



Quota Management Advisory Committee Planning Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Tuesday 20 th February 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 Irish South & East Fish Producer Organisation (ISEFPO): 1 member
Members via videoconference	DAFM: 2 attendees Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA): 1 attendee <u>Industry Representatives:</u> Co-ops Umbrella Group: 1 member 1 observer Irish South and West Fish Producer Organisation (ISWFPO): 1 member Irish Fish Producers Organisation (IFPO): 1 member National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF): 1 member National Inshore Fishermens Association (NIFA): 1 member Irish Fish Processors and Exporters Association (IFPEA): 1 member Killybegs Fishermens Organisation (KFO): 1 member
Apologies	

1. **Conflict of Interest**

The Conflict-of-Interest statement was read at the start of the meeting. The Department informed QMAC members that the Conflict of Interest process for 2024 would begin and that an email will be issued by the Department in the next few weeks requesting a new declaration of interest for 2024.

2. **End of year figures/Swaps/Priority swaps 2024: HER/4AB; POK/1N2AB; Crab Effort BSA; HER/5B6ANB**

A full list of the 2023 swaps including banking swaps and 2023 End of Year Analysis (giving details of quota of the relevant stocks that would be transferred to 2024 under the Flexibility Regulation) was circulated to the QMAC prior to the planning meeting.



3. Flexibility 2023 End of Year Analysis

The QMAC analysed the priority stocks taking into consideration 2024 quota, including carryover amounts where relevant, 2024 uptake figures to date, and 2023 quota and final uptake figures.

The following stocks were identified as priority stocks:

- Haddock in 7b-k (HAD/7X7A34) – Extra quota requirement 1100 tonnes
- Haddock in 6b (HAD/6B1214) – Extra quota requirement 60 tonnes
- Hake (HKE/571214) – Extra quota requirement 800 tonnes
- Monk in 6 (ANF/56-14) – Extra quota requirement 200 tonnes
- Cod in 6b (COD/6B1214)– Extra quota requirements 6 tonnes
- Nephrops in FU16 (NEP/*07U16) – Consideration given to all swaps.
- Pollack in 7 (POL/07)

Stocks that could potentially be used as currency to secure swaps:

Ling, Megrim, Whiting 7d and Skates and Rays

4. Nephrops – Annual Quota Plan

An updated report on the closure of the FU16 nephrops fishery provided by the Marine Institute was circulated to the QMAC prior to the planning meeting.

The ISEFPO requested that the survey be continued in 2024 to support the gathering of further data on the fishery using the same quota provided for in 2023. The ISEFPO proposed that the survey would take place over four months from June to September, with 3 vessels in each of the months, getting quota over the survey period with the request to look for scientific quota for this activity. This was supported by Co-ops, ISWFPO, IFPO. The IFPO requested that a survey be carried out in May, The Department advised that the May closure was based on EU legislation.

Co-ops asked about the movement of the fishery closure from May to June. The Department advised that it would be difficult to get other EU member states on board. The Co-ops requested that this issue should be put on the table by Ireland for consideration in 2026 if not 2025.

The ISWFPO requested the latest position on the VME closure. The Department advised that an adjustment was made last year, and it would not to be removed entirely. The closures are still being examined, but the closures in place are there for the foreseeable future. The Department outlined that all closures are based on scientific data and any proposed changes must be based on ICES data and that takes time. The Department advised that in order to make a proposal to bring EU legislation in line with Ireland's national measures, the Department would need clarity from industry so that the Department can present same at the North Western Waters meeting next month.



The ISWFPO requested that any reports on the VME closure be circulated. The Department advised that updated ICES advice could be found on the ICES website. The Department informed the QMAC that it had continually raised the matter in the past and will continue to raise the issue in the future.

The KFO noted that the porcupine ICES VME closure had not changed as the 2023 ICES VME advice had not yet been implemented by the EU. The KFO also noted that ICES will be reviewing the data and further advice will likely be released in September.

5. Cod, Haddock and Whiting Celtic Sea

Whiting in Area 7d

The issue of a lack of a by-catch mechanism similar to other areas when fishing for Whiting in Area 7d needs to be proposed by Ireland. The Department advised that 2 letters had been sent to the Commission regarding a by-catch mechanism in both Norwegian waters and Area 7d. The Department is still awaiting a response. The Co-ops asked if there was potential for use of this stock for currency for a swap, but both the ISWFPO and IEFPO indicated that there was no interest at this point.

Norwegian Cod

The Department advised that this fishery was not advertised as responses with regards to potential swaps to acquire Haddock in Area 1N2AB are still awaited. The Department informed the QMAC that it had submitted swap proposals to Germany and France. Germany had indicated that they would not support a swap at this time and no response was received from France.

ISWFPO proposed that the fishery be advertised for expressions of interest only and that Industry work on getting a swap for the by-catch required to allow the fishery to be opened, and that 25t of Cod be used to secure the swap of 25t of Haddock. This was supported by IFPO, KFO and ISFPO. The ISEFPO would go with the majority but preference is, that if it is not fished then it should be used for swaps. The NIFF presented the view that this fishery was only available for one vessel, and would be better for the fleet if the quota was swapped out.

The Department indicated that it would re-send emails to Germany and France requesting the basis of the responses received, swap. The Department advised that it would seek Ministerial approval in principle for the fishery pending securing the necessary Haddock by-catch swap.

