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

June Quota Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Thursday 17 June 2021
Location	National Seafood Centre, Clonakilty
Chair	Official from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
Members via videoconference	DAFM: 6 attendees Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA): 1 attendee **Industry Representatives:** Co-ops Umbrella Group: 1 member and 1 observer Irish Fish Processors and Exporters Association (IFPEA): 1 member 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 and 1 observer 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 stated that, as advised at last month's QMAC meeting, a request was sent out to QMAC members to submit an updated 'Declaration of Interest forms' under the QMAC Conflict of Interest Policy. The Department thanked the QMAC members for submitting their updated 'Declaration of Interest forms' for 2021 in advance of today's meeting, and is currently compiling these forms.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes from the May QMAC meeting were circulated to the QMAC members for comments before today's meeting. There were no queries from the QMAC members regarding the minutes. The Department advised that it would publish the May's QMAC meeting minutes on the Department website when publishing the monthly FMNs.

The KFO and ISWFPO asked if amendments they submitted for the May QMAC minutes on 19th and 24th were included in the minutes. The Department advised that their amendments were included and the updated minutes are published on the Department website. The Department further advised that if a QMAC member submits an amendment to minutes for consideration, the Department will circulate the revised minutes at the time of publishing these on the website.

3. **Swaps**

The Department advised the following swaps were completed following the last meeting:

Swap 1

France to Ireland:	Ireland to France:
80 t of ANF/07.	125 t of COD/1N2AB

Swap 2

Netherlands to Ireland:	Ireland to Netherlands:
100t ANF/07	3.646.3 t of 2021 pelagic
Morocco quota	
100t ANF/56-14	

Swap 3

Netherlands to Ireland:	Ireland to Netherlands:
70t HKE/571214	150 t of WHG/7X7A-

Swap 4

Netherlands to Ireland:	Ireland to Netherlands:
17t ANF/56-14	153t ARU/567.
17t ANF/07.	

The following swaps have been proposed

Swap 1

France to Ireland:	Ireland to France:
350 t of NEP/*07U16	60 t of SOL/7HJK
100 t of ANF/56-14	4 t of GHL/2A-C46
450 t of HKE/571214	550 t of MAC/2CX14-
100 t of JAX/4BC7D	
150 t of JAX/2A-14	
1,25 t of RJE/7FG	
2 t of SBR/678-	
30 t of SRX/*07D.	
50 t of BOR/678-	

Swap 2

France to Ireland:	Ireland to France:
25000 kw/h crab fishing effort	180 t MAC/2CX14-
5 t PLE/7HJK	

This swap was agreed at the last QMAC meeting but was to be included in the big French swap.

France to Ireland:	Ireland to France:
40 of ANF/56-14	300 t of WHG/7X7A-C
105 t of ANF/07.	

It was agreed that the three proposed swaps would be combined into one swap to seek 40,000kw days for 150t of Mackerel and 1t of PLE/7HJK. The Department will revert back to France with the alternative proposal.

Swap 3

Ireland to Spain	**Spain to Ireland**
6% of the total final IE quota of COD/7XAD34	33t of NEP/*07UF16
6% of the total final IE quota of COD/5BE6A	5 t of NEP/07
1 t of SOL/7BC	
0,9t of PLE/7HJK	
5t of BOR/678	
2,5 t of SBR/678	

It was agreed that Ireland cannot proceed to swap out any choke species until the final quotas are known. It was agreed that the Department will revert back to Spain in relation to the other portion of the swap proposal.

4. Whitefish Monthly Regimes

Before the group began setting recommended regimes for individual stocks, the Department advised that it was using the figures provided from the second TAC amendment and that these figures included the carryover amounts. The Department further advised that it is hoped that an amended TAC & Quota will be published in July to allow for the full 12 month quotas.

ANF/56-14

Due to the remaining quota of Monk in Area 6, including a carryover figure of 128t and projected uptake to the end of June of 60t, it was discussed that the regime could be increased. The introduction of a 12 month quota in July will support this regime.

All agreed to recommend ANF/56-14: 6/3

HAD/6B1214

Due to the remaining quota projected increase of Haddock in 6b in the full year's quota, it was discussed that the regime could be increased in order to give more opportunities to vessels.

All agreed to recommend HAD/6B1214: 20/10

Nephrops 7

Due to the uptake figure of 103% of Nephrops in 7, with a carryover of 716t, it was discussed that the regime needed to be reduced to ensure the fishery remained open for the full year.

All agreed to recommend NEP/07.: 22/11

Other regimes

Under 18m Mackerel

Due to the closure of the Mackerel hook and line fishery, industry representatives expressed concern that several operators were likely to transfer to trawling in order to access this fishery, with the risk that the available quota would be caught before the end of June. The SFPA advised that the current uptake was 74t and there was 122t remaining. It was recommended to close the fishery until the end of June and set a 1 tonne catch limit for July. A separate closure notice has already been signed by the Minister for the closure of the fishery for the remainder of June.

All agreed to recommend under 18m Mackerel: 1 tonne

WHG 7b-k Hague Preferences calculations

The KFO again queried the formula used by the Commission in calculating the Hague Preference for WHG 7b-k. The Department advised that the calculation and the figure used by the Commission is from the 1995 Commission paper and has been the basis of any application for the last 20 years. The KFO noted that the Hague key was not reached for this stock until recent years and requested the Department explore further with the Commission for clarification.

5. **Pelagic Issues**

Blue Whiting

Industry supported the closure of the Blue Whiting Fishery as there is only 12t remaining. The Department will begin quota balancing the fishery when the final landing data is available.

