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

Quota Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Wednesday 17 November 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

A moment of silence was held at the start of the meeting in remembrance of the passing of the close family member of one of the QMAC members. That member thanked the Department and other QMAC members for their support and messages over the past number of weeks.

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 October QMAC meeting were circulated to the QMAC members for comments before today's meeting. The KFO highlighted an error in formatting for swap 3 and swap 4 in the draft minutes circulated. The Department advised it would adopt the minutes on the basis that the formatting was corrected. The Department further advised it would publish the October QMAC meeting minutes on the Department website when publishing the Fishery Management Notices.

3. Mackerel Hook and Line Fishery

At last month's QMAC meeting the NIFF, with support from IIMRO, were requested to put forward management proposals for the 2022 Mackerel Hook and Line Fishery. It was also agreed that the fishery would be given priority at November's QMAC meeting to discuss these management proposals.

The NIFF outlined the views from their members, which had been discussed at the NIFF meeting last week. The NIFF recommended that no further management measures are required for the current allocation of 400 tonnes for the fishery if the measures already in place are adequately enforced. This, they said, would be based on the SFPA receiving extra resources to ensure timely submission of logs sheets and sales notes. The Chair advised that the matter of extra resources was not within the remit of the QMAC. The NIFF further advised if the allocation to the hook and line mackerel fishery is increased, the NIFF would look at further management measures for the fishery going forward. The Department pointed out that the role of QMAC was to make recommendations within the Ministerial policy.

ISWFPO, KFO, ISEFPO, IFPO, IFPEA and IIMRO expressed their disappointment on the NIFF views and recommended that the fishery be managed better, and certain arrangements implemented for 2022 to avoid early closure and an overshoot in quota, as occurred in 2021, so that vessel owners around the country are given equal opportunity to prosecute the fishery. As per the October QMAC, the IIMRO again stated that they wanted to contribute to any proposed management arrangements.

The SFPA stated it agreed with the above majority industry views and advised that mandatory logbooks be one of the control requirements for the 2022 fishery. The NIFF said they took on board this point. The SFPA said that sales notes are not intended as a tool to monitor fisheries. As per the May QMAC, the SFPA again proposed hailing messages and a threshold for vessels authorised in the fishery which would help track activity in the fishery.

ISWFPO, ISEFPO, IFPEA, IFPO & IIMRO supported the KFO's proposals from the June QMAC which included mandatory logbooks, authorisations, hailing requirement, monthly quotas and potential quota balancing. ISWFPO proposed reducing the per trip limit to 500kgs and said that NIFF should be at the forefront of designing any management arrangements. KFO also stated that the fishery should only open in 2022 once there are management arrangements in place and it would strongly oppose any alternative.

The NIFF outlined its concern about the numbers of vessels booking-in, with no intention of prosecuting the fishery, for fear of being excluded from the fishery in the future. This was supported by ISWFPO. The Department responded that it would hope that would not happen and that efforts should be made by the industry representatives to avoid any such situation arising. There was a discussion on where vessels that may book in for the fishery may not have the gear to support them. The KFO said that for several fisheries, applicants must indicate gear type on their application form.

IIMRO stated that once the number of boats taking part in the fishery is known the QMAC could look at increasing the quota.

The Department advised as it had at previous QMAC meetings that the remit of the QMAC is to advise the Minister within the policy as set down. The Department stated that it shared all of the above concerns and the QMAC could not stand over a repeat of what happened in 2021 again in 2022. The Department said the preference was for the NIFF and IIMRO to put together proposed management arrangements for 2022. In the absence of this, the Department suggested that it will prepare a discussion paper but would seek input from the NIFF and the other members of the Committee and would also consult with the SFPA from a control perspective. It would aim to circulate the paper to the QMAC before the January meeting. The IIMRO said that they would be happy to contribute. The Department asked the members to put forward to the Department any ideas they might have to input into the discussion paper. Its objective is to have recommendations to the Minister in good time to allow operators on the ground to plan effectively. The Department further advised that since this is management of the fishery within the policy it would not require a public consultation but will be seeking full engagement from the QMAC.

