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

Quota Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Wednesday 16th February 2022
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 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

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 January QMAC meeting were circulated to the QMAC members for comments before this meeting. The Department advised that 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. The ISWFPO requested could the minutes be circulated a day or two earlier in order to give more time to review the minutes. The Department noted the comments and will examine if the minutes can be circulated earlier.

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3. Swaps

Swaps for Discussion

Swap 1

FRA to IRL:	**IRL to FRA:**
105t ANF/07.	300t WHG/7X7A-C
30 ANF/56-14	

The Department advised it received this swap proposal from the ISEFPO and not from the French administration. The view of industry was this was a good deal but was too early to agree this swap. Industry recommended this swap should be looked at when Ireland are pursuing the big French swap. The Coops asked that Irish boats be given a chance to catch Whiting before the swap is pursued. This was supported by the IFPEA.

The ISEFPO to go back to its French counterpart and advise the swap will be looked at later in the year. The Department agreed to keep the swap on next month's agenda.

Swap 2

The Department advised that Spain is looking for 2.5t of red seabream and wants to know what Ireland want in return. Ireland has 3t for 2022. It was recommended not to proceed with this swap as red seabream is a valuable stock and could be used in the big French swap later in the year.

Swap 3

At the end-of-year swaps, Ireland got 28t of NEP/07. and 48t of NEP/*07U16 from Spain for a return of choke species. Based on the non-paper quotas, Ireland must make the following quantities available:

6%	
COD/7X7AD34	20.28t
COD/5BE6A	13.20t
WHG/07A.	16.44t
PLE/7HJK.	2.82t
3%	
WHG/56-14	16.83

The Department advised they had contacted the Spanish administration inquiring what stocks they are looking for out of Article 9. The KFO advised that choke swaps are unique swaps built into the TAC & Quota Regulation and that the same ratios as previous years should be used. The ISWFPO advised it was a good ratio and asked if the fact that Spain were going to lose the Nephrops would be taken into account. Both the Coops and the ISEFPO advised to let Spain come back to Ireland first.

Swap 4

The following is an end-of-year swap with Netherlands. The Department asked the KFO for any update regarding the quantities of 2022 HER/4AB and/or ANF/56-14.

NLD to IRL:
54t HKE/571214 (2021)
1.15t HAD/7X7A34 (2021)
16t ANF/07. (2021)
15.629t HER/6AS7BC (2021)
0.733t ARU/3A4-C
Combination of HER/4AB and/or ANF/56-14 in 2022 (exact figures of this still to be decided)

IRL to NLD:
796.007t BOR/678- (2021)
0.20t LIN/6X14 (2021)
0.15t POK/7/3411 (2021)
0.05t WHG/56-14 (2021)
0.43t DGS/15X14 (2021)
0.15t COD/7X7AD34 (2021)
94,000kw Days Effort Area 7 (2021)
3.456t ARU/34A-C (2021)
1.181t POK/56-14 (2021)
0.575t had/7X7A34
8t ANF/07.

The KFO gave an update on the swap. The Coops suggested Ireland could do with Monk in 6. The KFO advised that the PO in the Netherlands were working on the swap and that the Netherlands were always looking for effort and would be sending a proposal to Ireland before the next QMAC meeting.

Swap 5

Ireland needs to get a swap of 350t HER/4AB to pay back this stock to Denmark for the 2021 swap and also needs to get a swap to cover 2022 fishery.

The KFO advised that 650t is required to cover the 350t payback to Denmark and by-catch in the area in 2022. The KFO said that the PO in the Netherlands was also working on this swap and would be sending a proposal to Ireland before the next QMAC meeting.

Swap 6

The ISWFPO informed the QMAC that they had been in contact with a Scottish PO and had received a proposal from them.

IRL to UK:
200t MAC/2CX14-
20t COD/5BE6A

UK to IRL:
250t HKE/571214

The Department set out the full amount of Mackerel available for swapping in 2022 (2% + 150t = 1,250t). The Department advised that swaps between Ireland and the UK are not possible until the Commission has set up the procedures to allow swapping and this is expected to be completed by

the end of March. This swap was supported by industry and the Department will progress this swap when the Commission allows.

The industry representatives asked about the procedures around swapping with the UK as there is different approaches in England and Scotland. The Department advised they will get seek clarity from the Commission and will revert back.

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

Haddock in area 6a

Due to the uptake figure of almost 42%, it was recommended that the regime would need to be reduced for March. The Department advised that there is 71t of a carry over from 2021.

All agreed to recommend 14/7 for March

Haddock in area 7a

Due to the uptake figure of almost 30%, it was recommended that the regime would need to be reduced for March. The Department advised that there is 380t of a carry over from 2021.

All agreed to recommend 12/8/4 for March

Hake

There was a request from the ISWFPO to increase this regime for March. Industry members agreed to recommend that the regime be increased.

