



2023 North West Herring Fishery 6aS, 7b and 7c Management Arrangements

Available Quota Herring 6A south and 7b 7c 1,730t
Overfishing 2022 - 30t
Contingency - 100t
Under 20m non ring-fenced fishery - 350t

Quota already landed (unauthorised fishing) 254t. For 2023, the deduction in respect of unauthorised fishing is to be shared -204t by the ringfenced fishery and - 50t by the Under 20m non ringfenced fishery (see tables 1 and 3 below).

Ringfenced Fishery Detailed Management and Lottery Arrangements

Ringfenced Fishery

“North West Herring ring-fenced group” means vessels that have fulfilled the criteria set out in Policy Directive 1 and 2 of 2012, as amended by Policy Directive 1 of 2017, concerning access to herring stocks in fishing area 6aS, 7b and 7c “

Catch limits will be in the ratios set out below. This is based on registered length in feet for polyvalent vessels:

Ratios	Number of Qualifying Vessels as advised by the Licencing Authority
RSW10	8
RSW7	9
RSW4.5	6
>65 (2.68)	23
50-64 (2.10)	1
<50 (1.75)	8

- Details of the available quota for the fishery are set out in Table 1 below.
- The Minister to allow a lottery to take place in accordance with Detailed Lottery arrangements for North West Herring set out hereunder with full details set out at Appendix 1 below.

5 draws to be held to select vessels in the respective categories

- One draw each for the RSW 10, RSW 7 and RSW 4.5 categories respectively.
 - Two draws for the >65ft category:
 - one draw for vessels ≥ 80 ft in registered length (*denoted the >80ft group*) and
 - one draw for vessels ≥ 65 ft in registered length and < 80 ft in registered length (*denoted the <80ft group*)
 - No draws will be carried out for the 50ft-64ft category or for the <50ft category, as all vessels in these two categories will each receive an opportunity.
- Proposed catch limits and number of opportunities in each category are set out in Table 2 below. In the categories where a lottery is necessary, the opportunities may have to be shared. Full details are set out in the detailed lottery arrangements at Appendix 1 below.
 - The 2023 fishery will open on **15 November** and close on **31 December** or before if the available quota has been landed or retained on board. The fishery will close on **01 December** for vessels authorised in the RSW10 and RSW 7 ratios categories and their partner vessels. Landing figures to be reviewed after **01 December**. Uncaught quota by vessels in the RSW10 and RSW 7 categories and their partner vessels will be re-distributed to the vessels authorised in the RSW4.50 and the 3 Polyvalent ratio categories according to the ratios for their category of vessel.
 - By completing, signing, and dating a north west herring lottery declaration form, the licence holder confirms their willingness to have the vessel entered in an open draw to receive an authorisation for the fishery.
 - Vessels must indicate in advance their pairing arrangements. The Department will provide separate authorisations to each vessel in the pairing arrangement. It is then the responsibility of the vessel owner, as a condition of the authorisation, to seek the written approval of the SFPA to engage in pair fishing as set out in the authorisation. Pairing arrangements must remain unchanged for the duration of the fishery save for exceptional circumstances. All pairing arrangements will require the approval of the SFPA prior to engaging in pair fishing. Any changes to pairing arrangements will require advance notification and approval by the SFPA.
 - Each vessel partaking in the fishery will be required by authorisation to individually actively engage in fishing operations for North West Herring by towing of a pelagic trawl whilst targeting North West Herring.
 - Vessels that are drawn by lottery and authorised in the 2023 fishery are precluded from the 2024 lottery for opportunities for the fishery (should it take place) and future years until all ringfenced vessels have had an opportunity.
 - All landings of herring must be weighed upon landing prior to transport on approved weigh systems unless the receiving premises has a permit from the SFPA to weigh after transport.

All landings may be subject to controls by the SFPA.

