



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

# Report on Quota Balancing of 2022 Fisheries Demersal & Pelagic Stocks





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## Introduction

The Quota Balancing Policies for Demersal and Pelagic Stocks was developed by the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine as requested by and with the assistance of the Quota Management Advisory Committee (QMAC).

Quota Balancing is for conservation purposes and to ensure coherence between the landing obligation and Ireland's quota management. The landing obligation (as provided for under Regulation (EU) No.1380/2013, Article 15) is about conservation and measures to align its principles with Ireland's quota management system should follow this premise.

The quota balancing policies for pelagic and demersal stocks set out that where a vessel exceeds its catch limit, the excess catch retained on board and landed will be subject to quota balancing. Quota balancing means that a balancing adjustment (i.e. a deduction) will be made from the catch limit of a future fishing opportunity. The quota balancing system for obligated pelagic species incorporates the application of a multiplying factor similar to that applied to Member States in Article 105 of Regulation (EC) 1224/2009 as amended. This means that the greater the extent of overfishing relative to permitted catch, the greater the balancing adjustment that will be made.

**Quota balancing by the Department is independent of any action being considered or taken by the control authorities. The Sea Fisheries Protection Authority's (SFPA) role is limited to furnishing the Department with details of approved pairing arrangements, where relevant, and quality assured landing data so that the Department can implement quota balancing.**



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## Quota Balancing of Demersal Stocks for 2022

The Pilot Quota Balancing Policy for Demersal (Whitefish) Stocks (with technical amendment of August 2019) was implemented on 1st June 2020. Initially, 5 stocks were subject to Demersal Quota Balancing. Since 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022, 4 additional stocks have been included. In summary, there are currently 9 demersal (whitefish) stocks subject to Demersal Quota Balancing:

- Haddock in 6a (HAD/5BC6A.)
- Haddock in 6b (HAD/6B1214)
- Hake in 6 & 7 (HKE/571214)
- Megrin in 6 (LEZ/56-14)
- Megrin in 7 (LEZ/07.)
- Monkfish in 6 (ANF/56-14)
- Monkfish in 7 (ANF/07.)
- Pollack in 7 (POL/07.)
- Whiting in 7b-k (WHG/7X7A-C)

In 2022, 186 demersal quota balancing statements and 130 demersal authorisations issued to relevant licence holders.

In the 12 month period, (January to December 2022), a total of 110 tonnes of demersal stocks, with an estimated overall value of €319,090, were recouped.



## 2022 Summary of Demersal Quota Balancing

Total quantities ( <i>in tonnes</i> ) of relevant demersal stocks quota balanced, per month, in 2022										
Fishery Management Period	No. of Vessels (issued with PROV and FINAL QB Statements)	ANF/56-14	ANF/07.	HAD/5BC6A.	HAD/6B1214	HKE/571214	LEZ/56-14	LEZ/07.	POL/07.	WHG/7X7A-C
January	16	0.218	3.114			4.301			2.311	
February	5	0.059	5.378	0.351					0.229	
March	13	0.732	2.165			2.829	0.152			
April	8	0.412	1.294			0.065				
May	14		12.131	0.993	0.023	0.749				
June	6		0.387	0.111						
July	11		3.172		0.794	4.389				
August	4		0.128	9.173	0.331					
September	7		0.502	3.578	2.593					
October	4	0.096	0.039	0.792	0.755					
November	0									
December	5	1.22	0.784	2.225						
Total		2.737	29.094	17.223	4.496	12.333	0.152	0.000	2.540	0.000



**Total quantities (*in tonnes*) of balancing adjustments recouped, per month, in 2022**

<b>Fishery Management Period</b>	<b>No. of Vessels (issued with Demersal Authorisations)</b>	<b>ANF/56-14</b>	<b>ANF/07.</b>	<b>HAD/5BC6A.</b>	<b>HAD/6B1214</b>	<b>HKE/571214</b>	<b>LEZ/56-14</b>	<b>LEZ/07.</b>	<b>POL/07.</b>	<b>WHG/7X7A-C</b>
January	25	0.458	11.576	0.707		1.320				5.318
February	16	0.198	16.303	0.398		1.438				
March	7		2.239			0.516				
April	14	0.218	3.306			1.981			1.187	
May	8	0.059	5.378	0.351		2.320			1.353	
June	12	0.703	2.165			2.829				
July	9	0.441	1.294			0.065	0.152			
August	10		2.431	0.993	0.023					
September	10		1.728	0.111		0.749				15.519
October	8		2.110		0.022	4.389				
November	5		1.125	9.173	1.103					
December	6		0.567	3.150	2.534					
<i>Total</i>		2.077	50.222	14.883	3.682	15.607	0.152	0.000	2.540	20.837



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## Quota Balancing of Pelagic Stocks for 2022

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine implemented a pilot quota balancing scheme for pelagic stocks, commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018. In the period since 2018, amendments and clarifications were introduced by the Minister to address specific issues that arose.

