



## Quota Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 2:00pm
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><b><u>Industry Representatives:</u></b></p> <p>Co-ops Umbrella Group: 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</p> <p>Irish South &amp; East Fish Producer Organisation (ISEFPO): 1 member</p> <p>Irish Fish Processors &amp; Exporters Association (IFPEA): 1 member</p> <p>Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation (IIMRO): 1 Member</p> <p>Irish South &amp; West Fish Producer's Organisation (ISWFPO): 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 November 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 January Fisheries Management Notices.

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

The Department informed the committee that the article 15.9 carryover had been transferred to Ireland and that today's whitefish sheet had been updated accordingly.

Cod in Area VIb By-catch fishery



Due to the 2024 TAC expected to be 5t it was felt that the current regime of 0.05/0.05 should remain for January in order to avoid a choke situation.

All agreed to recommend 0.05/0.05 for January.

#### Cod 5BE6A

Due to this stock no longer being a by catch stock, Industry felt that the regime could be increased for January.

All agreed to recommend 2/1 for January.

#### Nephrops in area FU16

There was a request from industry to open the fishery in January.

All agreed to recommend 10/5 for January.

#### Monk area 6

Due to the reduction in the 2024 TAC it was recommended to reduce the regime for January

All agreed to recommend 8/4 for January.

#### Spur Dog

There was a discussion on should this regime be reduced for January, but it was felt that the regime should stay the same as the uptake was low.

All agreed to recommend 30/30 for January.

#### Haddock area 7b to k.

There was a discussion on what the starting regime should be set at, there was concerns that swaps for haddock will be hard to secure in 2024.

All agreed to recommend 10.5/7/3.5 for January.

#### Pollack area 6

It was felt that this stock could become a choke situation and the regime needed to be set at its lowest in order to keep other fisheries open for the full year.

All agreed to recommend 0.05/0.05 for January.

#### Pollack area 7

Due to this stock changing to a by catch stock for 2024, the regime needs to be reduced from 20/20 to 1/0.50. It was felt that this stock could become a choke situation and that the regime needed to be set low in order to keep other fisheries open.



IIMRO, NIFF & NIFA expressed the view that the reduction in quota as adopted, would constitute a change of circumstances for the inshore sector, particularly for the mackerel hook and line fishery if they don't have pollack, as it is a by-catch in this fishery, or for those vessels who primarily target pollack. This provides further evidence that a review of pelagic policy is required to assist the Inshore Sector.

All agreed to recommend 1/0.5 for January.

#### Greater Sliver Smelt

Industry requested that a draw for this fishery should be held as soon as possible in 2024 and that if the vessels selected does not partake in the fishery that this stock becomes available for swaps. Industry advised they would be sending the recommendations for the fishery in the coming days.

The recommendation is 0/0 for January.

#### Skates and Rays

There was a request for 20/10 for January from industry.

All agreed to recommend 20/10 for January.

#### Whiting 7b to k

Due to the split of the TAC into two areas and one area becoming a by catch fishery. Industry recommended reducing the regime for January. Industry requested that the new stock code for WHG/07D to be added to the whitefish sheets for January.

All agreed to recommend 10/5 for January.

#### Hook and Line Mackerel

The Department outlined that the current management arrangements for the 2023 fishery will expire on the 31st of December and new management arrangement arrangements would need to be approved by the Minister prior to the opening of the 2024 fishery.

As a result there would be a zero catch limit (0t) for the fishery in January 2024. No further views were expressed by industry.

#### Under 18 Mackerel

All agreed to recommend 5t for January.

#### North West Herring Under 20m Non ring fence

The Department outlined that the current management arrangements for the 2023 fishery will expire on the 31st of December and new management arrangement arrangements would need to be approved by the Minister prior to the opening of the 2024 fishery.

The fishery is to remain closed in January 2024

### **4. Pelagic issues**



The Department advised that they are awaiting Ministerial approval for the management arrangements for the 2024 Mackerel, Boarfish fisheries.

#### Atlanto Scandian Herring

The Department advised that they are awaiting Ministerial approval for the management arrangements with a expected booking in closing date of the 19th of January and lottery on the 26th of January.

#### North West Herring

The Department advised that they had received the management arrangement recommendations for the North West herring 2024 fishery from the NWHMAC and will review the proposal and revert back to the committee.

