | 28 May (WCBaltic)               |
| Release date          | 31 May 2024                     |

Grey cells to be filled in by ICES