



Quota Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Thursday 18 th January 2024 at 2:30pm
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 and 1 guest</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> <p>Irish South & 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 December 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 February Fisheries Management Notices.



3. Whitefish - Discussion on particular regimes

Cod in Area VIb By-catch fishery

Due to the low uptake in this fishery, it was felt that the current regime of 0.10/0.05 could be increased to 0.20/0.10 for February 2024.

All agreed to recommend 0.20/0.10 for February 2024.

Cod in Area 5B and 6A

Due to the low uptake of this fishery in January 2024, Industry felt that the regime could be increased for February 2024 from 2/1 to 4/2.

All agreed to recommend 4/2 for February 2024.

Nephrops in area FU16

There was a discussion on whether this regime should be reduced for February 2024 due to the high uptake in January. Following further discussions, industry felt that the regime could remain at 10/5 due to the possible carry over of 190t from 2023.

All agreed to recommend 10/5 for February 2024.

Monk area 6

Due to the reduction in the 2024 TAC and the high uptake of 21.58% in January 2024, it was recommended to reduce the regime for February 2024 from 8/4 to 6/3.

All agreed to recommend 6/3 for February 2024.

Spur Dog

There was a discussion on whether this regime should be set as open with the low uptake, but it was felt that the regime should stay the same, in order to have quota for later in the year. Industry expressed views that the size limit of catches and market is having a big impact on this fishery.

It was further proposed by industry, that they would have a stand alone meeting outside the QMAC, where industry could discuss ways to increase marketing opportunities for this fishery, and invite BIM, Board Bia and processors to this meeting.

All agreed to recommend 30/30 for February 2024.

Pollack area 6

Industry felt that this regime could be increased for February 2024 from 0.05/0.05 to 0.10/0.10.

All agreed to recommend 0.10/0.10 for February 2024.



Pollack area 7

Due to the uptake of 14.79% in January 2024, Industry were of the opinion that the regime would need to be reduced for February 2024. There was a request to set both regimes at the same level by the ISWFPO which was supported by the IFPEA, KFO. The ISEFPO and Co-ops requested to stick with setting a lesser amount for the under 55ft vessels but agreed to support the majority.

The Co-op's stated that there is a policy in place which should be followed regarding allocations for over and under 55ft vessels and that that policy should be followed but that on this occasion because QMAC were talking about such small quantities that they had no objection to both allocations being set at the same amount. However, this did not set a precedent and was without prejudice to the policy.

All agreed to recommend 0.50/0.50 for February 2024.

Greater Sliver Smelt area 5, 6 and 7

The Department advised that the draw for the fishery is the 6th of February and in order to comply with the determination there needed to be a catch limit for the vessels to partake in the fishery.

All agreed that the recommendation is Open for February 2024.

Sole area 7hjk

The ISEFPO requested that the regime for both over and under 55ft to be the same catch limit. In January 2024 the catch limit was set at 1/0.50.

All agreed to recommend 1/1 for February.

Whiting 7B to K

Under the new Regulation, Whiting in Area 7 B to K has now been split into a by-catch fishery in Areas 7 B,C and E-K (WHG/ *7XAD) and a direct fishery in Area 7 D (WHG/*07D) . Due to this split of the TAC, it was recommended to set a catch limit for both areas. As there are restrictions for Irish Vessels to fish in Area 7D due to unavailable by-catch quota and that the uptake of this quota would be minimal unless there was a by catch provision or a swap agreed.

There was a request from industry to try get a by catch provision from the Commission and for swaps to be secured to allow vessels to fish in Area 7D. In the meantime and to allow the regime to open in February 2024, it was recommended that 0/0 be set for Whiting in Area 7D and 10/5 be recommended from Whiting in Areas 7 B,C and E-K

All agreed to recommend 0/0 for February 2024 for WHG/*07D.

All agreed to recommend 10/5 for February 2024 for WHG/*7XAD.

QMAC also recommended that the Department would write directly to the Commission to request a by catch provision for this fishery similar to other by-catch mechanisms in operation under the Regulation for other choke species.

Hook and Line Mackerel



The Department outlined that the current management arrangements for the 2023 fishery have expired 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 emails had been sent following the December meeting with the 2023 management arrangements. On this basis, a recommendation for 0t for February 2024 was made.

All agreed to recommend 0t for February.

Under 18 Mackerel

All agreed to recommend 5t for February.

