An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Quota Management Advisory Committee Supplementary Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Tuesday 4 May 2021
Location	National Seafood Centre, Clonakilty
Chair	Official from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
Members via videoconference	DAFM: 7 attendees Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA): 1 attendee **Industry Representatives:** Irish Fish Processors and Exporters Association (IFPEA): 1 Observer Irish Fish Producers Organisation (IFPO): 1 member Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation (IIMRO): 1 member Irish South & East Fish Producer Organisation (ISEFPO): 1 member Irish South and West Fish Producer Organisation (ISWFPO): 1 member Killybegs Fishermens Organisation (KFO): 1 member National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF): 1 member

1. Conflict of Interest

The Conflict of Interest statement was read at the start of the meeting.

The Department welcomed the representative of Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation who were recently appointed to the QMAC by the Minister.

2. Mackerel Hook and Line

The Department outlined the purpose for today's meeting, to further examine the NIFF Mackerel Jigging Proposal for the Irish Line-Caught Mackerel Fishery. This meeting was at the request of the Minister following a recent meeting between the Minster and the NIFF on the proposal to see if the QMAC could make a joint recommendation on the proposal.

The Department outlined the proposal and the process involved if any changes were made to any part of the proposal. The Department advised that the Minister decides if the trip limit of 750kgs should be reduced or increased and this could be decided within current policy

The Department further advised that if the Minister decides if a change was required to the overall quota allocation for the fishery, this would require the Minster to undertake a public consultation to review the Mackerel Policy. The Department also advised any review of the Mackerel Policy would be limited because of the ongoing judicial review.

The NIFF outlined the proposal to the meeting and stated that the NIFF are seeking an increase of the per trip limit from 750kgs to 1500kgs. The NIFF also stated that the small fishers need help and the extra per trip limit would take pressure off other fisheries in area 6 such as pollock and kw/days of crab BSA and it would save on fuel and buyers making trips to the pier.

The SFPA updated the QMAC on 2020 landings made by 10-15m vessels (300t) and U10m vessels (284t). The SFPA advised the QMAC that the U10m landings are captured by sales notes with no indication of gear type and this causes a time lag in reporting catch.

Industry representatives recommended that there should be a new management and control regime in place for the fishery if the Minister decides to increase the trip limit. The KFO recommended that vessels participating in the fishery use logbooks to record catches, there needs to be a mechanism for vessels booking into the fishery and for closing the fishery and recommended the possible introduction of a quota balancing process. NIFF stated that this should not be a problem with their members and that records of catches will have to be kept for three years. The IFPO and the ISEFPO agreed with the KFO recommendations. The ISWFPO also agreed with the KFO recommendations, noting that the inshore vessels need to be accommodated, and will encourage their own members to contact the local RIFF to ensure they are represented. The ISWFPO expressed concerns, however, about vessels in this fishery exceeding the quota allocation in 2021 and if Mackerel show up in one area of the country this might result in no fishery for anyone else. The ISWFPO further stated that there will be an increase in vessels that will target this Mackerel Fishery as is evident already and it believed this will be similar to a ring-fencing of a fishery as the quota will be exhausted by these vessels in this area if an increase of 1,500 kg per trip limit is agreed.

IIMRO stated that their smaller boats would be opposed to the use of logbooks and expressed concerns about an uplift in the quota for the smaller boats – the quota could be taken up quickly if Mackerel shows up in a certain area and the bigger boats in the fishery catch 1,500kg per trip.

The SFPA will discuss the implementation of logbooks for vessels participating in the fishery with its colleagues in the operations division noting the concerns of the IIMRO.

The Department will reflect on the NIFF proposal and examine what would be involved in the administration in managing the fishery with the SFPA providing input on controls.