



Quota Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Friday 20 th October 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
Members via videoconference	<p>DAFM: 2 attendees</p> <p>Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA): 2 attendees</p> <p><u>Industry Representatives:</u></p> <p>Co-ops Umbrella Group: 1 attendee</p> <p>Irish South & West Fish Producer's Organisation (ISWFPO): 1 member and 1 guest</p> <p>Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation (KFO): 1 member and 1 guest</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 and 1 guest</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 September 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. **Whitefish - Discussion on particular regimes**

The Department informed the Committee that the carryover for deep sea stocks had been transferred to Ireland and that today's whitefish sheet had been updated accordingly.



Crab effort BSA

The uptake figures reported at today's meeting as provided by the SFPA showed that the crab effort in the Biologically Sensitive Area (BSA) has been exceeded. Ireland's adjusted effort for 2023 is 83,198 Kw days and the figures at the October QMAC meeting indicates 95,580 Kw days (110%) have been used. The Industry sought clarity from the SFPA regarding how the uptake went from 79% at the September QMAC meeting to 110% for the October QMAC meeting. The SFPA advised that the figures reported at the each QMAC meeting, including the October QMAC meeting, are correct and there is a big jump in kw days used in September from the uptake figures reported at the September QMAC meeting.

Industry requested that the SFPA to recirculate the guidelines on reporting effort for crab effort and lobster to industry representatives and fishers. Industry representatives also requested that the SFPA reexamine the log sheets to identify if any were reported incorrectly, where lobster was targeted and not crab on the trip. Industry also expressed concerns regarding how long it takes fishers to submit the log sheets to the SFPA. Industry further advised the importance of the SFPA guidelines being recirculated to fishers so they are aware rules if they want to switch over to lobster.

There was a discussion regarding contacting BIM in respect of the formation of a crab committee so that new management measures could be put in place for future fisheries.

The Department informed the QMAC that as the fishery is now over 90%, the Department must notify the Commission and begin closing the fishery unless a swap can be secured. The Department advised there may be an increase to the uptake figure due to the late submission of logsheets.

There was a discussion on whether the uncaught quota from the Mackerel Hook and Line Fishery could be used as currency for a swap. The Department advised that Ireland's mackerel quota is managed within the mackerel policy and that any swapping out of mackerel is done from the national quota and not individual segments. There is 30t of Mackerel set aside for 10,000kw days swap as supported at the 2023 planning meeting and there is 10t of mackerel remaining of the 2% Mackerel available for swaps for 2023.

It was recommended that the Department contact the French administration to try secure a swap of 14,000kw days of crab effort for the 40t of Mackerel. The Department advised the committee that if a swap is not secured by COB Monday 23rd October the Department will have to close the fishery.

Following the October QMAC meeting the SFPA advised the Department that "*crab effort figures reported at QMAC are consistent with how those figures have been measured and reported in previous years. Therefore those figures indicate that the quota has been exceeded. While the reports we use to determine crab effort can be re-run our expectation is that any subsequent crab effort data received by the SFPA would result in the crab effort figures increasing rather than being revised down.*"

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 November in order to avoid a choke situation.

All agreed to recommend 0.05/0.05 for November.

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 could support an increase in the regime for November.

All agreed to recommend 24/12 for November.

Nephrops in area FU16

There was a request from industry to increase this regime. It was supported by all to increase this from 10/5 to 16/8

All agreed to recommend 16/8 for November.



Monk area 6

There was a request from industry to increase this regime. It was supported by all as the uptake was 75.48%.

All agreed to recommend 15/7.50 for November.

Monk area 7

There was a request from industry to increase this regime. It was supported by all as the uptake was 84.29%.

All agreed to recommend 15/7.50 for November.

Spur Dog

There was a discussion on whether this regime should be increased for November. It was felt with the low uptake that it should remain at the current regime. There was a discussion on the low uptake of the fishery with industry representatives advising there is no markets to sell the fish. IFPEA advised there is interest from Europe especially for smoked spurdog.

Industry also advised that the maximum landing size is also a problem. Industry stated that Bord Bia should be getting involved to source markets. It was recommended that BIM, Bord Bia along with processors should come together to try and source markets. The Department will contact Bord Bia and BIM to see if it could be progressed in the next few months.

Industry discussed whether funding could be obtained from the Department. The meeting of the QMAC, however, is not the appropriate forum to discuss such matters.

There was a recommendation that spurdog should be added to the agenda for the January meeting to discuss markets for 2024 in order to maximise potential market.

All agreed to recommend 30/30 for November.

Haddock area 7a.

Due to the uptake of 83.54% industry recommended a decrease from 15/10/5 to 12/8/4.

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

Megrim area 6

Due to the uptake level of 58%, industry recommended to increase the regime from 24/12 to 30/15.

All agreed to recommend 30/15 for November.

Pollack area 7

Industry recommended to increase the regime from 15/15 to 20/20.

All agreed to recommend 20/20 for November.

Skates and Rays

Due to the uptake level of 46.85% industry recommended to increase the regime from 30/15 to 36/18.

All agreed to recommend 36/18 for November.

Silver Smelt in area 5, 6 and 7

The ISWFPPO advised the committee that the vessels selected in the lottery intended to hold onto their authorisations. The KFO requested an end date to be included in the management arrangements for future fisheries.

Hook and Line Mackerel



It was recommended that the Department notify the industry when the uptake figure reaches 350t, with the fishery to be closed when the uptake reaches 380t.

All agreed to recommend 20t for November.

