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

Quota Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Thursday 18th January 2022
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 member Irish Fish Producers Organisation (IFPO): 1 member and 1 observer 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 one-year anniversary of the passing of Hugo Boyle, a former QMAC member and fishing industry representative.

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 December QMAC meeting were circulated to the QMAC members for comments before today's meeting. The Department advised no observations were received 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 February Fishery Management Notices.

3. Swaps

Completed Swaps

UK to IRL:	**IRL to UK:**
50t NEP/*07u16	70t WHG/7X7a-C
50t NEP/07	10t COD5BE6A

This swap was agreed at the December 2021 QMAC meeting. The Department advised the UK administration will send the proposal to the Commission as Friday 21st January is the deadline for sign off UK/EU quota swaps.

Proposed swaps discussed

Swap 1

BEL to IRL:	**IRL to BEL:**
2.7t SOL/7HJK	20,000Kw days Demersal days BSA
3.2t PLE/7DE.	1t SOL/7FG.
0.85t SOL/07D.	
0.22t SOL/07E.	
0.07t WHG/2AC4	

The stocks are for 2021. Ireland needs the quantities listed to cover bycatches and have no available quota. As this is an end-of-year swap, the swap proposal was sent to the KFO, ISEFPO and ISWFPO. The swap is supported by the KFO and ISEFPO. The ISWFPO advised the meeting that it supports the swap. The Department will contact Belgium to agree the swap.

Swap 2

BEL to IRL:	**IRL to BEL:**
40t ANF/07 (2021)	175,000Kw days Demersal BSA (2022)
50t HKE/571214 (2021)	

This swap will maximise the 10% carryover for both monk and hake for Ireland. It was discussed if it would be better to look for some 2022 stock as well. The Department advised that it will receive the final 2021 figures from the SFPA tomorrow so will have a better idea of what amounts can be carried over to 2022 for Monk in Area 7 and Hake. The ISEFPO will talk to its Belgian contact to see if it's possible to get some 2022 Hake included in the swap.

Swap 3

ESP to IRL:	**IRL to ESP:**
9t WHB/1X14	0.88t Sol/7FG

The stocks are for 2021. Ireland has over-caught its Blue Whiting quota by 39t. As this is an end-of-year swap the swap proposal was sent to the KFO, ISEFPO and ISWFPO. The KFO recommended holding off on this swap as Ireland can carryover the full amount of sole and feels we will be able to get the blue whiting elsewhere. The ISWFPO recommended holding off on the swap also. The

Department suggested supporting Spain in this swap as it is helping them in their end-of-year swaps. This was supported by the KFO and the ISWFPO.

It was agreed to go back to Spain and advise we would commit to the swap, but we will let Spain know what stocks we want in return once we have our final end-of-year figures.

Swap 4

ESP to IRL:	**IRL to ESP:**
500t WHB/1X14	40t ANF/07

This swap is for 2021 quotas. All agreed to wait until the final 2021 figures are known.

Swap 5

The Department advised that the UK has contacted the Department enquiring if we had any WHG/56-14 and asked what stock we want in return. Ireland cannot carry over any amount of WHG/56-14. The Department replied saying we could have 50t-55t available based on the SFPA end-of-year figures. The UK are looking at their landing figures to know what quantities they need and asked what ratio we would look for in return for NEP/*07U16 and if we are interested in other stocks.

The industry representatives discussed the swap proposal and suggested looking for Nephrops in FU16. The KFO recommended a 2:1 swap ratio. The ISWFPO agreed.

The Department advised the meeting that Friday 21st January is the deadline for sign off by UK/EU swaps for 2021 stocks. The Department will contact the UK administration with the following swap proposal:

IRL to UK	UK to IRL
10t COD COD/5BE6A	15t NEP/*07U16.
20t WHG/56-14	

Other swaps discussed:

SOL/7hjk
France have emailed looking for SOL / 7hjk. It was agreed that Ireland does not have any to swap.

