



## Quota Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2023 at 10:00am
Location	National Seafood Centre, Clonakilty
Chair	Official from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
Members in National Seafood Centre, Clonakilty	DAFM: 1 attendee  Irish South & West Fish Producer Organisation (ISWFPO): 1 member & 1 Observer
Members via videoconference	DAFM: 4 attendees  Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA): 1 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 Irish South & West Fish Producer Organisation (ISWFPO): 1 Observer National Inshore Fisherman's Association (NIFA): 1 member Irish Fish Processors & Exporters Association (IFPEA): 1 member Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation (IIMRO): 1 member

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

The Conflict-of-Interest (COI) statement was read at the start of the meeting. The Chairperson advised that a submission had been sent to the Minister and letters will issue in due course to relevant member.

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

The draft minutes from the May QMAC meeting were circulated to the QMAC members prior to today's meeting. The Department advised they received no observation from any QMAC members regarding the minutes prior to the meeting. The minutes were taken as read and will be published on the Department website when publishing the July Fishery Management Notices.



### 3. Swaps

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

#### Swap 1

ESP to IRL:  
3t HKE/571214

IRL to ESP:  
15t BOR/567-

#### Swap 2

UK to IRL:  
100t ANF/07.

IRL to UK:  
220t WHG/7X7A-C

### List of swaps for discussion

#### Swap 1

The following swap was proposed by the ISEFPO.

BEL to IRL:  
40t ANF/56-14  
60t HKE/571214  
50t ANF/07.  
10t SOL/7FG.

IRL to BEL:  
275,000kw days BSA Demersal  
40t PLE/7FG.  
10t SOL/07A

It was agreed that this was a good ratio for Ireland and industry thanked the ISEFPO. All supported this swap. The Department will pursue this swap with Belgium.

#### Swap 2

The following swap was proposed by the ISWFPO.

UK to IRL:  
100t HAD/7X7A34  
200t HKE/571214

IRL to UK:  
300t MAC/2CX14-  
300t MAC/\*4A-UK

The Department has advised the industry that the remaining 2% Mackerel quota available for swaps is 127t. This swap was not supported in its current form. The ISWFPO will try renegotiate the swap for just the use of the Mackerel area and reduce the haddock and hake by 50%.



### **Swap 3**

The following swap was proposed by the IFPO.

#### UK to IRL:

1t SOL/7FG.  
6t ANF56-14  
50t HAD/7X7A34  
40t NEP/5BC6  
25t ANF/07.  
5t POK North Sea  
20t HKE/571214

#### IRL to UK:

5t SOL/7HJK.  
100t MAC/2CX14-  
30t WHG/7X7A-C

The Department sought clarification on the stock code for the North Sea Saithe. The IFPO advised that they will contact the UK PO involved and revert back to the Department. This swap will be discussed at the July QMAC.

### **Swap 4**

The following swap was proposed by the KFO.

#### FRA to IRL:

130t HAD/7X7A34  
20t ANF/56-14  
50t HKE/571214  
35t ANF/07

#### IRL to FRA:

100t SRX/67AKXD  
150t WHG/7X7A-C  
50t MAC/2CX14-

The ISWFPO advised they had not showed this swap to their directors yet and would inform the Department if they supported the swap by the end of the day. The remaining industry representatives supported the swap.

### **Swap 5**

The following swap was proposed by the ISEFPO.

#### UK to IRL:

40t ANF/07.

#### IRL to UK:

100t LIN/\*04C. (Use of area)

This swap was supported by all. The Department will add it to the list of swaps going to the Commission for the next round of swaps with the UK.

### **Swap 6**

#### UK to IRL

115t HKE/571214  
20t HAD/07A  
130t HAD/7X7A34  
20t LEZ/07  
25t ANF/07  
50t NEP/07

#### IRL to UK

350t MAC/2CX14  
40t WHG/7X7A-C  
4t COD/7XAD34



### **Swap 7**

#### **UK to IRL**

50t HKE /571214  
20t HAD/07A  
50t HAD/7X7A34  
20t LEZ/07  
15t ANF/07  
50t NEP/07

#### **IRL to UK**

150t MAC/2CX14  
75t WHG/7X7A-C  
4t COD/7XAD34

The Department received both swap 6 and 7 from a UK PO. The ISWFPO advised that they had discussed the swap with the UK PO but had not discussed quantities. It was recommended that the ISWFPO should contact the UK PO and discuss one combined swap for the priority stocks that Ireland needs (with a reduced offer of Mackerel and an increased offer of Whiting)

### **Other swaps for discussion**

#### **Norwegian Cod**

The Department advised the closing date for booking into the Norwegian Cod fishery was Thursday 25th May, and the Department did not receive any applications. It was agreed that the available quota COD/1N21B 256.399t should be used to secure priority swaps.

