



Quota Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Tuesday 21 st March 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: 2 attendees
Members in Agriculture House, Dublin	DAFM: 1 attendee
Members via videoconference	<p>DAFM: 3 attendees</p> <p>Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA): 2 attendees</p> <p><u>Industry Representatives:</u></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 & East Fish Producer Organisation (ISEFPO): 1 member</p> <p>Irish Fish Processors and Exporters Association (IFPEA): 1 member</p> <p>Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO): 1 member</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 and a reminder given to all members in relation to their 2023 Declaration of Interests form due.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The draft minutes from the February QMAC meeting were circulated to the QMAC members for comments before today's meeting. The Department advised they received no observation from a QMAC member 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 April Fisheries Management Notices.



3. Swaps

There were no swaps completed since the last QMAC meeting. There were concerns about the high uptake figures for some of the main demersal stocks, including Cod in 6B, Hake, Monk in VI and Sole in VIIfg and the regimes for April were reduced accordingly. The Department will pursue the range of swaps recommended by industry over the coming period.

Swaps for discussion:

The following 4 swaps were received from the IFPO and had been circulated to Industry prior to the meeting. The Department advised that they have not received the dates for the swap rounds with the UK from the Commission.

Swap 1

IRL to UK:
10t SOL/7HJK.

UK to IRL:
25t ANF/07.
35t HAD/7X7A34

Swap 2

IRL to UK:
100t MAC/2CX14-

UK to IRL:
50t ANF/07.

Swap 3

IRL to UK:
75t MAC/2CX14-

UK to IRL:
50t HAD/7X7A34

Swap 4

IRL to UK:
77t MAC/2CX14-

UK to IRL:
50t HKE/571214

It was recommended that the IFPO would contact the UK PO to try amend the swaps, by changing the monk in area 7 to monk in area 6, as monk in area 7 is not a priority stock for Ireland. It was also agreed to try get a better ratio for the Mackerel. After a discussion it was agreed to try and seek a 1:1 ratio. The IFPO will revert to the UK PO and will keep the Department updated on the swaps.

Swap 5

IRL to ESP:
20.16t COD/7XAD34
11.28t COD/5BE6A
1t PLE/7HJK
0.5t WHG/56-14
10t BOR/678-
0.1t WHG/7X7A-C
1.5t SOL/7BC.

ESP to IRL:
30t NEP/07.
49t NEP/*07U16



0.1t SOL/56-14
1t PLE/7BC
0.5t POK/7/3411
0.1t COD/5W6-14
10t POK/56-14
5t SOL/7HJK

The Department received the above swap proposal from Spain. This swap is a choke species swap under article 9.2 of the TAC and Quota regulation, where Ireland must make available 6% of COD in Celtic Sea (20.16t), Cod in West of Scotland (11.28t), Whiting in the Irish Sea (16.14t) and Plaice in area 7HJK (3.3t) and 3% of Whiting in west of Scotland (24.06t) to swap. The article 9.2 stocks are in red in the proposal. The remaining stocks in the swap are not covered by article 9.2. Industry felt that Ireland does not need the Nephrops in area 7 and recommended that Ireland should try get the 30t of Nephrops in area 7 changed to FU16 Nephrops (Use of area only). It was also recommended to reduce the 5t of Sole in area 7HJK to 2.5t. The Department will revert to Spain with the amended proposal.

Swap 6

The Department received the following swap from the ISEFPO.

IRL to FRA:

100t WHG/7X7A-C

100t MAC/2CX14-

FRA to IRL:

20t NEP/*07U16

55t ANF/07.

Industry stated that the Monk in area 7 should be changed to Monk in area 6 and that the ratio was too low. The recommendation was that Ireland had the quantities available that the French were looking for, but the stocks and quantities that were offered in return were not suitable. The ISEFPO will revert to the French PO and try renegotiating the proposal and will update the Department if a new proposal is available.

Other swaps discussed.

Herring in area 4AB.