Under 18 Mackerel

All agreed to recommend 5t for November.

swap at the end of the year.

4. Pelagic issues

Atlanto Scandian Herring Fishery

There was a request that the Department keep industry representatives up to date on catches by other EU vessels in the area on a regular basis. The Department advised that update figures on the Commission catch reporting website, FIDES, does not give real time uptake figures by EU vessels.

There were a number of concerns raised by industry regarding the two vessels detained in Norwegian waters while fishing in the Atlanto Scandian Herring Fishery.

The meeting of the QMAC, however, is not the appropriate forum to discuss such matters.

Celtic Sea Herring Scientific Sentinel fishery

The Department advised that the booking in for the fishery has now closed and the draw will take place on the 27th of October. There was 6 vessels booked into category A and 5 vessels booked into category B.

Celtic Sea Herring Main

The Department advised that the fishery has nearly caught their full allocation with no quota available to reallocated to the Celtic Sea Herring Sentinel Fishery.

Irish Sea Herring

The ISWFPO inquired if the Department would contact the Commission to provide information on the number of vessels that has the required track record to fish around the Isle of Man. The Department will contact the Commission to request the information and advised that no Irish vessel has the required track record.

The ISWFPO also inquired if Irish vessels can fish for herring in the 0-6 or 6-12 mile zone of UK waters along the Irish coast i.e. Northern Ireland waters, under the Voisinage agreement or the Good Friday agreement.

The Department advised it would contact its colleagues regarding the query.

2023 Boarfish Fishery

Industry representatives having taken consideration of the quota uptake at the November Quota Management Meeting have requested the following amendments to the 2023 management arrangements for the fishery:

- Quota carried over from 2022 to 2023 in accordance with Article (15) 9 CFP regulation 1,664t (less quota swaps already made) when it is made available by the EU Commission be added to the national adjusted quota.
- 95% of the adjusted quota including the carryover be made available to 23 vessels currently authorised in the fishery in accordance with established ratios. This is increased from 85%



- The remaining 5% to be made available to cover by-catch by all other vessels.

North West Herring (HER/6AS7BC)

The Department received draft management proposals from the North West Herring Management Advisory Committee (NWHAC) for the management of the Autumn 2023 Fishery on the 16th October 2023. The Department advised the committee that it has responded to the NWHAC prior to the meeting with some points for clarification. The KFO, chair of the NWHAC, acknowledged receiving the new information and advised that the NWHAC would review this information and will revert back to the Department. There was a discussion regarding the contingency and the allocation of 254 tonnes of herring landed in the area earlier in the year without an authorisation between the ringfenced and non ringfenced groups.

The Department advised the NWHAC can make its recommendations to the Minister within the policy and the Minister will make a decision.

There was also a discussion on if the non ringfenced fishery could open by Fisheries Management Notice. It was agreed the opening of one fishery over another wasn't discussed by the NWHAC. The Department advised it will be recommending a "0" catch limit for the non ringfenced group unless/until the Department has received a recommendation from the NWHAC regarding the regime for November.

5. Swaps

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

Swap 1

UK to IRL:

100t NEP/07.

100t NEP/*07U16 (Use of area)

IRL to UK:

50t POK/56-14

5t COD/5BE6A

100t MAC/2CX14-

120t LIN/6X14 (2024)

120t LIN/*04-C (2024)

The Department outlined to the committee that Ireland only received 100t of area 7 Nephrops and 100t of use of the area FU16 and not the 200t of Nephrops as outlined in the ISWFPO swap proposal that was supported at the September QMAC meeting. The Department requested an update on the balance of 100t of Nephrops in area 7 from the ISWFPO. The ISWFPO advised that the UK PO and UK administration was working on resolving this matter.

Swap 2

UK to IRL:

80t HAD/5BC6A

10t HAD/7X7A34

12t HAD/6B1214

IRL to UK:

15t POK/56-14

1.5t SOL/7HJK.

3t ANF/56-14

50t LIN/*04-C (use of area only)

Swap 3

UK to IRL:

80t HAD/5BC6A

20t HAD/7X7A34

IRL to UK:

15t POK/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

Swap 5

BEL to IRL:

50t HKE/571214

IRL to BEL:

60t PLE/07A

10t WHG/7X7A-C

1t WHG/07A

Swap 6

NLD to IRL:

80t ANF/56-14

12.5t ANF/07.

IRL to NLD:

370,000 Kw days Demersal Area 7

Other swaps discussed

Crab effort BAS

Following a discussion, it was recommended that the Department contact the French administration to try secure a swap of 14,000kw days of crab effort for the 40t of Mackerel.

Swap with Sapin

The ISWFPO advised they had been contacted by a Spanish PO enquiring if Ireland required any quantities of Blue whiting, Monk, Hake, Horse mackerel or Nephrops. Following a discussion, it was felt that Ireland didn't need any of the stocks at present but may be able to carry out a banking swap.

6. Quota Balancing

Demersal Quota Balancing

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

Pelagic Quota Balancing

The Department advised that Final Quota Balancing Statements for the 2023 Blue Whiting RSW Fishery and the 2023 Blue Whiting Polyvalent Fishery issued on 12/10/2023. The Department also advised it has begun working on quota balancing the 2023 Albacore Tuna Fishery and the 2023 Celtic Sea Herring Main Fishery.

7. AOB

The next Quota Management meeting is scheduled for Friday 17th of November at 11am.

Sea Fisheries Policy & Management Division

20 October 2023