All such amendments and clarifications were combined in July 2020 to establish a settled policy for the quota balancing of pelagic stocks, including pelagic stocks fished without an authorisation and landed in excess of by-catch allowance, which were also subject to quota balancing for the calendar year 2020.

### Quota Balancing of 2022 Authorised Pelagic Fisheries

Final Quota Balancing Statements have issued for following 2022 authorised fisheries:

- 2022 Mackerel RSW Pelagic Segment Fishery & 2022 Mackerel Polyvalent Tier 1 & Tier 2 Fishery,
- 2022 Horse Mackerel 29 Fishery, 2022 Horse Mackerel Polyvalent Spring & Autumn Fisheries,
- 2022 Blue Whiting RSW Pelagic Segment & Polyvalent Segment Fisheries
- 2022 Irish Sea Herring Fishery
- 2022 Atlanto Scandian Herring Fishery
- 2022 Albacore Tuna Fishery
- 2022 North West Herring Scientific Spring Fishery
- 2022 North West Herring Scientific Autumn Fishery
- 2022 Celtic Sea Herring Main Fishery
- 2022 Celtic Sea Herring Sentinel Fishery Periods 1 & 2

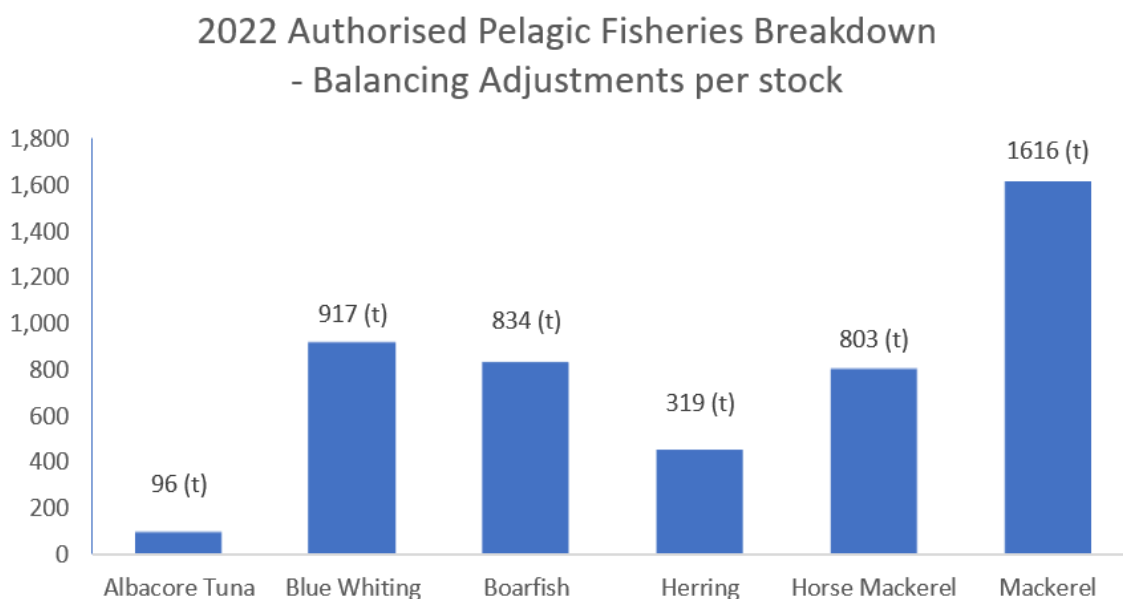
In relation to the 2022 Albacore Tuna Fishery, Quota Balancing statements issued only to vessels where quality approved trip data received from the SFPA indicated that a balancing adjustment was necessary.

442 quota balancing statements have issued to vessels who have been authorised to fish in 2022 pelagic fisheries with over 5,800 tonnes of quota balanced. An estimated value of over €3.5m has been recouped.



Table 1 gives a breakdown of the balancing adjustments per stock quota balanced for 2022 authorised fisheries.

**Table 1:**



## **Quota Balancing of Vessels that Landed Pelagic Stocks Without a Valid Authorisation/Notification for the Calendar Year 2022**

Where a vessel fishes a pelagic stock without an authorisation, the catch landed in excess of by-catch allowance will be subject to quota balancing. The greater the instance per stock that a vessel lands a pelagic fish stock without a valid authorisation/notification, the greater the balancing adjustment that will be made (a multiplying factor will apply).

Where a vessel has landings of a stock(s) under a monitoring quota for which it does not hold a valid authorisation, a higher multiplier will apply to each instance.





**18 vessels were issued with Final Quota Balancing Statements for landing Pelagic Stocks without a valid Authorisation/Notification for the calendar year 2022 with a total balancing adjustment of over 1,100 tonnes.**

Table 2 gives a breakdown of the pelagic stocks for which quota balancing was applied.

**Table 2:**

Quota Balancing of vessels that landed  
Pelagic Stock without a valid  
Authorisation/Notification for the calendar  
year 2022 - Balancing Adjustment.