The KFO advised they were in negotiations with the Dutch PO's regarding a swap for Herring in area 4AB. At the February planning meeting it was recommended that 275t of Herring 4AB would be needed for 2023 and that there was already 100t of Mackerel set aside, taken off the top and not part of the 2% to try cover this swap. The KFO outlined that the 100t of Mackerel would be needed along with some quantity of North Sea Horse Mackerel to secure the swap. The KFO hope to have a proposal for the Department before that next QMAC meeting.

Saithe in area 1N2AB.

Following the EU/Norway agreement a swap is now needed to try secure quantities of Norwegian Saithe. The Commission will apply a deduction of 23t from overfishing in 2022 to Ireland in 2023. It



was recommended to swap Norwegian Cod for the 23t of Saithe to cover the deduction and try securing an additional 50t to cover any by catches in 2023 at the planning meeting. Although this may be difficult to get, the KFO will try securing a swap with either France or Germany. It was felt that this swap would need to be carried out as soon as possible as vessels will soon be fishing the stocks and if Ireland swaps out the quota later in the year, then the French and German vessels would be gone from the area and will not want to return.

The Department enquired if the IS&EFPO had any update on securing a swap proposal from the Belgium industry. The IS&EFPO 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

Norwegian Cod

The Department advised following the EU/Norway agreement the 2023 quota for Ireland is 258t. Of that, 2t is owed to Germany to cover a by catch in 2022. It was recommended at the Planning Meeting to use the Norwegian Cod to try secure a swap to cover the debt of 23t of Saithe 1N2AB at a 1:1 ratio, and to try get a swap to cover 2023 by catch. Based on last year's catches the Department advised that 75t of Saithe 1N2AB would be needed for 2023. The KFO stated that this would be difficult to get.

During discussions, the Industry talked about whether Arctic Cod should be used as currency for swaps or to prosecute a fishery. As Ireland can only authorise one vessel to fish the Norwegian Cod fishery, there were mixed views on whether it would be more beneficial to the whole fleet to use the quota as currency for priority stocks. IS&WFPO advised that one of their members wished to prosecute the fishery in 2023. Following discussions, the Industry advised the available quota for the fishery after deducting the quota set aside to cover the by-catches would be approximately 140 tonnes.

The process of setting up this fishery was outlined by the Department and that Ireland would need to get a swap of Haddock 1N2AB to cover any by catch in this fishery. Industry advised that 35t of HAD/1N2AB would be needed if the entire quota was to be made available for a fishery and Norwegian Cod could be used to obtain the Haddock at a 1:1 ratio. Additional Saithe in area 1N2AB would also be needed. The IS&WFPO will commentate the views and available quota to the vessel owner and revert back to the Department.

Haddock in area 6B

There was an industry discussion on the regime for April. Due to the uptake of 23%, it was felt that this regime could be increased.

All agreed to support 12/6 for April.

Monkfish in area 6

Due to the decrease in the 2023 quota and the uptake at 46%, it was recommended to reduce the regime and try obtain swaps for this stock.



All agreed to support 4/2 for April.

Nephrops FU16

It was recommended at the February QMAC meeting to increase the regime to 9/4.5 for March and April and reduce it later in the year. It was agreed to keep the same regime for April.

All agreed to recommend 9/4.5 for April.

Hake

There was a discussion between industry on the regime for April. Due to the uptake at 43%, it was recommended to lower the regime to ensure that there would be a fishery later in the year. A swap is needed for this stock.

All agreed to recommend 14/7 for April.

Pollack area 7

There was a request from the ISEFPO to increase this regime by one of their members.

All agreed to recommend 12/12 for April.

Cod area 6B

Due to the high uptake in March, it was recommended that the regime needed to be reduced to avoid it becoming a choke species.

All agreed to recommend 0.50/0.25 for April.

