Quota Management Advisory Committee Planning Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Tuesday 22nd February 2022
Location	National Seafood Centre, Clonakilty
Chair	Official from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
Members via videoconference	DAFM: 8 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 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 and 1 observer 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. End of year figures/Swaps/ Flexibility 2021 End of Year Analysis

A full list of the 2021 swaps including banking swaps and 2021 End of Year Analysis (giving details of quota of the relevant stocks that would be transferred to 2022 under the flexibility Regulation) was circulated to the QMAC prior to the planning meeting.

3. Tie-up Scheme

A tie-up scheme for 2022 was discussed by industry representatives. The Department stated that the views of the QMAC regarding the tie-up scheme at the January QMAC meeting were brought to the attention of the relevant area within the Department. The issue could be raised with Industry representatives meeting with the Minister at planned meeting tomorrow.

4. Priority stocks for swaps in 2022

The QMAC analysed the priority stocks taking into consideration 2022 quota, including carryover amounts where relevant, 2022 uptake figures to date, and 2021 quota and final uptake figures.

- Crab Effort in the BSA

It was agreed to look for 20,000kw/days crab effort in the BSA from France and set aside some mackerel as currency if another swap is needed later in the year.

- Hake, Monk in area 6 and 7

The ISWFPO advised there is an agreed swap with a Scottish PO for 250t of Hake but Ireland is waiting to hear from the Commission when it can carry out swaps with the UK in 2022.

Industry representatives agreed the priority was to get a getting swap in for Monk in area 6 but acknowledged a swap would be required for Monk in area 7.

- Haddock in area 7b-k & 6a

Industry representatives agreed that getting a swap in for Haddock in area 7b-k should be left as a priority 2 swap.

With a 40% uptake figure for Haddock in area 6a in the first two months of 2022, Industry representatives agreed that a swap for 150t should be a priority 1 and a further 150t should be a priority 2.

The KFO will have an update on what the French are looking for at the March QMAC meeting. The KFO and ISEFPO will engage on swaps to suit Ireland's needs.

5. Nephrops- Annual Quota Plan

It was agreed that the FU16 fishery will be closed for the months of June, and July as well as the compulsory closure of the area in May. The views from the QMAC are that swaps are needed to keep the fishery open for the remaining months.

After examining the swaps carried out in 2021 it was agreed that between 300 and 350t could be obtained from the French and the remaining could be secured with Spain and the UK.

The Department advised the QMAC if there was a view that Ireland should commence the process of reviewing the annex to the technical conservation to amend the Closure of FU 16 sub area of 7 which is currently for May. The Department said that if there is a view that Ireland should pursue this, it would engage with EU member states, the Commission and the UK.

This was supported by the KFO, Coops ISWFPO and ISEFPO.

The Department said it would investigate making a case for amending the closure period which will require an amendment of the Annex to the TCM regulation involving making a case to the Commission through the North-western Waters Member States Group. The Department encouraged engagement at Industry level through the Advisory Council.

The Department will contact the Marine Institute to look at the possible options and will engage with industry for views.

6. Other Whitefish Stocks

- Sole

The Department asked that the ISEFPO representative should try to get Sole from Belgium when an opportunity arises. It was noted that a straight sole for sole swop is likely the preferred option.

- Pollock in area 7

Industry representatives discussed if the regime for Pollock in area 7 should be kept the same as the over 55ft boats. Industry representatives supported having the regime for Pollack in area 7 kept the same for all sizes of boats for the first half of 2022.

- Whiting in area 7b-k

Industry representatives supported setting aside 400t for swap and review it throughout the year.

- Scallop effort

The ISEFPO advised that its French contact didn't look for scallop effort in 2021 but will check with its contact when discussing other swaps.

7. Herring

a. Atlanto-Scandian

At the February QMAC meeting it was agreed that issue around the allocation of Atlanto Scandian Herring for the 2022 fishery would be further discussed. The KFO again briefly outlined the events where the Minister was not in a position to grant the request by the KFO, 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. The KFO said they were not given the opportunity to come back with an alternative proposal when its original proposal was not accepted because authorisations were issued within a short period after they were advised of the Minister's decision.

The KFO asked if allocating additional licences (one or two licences) would be considered in 2022 for the RSW Sector as we are due to get extra quota back from the Dutch and Denmark.

The Department advised the quick turnaround in issuing authorisations was because it was under increased pressure from individual operators to issue authorisations on the basis that vessels were ready and waiting to enter the fishery. The Department further advised that the Minister will look at any proposal put forward by industry for this fishery.

The KFO stated it would consider what has been said and may revert with a further proposal. The IFPO further stated that if additional quota becomes available the IFPO and the KFO may come to an agreement in making a revised proposing within the policy.

b. North West Herring

At the February QMAC meeting the KFO enquired about landings reported in the QM document for 2021 for Herring in area 6aS, which is under a monitoring TAC, and if the quota was exceeded and if the uptake figure was correct. The SFPA advised at February's QMAC that it would review the landings to determine if the landing figure given was correct.

The SFPA advised that the landings reported were correct, advising that sales notes were entered at the year end and the first two weeks of January.

c. Celtic Sea Herring

At the February QMAC meeting, the Department requested the SFPA to look into the landing figure for herring in area 7 G to K as it showed landings for January when the fishery was closed.

The SFPA advised that the landings shown were correct. The Department advised there would be less available quota for the remainder of 2022 on this basis.

8. Mackerel Hook and Line – Discussion paper

At the January QMAC meeting discussion was held on the Department Hook and Line discussion paper that was circulated before the meeting. The discussion paper had taken into account views express at previous meetings and additional views and there was also input from the SFPA from a control perspective. At the January QMAC meeting the NIFF said they did not have time to consider the paper and other QMAC members expressed their views and agreed to have the input of the NIFF as they are important stakeholders in this fishery.

At today's planning meeting the Department advised that the role of the QMAC is to give recommendations to the Minister within the policy set down. The NIFF presented their response to the Department discussion document which was circulated to the QMAC before today's planning meeting.

The NIFF's response to the Department's discussion paper was discussed by the QMAC.

It was agreed a working group made up of the NIFF, IIMRO, ISWFPO, guest of the KFO representative, SFPA and the Department would be set up to explore what measures work best and bring forward management suggestions for the 2022 fishery within the policy.

It was agreed the working group would have its first meeting next week.

9. AOB

Chair asked if any AOB items – there were none from the floor

Sea Fisheries Policy & Management Division
23 February 2022