#### **Saithe area 1N2AB.**

The Department sought an update from industry if they have any possible swap of saithe. The KFO advised there was no update but that they will start to pursue a swap.

#### **Netherlands swap**

At the May QMAC meeting the KFO outlined a possible swap of 375,000Kw days demersal effort for 92.5t of Monk in area 6 with the Netherlands. The KFO hope to have a final proposal before this QMAC meeting, but the Department has not received this proposal. The KFO will contact the Dutch PO and will contact the Department with any updates.

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

#### **Cod in Area 6b By-catch fishery**

Cod in Area 6b is a bycatch fishery, and no direct fishing is allowed for this stock. A quota of 13.9 tonnes has been allocated in 2023 to facilitate the fishing for other fish stocks in Area 6b which may inadvertently land cod as by-catch.

At the QMAC meeting on 21st March 2023, it was highlighted that there was a high uptake in March, and therefore 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.



At the QMAC meeting on the 21st of April 2023, it was again highlighted that there was a high uptake in April, and therefore it was recommended that the regime needed to be reduced further to avoid it becoming a choke species. All agreed to recommend 0.25/0.125 for May.

At the QMAC meeting on the 18th of May 2023, it was highlighted that landings of Cod in Area VIb had reached 76.85 % with 3 tonnes remaining and the QMAC recommended that a catch limit of 0.1 tonnes for over 55ft and 0.05 tonnes for less than 55ft vessels to further avoid it becoming a choke species.

The SFPA advised the QMAC at the June QMAC meeting of an uptake of 143% (including expected carryover) of Cod in Area VIb by several vessels with the majority being landed by one vessel in the June fishery period. This has resulted in the quota for this stock being exceeded by 6 tonnes for 2023.

Following discussions in the QMAC meeting it is recommended that a catch limit of 0.05 tonnes (the legal logbook limit) for both over and under 55 ft vessels for Cod in Area 6b be set for July. This recommendation was made on the basis that if a zero-catch limit was set, it would then have an impact on other fish stocks in Area VIb which include Haddock, Megrim and Monk being effectively closed for the period concerned.

There was a discussion on getting a swap in to cover the excess. The Department advised that France have small quantities of Cod in Area 6b unfished according to FIDES data and the UK also have quota for Cod in Area VIb, but the amount unfished is unclear. It was also recommended that both the Department and Industry would pursue an urgent swap with both the UK and France to cover the overshoot.

Following on from the June QMAC meeting, the Department emailed QMAC members to advise that it was recommending to the Minister that a moving-on/exclusionary provision be inserted into the proposed Fisheries Management Notices for July where the allowable bycatch of Cod in 6b is caught by a vessel in the month of July then that vessel may not fish in Area 6b for the remainder of the fishing period.

The Department requested that all QMAC Members would relay the importance of this text to their members and highlight that there may be the possibility of a choke situation which will impact on fish stocks in area VIb going forward if a solution is not found for this issue.

The recommendation for July is 0.05/0.05.

\* Following the QMAC meeting, the KFO contacted the Department to say that it had secured a swap of 6 tonnes of Cod Area 6b with their French counterparts which would cover the exceeded amounts in this fishery (this means the fishery uptake figure is at 100%)

#### Haddock in area 6B

There was a discussion between industry on the regime for July. Due to the uncertainty over the Cod in 6b fishery it was recommended to reduce the regime for Haddock in 6b for July.

All agreed to support 8/4 for July.



### Nephrops in area 7

The ISWFPO advised that their members requested a slight increase for July. Following discussions Industry agreed to recommend an increase to 26t.

All agreed to recommend 26/13 for July.

### Hake

There was a discussion between industry on the regime for July. There was a discussion on the number of vessels were going to take up decommissioning and when they were required to hand back their fishing licence. Industry representatives provisionally recommended a regime of 16/8 for July. The Department advised they would try to get answers to the questions raised and contact industry following the meeting. It was agreed to set a provisional regime for July until more information is available on the decommissioning.

Following the June QMAC meeting the Department wrote to the QMAC advising that BIM have indicated that 24 vessels have been deregistered as of this date and provided information outlined by BIM on the deadlines for surrender of licences as requested. On the basis of this information provided the Department requested views on whether QMAC members wished to revise their recommendations on Hake for July.

All agreed to recommend 16/8 for July.

### Sole area 7FG

There was a discussion on if this regime could be increased due to a swap in of 10t but it was recommended to leave it for another month.

All agreed to recommend 0.05/0.05 for July.

