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

Quota Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Thursday 24th October 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): 2 attendees **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 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 September 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 meeting minutes on the Department website when it is publishing the November Fishery Management Notices.

3. Mackerel Hook and Line Fishery

At last month's QMAC meeting it was agreed that discussion on the Mackerel Hook and Line Fishery would be given priority at October's QMAC meeting.

Prior to the meeting, the SFPA circulated a report giving detailed analysis on the mackerel hook and line fishery in 2021. The ISWFPO asked for clarification regarding the number of vessels partaking in the fishery as the NIFF representative at the July QMAC meeting had advised there were 60 vessels prosecuting the fishery. The SFPA's report identified 48 vessels participating in the fishery.

The NIFF advised the meeting that it is possible that more than the 48 vessels identified in the SFPA report participated in the mackerel hook and line fishery in 2021. NIFF stated that the use of sales notes is not fit for purpose and asked if anything could be done to ensure more timely submission of outstanding logs and sales notes, advising sales notes 6-8 months old for the fishery are now appearing due to the tie-up scheme.

The SFPA advised the group that some logs for the over 10m fleet remain outstanding where sales notes were used. The SFPA further advised the data in the report is correct to date but will refer back to the Authority to see if there have been further submissions of logs. The SFPA will also take back any concerns raised at today's meeting about the delay in landing data being recorded and the format of the sales notes.

The Department advised the meeting that the purpose of the QMAC is to advise the Minister on the management of the fishery **within the policy**. The Department stated a lot of good work has been done at industry level with good ideas put forward. The Department further stated that this matter should not be left until early next year as it takes time to prepare for new management procedures and for the potential participants to prepare.

The KFO stated the 2021 fishery has shown that the 750kg trip limit did not work as the SFPA shows a number of vessels had multiple trips per day. KFO advised that at June's QMAC meeting they had put forward several proposals for the effective management of this fishery in 2022. The proposal put forward by the KFO included

- vessels had to book in and receive an authorisation,
- mandatory logbooks,
- hailing of vessels before landing,
- vessels operating in this fishery would be subject to quota balancing and
- that monthly catch limits be set.

KFO referred to the June QMAC meeting minutes, stating it has received support from the majority of industry for its proposals and added it is recorded in the June meeting minutes that the NIFF representative at the June meeting didn't have a problem with the KFO proposals.

The NIFF stated there is a fishery developing in the northwest and expressed fears if the quota was spread too thin around the coastline the fishery could be lost. NIFF also inquired if mandatory logbooks were accepted, would the SFPA be able to process all the extra data.

The ISEFPO, ISWFPO and IFPO supported the KFO recommendations. The ISWFPO stated there needs to be a fair distribution of fish around the country and would like to see the introduction of area allocations as well as monthly allocations. The ISWFPO also stated it could not support a ring-fenced fishery for the 48 vessels which fished this year as the mackerel hook and line fishery is important right around the coast, and those further south did not have an opportunity to fish as the fishery was closed before the stock had migrated south.

IFPO proposed that the quota be divided evenly between over and under 10m vessels.

IIMRO stated it welcomes proposals for new management of the fishery and that structure is needed as so many boats were unable to partake in the fishery this year. IIMRO also stated that everyone should have the opportunity to avail of the quota and that the 400t is not fit for purpose and more quota is needed to make it equitable for all boats to access the fishery. However, it understood that any review of the policy was not for this Committee.

The Department noted again that the remit of the QMAC is to advise the Minister within the policy set down.

It was proposed that the NIFF should put forward a draft management proposal for follow-on discussions at the QMAC. The Department will forward the management suggestions made by the KFO at the June QMAC to the NIFF secretary for consideration when preparing the management proposal. The Department stated it had some concerns about the real-time management structure put forward by the KFO but will wait until any proposed management arrangements come back to the QMAC. IIMRO advised the NIFF that it was available should they need any input, support in preparing the draft management proposals.

4. **Swaps**

The Department will pursue the range of swaps recommended by industry over the coming period. The Department advised the following swaps had been completed prior to today's QMAC meeting and that the figures had been included in the whitefish sheets today.

