



Quota Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Wednesday 20 th February 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 attendee</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. The Department informed QMAC members that 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. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The draft minutes from the January QMAC meeting were circulated to the QMAC members prior to today’s meeting. The Department advised they received two proposed amendments from QMAC members regarding the minutes prior to the meeting.

1. From Co-ops

In relation to pollack in 6 & 7 it was to be noted that the Co-op’s stated that there is a policy in place which should be followed regarding allocations for over and under 55ft vessels but that on this occasion because they 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.



2. From KFO

Under Point 4. North West Herring in the draft January QMAC minutes says "The KFO advised that they received a letter from the Department and are working on a reply and will send a response on the 19th." We just need to clarify that this was said on behalf of the NWHAC so could you amend as follows please "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".

QMAC members accepted the proposed changes, and the Department will amend the minutes with the relevant changes. The Department further advised that it would publish the meeting minutes on the Department website when it is publishing the March Fishery Management Notices.

3. Whitefish - Discussion on particular regimes

Cod in Area VIIa

Due to the low uptake at this point in the year it was felt that the current regime of 1/0.50 could be increased to 2/1 for March.

All agreed to recommend 2/1 for March.

Haddock in Area 5B and 6A

Due to the low uptake at this point in the year it was felt that the current regime of 28/14 could be increased to 30/15 for March.

All agreed to recommend 30/15 for March.

Haddock in Area 7B to K

The ISWFPO requested a small increase for this fishery on the basis that there was low uptake in the first few months. IFPEA supported the proposal. The ISEFPO and NIFF requested that the regime would stay the same and the Co-ops requested a small decrease. The IFPO indicated they would support a small increase for one month only. A consensus recommendation was reached where a small increase in the current regime of 9/6/3 to 10.50/7/3.50 would be applied for one month only and would be reviewed at the next QMAC meeting

All agreed to recommend 10.50/7/3.50 for March only and to be reviewed at next QMAC meeting

Megrim in Area 6

Due to the low uptake at this point in the year it was felt that the current regime of 20/10 could be increased for March.

All agreed to recommend 24/12 for March.

Megrim in Area 7



Due to the low uptake at this point in the year it was felt that the current regime of 20/10 could be increased to 24/12 for March.

All agreed to recommend 24/12 for March.

Nephrops in area FU16

Due to the high uptake over the first few months, there was a request from the ISWFPO for a reduction from the current regime of 10/5 to 8/4. The IFPO requested that the regime should remain the same at 10/5 and to review again at next meeting. The ISWFPO requested a reduction from the current regime of 10/5 to 9/4.5 for the March regime which was agreed by QMAC members.

All agreed to recommend 9/4.5 for March.

Pollack in Area 7

IFPO and KFO outlined the importance of monitoring this by-catch only fishery due to the possibility that if it was closed, it could cause a choke situation which would lead to other important fisheries in Area 7 being closed also. The ISEFPO recommended a catch limit of 0.40/0.20 to mitigate against this situation. NIFF requested that the regime stay the same as this stock is primarily taken in the Spring. ISWFPO also indicated that vessels will drop out of the by-catch fishery over the coming months. ISWFPO requested that a catch limit of 0.30/0.30 for the fishery.

All agreed to recommend 0.30/0.30 for March.

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 Ireland doesn't have quota for some of the stocks which could be caught as a by-catch in a Whiting fishery in Area 7d, Irish vessels ability to target Whiting in Area 7d is restricted. Therefore, 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 for any by-catches of Whiting in Area 7d, it was recommended that 0.50/0.25 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 0.50/0.25 for March 2024 for WHG/*07D.

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

The Department also advised that it had written to the Commission to request a by catch pool mechanism provision for the Area 7d fishery, similar to other by-catch mechanisms in operation under the TAC & Quota Regulation for other choke species and are awaiting a response.

Hook and Line Mackerel

Available Quota 400t

The management of the 2024 Mackerel Hook and Line fishery was discussed with Industry representatives at the 2024 Quota Management Planning Meeting held on 20 January 2024.



The Department advised that uptake in the fishery in 2023 was 269.52t. Vessels 10m and over landed 156.34t. Vessels under 10m landed 113.18t.

NIFF recommended that the fishery be opened on 01 March with a catch limit of 8 tonnes. Vessels would not be required to book in, or hail quantities caught to the Irish Fisheries Monitoring Centre (FMC). NIFA had no objection to this.

The ISEFPO, KFO, IFPO and ISWFPO support a managed fishery (as in 2022 and 2023) to ensure access along the coast for the summer months and to avoid early closure.

The Department advised that in 2023 26 vessels 10m or over had been authorised in the fishery.

As consensus could not be reached, the Department advised that the divergent views would be brought to the attention of the Minister.

Under 18 Mackerel

All agreed to recommend 5t for March.

North West Herring Under 20m Non ring fenced

The Department outlined that the management arrangements for the 2023 fishery 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.

It is recommended that the fishery remain closed for February.

