



Quota Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Thursday 18 th May 2023 at 14:30
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: 1 attendee</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>Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO): 1 member and 1 observer</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 South & West Fish Producer Organisation (ISWFPO): 1 member & 1 Observer</p> <p>National Inshore Fisherman's Association (NIFA): 1 member</p> <p>Irish Fish Processors & Exporters Association (IFPEA): 1 member</p> <p>Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation (IIMRO): 1 member</p>

1. **Conflict of Interest**

The Conflict-of-Interest (COI) statement was read at the start of the meeting. The Chairperson thanked all QMAC members for the submission of their 2023 declaration of interest forms and said these will be brought to the attention of the Minister. The Chair also reminded all QMAC members of their obligations under the COI Policy, particularly regarding the timely submission of the declaration of interest forms, the roles of the members and their guests and the Code of Conduct guidelines.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The draft minutes from the April QMAC meeting were circulated to the QMAC members for comments prior to today's meeting. The Department requested any comments or observations on the minutes to be submitted to the Department by close of business on Tuesday 23rd May.



3. Swaps

The following swaps were agreed following the last QMAC meeting and have been included in the whitefish sheets.

Swap 1

NLD to IRL:

275t HER/4AB.

IRL to NLD:

50t BOR/678-

71t JAX/4BC7D

100t MAC/2CX14-

Swap 2

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 following swaps with the UK, as recommended by Industry will go to the commission on the 23rd of May. The figures have not been included in the whitefish sheets.

Swap 3

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)

Swap 4

UK to IRL:

60t HKE/571214

IRL to UK:

5t COD/7XAD34

5t SOL/7HJK.

Swaps discussion:

The IS&WFPO requested to review the current process of communicating and making recommendations on swap proposals and, following discussions, it was agreed that the Department would circulate the proposals as they are received to Industry representatives, with discussions and recommendations to be deferred to the following QMAC unless the swap is urgent.

Swap 1

The Department has received the following swap proposal from Spain.

ESP to IRL:

3t HKE/571214

IRL to ESP:

15t BOR/567-

This swap was supported by all. The Department will revert to Spain agreeing this swap.



Swap 2

The ISEFPO proposed the following swap:

UK to IRL:

100t ANF/07.

IRL to UK:

220t WHG/7X7A-C

This swap was supported by all. The Department will add this swap to the UK swap list going to the Commission on the 23rd of May.

Swap 3

The IFPO proposed the following 3 swaps:

- UK to IRL:

50t ANF/07.

IRL to UK:

100t MAC/2CX14-

- UK to IRL:

50t HAD/7X7A34

IRL to UK:

75t MAC/2CX14-

- UK to IRL:

50t HKE/571214

IRL to UK:

77t MAC/2CX14-

The Department advised that Ireland had 127t of Mackerel remaining from the 2% set aside for swaps. The views from industry were that Ireland should hold off on this swap for the moment as the mackerel will be a valuable currency later in the year. The IFPO will advise the UK PO that Ireland will not proceed with this swap at present.



Other swaps

Norwegian Saithe

The Department enquired if there was an update on securing a swap for Saithe in area 1N2AB from either France or Germany, which will enable the Department to issue authorisations to fish in Norwegian waters for Ireland's quota of Atlanto Scadian Herring and Arctic Cod. The KFO advised that from experience, there is normally a possibility of securing a swap after the summer. The KFO stated that if a swap cannot be secured and Irish fishers are not able to prosecute the fishery, the Commission should be contacted to seek a catch allowance similar to the choke species article (9.2) in the TAC and Quota regulation. The Department advised they will raise the issue with the EU and International section and revert with their views.

4. Whitefish - Discussion on particular regimes

Cod in Area 6b, 5b

Due to the high uptake of bycatch of Cod in 6b, 76%, industry recommended that the regime be reduced for June to avoid a choke situation.

All agreed to recommend 0.1/0.5 for June.

Haddock in area 6B

There was a discussion between industry on the regime for June. Due to the uptake of 59%, it was felt that this regime needed to be reduced.

All agreed to recommend 10/5 for June.

Haddock in area 7a

Industry recommended that Haddock in Area 7a be increased as the uptake figure was below 40%

All agreed to recommend 15/10/5 for June.

Hake

There was a discussion between industry on the regime for June. Due to the swaps received, it was agreed to increase the regime.

All agreed to recommend 14/7 for June.



Monkfish in area 6

Due to potential swap being secured it was felt that this stock was in a better position and that the regime could be increased.

All agreed to recommend 7/3.5 for June.

