



## Quota Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2023 at 10:30am
Location	National Seafood Centre, Clonakilty
Chair	Official from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
Members in National Seafood Centre, Clonakilty	DAFM: 3 attendees  Irish South & West Fish Producer Organisation (IS&WFPO)– 1 member.
Members via videoconference	DAFM: 4 attendees  Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA): 2 attendees  <b><u>Industry Representatives:</u></b>  Co-ops Umbrella Group: 1 member and 1 observer Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO): 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
Apologies	Irish Islands marine Resource Organisation (IIMRO) Irish Fish Processors and Exporters Association (IFPEA)

### 1. **Conflict of Interest**

The Conflict-of-Interest statement was read at the start of the meeting. The Chair welcomed the NIFA representative to the QMAC.

### 2. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The draft minutes from the March 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 meeting minutes will be published on the Department website when publishing the May Fisheries Management Notices.

### 3. **Swaps**

There were two swaps agreed following the last QMAC meeting:



**Swap 1**

**IRL to FRA:**

100t WHG/7X7A-C

100t MAC/2CX14-

**FRA to IRL :**

20t NEP/\*07U16

100t HKE/571214

**Swap 2**

The Department advised the QMAC that Spain agreed the following swap prior to the meeting and that the figures were not included in the whitefish sheets.

**IRL to ESP:**

20,16 t COD/7XAD34

11,28 t COD/5BE6A

1 t PLE/7HJK

0,5 WHG/56-14

10 t BOR/678-

0,1 t WHG/7X7A-C

1,5 t SOL/7BC.

0,1 t SOL/56-14

1 t PLE/7BC.

0,5 t POK/7/3411

0,1 t COD/5W6-14

6 t POK/56-14

2.5 t SOL/7HJK

**ESP to IRL:**

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

**Swaps for discussion:**

**Swap 1**

The Department received the following swap proposal from the Netherlands. This swap was supported by all. The Department will revert to the Netherlands administration.

**NLD to IRL:**

275t HER/4AB.

**IRL to NLD:**

50t BOR/678-

71t JAX/4BC7D

100t MAC/2CX14-



### **Swap 2**

The IS&WFPO has proposed the following swap:

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

55t HAD/7X7A34

200t HKE/571214

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

40t POK/56-14

40t POK/\*2AC4C (Use of Area)

10t COD/5BE6A

200t MAC/2CX14-

200t MAC/\*4A-UK (Use of area)

Following discussions there were differing opinions on the balance of the swap. The Co-op Umbrella Group initially opposed the swap and favoured a swap of Saithe in VI for Monk in VI, as an amount of Saithe in area VI had already been swapped out with France. The IS&WFPO confirmed discussions with the KFO were had prior to the swap proposal and the amount of Saithe was reduced taking account of the French swap. There were concerns relating to the amount of Saithe in area 6 and Mackerel in the main area included in the swap, Industry queried if it was for use of the special area only. It was agreed by all to support the swap if it was just for use of the special sub areas. The IS&WFPO advised they would contact the UK PO and will provide an update to the Department following the meeting.

### **Swap 3**

The French administration has proposed the following swap:

#### **FRA to IRL:**

20 000 kW days crab effort BSA

100 t of ANF/56-14

200 t of NEP/\*07U16

250 t of HAD/7X7A34

250 t of HKE/571214

#### **IRL to FRA:**

10 t of SOL/7HJK.

50 t of SRX/67AKXD

15 t of COD/5BE6A

5 t of PLE/7HJK.

50 t of SRX/\*07D.

100 t of RJU/7DE.

2 t of SBR/678- 50 t of POK/56-14

60 t of POK/\*2AC4C

610 t of MAC/2CX14-

25 t of GHL/2A-C46



80 t of WHG/56-14  
100 t of RNG/5B67-  
50 t of BSF/56712-  
100 t of BOR/678-  
120 t of JAX/4BC7D

The NIFF enquired if more crab effort should be sought and offer Whiting in area 7b-k instead. The KFO advised that France wouldn't be interested in whiting 7b-k and that there will be no issue in getting more crab effort later in the year if needed. All supported this swap. The Department will revert to France.

#### **Other swaps.**

The ISEFPO advised that they have not being contacted by the Belgian industry regarding a swap for Plaice in area 7HJK or Demersal effort but will inform the Department when they have an update.

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

#### **Norwegian Cod**

The Department advised that the Minister has approved making 150t of the national quota available to one vessel, subject to securing a swap for by-catches of Saithe and Haddock in the area and had contacted France and Germany seeking a swap. However, they were not willing to participate in a swap at this time. Industry felt that there may be a possibility of a swap later in the year. The Department requested that industry work with their French and German counterparts to help secure a swap to open this fishery.

The IS&WFPO requested the fishery be advertised and a vessel selected, with the authorisation to be granted if a swap has been secured and this was supported by Industry. The Department confirmed they would seek recommendation from the Minister.