### Spur Dog

The ISWFPO advised it is in contact with BIM relation to setting up a meeting regarding the marketing of Spurdog. Industry expressed concerns in relation to the size of fish allowed to catch due to landing obligations and the need to establish a market. The Department advised that BIM have stated that will provide an update to the Department before the next QMAC. It was recommended the regime could be increased for July.

All agreed to recommend 15/15 for July.

### Hook and Line Mackerel

There was a request that the catch limit be increased from 7t to 10t for July. Following discussions, it was recommended that the Department notify Industry when the uptake figure reaches 320t, with the fishery to be closed when the uptake reaches 350t.

All agreed to recommend 10t for July.



### Under 18 Mackerel

All agreed to recommend 3t for July.

### Pelagic issues

#### Albacore Tuna

The Department advised that the Tuna authorisations have been sent to the SFPA and vessels now can get their vessels inspected by the SFPA prior to the fishery commencing.

The fishery is due to open at 00:01 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June. There was a discussion if vessels could leave the port prior to the start time of the fishery. the SFPA advised they will look into the matter.

The Department advised that the 34 vessels that requested to fish in UK waters has been sent to the Commission and the vessels owns have been contacted and the list has been published on the UK website.

#### Irish Sea Herring

The Department thanked the industry who have sent in their views and asked any member who hasn't yet sent in their views to provide them to the Department by COB on Wednesday 28th July.

Industry representatives recommended that 10% of the 2023 quota be used for contingency.

#### North-West Herring

The KFO inquired if a decision had been made regarding this fishery. The Department advised that it is currently preparing a submission for a decision by the Minister and hopes to have a decision by the next QMAC.

#### Blue whiting

The Department advised that all member states had now transferred the agreed share of quota to Ireland following the EU/Norway agreement. The total amount received from the agreement was 4820t. The Department asked if all vessels had finished fishing Blue Whiting for 2023, in order to allow for quota balancing. The industry advised they were not in a position to give a definite answer. The Department requested that industry representatives check with their members, and it will revisit the situation at the July QMAC meeting for a definite answer.



## **Quota Balancing**

### **Demersal Quota Balancing**

The Department advised that Final Quota Balancing Statements have issued for the April Fisheries.

### **Pelagic Quota Balancing**

Final quota balancing statements have issued for the Celtic Sea Herring Fishery. All 2022 pelagic fisheries have now been quota balanced.

### **Recoupment of Quota Balancing Adjustments**

There was a discussion on the recoupment of quota balancing adjustments for landings of a pelagic stock without a valid authorisation/notification, in excess of by-catch allowance where that vessel.

With North West Herring (HER/6AS7BC) no longer under a monitoring quota for 2023 and Horse Mackerel TAC in 2023 TAC set exclusively for by-catch, the Department sought the views of the QMAC on the order of deduction in recouping the balancing adjustment from another pelagic stock of a similar value.

Industry representatives agreed to recommend a revised order of deduction for recouping balancing adjustments where a vessel is unlikely to receive a catch limit of that particular stock within the calendar year or the following year.

1. Herring (either North-West Herring (HER/6AS7BC), Irish Sea Herring (HER/07A/MM) or Atlanto-Scandian Herring (HER/1/2-))
2. Blue Whiting (WHB/1X14)
3. Mackerel (MAC/2CX14)

## **AOB**

### **Norwegian Saithe (Saithe in area 1N2AB)**

At the May QMAC, the Department was requested to see what could be done about trying to get a bycatch amount of Norwegian Saithe each year going forward as without it, there is a risk that quota was Atlanto-Scandian Herring could effectively not be utilised. The Department provided an update stating that it could write to Commission but they will probably respond with advice to contact MS with relevant quota directly. The Department also asked industry if it is worth using political capital in trying to negotiate for quota with Germany & France who are the only MSs with Saithe in the area.

The KFO requested the Department send a letter to the Commission asking that if Ireland has exhausted all avenues with other Member States with quota, will it then be excluded from the Atlanto-Scandian fishery. The KFO said in the past other species had been used instead to pay for bycatch and that there are options there and that Ireland might seek a catch allowance similar to the choke species article (9.2) in the TAC and Quota regulation. The KFO stated that vessels authorised to fish in the 2023 Atlanto





Scandian Herring Fishery need to be authorised in Norwegian waters by September/October at the latest.

The Department advised that unless a swap for secured for Saithe in area 1N2AB to cover by-catches, the Department will not be able to issue authorisations to vessels to access Norwegian waters.

The Department will discuss the issue internally with a view to drafting a letter to the Commission.

**The next Quota Management meeting is scheduled for the 19<sup>th</sup> of July at 2pm.**

**Sea Fisheries Policy & Management Division**