2023 Celtic Sea Herring Scientific Fishery (provision of samples)

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine invites applications from the owners of Irish registered fishing vessels in the Celtic Sea Herring ring-fenced group (i.e., vessels that have fulfilled the criteria set out in Policy Directive 1 and 2 of 2012, concerning access to herring stocks).

Completed application forms should be sent by email to fisheriesbooking@agriculture.gov.ie or by post to Celtic Sea Herring Scientific Fisheries Booking, Seafood Policy and Management Division, National Seafood Centre, Clogheen, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, P85 TX47, to arrive no later than close of business on 31 July 2023.

If you do not receive a receipt of confirmation within 4 working days of sending this form, please email fisheriesbooking@agriculture.gov.ie or contact a member of the Quota Management team (in the Sea Fisheries Policy and Management Division) by phone on 023-8859500 before **4 August 2023.**

A lottery to select vessels will take place on 08 August 2023.

Detailed Management Arrangements

2023 Available Quota	**750t**
Landed to date	**5t**
Adjusted	**745t**

Allocation

Main Fishery: 745t x 70% = 521.50t

Sentinel Fishery: 745t x 25% = 186.25t

Contingency: 745 x 5% = 37.25t

In 2023, the open fishery quota of 37.25t will be retained to cover by-catch and contingency (no <20m open fishery will operate).

Uncaught quota from the main fishery (if applicable) to be made available to the Celtic Sea Herring Sentinel (Scientific) Fishery. This is in addition to the 186.25t set out above.

Where more than the required number of vessels express an interest in taking part in the sampling activity, the Minister to allow a lottery to take place in accordance with Detailed Lottery arrangements for Celtic Sea Herring (Scientific) Fishery in Appendix 1 below.

The fishery will operate over two management periods with 260t to be allocated to either an individual vessel or a pair of vessels (either 2-vessel pair or 3-vessel pair) in each management period.

Individual vessels, 2-vessel pairs or 3-vessel pairs can be entered in the draw. On application the vessel owner must identify if they are applying as a single vessel or as part of a pair (either a 2-vessel pair or a 3-vessel pair). If part of a pair, the owner must specify any partner vessel(s). If an individual vessel is drawn it will receive the full 260t. If a 2-vessel pair is drawn, the two vessels will share the available quota of 260t and be allocated 130t each. If a 3-vessel pair is drawn, the three vessels will share the available quota of 260t and be allocated 87t each.

Up to two pairs (either 2-vessel pair or 3-vessel pair) will therefore be authorised in the fishery. Depending on how the vessels are drawn, there will be either an individual vessel; two vessels operating as a pair; or three vessels operating as a pair authorised in each management period.

The first single vessel or pair (either 2-vessel pair or 3-vessel pair) drawn will be offered the first management period 20/08/2023 to 08/9/2023.

The second vessel or pair (either 2-vessel pair or 3-vessel pair) drawn will be offered the second management period 10/09/2023 to 29/09/2023.

After the lottery has been held, if the Department is notified that a vessel or vessels within a pair does not wish or cannot avail of the fishing opportunity before or after being authorised, then only the uncaught quota of the vessel or vessels not availing of the opportunity is taken back into the national quota. This quota will then be offered to the next vessel or pair on the reserve list.

1. All vessels will be required by authorisation to fish a minimum of two of the three weeks in the management period.
2. The authorised boat shall not fish for herring during the period beginning at 00.01 hours on any Friday and ending at 24.00 on that Friday. The boat shall be allowed to retain on board and land herring during the period beginning at 00.01 hours on any Friday and ending at 24.00 on that Friday, which has been caught before 23.59 hours on Thursday. The authorised boat shall not fish for, retain on board or land herring during the period beginning 00.01 hours on Saturday and ending at 24:00 on that Saturday.
3. No pelagic landings will be permitted between 00.01 and 08.00 hours daily
4. Participating vessels will be precluded from fishing for Herring and Sprat in that part of ICES statistical rectangles 33 E2 and 33 E3, the “Dunmore Box” (ICES SubArea 7aS), from 00:01 hours on 20 August to 00:01 hours on 30 September 2023; the “specified area” is bounded by the following coordinates:

   to the north by latitude 52° 30’N

   to the south by latitude 52° 00’N

   to the west by the coast of Ireland

to the east by longitude 006° 00'W;

5. Bluefin tuna by-catch Avoidance Measures

The master of the authorised boat shall take all necessary measures to avoid by-catch of Bluefin tuna. The master of the authorised boat shall move fishing grounds if the Bluefin tuna by-catch in any haul exceeds 1% of Celtic Sea Herring in that haul.