Nephrops in area 7

The IS&WFPO advised that their members requested an increase of the regime to 35t. Following discussions Industry agreed that 35t was too high but agreed that the regime should be increased.

All agreed to recommend 25/12.5 for June.

Sole area 7FG

Due to the high projected landings in May, it was recommended that the regime needed to be reduced.

All agreed to recommend 0.05/0.05 for June.

Spurdog

The Department requested an update regarding Industry discussion with BIM in relation to exploring market opportunities. The IS&WFPO advised that no meeting has been held yet but hope to have it before the next QMAC meeting. Industry expressed concerns in relation to the size of fish allowed to catch due to landing obligations, and the need for consistent supply to establish a market. The Department will request an update from BIM on work being carried out. It was recommended the regime could be increased for June.

All agreed to recommend 8/8 for June.

Hook and Line Mackerel

The NIFF requested the catch limit to be increased from 6t to 7t for June. Following discussions, it was recommended that the Department notify the Industry when the uptake figure reaches 230t, with the fishery to be closed when the uptake reaches 275t.

All agreed to recommend 7t for June.

Under 18 Mackerel

All agreed to recommend 3t for June.



5. Pelagic Issues

The Department asked Industry to remind their members of application closing dates for booking in vessels. The Department send out an initial email, a reminder email and a final reminder email for booking-in. The Department will try to facilitate late applications, but this may not always be possible.

Albacore Tuna

The Department advised that the submission on the management arrangements and opening date has been sent to the Minister for approval.

North-West Herring

The Department advised that they are currently examining submissions received from the Public Consultation and are preparing a submission for the Minister. The Department informed the QMAC that although the fishery is currently closed, the SFPA have advised that there have been unauthorised landings of 192t to date.

Blue Whiting

The Department asked if all vessels had finished fishing for Blue Whiting for 2023, in order to allow for quota balancing as previously requested. The Industry advised they were not in a position to give a definite answer. The Department advised it will revisit the situation at the June QMAC and if vessels have finished fishing, a recommendation will be made to close the fishery by Fishery Management Notice in July.

Boarfish

The industry asked for a breakdown of the 2023 landings to date (72%) between the authorised vessels and as a by-catch by other vessels. The Department will provide a breakdown and an overall update on the remaining quota taking consideration of recent swaps for the stock and the expected carry over of quota from 2022 in advance of the July meeting.

6. Quota Balancing

Demersal Quota Balancing

The Department advised that Final Quota Balancing Statements will issue next week for the March Fisheries.

Pelagic Quota Balancing



Final quota balancing statements have issued for the North-West Herring Fishery on the 28th of April.
Final quota balancing statements have issued for the Celtic Sea Herring fishery on the 15th of May.

Provisional quota balancing statements for the Celtic Sea Herring Sentinel Fishery will issue in due course.

7. Porcupine Nephrops – Scientific Survey Proposal

The Department acknowledged the proposal submitted by the Industry in relation to carrying out the scientific survey in the Porcupine Nephrops (FU16) and the tight deadlines associated with it. The Department outlined the process that is needed to be carried out before the survey can proceed and were currently working with the Marine Institute on this. There was a discussion on management arrangements, which included the criteria for selecting the type of vessel required to carry out the survey, quota allocations, lottery and the requirement to seek legal advice in relation to authorisations.

The Industry requested to have the scientific survey advertised, lottery held and authorisations issued by the 5th June 2023. The Department advised that the dates are tight but will try to facilitate, they will circulate a draft of the management arrangements for this fishery, subject to the approval of the Minister, for Industry views on Monday the 22nd May.

AOB

Norwegian Cod

The IS&WFPO enquired about the type of gear required to fish Arctic Cod in Norwegian waters. The SFPA advised they will look into the gear types and revert. The IS&WFPO also enquired about the possibility of banking or carrying over unused Arctic Cod quota to the following year. The Department advised that quota cannot be carried over and the KFO stated that other Member States would be slow to carry out a banking swap when it is uncertain if there will be an EU/Norway agreement in the following year.

The IS&WFPO sought clarity around the possibility of a vessel applying for the fishery but was unable to prosecute the fishery, is that vessel precluded for the following two year. The Department stated that if a vessel is authorised and withdraws from the fishery, then it is excluded for the next two years but if a vessel books into the fishery and the fishery does not open due to not obtaining the by-catch swaps then the vessel can book in again next year.

The next Quota Management Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday 22nd June 2023 at 10am.

Sea Fisheries Policy & Management Division