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

Quota Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Thursday 16th December 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 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 expressed thanks for moment's silence and the support received.

1. Conflict of Interest

The Conflict of Interest statement was read at the start of the meeting.

December Council

The Department provided an update on December's Fisheries Council which had concluded on Tuesday 14th December. The Department advised that a provisional 3-month TAC & quota was adopted at Council, in the event that agreement was not reached between the EU and the UK by Monday the 20th of December - however the Commission remain hopeful in this regard. Based on this update it was recommended that all regimes be set based on the provisional amounts.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The draft minutes from the November QMAC meeting were circulated to the QMAC members for comments before today's meeting. The Department received views from some of the Industry representatives. The Department adopted the minutes as revised in light of the comments received, and recirculated the minutes before the meeting. The Department requested any further views on the minutes be sent in writing by COB. The Department further advised if no further views were received, the Department would publish the November QMAC meeting minutes on the Department's website when publishing the Fishery Management Notices.

3. Swaps

Swaps Completed

Swap 1

BEL to IRL:	IRL to BEL:
40t ANF/07	50t PLE/07A

Swap 2

IRL to BEL:	BEL to IRL:
10 t SOL /07A	40t ANF/07

Swap 3

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.

Swap 4

FRA to IRL:	IRL to FRA:
700kg SOL/7HJK	80t SRX/67AKXD
24t HKE/571214	
22t ANF/07	

Swap 5

IRL to DEN (2022):	DEN to IRL (2021):
350t HER/4AB (expected to get from NL)	350t HER/4AB

Swap 6

IRL to UK	UK to IRL
20t DGS/15X14	5t ANF/07
	5t HKE/571214

Swaps to be Discussed

Swap 1

The Department received the following proposal from the ISWFPO following discussions with a Scottish PO. The PO is offering 50t of Nephrops in FU16 to Ireland in return for 70t Whiting in Area 7 b-k and would also be interested in some Cod in Area 6a. Industry representatives discussed and agreed that this was a good deal for Ireland as Ireland has uncaught Cod in 6a and Whiting in 7b-k, which we are unable to carryover to 2022 (flexibility cannot be applied for Cod in 6a from 2021 to 2022). It was also discussed that Ireland would be able to carry over Nephrops in FU16 from 2021 to 2022. The recommendation was to offer 10t of Cod in 6a. The following proposal was supported by Industry representatives:

UK to IRL:	IRL to UK:
50t NEP/*07u16	70t WHG/7X7a-C
	10t COD5BE6a

The Department will contact the Commission regarding this swap.

Swap 2

The ISWFPO advised the QMAC that the Scottish PO also had another 50t of Nephrops FU16 to swap and was looking for 200t of 2022 Mackerel in return. It was recommended not to pursue this swap as Ireland would not be able to carryover more than 10% of 2021 Nephrops into 2022 and mackerel will be of more use in 2022.

Swap 3

The ISWFPO advised that a UK PO was in contact regarding a swap of 2022 Hake for 2022 Mackerel. The ISWFPO advised it had received no ratios or quantities yet but wanted to know if it would be of interest to Ireland. The Industry representatives discussed and agreed that it was too soon to look at swapping 2022 quota until the final 2022 quota amounts are available.

Swap 4

The Department advised that they were informed by the Commission that Ireland had caught 0.62t of PLE/DE and has no quota for that area. The Irish industry representative had contacted the Belgium representative regarding a potential swap. The Belgium representative proposed a swap of 2t of SOL/7HJK and 1t PLE/7DE to Ireland for 2022 WHG/07A in return. The recommendation was to offer 10t of WHG/07A. The Department is meeting the Belgium administration swaps team on Monday 20th December 2021 where the swap proposal will be discussed

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

The Department recommended that carryovers would be used like last year if provisional TACs and Quotas remain in place for the first 3 months.