North West Herring Under 20m Non ring fence

The Department outlined that the current management arrangements for the 2023 fishery have expired on the 31st of December 2023 and new management arrangement arrangements would need to be approved by the Minister prior to the opening of any NWH Non-ringfenced 2024 fishery.

All agreed to recommend 0t for February.

4. Pelagic issues

Herring in Area 6 A North

The Department provided an update on this fishery. The Department indicated to the QMAC that the data received from the SFPA on the day of the meeting that landings in the fishery now amounted to 394t.

The Department advised that taking into consideration the Swap of 71t secured from the Netherlands and the possible carry over of quota from 2023 of 21.33t a swap in excess of 122.805t was needed to cover overfishing to date to keep the fishery open. The Department also advised that uptake was currently at 148% which would result in a multiplier of 2 being applied by the Commission at the end of the year if a swap was not secured. Industry will continue to try secure swaps for this fishery. The Department will continue to closely monitor the situation over the days following the QMAC.

Discussions were then held on the validity of the data collected. Firstly the Department informed the committee that any issues relating to how data was reported, frequency of reporting, etc was outside the scope of the QMAC and they should contact SFPA directly or formally through the SFPA Consultative committee. The SFPA outlined that the figures are based on landing figures and not on sampling. Industry felt that the figures are based on the sampling and are not accurate based on information they had received prior to the QMAC meeting. Industry felt that the figures provided by the SFPA are over estimated by 30 to 40%. Industry advised that they will contact their members to obtain log sheets to determine the uptake level and report back to the Department when this exercise is complete.

Mackerel 100% catch limits

Industry enquired when the full 100% catch limits will be issued to vessels owners. The Department advised that they will be issued in the coming days. The KFO submitted a proposal to reduce the contingency from 1500t to 500t before the 100% authorisations were issued. The Department outlined



that this would delay the issuing of the 100% catch limits and advised that this could be done when the carry over amounts are being issued.

The KFO and other QMAC members accepted this and proposed that the contingency be reviewed when carry over amounts are to be re-allocated in July 2024.

The IFPO also proposed that the allocation of mackerel made available to Ireland from Denmark should be re-allocated as part of the 100% catch limits or as soon as possible afterwards to ensure that it is landed as early as possible in the year.

Horse Mackerel

The Department advised that this fishery was a by-catch fishery for 2024 and that management arrangements need to be agreed and quota balancing of the 2023 fishery before the fishery could be opened (separate submission to the Minister). It was proposed that the management arrangements for the 2023 regime would roll over to 2024 and this was agreed by industry.

Atlanto Scandian Herring

The Department advised that the closing date for the booking into the fishery was the 19th of January and the draw taking place on the 26th. The Department sought recommendation from industry regarding the contingency amount. Industry recommended a 10% contingency. The Department advised that before the vessels can be authorised that a by catch of Saith in Norwegian waters would need to be secured. The KFO advised that they have a potential swap of 50t of Norwegian Saithe for 50t of Norwegian Cod.

The ISWFPO and IFPO advised that they might have vessels interested in the Norwegian Cod fishery and feel that the Atlanto Scandian herring should be used first to try secure the Norwegian saithe.

The ISWFPO and IFPO advised they would contact their members regarding the Norwegian Cod fishery and inform the Department if there vessels would be interested in the Norwegian Cod fishery by COB on Monday the 22nd and if no vessels were interested that the Norwegian Cod could be used for swaps.

The Department advised that if the Norwegian Cod fishery was to open a by catch of haddock in Area 1N2AB would need to be secured and informed the committee that France and Germany are the only member states with both POK/1N2AB and HAD1N2AB.

QMAC proposed the following swaps to take account of the requirements for a by-catch of saithe in Atlanto-Scandia Herring fishery and a by-catch of haddock in the Norwegian Cod fishery.

Swap 1

IRL to FRA/DEU (2024)

50t HER/1/2

FRA/DEU to IRL

50t POK 1N2AB (2024)

Swap 2



IRL to FRA/DEU (2024)

25t COD/1N2AB

FRA/DEU to IRL

25t HAD/1N2AB (2024)

The Department will contact France and Germany proposing a swap for the saithe and haddock following the meeting.

North West Herring

The KFO advised that the NWHAC had received a letter from the Department and the committee are working on a reply and will send a response on the 19th January 2024.

