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

Quota Management Advisory Committee Supplementary Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Thursday August 19th 2021
Location	National Seafood Centre, Clonakilty
Chair	Official from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
Members via videoconference	DAFM: 5 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 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.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes from the July QMAC meeting were circulated to the QMAC members for comments before today's meeting. There were no objections from the QMAC members regarding the minutes. The Department advised that it would publish the July QMAC meeting minutes on the Department website when it is publishing the September Fisheries Management Notices.

3. SWAPS

The Department advised that the following swaps had been completed since the last QMAC whitefish meeting. The figures were included in the sheets for today's meeting.

Swap 1

France to Ireland:
100t LEZ/56-14

Ireland to France:
20t COD/5BE6A
5t SOL/7HJK

Swap 2

UK to Ireland:
10.75t RJE/7FG.

Ireland to UK:
10.75t HKE/471214

Swap 3

Ireland to Spain
25.32t COD/7XAD34 (Choke species)
14.58t COD/5BE6A (Choke species)
0.9t PLE/7HJK (Choke species)
1t SOL/7BC
5t BOR/678
1t SBR/678

Spain to Ireland
25t NEP/*07UF16
25t NEP/07

Swap 4

UK to Ireland:
100 ANF/07.

Ireland to UK:
220t WHG/7X7A-C

Proposed Swaps

The Department advised that the Belgium administration proposed the following swap:

Swap 1

BEL to IRL
15 t HAD/6B1214
10 t ANF/07.

IRL to BEL
100,000 kW days BSA

Industry representatives advised that the ratio for this swap was too low and that a better deal could be obtained. It was recommended that Ireland should hold off on this swap for now and revisit it following the outcome of other swaps. It was recommended that if Ireland can't get the Sole in 7hjk it needs from France, that this might be included in this swap.

The Department advised that the French administration proposed the following swap:

Swap 2

Ireland to France:
154 t of COD/1N2AB
2 t of BLI/24-

France to Ireland:
100 t of HAD/7X7A34
100 t of HKE/571214

The Co-ops stated that the ratio wasn't balanced as Cod is very valuable at the moment, and Ireland could get a more balanced deal including extra Hake and including Megrim in Area 6. The Department asked for recommendations about holding back a small amount of Norwegian Cod to cover any bycatches. It was recommended that 2t would be held back. The updated recommended swap that the Department will reply to France with is:

Ireland to France:	France to Ireland:
152 t of COD/1N2AB	100 t of HAD/7X7A34
2 t of BLI/24-	150 t of HKE/571214
	50t LEZ/56-14

The Department advised that the French administration proposed the following swap:

Swap 3

France to Ireland:	Ireland to France:
30 t of LEZ/07.	60 t of WHG/7X7A-C
100 t of HAD/7X7A34	130 t of MAC/2CX14-
20 t of LEZ/56-14	40 t of JAX/4BC7D

After discussing this swap, industry representatives recommended that Ireland had more Horse Mackerel available to swap and that Ireland needed Sole in 7hjk. It was recommended to increase the House Mackerel in the swap to 100t and look for 12t of Sole in 7hjk (or perhaps 8 or 10t of Sole if we cannot secure 12t). The Department will revert to France with the new proposal.

The Department advised that the French administration proposed the following swap:

Swap 4

Ireland to France:	France to Ireland:
15 t of PLE/7HJK.	7 t of ANF/07.

According to the figures provided by the SFPA, Ireland has only 15t remaining of Plaice in 7hjk so the recommendation was not to proceed with this swap.

The Department advised that the KFO has proposed the following swap for discussion:

Swap 5

Ireland to France:	France to Ireland:
40t COD/7XAD34	100t LEZ/07.
2t PLE/7HJK	200t HAD 7X7A34
50t MAC/2CX14-	
50t JAX/2A-14	
100t SRX67AKXD	

It was felt that Ireland doesn't need Megrim in 7 and that we need Nephrops in 7 instead. The recommendation is to look for 50t of NEP/07 instead of the 100t LEZ/07. The Department will contact the French administration regarding this swap.