Tie-up scheme

The Department recommended that at January's QMAC there would be a discussion on the tie-up scheme for 2022, as it would be useful to have such discussion at an early point in the year. The KFO agreed that this would be helpful and requested that a longer tie-up period be considered for 2022 and this was agreed by industry. The Co-ops agreed and said that a 6-month period would be better, from March to September. The Co-ops suggested that the spawning season for whitefish also be taken into consideration.

Haddock Area 7a

Due to the remaining provisional quota of 325t, it was recommended to reduce the regime and it could be increased next month if needed.

All agreed to recommend HAD/07A.: 21/14/7

Nephrops Functional Unit 16

It was recommended to close this fishery for January.

All agreed to recommend NEP/*07U16: closed

Plaice Area 7fg

Due the uncertainty around whether Ireland will be swapping some of the quota to Belgium, it was recommended to reduce this regime until the Department has discussed the swap with Belgium. If the yearly Belgium swap doesn't happen this year, the regime could increase next month.

All agreed to recommend PLE/7FG: 2/1

Pollack in Area 7

Industry representatives agreed to recommend the regime for January 2022 for Pollack in area 7 of 1 tonne for over 55ft boats and 0.50 tonnes for under 55ft boats (**see Addendum 1 below**)

4. **Pelagic Issues General**

2021 Boarfish

The SFPA advised the Department earlier in the day that quota for the Boarfish fishery had been reached and the Department advised industry representatives of same and had moved to close the fishery. During the meeting the SFPA advised that they in calculating the uptake figures, they had used the 2020 Boarfish quota amount in error and only 86% of the 2021 Boarfish quota had been caught. The meeting was adjourned for a short period to allow the Department to stop the closure process and for industry representatives to update their members.

2022 Fisheries

Atlanto-Scandian Herring: The Department advised that booking-in for 2022 Atlanto Scandian Herring Fishery closed on Monday 13 December. The Department further advised that seven pairs of vessels have booked-in and a lottery to select a pair of vessels to participate in the 2022 fishery will take place on 22 December 2021.

The Department advised the meeting that Authorisations and Quota Notifications for Mackerel, Horse Mackerel, and Boarfish will issue before Christmas. The Mackerel Hook & Line fishery is closed. The Department further advised that the catch limits will be influenced by what TAC is in place: 3 months or 12 months. **The Department will commence quota balancing these fisheries but will only recoup any balancing adjustment when the full 12-month quota is available.** In respect of Blue Whiting, the Department advised that the management arrangements for this fishery have not yet been approved. The IFPO queried the figures for Blue Whiting. The Department advised that the figures are as per the TAC & Quota Regulation but that the Commission are double-checking figures at the moment.

Quota Balancing

The Department advised the QMAC that the Minister has decided that an additional 4 demersal (whitefish) stocks will be subject to Quota Balancing from 1st January 2022:

- Haddock in 6b (HAD/6B1214),
- Megrim in 6 (LEZ/56-14),
- Megrim in 7 (LEZ/07.),
- Pollack in 7 (POL/07.)

The Department further advised that as discussed at November's QMAC meeting, the Minister has 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 has written to relevant stakeholders to inform them of the updated Quota Balancing Policy for Demersal Stocks to include the 4 additional stocks and advising of the procedure for recouping such Quota Balancing Adjustments of a Pelagic Stock without a Valid Authorisation/Notification, in Excess of By-catch Allowance.

The ISWFPO queried whether quota balancing for the extra demersal stocks had been signed off by QMAC. The Department clarified that a paper on the extra stocks was circulated before November's QMAC meeting and was briefly discussed at the meeting. Industry representatives made no comments at the meeting. The ISWFPO asked for some time to read the paper again. The Department offered all industry representatives a chance to reread the document and asked that they would revert with any issues. There was no response from any industry representatives with any issues which led to the understanding, by the Department, that industry supported the addition of the extra stocks. The ISWFPO said that the Department was correct and that they now understood the situation. The Department reminded industry representatives that if they have any concerns/proposals these must be raised with the Department when requested.

