



Quota Management Advisory Committee Planning Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Thursday 16 th February 2023 at 11:30am
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
Members via videoconference	<p>DAFM: 2 attendees Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA): 1 attendee</p> <p><u>Industry Representatives:</u></p> <p>Co-ops Umbrella Group: 1 member 1 observer Irish South and West Fish Producer Organisation (ISWFPO): 1 member 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 Fishermens Organisation (KFO): 1 member</p>
Apologies	Irish Islands Maine Resource Organisation (IIMRO)

1. **2023 Greater Silver Smelt Fishery**

The Lottery for the 2023 Greater Silver Smelt fishery was held prior to the QMAC Planning Meeting, which was attended by an independent observer from the SFPA. A pair of vessels were successful in the draw with two single vessels on the reserve list.

2. **Conflict of Interest**

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

3. **End of year figures/Swaps/ Priority Swaps 2023: HER/4AB; POK/1N2AB: Crab Effort**

A full list of the 2022 swaps including banking swaps and 2022 End of Year Analysis (giving details of quota of the relevant stocks that would be transferred to 2023 under the flexibility Regulation) was circulated to the QMAC prior to the planning meeting.



- HER/4AB.

The Department advised that the 350t Ireland owed Denmark from the 2021 fishery had been cleared using alternative 2022 stocks. The expected carry over for 2023 is 25t. It was recommended that a further 275t to 300t would be needed for this fishery. There is currently 100t of Mackerel set aside to cover this swap as discussed at previous QMAC meetings. The KFO informed the group that the Dutch were willing to swap 350t to Ireland and that the Mackerel would cover most of this swap but the horse mackerel in the channel may be needed to fully secure the swap. The KFO hope to have a final proposal for the Department before the next QMAC meeting.

- POK/1N2AB.

The department outlined that in 2022 Ireland over fished Saithe in 1N2AB by 22t. As Ireland did not have a deduction in 2022 for this stock the Commission will apply a payback of 1:1 up to 100t in 2023. The Department recommended to try obtaining a swap early in 2023 to cover the deduction. There was a discussion on how much Saithe would be required to cover the by catch in 2023. It was recommended based on the previous landing figures an extra 50t would be needed. The KFO outlined it will be hard to get a swap of 75t. They felt that maybe the French would be willing to swap 50t. As there is currently no agreement between the EU and Norway there is no Atlanto-Scandian Herring fishery, of which this stock is a by catch off. There was a discussion on when the Saithe was caught in 2022 and it was felt if there was an EU/Norway agreement that the Atlanto-Scandian Herring fishery would be in the Autumn were it is more likely to catch Saithe as a by catch. It was agreed that if there was an Atlanto-Scandian Herring fishery that COD/1N2AB would be made available to swap for the Saithe.

- Crab Effort in the BSA

It was agreed that the approach taken to manage the 2022 fishery worked well and should be used again in 2023, where Ireland got in a small amount in the beginning of the year and held Mackerel aside to cover any further swap needed in 2022. It was recommended to look for 25,000kw/days Crab Effort in the BSA from France and set aside 140t of Mackerel as currency to facilitate this swap based on the ratios set last year. As the ratio from Mackerel for Crab Effort has been set this swap can take place later in the year.

4. Flexibility 2022 End of Year Analysis

The QMAC analysed the priority stocks taking into consideration 2023 quota, including carryover amounts where relevant, 2023 uptake figures to date, and 2022 quota and final uptake figures.

The following stocks were identified as priority stocks:

- Haddock in 7b-k (HAD/7X7A34)
- Haddock in 6b (HAD/6B1214)
- Hake (HKE/571214)
- Monk in 6 (ANF/56-14)



- Nephrops in FU16 (NEP/*07U16)
- Sole in 7fg (SOL/7FG)

5. Nephrops – Annual Quota Plan

It was agreed the management of this fishery worked well last year and should continue for 2023 as the FU16 Nephrops is an important fishery. There was a discussion on what quantity of FU16 Nephrops should be swapped in for 2023. Due to the increase in quota, it was felt that Ireland was in a good position as the 2023 quota is 1513t, including the expected carry over, and the run rate of 2022 was 1665t. The majority of industry recommended trying to get 300 to 400t of swaps in 2023. The ISWFPO recommended trying to get the same quantity of 650t that was swapped in in 2022. There were concerns that Ireland should not pay too much for the FU16 Nephrops.

6. Norwegian Cod/1N2AB

There was a discussion whether there should be a fishery for 2023 or make the quota available for swaps. The ISWFPO advised that one of their members had expressed an interest in the fishery. As there is no EU/Norway agreement in place the 2023 quota is not available yet, but industry felt it would be 290t based on previous years. It was recommended to advertise the fishery when the quota was made available subject to Ministerial approval and to set aside 100t to swap for Haddock in 1 and 2a (HAD/1N2AB) and Saithe in 1 and 2a (POK/1N2AB) to cover by catches in these fisheries.

7. Whiting in area 7b-k

Industry representatives supported using this stock as currency and to evaluate each swap as it is received and not set a limit on the amount that can be swapped out as was done in 2022.

8. Atlanto-Scandian Herring

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 it 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 and it was recommended that a 200t contingency be put in place as it was in 2022.

9. Albacore Tuna



The Department circulated the 2022 management agreements prior to the meeting. The available quota for 2023 is 3104t, which includes the deduction of 70t of a banking swap from France to cover the over-fishing in 2022. There was a discussion on big eye tuna as it is a by catch of the albacore tuna fishery. It was recommended that industry continue to raise this topic at EU level.

10. Mackerel Hook and Line

The available quota for the Mackerel Hook and Line fishery is 400t as set out in Ministerial Management Policy. The Department updated the meeting on the work BIM is undertaking to strengthen the opportunities for a high value artisanal fishery.

- *Work is progressing well on the hook and line Mackerel project with BIM working with Bord Bia and an external provider.*
- *The project group are currently involved in stakeholder interviews and consultation (NIFF, IIMRO, NIFA, processors, retail, high end fish mongers, high end seafood restaurants and food service). The consultation process has covered areas such as high-end product opportunities, pricing, supply, route to market(s), seasonal availability, market dynamics and requirements etc. The project is due to start this week on a number of consumer group sessions to further build on the work that has come out of the key stakeholder sessions.*
- *The project is due to wrap up and be reported on at the end of March.*
- *Following on from the project BIM are exploring with Bord Bia on the potential to run a marketing campaign for hook and line mackerel to align with the fishing season and will work to progress any actions that will have arisen from the project.*

11. Picked Dogfish (Spurdog)

The Department provided an update from the QMAC sub-committee which met on 25th January that 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 based on the market demands. BIM are currently working on exploring market opportunities and assessment of survivability. The Industry requested that an update be issued on the amended landing obligations published in the 2023 EU Tac & Quota Regulation (Council Regulation EU 2023/194 of 30 January 2023). The Department advised they will communicate the update to the QMAC members and the SFPA will circulate the information all SFPA members. The provisions as set out in the 2023 EU Tac & Quota Regulation (Council Regulation EU 2023/194 of 30 January 2023) are:

- 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.*

12. AOB



None.

Sea Fisheries Policy & Management Division