It was agreed that the Department would aim to circulate this discussion paper prior to January's QMAC meeting.

3. **Swaps**

Completed swaps

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

IRL to UK:	UK to IRL:
70t WHG/56-14	59t HAD/7X7A34

Proposed swaps

The Department advised that it held a virtual meeting with Belgium counterparts to build a better relationship between the two member states in securing swaps. The Department further advised that they asked if Belgium had any sole in 7hjk available to swap. Belgium advised that they didn't have any to swap presently, but stated that they would reconsider if any became available at the end of the year.

The Department advised that at the joint meeting, Belgium outlined the stocks that are of most importance to their fleet at the moment and hoped Ireland might be able to swap some quantities. The stocks are Plaice in 7a, Sole in 7a and skates and rays. The swap proposals are outlined below.

The Department further advised that Belgium expressed an interest in a set swap each year with Ireland for Demersal effort. This will be discussed between Ireland's industry representative and the Belgium industry representative. ISEFPO, Ireland's industry representative liaising with the Belgium industry representative, advised that they also had made contact with the Belgium industry representative and echoed what the Department had outlined.

Swap 1

BEL to IRL:	IRL to BEL:
40t ANF/07 OR 35t HKE/571214	50t PLE/07A

The QMAC members considered that Ireland had 50t of plaice available to swap and felt that the ratio for monk in area 7 was a better return. The ISWFPO said that Monkfish would be desirable for the Christmas market. All supported the recommendation to accept 40t of monk in area 7 for 50t of plaice in area 7.

The Department will revert back to the Belgian administration.

Swap 2

After examining the whitefish sheets, it was recommended that Ireland had 10t of Sole in 7a and 80t of Skates and Rays available to swap to Belgium. The Department advised that Skates and Rays cannot be carried over into 2022. The Department advised that Belgium had monk in area 7 and hake available to swap. Industry representatives considered that Ireland might get a better return for monk. The KFO advised that they will email the ratios for each of the stocks to the Department in the event that Belgium didn't require the full amount offered.

The Department will revert back to the Belgian administration once they receive the ratios from the KFO.

Swap 3

The Department sought the views of the QMAC regarding to the following swap proposal:

FRA to IRL:	IRL to FRA:
80t ANF/07.	70t SRX/67AKXD
80t HAD/7X7A34	70t COD/7XAD34
200t HKE/571214	80t COD/5BE6A
50t JAX/2A-14	
5t PLE/7HJK.	

Prior to the meeting, the Department received the responses from the KFO, IFPEA, ISEFPO, ISWFPO and IFPO, who all supported this swap. NIFF queried if 2022 crab effort could be included in this swap. The KFO advised that this was a well-balanced swap in Ireland's favour

and that Ireland would have to pay a high price for crab effort and it would be hard to predict how much crab effort would be needed for 2022. The KFO further advised that crab effort was bought too early in 2021 and now there is some remaining and that timing is important. Industry representatives agreed to support this swap at the current proposal.

The Department will revert back to the French administration.

Swap 4

The Department received the following swap from the ISEFPO and not the French administration.

IRL to FRA:	FRA to IRL:
700kg SOL/7HJK	5t SRX/67AKXD

Due to Ireland's requirement for sole in 7hjk, industry representatives agreed to support this swap. The QMAC members considered that Ireland had 80t of skates and rays available to swap. The ISEFPO will contact their French contact regarding the extra quota available and will advise the Department of any new swap proposal.

Swap 5

The Department advised that the Spanish administration contacted the Department looking for quantities of monk in area 6 and 7 and want to know what Ireland would be looking for in return. It was discussed that Ireland didn't have any quantities available to swap at the moment but may have some at the end of the year.

The Department will revert back to the Spanish administration.

Other swaps discussed at the meeting

Swap 1

The Department advised the meeting it has contacted the Danish administration regarding 350t of HER/4AB for 2021 and repaying the full amount in 2022. The Department further advised it is awaiting a reply and has emailed the Danish administration for an update. The KFO advised that they will contact the PO involved regarding this swap.

