



Quota Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Monday 18 th September 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: 6 attendees
Members via videoconference	<p>DAFM: 1 attendees</p> <p>Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA): 2 attendees</p> <p><u>Industry Representatives:</u></p> <p>Co-ops Umbrella Group: 1 member</p> <p>Irish South & West Fish Producer's Organisation (ISWFPO): 1 member</p> <p>Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO): 1 member</p> <p>Irish Fish Producers Organisation (IFPO): 1 member</p> <p>National Inshore Fisherman's Association (NIFA): 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 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.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The draft minutes from the August 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 the Department further advised that it would publish the meeting minutes on the Department website when it is publishing the October 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:

75t HAD/7X7A34

28t HKE/571214

IRL to UK:

4t COD/7XAD34

10t MAC/2CX14-

72.5t WHG/7X7A-C

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

Swaps for discussion

The Department advised that the next Commission deadline for swaps with the UK was the 19th of September, so both the IS&EFPO and IS&WFPO will make contact with the UK POs involved in Swaps 1-3 and revert back to the Department before the deadline in order to have the swaps included in the list going to the Commission.

Swap 1

UK to IRL:

200t NEP/07.

100t NEP/*07U16

IRL to UK:

50t POK/56-14

20t COD/5BE6A

100t MAC/2CX14-

100t LIN/6X14 (2024)

100t LIN/*04-C (2024)

Industry felt that if the 50t of Saithe was swapped out in this swap then swaps 2 and 3 would not be possible. It was recommended that the amount of Saithe would be reduced to 30t. Based on the today's whitefish sheets Ireland has only 27t of Cod in 6a remaining. It was supported that the quantities be reduced to 2t. Due to the ratios changing it was agreed that Ireland would support 150t of Nephrops in FU 16 in return. The IS&WFPO will contact the UK PO following the meeting with the amended proposal.

UK to IRL:

200t NEP/07.

100t NEP/*07U16

IRL to UK:

30t POK/56-14

5t COD/5BE6A

100t MAC/2CX14-

120t LIN/6X14 (2024)

120t LIN/*04-C (2024)

Swap 2

UK to IRL:

30t HAD/6B1214

150t HAD/5BC6A

10t HAD/7X7A34

20t ANF/07.

IRL to UK:

50t POK/56-14

30t ANF/56-14

3t SOL/7HJK.

100t LIN/*04-C (use of area only)

This swap was proposed by the IS&EFPO.



Swap 3

UK to IRL:

40t HAD/6B1214
160t HAD/5BC6A
20t HAD/7X7A34
20t ANF/07.

IRL to UK:

50t POK/56-14
30t ANF/56-14
3t SOL/7HJK.
100t LIN/*04-C (use of area only)

This swap was proposed by the IS&WFPO.

The IS&EFPO advised that the UK PO that they were dealing with was willing to match the ratios offered by the IS&WFPO swap proposal. It was agreed to offer half the required stock amounts to both UK POs in order to facilitate both swaps 2 and 3. Industry felt that Ireland didn't need Monk in area 7 or Haddock in area 6b and that they could be removed from the swap. It was supported to amend both swap to the following:

UK to IRL:

80t HAD/5BC6A
20t HAD/7X7A34

IRL to UK:

15t POK/56-14
3t ANF/56-14
1.5t SOL/7HJK.
50t LIN/*04-C (use of area only)

Swap 4

FRA to IRL:

150t HAD/7X7A34
150t HKE/571214

IRL to FRA:

200t COD/1N2AB

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

Swap 5

BEL to IRL:

50t HKE/571214

IRL to BEL:

60t PLE/07A
10t WHG/7X7A-C
1t WHG/07A

The IS&EFPO representative stated they would contact Belgium to attempt to increase the amount of Hake if possible. All supported this swap. The Department will agree this swap with Belgium when the IS&EFPO confirms the swap.

Swap 6

NLD to IRL:

80t ANF/56-14
12.5t ANF/07.

IRL to NLD:

370,000 Kw days Demersal Area 7

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

Other Swaps Discussed



The KFO advised that a French PO had contacted them to try secure 5t of Sole in area 7HJK. The KFO advised that the French PO was involved in the COD/5W6-14 swap that avoided the stock being closed for Irish fishers. The French PO is willing to accept the swap in of the 5t of Sole now and Ireland decide at the end of the year what stock it would like in return. Industry felt that Ireland could facilitate this swap. All supported this swap and the KFO will advise the French PO.

Industry also discussed a potential swap for the remaining Albacore Tuna not fished by in the A fishery in 2023.

4. Whitefish - Discussion on particular regimes

Cod in Area VIb By-catch fishery

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

All agreed to recommend 0.05/0.05 for October.

