



Quota Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Thursday 19 th May 2022 at 2.30pm
Location	National Seafood Centre, Clonakilty
Chair	Official from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
Members in National Seafood Centre, Clonakilty	DAFM: 2 attendees
Members in Agriculture House	Irish South and West Fish Producer Organisation (ISWFPO): 1 member
Members via videoconference	<p>DAFM: 4 attendees</p> <p>Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA): 1 attendee</p> <p><u>Industry Representatives:</u></p> <p>Co-ops Umbrella Group: 1 member and 1 observer</p> <p>Irish Fish Producers Organisation (IFPO): 1 member</p> <p>Irish Fish Processors and Exporters Association (IFPEA): 1 member and 1 observer</p> <p>Irish South & East Fish Producer Organisation (ISEFPO): 1 member</p> <p>Killybegs Fishermens Organisation (KFO): 1 member</p> <p>National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF): 1 member</p>

1. Conflict of Interest

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

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes from the April QMAC meeting were circulated to the QMAC members for comments before today's meeting. The Department advised no observations were received from the QMAC members regarding the minutes. The Department advised that it would publish the meeting minutes on the Department website when it is publishing the June Fishery Management Notices.



Swaps

The Department advised that the following swaps had been completed since the last QMAC meeting and are included in today's figures.

1. FRANCE

FRA to IRL: 21 t of NEP /07*-U16 21 t NEP/07 75 t HAD/7X7A34 75 t HKE/07 10 t POK/1N2AB	IRL to FRA: 190 t COD/1N2AB 1 t BLI/24- 6 t JAX/4BC7D
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All swaps relate to end-of-year/banking swaps and the Department has completed the transfers of the 2022 stocks, in each swap, as set out hereunder.

2. BELGIUM

BEL to IRL:
4.5t LEZ/07. (2022)

IRL to BEL:
9t LEZ/07. (2021)

3. BELGIUM

BEL to IRL:
0.90t SOL/07A. (2022)

IRL to BEL:
1.80t SOL/07A. (2021)

4. NETHERLANDS

NLD to IRL:
1433t WHB/1X14 (2021)

IRL to NLD:
716.5t WHB/1X14 (2022)

5. NETHERLANDS

NLD to IRL:
884t WHB/1X14 (2021)

IRL to NLD:
442t WHB/1X14 (2022)

Swap for discussion:

Swap 1 - FRANCE

As recommended by industry representatives at last month's QMAC meeting, the Department contacted the French administration with a revised proposal offering an additional 95t Mackerel for 20,000 kw days Crab Effort in the BSA.

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France reverted with a revised proposal which confirming the 250t of NEP/07 in addition to 250 t of NEP/*07U16 to Ireland but increase the amount of mackerel that Ireland would swap to France by 150t to 600 t of MAC/2CX14- and an additional 1t of plaice in area 7HJK.

The Department sent an amended proposal to the original 5t of plaice 7hjk, and 560 t of MAC/2CX14- (110 t of mackerel for 20,000 kw/days of BSA crab effort).

<u>Ireland to France</u>	<u>France to Ireland</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 10 t of SOL/7HJK- 80 t of SRX/67AKXD- 300 t of JAX/2A-14- 30 t of COD/5BE6A- 5 t of PLE/7HJK.- 50 t of SRX/*07D- 15 t of RJU/7DE.- 2 t of SBR/678-- 60 t of POK/*2AC4C- 560 t of MAC/2CX14-- 15 t of GHL/2A-C46- 50 t of RNG/5B67-- 30 t of BSF/56712-10- 100 t of BOR/678-	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 80 t of ANF/56-14- 250t of NEP/07 (<i>can also be fished in NEP/*07U16</i>)- 300 t of HKE/571214- 20 000kw days crab effort BSA

This amended proposal was not accepted by France. The Department requested France to reconsider the proposal, stressing that the exchange being offered: 110t of Mackerel for 20,000kw days crab effort is a very good one when you look at the increase in the price of mackerel this year with the static/reduction in the brown crab price.

France have advised they are waiting for feedback from their industry and will keep the Department informed as soon as possible.

The swap was discussed and Industry representatives agreed to wait to see if France accept the current proposal.

Swap 2 – FRANCE

FRA to IRL :

- 70 t of HKE/571214

IRL to FRA :

- 100 t of WHG/7X7A-C

This swap proposal came in from the French administration and circulated to the QMAC for their views. Coops emailed to say they did not support swap. IFPEA emailed that they did not support the swap and wanted further discussion on the swapping of WHG7b-k at the next QMAC. ISWFPO emailed supporting swap proposal.

Following the discussion on swapping of Whiting in area 7b-k during the setting of regimes for June part of the meeting, Industry representatives agreed to support this swap.