Swap 1

UK to IRL:
20 t HAD/7X7A34

IRL to UK:
50 t POK/*2AC4C

Swap 2

BEL to IRL:
5t SOL/7HJK.

IRL to BEL:
5t SOL/07A

Swap 3

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

IRL to UK:
100t MAC/2CXZ14-

The Department sought recommendations on the following swaps:

Swap 1

UK to IRL:
50t HAD/6B1214
50t LEZ/56-14
12t HAD/7x7A34

IRL to UK:
125t WHG/7X7A-C
25t MAC/2CX14-

The IFPEA expressed concern that the processors are finding it difficult sourcing whiting and any whiting swap would reduce the supply of whiting to processors. Based on today's whitefish figures and the expected reduction in TAC 2022, the recommendation was not to swap out any more whiting from Area 7 b to k (WHG/7X7A-C) as up to 10% of unused whiting can be carried over to 2022.

The Department will revert to the UK accordingly.

Swap 2

UK to IRL:	**IRL to UK:**
83 t HAD/7X7A34	100t WHG/07A

After examining the uptake figures, industry recommended that Ireland couldn't swap out 100t of Whiting in 7a but could swap 70t and, following the ratio, would look for 59t of haddock in return. The Department will revert to the UK with the amended proposal.

Swap 3

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

It was recommended to offer the UK 75t of mackerel, instead of 100t, as the UK are looking for access to the sub area also. The Department will revert to the UK.

Swap 4

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

Due to Ireland having only 76t of mackerel remaining from the 2% set aside for swaps, it was felt that Ireland needed to keep that 76t for end-of-year swaps. The recommendation was not to pursue this swap.

Swap 5

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

Industry representatives recommended not to pursue this swap as per the reasons outlined in Swap 1 of the proposed swaps (processors having difficulty sourcing whiting). The Department will revert to the UK.

Swap 6

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

IRL to UK:
15t COD/7XAD34

The recommendation was not to pursue this swap as Ireland doesn't need nephrops, and cod in Area 7b-k would be a valuable currency to secure swaps for stocks that Ireland needs.

The Department will revert to the UK.

Swap 7

UK to IRL: 2021
20 T ANF/07
100 T HAD/7X7A34
60 T HKE/571214
30 T NEP/07

IRL to UK: 2022
20 T COD/07A

The ISWFPO requested discussion of this swap at today's meeting. The ISWFPO stated that the swap was in Ireland's favour. The KFO, ISEFPO, IFPO and NIFF expressed concerns that the ICES advice is to cut Ireland's quota to 33t for Cod in 7a in 2022, and expressed concerns about a possible early closure of fisheries early in 2022 due to this swap. The recommendation was not to accept this swap.

Other swaps issues discussed

The Department advised the QMAC that on margin of the October Fisheries Council, the Department held a bilateral meeting with its Belgian colleague on swaps. The Department further advised the discussion was based on the recent swap situation regarding demersal effort in the BSA and expressed our disappointment that recent swap proposals didn't progress with Ireland and Belgium completed the swap with Spain. In a bid to building relationships and strengthening our bilateral relationship with Belgium, the ISEFPO representative on QMAC has been put forward as Ireland's industry contact representative to set up a pre-swap contact arrangement and to explore possible swap arrangements with his Belgium counterpart in advance of submitting proposals to the relevant authorities

The Department further advised that the Department's swaps team will hold a virtual meeting with our Belgian colleague(s) to get to know each other and build up a good relationship.

The QMAC supported these actions. The ISWFPO and IFPO thanked the Department for its efforts with ISWFPO stating that we still need Sole in area 7HJK. The KFO stated that personal contact at industry level is important in securing swaps, especially complex swaps.

It was agreed that the ISEFPO would contact the Belgium PO and start discussions about possibly getting Sole in 7hjk, Monk in area 7 and Hake from Belgium.

Industry agreed that the KFO be nominated to contact the French PO to discuss swaps for Monk in Area 7, Hake and Haddock in 7 b-k. It was agreed that Ireland has 70t of Cod in Area 7 b-k, 70t Cod in 6a, 70t Skates and Rays, 160t of Horse Mackerel in the Channel and 50t of Horse Mackerel available to swap.

