Quota Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Thursday September 22nd 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:** Co-ops Umbrella Group: 1 member Irish Fish Processors and Exporters Association (IFPEA): 1 Observer Irish Fish Producers Organisation (IFPO): 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 August QMAC and the September QMAC swaps meeting were circulated to the QMAC members for comments before today's meeting. There were no objections from the QMAC members regarding both sets of minutes. The Department advised that both sets of meeting minutes would be published on the Department website when it is publishing the FMNs.

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

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

Swap 2

France to Ireland:
130 t of LEZ/56-14
220 t of HAD/7X7A34

Ireland to France:
100 t of SRX/67AKXD
40 t of COD/7XAD34
50 t of MAC/2CX14-
30 t of JAX/4BC7D
50 t of JAX/2A-14
2 t of PLE/7HJK.
5 t of RJU/7DE.
6 t of ALF/3X14-
10 t of BLI/5B67-
50 t of RNG/5B67-
15 t of BSF/56712-
30 t of BOR/678-

Swap 3

UK to IRL:
100t NEP/07.

IRL to UK:
200t MAC/2CXZ14-
200t MAC/*4A-UK

The figures for swaps completed are included in today's whitefish sheets.

Update on previously discussed swaps

Swap 1

UK to IRL:
20 t HAD/7X7A34

IRL to UK:
50 t POK/*2AC4C

The Department has agreed this swap with the UK, but the UK administration replied advising it needed to look at the swap again and would revert back. The Department has emailed looking for an update.

Swap 2

BEL to IRL:
15t SOL/7HJK.
65t ANF/07.
170t HKE/571214

IRL to BEL:
100,000Kw Days Demersal effort BSA
130t PLE/7FG.
3t COD/07A
10t SOL/07a.
100t WHG/7X7A-C

The Department advised the QMAC that the Belgian administration contacted the Department and they no longer need the 100,000Kw Days Demersal effort BSA from Ireland. The Department further advised that the Belgian administration have also advised the Department that they still have Hake to swap and will swap some Sole 7hjk but won't know how much until after their meeting with their industry on the 11th of October. The Department also advised the QMAC that the Belgian administration have advised that they are interested in Sole 7a. Industry representatives recommended that Ireland could try for a straight swap of 10t for Sole 7a and also offer some Sole in 7fg to secure the Sole in 7hjk.

Swaps for discussion at today's QMAC

Swap 1

The following swap was agreed at the last month's QMAC meeting, but the UK administration requested to amend the swap proposal.

UK to IRL:	**IRL to UK:**
50t HAD/6B1214	150t WHG/7X7A-C
50t LEZ/56-14	

The UK are proposing the following two options to consider:

Option 1

UK to IRL:	**IRL to UK:**
50t HAD/6B1214	100t WHG/7X7A-C
50t LEZ/56-14	40t MAC/2CX14-

Option 2

UK to IRL:	**IRL to UK:**
50t HAD/6B1214	100t WHG/7X7A-C
50t LEZ/56-14	6t SOL/7FG

Industry discussed that we need Haddock in 7b-k and Hake more than the current UK offering so recommended that the Department revert back to the UK administration with the following swap proposal:

UK to IRL:	**IRL to UK:**
50t HAD/7X7A34	100t WHG/7X7A-C
80t HKE/571214	40t MAC/2CX14-

The Department will contact the UK administration with the amended swap proposal.

Swap 2

UK to IRL:	**IRL to UK:**
50t HAD/7X7A34	75t MAC/2CXZ14- 75t MAC/*4A-UK

Industry discussed that Monk in 7 was needed more than the Haddock in area 7b-k. Industry representatives recommended that the Department revert back to the UK administration with the following swap proposal:

UK to IRL:	**IRL to UK:**
50t ANF/07.	100t MAC/2CXZ14- 100t MAC/*4A-UK

Swap 3

UK to IRL:	**IRL to UK:**
50t ANF/07.	100t MAC/2CXZ14- 100t MAC/*4A-UK

It was recommended to put this swap proposal on hold until the previous swap outcome was known as it was from two different UK POs.

Swap 4

UK to IRL:	**IRL to UK:**
50t HAD/7X7A34	75t MAC/2CXZ14- 75t MAC/*4A-UK

It was recommended to also put this swap on hold and look next month depending on October uptake figures.