Request for meeting to discuss quota swaps urgently required

The ISWFPO requested that a meeting to discuss further swaps take place before the next QMAC meeting, once the swaps discussed at today's meeting have been finalised. Urgent quota swaps for Sole 7hjk, Nephrops 7, Hake, Haddock 7b-k and Monk 7 are needed to maintain fisheries for the remainder of the year.

Tie-up scheme

Industry representatives at the meeting requested an update on the commencement of the Brexit temporary tie-up scheme recommended by the Seafood Sector Task Force.

The co-op representative stressed that before setting catch limits for September it was important to know if the remaining quotas would need to cover three or four months to the end of the year. The representative stressed that it was important that the scheme wouldn't become "a dead factor scheme" if the quotas will already have been fished by the time the scheme is in place.

The Department advised that it did not currently have information on when the scheme would come into effect. The Department advised the meeting that information on the scheme would be circulated once available. Industry representatives commented that they would set quotas on the basis that there would be no tie-up scheme in September given that there had been no notice given to industry yet of a potential tie-up scheme commencement date.

Whitefish - Discussion on particular regimes

The figures used for discussion at the meeting and for setting recommended regimes for individual stocks were the figures provided from the fourth TAC amendment and also included the carryover amounts from 2020 to 2021.

Monk in Area 7.

Due to the remaining quota, including a carryover figure of 811t and projected uptake to the end of August of 300t, it was felt that the regime needed to be reduced. The recommendation was to try to secure a swap of this stock with France and Belgium.

All agreed to recommend ANF/07.: 4/2

Haddock in 7 b-k

Due to the remaining quota of 623t and the projected landings for August of 350t, the recommendation was to try securing a swap with France. It was recommended to keep the regime for this stock the same for this month and perhaps lower next month depending on whether a swap was secured and whether the tie-up scheme is in operation.

All agreed to recommend HAD/7X7A34: 9/6/3

Nephrops 7

Due to the uptake figure of 85% and the remaining quota of 1634t, it was felt that the regime needed to be reduced and that we need to secure a swap. The co-ops recommended that a swap of at least 500t will be required to have a fishery in place for the remainder of the year.

All agreed to recommend NEP/07: 15/7.50

Nephrops FU16

Industry representatives recommended that this fishery remain closed for September in a bid to have a fishery in place for October and November.

Sole in 7hjk

Landing figures received from the SFPA for today's meeting indicate that the available quota of 61t has been exceeded. There is a projected catch of 12 tonnes for August. The quota will still be exceeded by 5 tonnes by the end of August, even when taking both the contingency of 5t and the carryover of 8t into account. The fishery had operated as an open fishery up to this month and exceeding the quota was not expected. The SFPA advised that the uptake in June and July had been high in comparison to this time last year and there may also be catch on paper logsheets to be added.

The Department advised that France and Belgium have quantities of Sole in 7hjk currently unfished, according to FIDES data, and that the UK also have a quota for Sole in 7hjk but it is unclear how much, if any, they still have available. It was recommended that a swap should urgently be pursued with France.

All agreed to recommend keeping the fishery open with a very small by-catch regime SOL/7HJK: 0.10/0.05

Whiting 7 b-k

The co-ops advised that the biggest processor in the country will require a supply of Whiting and caution should be taken when considering further swaps out of this stock.

All agreed to recommend WHG/7B-K: 40/20

Pelagic Issues General

The KFO have requested that one vessel be authorised to fish in place of another vessel in the 2021 Atlanto-Scandian Herring Fishery. There is a rotation list of vessels in operation for this fishery and this change will not change the rotation. The KFO stated that the selection of the second vessel was on an objective basis and was not in any way an internal transfer between the two vessels. This change was supported by all industry members.

The Department informed the QMAC members that the revised Mackerel, Horse Mackerel and Boarfish quota notifications granting 100% catch limits and adjusted for 2020 quota balancing amounts had issued and had been e-mailed to relevant licence holders last week.