Spurdog

The Department provided an update to the QMAC on the progress of the recent spurdog sub-committee meetings held on the 7th and 16th of March where the Department had provided a discussion paper. The update included the following:

- The SFPA landing figures up to March 16th are 67.7 tonnes.
- The IFPEA advised that there are markets in France and Germany for Spurdog and that they've had enquires from their EU counterparts looking for quantities of Spurdog. The IFPEA also advised that quality and a constant supply will be needed, or the market will be lost.
- Members of the group volunteered to contact BIM in relation to market opportunities and this was supported by the sub-committee which will be kept informed of progress.



- The discussion paper provided by the Department was examined and it was advised that the Minister intended that this fishery would be directed at the inshore fleet. The Industry felt that the current arrangement of setting regimes based on over/under 55ft limit should be used for this fishery for the time being and this was viewed positively by the inshore representatives.
- It was recommended that no further recommended changes should be made to the fishery until the markets can be explored.

It was recommended that the regime could be increased.

All agreed to recommend 3/3 for April.

Hook and Line Mackerel

The Department advised that the hook and line regime had been set for April at the February QMAC meeting.

Under 18 Mackerel

All agreed to recommend 2t for April.

5. Pelagic issues

2023 Blue Whiting Fishery

The management of the Blue Whiting quota was discussed following the EU/Norway agreement, a press release from the Minister on 17th March announced a revised quota of 53,776t for 2023. The Department advised that on 20th March, CION issued a proposal for council amending the TAC and Quota regulation. This proposal included a revised quota for blue whiting for Ireland of 48,761t. The difference in the figure in the proposal and the Press Release is due to a gentlemen's agreement between a number of Member States to compensate Ireland for our contribution (above the 4% level) to the WHB transfer to Norway. During discussions the Industry focused on the press release figure and requested to allocate the additional quota as soon as possible as the fishery is time sensitive and is likely to conclude before the end of April. The Department advised that the additional compensatory quota from the other Member States will come to us after the fact and the transfers have not yet taken place. The first amendment to the TAC and Quota Regulation is currently being finalised. We would expect the transfers to begin once the regulation is in place.

In accordance with the management arrangement, the Department asked industry to make a recommendation in relation to the contingency to be set aside. Following lengthy discussions, Industry representatives recommended that 500t should be taken off the top of the quota and, together with the carry over figure of 3,175t, a total of 3,675t should be retained as a contingency. They recommended that the extra quota should be made available to vessels at the earliest possible date. This would represent a quota uplift of 2,364t, as 50,912t is currently allocated.



2023 Atlanto Scandian Herring Fishery

The Department advised the EU/Norway agreement had been signed and that the Department had started the process with the Commission of getting the relevant vessels authorised to fish in Norwegian waters.

Quota Balancing

Demersal Quota Balancing

The Department advised that Final Quota Balancing Statements issued last week for the January fisheries.

Pelagic Quota Balancing

Final quota balancing statements issued on 13th March for landings of pelagic stocks without a valid authorisation/notification in excess of allowable by-catch for the calendar year 2022. Provisional quota balancing statements issued for the 2022 Irish Sea Herring Fishery on 23rd February and for the 2022 Atlanto-Scandian Herring Fishery on 3rd March. Final quota balancing statements will issue in the next week.

Provisional quota balancing statements issued for the 2022 North-West Herring Autumn Fishery for category C and U12 metre vessels on 7th March. Final quota balancing statements will issue in due course. In relation to the 2022 North West Herring fishery for vessels authorised in category B, the SFPA have confirmed there were no landings by the authorised boats in the authorised management period. Therefore, quota balancing for this fishery for the authorised boats in the authorised period is now complete.

AOB

The IS&WFPO asked for Norwegian (Arctic) Cod to be included as an AOB item. The discussion on this fishery is included above.

The IFPO requested the support of the QMAC to have the Marine Institute carry out a scientific survey in relation to Nephrops in FU16 and the QMAC were willing to support it. The Department advised Industry Representatives to revert to the MI. Any proposal by the MI would be examined by the Department and require the approval of the Minister.

The next Quota Management meeting is scheduled for the 21st of April at 10.30am