



## **Detailed Management Arrangements for 2024 Polyvalent Blue Whiting**

In accordance with current policy for the management of blue whiting, the Department are seeking applications for 6 pairs of polyvalent vessels receive an authorisation in the 2024 fishery. To facilitate single vessel applicants and pending the outcome of the lottery, 6 pairs of vessels or 6 pairs of vessels and a single vessel will be authorised in the fishery. In the event that applications are received from more than required number of vessels, the Department will conduct an open draw to select vessels to participate in the fishery.

91% of the available quota to be made available to 23 RSW pelagic vessels  
9% of the available quota to be made available to 6 pairs of polyvalent vessels or 6 pairs and a single vessel (pending the outcome of the lottery). No more than 13 vessels to be authorised in the fishery.

Landing(s) of Blue Whiting in excess of the permitted catch limit(s) will be subject to Quota Balancing, in accordance with the Minister's policy of 31 July 2020 regarding Quota Balancing for Pelagic Stocks

### **Applications:**

Applications must be submitted by email  
to: [fisheries.booking@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:fisheries.booking@agriculture.gov.ie) by **15 February 2024**.

### **Details of Draw.**

The Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine will conduct an open draw for 6 pairs of vessels to participate in the 2024 Blue Whiting Fishery.

**Venue:** The Departments' Offices, National Seafood Centre, Clonakilty  
**Date:** Friday 23 February 2024  
**Time:** 11.30 am

The fishery will be advertised on the Department website and circulated to the Producer Organisations

This draw will be open to all polyvalent vessels without a pelagic preclusion on their sea fishing boat license.

The draw will be for 6 pairs of vessels or 6 pairs and a single vessel to operate in the fishery (no more than 13 vessels to be authorised in the fishery).

**Applicants must confirm their partner in writing and their willingness to be entered into an open draw**

Previous participants in the fishery will not be precluded from entering the draw

### **Each vessel will be entered once as part of a pair**

A reserve will also be drawn. In the event of a vessel /pair not being in a position to participate in the 2024 fishery, the reserve(s) will be used.

Following the draw, the successful applicants will be offered, in principle, an authorisation to participate in the fishery. However, the issue of the authorisation to the successful vessel will be subject to confirmation by the SFPA, following an inspection, that the vessel is equipped to participate in the fishery. The vessel owner must confirm their intention to take up the authorisation within 12 working days.

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. All pairing arrangements will require prior approval of the SFPA prior to engaging in pair fishing.

If the Department is notified that a vessel or vessels within the pair does not wish or cannot avail of the fishing opportunity before or after being authorised, then only the uncaught quota of the vessel not availing of the opportunity is taken back to the national quota and made available to vessels on the reserve list.

Vessel owners who apply and subsequently, when selected, withdraw for whatever reason from the fishery will be precluded from being entered in the open draw for 2025 and 2026.

One representative from each of the following organisations, the IS&WFPO, KFO, IFPO, ISEFPO, IFPEA, will be invited to attend if they so wish.

### **Sea Fisheries Policy and Management Division**

31<sup>st</sup> January 2024

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.gov.ie/en/collection/4703a-policy-quota-management/>

## Blue Whiting Policy 2014

1. The RSW Pelagic segment to receive 91% of the total adjusted quota, the balance is reserved for the Polyvalent segment.
2. The Quota Management Advisory Committee (Industry Representatives) will be asked each year to nominate the number of vessels from both the RSW Pelagic segment and the Polyvalent segment to be authorised to fish in each segment.
3. Quota Management Advisory Committee (Industry Representatives) will be asked each year to nominate the names of vessels for both the RSW Pelagic segment and the Polyvalent segment to be authorised to fish in each segment.
4. The call for nominations will be placed on the Department's website.
5. Where no recommendation from the Quota Management Advisory Committee (Industry Representatives) is received in respect of the number of vessels to be authorised in either segment, the numbers will be determined taking account of the general approach that the base line for a RSW Pelagic segment vessel will be in the range 800- 1100tonnes and for a polyvalent segment vessel will be 200 - 400 tonnes. Any views of industry in this regard will be taken into consideration.
6. Where there is no agreed Quota Management Advisory Committee (Industry Representatives) position, in any year, on the named vessels to be authorised in a segment, the following process will apply, that year, for that segment:
  - a. The fishery will be advertised on the Department's website seeking applications for the fishery from the relevant fleet segment.
  - b. Where the Quota Management Advisory Committee (Industry Representatives) has not recommended the number of vessels to be authorised in the relevant segment, the maximum number of polyvalent segment vessels or RSW Pelagic segment vessels that the available quota can support for the segment will be calculated with reference to the baseline at (5) above.
  - c. Where the number of applicants exceeds the number of vessels to be authorised for the segment, an open draw will be used to reduce the number of applicants in each segment to the maximum number for the segment, calculated at b. above.
  - d. Applicants must confirm in writing their partner (where relevant) and their willingness to be entered into an open draw.
  - e. Previous participants in the fishery will not be precluded from entering the lottery.
  - f. Where less than the maximum number of vessels set for the segment apply, the segment quota will be distributed evenly between the approved applicants.
  - g. A reserve list will be created.

- h. Following the draw, the successful applicants will be offered, in principle, an authorisation to participate in the fishery. However, the issue of the authorisation to the successful vessels will be subject to confirmation by the SFPA, following an inspection, that the vessel is equipped to participate in the fishery. If the vessel is not confirmed by the SFPA as being equipped within 12 working days following such notification of the offer, the offer of an authorisation will be withdrawn. The next vessel(s) on the reserve list will be made an offer.
- i. A vessel which is granted an authorisation and which does not fish for whatever reason shall be precluded from being entered in the open draw for the following two years. A vessel which receives an offer of an authorisation but is not subsequently granted an authorisation because the necessary confirmation has not been provided by the SFPA, shall be precluded from being entered in the open draw for the following year.

12/2/2014

Technical amendment on 5/2/2019.

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.gov.ie/en/collection/4703a-policy-quota-management/>