All agreed to recommend 18/9 for March

Pollack area 7

Industry representatives recommended that over and under 55ft boats should have the same regime for the first half of the year. There was a request from the ISWFPO to increase this regime for March. It was agreed to recommend that the regime be increased.

All agreed to recommend 8/8 for March

Sole area 7b and 7c

Due to the uptake figure of 41%, it was recommended that a regime be put in place for this fishery. The QMAC members enquired about the high landing figure for January with the SFPA

and asked was there a decimal place error. The SFPA advised that the figure was correct and 19 vessels had recorded landings for January.

All agreed to recommend 1/0.5 for March

Monk area 6

Due to the uptake figure of 42%, it was recommended that the regime would need to be reduced for March and a swap would be needed to keep this fishery open. The Department advised that there is 93t of a carry over from 2021.

All agreed to recommend 3/1.50 for March

Nephrops FU16 of sub area 7

The Co-ops advised at the moment there is only enough quota for a 3 or 3 ½ month fishery and that a swap is needed to ensure there is a fishery in November/December this year.

All agreed to recommend 8/4 for March

Under 18 Mackerel

Before the meeting, a request by NIFF to increase the catch limit from 2t to 5t for March was circulated to the QMAC. The Department advised the QMAC that the available quota for this fishery is 163t and it has been advised by the SFPA that to-date nothing had been landed. The ISWFPO asked the NIFF for the reasoning behind the request for an increase and if it was a specific RIFF that made the request. The NIFF said they supported the request but that they didn't have further information. The KFO and ISWFPO expressed concern that this fishery will be a targeted fishery if the catch limit is increased. The ISEFPO proposed a middle ground, increasing the catch limit for March to 3t. The KFO, ISWFPO, IFPO and IIMRO recommended keeping the regime at 2t for March with the KFO stating that management arrangements need to be in place for the mackerel hook and line fishery before the under 18m mackerel regime can be increased. The ISWFPO said it was not against the increase but would like more information and would like their question to be brought to the attention of the Minister as it was unclear how many boats would be targeting this fishery. The Department advised it has noted the views of the QMAC members and it would bring the divergent views to the Minister for a decision. The KFO queried if there were divergent views from the POs. The Department responded that there clearly were divergent views given that e.g. the ISEFPO had proposed a middle ground catch limit.

The Department is recommending that the catch limit for March be increased to 3t as a middle ground proposed by the ISEFPO as this will give a greater opportunity for small vessel owners and the increase will not have the same impact on the overall quota as a 5t increase.

5. **Pelagic Issues**

100% Catch Limit allocations

The Department advised that the 100% catch limits, taking into account quota balancing adjustments, have issued for the Mackerel Tier 1 and 2, Horse Mackerel, Boarfish, RSW Blue Whiting and Atlanto-Scandian Herring fisheries. The Department further advised that the draw for the 2022 Blue Whiting Polyvalent Fishery was held earlier in the day and the results had been circulated before the meeting and that as soon as those vessels confirm they will take part in the fishery, they will be authorised to do so.

Herring 6AS7BC

The KFO enquired about the increased catch of Herring in area 6aS at the end of 2021, which is under a monitoring TAC, causing the quota to be exceeded as a result, and asking if the uptake figure was correct. The SFPA advised it was caused by a combination of submission of late log sheets and sales notes which caused it to rise rapidly but will examine it further and give an update at the annual quota planning meeting due to take place the following week.

The Department requested the SFPA examine the landing figure for Herring in Area 7g to k as there is no fishery there at this time and on the whitefish sheets at this meeting there is an uptake of 135t for 2022.

2022 Atlanto Scandian Herring Fishery

The matter of the 2022 Atlanto Scandian Herring was raised as an AOB point by the KFO regarding the issue of allocations for this stock. The KFO said that last month's QMAC meeting minutes accurately reflected what was said by their organisation (the KFO requested, as an exceptional measure, to allocate carryover of Atlanto-Scandian Herring quota from 2021 to 2022 for the three vessels who lost the opportunity to fish their 2021 catch limits due to the early closure of the 2021 fishery. However, after examining the request, the Minister decided he was not in a position to grant the request and the QMAC were advised of this decision by email on 10th February 2022).

The KFO said that there were ways and means to sort this issue and it is proposing a way forward that would not disturb the policy principles of public ownership of quotas in Ireland. The KFO asked if authorisations issued to the RSW Pelagic Sector could be reconsidered and proposed 8 authorisations (an additional 3 authorisations) be issued to allow the 3 vessels, who lost out in 2021, the opportunity to fish in the area in 2022. The KFO advised again that Ireland has 1 available licence and has an agreement to borrow 2 licences from the Dutch. The KFO stated if Ireland get the quota from the Netherlands and Denmark this year, it would have to be used in 2022. The KFO finally stated that we cannot have a situation where three vessels, through no fault of their own, have lost out and it is against fairness and equity and natural justice.