Herring 4AB
The KFO advised the meeting it is working with its Dutch counterpart in securing a swap to cover the 350t Ireland must pay back to Denmark to cover fish caught in 2021 and to cover 2022 catches. The Netherlands need Boarfish for 2021.

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

Haddock Area 7a

As the uptake for this stock is already over 15%, it was recommended that this regime be reduced.

All agreed to recommend 15/10/5 for February

Monk Area 6; Monk Area 7

As the uptake for both Monk stocks is already over 10%, it was recommended to reduce both for February

All agreed to recommend both ANF/56-14 and ANF/07.: 6/3 for February

Pollack Area 7

Industry representatives recommended that over and under 55ft boats should have the same regime for the first half of the year.

All agreed to recommend 5/5 for February

Nephrops Functional Unit 16

Industry representatives recommended that the fishery open for February.

All agreed to recommend 8/4 for February

Sole in Area 7 fg

As the uptake for this stock is already over 15%, it was recommended that this regime be reduced.

All agreed to recommend .1/.05 for February

5. **Pelagic Issues**

Norwegian Cod

The Department advised the meeting that it had a query from the SFPA if there would be fishery for Norwegian Cod in 2022 as they had received an enquiry. A Norwegian Cod fishery did not take place in 2021 and the quota was swapped to France for Monk in Area 7 in return. The KFO, ISWFPO and the IFPO think the stock should be swapped out. The Department asked that industry representatives go back to members and advise at the February QMAC meeting if there is interest in having a Fishery in 2022. The Department further advised if a fishery is to take place this year normal procedure will take place where the fishery will be advertised, and vessels would have to book in following Ministerial approval of the management arrangements.

The Department will send out a formal email to industry requesting their views. The Department will ask the SFPA to advise the person who made the inquiry to make contact with their industry representative.

2022 Blue Whiting Fishery

The Department advised the meeting it has received the views from the Producer Organisations, which are being examined on the proposed management arrangement for the 2022 Blue Whiting Fishery.

2022 North West Herring Spring Fishery

The Department advised the meeting it is awaiting recommendations from stakeholders for the spring fishery for a decision by the Minister.

2022 Atlanto Scandian Herring Fishery

The Department advised the meeting that the list of vessels authorised in the fishery have been licenced by the Commission.

Industry representatives agreed to recommend 200t contingency be set aside in 2022.

2021 Atlanto Scandian Herring Fishery Closure (AOB item)

The KFO described to the meeting the events around the unexpected closure of the EU herring fishery in Norwegian waters north of 62° N and the fishery zone around Jan Mayen on the 30th November 2021 and the effect it had on three vessels who were close to the fishing grounds having to turn around following the closure and that they could not catch their quota in international waters. The KFO stated that the closure arose due to the Netherlands and Denmark overcatching their quota after they both swapped in additional quota from the UK. As the UK did not have any access to Norwegian waters, the Netherlands and Denmark fished the additional quota against the EU quota permitted in Norwegian waters.

The KFO representative said he is in contact with his Netherland counterpart who is prepared to support the transfer any 2021 quota that they have unfished by means of the swapping system, and it could be carried over into 2022 and subsequently transferred to Ireland. The KFO advised that it will also raise the matter with the Danish industry and seek similar transfers to Ireland. The KFO stated that the vessels that lost out in 2021 and were fishing in the area should be allocated these transfers. The KFO stated that the Netherlands have agreed to give Ireland two of their Norwegian licences and Ireland has one unused licence that could be allocated to access the area. This is supported by industry.

The Department said that what happened was difficult to accept and the problem was the UK swap to Denmark and the Netherlands. The EU quota in Norwegian waters was set at an EU limit in 2021 and was not distributed across Member States. The Department advised it has raised this at EU level with little response. The Department said there may have been a problem with

the Commission allowing the swap with the UK without having regard for the lack of access to Norwegian waters associated with that swap. The Department advised that it will work with the Producer Organisations to secure the maximum quantity of 2021 quota through the carry-over arrangement. The Department will look at the allocation of the extra quota should Ireland receive it but stated that it cannot be assumed that the extra quota would be given to the three vessels as quota allocation must be in accordance with Quota Management policy and public ownership and cannot give rise to individual licence holders establishing rights to quota which will lead to Individual Transferrable Quotas.