Cod in Area 6A

Due to the uptake being at 85.29% it was felt that the current regime of 4/2 should be reduced. Industry representatives queried whether the projected landings were accurate as they were deemed higher than normal. The SFPFA confirmed that formula used to calculate the projected landings was correct, however industry felt that the landings would not be as high as projected. There were divergent views on the regime with the Co-op representative recommending reducing it to 2/1 and the IS&WFPO felt it needed to be further reduced to 1.50/0.75. Following discussions, a recommendation of 1.80/0.90 for October was agreed by all members with the exception of the co-op representative. Given that a consensus recommendation was not reached at the meeting, the IS&WFPO asked for their initial recommendation of 1.50/0.75 to stand.

Based on the above, the recommended regime for October is 1.80/0.90, which was supported by the majority of representatives at the meeting and is a middle ground between the co-op proposal and the IS&WFPO proposal.

Haddock area 6a

Due to the remaining quota being 142t, including contingency and projected landings of 117t for September, there was a discussion on whether the regime should stay the same or be reduced for October. Industry felt that the landings in September would not be as high as projected. It was recommended to keep the regime the same for October if swaps 2 and 3 (outlined in the swap note attached) were accepted by the UK POs, and reduce this to 12/6 if no swap was agreed. Following the meeting, the IS&EFPO and IS&WFPO confirmed that the swaps proposed had been accepted by the UK POs and Ireland will receive 160t of Haddock in area 6a.

On that basis, all agreed to recommend 16/8 for October.

Haddock area 7b-k

Based on the level of incoming swaps secured, all agreed to recommend an increased regime of 15/10/5 for October.



Haddock area 7a.

Due to the uptake of 79.86% and high projected landings for September, industry recommended a decrease from 21/14/7 to 15/10/5 for October

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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 the remaining quota of approximately 358t for the main fishery could support the current regime. Following the meeting a swap for an additional 200t was agreed with the UK PO.

All agreed to recommend 20/10 for October.

Hake

Due to the swap agreed with France for 150t, all agreed to recommend the regime stay at 20/10 for October.

Megrim area 7

Due to the uptake level of 39%, industry recommended to increase the regime from 24/12 to 30/15 for October.

Monk area 6

Although the projected landings for September was high, it was agreed the regime could stay the same for October as a swap with the Netherlands was agreed for 80t of Monk in area 6.

All agreed to recommend 12/6 for October.

Monk area 7

There was a request from industry to increase this regime. It was supported by all as the uptake was 77.08%.

All agreed to recommend 12/6 for October.

Nephrops in area FU16

It was recommended to open the fishery with a regime of 10/5 for October.

Spur Dog

There was a discussion on should this regime be increased for October, but it was felt with the low uptake that it should remain at the current regime.

All agreed to recommend 30/30 for October.



Pollack area 7

Industry recommended to decrease the regime from 20/20 to 15/15 in order to facilitate swaps as the uptake to date has been low.

All agreed to recommend 15/15 for October.

Skates and Rays

Due to the uptake level of 40.20% and a request from the IFPO, industry recommended to increase the regime from 28/14 to 30/15 for October.

Silver Smelt

The KFO asked the IS&WFPO representative if the vessel selected in the lottery intended to prosecute the fishery, as the window to swap the unused quota would close in November. The IS&WFPO representative said they would enquire with the vessel owner and revert. The KFO requested an end date to be included in the management arrangements for the stock in 2024.

Hook and Line Mackerel

Following discussions, it was recommended that the regime could be doubled for October. 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 20t for October.

Under 18 Mackerel

All agreed to recommend 5t for October.

5. Pelagic issues

Albacore Tuna

The Department advised that 3,025t of Albacore Tuna was landed by the category A fishery. There is 181t remaining with an uptake of 95%. The category B fishery is still open for the 8 vessels with 50t allocated for this fishery.

Celtic Sea Herring Scientific fishery

The Department advised that they are working with the Celtic Sea Herring Management Advisory Committee (CSHMAC) and the SFPA to finalise the management arrangements.

Irish Sea Herring

The Department advised that the fishery opened on Monday 18th September. The authorisations and notifications were sent to vessel owners on the 11th of September.



Carry over Mackerel

The Department advised that in accordance with the regulation published on 19th of July, the flexibility carry-over had been transferred to Ireland. Included in this was 2,182t of Mackerel. The Department stated that notifications with the revised catch limits have issued to vessel owners in the Tier 1, Tier 2 and RSW categories based on current policy.