The Department advised that the Minister had made his decision, and the full catch limit in place will include the 2022 TAC and any carry over figures from 2021 less a contingency of 200t. The

IFPO advised that its members that are authorised in the fishery this year plan to go fishing this weekend and doesn't see scope for change. The IFPO proposed that vessels who lost out in 2021 should be prioritised in 2023. The KFO said that the additional fish is for this year and not next year. The IFPO said the authorisations had been issued. The Department advised that it will add Atlanto-Scandian Herring to next week's planning meeting agenda.

6. **Quota Balancing**

Demersal Quota Balancing

The Department advised Final Quota Balancing Statements for 2021 December Demersal Fisheries have issued

Pelagic Quota Balancing

The Department advised Final Quota Balancing Statements have issued for the:

- 2021 Mackerel RSW Fishery
- 2021 Horse Mackerel 29 Fishery and 2021 Horse Mackerel Polyvalent over/under 65ft Autumn Fishery
- 2021 Boarfish Fishery

The Department further advised that, on Monday 14th February, Provisional Quota Balancing Statements issued to licence holders of vessels that landed pelagic stock without a valid authorisation/notification in excess of allowable by-catch for the calendar year 2021. Licence holders have until Monday 21st February to make enquiries on their provisional statements. Final statements will issue after this date.

The Department advised it is beginning the process of quota balancing the 2021 Herring fisheries and intend to issue provisional quota balancing statements for the 2021 Irish Sea Herring & Atlanto-Scandian Herring fisheries in the coming weeks.

Norwegian Cod

At last month's meeting, the Department advised it had been told by the SFPA that they had a query regarding a Norwegian Cod fishery for 2022. The Department sent an updated email to industry members after the QMAC meeting on 20th January advising it received expressions of interest from 3 vessels in the fishery and requesting their views, with no replies received. A Norwegian Cod fishery did not take place in 2021 and a list of swaps for Norwegian Cod over the last decade had been sent to the QMAC before the meeting.

The Department advised that traditionally where there is an expression of interest to prosecute this fishery, the fishery would be advertised, vessels booked-in and a lottery would take place to select the vessel if more than one vessel booked in. The Department further advised a swap

of Haddock in area 1N2AB would be required to cover by-catch in the area, which is normally agreed with Germany or Denmark. The Department proposed to draw one vessel from the draw and one reserve vessel only. If both vessels did not take up the offer, Ireland could then look at swap opportunities. The Department said Irish vessels normally go up to the area in May, June or July and there is only 1 demersal authorisation to access the area.

The KFO queried why this matter was being revisited when it was agreed by the KFO and the other POs at last month's QMAC that the quota should be swapped out. The Department advised that it is for the Minister only to make any such decision. The KFO said that a PO put forward a member to prosecute the fishery in the past. The ISWFPO asked for more information - e.g. would boats be excluded next year if they didn't take up the opportunity. The Department advised that this information would be set down in any management arrangements. The IFPO asked questions about the timeframe for the fishery and other detail which was answered by the Department (it is a summer fishery). The ISEFPO & ISWFPO support the Norwegian cod quota being used for swaps, stating none of their members expressed interest in the fishery. The NIFF, Co-ops and IIMRO also supported swapping out the quota but suggested those who expressed interest in the fishery should be advised of the reasons why the stock is being swapped out such as the administrative burden to fishers, safety concerns and the benefit to a larger number Irish vessels in using this stock to secure swaps for Monk, Hake or Haddock in return as in previous years. The Co-ops further stated that the general belief of the coops is that every opportunity should be given, but in this instance they agreed with the majority.

The KFO said the earliest a swap for Haddock in area 1N2AB could be done would be September and that the price for Arctic Cod is probably lower than the interested vessels realise. The NIFF said that the fishery would not be viable without the quota for Haddock bycatch.

The recommendation from industry representatives is to swap out the quota.

AOB

The ISWFPO enquired about the tie-up scheme. The Department advised that, following the last QMAC, the Department sent industry views on the tie-up scheme to the relevant Division in charge of the scheme and they would be in contact in due course. However, the Department will check for any update before next week's planning meeting.

The Co-ops sought an update on when face-to-face meetings will recommence. The Department advised that there was no guidance provided yet and that the Department will looking into this matter and provide an update at next week's planning meeting. The IIMRO said that it was important that remote access also continue and the Department reassured the QMAC that remote access would be an option for future meetings.

The Co-ops also enquired whether the QMAC meetings could start on time as, although it understands that connection issues can play a part in the delay of the starting the meeting, it can take a long time to discuss matters. The Department advised that future meetings should start at the latest 5 minutes after the scheduled start time and if anyone has connection or other issues, they can be brought up to speed when they join. In order to facilitate this more easily,

the Department will open the meeting 15 minutes prior to the start time of the meeting to allow QMAC members time to access the meeting.

The next Quota Management meeting is scheduled for the 22nd March @ 12.00pm.

The Planning meeting is scheduled for 22nd February @2.00pm

Sea Fisheries Policy & Management Division
17 February 2022