Where the Bluefin tuna by-catch exceeds 1% of the total catch of Celtic Sea Herring on board at the time of return to port (RTP), the vessel shall not fish in the statistical rectangles or any contiguous statistical rectangles in which the vessel fished during the trip in which its by-catch of Bluefin tuna exceeded 1%, for 5 consecutive days from the start of the next fishing trip;

Where the Bluefin tuna by-catch exceeds 2% of the total catch of Celtic Sea Herring on board at the time of return to port (RTP), the vessel shall not fish in the statistical rectangles or any contiguous statistical rectangles in which the vessel fished during the trip in which its by-catch of Bluefin tuna exceeded 2%, for 10 consecutive days from the start of the next fishing trip.

6. Vessels booking into the 2023 autumn Main Celtic Sea Herring Scientific Fishery are precluded from fishing for NW Herring and Irish Sea Herring during the same week as Celtic Sea Herring.

7. Landing(s) of Celtic Sea Herring in excess of permitted catch limits will be subject to quota balancing in accordance with the Minister's policy of 31 July 2020 regarding Quota Balancing for Pelagic Stocks.

8. Vessels must indicate in advance their pairing arrangements. The Department will provide separate authorisations to each of the vessels 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. Pairing arrangements must remain unchanged for the duration of the fishery, save for exceptional circumstances. All pairing arrangements will require the approval of the SFPA prior to engaging in pair fishing. Any changes to pairing arrangements will be subject to advance notification and approval by the SFPA.

9. The size composition of fish landed must meet the same requirements as a commercial fishery, i.e., there should be no more than 10% of the fish smaller than the minimum reference size of 20 cm.

10. It is proposed to write (via email) to all Producer Organisations, industry representatives, and those on our regular mailing list for such fisheries seeking nominations of eligible vessels and advising of the application process.

11. A notice will also be placed on the Department's website at the following link:

https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/4703a-policy-quota-management/

12. Where vessels plan to land catches into Northern Ireland ports such vessels will be required to be inspected by the SFPA in the Republic prior to leaving the jurisdiction.

Scientific Requirements: (Required by the Marine Institute)

- Each landing should provide a 25kg sample of unsorted catch.
- The samples must be stored appropriately and clearly labeled with vessel name, date and fishing ground from which it was taken, e.g. Vessel A, DD/MM/YYYY, the Daunt, Vessel B, DD/MM/YYYY, Ballycotton.
- Arrangements must be made by skipper to deliver the samples directly to the Marine Institute laboratories in Castletownbere or Dunmore East upon landing. Vessels to liaise with Fisheries Liaison Team (Macdara Ó Cuaig 087 207 5988) to make appropriate arrangements for the delivery of samples to the Marine Institute.

Sea Fisheries Policy and Management Division
12 July 2023

Appendix 1

Detailed Lottery Arrangements Celtic Sea Herring Scientific Fishery (provision of samples).

The Department proposes to hold a draw for vessels to operate in the 2023 Celtic Sea Herring Scientific Fishery (provision of samples).

Venue: Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Clogheen, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, P85 TX47

Date: 08 August 2023

Time: 3pm

- The fishery will operate over two management periods with 260t to be allocated to either an individual vessel or a pair of vessels (either 2-vessel pair or 3-vessel pair) in each management period.
- Up to two pairs (either 2-vessel pair or 3-vessel pair) will therefore be authorised in the fishery. Depending on how the vessels are drawn, there will be either an individual vessel; two vessels operating as a pair; or three vessels operating as a pair authorised in each management period.
- On application, the vessel owner must identify if they are applying as a single vessel or as part of a pair (either a 2-vessel pair or a 3-vessel pair). If part of a pair, the owner must specify any partner vessel(s). If an individual vessel is drawn it will receive the full 260t. If a 2-vessel pair is drawn, the two vessels will share the available quota of 260t and be allocated 130t each. If a 3-vessel pair is drawn, the three vessels will share the available quota of 360t and be allocated 87t each.
- The first single vessel or pair (either 2-vessel pair or 3-vessel pair) drawn will be offered the first management period 20/08/2023 to 08/09/2023.
- The second vessel or pair (either 2-vessel pair or 3-vessel pair) drawn will be offered the second management period 10/09/2023 to 29/09/2023.

- By completing, signing and dating the booking-in form, applicants, including partner vessels, confirm their willingness to be entered in an open draw to receive an authorisation for the fishery.
- For the draw, each individual vessel will be entered once, and each pair will be entered once.
- A reserve list will be created.
- After the lottery has been held, if the Department is notified that a vessel or vessels within a pair does not wish or cannot avail of the fishing opportunity before or after being authorised, then only the uncaught quota of the vessel or vessels not availing of the opportunity is taken back into the national quota. This quota will then be offered to the next vessel or pair on the reserve list.
- One industry representative from each PO, NIFF and IFPEA will be invited to attend.
- An independent observer will also be invited to oversee proceedings.
- Authorisations to be made available following the lottery.

Sea Fisheries Policy and Management Division
12 July 2023