



Quota Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Friday 18 th August 2023 at 11:00am
Location	National Seafood Centre, Clonakilty
Chair	Official from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
Members in National Seafood Centre, Clonakilty	DAFM: 3 attendees Irish South & West Fish Producer's Organisation (ISWFPO): 1 member
Members via videoconference	DAFM: 2 attendees Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA): 2 attendees <u>Industry Representatives:</u> Co-ops Umbrella Group: 1 member Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO): 1 member and 1 observer Irish Fish Producers Organisation (IFPO): 1 member National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF): 1 member Irish South & East Fish Producer Organisation (ISEFPO): 1 member Irish Fish Processors & Exporters Association (IFPEA): 1 member Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation (IIMRO): 1 member Irish South & West Fish Producer's Organisation (ISWFPO): 1 observer

1. **Conflict of Interest**

The Conflict-of-Interest (COI) statement was read at the start of the meeting.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The draft minutes from the July 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 at the meeting and the Department further advised that it would publish the meeting minutes on the Department website when publishing the September Fisheries Management Notices.

3. **Swaps**

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



Swap 1

UK to IRL:

40t ANF/07.

IRL to UK:

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

This swap was agreed prior to the last QMAC but the Commission only transferred the stocks on the 3rd of August.

Swap 2

UK to IRL:

70t HKE/571214

90t HAD/7X7A34

IRL to UK:

60t POK/56-14

7t POK/*2AC4C

130t LIN/6X14

130t LIN/*04-C

5t COD/7XAD34

5t COD/5BE6A

This swap has been supported by Industry and will be included in the list sent to the Commission on the 22nd of August. The quantities were not included in the August QMAC whitefish sheets.

List of swaps for discussion

Swap 1

UK to IRL:

75t HAD/7X7A34

28t HKE/571214

IRL to UK:

4t COD/7XAD34

10t MAC/2CX14-

72.5t WHG/7X7A-C

During discussions, it was queried if the Cod could be reduced, however the IS&WFPO confirmed that it had been reduced already and was the final offer from the UK PO. This swap was supported by all and will be included in the list being sent to the Commission on the 22nd of August.

Swap 2

FRA to IRL:

70t HAD/7X7A34

22t HKE/571214

IRL to FRA:

4t PLE/7HJK

2t SOL/7HJK

3t JAX/4BC7D

2t RJE/7FG

70t WHG/7X7A-C

All supported this swap. The Department will agree this swap with France following the meeting.



Other swaps items for discussion

Norwegian Saithe (POK/1N2AB)

The Department outlined that Ireland currently has 7t of Norwegian Saithe available to cover by-catches of the Atlanto-Scandian Herring Fishery. The Department made a request to industry representatives to try pursue a further swap of Norwegian Saithe as the 7t available may not be sufficient. The KFO advised to wait to see how things pan out and that there is a possibility of a further 10t available from France later in the year.

Norwegian Cod (COD/1N2AB)

The KFO outlined a swap proposal that they are discussing with a French PO. The French PO is willing to swap Haddock and Hake for 200t of Norwegian cod and some Mackerel. The KFO hope to have a proposal in the coming weeks.

Whitefish - Discussion on particular regimes

Cod in Area 6b

Due to the uptake being 86% it was felt that the current regime of 0.05/0.05 should remain for September in order to avoid a choke situation.

All agreed to recommend 0.05/0.05 for September.

Haddock area 6b (Rockall)

The Department advised that the remaining quota for the stock is 48t (almost 90% uptake) which is including the contingency. There are projected landings for August of 63.1 tonnes. Following discussions, industry representatives recommended keeping the regime the same for September and with a view to reducing the regime in October. Industry advised that a swap would be possible later in the year if required but questioned what we might pay for this.

All agreed to recommend 8/4 for September.

Haddock area 7b-k

Although the stock is at just over 73% uptake, there are two potential swaps in the mix for this stock so it was agreed to recommend a rollover of the regime from August for September.

All agreed to recommend 12/8/4 for September.

Hake

Although this stock is almost at 80% uptake, due to the increased quota available from swaps completed and the possibility of further swaps, plus the contingency, it was recommended to increase the regime.

All agreed to recommend 20/10 for September.



Monk area 6

All agreed to recommend an increase for September to 12/6.

Monk area 7

All agreed to a slight increase for September to 10/5.

Nephrops in area 7

There was a discussion on the total amount of quota left for area 7 when the FU16 quota was taken out. It was agreed that there was approximately 700t remaining for the main fishery (including the contingency) and that the remaining quota could support the current regime for another month.

All agreed to recommend 20/10 for September.

Nephrops in area FU16

There was a discussion around the reopening of this fishery, but it was recommended the fishery remain closed in September and possibly reopen in October with a view to increasing the regimes at that time.

All agreed to recommend closing the fishery for September.

Pollack in area 7

All agreed to recommend an increase for September to 20/20.

Skates and Rays

All agreed to recommend an increase for September to 28/14.

Silver Smelt

The KFO queried if the quota could be used for swaps if it wasn't being used and advised that October/November would be a good time to secure the swaps. The IS&WFPO stated they would confirm with their members of their intentions to fish.

Spurdog

The IS&WFPO advised that no meeting has been held yet with BIM to date. Industry expressed concerns in relation to the size of fish allowed due to landing obligations and the need to establish a market. There were concerns that there will be unused quota at the end of the year. The NIFF enquired if this stock could be used for swaps but was felt that no other member states would be interested in this stock. It was recommended the regime could be increased for September.

All agreed to recommend 30/30 for September.