- Landing(s) of North West Herring in excess of permitted catch limits will be subject to quota balancing in accordance with the Minister's policy of 31 July 2020 regarding Quota Balancing for Pelagic Stocks.
- Vessels under 20m in overall length that are part of the ringfenced group do not have access to catch limits set down in Fisheries Management Notices for the under 20m non ringfenced vessels.

Table 1

Ringfenced Fishery Quota Autumn 2023	
Initial Quota	1370
Unauthorised fishing (burden sharing)	-204
Contingency	-100
Deduction for 2022 overfishing	- 30
Quota available for allocation	1036

For 2023 as the available quota will not support a catch limit for all vessels, opportunities will be limited to the opportunities set out in Table 2 below.

Table 2

Category	Number of opportunities	Catch limit per opportunity
RSW10	3	119.327
RSW7	3	83.529
RSW4.5	2	53.697
>65 (2.68)	4	31.980
50-64 (2.10)	1	25.059
<50 (1.75)	8	20.882

For information on the collection, processing and sharing of data for quota management, including quota balancing, please see the most up-to-date version of our data protection statement at <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/seafood/seafoodpolicy/forms/>

Detailed Lottery Arrangements for the 2023 Autumn North West Herring (6a South) Fishery, for Vessels with ring-fenced track record in the North West Herring fishery (*vessels that have fulfilled the criteria set out in Policy Directive 1 and 2 of 2012, as amended by Policy Directive 1 of 2017 concerning access to herring stocks in fishing area 6aS, 7b and 7c*)

As recommended by the North-West Herring Advisory Committee (NWHAC) and approved by the Minister, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine proposes to hold a draw for Irish registered fishing vessels, with ring-fenced track record in the North West Herring fishery, to select vessels to operate in the 2023 Autumn North West Herring (6a South) Ring-Fenced Fishery.

Quota available for allocation: 1036 tonnes HER/6AS7BC

Venue: Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, P85TX47

Date: 10 November 2023

Time: 11.30am

5 draws to be held to select vessels in the respective categories.

- One draw each for the RSW 10, RSW 7 and RSW 4.5 categories respectively.
 - Two draws for the >65ft category:
 - one draw for vessels ≥ 80 ft in registered length (*denoted the >80ft group*) and
 - one draw for vessels ≥ 65 ft in registered length and < 80 ft in registered length (*denoted the <80ft group*)
 - No draws will be carried out for the 50ft-64ft category or for the < 50 ft category, as all vessels in these two categories will each receive an opportunity.
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- On application to the NWHAC, vessel owners must identify if they are applying as a single vessel or as part of a pair; if part of a pair, vessel owners must specify any partner vessel(s).
 - Applicants, including partner vessels must confirm their willingness, by signed declaration, to the NWHAC, to be entered in an open draw to receive an authorisation for the fishery.
 - The NWHAC will supply, to the Department, a list of the names of the vessels that are singles, pairs or threesomes to be entered into the draw to receive an authorisation for the fishery, and also the signed declarations from licence holders, to confirm their willingness to have their vessels entered into an open draw.
 - For the draw, each individual vessel will be entered once, and each pairing arrangement (either a 2-vessel pair or a 3-vessel pair) will be entered once.
 - Each pairing arrangement will be entered once into the draw in the category of the largest vessel in the pairing arrangement e.g.
 - a pairing arrangement of an *RSW 10 vessel* with an *RSW 7 vessel* will be entered once into the **RSW 10 category** draw, or
 - a pairing arrangement of vessel from the *>80ft group* in the **>65ft category** pairing with a vessel from the *<80ft group* in the **>65ft category** will be entered once into the *>80ft group* draw.