Swap 5

UK to IRL:	**IRL to UK:**
50t HKE/571214.	77t WHG/7X7A-C

It was recommended to also put this swap on hold and offer 70t of Whiting for 50t Hake next month depending on October uptake figures.

Swap 6

UK to IRL:
10t NEP/07
10t NEP/*07U16

IRL to UK:
15t COD/7XAD34

The recommendation was to put this swap proposal on hold as it was felt that we could get more Nephrops from France who are interested in COD.

Swap 7

The UK has 190t of Horse mackerel available to swap and is looking for or a mix of Monk in 6 (ANF/56-14) at a ratio of 1:4 or Whiting in 6 (WHG/56-14) at a ratio of 1:3 in return. Industry representatives recommended that this was of no benefit to Ireland. The Department will revert back to UK administration.

Swap 8

UK to IRL:
150t NEP/07.
50t NEP/*07U16

IRL to UK:
200t MAC/2CX14-
200t MAC/*4A-UK
100t WHG/7X7A-C
20t COD/5BE6A

Due to Ireland only having 111t remaining of Mackerel available to swap, Ireland is unable to carry out this swap.

Swap 9

UK to IRL:
10t NEP/07

IRL to UK:
10t COD/07A

The swap was discussed between the ISWFPO and a UK PO. Industry recommended to support this swap. The ISWFPO will contact the UK PO to ask the UK administration to send the proposal to the Department. Once the Department receives the proposal from the UK administration, the Department will agree it and start the process with the Commission.

Tie-up scheme

Industry representatives at today's meeting requested an update on the commencement of the Brexit temporary tie-up scheme recommended by the Seafood Sector Task Force. The KFO asked when vessels might be notified of their success for being included in the tie up scheme for October. Industry representatives commented that they would set quotas on the basis on this information.

The Department advised that 42 vessels had signed up to the scheme to date but was awaiting detailed breakdown per month and per length. The SFPA received an update from BIM and

advised the QMAC that 35 vessels were going to tie up in October with 18 vessels over 55ft in length and 17 under 5ft in length.

Whitefish - Discussion on particular regimes

Hake

Due to the remaining quota, including a carryover figure of 411t and projected uptake to the end of September of 360t, it was recommended that the regime be reduced. The recommendation was to try securing a swap with the UK and Belgium.

All agreed to recommend HKE/571214: 8/4

Monk Area 7

Due to the remaining quota, including a carryover figure of 534t and projected uptake to the end of September of 270t, it was recommended that the regime be reduced. The recommendation was to try securing a swap to keep the fishery open for November and December.

All agreed to recommend ANF/07.: 3/1.50

Haddock Area 7b-k

Due to the remaining quota of 551t and the projected landings for September of 350t, the recommendation was to try to secure a swap. It was also recommended that the regime needed to be reduced.

All agreed to recommend HAD/7X7A34: 6/4/2

Nephrops Area 7

Due to the remaining quota of 1289t and the projected landings for September of 450t, it was recommended that a swap would need to be secured for this area. There would likely also be increased activity in the area should a Nephrops fishery in Functional Unit 16 take place in October. It was recommended to monitor this stock and look for a swap next month with France if needed. The ISWFPO said that if fishing were to take place in FU16 in October and November, based on trends, there would be only enough fishing to sustain about 12 vessels in Area 7 until year end.

There was some confusion on how the Area 7 Nephrops figures and the Functional Unit 16 Nephrops uptake figures were presented on the whitefish sheets as Functional Unit 16 Nephrops is an 'out of which' quota of Area 7. SFPA explained the figures. The Department will clarify this matter further before the next QMAC. The KFO asked for a clear example for next month to interpret the figures on the sheets.

The recommendation was to leave the same regime as last September.

All agreed to recommend NEP/07.: 15/7.50

Nephrops Functional Unit 16

It was recommended to open this fishery for October and November.

All agreed to recommend NEP/*07U16: 8/4

Sole Area 7hjk

The Department advised the QMAC that it was in contact with Belgium to urgently try to secure a swap for Sole in 7hjk. The Department further advised that the Belgian administration said that it would try help but wouldn't know what quantities it would have available to swap until after their monthly meeting with Industry on the 11th of October.

All agreed to recommend SOL/7HJK 0.05/0.05

U18m Mackerel fishery

When discussing the proposed regime for October for the U18 Mackerel fishery, the NIFF representative proposed increasing the regime for the autumn fishery to cover by-catch from the sprat fishery. The IFPO and the KFO said that the worry was that with any increase the fishery may become a targeted fishery. The SFPA advised going by landing declaration there has been very little activity in the fishery since June. Industry queried whether the fishery was subject to Quota Balancing and the Department advised that currently it is not.