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Swap 3 - FRANCE

FRA to IRL :

- 115 t of HAD/5BC6A

IRL to FRA :

- 80 t of COD/1N2AB

- 11 t of RJE/7FG.

This swap proposal came in from the French administration and circulated to the QMAC for their views. KFO, IFPO & ISEFPO support this swap.

Industry representatives agreed to support this swap.

Swap 4 - BELGIUM – Demersal Effort

IRL to BEL

120,000 Kw Days Demersal BSA

50t WHG/7X7A34

BEL to IRL

20t ANF/56-14

15t ANF/07

40t HKE571214

This swap was sent into the Department yesterday evening by the ISEFPO and circulated to the QMAC. The Department further advised the Belgium administration emailed this swap to the Department before today's QMAC meeting.

Following the discussion on swapping of Whiting in area 7b-k during the setting of regimes for June part of the meeting, Industry representatives agreed to support this swap.

Swap 5 - SPAIN – NEP/*07U16

Spain contacted the Department looking for a possible swap in which Spain would receive 7.23t of NEP/*07U16 from Ireland. Spain are wondering what stock/s and quantities would Ireland would like in return?

Swap proposal emailed to QMAC for their views.

Industry representatives agreed not to pursue this swap.

Swap 6 - HERRING 4AB

Netherlands

As part of the end of year swap agreement with the Netherlands, which was outstanding in terms of Boarfish for a combination of HER/4AB and/or ANF/56-14 in 2022, the Netherlands have offered to transfer 257.33t HER/4AB in 2022. The Department are awaiting the transfer on fides.



NLD to IRL: 54t HKE/571214 (2021) 1.15t HAD/7X7A34 (2021) 16t ANF/07. (2021) 15.629t HER/6AS7BC (2021) 0.733t ARU/3A4-C (2022) Combination of HER/4AB and/or ANF/56-14 in 2022 (exact figures of this still to be decided)	IRL to NLD: 796.007t BOR/678- (2021) 0.20t LIN/6X14 (2021) 0.15t POK/7/3411 (2021) 0.05t WHG/56-14(2021) 0.43t DGS/15X14 (2021) 0.15t COD/7X7AD34 (2021) 94,000kw Days Effort Area 7 (2021) 3.456t ARU/34A-C 1.181t POK/56-14 0.575t had/7X7A34 (2022) 8t ANF/07. (2022)
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Denmark

The Department outlined the current position, where the Department contacted the Danish administration to request that the 350t Herring 4AB borrowed from Denmark in 2021 which was due to be repaid in 2022, be written off due to the early closure of the 2021 Atlanto Scandian Herring fishery and the loss of fishing opportunities to Irish vessels. The Department advised that the Danish administration have not responded to Ireland's request even after the Department sent several emails for updates. The Department further advised that in 2022 there is a small carryover of 31t from 2021, which will be transferred later this year, but that Irish vessels have already caught 74t.

There was discussion amongst industry representatives regarding the repayment of the outstanding Herring 4AB to Denmark.

The KFO advised there is a 2nd swap with the Netherlands in progress that includes Herring in area 4AB, Monk 6 and 7 and Hake and expects the proposal to be emailed to the Department in the next week or two.

The KFO is to contact its industry colleagues in Denmark to seek further information on the matter.

Overfishing – Saithe in area 1N2AB (POK/1N2B.)

The Department advised it received an email from the Commission yesterday advising that Ireland's quota for Saithe 1N2AB (POK/1N2AB.) is overfished. Ireland has 28.8 t uptake figure of 28.8 t on fides with a 2022 quota of 10t which was a result of a swap with France last month (*swap 1 of agreed swaps*).

The Commission has requested that in accordance with the Control Regulation to close the fishery. The KFO advised it has an agreement with its French counterpart to swap 18t of Saithe in area 1N2AB for the remain 20t of COD 1N2AB quota Ireland has in 2022.

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The Department advised that today's figures show a 69% uptake in the Atlanto-Scandian Herring fishery and asked if one authorised vessel still hasn't prosecuted the fishery.

The KFO advised that vessels fishing for Atlanto Scandian Herring in the Autumn are unlikely to fish in this area where saithe was caught as a by-catch at the start of the year. The KFO further advised its polyvalent vessels and 3 RSW vessels have finished in the fishery for 2022. The IFPO advised its 4 vessels are tied up.

The Department advised a swap will need to be obtained as Ireland will be under scrutiny from the Commission. The KFO advised it hopes to have a proposal by next week.

The SFPA to confirm current uptake figures of Saithe in area 1N2AB.

