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

Quota Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Friday 22nd April 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 and 1 observer Irish Fish Producers Organisation (IFPO): 1 member and 1 observer Irish South and West Fish Producer Organisation (ISWFPO): 1 member National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF): 1 member Killybegs Fishermens Organisation (KFO): 1 member Irish South & East Fish Producer Organisation (ISEFPO): 1 member
Apologies	Irish Fish Processors and Exporters Association (IFPEA)

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 March 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 May Fishery Management Notices.

3. Swaps

The Department advised that the following swaps had been completed since the last QMAC meeting and are included in today's figures.

All five swaps relate to end-of-year/banking swaps and the Department has completed the transfers of the 2022 stocks, in each swap, as set out hereunder.

SPAIN

ESP to IRL	IRL to ESP
28t NEP/07 (2021)	2t PLE/7HJK. (2022)
48t NEP/*07U16 (2021)	0.5t WHG/56-14 (2022)
	20.28t COD/7XAD34 (2022)
	13.2t COD/5BE6A (2022)
	10t BOR/678- (2022)
	0.1t WHG/7X7A-C (2022)
	0.1t SOL/56-14 (2022)
	1t PLE/7BC. (2022)
	0.5t POK/7/3411 (2022)
	0.1t COD/5W6-14 (2022)
	5.2t NEP/07 (2022)

SPAIN

ESP to IRL	IRL to ESP
1,000t WHB/1X14 (2021)	500t WHB/1X14 (2022)

SPAIN

ESP to IRL	IRL to ESP
300t WHB/1X14 (2021)	150t WHB/1X14 (2022)

SPAIN

ESP to IRL	IRL to ESP
1,564t JAX/2A-14 (2021)	782t JAX/2A-14 (2022)

NETHERLANDS

NLD to IRL	IRL to NLD
777t HER/1/2- (2021)	777t HER/1/2- (2022)

Swaps for Discussion

The Department sought the views of Industry on the following:

FRANCE (2 swap proposals)

The Department sought Industry views on two swap proposals that had been received from the French Administration the previous day and had been circulated to the group. The Department highlighted that Crab Effort in the BSA was not included in either of the two French swap proposals. There was discussion within the group on how best to progress a swap with France for the Crab Effort. It was decided that the Crab Effort swap should be included in the second swap with France with Ireland to offer 95t of Mackerel for 20,000 kw days Crab Effort in the BSA. There was also discussion as to whether a swap for 20,000 kW days or 30,000 kW days should

be pursued at this point in time. It was decided that the best course of action is to proceed with 20,000 kW days now and to seek an additional quantity later in the year if this is required.

FRANCE - Swap 1

FRA to IRL:	**IRL to FRA:**
21 t of NEP /07*-U16	190 t of COD/1N2AB
75 t of HAD/7X7A34	1 t of BLI/24-
75 t of HKE/07	
10 t of POK/1N2AB	

The first swap proposal with France (Swap 1 above) was discussed. The Department queried if the Nephrops element of Swap 1 should refer to the main area **and** access to the porcupine (i.e. 21t NEP/07 plus 21t NEP/*07U16). This was confirmed to be the case by the KFO representative. The Department advised that Ireland has a quota of 290t of COD/1N2AB of which France are looking for 190t in this current proposal. It was advised that the remaining COD/1N2AB will be pursued by France later in the year with exchanges of Haddock in 6a and further quantities of Saithe potentially on offer.

Industry representatives were in support of Swap 1 so the Department will revert to the French Administration in this regard and to include the amendment in respect of Nephrops.

FRANCE - Swap 2

FRA to IRL:	**IRL to FRA:**
80 t of ANF/56-14	10 t of SOL/7HJK
250 t of NEP/*07U16	80 t of SRX/67AKXD
300 t of HKE/571214	300 t of JAX/2A-14
	30 t of COD/5BE6A
	5 t of PLE/7HJK.
	50 t of SRX/*07D
	15 t of RJU/7DE.
	2 t of SBR/678-
	60 t of POK/*2AC4C
	450 t of MAC/2CX14-
	15 t of GHL/2A-C46
	50 t of RNG/5B67-
	30 t of BSF/56712-
	100 t of BOR/678-

The second swap proposal with France (Swap 2) was discussed by the committee. As per the earlier discussions regarding the requirement for Crab Effort in the BSA, the Department will contact France with an amended proposal: an additional 95t of Mackerel to be offered by Ireland for 20,000 kW days Crab Effort in the BSA.

The Nephrops element of this swap proposal was queried by the Department. The KFO representative advised that Area 7 Nephrops should also be included (250t of NEP/07) within the swap and will speak to his French counterpart in this regard. The Department will additionally include this amendment when contacting France with an updated proposal.