Calculation of the catch for paired vessels in the Horse Mackerel Polyvalent Spring over/under 65ft Spring Fishery (AOB item)

The ISWFPO queried how the catch for paired vessels in the Horse Mackerel Polyvalent Spring over/under 65ft Spring Fishery is calculated. The Department clarified how the landings are calculated for vessels operating in an SFPA-approved pairing arrangement in the fishery. The Department advised that landings per vessel in the pairing arrangement are calculated based on the proportion of the catch limit contributed by the vessel to the partnership. If a vessel lands 15% of its catch limit in the Spring fishery, it will be eligible for the autumn fishery as set down in the management arrangements.

6. **Quota Balancing**

Quota Balancing of Demersal Stocks

The Department advised that final quota balancing statements have issued for the November 2021 fishery management period

Quota Balancing of Pelagic Stocks

The Department advised that final quota balancing statements for the 2021 Mackerel Tier 1 and Tier 2 issued on the 11th January.

Provisional Quota Balancing statements for the 2021 RSW Pelagic Segment Fishery issued on 12th January. Licence holders have until 19th January to make enquires on their provisional statements. Provisional Quota Balancing statements for the 2021 Horse Mackerel 29 and Horse Mackerel Polyvalent over/under 65ft fisheries issued on the 14th January 2022. Licence holders have until Friday 21st January to make enquiries on their provisional statements.

It is planned that final Quota Balancing statements for these 3 fisheries will issue next week.

Provisional quota balancing statements for the 2021 Boarfish Fishery and landings of pelagic stocks without a valid authorisation/notification in excess of allowable by-catch for the calendar year 2021 will issue in the coming weeks.

The Department advised the meeting that the enquiry period for licence holders to make enquiries on provisional quota balancing statements is 7 days from the issue date for the main pelagic stocks (Mackerel, Horse Mackerel & Blue Whiting). The enquiries period for the Herring stocks is 14 days. The Department is proposing to change the enquiries period for Herring stocks to 7 days, so it is consistent with the Mackerel, Horse Mackerel and Blue Whiting stocks. The Department asked that if industry have concerns about this change, to please contact the Department through the quota management email address with views by COB tomorrow (Wednesday).

The KFO, ISWFPO and IFPO thanked the Department for the work involved in getting the provisional quota balancing statements out in the timeline committed to at the May 2021 QMAC meeting. The Department acknowledged the work done by the SFPA in providing the landing figures to the Department.

7. **2022 Tie up Scheme**

At December's QMAC meeting it was agreed that 2022 Tie up Scheme would be put on the agenda for January's meeting to give a recommendation to the Division dealing with the BAR, and the Minister. The Department advised that the squid fishery is a summer fishery and there are no plans for tie-up scheme for this fishery at this time as the Minister is continuing to work to get access to the waters around Rockall for Irish vessels.

All Industry representatives recommended that a tie-up scheme in 2022 should run as early as possible - preferably March and early sanction should be sought to run to the end of the year. The KFO stated that the Task Force report provided for a 2-month tie-up plus an additional tie-up for the squid Rockall fishery. The Department advised that its understanding was that it was a month's tie-up, plus a possible additional month for the squid fishery. It undertook to bring the views to the attention of the relevant area in the Department.

8. **Mackerel Hook and Line – Discussion paper**

Following discussion at the November QMAC meeting, it was agreed the Department would undertake to put together a discussion paper on the management of the Mackerel Hook & Line fishery in 2022 within the policy (400t limit), taking into account the views expressed the QMAC meetings and any other additional views.

Prior to today's meeting, the Department circulated a discussion paper and analysis of the 2021 Mackerel Hook and Line fishery by the SFPA dated 18th October 2021.