IIMRO outlined that several harsh and divisive emails and calls were directed at their NWHMAC representative, proposing that the NWHMAC closed the fishery which was not the case. IIMRO wished to outline the frustration some fishers had with the early closure of the Non-ringfenced fishery DAFM closed the fishery as per the management arrangements approved by the Minister as recommended by the NWHMAC. Other QMAC members condemned the actions directed towards the IIMRO representative.

NIFF requested that the proposed management arrangements could be circulated to them and NIFA. KFO in its role as chair of the NWHMAC, outlined that the NWHMAC wanted to keep everyone fully informed but that the NIFF and NIFA demanded to be taken off the NWHMAC circulation list; but that they could add them back if required.

#### Hook and Line Mackerel

The Department outlined that the current management arrangements for the 2023 fishery will expire on the 31st of December and new management arrangement arrangements would need to be approved by the Minister prior to the opening of the 2024 fishery.

The Department informed the committee that there will be email sent following the meeting with the 2023 management arrangements.

#### UK access and NEAFC

The Department provided an update the timelines of when UK access and NEAFC authorisations will be issued. The Department advised that the 2024 UK access request have been sent to the UK by the Commission and are awaiting an update from the Commission. The Department informed the committee that the list of vessels has been sent to NEAFC but NEAFC won't look at the list until the 1st of January. Once NEAFC have the approved the vessels, the Department will issue the authorisations to vessel owners.

### **5. Swaps**

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

#### Swap1

##### FRA to IRL:

14,000kw days BSA Crab

##### IRL to FRA:

35t MAC/2CX14-  
15t JAX/2A-14



1t SOL/7HJK.

Swap 2

FRA to IRL:

12,000kw days BSA Crab

IRL to FRA:

55t MAC/2CX14-

Swap3

UK to IRL:

150t NEP/07.

IRL to UK:

200t LIN/6x14

1t COD/5BE6A

Swap proposal for discussion

Swap1

FRA to IRL:

300t NEP/07.

IRL to FRA:

5t SOL/7HJK.

700t WHG/7X7A-C

This swap was supported by all and the Department will revert back to France.

Swap 2

UK to IRL:

60t HAD/6B1214

IRL to UK:

20t ANF/56-14

This swap was proposed by the ISEFPO. There was a discussion on if Ireland had the full 20t available. It was supported to offer 15t ANF/56-14 for 45t HAD/6B1214. The Department will add this swap to the list going to the Commission on the 12th of January.

Swap 3

The Spanish administration had contacted the Department enquiring if Ireland has any ALF/3X14 available to swap. Ireland has a quota of 5.01t and has no uptake for 2023. The Department advised there had been no landing of ALF/3X14 in 2021 or 2022.

Industry recommended offering the 5t of ALF/3X14 for 10t NEP/07. The Department will propose the swap to Spain.

Other Items discussed.

As the end of year swaps will be taking place in January the Department requested members of the QMAC to make themselves available to discuss swap on behalf of all industry in order to maximise the carry over. The ISEFPO and ISWFPO volunteered to assist the Department.

6. Quota Balancing

Demersal Quota Balancing

The Department advised that Final Quota Balancing Statements for the October Demersal Fishery will issue in the coming days.

Pelagic Quota Balancing

The Minister has approved the 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 to include boarfish. The Department will issue letters to all vessel owners informing them of the change in the coming week.



The Department advised that they hope to have quota balancing of the main 2023 pelagic fisheries complete by the 3rd week in January.

**AOB**

There was a discussion on the availability of real time landing data for certain stocks and the 90% landing rule for brown crab in the BSA. The SFPA advised that they are reviewing how the landing data is being collected. It was felt it wasn't the remit of the QMAC to discuss how data is circulated and that the SFPA will contact the industry to discuss the issues.

Industry felt that the 90% rule wasn't correctly being applied to the landings of brown crab in the BSA and requested that information on the 90% rule be circulated to industry. The SFPA advised they will provide the information to the Department for circulation.

The Committee was made aware that this was Sean O'Donoghue's last QMAC meeting.

The Department thanked Sean and wished him all the best in his retirement. Industry representatives reiterated those sentiments and wished Sean all the best in his retirement and thanked him for all his hard work. A letter of gratitude and best wishes is attached from the Minister to Sean O'Donoghue on the occasion of his retirement.

**The next Quota Management meeting is scheduled for Thursday 18th of January 2024 at 11am.**

**Sea Fisheries Policy & Management Division**

**11 December 2023**