- The first group to be drawn in the lottery will be the RSW 10 category group, followed by the RSW 7 category group, the RSW 4.5 category group, the >65ft (vessels \geq 80ft) group and the >65ft (vessels \geq 65ft and <80ft) group.
 - Vessels in pairing arrangements will be offered an opportunity according to the ratio in their respective categories, as long as there is an opportunity remaining in their relevant category (e.g. if an RSW 7 vessel pairs with an RSW 4.5 vessel, this pairing arrangement will be entered into the RSW 7 draw. In the event that the pairing arrangement is successful in the RSW 7 draw then each of the vessels will be offered an opportunity according to the ratio in their respective categories as long as there is an opportunity remaining in their relevant category.) In the event that there are no opportunities remaining in the relevant category, the partner vessel(s) must share in their partners catch limit, in the category in which the draw is being made.
 - In the RSW 4.5 category draw, if a 4.5 category vessel has already been successful due to being in a pairing arrangement with an RSW 10 or an RSW 7 vessel, then one opportunity for the RSW 4.5 category is deemed to be taken. In the event that there are only two opportunities for this category in total, the second opportunity must be shared by vessels in a pairing arrangement, should a pairing arrangement be successful in the draw. In the event that an individual vessel is successful, then they will receive the full catch limit.
Where both opportunities are still available at the start of the RSW 4.5 category draw, if the first vessel drawn is an individual vessel, it will receive a full catch limit. The second opportunity must be shared by vessels in a pairing arrangement (2 vessel pair or 3 vessel pair), should a pairing arrangement be drawn for the second opportunity.
Where both opportunities are still available at the start of the RSW 4.5 category draw and a 3-vessel pairing arrangement is the first drawn, the two opportunities are shared between the 3 vessels.
 - In the >65ft category, there will be two draws. In the event that there are 4 opportunities in total for the overall category, should a pairing arrangement of a vessel in the *>80ft group* with a vessel in the *<80ft group*, be successful in the >80ft group draw, then two opportunities in the overall >65ft category will be deemed to be taken. The Department will then move on to the <80ft group draw.
 - A reserve list will be created for each of the five draws.
 - After the lottery has been held, if the Department is notified that a vessel or vessels within a pairing arrangement does not wish to, or cannot avail of the fishing opportunity before or after being authorised, then only the uncaught quota of the vessel(s) not availing of the opportunity is taken back to the national quota and made available to vessel(s) on the reserve list for that category.
 - One industry representative from each PO, NIFF, IFPEA and the Co-operative umbrella group will be invited to attend.
 - An independent observer will be invited to oversee proceedings.
 - Authorisations to be made available following the lottery.
 - Where possible, vessels drawn in the 2023 Autumn lottery (year 1 lottery) are precluded from year 2 (should a lottery take place in year 2) and future years until all ringfenced vessels have received an opportunity.
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Non Ringfenced Fishery Detailed Management Arrangements

This fishery is open to vessels less than 20m in Length overall that are not part of the ringfenced group to receive access to fishing for Herring stocks in fishing area 6aS, 7b and 7c.

Table 3

Non Ringfenced under 20m Fishery Quota Autumn 2023	
Initial Quota	350
Un authorised fishing (burden sharing)	-50
Quota available to be fished	300

- Details of the available quota to be fished are set out in Table 3 above.
- The fishery will open on 15 November 2023.
- The Fishery to be managed by Fishery Management Notice.
- In accordance with Policy in place for this fishery 5% of the available quota will be made available to vessels equal to or greater than 15 meters in length overall and less than 20 meters in length overall. This will be managed as a bycatch quota and will be set at 0.50t per eligible vessel per calendar month.
- In accordance with Policy the remaining 95% will be made available to vessels less than 15m in length overall. Catch limit will be set at 10t per vessel per calendar month.
- Vessels participating in the fishery not reporting by electronic means (ERS) are required to hail quantities of over 250kg to the Irish Fisheries Monitoring Centre. This requirement will be included on the Fisheries Management Notice.
- When the SFPA report that 230t has been landed or retained on board, Industry representatives will be notified. Quota uptake figures will continue to be monitored closely, with the fishery to be closed by Fisheries Management Notice when the SFPA report that 280t has been landed or retained on board.

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