4. Pelagic issues

The Department advised the QMAC about the following fisheries:

1. Blue Whiting 2024 - Authorisations issued on the 7th of February 2024 to 23 RSW Pelagic Segment vessels fishing Blue Whiting. The booking-in period for polyvalent vessels was closed on Feb 15th 2024 and a draw will take place on Friday 23rd February 2024 to select 6 pairs of vessels or 6 pairs and a single vessel to operate in the fishery.
2. Horse Mackerel 2024 - Authorisations were issued to vessels on 6th February 2024.
3. Silver Smelt 2024 - Authorisations were issued to 2 vessels, to operate in the fishery, on 6th February 2024.
4. Atlanto-Scandia Herring 2024 - Authorisations issued to vessels, to operate in the fishery, on 15th February 2024.

Herring in 6A South

The KFO requested clarification on the figures presented by the Department at the Planning meeting where there was difference between the figures provided by the Department and the figures on the SFPA website on Friday 16th February 2024.



The SFPA advised that the figures displayed on the website represented only figures that were declarations and did not contain further data such as sales notes which would have formed part the figures presented by the Department.

Danish Mackerel Allocation.

The KFO requested an update on the Danish Mackerel Allocation and whether any decision had been made by the Minister on the matter and if not when a possible decision could be announced. The Department advised that there is no update at this point in time.

Mackerel Hook & Line

NIFA asked if any unused 2023 allocation for the Mackerel Hook & Line could be carried over to the 2024 Hook & Line fishery 2024 similar to the current situation with the carryover of Mackerel. The Department advised that this not possible under current policy and that any carryover of mackerel is allocated to the National quota.

5. Swaps

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

Swap 1

NLD to IRL:
7.793t POK/1N2AB (2023)
0.536t COD/1N2AB (2023)

IRL to NLD:
8.5t HKE/571214 (2024)

Swap 2

DEU to IRL:
4.4t HER1/2- (2023)

IRL to DEU:
2.2t HER/5B6ANB (2024)

Swap 3

DEU to IRL:
4.4t HER/1/2- (2023)

IRL to DEU:
2.2t HER/5B6ANB (2024)

Swap 4

DEU to IRL:
10t ANF/56-14 (2023)

IRL to DEU:
5t ANF/56-14 (2024)

Swap 5

BEL to IRL:
26t ANF/07. (2024)
0.8t COD/5BE6A (2023)
0.6t HAD/6B1214 (2023)
1t PLE/7DE. (2023)
0.8t HAD/2AC4 (2023)
0.1t SOL/07E. (2023)
0.1t ANF/2AC4 (2023)
0.1t SOL/24-C (2023)

IRL to BEL:
2t WHG/7X7A-C (2023)
9t PLE/7FG (2023)
80t LEZ/07. (2023)

Swap 6



ESP to IRL:
200t WHB/1X14 (2023)

IRL to ESP:
29t BLI/5B67- (2024)

Swap 7

ESP to IRL:
1300t WHB/1X14 (2023)

IRL to ESP:
650t WHB/1X14 (2024)

Swap 8

FRA to IRL:
1.25t BUM/ATLAN (2023)

FRA to IRL:
20t JAX/2A-14 (2024)

Swap 9

NLD to IRL:
5.072t HER/4AB. (2024)

IRL to NLD:
5.072t HER/4AB. (2023)

Swap 10

DEU to IRL
50T POK/1A2AB.

IRL to DEU
50t COD 1N2AB.

Swap proposal for discussion

Swap 1

Small eyed ray

The Department has received enquiries from France and the UK if Ireland has any quantities of small eyed ray available to swap. Ireland has 7t for 2024.

Industry recommended that it be considered as part of a bigger swap over the coming year. .

Swap 2

The IFPO proposed the following swap:

NLD to IRL:
5t HER/5B6ANB
58t ANF/56-14
58t ANF/07.

IRL to NED:
540,000kw days Demersal effort area 7

The swap was agreed and the Department will follow up with Netherlands to proceed with the swap.

6. Quota Balancing

Demersal Quota Balancing

The Department advised that Final Quota Balancing Statements for the 2023 December Demersal Fisheries will be issuing in the coming days.

Pelagic Quota Balancing



The Department advised that final quota balancing statements issued for the 2023 Mackerel Tier 1 and Tier 2 Fishery on 17th January 2024 and the 2023 RSW Mackerel Fishery on 22 January 2024. Final quota balancing statements issued for the 2023 Boarfish Fishery on 25th January 2024 and final quota balancing statements for the 2023 North West Herring Category 4.5 & 2.68 Fishery issued 29th January 2024. Final quota balancing statements for the 2023 Horse Mackerel 29 Fishery issued on 7th February.

The Department further advised that provisional quota balancing statements for landings of pelagic fish stocks without a valid authorisation/notification in excess of allowable by-catch for the calendar year 2023 issued on 14th February. Licence holders have until tomorrow 21st February to make enquiries on their provisional statements. Final quota balancing statements will issue after this date.

AOB

No AOB points discussed.

The next Quota Management meeting is scheduled for the 20 March at 2.30pm.

Sea Fisheries Policy & Management Division

20 January 2024