The Department advised that Polyvalent Horse Mackerel over and under 65ft Horse Mackerel authorisations and quota notifications for the period 01 October to 31 December had issued and been e-mailed to relevant licence holders last Friday.

Albacore Tuna

The Department advised that the Albacore Tuna fishery was closed on 18 August. The SFPA informed the QMAC members that the current uptake was 2763t and final landing figures are not yet available.

Irish Sea Herring

The Department advised that the closing date for booking in for the Irish Sea Herring fishery was close of business on 19 August. A lottery to select vessels will be held on Friday 27 August. Currently there are three singles, four pairs and one threesome booked in.

The Department informed QMAC members that in accordance with the EU-UK Trade and Co-operation Agreement, vessels selected to fish in the Irish Sea Herring Fishery who wished to fish in the 6-12nm zone around the Isle of Man will need to provide proof of track record in the area. The vessel will need to prove that it had fished in that area for more than ten days in any one year period from 1 February 2017 to 31 January 2020. If a vessel doesn't have the track record, the Department will try make a case to the Commission to get access for the vessel, explaining Ireland's lottery process for the fishery. There is no guarantee that this will be obtained and if it is not, vessels will be offered an authorisation to fish for Irish Sea Herring outside the area only if they so wish.

Celtic Sea Herring Main (Scientific) Fishery

The Department informed the QMAC members that booking in for the 2021 fishery is opened and will close on 2 September. A lottery to select vessels will be held on 10 September.

Celtic Sea Herring Sentinel Fishery

The Department informed the QMAC that it has written to the Celtic Sea Herring Management Advisory Committee (CHMAC) for a recommendation for the management of the 2021 Sentinel Fishery. The available quota is 174t.

North West Herring

The Department has received a first draft proposal for the fishery. The Department has gone back to the stakeholders with some enquires.

AOB

Demersal Quota Balancing - adding stocks

Following a request from the QMAC members at the July QMAC meeting, the Department received landing data from the SFPA in relation to demersal stocks that are under consideration to be added to quota balancing. The Department advised that it is currently examining data received and will send the findings of this data to the QMAC members shortly.

Quota Balancing Adjustments - Unauthorised landings

As per the Ministers consolidated Quota Balancing Policy for Pelagic Stocks, the Department sought the views of the QMAC that where there is 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.

The below stocks have accrued balancing adjustments and could be recouped from another Herring stock in 2021 or 2022:

- HER in Area 4 AB
- HER in Area 6 A North
- HER in Area 6 A South
- Celtic Sea Herring

The Department outlined several potential options to recoup the balancing adjustments. The QMAC members expressed concerns about the amount of time that a balancing adjustment for Herring should stay with a vessel. The ISWFPO suggested that it should be a maximum of 2-3 years only and recommended that after this time, it should be recouped from other stocks.

The QMAC members also expressed their concerns about recouping from a different stock on a tonne-for-tonne basis as a tonne of herring is not the same value of a tonne of mackerel. However, the IFPO suggested that where there are deliberate, intentional catches of scientific quota, the amount could be taken off Mackerel potentially if a certain period of time has passed and the balancing adjustment has not been recouped.

In the scientific herring fisheries there were also concerns that if balancing adjustments were applied the revised catch limits may not be sufficient to obtain the scientific samples required. Industry members queried what happens with any recouped balancing adjustments. The Department advised that these are currently used as contingencies. The Department advised that, as per the policy, a catch limit for a vessel with a balancing adjustment would be set at a minimum of 20% of the expected catch limit in order to recoup some or all of the balancing adjustment for the scientific stock. The Department expressed concerns that if unauthorised catches of scientific stocks were not offset it would endanger stock recovery. The IFPO expressed concerns that a balancing adjustment outstanding for Herring for a particular vessel might encourage that vessel to give up their position in a particular fishery altogether.

A number of options were discussed. The Department asked the Producer Organisations to send any comments, recommendations or observations on the topic to the Department by COB Wednesday 25 August for consideration.

The next Quota Management meeting is to be scheduled for 22 September at 2.30pm.

Sea Fisheries Policy & Management Division