Boarfish

Industry representatives advised that boarfish are currently in abundance and stated that vessels with allocations have caught their allowance. They queried when the carry over from 2022 may be available to fishers. The Department advised that they had emailed the Commission on Friday 15th September in relation to Article 15(9) of the CFP regarding the flexibility from 2022-2023 of which Boarfish is one of the stocks. The Department stated they will notify industry when the Commission confirms the transfer date. Industry felt that the management of this fishery needed to be discussed once the carry over amounts were transferred.

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North-West Herring Advisory Committee

The KFO gave an update on the progress made in respect of a new North West Herring Advisory Committee (NWHAC).

Fishing industry representatives had been invited by the Minister to establish the NWHAC to provide advice to the Minister on the management arrangements for the Herring 6A South fishery.

This committee held its first meeting on Thursday 14th of September and provided an update to the members of the QMAC. The elected Chairperson of this committee is Sean O'Donoghue, KFO, with the Secretariat to be decided.

While the recommendation on the management arrangements is still being discussed by the committee, they have requested that the autumn fishery commences on October 29th. The committee also asked the Department for clarification on the following:

Membership of the Committee:

The bracketed information is included for context but was not discussed at QMAC:

- Following a request for a review of the 2012 Herring Management Policy, the Minister issued a letter to fishing industry representatives informing them of his decision.
- It is clear from the letter to each representative that the Minister's intention was that the NWHAC "be comprised of one representative from each of the six Producer Organisations, one representative from the National Inshore Fisheries Forum, one representative from the Irish Fish Processors and Exporters Association and one representative from the Fish Co-Operative umbrella group." This would total nine Committee members.
- Eamon Dixon (Chair of NIFF), was written to by the Minister, through the National Inshore Fisheries Forum Secretariat, referencing the request the Minister received from him "as Chair of the National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF) and from the North Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum (NRIFF), for a review of the 2012 Herring Management Policy." His letter did not explicitly invite him to sit on the NWHAC (Mr Dixon also does not represent the NIFF on the QMAC).
- John Menarry, was written to by the Minister, under a National Inshore Fisheries Forum address in Donegal, referencing the request the Minister received from him "as Chair of the North Regional Inshore Fisheries Forum (NRIFF) and from the National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF), for a review of the 2012 Herring Management Policy." His letter explicitly invited him to sit on the NWHAC (Mr Menarry represents the NIFF on the QMAC). However, there appears to some ambiguity in the letter to John Menarry and this has been interpreted to be an invite for him as a



representative of the NRIFF to participate in the NWHAC, separately to NIFF, and has led to some confusion during the committee meeting).

- Sean O'Donoghue (chairperson), stated at the QMAC that there was some ambiguity on membership of the committee and they are not opposed to including a representative of the NRIFF; however, they have asked for clarification from the Minister and will write to the Minister in respect of same. (Following the meeting, the Department was in phone contact with the Chairperson in relation to management arrangements and he stated that he believed only one representative from each of the 9 organisations outlined in the Minister's letter should be included in the committee. However a letter was submitted to the Minister's Office on 19th September by the Chairperson clarifying that none of the organisations involved in NWHAC have any objections to both the NIFF and the NRIFF being included).

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Latitude of Committee

- The ringfenced group have previously been allocated a catch limit based on historic ratios. The committee have asked that while the TAC for the stock is low, does the committee have the latitude to recommend a lottery in the management arrangements under the current policy for the ringfenced group. The view to this being that a larger catch limit would make more of a viable fishery. The Department advised they will examine the query and revert.

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List of Vessels

- The committee also submitted a query prior to the QMAC meeting in relation to a list of vessels and ratios for each category of the ringfenced group. During the meeting the Department provided the breakdown of the ratios per category however, they advised that due to data protection guidelines the Department would not be able to provide a list of vessel names. They stated that following the meeting they would request an updated list of ringfenced vessels from the licencing authority and provide the number of vessels in each category.

6. Quota Balancing

Demersal Quota Balancing

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

Blue whiting

The Department advised that the Blue Whiting fishery closed by Fishery Management Notice on the 1st of August. The Department has begun the quota balancing process and provisional quota balancing statements will issue in the coming weeks.

7. AOB

The KFO representative asked for North West Herring to be added as an AOB - this was discussed instead under pelagic issues.



The KFO representative also advised the QMAC that Norah Parke was retiring on the 6th October and that this was her last QMAC meeting. Norah had planned to be at today's meeting but was caught up with other matters. The Department agreed with the KFO in acknowledging Norah's significant contribution to the QMAC and other advisory committees over the years. The Department thanked her and wished her all the best. Industry representatives reiterated those sentiments and wished Norah all the best in her retirement and thanked her for all her hard work. A letter of gratitude and best wishes is attached from the Minister to Norah Parke on the occasion of her retirement.

The next Quota Management meeting is scheduled for Friday 20th of October at 11am.

Sea Fisheries Policy & Management Division

18 September 2023