Albacore Tuna

The Department advised that eligible vessels had been authorised to fish for Albacore Tuna from the 23rd of June. The Department further advised that once these vessels have been inspected, the SFPA will issue the vessel with their respective authorisation.

Mackerel, Horse Mackerel & Boarfish reallocation of quota

The Department advised the QMAC that the Minister has approved the reallocation of an additional 9,178t of Mackerel to the RSW Pelagic Segment and Polyvalent Segment vessels and the Department will issue revised notifications in due course. The Department further advised that once the Commission publish the final figures for Horse Mackerel and Boarfish, it will begin the process of reallocating any additional amounts.

Mackerel Jigging (Hook and Line) fishery

The Mackerel hook and line fishery has been closed for 2021 as the landings have exceeded the available quota. There was a lengthy discussion on this fishery and the item will remain on the agenda for the next QMAC meeting. The discussion was centred on management proposals for the 2022 Fishery. The Department asked that the QMAC discuss measures that could be introduced to manage the 400t limit for the 2022 fishery to avoid its early closure.

The SFPA advised the meeting that it is heavily dependent on the timely submission of sales notes and there is a significant problem in getting sales notes submitted on time, which is being pursued by the relevant port office. The SFPA advised of an SFPA paper on possible additional control requirements paper circulated to the QMAC before May's QMAC meeting, proposing a paper logsheet system and hail messages, with a threshold for vessels authorised in the fishery. The SFPA further advised that 35 boats took part in the hook and line fishery to date this year. NIFF advised the meeting that their figures identified 60 vessels taking part in the fishery. The SFPA stated it is not seeing evidence of that number of vessels yet.

IIMRO, supported by NIFF, called for more quota be made available to the hook and line sector. NIFF outlined its views on the management of the hook and line fishery for 2022, with the introduction of a managed monthly quota and logbooks, a 5 day fishing week, that the fishery would operate between May and September with closure when the quota reaches 85% and that any uncaught quota would go back into the main pot. The NIFF also proposed that any uncaught monthly quota would roll over to the next month. The NIFF advised the QMAC that it is withdrawing its proposal for an increase on the trip limit above the current level of 750kg per trip.

The KFO, supported by ISWFPO and IFPEA, proposed that the 2022 fishery should be a managed fishery with vessels required to book in, authorisations issued, the introduction of a mandatory logbook, hailing in, quota balancing and monthly allocations. The KFO also highlighted the importance of getting landing figures on a timely basis.

The NIFF stated everything proposed by the KFO would likely be accepted by the inshore sector. The ISEFPO stated that all the measures being discussed are important in ensuring a fair distribution of quota around the coast.

IIMRO proposed that the mackerel set aside for swaps under the Mackerel Policy be redistributed to the mackerel hook and line sector. The Department advised the mackerel set aside for swaps is an important part on how we manage our fisheries and is used to support demersal fisheries. The ISWFPO noted that the mackerel used for swaps was important also for inshore fisheries and was used to swap for crab effort in the BSA. IIMRO, supported by the ISWFPO, took the view that a public consultation should take place to get the views of all fishers around the coast (there appears to have been divergent views as to what should be subject to public consultation, IIMRO seeking an increased share of the quota, and the ISWFPO on additional management measures for the hook and line fishery within the 400t limit set down in current policy).

The Department advised the QMAC of the Minister's mackerel policy as set down and the review carried out in 2017 did not amend the allocation to the hook and line fishery. The Department further advised that if the Minister was satisfied that there were changed circumstances that justified a review, this would be a formal process and would include a public consultation. However, the remit of the QMAC is to advice the Minister within the policy set down and this needed to be the focus of the discussion at the meeting.

ISWFPO stated its members have had no access to quota for the hook and line fishery this year, which they normally have and this had been made clear at earlier meeting by the PO. ISWFPO also stated that a new hook and line fishery has now been developed and the available quota fished at the early part of the season, and, prior to this development, there had been enough quota for everyone interested in this fishery. The IS&WFO suggested that an investigation be carried out into the running of the 2021 fishery. ISWFPO proposed that NIFF/RIFFs be given the opportunity to come up with a system to manage the 2022 hook and line fishery. IIMRO asked to be included in any consultation with the NIFF in drafting management proposals.

NIFF & IIMRO to reflect on suggestions discussed at today's meeting and will discuss further at next month's QMAC meeting.

6. **Quota Balancing Report**

Given the short time remaining, the Department briefly went through the 2020 Quota Balancing for Demersal and Pelagic Stocks report, circulated to the QMAC before May's QMAC.

The Department advised, as set out in the policy, further stocks would be added in a phased manner. Recommended stocks include:

- HAD/6B1214,
- LEZ/07.,
- LEZ/56-14,
- LIN/6X14.,
- POK/56-14,
- POL/07.

The Department also advised that in relation to quota balancing statements issued to licence holders, it is seeking the views of the QMAC where a vessel has a balancing adjustment for a pelagic stock, e.g. Herring in a particular area, and where a vessel is unlikely to receive a catch limit of that particular Herring stock within the calendar years of 2021 or 2022, that consideration could be given to recouping that balancing adjustment from another Herring stock in 2021 or 2022 where that is available for that vessel.

It was agreed the matter of quota balancing will be further discussed at next month's QMAC.

7. **AOB**

8. **Next meeting**

The next Quota Management meeting is to be scheduled for the 21st of July @ 2.30pm.