5. Swaps

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

Swap1

FRA to IRL:

300t NEP/07. (2023)

IRL to FRA:

5t SOL/7HJK. (2023)

700t WHG/7X7A-C (2023)

Swap 2

ESP to IRL:

10t NEP/07. (2023)

IRL to ESP:

5t ALF/3X14 (2023)

Swap3

UK to IRL:

228t NEP/07. (2023)

42t ANF/07. (2023)

10t COD/5BE6A (2024)

80t POK/56-14 (2024)

80t POK/*2AC4C (2024)

12t ANF/56-14 (2023)

IRL to UK:

120t LIN/6x14 (2024)

120t LIN/*04-C (2024)

Swap 4

UK to IRL:

23t ANF/07. (2023)

23t HAD/6B1214 (2023)

IRL to UK:

29.6t ANF/56-14 (2023)

Swap 5

NLD to IRL:

71t HER/5B6ANB (2024)

IRL to NLD:

71t HER/1/2- (2024)



Swap proposal for discussion

Swap 1

NLD to IRL:

7.793t POK/1N2AB (2023)

0.536t COD/1N2AB (2023)

IRL to NLD:

8.5t HKE/571214 (2024)

The IFPO proposed the above swap to the Department and the Department also received the proposal from the Netherlands. This swap was supported by industry. The Department will revert back to the Netherlands.

6. Quota Balancing

Demersal Quota Balancing

The Department advised Final quota balancing statements for the 2023 November Demersal Fisheries issued earlier this week.

Pelagic Quota Balancing

2023 Mackerel Fisheries

Final Quota Balancing Statements issued for the 2023 Mackerel Tier 1 and Tier 2 Fishery on 17/01/2024. Provisional Quota Balancing Statements for the 2023 RSW Mackerel Fishery issued on 05/01/2024. Licence holders had until 12/01/2024 to make enquiries on their provisional statements. The Department advised that Final Quota Balancing Statement will issue early next week at the latest.

2023 Boarfish Fishery

Provisional Quota Balancing Statements issued for the 2023 Boarfish Fishery on 10/01/2024. Licence holders had until 17/01/2024 to make enquiries on their provisional quota balancing statements. Final Quota Balancing Statements will issue next week.

2023 North West Herring Category 4.5 and Category 2.68 Fishery

Provisional Quota Balancing Statements issued for the 2023 North West Herring Category 4.5 and Category 2.68 Fishery on 15/01/2024. Licence holders had until 22/01/2024 to make enquiries on their provisional quota balancing statements. Final Quota Balancing Statements will issue after this date.

2023 Horse Mackerel 29 Fishery



Provisional Quota Balancing Statements issued for the 2023 Horse Mackerel 29 Fishery issued before the January QMAC meeting. The Department advised that as the catch limit issued in the 2023 Horse Mackerel 29 Fishery to vessels was exclusively for by-catch while fishing other stocks, the provisional horse mackerel balancing statement issued to the individual vessel. If the vessel was part of a SFPA approved pairing arrangement for an authorised target stock where horse mackerel by-catch was landed, there is an opportunity for each of the vessels in the pairing arrangement to have the horse mackerel by-catch attributed in equal share to each of the vessels before the final quota balancing statement is issued.

Licence holders have until 25/01/2024 to make enquiries on their provisional quota balancing statements and submit the completed and signed Pairings Declaration Form to be signed by the licence holder(s) of all partner vessel(s) to the SFPA so allow for the horse mackerel by-catch attributed in equal share to each of the vessels.

Quota balancing of landing of pelagic fish stock without a valid authorisation/notification in excess of allowable by-catch 2023.

The Department advised it has begun quota balancing of landing of pelagic fish stock without a valid authorisation/notification in excess of allowable by-catch for the calendar year 2023. Provisional Quota Balancing Statements will issue in due course.

AOB

Management of FU16 Nephrops

The ISEFPO outlined that they would like a discussion on the following proposals at a future meeting regarding the following two points:

That tier 1 and 2 pelagic mackerel vessels are unable to fish for mackerel and Nephrops in the same month,

That the Commission adopt the current practice for all EU vessels that is being carried out in Ireland of using gear of only four cod ends to fish for nephrops in FU16.

End of year swaps

The ISWFPO requested that the IFPO member be included in the discussions with the Department and the ISWFPO and ISEFPO to secure end of year swap. The Department and the IFPO supported this request.

The ISWFPO enquired if it would be possible for another member from the SFPA to attend the meetings in conjunction with the current SFPA members in order to answer technology/operational questions.

The 2024 Quota Management Planning meeting will take place on the 20 February at 11.00am and the next Quota Management meeting is scheduled for the 20 February at 2.30pm.

Sea Fisheries Policy & Management Division

18 January 2023