5. **Tie-up scheme**

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

The Department advised that BIM have stated that 35 applications have been submitted for the tie-up scheme in October with 28 applications awarded. To date for November, 22 applications have been submitted, 3 applications have been awarded and 19 applications are in progress. For December, 21 applications have been submitted with 7 applications awarded and 14 applications in progress. Industry representatives commented that they would recommend quotas on the basis of this information.

6. **Whitefish - Discussion on particular regimes**

Hake

Due to the remaining quota of 360t, including contingency, and projected landings for October of 250t, Industry discussed if it could be recommended that the regime for November stay the same. It was recommended a swap would be needed to keep the fishery open for the remainder of the year. The recommendation was to try securing a swap with Belgium and France.

All agreed to recommend the regime stay the same for November HKE/571214: 8/4

Monk Area 7.

Due to the remaining quota of 540t, including contingency, and projected landings for October of 220t, Industry representatives considered that the regime could be increased for November (with less activity expected in this fishery for the remainder of the year due to the tie-up scheme). The recommendation was also to try securing a swap to keep the fishery open for the remainder of the year.

All agreed to recommend ANF/07.: 5/2.50

Haddock area 7b-k

Due to the remaining quota of 532t, including contingency, and the projected landings for October of 220t, the recommendation was to try securing a swap as this is a valuable fishery for Ireland. It was felt that the regime could be increased.

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

Nephrops area 7

Due to the remaining quota of 1291t, including contingency, it was felt that Ireland was in a good position and that the regime could increase. Securing a swap was discussed at a previous meeting, but it was recommended that a swap would no longer be needed.

All agreed to recommend NEP/07.: 20/10

Nephrops Functional Unit 16

There was discussion about whether the regime should remain the same as last month or increase. It was felt that if the regime remained the same, there would be quota left for December. It was recommended to increase the regime to 10/5 for November and carry over any remaining quota to 2022, as the ICES advice is to cut the 2022 quota.

All agreed to recommend NEP/*07U16: 10/5

7. **Pelagic Issues General**

Celtic Sea Herring (Scientific Fishery)

The Department told the meeting that the Marine Institute has advised the Department that sampling has commenced and is going well.

North West Herring (Scientific) fishery

The Department advised the meeting that booking-in for the 2021 North West Herring Scientific Fishery closed on Friday 15 October. The Department further advised a lottery to select vessels to participate in 6 categories will be held on Tuesday 26 October 2021, and the fishery will open on 21 November.

The NIFF asked the KFO when the meeting to discuss the management arrangements for the spring fishery will take place. The KFO advised that it will notify industry of the date following today's meeting. The Department advised that proposed management arrangements for the 2022 North West Herring Spring fishery would need Ministerial approval.

Celtic Sea Herring Sentinel (Scientific) Fishery

The closing date for booking-in is 4 November. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of opportunities, a lottery to select vessels will be held on 12 November. The fishery will open on 21 November.

Irish Sea Herring

The Department advised the meeting that it has made a special case to the Commission for consideration by the UK for four vessels, authorised in the 2021 Irish Sea Herring Fishery, who did not have the opportunity to build up the required track record to receive a UK licence to fish in the Isle of Man 6-12nm zone. The Department further advised that it is awaiting a reply.

8. **Demersal Quota Balancing**

In line with the Quota Balancing policy for Demersal stocks, and discussion at the previous QMAC meeting, the Department again raised the item on the addition of extra demersal stocks for quota balancing. Before today's meeting, the SFPA circulated data on how many vessels exceeded monthly catch limits for the 6 proposed new stocks from 1st of January 2021 to present. The proposed stocks are Pollack area 7, Megrim area 6, Megrim area 7, Haddock area 6B, Saithe area 6 and Ling. The data provided by the SFPA showed that Pollack area 7, Megrim area 6, Megrim area 7 and Haddock area 6B had instances of vessels exceeding catch limits. Based on this the Department advised it will recommend to the Minister the adding of four stocks into the quota balancing system for future implementation. The ISWFPO advised that it had not seen the SFPA paper and it will examine same.

9. **AOB**

The next Quota Management meeting is scheduled for the 17th of November @ 2.30pm.

Sea Fisheries Policy & Management Division