



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

# Report on Quota Balancing of 2020 Fisheries – Demersal & Pelagic Stocks





# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Quota Balancing of Demersal Stocks for 2020 .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Quota Balancing of Pelagic Stocks for 2020.....</b>	<b>7</b>
Background	7
Quota Balancing of 2020 Authorised Pelagic Fisheries	7
Quota Balancing of Vessels that Landed Pelagic Stocks Without a Valid Authorisation/Notification for the Calendar Year 2020	8



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## Introduction

The Quota Balancing Policies for Demersal and Pelagic Stocks was developed by the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine as requested by and with the assistance of the Quota Management Advisory Committee (QMAC).

Quota Balancing is for conservation purposes and to ensure coherence between the landing obligation and Ireland's quota management. The landing obligation (as provided for under Regulation (EU) No.1380/2013, Article 15) is about conservation and measures to align its principles with Ireland's quota management system should follow this premise.

The quota balancing policies for pelagic and demersal stocks set out that where a vessel exceeds its catch limit, the excess catch retained on board and landed will be subject to quota balancing. Quota balancing means that a balancing adjustment (i.e. a deduction) will be made from the catch limit of a future fishing opportunity. The quota balancing system for obligated pelagic species incorporates the application of a multiplying factor similar to that applied to Member States in Article 105 of Regulation (EC) 1224/2009 as amended. This means that the greater the extent of overfishing relative to permitted catch, the greater the balancing adjustment that will be made.

**Quota balancing by the Department is independent of any action being considered or taken by the control authorities. The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority's (SFPA) role is limited to furnishing the Department with details of approved pairing arrangements, where relevant, and quality assured landing data so that the Department can implement quota balancing.**



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## Quota Balancing of Demersal Stocks for 2020

The Pilot Quota Balancing Policy for Demersal (Whitefish) Stocks (with technical amendment of August 2019) was implemented on 1st June 2020. Quota balancing statements for demersal (whitefish) stocks, for the calendar months of January 2020 to May 2020, were issued to licence holders for information purposes only.

After the policy was implemented on 1st June 2020, provisional quota balancing statements for June 2020 issued to relevant licence holders in late July and, following a right of reply period, final quota balancing statements issued thereafter. The first fishery management period where it was possible to apply any balancing adjustments was in September 2020; therefore, the first tranche of demersal authorisations were issued in late August 2020, for the September fishery management period.

Currently there are 5 stocks subject to Demersal Quota Balancing:

- Haddock in 6a (HAD/5BC6A.),
- Hake in 6 & 7 (HKE/571214),
- Monkfish in 6 (ANF/56-14),
- Monkfish in 7 (ANF/07.), and
- Whiting in 7b-k (WHG/7X7A-C).

In 2020, 326 demersal quota balancing statements and 54 demersal authorisations issued to relevant licence holders.

It is proposed that further stocks will be added to the list of demersal stocks relevant for quota balancing on a phased basis from Summer 2021 onwards. The Department is currently carrying out a review of demersal stocks and the views of the QMAC will be sought in this respect.



## 2020 Summary of Demersal Quota Balancing

Total quantities of relevant demersal stocks quota balanced, per month, in 2020						
Fishery Management Period	No. of Vessels (issued with PROV and FINAL QB Statements)	ANF/56-14 (tonnes)	ANF/07 (tonnes)	HAD/5BC6A (tonnes)	HKE/571214 (tonnes)	WHG/7X7A-C (tonnes)
January*	12	1.319	6.091	0.075	0	0
February*	6	0.646	1.204	0.010	0	0
March*	13	2.283	1.805	0	1.749	0
April*	36	1.605	44.644	0	2.162	8.613
May*	23	2.963	10.694	0	0.04	0
June	18	3.339	7.839	0	19.741	0
July	11	0.794	2.902	0	0.086	4.104
August	14	0.137	3.981	0.661	1.066	0
September	15	1.852	29.248	0	0	0
October	4	0.275	0.540	0	0	0
November	7	0.174	5.832	0	0	0
December	4	0.946	0.667	0	0	0
<i>Total</i>		<b>16.333</b>	<b>115.447</b>	<b>0.746</b>	<b>24.844</b>	<b>12.717</b>

\*statements issued for information purposes only



<b>Total quantities of balancing adjustments recouped, for the calendar months of Sept. to Dec. 2020.</b>						
<b>Fishery Management Period</b>	<b>No. of Vessels (issued with PROV and FINAL QB Statements)</b>	<b>ANF/56-14 (tonnes)</b>	<b>ANF/07 (tonnes)</b>	<b>HAD/5BC6A (tonnes)</b>	<b>HKE/571214 (tonnes)</b>	<b>WHG/7X7A-C (tonnes)</b>
September	15	2.608	4.574	0	19.741	0
October	13	1.525	5.703	0	0.086	4.104
November	14	0.137	3.963	0.661	1.066	0
December	12	1.852	6.940	0	0	0
<i>Total</i>		<b>6.122</b>	<b>21.18</b>	<b>0.661</b>	<b>20.893</b>	<b>4.104</b>

**In the 4-month period (September to December 2020), a total of 52.96 tonnes of demersal stocks, with an estimated overall value of €207,000, were recouped.**



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## Quota Balancing of Pelagic Stocks for 2020

### Background

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine implemented a pilot quota balancing scheme for pelagic stocks, commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018. In the period since 2018, amendments and clarifications were introduced by the Minister to address specific issues that arose.