There was a discussion amongst industry representatives as to whether France may have additional quantities of porcupine nephrops available later in the year. The committee was advised that it might be possible to secure a further 75-100t later in the year provided that Ireland has the currency at that time to facilitate the swap.

Saithe in area 1 and 2AB (POK/1N2AB)

The Department advised that Ireland needs to cover a by-catch of Saithe in Area 1 and 2AB (POK/1N2AB). This requirement was discussed by the committee. Irish landings of at least 29t have been made. Taking into account the first French swap, an amount of at least 19t will need to be swapped in from other countries. Industry representatives advised that contact has been made with counterparts in France, Germany and the UK. The general opinion was that Ireland will need to work on securing swaps for small quantities from various sources to make up the amount required.

Herring 4AB

The Department advised that the Danish Administration has been contacted to request that the 350t Herring 4AB borrowed from Denmark in 2021 which was due to be repaid in 2022, be written off due to the early closure of the 2021 ASH fishery and the loss of fishing opportunities to Irish vessels.

The Department further advised the group that in 2022 there is a small carryover of 31t from 2021 but that Irish vessels have already caught 74t.

The KFO representative advised that he is in discussions with the Netherlands in respect of Herring in 4AB and that a swap proposal should shortly be received to include 300t Herring 4AB. The proposal will include Moroccan fishing effort, monkfish and hake.

UK Swap proposal

The Department updated the group on the current draft procedures for agreeing swaps with the UK:

- PO's discuss possible swaps between themselves (Member State – England/Scotland).
- When they have come to an agreement, they both submit the proposal to their own administration.
- Member States send the proposals from their Producer Organisations to the Commission by the agreed deadline.
- The Commission and UK Defra compare the proposals from both sides and agree / reject the proposed swaps.
- The list of agreed swaps is then published on both sides at the same time.

The Department advised that there will be nine rounds of swaps, starting in May 2022 and ending in January 2023 and that Member States are obliged to send their requests for the first round to the Commission no later than Monday 16 May 2022.

The Department queried the IS&WFPO representative regarding a swap proposal discussed at the last meeting of the QMAC and if this proposal was still on the table. The IS&WFPO representative advised that he had contacted his Scottish counterpart in respect of the following swap:

IRL to UK:

200t MAC/2CX14-
20t COD/5BE6A

UK to IRL:

250t HKE/571214

Industry Representatives supported this proposal so the Department will forward the proposal to the Commission as per the current draft procedures.

The balance of the 2% of Mackerel quota set aside for demersal swaps was discussed. The Department advised that the balance is 1251t (which includes this years' 2% plus an amount of 151t unused from last year.) The Department advised that, to date, none of the 2% mackerel has been used. However, following today's swaps discussions, and after the relevant swaps are finalised, there is 200t included in the UK proposal plus another 545t in the French swap (450t initially plus anther 95t for the Crab Effort {this amount of 95t may increase depending on the swap negotiations}).

Belgian Swap – Demersal Effort

The IS&EFPO representative advised that he is currently working on a Demersal Effort proposal with Belgium.

Whiting 7b-k.

The committee was advised by industry representatives that counterparts in other member states have made contact regarding swaps for this stock. Reference was made to the annual QMAC planning meeting where the setting aside of 400t of Whiting in 7b-k was discussed.

There was significant discussion regarding the setting aside of a quantity of Whiting quota in 7b-k to be swapped out. The amount of Whiting quota to be set aside and the timing of when to set aside the quota for swapping with other Member States were both debated.

The Department acknowledged the genuine issues raised by the different Industry representatives and queried with all Industry representatives if there was support to use 200t of the carryover amount to facilitate the swaps that are currently needed and to revisit the issue either at the June or the July QMAC. No objections to this plan of action were received.

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

Monk Area 6

Industry representatives advised that the price for monk is good. All have recommended to increase to 5/2.50.

Nephrops Area 7

A request was made that the regime for May and June be increased from 20/10 to 24/12 as the price and demand is good at the moment and a tie up scheme may be in place in the months of June to September.

All agreed to recommended 24/12 for May.

Neprops FU16

All agreed to recommend that the fishery be closed for May.

Great Silver Smelt area 5, 6 & 7

The Department advised that there was nothing at EU level preventing a fishery in area 5, 6 and 7. The KFO representative advised that this fishery is a deep waters specialist fishery and had not been fished by Irish vessels in the past 15 years. The KFO representative advised that a number of RSW vessels are aware of the fishery and know how to fish it but it is not clear if it is an economically viable fishery.

