

Management Arrangements and Fleet Policy Statement

June 2012

1. Arrangements common to the Main Celtic Sea and North West herring fisheries

The North West Herring fishery and the Celtic Sea Herring Main fishery are to be ring fenced for vessels of 10m and over, length overall, who have established the necessary track record.

1.1 The ring fencing will be separate for both fisheries on the basis of track record as follows:

- i. The vessel has participated in 2009 or 2010 and has landed a minimum of 5 tonnes in one year, or
- ii. The vessel has participated in 3 of the 5 years from 2006-2010 landing a minimum of 5 tonnes each year.
- iii. Track record may be adjusted taking into account pair fishing arrangements where supported by EU Logbook and VMS data on application by the vessel owner.
- iv. Landings authorised in the Celtic Sea Sentinel fishery will not count as track record in the Celtic Sea Main fishery.

1.2 Track record is calculated for each fishery individually with landing for a fishery only being counted towards that fishery;

1.3 A vessel may qualify for both fisheries only if it has the qualifying track record for both fisheries;

1.4 The existing size/segment based ratios for quota distribution will continue to apply.

2. North West herring Arrangements

2.1 The existing annual management arrangements will continue for NWH;

2.2 In the North West, an open fishery will be established of up to 5% of the Area VIa South adjusted quota, with modest monthly catch limits, for vessels under 20m length overall. No booking-in will be required. Draft ring net fisherman will be accommodated under this allocation.

3. Celtic Sea Herring Main Fishery Arrangements

3.1 Vessels ring fenced in the Celtic Sea Herring Main fishery are precluded from the Celtic Sea Herring Sentinel fishery.

3.2 In the Celtic Sea Main Herring fishery, the existing arrangements will continue to apply with the exception of the booking process. A single booking process will be used in spring and another in the autumn. Allocations, with advance weekly catch limits, will be determined following consultation with the Management Advisory Committee. The autumn fishery will be split into two management periods and there will be a re-allocation process for vessels which land 50% of their allocation in the first autumn management period.

3.3 In the Celtic Sea main fishery, a limited open fishery will be established. Up to 5% of quota, with modest catch limits, will be set aside for vessels of under 20m length overall. No booking-in will be required. The catch limits will be determined following consultation with the Advisory Committee. This allocation will cover Drift Nets in both the main and sentinel fisheries. Only static gear will be permitted in this fishery during the summer months.

- The owner of a vessel over 15.24m in registered length (i) which has landed at least 50% of its herring quota in the years 2003-2007 in a port within the Dunmore Box and (ii) where the vessel does not have qualifying landings from 2008 onwards may be permitted to claim 2003, 2004 and 2005 as track record years in lieu of the years 2008, 2009 and 2010. Such claims must be submitted to the Department by 30 June 2012 for verification.

4. Celtic Sea Herring Sentinel Arrangements

4.1 The Sentinel fishery in the Dunmore Box will not be ring-fenced.

4.2 Vessels ring fenced in the Celtic Sea Herring Main fishery are precluded from the Celtic Sea Herring Sentinel fishery.

4.3 An open fishery will be established in respect of vessels under 17m length overall confined to the Dunmore Box with 11% of quota set aside, the following arrangements will apply to this fishery:

- i. A single booking-in process 4 weeks in advance of opening in spring and another in the autumn will be applied;
- ii. Two management periods will be used, for autumn fisheries and one for the spring fishery where applicable. The dates will be decided annually in consultation with the Advisory Committee;
- iii. Vessels which do not land a specified minimum quantity of their allocation for the first autumn management period, will not be given an allocation for the 2nd autumn period;
- iv. Allocations with advance weekly catch limits will be decided, following consultation with the Committee, for each management period;
- v. A whitefish and shellfish preclusion will apply to vessels booked in to the fishery for the relevant management period. This

- preclusion will cease to have effect for the second autumn management period if the vessel does not land more than a 'specified minimum quantity' as set out at (iii) above;
- vi. The specified amount will be determined annually in consultation with the management committee.

4.4 In line with the draft Management Plan, the allocation for the sentinel fishery will be reduced in the event that the stock falls below a specified level and a reduced outtake is recommended for the Dunmore Box.

5. Atlanto-Scandian Fishery

5.1 For this fishery, 5 vessels to be nominated by industry from the RSW Pelagic segment and 2 vessels from the Polyvalent segment of the fleet each year.

5.2 In the event that there is not agreement within industry representing the particular segment on the nominees for that segment, the Department will invite applications and hold a draw for that segment.

5.3 Where a draw is required, any vessels selected in a particular year are excluded from the draw for the next 2 years. Vessel owners who apply and subsequently, when selected, withdraw for whatever reason from the fishery to be disqualified for 2 years from being included in the draw.

6. Fleet Policy Changes

6.1 The number of vessels determined in accordance with the policy set out herein as having the specified track record in the Celtic Sea herring fishery shall be fixed. The total number of units (vessels) qualifying for an authorisation in the fishery will be fixed going forward in respect of fishing vessels in the polyvalent segment and the RSW segment of the fleet and the number of units in either segment may not increase.

6.2 The number of vessels determined in accordance with the policy set out herein as having the specified track record in the North West herring fishery shall be fixed. The total number of units (vessels) qualifying for an authorisation in the fishery will be fixed going forward in respect of fishing vessels in the polyvalent segment and the RSW segment of the fleet and the number of units in either segment may not increase.

6.3 The combined tonnage capacity of the vessels determined in accordance with the policy set out herein as having the specified track record in the Celtic Sea herring fishery and the North West herring fishery will be ring fenced. Subject to compliance with the policy regarding fleet segmentation and the sub-segmentation of the polyvalent segment of the fleet (over and under 18m in

overall length), tonnage capacity replacement may be from a qualified vessel from either fishery (Celtic Sea herring or the North West herring fishery).

6.4 Vessels which were introduced into the fleet using capacity which was “off register” for some of the years 2006 – 2010, will be permitted to use the most recent track record of the capacity introduced to determine its qualification for a fishery. This provision will be implemented as follows: any vessel which is off register for a minimum of 6 months in a year to be permitted to have a reference year (2006 – 2010) not taken into account for track record purposes and the next previous year (with on register capacity of > 6 months) would be taken into account.

6.5 If during the reference years, a vessel had hailed a quantity of Herring to the Fisheries Monitoring Centre and did not subsequently land herring on that trip, as a result of a Marine Casualty incident, the owner may seek to have that hail counted for track record purposes.

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