UK Swap proposal – update

IRL to UK:

200t MAC/2CX14-
20t COD/5BE6A

UK to IRL:

250t HKE/571214

The Department has forwarded the proposal to the Commission on the 11 May, as per the current draft procedures. The Commission have confirmed they have received the swap proposal from Ireland. The final agreed swap is next Wednesday 25th May.

The ISWFPO queried if the QMAC can assume the swap is completed as it has another swap proposal from the UK that can only be brought to the table once this swap is completed. The Department advised that it has followed the EU procedure in sending the swap proposal to the Commissions but cannot absolutely guarantee the transfer would be completed.

3. Whitefish - Discussion on particular regimes

Tie up Scheme

The Department advised that 18 over 55ft boats and 3 under 55ft boats have applied for the Tie-up Scheme.

Hake

The figures at today's QMAC meeting showed an uptake of 61.73% including carryover with 1,105 tonnes remaining for the year.

In discussing management arrangements for hake for June industry representatives took into consideration vessels who have applied for the Tie-up Scheme for June, the swap of 75t of hake already agreed with France and a possibility of a further 700t of hake being secured through swaps.

All agreed to recommend 20/10

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Monk Area 6

The figures at today's QMAC meeting showed an uptake of 56.72% including carryover with 230 tonnes remaining for the year.

The KFO representative advised that given the swaps that are coming in of approximately 200t the regime for June could be increased.

All have recommended to increase to 7/3.50 for June

Nephrops Area 7

The figures at today's QMAC meeting showed an uptake of 47.10% including carryover with 3,385 tonnes remaining for the year.

The Co-operative representative noted the high uptake of Nephrops in area 7 commenting on the delayed introduction of the tie-up scheme. The Co-operative representative proposed that the regime for June remain at 24/12.

All agreed to recommended 24/12 for June.

Nephrops FU16

All agreed to recommended that the fishery be closed for June.

Whiting in area 7b-k

Before discussing the management arrangements for whiting in area 7b-k the guest of the IFPEA, Mr. Maurice Hickey of Green Isle Foods and Donegal Catch gave a presentation providing technical information to members of the QMAC on the supply of whiting as a raw material. Industry representatives thanked Mr. Hickey for his presentation.

Discussion centred around the swapping of whiting in area 7b-k to support other fisheries. The IFPEA stated whiting is an important raw material with a constant supply required throughout the year. IFPEA advised it was too early at this stage to swap whiting quota as it's a summer fishery and proposed as in previous meetings, to wait until September before looking at swapping the quota out. The Coops stated the fishery used to be a spring fishery but has changed to late June to the end of November, which needs to be considered when discussing swap proposals.

Industry representatives from the KFO, IS&WFPO and ISEFPO advised that last year there was unused whiting quota at the end of the year in this area and, as a result, fishing opportunity was lost by Ireland and that they do not want such a situation to be repeated. The KFO also stated that a reasonable decision was made at last month's QMAC to set aside 200t of whiting

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for swaps in the short term and look at using whiting as a currency to swap in other stocks later in the year. This would cover the swaps proposals discussed at today's QMAC meeting. The ISEFPO also stated it has no problem with swap out the 400t as agreed at the planning meeting in February. The ISEFPO said when we are offered a swap from another country it has to be brought to the QMAC for discussion. The ISWFPO explaining that value of swaps to the Irish fleet is taken into consideration when discussing swap proposals.

The IFPEA supported by the Coop proposed a cap of swapping 150t out until September to cover the two swap proposals discussed at today's QMAC meeting.

The Department stated the nature of swaps is that there is give and take giving the example of mackerel where a percentage is set aside every year for demersal swaps to balance all the needs of the industry. The Department advised swaps proposals will be brought to the QMAC for discussion as they come in.

The Department expressed its concern about the long term future of whiting in area 7b-k considering the ICES advice for whiting.

All agreed to recommend 40/20 for June.

Under 18 Mackerel

The SFPA advised that 52t has been caught to date in 2022 of which 46.9t caught was in May. The Department advised there is 111t quota remaining for the year.

The NIFF proposed keeping the regime at 3t for June. The KFO advised at the current catch rates the fishery would only last 2 months. The ISWFPO stated it could not support 3t for June and recommended 2t, which would have an estimated catch rate of 30t. ISWFPO stated this would allow for a 3 or 4 month fishery.

The Department highlighted the importance of U18 mackerel quota as a by-catch in other fisheries since the introduction of the discards ban. The SFPA advised total landings of u18 trawls in 2021 was 30t and they were by-catches.

NIFF maintained its support 3t for June. The ISWFPO, KFO, IFPO, Co-ops and ISEFPO supported 2t for June. The IFPEA said they had no view on the matter.

