



## Quota Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Tuesday 16 March 2021
Location	National Seafood Centre, Clonakilty
Chair	Official from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
Members via videoconference	DAFM: 7 attendees Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA): 1 attendee <b><u>Industry Representatives:</u></b> Co-ops Umbrella Group: 1 member and 1 observer Irish Fish Producers Organisation (IFPO): 1 member Irish South & East Fish Producer Organisation (ISEFPO): 1 member Irish South and West Fish Producer Organisation (ISWFPO): 1 member Killybegs Fishermens Organisatin (KFO): 1 member and one observer from KFO National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF): 1 member

### **1. Conflict of Interest**

The Conflict of Interest statement was read at the start of the meeting.

The Department advised that it will start publishing these meeting minutes and any future meeting minutes on the Department website. Draft minutes will be circulated to the QMAC members for comments before the final minutes will be published.

### **2. Swaps**

The Department sought industry views on the following swap:

France to Ireland:

105 t ANF/07.

30t ANF/56-14



#### Ireland to France:

300 t WHG/7X7A-C.

The Department advised that France wanted to split the swap in two, the first half of the swap would be carried out as soon as the swap would be agreed, and the second half would be carried out once the final amounts of quotas for these particular stocks will be known. It was agreed that Ireland would look for a higher ratio of Monkfish and propose a more even split between area 6 and 7. The Department will revert back to France with the proposal.

#### **Crab effort BSA**

QMAC members discussed if a swap for crab effort in the BSA should be pursued earlier this year so as not to have to pay an increased price later in the year. The NIFF and Producer Organisations agreed to meet to discuss management arrangements for the fishery before pursuing a swap and will inform the Department of the outcome at the next QMAC meeting.

#### **Norwegian Cod**

QMAC members discussed if any Irish vessels intended on using Ireland's quota of COD/1N2AB. The Producer Organisations confirmed none of their vessels had expressed an interest in utilising the quota. It was agreed that Ireland would pursue a swap of its COD/1N2AB quota in exchange for monkfish with France. The KFO advised it will make contact with its French counterpart.

### **3. Whitefish - Discussion on particular regimes**

Before the group began setting recommended regimes for individual stocks, the Department advised that there was a Commission non-paper published on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March setting provisional TAC & Quotas from 1st January to the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2021. These provisional TAC & Quotas would be discussed at Agrifish Council on Monday 22nd March. The Department advised that it would be invoking the Hague stocks. It was agreed to look at the impact of the Hague stocks and carryover quota under the flexibility regulation and Article 15.9 of the Landing Obligation when considering recommending regimes for April for each stock.

#### COD/7XAD34

Due to the quota being reduced in the non-paper from 115t to 45t and Ireland having fished all of the quota available for the first three months, it was agreed that to keep this fishery open. Ireland would need to invoke the Hague preference and would need to reduce the regime

All agreed to recommend Cod 7XAD34 regime as follows: 0.50/0.25

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### Nephrops FU 16 of Sub area VII

Industry recommended, following the mandatory EU closure for the area in May, FU 16 should remain closed for in June and July like last year to ensure there would be a fishery later in the year.

### Pollack 6

The figures on whitefish sheets at today's meeting indicate uptake of 147.97%. The Department advised that there is a carryover of 4t. The Department advised that it is working with the Commission to seek an increase in the quota and hopes to have an update by next Monday. The regime was agreed by all to be set at 0.10/0.05 and that this would be reviewed based on the outcome of Council next Monday.

All agreed to recommend Pollack 6 regime as follows: 0.10/0.05

*[\*Note that following Council, Pollack in 6 did not change from the original Commission proposal for 7 months discussed at the QMAC meeting]*

### Pollack 7

Following last month's recommendation to allow the same regime for both the over and under 55ft fishery, the ISWFPO proposed that the same would be applied to the April regime. Due to the available quota it was proposed that the regime would need to be reduced.

All agreed to recommend Pollack 7 regime as follows: 2/2

*[\* Note that following Council, Pollack in 7 was set at 232 tonnes as per the 3 month quota (this was an increase from 137 tonnes in the original Commission proposal for 7 months discussed at the QMAC meeting).*

***Following Council, the Department wrote to all QMAC industry members on Tuesday 23rd March to seek, by written recommendation, any updates to recommendations on Pollack in Area 7 for the month of April and any other recommendations for revisions to recommended catch limits for other demersal stocks by 4pm that day. The IFPO responded on behalf of the IFPO, IS&EFPO and the KFO to say that they were in agreement that no changes to the recommendations made at QMAC be made. There was no response from the IS&WFPO, IFPEA, NIFF or the Co-ops - however, the email made it clear that a non-reply would be taken as agreement with the recommendations.]***

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#### **4. Pelagic Issues General**

##### **NIFF Proposal on Mackerel Jigging**

QMAC members discussed the NIFF proposal to increase the current quota set aside for the Mackerel Hook & Line fishery from 400 tonnes to 3000 tonnes and increase the landing limit from 750kg to 1500kg per trip from 2021 onwards.

The SFPA provided a breakdown of landing figures for the fishery in 2020. It was agreed that the SFPA will provide a comparison between 2019 and 2020 landing figures which will be circulated to the QMAC members by the Department. The NIFF also agreed to take issues back to its members. The Department will report to the Minister once additional information is received.

##### **Albacore Tuna**

The Department sought the views from industry regarding the management arrangements for the 2021 Albacore Tuna fishery. There may be additional interest in this fishery this year. The Industry advised that they will have a meeting before the next QMAC meeting to bring forward a management arrangement proposal for the fishery, for consideration by the Minister.

The Department advised that they will proceed to advertise the fishery and book-in vessels subject to the Ministerial approval of the management arrangements.

##### **Atlanto Scandian Herring**

The Department advised the meeting that following the EU/Norway Trilateral Agreement being signed today, it will follow up with the Commission regarding the list of vessels sent to the Commission before Christmas requiring a licence to fish in Norwegian waters.

The Department further advised that once the Commission has advised the Department that the licences have been issued, the Department will issue authorisations to vessels selected to fish in the Atlanto Scandian Herring Fishery

##### **Blue Whiting**

The Department advised the meeting that once Ireland's 100% TAC becomes available, authorised vessels will be issued with their full catch limits for the year.

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## **5. Quota Balancing Update**

The Department advised that they are reviewing the current quota balancing process for pelagic fisheries and hope to have a report completed before the next QMAC meeting.

### **Pelagic Fisheries**

Final Quota Balancing statements have issued for all 2020 Mackerel, Horse Mackerel and Blue Whiting fisheries. Provisional Quota Balancing statements have issued for both the 2020 Irish Sea Herring and the Atlanto Scandian Herring fisheries and final quota balancing statements are due to be issued in the coming week. Provisional Quota Balancing statements for the 2020 North West Herring fishery are due to issue shortly.

The SFPA have confirmed that there were no landings by vessels authorised to fish in the 2020 Celtic Sea Herring main fishery and therefore quota balancing does not apply.

Provisional Quota Balancing statements have issued for landings of Pelagic Stock(s) without a valid Authorisation/Notification in excess of allowable by-catch. Final quota balancing statements are due to be issued in the coming weeks.

### **Demersal Fisheries**

Provisional Quota Balancing Statements have issued for the January fishery and final Quota Balancing Statements will issue in the coming week.

## **6. AOB**

### **Date of next meeting**

The next Quota Management meeting is to be scheduled for the Monday 19<sup>th</sup> of April @ 2.30pm.

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