

**MINISTERIAL DECISION REGARDING A PROPOSAL FROM THE IRISH SOUTH & WEST FISH
PRODUCERS ORGANISATION (IS&WFPO) FOR A REVISED MACKEREL DISTRIBUTION
BETWEEN THE POLYVALENT SEGMENT AND THE RSW PELAGIC SEGMENT.
JULY 2017**

- 1. Following the request received from the Irish South & West Fish Producers Organisation (IS&WFPO) a review of the policy on mackerel allocations between the RSW pelagic segment and the polyvalent segment of the fleet was undertaken. After a full public consultation and careful consideration of the issues raised, my decision regarding the review of the policy is as follows:**
 - 1.1 Where Ireland's mackerel quota in the annual TAC and quota Regulation is 90,000 tonnes or below, for 2017 and future years, the 87%-13% share out in the allocation of mackerel quota between the Refrigerated Sea Water (RSW) Pelagic segment and Polyvalent segment of the fleet will remain unchanged. Any adjustments (swops, carry-over/ deductions as provided by EU Regulation) will not be taken into account for establishing this threshold. The share out will be applied post adjustments in respect of contingency, swops, carry over/deductions (as provided for by EU Regulation) and the allocation set aside for Hook and line fishery for vessels under 15m.**
 - 1.2 Where Ireland's mackerel quota in the annual TAC and quota Regulation is above 90,000 tonnes, the share out will be adjusted so that the element in excess of 90,000 tonnes is shared out on an 80%-20% basis between the RSW Pelagic segment and the Polyvalent segment. The quantity in excess of 90,000t will be taken off first and in full and allocated on an 80%/20% basis. The balance below 90,000t will be shared out on an 87%-13% basis between the RSW Pelagic segment and the polyvalent segment after adjustments in respect of contingency, swops, carry over/deductions (as provided for by EU Regulation) and the allocation set aside for Hook and line fishery for vessels under 15m.**
 - 1.3 A minimum of 2% of the mackerel quota in the TAC and quota Regulation or 1,000 tonnes, whichever is the greater, will be deducted annually for demersal swaps before any share out between segments is undertaken in accordance with (a) and (b) above.**

2. Reasons for Policy Changes

- 2.1 Introduction of a threshold of 90,000 tonnes above which an adjustment would occur in the share out in the allocation of mackerel quota between the Refrigerated Sea Water (RSW) Pelagic segment and Polyvalent segment of the fleet.**

When the mackerel quota is high, it can be expected, allowing that prices may fluctuate, that the RSW Pelagic fleet does well, recognising that it has the 87% share of the mackerel quota. Over the past 3 years the mackerel quota has been, in recent historic terms, relatively high. It has fluctuated and the average quota for recent years (2014 - 2016) is 90,000 tonnes. In these particular circumstances of atypically high quota

allocation, a basis exists for allocating an increased share to the Polyvalent segment to provide that it receives proportionately a larger benefit. Such an amendment supports the proper and effective management and rational exploitation of the mackerel fishery. In these circumstances, the polyvalent segment would get an increased share of 20% in respect of that element in excess of 90,000 tonnes only

- 2.2 A minimum of 2% of the quota in the TAC and quota Regulation or 1,000 tonnes, whichever is the greater, will be deducted annually for demersal swaps before any share out between segments is undertaken.

Setting aside a minimum quantity of mackerel quota is intended to take account of the level of swaps in recent years and deliver a greater level of assurance for such swaps. This amount should be capable of being increased on the advice of the Quota Management Advisory Committee (QMAC) if required. The initial amount being set aside for swaps to be deducted annually for demersal swaps before any share out between segments is undertaken.



Michael Creed, T.D.

Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine

26 July 2017