7. Herring

- HER/5B6ANB

The Department advised the meeting that 549t had been landed and 266 tonnes was required to cover by-catch of herring in area 6A North. If a swap is not secured the



Commission would apply a multiplier of 2 to the overfishing which would result in 532 tonnes being deducted in 2025. This would lead to serious issues with the mackerel fishery in 2025 as herring is caught as a by-catch under this fishery.

IFPO indicated that a small swap of 5 tonnes had been accepted from the Netherlands and that they may have some further opportunities later in the year.

The Department advised that if the amount could be brought down to 100 tonnes it may remove the potential for a multiplier be applied. The Department also advised that the only Members States that have quota in the area were France (26 tonnes), Germany (140 tonnes), Netherlands (69 tonnes) and the UK (959 tonnes). All Member States indicated that they were not in position to swap this quota at this point in time but may consider at the end of the year. Industry representatives will continue to pursue quota swaps to cover this overfishing.

- HER/6AS7BC

The Department advised the meeting that the SFPA had advised that 579 tonnes had been landed. This fishery is closed. KFO expressed concerns with the significant issues of the 579 tonnes landed without authorisations. KFO outlined that the NWHAC had written to the Department on the 19th January outlining the issues and requested an urgent meeting and no response has been received.

The ISWFPO highlighted concerns from a control perspective as the fishery was closed and landings continued over this period.

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NIFF indicated that they had discussions with the Minister and highlighted the issues and were still awaiting a meeting with Department to discuss same. The Co-ops asked why Department were not on committee and supported KFO in seeking a reply to NWHAC letter.

The Department outlined that the NWHAC needs to start the management of the NWH fishery from step 1. The Department is not involved in the NWHAC as it was intended that all parties would come together on the NWHAC to make recommendations on the management of the fishery, which would then be submitted to the Department for their consideration.

The Department suggested that a meeting take place with all parties involved in the NWHAC as soon as possible after the meeting, most likely in the week following the meeting.

8. Crab Effort BSA

The Department outlined the Crab Fishery for 2023. 140 tonnes of mackerel was ringfenced for fishery in 2023 for 25,000kw days. 140 tonnes of mackerel was ringfenced for fishery in 2023 for 25,000kW days. A further swap later in the year was required to ensure fishery remained open.



The Department requested recommendations for the 2024 fishery. NIFF proposed that one big swap amounting to 40,000- 50,000kW days should be sought as soon as possible due to the shift in effort away from Pollock in Area 7 and this was supported by NIFA.

KFO, ISWFPO, IESFPO and Co-ops expressed concerns with this proposal and felt that working with Industry to educate operators on the correct way of logging kW days would benefit everyone and it would allow for the fishery to managed effectively. Another concern was that if this effort was swapped in, and it is not used, then it cannot be carried over to 2025 and it removed collateral that could be used elsewhere.

Industry proposed they meet to come up with a recommendation for the March QMAC.

9. Albacore Tuna

The Department circulated the 2023 management agreements prior to the meeting. The available quota for 2024 is 3967t. The Department gave a brief overview of the 2023 fishery and the final uptake for the fishery. The ISWFPO recommended that the management arrangements implemented in 2023 be rolled over to 2024 and this was supported by ISEFPO, IFPO, IFPEA and KFO.

10. Mackerel Hook and Line

The available quota for the Mackerel Hook and Line fishery is 400t as set out in Ministerial Management Policy. The Department advised that the Management arrangements for this fishery have not been recommended and that the fishery could not open. The Department outlined the management arrangements for the 2023 fishery and the uptake of that fishery.

NIFF requested that the fishery be opened for March with a catch limit of 8 tons with no further management arrangements. The proposal was supported by NIFA.

ISEFPO, ISWFPO, KFO and IFPO outlined that the management arrangements in place for 2023 are not perfect they still provide protection for the fishery and its main objective of sharing the quota around the country. ISWFPO recommended that the management arrangements in place for 2023 should be rolled over to 2024 and this was supported by ISEFPO, KFO and IFPO. NIFF outlined that the booking in process leads to double standards and that it may cause a division between larger and smaller vessels.

No agreement was reached on the management arrangements. The Department advised that all divergent views would be recorded and presented to the Minister to make a final decision on the fishery in 2024.

11. Spurdog

ISEFPO outlined that even though the quota available for the Spurdog is decent, at this point in time it cannot be utilised effectively due to the restrictions of the maximum size allowed. NIFF indicated that that they held talks with the Marine Institute and that the practice of



catching and dumping oversize fish should be recorded. This might help in collecting data to argue to have size limitations could be overturned.

12. AOB

a. Pelagic Authorisations

The KFO requested that the Pelagic Authorisations process be reviewed and where possible identify any ways in which the process could be streamlined. The Department advised on how procedures were in place for the Pelagic Authorisations and all catch limits for authorisations will need to be adjusted for Quota Balancing.

It was recommended that the Pelagic Authorisation process would be reviewed later in the year and the Department would outline all stages of the process in a meeting to be organised.

b. Over/Under 55ft Policy

NIFF requested clarification on the over/under 55ft Policy and its basis. The Department advised that this was a long-standing practice which was developed over time. ISEFPO outlined that if the over/under 55ft policy was not implemented, it may lead to more people wanting to purchase smaller vessels.

c. Extra Planning Meetings

ISWFPO requested that further planning meetings would be very beneficial rather than having just one in the year. ISEFPO indicated that these meetings would deal with issues as they arose over the year. The Department indicated that the Sea Fisheries Liaison Group (SFLG) maybe a forum which could be reinstated. Since Covid and Brexit the SFLG fell by the wayside and the Department may look into seeing if this forum could be revived in the future.

Sea Fisheries Policy & Management Division

20 February 2024