The Department and the SFPA presented their parts of the paper to the QMAC. The SFPA commented that the 2021 fishery was challenging and there is a need for change from a control

perspective. The SFPA said that a small amount of mackerel should be exempt from the logbook requirement.

IIMRO advised that it met with its members and have put together its own discussion paper on the mackerel hook and line fishery. IIMRO outlined the main points in the paper:

- More quota to be made available;
- Review of the Policy through a full public consultation;
- Failure of the QMAC to avoid early closure of the Mackerel Hook and Line fishery in 2021;
- Opposed to the use of track record;
- Small scale vessels should be prioritised in this artisanal, high value fishery. Under 12 metre vessels a priority;
- All vessels on the polyvalent register to be allocated equal quota based on the national allocation via monthly/weekly vessel authorisations;
- Landing limit reduced from 750kgs to 250kg per vessel;
- Advanced hailing is not practical for landings of small volumes on small piers and harbours;
- The ongoing issues with sales notes need to be urgently resolved.

IIMRO advised it will send the paper to the Department after today's meeting who will circulate it to the QMAC.

The KFO said that looking at the SFPA data that there is a four-fold increase uptake in the quota between 2019 and 2021, with a small number of boats taking the majority of the quota. There has not been a corresponding increase in the number of vessels taking part in the fishery. The KFO said that there should be mandatory logbooks supplied with reporting within 48hrs, but that small boats taking small quantities would not have to give advance notice. The KFO stated that trips are an issue as 60% of vessels are making more than one trip per day; even with the increase to 750kg, there were on average 2.5 trips per day. The KFO advised that the trip basis should be eliminated and replaced with a time-based limitation. The quota could be split equally over 4 months and vessels should be subject to quota balancing and should have to book in.

ISWFPO asked if a risk analysis could be done and asked for discussions to be led by inshore/smaller vessel organisations. The ISWFPO agreed with the SFPA that catches of 50kgs or less would not need to be reported. ISWFPO said that management structures need to be put in place so that all boats around the country have the same opportunity. ISWFPO, as in previous meetings, called on the NIFF to come forward with management proposals as their members are the main players in the fishery.

The Department advised that the catch information on the 2021 fishery is provided by the SFPA and it is up to each organisation to do their own evaluation, but fully supported asking the NIFF and RIFFs to lead discussion and would be interested in their views.

IFPO stated that it is important that inshore fisheries organisations get involved and support the drafting of management arrangements of other pelagic fisheries for approval by the Minister.

This was supported by IIMRO. The IFPO also said that every sector needs more quota, but the point is how we manage the current allocation as Hook & Line Mackerel is a key product for the processing sector.

ISEFPO said the issue is now that the boats and fishers are more efficient and better at catching the available fish quota.

IFPEA also said that mackerel caught by means of hook and line is a key product for the processing sector and proper management must be put in place for this fishery.

KFO, ISWFPO, ISEFPO & IIMRO all supported spreading the allocation over 4 months.

NIFF advised the meeting that the boats who fished in the 2021 fishery operated within the rules laid down. NIFF said that the quota is small and it didn't take long for it to be caught. The NIFF also said that those involved in the fishery recorded their catches on time and it was not their fault there was a delay in reporting of catch. They agreed that the figures were stark and that catches under 50kg should not need to be logged in any scheme. NIFF further advised it didn't have a chance to discuss the discussion paper with its members and has no view at this time but that it will discuss the paper at the earliest opportunity with its members.

It was agreed that the NIFF needs more time to review the discussion paper with its members. The matter will be discussed again at next month's Annual Quota Planning meeting.

The recommendation is to keep the fishery closed for February.

9. **AOB**

As outlined above under Pelagic Issues.

The next Quota Management meeting is scheduled for 16th February @ 3.30pm.

The Annual Quota Planning meeting is scheduled for 14th February @2.30pm

Sea Fisheries Policy & Management Division
18 January 2022