



Quota Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Thursday 16 th February 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: 4 attendees Irish South and West Fish Producer Organisation (ISWFPO): 1 member
Members via videoconference	DAFM: 4 attendees Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA): 1 attendee <u>Industry Representatives:</u> Co-ops Umbrella Group: 1 member and 1 observer Irish Fish Producers Organisation (IFPO): 1 member National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF): 1 member Irish South & East Fish Producer Organisation (ISEFPO): 1 member Irish Fish Processors and Exporters Association (IFPEA): 1 member Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO): 1 member 1 observer
Apologies	Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation (IIMRO)

1. **Conflict of Interest**

The Conflict-of-Interest statement was read at the start of the planning meeting that was held before this meeting.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The draft minutes from the January QMAC meeting were circulated to the QMAC members for comments before today's meeting. The Department advised they received one observation from the NIFF regarding the minutes prior to the meeting. This amendment was accepted by the QMAC members and will be updated in the minutes. The Department further advised that it would publish the meeting minutes on the Department website when it is publishing the March Fisheries Management Notices.

3. **Swaps**

The Department enquired if the ISEFPO had any update on securing a swap proposal from the Belgium industry. The ISEFPO advised that they are awaiting a reply from the Belgium industry and will inform the Department once they receive any updates.



4. Whitefish - Discussion on particular regimes

Haddock in area 7b-k

Due to the reduction in the 2023 quota and the projected uptake to the end of February of 40% it was agreed that this regime would need to be reduced.

All agreed to support 9/6/3 for March.

Monkfish in area 6

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

All agreed to support 6/3 for March.

Nephrops FU16

There was a discussion between industry on the regime for March. It was proposed that it would be more commercially viable to have higher regimes in March and April and reduce it later in the year. It was agreed to recommend an increase for March and recommend keeping the same regime for April.

All agreed to recommend 9/4.5 for March.

Picked Dogfish (Spurdog)

The sub-committee met on January 25th, and it was recommended to keep this fishery as a by-catch fishery for now as it was outlined that the market is currently difficult, but that in the coming months the fishery will need to be managed to maximize the opportunity for vessels to catch the full 2023 quota (1871t) based on the market demands. There was a discussion on the uptake levels and the number of vessels having caught spurdog from 1st January. The Industry raised concerns regarding repercussions for unintentionally overfishing the monthly quota. Quota Balancing was discussed - the management arrangements do not currently include Quota Balancing as it is a new fishery. It was agreed to raise the monthly quota. The Department advised of BIM's project plan for an assessment of spurdog survivability.

It was agreed that the sub-committee would meet again in the coming weeks and the Department stated the Marine Institute have been invited to discuss the possible areas of aggregation and migration of the spurdog to help avoid possible large by-catches. BIM have also been invited to attend to give an update on their project plan for an assessment of survivability, to advise re processing/markets and about possible ways to promote avoidance by the larger fishing vessels as the Minister wants us to find ways that ensure the fishery is mainly for inshore vessels.



The Department will arrange this meeting in the coming days.

The Department has an action to email the QMAC providing clarity on the amendment to the 2023 EU TAC & Quota Regulation (Council Regulation EU 2023/194 of 30 January 2023), in relation to the landing obligations for Picked Dogfish (Spurdog-DGS/15X14).

The 2023 EU TAC & Quota Regulation (Council Regulation EU 2023/194 of 30 January 2023) provides the following conditions:

- I. Not to be targeted in United Kingdom waters until the prohibition in the United Kingdom law (including licence conditions) has been removed.
- II. In Union waters maximum conservation reference size of 100cm shall be respected and any catches above that size when caught accidentally, shall not be harmed and specimens shall be promptly released back into the sea.

All agreed to recommend 1/1 for March.

Greater Silver smelt in area 5, 6 and 7

The draw for the fishery was held at the QMAC planning meeting which took place earlier in the day. It was recommended to open the fishery for the 2 vessels drawn.

All agreed to recommend open for March.

Mackerel Hook and Line

The Department updated the meeting on the work BIM is undertaking to strengthen the opportunities for a high value artisanal fishery.

There was a long discussion in relation to opening this fishery. The NIFF representative sought an early opening in March. The Department explained the 2022 management arrangements involved booking in and authorisation for fishing vessels 10m and over. Under the authorisation the vessels were required to hail quantities over 50kg to the Irish Fisheries Monitoring Centre. Vessels under 10m were not required to be authorised.

There was acceptance that the arrangements for 2022 fishery should be applied again for 2023; the NIFF noted that the hailing requirement was an SFPA control measure.

It was recommended to have a rollover of the 2022 management arrangements with the fishery to open on the 20th of March. The ISWFPO representative pointed out the importance of avoiding an early closure, there were further debates on catch limits which ranged from 3 to 6 tonnes and an agreement was reached to recommend a catch limit of 4.50 tonnes for under 15 metre boats for the period of 20 March to 30 April 2023. The fishery is to be closed by Fisheries Management Notice for



the month of April when the Department has been advised by the SFPA that 150 tonnes has been taken.

Under 18 Mackerel

All agreed to recommend 2t for March.

Pelagic issues

2023 Blue Whiting Fishery

The Department advised that the Polyvalent Segment Blue Whiting fishery is open for booking in and the last date to submit the book in form is the 23rd of February and the draw will take place on the 3rd of March. The draw will be for 6 pairs of vessels or 6 pairs and a single vessel to operate in the fishery (no more than 13 vessels to be authorised in the fishery).

The Department advised the RSW Pelagic Segment Blue Whiting authorisations will issue early next week.

2023 Atlanto Scandian Herring Fishery

The Department advised the meeting that the EU Norway negotiations are still ongoing and there is currently no access to Norwegian waters for this fishery. The KFO representative advised that this is a spring fishery and requested that the fishery be opened giving access to United Kingdom, and international waters of 1 and 2 as there would be opportunities for vessels to catch fish outside of Norwegian waters. The Department undertook to open the fishery as soon as possible with this access. If access to Norwegian waters is secured later in the year, authorisations will be revised by notification. A contingency for the fishery was discussed. It was recommended and agreed that a 200t contingency be put in place as was the case in 2022.

Quota Balancing

Demersal Quota Balancing

Final Quota Balancing statements for the December 2022 Fishery will issue today.

Pelagic Quota Balancing

Final Quota Balancing statements have issued for the 2022 Mackerel RSW Fishery, the Mackerel Tier 1 & 2 Fishery, the 2022 Boarfish Fishery, 2022 Horse Mackerel 29 & 2022 Horse Mackerel Polyvalent Autumn Fisheries.

Provisional Quota Balancing Statements for pelagic landings without a valid authorisation/notification in excess of allowable by-catch for the calendar year 2022 issued on Monday 13th February. Licence holders have until next Monday 20th February to make enquiries on their statements. Final statements will issue after this date.



The Department will begin quota balancing the outstanding 2022 Herring Fisheries with provisional quota balancing statements for the 2022 Irish Sea Herring Fishery to issue next week.

AOB

None

The next Quota Management meeting is scheduled for the 21st of March at 2.30pm