The IS&WFPO representative asked for more information on the fishery. It was agreed that the Department would contact all RSW pelagic segment boats and polyvalent boats over 24m by e-

mail to ask them to contact their Producer Organisation for more information on the stock and the fishery. All agreed to recommend that the fishery operate as an open fishery for May.

Skates and Rays

The representatives from the IS&WFPO and the KFO recommended that the regime for May be reduced to maintain a fishery for the Autumn.

All agreed to recommend 12/6 reduced from 14/7 in April.

Under 18 Mackerel

The SFPA advised that there is an uptake of 23.80t of mackerel to date. All agreed to recommend 3t for May.

5. **Pelagic Issues**

2022 Albacore Tuna

The Department reminded the QMAC that booking in for the 2022 fishery had been advertised subject to the approval of the Minister with a closing date of 29 April.

The Department thanked industry representatives for submitting views for the management of the 2022 fishery, which recommended a rollover of the 2021 arrangements with the exception of the opening date. The Department pointed out that in 2021 no applications were received from vessels in the Category B fishery (fishing by means mechanised trolls and surface long lines). If such applications were to be received this year a Category B fishery would be facilitated and managed as in 2020.

Northwest Herring

The Department advised that a review of the 2022 figures indicated that there was 537t remaining for the autumn fishery. Breakdown as follows: TAC 2022 1,236t less deduction (overfishing 2021 103t) adjusted quota 1,133t, landed spring 596t **remaining 537t.**

Mackerel Hook and Line

The Department advised the QMAC that the Minister had last evening (21 April) approved the Management arrangements for the 2022 Under 15m Mackerel Hook and Line Fishery.

The Department thanked all who participated in the working group.

The NIFF considered the proposed management arrangements and sent a submission on 14 April requesting that the submission be read into the QMAC minutes at today's meeting. The submission was read at today's meeting and is set out hereunder.

"The NIFF have considered the attached proposed management measures for the Hook and Line Mackerel Fishery for 2022.

They are willing to accept the proposed management measures being forced upon the fishery under protest to allow the hook and line mackerel fishery to open on the 1st May for the 2022 season only, with a review of the measures to take place after the fishery closes for 2022."

However, the NIFF's overall position remains the same that is that the current allocation of only 400 tonnes of mackerel for the hook and line fishery at approximately 0.7% of the Irish National quota (based on 2021 figures) is insufficient. Any additional fishery management measures should only be considered when the Minister agrees to a full and comprehensive review of the current allocation methodology for the Hook and Line Mackerel Policy as NIFF has requested in a letter to the Minister dated 10th March 2022. The NIFF feel that the additional management measures are being forced on fishers by the DAFM, SFPA and the POs who are left with no other option but to accept them is they wish to go fishing."

The Department advised that the purpose of the working group had no role in relation to policy for this fishery. The role of the group was to develop and recommend management arrangements to manage the fishery within policy, as is the remit of the QMAC.

The ISWFPO and the KFO supported by IFPO and ISEFPO thanked the team for their work on the development of the arrangements.

The KFO and IS&WFPO representatives commented in relation to the NIFF statement that the arrangements were not forced on anyone. The KFO representative pointed out that QMAC does not have any remit in relation to policy formulation or adoption.

The SFPA advised that sales notes will have to be used to compile landing data for under 10m vessels. The SFPA advised that the working group did explore log sheets, but this was considered to be too difficult to implement.

6. **Quota Balancing**

Pelagic quota balancing

The Department advised that final quota balancing statements have issued for the 2021 Albacore Tuna Fishery.

Final quota balancing statements will issue for the 2021 North West Herring Autumn Fishery in the coming weeks.

The Celtic Sea Herring Main and Sentinel Fisheries are the final 2021 pelagic fisheries to be quota balanced. Provisional quota balancing statements for these fisheries will issue in due course.

The Department advised that it will then begin quota balancing the 2022 Horse Mackerel Polyvalent Segment over/under 65ft Spring fishery and the 2022 North West Herring Spring Fishery.

Demersal QB

The Department advised that Final Quota Balancing statements for the February Fishery Management Period will issue in the next day or two.

Quota Balancing 2021 Report

The Department advised that a report giving details of the 2021 quota balancing amounts by stock and value covering pelagic and demersal quota balancing would be published shortly. There was a discussion on various aspects of the policy and timelines for delivery.

The ISWFPO representative questioned whether vessels authorised as a pair following a lottery, who subsequently didn't fish as a pair or fished with other authorised vessels creating a new paring arrangement should be permitted and if new rules were needed to clarify this matter.

The Department undertook to examine the enquiry and revert at the next meeting.

AOB

The next Quota Management meeting is scheduled for the 19th of May at 2.30pm

Sea Fisheries Policy & Management Division

24 April 2022