#### **Haddock in area 6B**

There was a discussion between industry on the regime for May. Due to the uptake of 32%, it was felt that this regime could be increased.

All agreed to support 14/7 for May.

#### **Megrim in area 7**

There was a discussion between industry on the regime for May. Due to the uptake of 15%, it was felt that this regime could be increased.

All agreed to support 24/12 for May.



### **Nephrops in area 7**

There were concerns in relation to a shift in patterns, with high projected landings in area 7 and low projected landings in FU16. Industry advised not to increase regime for May and a swap may be required later in the year.

All agreed to recommend 20/10 for April.

### **Nephrops FU16**

This Fishery is closed under EU regulation for May. The Co-op's advised of market prospects in the last quarter, while the market is always good, the problem may be with the composition of the catch.

### **Hake**

There was a discussion between industry on the regime for May. There were concerns due to the uptake of 54% and it was recommended to lower the regime to ensure that there would be a fishery later in the year.

All agreed to recommend 12/6 for April.

### **Cod area 6B**

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

All agreed to recommend 0.25/0.125 for May.

### **Spurdog**

Industry felt that the regime could be increased but felt that it should be increased slowly over time.

All agreed to recommend an increase of 5/5 for April.

### **Whiting 7 b-k**

Due to the low uptake figure to date, industry recommended an increase to 50/25 for April.

### **Silver Smelt**

Following discussions, the IS&WFPO stated they will contact the authorised vessels to confirm if they wish to continue in the fishery, if not, they will be required to return authorisations to the Department who will then offer it to the next pair of vessels on the reserve list.

### **Hook and Line Mackerel**

The Department provided an update on the uptake and number of vessels authorised in the fishery. Following discussions, Industry recommended the fishery should be closed when the SFPA advises that the uptake has reached 200t. Industry asked to be notified by the Department when the uptake has reached 175t (an email to issue to QMAC members).

All agreed to recommend 6t for May.



## **Under 18 Mackerel**

All agreed to recommend 2t for May.

## **5. Pelagic Issues**

### **Albacore Tuna**

The Department stated subject to the approval of the Minister, booking in for the 2023 fishery has been advertised with a closing date of Tuesday 25th of April. To date 24 vessels have booked in. The Department requested Industry representatives to submit their recommendations for the management of the fishery by close of business on 19 April.

#### *Fishing for Albacore Tuna in UK EEZ*

The Department advised the meeting that the EU Commission has requested that Ireland, along with other Member States with a quota for Northern Albacore, provide a list of the vessels that would plan to target albacore in UK waters with the aim of preparing for discussions with the UK on the implementation of this access arrangement.

The booking-in form for the 2023 Northern Albacore Tuna fishery therefore includes a section allowing the Applicant Vessel to express an interest in access to target Northern Albacore in UK waters and, therefore, to be included in the list of vessels provided to the EU Commission. At the date of the QMAC meeting, all applicants had expressed an interest in in access to target Albacore Tuna in UK Waters.

### **Atlanto Scandian Herring Fishery**

The Department confirmed following a request from Industry representatives made at the February Quota QMAC meeting, Authorisations and Quota Notification adjusted for quota balancing for the 7 vessels selected to prosecute the 2023 fishery issued to licence holders. At that time there was no access for vessels to fish in Norwegian waters when fishing for this stock. Therefore, the vessels have been authorised to fish for this stock in United Kingdom and international waters of ICES area I and 2 only. The Department advised that it is unable to issue authorisations to fish in Norwegian waters until a swap of Saithe in area 1N2AB is secured. The KFO stated that there may be a possibility of a swap with France later in the year.

## **6. Quota Balancing**

### **Demersal Quota Balancing**

The Department advised that Final Quota Balancing Statements issued for the Demersal February Fisheries.



### **Pelagic Quota Balancing**

The Department advised that final quota balancing statements issued for the 2022 Irish Sea Herring Fishery and the 2022 Atlanto Scandian Herring Fishery. Provisional quota balancing statements issued for the 2022 North West Herring Autumn Fishery issued on 7th March. The SFPAs have advised 3 paper logs for a vessel were added to IFIS following the issue of provisional quota balancing statements. This vessel did not receive a provisional quota balancing statement as the SFPAs had advised it had no landings at the time of issue of provisional quota balancing statements.

### **AOB**

The IS&EFPO enquired if there was any update from the Marine Institute on the possible scientific survey in relation to Nephrops in FU16. The Department advised they are currently examining a paper recently submitted by the MI, outlining possible options and will revert to the QMAC when examined.

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

The IS&EFPO had a query in relation to ALB and the Control Regulation. The Department said that the question will be referred to the relevant area for response.

**The next Quota Management meeting is scheduled for the 18th of May at 2.30pm.**