



## Quota Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2023 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: 6 attendees
Members via videoconference	<p>DAFM: 3 attendees</p> <p>Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA): 1 attendee</p> <p><b><u>Industry Representatives:</u></b></p> <p>Co-ops Umbrella Group: 1 member and 1 observer</p> <p>Irish South and West Fish Producer Organisation (ISWFPO): 1 member</p> <p>Irish Fish Producers Organisation (IFPO): 1 member</p> <p>National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF): 1 member</p> <p>Irish South &amp; East Fish Producer Organisation (ISEFPO): 1 member</p> <p>Irish Fish Processors and Exporters Association (IFPEA): 1 member</p> <p>Killybegs Fishermens Organisation (KFO): 1 member 1 observer</p> <p>Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation (IIMRO): 1 member</p>
Apologies	

### 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 December QMAC meeting were circulated to the QMAC members for comments before today's meeting. The Department advised they received no observation from any QMAC members regarding the minutes prior to the meeting. The Department further advised that it would publish the meeting minutes on the Department website when it is publishing the February Fisheries Management Notices.



### **3. Swaps**

The Department advised that the following swaps had been completed since the last QMAC meeting and the figures were included in the white fish sheets.

#### **Completed swaps:**

##### **Swap 1 – UK**

###### **UK to IRL**

3t NEP/\*07U16 (Use of area only)

###### **IRL to UK**

1t RJE/7FG.

2t RJU/7DE

##### **Swap 2 – UK**

###### **UK to IRL**

215t MAC/2XC14- (2023)

###### **IRL to UK**

215t MAC/2CX14-

##### **Swap 3 – ESP**

###### **ESP to IRL**

14t NEP/\*07U16

###### **IRL to ESP**

13.8t COD/5BE6A

0.1t COD/5W6-14

0.1t SOL/7BC

#### **Swap for discussion:**

The Department gave an overview of the following end of year swaps being examined by the Department and the End of year swaps group.

- Belgium are looking for the following stocks 50000kW Dermersal BSA effort for 2022, Plaice in area 7FG (PLE/7FG.) for 2023 and 8t of Plaice area 7A (PLE/07A) 2022. The ISEFPO informed that QMAC that they have being in contact with its Belgium industry contact. The recommendation was to try obtain Monk in area 6 (2023) in return. The ISEFPO hopes to have a proposal submitted to the Department by end of week.
- Based on the end of year figures supplied from the SFPA, Ireland requires 3846Kw days BSA crab effort for 2022. The SFPA advised this figure could increase before the end of the month and will update the Department with the final uptake figure when it is available. The Department advised there is 113 tonnes of 2022 Mackerel quota set aside to cover any excess in 2022. Industry recommended waiting until the final uptake figure is available before trying to secure a swap with France for the crab effort and to use the same ratios set out in the previous crab effort swap in 2022.
- The KFO is working with their French counterpart on two banking swaps. Ireland would receive 120t of Nephrops in FU16 (NEP/\*07U16) and 350t of Mackerel for a return of 50% in 2023.
- The KFO advised they are in discussion regarding an albacore tuna swap with France and will update the Department with a proposal.



- The Department informed the QMAC that they had been contacted by Spain. Spain is looking to get Monk in area 7 and has offered Nephrops in FU16 (NEP/\*07U16) or Blue Whiting (WHB/1X14) in return. The Department advised the QMAC that Ireland was at 83% uptake for monk in area 7 and had 144t available to swap. The Department has asked Spain what quantities of monk in area 7 they require and is awaiting a response.
- The ISWFPO was contacted by a UK PO outlining that they had 40t of Nephrops area FU16 available for 2022 and was looking for Saithe in area 6 (POK/56-14) that can be fished in the sub area POK/\*2AC4C and Mackerel (MAC/2CX14-) that can be fished in the sub area MAC/\*4A-UK. The Department advised that to maximise the 10% carry over amount, Ireland can carry over an additional 64t of Nephrops FU16 and that Ireland had 6t of the saithe in the sub area available to swap. The ISWFPO will contact the UK PO and will propose a swap to the Department before the deadline for UK swap on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January.

The Department proposed to have a Webex meeting with the KFO, ISEFPO and ISWFPO to further discuss end of year swap. This meeting will take place on Friday the 20<sup>th</sup> of January at 3.45pm.

#### Swaps to cover By-catches

There was a discussion on the need to get a swap in of Herring area 4AB (HER/4AB.) to cover by catches in the 2023 Mackerel fishery. It was agreed that 300 tonnes would be needed.

There was also a discussion on the uptake 50 tonnes of Saithe in area 1 and 2AB (POK/1N2AB) in 2022, which was a by catch in the 2022 Atlantic Scandian Herring Fishery. 28 tonnes of saithe in area 1 and 2AB was already swapped in in 2022 to cover the by-catch. The Department advised a swap will be required to cover the remaining uptake amount in 2022 and to cover by-catches in 2023. The Department advised if a swap cannot be got, Ireland will suffer a 1:1 deduction from the Commission.

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

##### **Monkfish in area 6**

Due to the decrease in the 2023 quota, it was recommended to reduce the regime and try obtain swaps for this stock.

All agreed to support 10/5 for February.

##### **Plaice area 7 F and G**

The ISEFPO advised they are in discussions with the Belgium industry regarding swapping the Hague quota of plaice for monk in 2023 and a possible banking swap of 2022 quota. It was recommended to keep the regime the same as January.