All such amendments and clarifications were combined in July 2020 to establish a settled policy for the quota balancing of pelagic stocks, including Pelagic stocks fished without an authorisation and landed in excess of by-catch allowance, which were also subject to quota balancing for the calendar year 2020.

### Quota Balancing of 2020 Authorised Pelagic Fisheries

**As of the end of April 2021, 352 quota balancing statements have issued to vessels who have been authorised to fish in 2020 pelagic fisheries, with over 3,773 tonnes of quota balanced and re-distributed at an estimated value of over €3.4m.**

Final Quota Balancing Statements have issued for following 2020 authorised fisheries:

- 2020 Mackerel RSW Pelagic Segment Fishery & 2020 Mackerel Polyvalent Tier 1 & Tier 2 Fishery,
- 2020 Horse Mackerel 29 Fishery, 2020 Horse Mackerel Polyvalent Spring & Autumn Fisheries,
- 2020 Blue Whiting RSW Pelagic Segment & Polyvalent Segment Fisheries
- 2020 Irish Sea Herring Fishery
- 2020 Atlanto Scandian Herring Fishery
- 2020 Albacore Tuna Fishery
- 2020 North West Herring Scientific Spring Fishery

In relation to the 2020 Albacore Tuna Fishery, Quota Balancing statements issued only to vessels where quality approved trip data received from the SFPA indicated that a balancing adjustment was necessary.

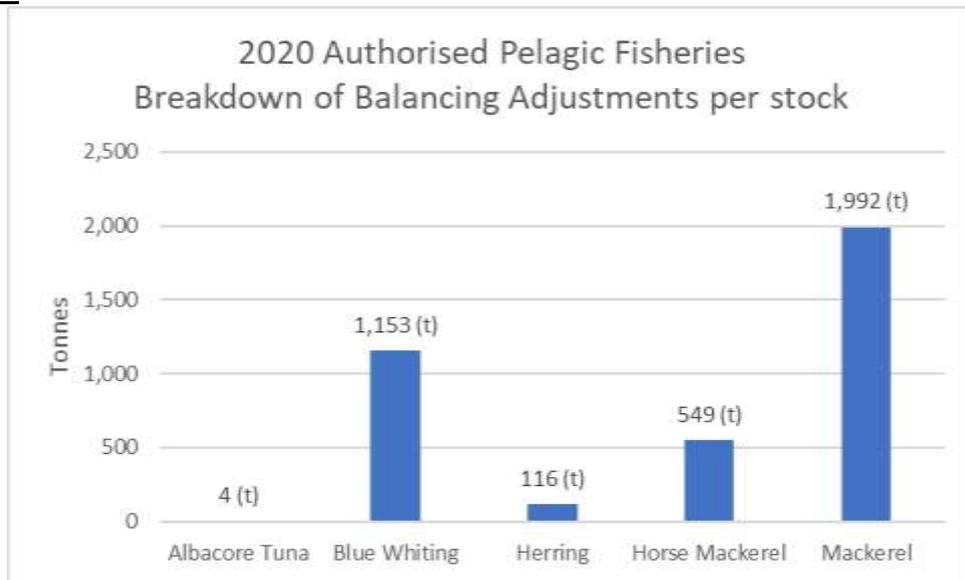
The SFPA have confirmed that there were no landings of Celtic Sea Herring by any authorised boats in the authorised management period in 2020. Therefore quota balancing for this fishery for the authorised boats for the authorised period is now complete.



The 2020 North West Herring Fishery Autumn and the 2020 Celtic Sea Herring Sentinel Fishery Periods 1 & 2 have yet to be quota balanced with approximately 62 vessels eligible for quota balancing across both fisheries.

Table 1 gives a breakdown of the balancing adjustments per stock quota balanced for 2020 authorised fisheries.

**Table 1:**



### Quota Balancing of Vessels that Landed Pelagic Stocks Without a Valid Authorisation/Notification for the Calendar Year 2020

Where a vessel fishes a pelagic stock without an authorisation, the catch landed in excess of by-catch allowance will be subject to quota balancing. The greater the instance per stock that a vessel lands a pelagic fish stock without a valid authorisation/notification, the greater the balancing adjustment that will be made (a multiplying factor will apply).