2022 NEAFC

The Department advised the QMAC the closing date for receipt of 2022 NEAFC applications was 3rd December with 125 applications received. The Department outlined the process involved in applying for 2022 NEAFC Authorisations. This year, a new system has been introduced by the Commission regarding how member states can apply for access to the NEAFC Regulatory Area for their vessels. It is a two-step process – step one requires Member States to submit a list of their vessels to the Commission which is then reviewed to ensure that all data requirements for access to the NEAFC area are met. One example of a data requirement would be that a vessel must have an IMO number available on the EU Fleet Register in order to be eligible to apply for access to the NEAFC area. The Commission's closing date for this first step is COB on the 16th December and the Commission have confirmed to the Department earlier today that all 125 Irish vessels on the list have already successfully passed this first step. Step two of the process then requires each member state to submit a 2nd list (in our case 125 vessels) to apply to the Commission for the Authorisations. The Department will now proceed to that second step.

The Department has been advised by the Commission, that, although Member States can carry out step one and two, the Commission has been informed by the NEAFC Secretariat that requests for authorisations cannot be communicated with NEAFC until January. The current 2021 authorisations are valid only up until 31 December.

The Department advised it has queried this matter with the Commission who have told the Department that they are in contact with the NEAFC Secretariat. The Department urgently await an update and said it was an area of concern which it hopes will be resolved.

2022 UK Access

The Department advised the QMAC that 291 vessels applications to access the UK EEZ for 2022 were submitted by the Department in advance of the Commission's November closing date. The Commission had advised that for requests submitted after their deadline, timely processing could not be guaranteed in order to start fishing activities in UK waters on the 1 January 2022.

The Department received 5 further applications from licence holders after the Commission closing date; these were submitted directly to the Commission also.

The Department is awaiting an update from the Commission on these 296 vessels.

When the Department receive notification from the Commission that UK licences have been issued directly to relevant vessels, the Department will then proceed to generating and issuing an Access Authorisation to each vessel. In order to fish in the UK EEZ, a vessel must hold a UK licence and an Authorisation covering access. Access Authorisations can only be issued to vessels that are fully licensed and registered.

As soon as the Department receive an update from the Commission, the Department will proceed with generating access authorisations for 2022 and issuing them to all relevant licence holders.

The Industry representatives enquired if the UK licences doesn't get issued until after Christmas and before New Year's Eve as it did last year will the Department be able to issue the authorisations to vessel owners. The Department confirmed that it will be able to facilitate the issuing of authorisations over the Christmas period and UK licences and Access Authorisations will be issued electronically by the UK Administration and the Department respectively.

AOB

The Department asked for two Industry representatives to volunteer to assist the Department in the end-of-year swaps process to maximise the return for stocks. The volunteers would give their views on all end-of-year swap proposals and represent the other Industry members. The ISWFPO and the KFO members volunteered. The KFO member said every year is different. The ISWFPO enquired if the ISEFPO member would also assist in helping the Department as the Irish representative for swaps with Belgium. The The ISEFPO member agreed to assist. The Department advised that it will be contacting the 3 members frequently in the days leading up to the deadline for end-of-year swaps and that a swift response would be needed on the swap proposals as there was not a huge amount of time for deliberations and we have to move swiftly in any case where it considers an opportunity arises.

The next Quota Management meeting is scheduled for the 18th of January @ 2.30pm.

Sea Fisheries Policy & Management Division

Addendum 1

Following December's QMAC meeting, some industry representatives sought an amendment to the catch limit set for smaller vessels for Pollock in Area 7 for January. This followed requests from industry members when the January Notice of 0.5t for under 55ft vessels was put in place. The QMAC members are supportive of this request.

*Notice No. 06 of 2022 sets catch and landing restrictions for various demersal species for January 2022 for boats less 55ft in length, revising the regime for Pollack in Area 7 from 0.50 tonnes to **1 tonne** for January 2022 and was signed by the Minister on 13th January 2022*

Fishery Management Notice No 04 of 2022 Under 55ft Boats - Whitefish Quota January 2022 was revoked.