All agreed to support 0.50/0.25 for February.

##### **Nephrops FU16**

It was recommended to open the fishery for February.

All agreed to recommend 8/4 for February.



### **Pollack Area 7**

There was a request to increase the regime due to this stock being a spring fishery. It was requested to set the same regime for over and under 55ft vessels in order to give the inshore vessels a greater opportunity.

All agreed to recommend 8/8 for February.

### **Spur Dogfish**

The Department advised that the Minister has written to the Chair of BIM this month requesting that BIM carry out work to identify and explore options for developing market opportunities for this fishery in order to deliver best returns for fishers. In advance of the work by BIM being carried out, the Department is recommending a conservative approach for the management of the fishery.

There was a discussion on the markets for spur dogfish with industry representatives stating there is strong markets in the UK and Germany and France.

There was discussion on getting the high survivability exemption with industry representatives expressing the view it should be fast tracked. The Department outlined the procedure to seek the high survivability exemption or a de-minimis provision and advised it would be later in the year if the case made is accepted before the formal procedures are completed and would not be available for 2023. The Department also advised a conservation provision is being worked on at EU level that will require that large breeding spurdog over 100cm should be avoided and if caught should be returned immediately to the sea.

Concerns were expressed by industry representatives regarding the management of this fishery. If the quota is not managed efficiently then it could become a choke species and affect all other whitefish stock in the area. Industry representatives requested data on the size and number of vessels that could prosecute this fishery. There was a request by industry representatives to set up a sub-committee to further discuss this management of fishery. The Department will chair this sub-committee and representatives from IIMRO, NIFF, ISWFPO, ISEFPO, KFO, Co-op's and SFPA stated their interest in joining this committee. The Department will arrange a meeting for the week of the 23rd of January and will provide all information requested by industry representatives at that meeting.

It was recommended to set a small regime to by-catch of the fish in February.

All agreed to recommend 0.25/0.25 for February.

### **Hook and Line Mackerel**

The management arrangements are not in place yet for 2023.

Industry said fishers need to know when the fishery will open this year and last year's issues was the uncertainty around the opening date.

The Department advised that the Minister had written at the start of the month to BIM to carry out work with processors. The Minister considers this work important based on the experience of the fishery in 2022. BIM have commenced this work and have given a provisional completion date of March. The Department advised that BIM understand the timelines for the fishery. As soon as the work is done, the Minister will communicate.

IFPEA advised it has not received any correspondence from BIM but is willing to assist in BIM's work. The Department advised that if any member wishes to aid BIM to contact BIM directly.

As there are no management arrangements in place for 2023 the Department advised the fishery would have to remain closed for February.



### **Under 18 Mackerel**

All agreed to recommend 2t for February.

### **Pelagic Issues**

#### **2023 Greater Silver Smelt stock in Area 5, 6 and 7 (Argentines)**

The Department advised the Committee it received industry recommendations for the management of the fishery in 2023. The Department will contact all over 24 meter vessels regarding the arrangements for the 2023 fishery which is subject to the approval of the Minister.

#### **2023 Horse Mackerel by-catch**

The 2023 Horse mackerel TAC (JAX/2A-14) has been set at 3,283t and is exclusively for by-catches. The Department advised it has received industry proposals on the management of the by-catch quota for 2023 and is being considered.

#### **2023 Mackerel Contingency**

At the December Quota Management Meeting, Industry representatives considered that setting aside a 1,500t contingency - to be taken off the top of the 2023 national quota to provide for possible overfishing of the national quota in 2023 - to be excessive. The matter was again discussed at the January Quota Management Meeting. Industry representatives recommended that the 2023 contingency be reduced to 500t.

### **Quota Balancing**

#### **2022 Pelagic Fisheries**

The Department advised that provisional quota balancing statements have issued for the 2022 Mackerel Tier 1 & 2 and 2022 Mackerel RSW Fishery last Monday. Final statements will issue as soon as possible. Provisional quota balancing statements have issued for the 2022 Boarfish fishery last Thursday 12 January. Final statements will issue as soon as possible.

The Department have commenced the process for the 2022 Horse Mackerel 29 Fishery & Horse Mackerel Polyvalent over/under 65ft Autumn Fishery. Provisional statements will issue as soon as possible.

The Department have also begun the quota balancing of landings of pelagic stock without a valid authorisation/notification in excess of by-catch allowance for the calendar year 2022. Provisional statements will issue in due course.

A query was raised by an industry representative in relation to an enquiry on provisional quota balancing statements. The Department advised that it is not appropriate to deal with individual cases at this meeting.

#### **Herring in area 6aS (HER/6AS7BC)**

There was a discussion on the overfishing of herring in area 6aS in 2022 (14.07%). The Department advised there are landings of herring in area 6aS by vessels without a valid authorisation/notification in excess of allowable by-catch and such landings will be quota balanced.



Industry advised that the Dutch may have some available quota to cover the excess. The Department advised if a swap cannot be obtained, Ireland will suffer a multiplier and deduction on the 2023 quota from the Commission.

**AOB**

The Department proposed to have a Webex meeting with the KFO, ISEFPO and ISWFPO to further discuss end of year swap. This meeting will take place on Friday the 20th of January at 3.45pm.

**The next Quota Management meeting is scheduled for the 16<sup>th</sup> of February at 2.30pm**

**Sea Fisheries Policy & Management Division**

**17 January 2023**