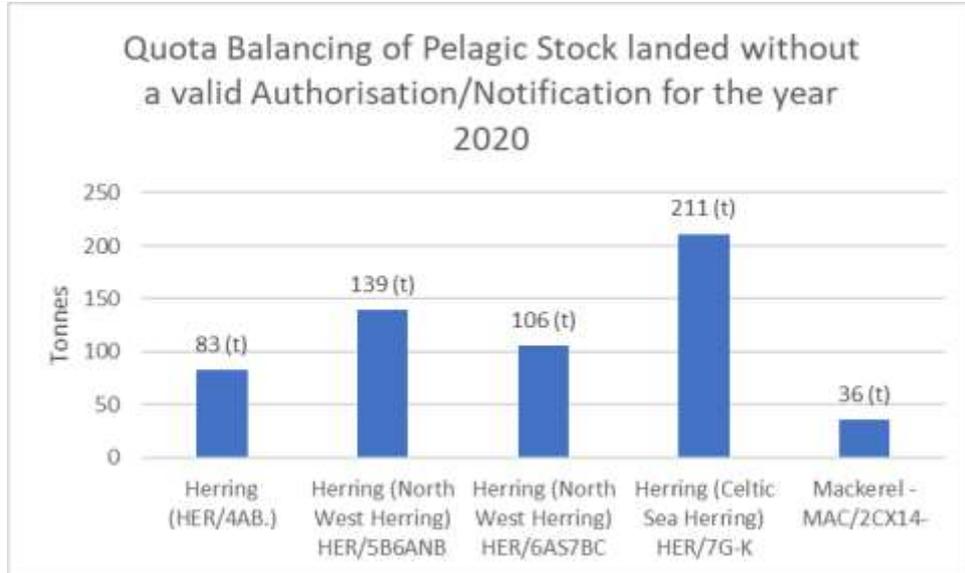
Where a vessel has landings of a stock(s) under a monitoring quota for which it does not hold a valid authorisation, a higher multiplier will apply to each instance.

10 vessels were issued with Final Quota Balancing Statements for landing Pelagic Stocks Without a Valid Authorisation/Notification for the Calendar Year 2020

Table 2 gives a breakdown of the pelagic stocks for which quota balancing was applied.

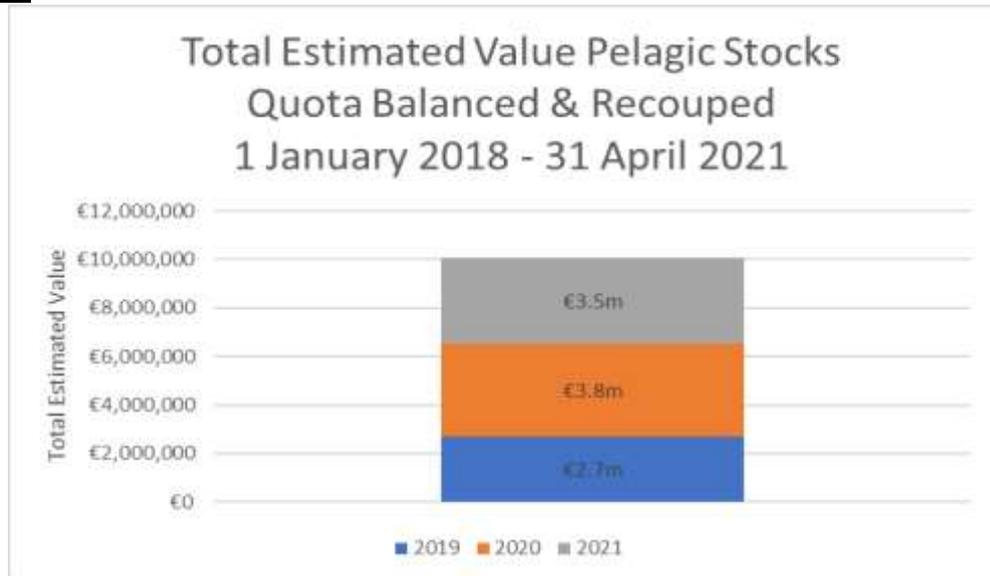


**Table 2:**



Since the commencement of quota balancing of pelagic stocks in 1 January 2018 to the end of April 2021, an overall estimated €10m worth of pelagic stocks have been quota balanced and recouped. See Table 3.

**Table 3:**





## **Stock Swaps for Quota Balancing of Vessels that Landed Pelagic Stocks Without a Valid Authorisation/Notification for the Calendar Year 2020**

Following the issue of quota balancing statements to vessels that fished a pelagic stock without an authorisation/notification, in excess of by-catch allowable by-catch for the calendar year 2020, there are several vessels that have fished for a particular pelagic stock (Herring, Mackerel) without a valid authorisation/notification that now have a balancing adjustment for that stock to be recouped.

*As per the Ministers' consolidated Quota Balancing Policy for Pelagic Stocks, "where a vessel is unlikely to receive a catch limit of a stock within the calendar year or the following calendar year, a balancing adjustment will be made in respect of an alternative stock by the Minister taking account of the advice of the QMAC. In this regard, account will be taken of the main target stock(s) for the vessel concerned. Consideration will be given to the respective economic value applies as near as possible."*

The Department seek the views of the QMAC that where there is a balancing adjustment for a pelagic stock, e.g. Herring in a particular area, and where a vessel is unlikely to receive a catch limit of that particular Herring stock within the calendar years of 2021 or 2022, that consideration could be given to recouping that balancing adjustment from another Herring stock in 2021 or 2022 where that is available for that vessel. Taking into account the views/ recommendation of the QMAC, the Minister will made an appropriate decision. The views of the QMAC on other such situations will be sought when required.