Swap 2

The Department advised the meeting it was contacted by the UK administration looking to swap picked dogfish. The Department further advised the meeting it has advised the UK administration of the quantities of picked dogfish Ireland has available to swap and that Ireland would be looking for Sole in 7hjk as a priority or Monk in area 7 or Hake in return.

The Department advised the meeting it has not yet received a reply from the UK administration.

Swap 3

The ISWFPO advised that they have been contacted by the Scottish industry stating that they have 100t of nephrops in FU16 available to swap. The ISWFPO have asked if can they discuss a swap proposal with the Scottish industry for the nephrops in FU16 and use up to 40t of monk in 6 and 5t of cod in area 7a.

The Chair said that we are looking at a big cut next year and any carryover would soften it. This was supported by the industry representatives.

4. Tie-up scheme

The Department advised the QMAC that BIM have stated that 167 applications have been received for the tie-up scheme in December. The Department further advised that about 69 over 55ft prawn vessels have applied for the tie-up scheme for December. Industry representatives commented that they would set quotas on the basis of this information.

5. Whitefish - Discussion on particular regimes

Hake

Due to the remaining quota of 207t, including contingency, a swap of 200t, and projected landings for November of 180t, industry recommended that the regime for December be increased.

All agreed to recommend a regime increase for December of HKE/571214: 12/6

Monk Area 7.

Due to the remaining quota of 322t, including contingency, swaps of 120t, and projected landings for November of 240t, industry representatives considered that the regime could be increased for December (with less activity expected in this fishery for the remainder of the year due to the tie-up scheme).

All agreed to recommend ANF/07.: 8/4

Haddock area 7b-k

Due to the remaining quota of 234t, including contingency, a swap of 80t, and projected landings for November of 200t, it was recommended that this regime be increased.

All agreed to recommend HAD/7X7A34: 12/8/4

Nephrops Functional Unit 16

There was discussion about whether there would be a fishery in FU16 for the month of December. There was concern that the ICES advice is a cut in the nephrops quota for 2022 and discussion centred on how Ireland would maximise the carryover amount. Several industry representatives advised that their members are looking for a fishery for December. The recommendation was that a reduced regime would allow for a fishery and still have quantities available to carry over to 2022. It was recommended to reduce the regime to 6/3.

All agreed to recommend NEP/*07U16: 6/3

Plaice area 7fg

Due the remaining quota of 137t, it was recommended that the regime be increased. It was discussed if Plaice in area 7fg could be swapped to any other Member States. The Department advised that they haven't received any proposal.

All agreed to recommend PLE/7FG: 12/6

6. **Pelagic Issues General**

NEAFC

The Department advised the meeting that the 2022 NEAFC booking-in has been advertised, with a closing date of the 03 December.

North West Herring (Scientific) fishery

The Department advised the QMAC that the 2021 North West Herring Scientific Fishery opened on 1 November. The Department further advised the fishery will close for vessels in the A and B categories on 26 November and any uncaught quota from these vessels will be allocated to vessels currently on the reserve list in category D. The fishery will remain open for all other vessels until 31 December.

The Department requested that stakeholders bring forward an agreed recommendation for consideration by the Minister for the 2022 Spring Fishery.

The guest of the KFO at today's meeting, who coordinates the stakeholder group, attended the meeting to provide technical information as a guest of the KFO and updated the meeting on the progress drafting agreed management proposals for the 2022 spring fishery.

The guest of the KFO advised that the NIFF were the only group to submit suggestions where they expressed their concerns about the division of allocations this year and the resulting failure of the procurement of samples in March and April, when fish were reported on the ground. The

guest of the KFO further advised that vessels in Category C had, some years ago, asked to be given a 2-month allocation to give them a better chance to catch the fish due to uncertain weather conditions, with Category D looking for the change in allocations.

The NIFF representative at the QMAC stated that its members felt that the way the fishery was managed in Spring 2021, where vessels in Category C and D were authorised for either January and April or February and March, didn't work with samples being caught in January and February and no samples collected in March and April. The NIFF representative further stated catch limits for the 2022 Spring fishery should be allocated monthly and proposed allocations could be given to specific vessels for each month.

IFPO advised the meeting it was happy with the current arrangement.