The Department advised it would take the views of the QMAC to the Minister.

Mackerel Hook and Line

The Department advised there was typo error for the FMC phone number in the authorisations issued to vessels equal or greater than 10 metres in length who have already received authorisations for June. Amended authorisations have issued before today's meeting.

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The SFPA advised of the challenges of monitoring the Mackerel Hook and Line Fishery as the 2 fisheries (Mackerel Hook and Line Fishery and Under 18 Mackerel by other means than hooks and line) are being fished simultaneously. The SFPA stated the difficulty they are having identifying mackerel caught by hooks and lines or by trawls as gear type does not have to be identified on sales notes and the late submission of logbooks. The SFPA noted that in the absence of a logsheet only landings from authorised vessels over 10 meters would be assumed to be hook and line otherwise trawling would be assumed. The SFPA reiterated the requirement for vessels to hail their landings to the Fisheries Monitoring Centre and that hailing by phone or email are acceptable. The Department advised full details of hailing requirements are on the authorisation and Fishery Management Notice.

The Department advised that the Mackerel Policy stipulates that vessels using hooks and line to fish for mackerel may not engage in trawl or gillnet in the same week or trip as they fish using hook and line fishing gear. The Department advised that in light of the challenges the SFPA have in differentiating mackerel catches from both fisheries, it was proposing to seek approval from the Minister to put a per week basis - whereby operators cannot use both gears in the same week - into the Fishery Management Notice and authorisations. The Department said it was proposing a per week basis to help prolong the fishery as it has concerns that the quota will be quickly used up.

The NIFF representative stated it did not support a per week restriction on switching gear as, depending on weather conditions, operators couldn't trawl if they have already fished by hooks and lines that week. The NIFF said it would support a per trip basis. The ISWFPO representative also supported a per trip basis.

The SFPA stated it does not support a per trip basis as they are having difficulty in identifying gear type used in u10's as sales notes are used. The SFPA also stated there is a problem around the late submission of paper logsheets and that gear type should be included when hailing to the Fisheries Monitoring Centre.

The Department advised that, at a minimum, a per trip restriction on switching gear has to be included in legal documents. The Department also stated that as discussed in previous meetings, industry representatives are asked to remind their members of the importance of timely submission of logsheets.

It was agreed to recommend

- A condition on the Fisheries Management Notices and Authorisations that vessels using hooks and line to fish for mackerel may not engage in trawling or gill netting in the same trip as they fish using hook and line fishing gear.
- The addition of the 'gear type used on the fishing trip' when hailing to the Fisheries Monitoring Centre.

The SFPA advised that there is an uptake of 68.22t to date in May. The Department advised there is 332t remaining for the year and 82t out of the 150t remaining for May.

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The ISWFPO and ISEFPO highlighted the need to ensure the fishery stays open throughout the summer with the ISWFPO stating uptake figures at next month's QMAC meeting will identify if there is excess fishing.

The NIFF representative stated it has reports that the mackerel is very hard to catch at the moment proposed keeping the regime for June at 3t or increasing it to 3.5t and closing the fishery if 150t is exceeded.

All agreed to recommend 3t for June.

Pelagic Issues

2022 Irish Sea Herring Fishery

The Department asked the QMAC to forward their proposal for the management of the 2022 Irish Sea Herring Fishery.

2022 Celtic Sea Herring Fishery

The Department advised it has written to the Celtic Sea Herring Management Advisory Committee (CSHMAC) requesting the views of the CSHMAC for the management of the 2022 Fishery.

2022 Albacore Tuna Fishery

The Department advised that it is waiting approval from the Minister for the 2022 Management arrangements and that 38 vessels had booked in for the 2022 Albacore Tuna fishery.

2022 Blue Whiting Fishery

Industry supported the closure of the 2022 Blue Whiting Fishery from the same date as last year, 1st July 2022. The Department will start to quota balance the fishery once the fishery is closed and the final landing data is available.

Quota Balancing

Quota Balancing 2021 Report

As advised at the April QMAC meeting, the 2021 Quota Balancing for Demersal and Pelagic Stocks Report was circulated to the QMAC before today's meeting. The Department advised the report would be presented at the June QMAC meeting and published on the Departments website following today's meeting.

The ISWFPO representative asked if there was any update on his query from last month's QMAC meeting where he questioned whether vessels authorised as a pair following a lottery, who

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subsequently didn't fish as a pair or fished with other authorised vessels creating a new pairing arrangement should be permitted and if new rules were needed to clarify this matter.

The Department advised it will be discussed at next month's QMAC meeting.

AOB

**The next Quota Management meeting is scheduled for the 21 June at 2.30pm
Sea Fisheries Policy & Management Division
19 May 2022**