Industry representatives agreed to recommend 1t for October.

4. Quota Balancing Issues

Demersal Quota Balancing

The meeting group discussed the recent email circulated on 01 September regarding landing data for extra demersal stocks under consideration for demersal quota balancing. The 6 proposed stocks to be added are Pollack Area 7, Megrim Area 6, Megrim Area 7, Haddock Area 6B, Saithe Area 6 and Ling.

Industry representatives discussed the merit in adding stocks for demersal quota balancing. The KFO queried the basis of adding any stocks that are not under pressure in terms of monthly allocations e.g. Saithe in Area 6 and Ling. The coops and the ISEFPO agreed with this approach. The ISWFPO said that the worry was if we keep adding stocks to include every stock it would cripple the industry.

Industry representatives requested landing data from the SFPA to determine if vessels were exceeding the monthly catch limits from January 2021 to date. SFPA agreed to provide this data to the QMAC members before the next QMAC meeting.

Recoupment of Quota Balancing Adjustments for Landings of a Pelagic Stock without a Valid Authorisation/Notification, in Excess of By-catch Allowance

The Department gave an outline of the recoupment document that was sent to the QMAC members prior to the meeting. The KFO asked for the numbers involved and the Department relayed this information. The Department requested that any views or comments on this document be submitted to the Department by COB on Tuesday 28th of September.

5. **Pelagic Issues General**

Irish Sea Herring

The Department advised the fishery opened on the 19th of September. 8 vessels have received their authorisations, one vessel has withdrawn from the fishery and the first pair on the reserve list has been included instead. The authorisations issued to the vessels excludes access to the Isle of Man. The Department further advised that it has contacted vessel owners in regard to track record in the Isle of Man as per the TCA. The Department will try make a case to the Commission to get access for any vessel that can't prove track record, explaining the nature of the fishery - interested vessels have been asked to indicate that interest to the Department.

Celtic Sea Herring Main

The Department advised the QMAC members that there is 174t quota of Celtic Sea Herring in the Main fishery available. The draw for the fishery was held on the 10th of September. Four vessels were authorised, and the MI have been informed of the vessels regarding sampling.

Celtic Sea Herring Sentinel

The Department has received a proposal from the Celtic Sea Herring Management Advisory Committee for the Celtic Sea Herring Sentinel fishery. The available quota is 182t which represents 25% of the overall TAC for herring in the Celtic Sea in 2020. There will be two periods running from the 21st November to 3rd December and 5th December to the 17th December. There will be 12 vessels in both periods, subject to Ministerial approval. The Department further advised the QMAC that it intends to have the closing date for booking in on the 4th of November and the draw to be held on the 12th of November.

North West Herring

The Department asked the QMAC for any views on the proposed management arrangements for the 2021 North West Herring (Scientific) Fishery, circulated to the QMAC in advance of

today's meeting. The Department further advised it also circulated the NIFF views in regard to the North West Herring Stakeholders group meeting held on 28 July 2021.

All supported the management proposals, subject to an amendment that the vessels authorised in the 2021 Spring fishery, and not the 2020 authorised Spring vessels, be precluded from the 2022 Spring fishery.

The Department requested that stakeholders work together to come up with a proposal for the Spring 2022 fishery.

Mackerel Hook and Line Fishery

It was agreed that as it was late and the meeting had almost reached the 3 hour mark, and given the importance of the matter of having a full discussion on this fishery, that it should be rolled over to the next QMAC meeting and given priority. Industry requested a stand-alone QMAC meeting for the topic. The Department said that it will check if it would be possible to schedule a stand-alone and, if not, it would be given priority at October's QMAC meeting.

ISWFPO requested that SPFA circulate more information on the 2021 Mackerel Hook and Line Fishery in advance of the next meeting, such as the number of participants and any other relevant information, which might help the group to make its recommendation.

AOB

The KFO queried if it might be possible to have face-to-face QMAC meetings soon. The Department advised that there was uncertainty about meetings with external guests from the end of October onwards but would inform the group when they have more information.

The next Quota Management meeting is scheduled for the 20th of October @ 10.00am.

Sea Fisheries Policy & Management Division