The guest of the KFO advised the QMAC that it had received a recent email from the Marine Institute stating that sampling in the 2021 Spring fishery was adequate. The Department suggested that maybe we could do better than adequate. The guest representative of the KFO proposed that Category C vessels remain with a two monthly allocation and Category D vessels receive monthly allocations.

NIFF advised the meeting this proposal would not work as the fish will still be caught in the first week of January and February with no fish being caught in March and April for sampling. NIFF proposing that vessels in both categories be given a monthly quota, with any uncaught quota being rolled over to the second month.

The guest of the KFO advised the meeting it would bring the NIFF proposal back to those concerned but stated that this is a substantial change to what has already been discussed.

The NIFF and the guest of the KFO both said they would get agreed management proposals for the 2022 Spring fishery submitted to the Department by the end of next week at the latest.

The Department advised that any management proposals would need the approval of the Minister.

<u>2022 Mackerel and Horse Mackerel Fisheries</u>

The Department advised the QMAC that it will be writing to industry representatives shortly looking for management proposals for the 2022 Mackerel and Horse Mackerel fisheries.

The Department further advised that, as agreed at the May QMAC meeting, where a review of quota balancing of 2020 pelagic stocks was discussed, the Department has now quota balanced the 2021 Blue Whiting fishery. The Department also advised that as also agreed at the May QMAC it will aim to have the 2021 Mackerel and Horse Mackerel fisheries quotas balanced by the end of January 2022 and will do it on a subsector basis, but that it is dependent on landing figures from the SFPA.

The SFPA advised the meeting it will do its best to provide the figures.

The Department further advised provisional allocations will issue for the 2022 Fisheries in December.

2022 Boarfish Fishery

The Department advised the QMAC it will be writing to industry representatives looking for proposals for the 2022 Fishery.

Herring 4AB

The Department advised the QMAC that a swap for Herring in 4AB will also be required in 2022 to cover an overshoot in by-catch in 2021 to avoid a multiplier being applied by the Commission. The Department advised that we will have to plan better for 2022 in ensuring swaps are secured to cover any overshoot in by-catch of herring in area 4AB in the 2022 mackerel fishery.

7. Quota Balancing for unauthorised pelagic stocks

The Department advised the QMAC that, as per the Ministers consolidated Quota Balancing Policy for Pelagic Stocks, in 2021 the Department sought the views of the QMAC that where there is a balancing adjustment for a pelagic stock in a particular area, and where a vessel is unlikely to receive a catch limit of that particular stock within the calendar years of 2021 or 2022, that consideration could be given to recouping that balancing adjustment from another stock in 2021 or 2022, where it is available for that vessel.

Taking into consideration the industry views, the Department advised the Minister has now approved the procedure for recoupment of Quota Balancing Adjustments for Landings of a Pelagic Stock without a Valid Authorisation/Notification, in Excess of By-catch Allowance.

The Department further advised it will be writing to all pelagic vessels advising them of the procedure for recouping such Quota Balancing Adjustments.

8. AOB

2022 UK Access Authorisations

The Department advised that it has been contacted by the Commission to advise that requests for access to UK waters for 2022 must be submitted to the Commission by Friday 26th November for vessels seeking a UK licence to fish in UK waters from the 1st of January 2022. The Department further advised that it has been advised by the Commission that any vessels booking in after the 26th November may not be granted a UK Licence from the 1st of January 2022.

The Department advised the meeting it only received this information from the Commission a few days ago and a huge effort from Department staff was put in, in issuing correspondence to all operators including those who did not receive a 2021 UK Licence inviting them to apply for 2022.

The Department asked that industry representatives make their own members aware of this communication and that if they seek a UK Licence from the 1st January 2022 to get their application in by 26th November.

The Department further advised it will accept applications after 26th November but as per the Commission advice, these may not be granted a UK Licence from the 1st of January 2022.

Marine Mammals

The KFO advised the group of a new UK regulation on marine mammals. The Department advised that the UK is applying a lot of new measures and it would be checking with the SFPA how this is done with a view to issuing a communication to vessel owners.

The next Quota Management meeting is scheduled for the 16th of December @ 2.30pm.

Sea Fisheries Policy & Management Division