Hook and Line Mackerel

Following discussions, it was recommended that the regime remain the same for September. It was recommended that the Department notify the industry when the uptake figure reaches 340t, with the fishery to be closed when the uptake reaches 370t.

All agreed to recommend 10t for September.

Under 18 Mackerel

All agreed to recommend an increased regime of 5t for September.

Pelagic issues

Albacore Tuna

The Department advised that the SFPA have informed that there are 22 vessels currently fishing for albacore tuna around the Bay of Biscay. The SFPA provided the uptake figure of 2,377t as of that date, including operations, which is 74% of the total quota. Vessels will have to report twice daily from today as the fishery has reached the 70% trigger. The Department advised that landing figures will continue to be monitored closely, with the fishery to be closed by Fisheries Management Notice when the SFPA report that 90% (2,886t) has been landed or retained on board.

Industry advised that catch figures had increased more in recent days due to weather conditions, causing the fish to shoal together better, and an increase in prices for Albacore Tuna. There was a discussion on the length of time which should be allowed for vessels to return to port once the fishery is closed. The Department advised that in accordance with Policy, fishing will stop 24 hours after the Minister has signed the Fishery Management Notice to close the fishery. Industry requested that vessels be given a further 48 hours after this period for vessels to return to port. The reason for this is that vessels would have time to return to their home port/Irish port, with their last landing, which is important for the local economy. Following the meeting the SFPA confirmed their support of the 48 hours return to port time.

Industry also enquired if the SFPA will contact the vessels currently fishing, to advise of requirement to hail twice a day. The SFPA will enquire with the operations team and will revert to the committee. The Department, following the meeting issued an email to all vessels authorised in the trawl fishery advising them that the frequency to report catch on board had now increased to twice daily.

There was also a query from industry representatives about the condition set out in the Tuna authorisations, stating that the vessel must commit to one month's fishing for Albacore Tuna and cannot participate in other fisheries during that month. They asked for clarification as to whether this was a calendar month. The Department clarified that it doesn't state in the management arrangements or the authorisation that it has to be a calendar month - just a one month period. This issue will need to be clarified when the management arrangements for the 2024 Albacore Tuna fishery are being set down.



Atlanto-Scandian Herring

The Department informed the committee that revised authorisations have issued to vessels owners on the 24th of July to allow fishing in Norwegian waters. To date there has been no uptake from any member state of Atlanto-Scandian herring according to FIDES. The Department requested industry representatives to try pursue a swap for Norwegian Saithe to cover any by-catches in this fishery. Ireland currently has 7t available.

Celtic Sea Herring Main Fishery

The Department advised the draw for the 2023 fishery was held on the 8th of August. The successful vessels (two pairs) have confirmed their participation in the fishery. The Department has issued the authorisations to the vessel owners and the fishery will open on the 20th of August.

Irish Sea Herring

The Department advised that the closing date for booking into the draw was the 17th of August. There have been 25 vessels booked in for the draw. The draw will be held in the Clonakilty offices on Friday the 25th of August. The Department will send a Webex invite to Industry members to view the draw in advance of the draw.

Flexibility carry-over

The Department advised that in accordance with the regulation published on 19th July, the flexibility carry-over had been transferred to Ireland. Included in this is 2,182t of Mackerel. The additional quota will be divided based on the current policy. The Department advised that there was an additional 43t of Mackerel now available for demersal swaps.

North-West Herring

The Department advised, as industry would have been aware, that the Minister announced his decision on the limited review of the 2012 Herring Management Policy in relation to the 6A South herring quota for the non-ringfenced inshore vessels. The Department asked industry representatives to now come together as early as possible to establish the North-West Herring Advisory Committee (NWHAC), in preparation of the Autumn fishery, as requested by the Minister.

Information provided by the Department stated that the TAC for 2023 was 1,720 tonnes and that the SFPAs had advised that 254 tonnes had already been landed to date, and that there was also a deduction of 30 tonnes for overfishing in 2022.

Industry expressed their disappointment at not receiving the Minister's decision by email prior to the press release. The Department said that it would look to send future such correspondence via email also.



Some industry representatives voiced their concerns that the vessels under 15 metres in the ringfenced group (with track record), will end up receiving a smaller catch limit than those in the non-ringfenced group, following the amendment to the 2012 Policy - however the NIFF representative said he didn't think this would be an issue. The KFO said it would write to the Minister on the matter. The Department advised that the new Advisory Committee could address any such issues when making their recommendations on management arrangements, which would also include contingency and opening/closing dates. The NIFF representative requested further guidance prior to the first meeting of the NWHAC. The Chair stated that the terms of reference would ordinarily be put in place by the group and should look at other committees as examples, such as the Celtic Sea Herring Management Advisory Committee. Following discussions, the Department advised they will consider and revert to industry.

Quota Balancing

Demersal Quota Balancing

The Department advised that Final Quota Balancing Statements have issued for the June Fishery.

AOB

Pollack in area VI and VII

Following up on a query from the NIFF at the July QMAC meeting in relation to the ICES advice for a zero catch for 2024 for Pollack in area VI and VII, the Department advised after discussing the issue with colleagues in EU and International section, the possibility of a carryover from 2023 to 2024 would not be finalised until the December Council meeting. However, the Department advised that carryover is unlikely to be an option if the stock is a bycatch only stock, which is likely.

Industry stated that the data available was poor and this stock was critical to inshore fisheries. They requested that the Minister secures the carryover of this stock and that this matter should be pursued by Ireland and raised sooner at EU/UK bilateral negotiations as it would be too late at the December Council meeting. The Department advised they will raise the issue internally.

The next Quota Management meeting is scheduled for the Monday 18th September at 11am.

Sea Fisheries Policy & Management Division