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

Detailed Management Arrangements for Irish Sea Herring Fishery 2024

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine invites applications from the owners of Irish registered fishing vessels of overall length less than 90ft/27.43m, who wish to fish the 2024 Irish Sea Herring quota.

Available quota of 249t less contingency of 25t = Quota available for allocation of 224t

Vessels that participated in 2023 Irish Sea Herring Fishery are **precluded** from the 2024 fishery.

Completed application forms should be sent by e-mail to fisheriesbooking@agriculture.gov.ie or by post to Irish Sea Herring Fisheries Booking, Sea Fisheries Policy and Management Division, National Seafood Centre, Clogheen, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, P85 TX47", to arrive no later than close of business on Thursday 29 August 2024.

If you do not receive a receipt of confirmation within 5 working days of sending this form, please email fisheriesbooking@agriculture.gov.ie or contact a member of the Quota Management team (in the Seafood Policy and Management Division) by phone on 023-8859500 before 5 September 2024.

On application, vessel owners must identify if they are applying as a single vessel or as part of a pair. If part of a pair, the owner must specify any partner vessel or vessels.

Applicants are asked to note:

Historically the small Irish Sea Herring fishery has taken place in the waters around the Isle of Man, including in the 6-12 nautical mile zone around the Isle of Man.

If your vessel is successful in the lottery and you wish to participate in the 2024 Irish Sea Herring Fishery, please be advised that, as per Article 502 of the EU/UK Trade and Co-Operation Agreement, if you wish to apply for an authorisation from the UK to access the 6-12nm waters around the Isle of Man to fish for Irish Sea Herring you will need to provide evidence of track record for your vessel for more than 10 days in any of the three 12 month periods ending on 31 January on, or between, 1 February 2017 and 31 January 2020 to this Department. The Department will seek authorisation from the UK authorities through the Commission for such vessels covered by the management arrangements.

Detailed arrangements

The Minister to allow a lottery to take place in accordance with Detailed Lottery arrangements for Irish Sea Herring in Appendix 1 below. For further information on the booking-in and lottery draw protocol for quota management, please see:

https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/4703a-policy-quota-management/

Quota allocations for the period 16 September 2024 to 16 November 2024 will be in the ratios set out below, based on registered length in feet:

- Vessels > 80 ft - 80
- Vessels 65-79.99 ft - 60
- Vessels 50-64.99ft - 50
- Vessels 40- 49.99ft - 40
- Vessels <40ft – 30

SPECIFIED FISHING AREAS

"specified area" means ICES area 7a with the exception of that part of Area 7a which is bounded:

- to the north by latitude 52 30'N

- to the south by latitude 52 00'N

- to the west by the coast of Ireland

- to the east by the United Kingdom territorial (12nm) limit.

Restrictions on fishing for herring

The master of the authorised vessel will be required to comply with all relevant regulations imposed on this fishery or on fishing operations in general conducted in waters under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of the United Kingdom by the law of the United Kingdom.

Management Arrangements

1. Fishery to open at 00.01 hours on 16 September 2024 and close at 23.59 hours on 16 November 2024. There will be no reallocations after that date. Any remaining quota will be either carried over or swapped out.

2. Vessels authorised in the fishery will incur a whitefish preclusion during any week (00:01 hours on Sunday to 00:01 hours on the following Sunday) where fishing for herring occurs in that week.

3. Vessels authorised in the fishery are precluded from fishing for Celtic Sea Herring and North West Herring during the same week as Irish Sea Herring.

4. Authorised vessel(s) must be willing to accommodate an observer from the Marine Institute/B.I.M.

5. Authorised vessel(s) shall keep, and provide to the Marine Institute, a sample of 25 kg of unsorted herring catch.

6. Vessels who participate in 2024 fishery **shall be precluded** from the 2025 fishery.

7. Vessel owners who apply and subsequently, when selected, withdraw for whatever reason from the fishery will be precluded from entering into any such draw for the 2025 and 2026 fishery.

8. Landing(s) of Irish Sea Herring in excess of permitted catch limits will be subject to quota balancing in accordance with the Minister's policy regarding Quota Balancing for Pelagic Stocks.

9. Vessels must indicate in advance their pairing arrangements**.** The Department will provide separate authorisations to each vessel in the pairing arrangement. It is then the responsibility of the vessel owner, as a condition of the authorisation, to seek the written approval of the SFPA to engage in pair fishing as set out in the authorisation. Pairing arrangements must remain unchanged for the duration of the fishery save for exceptional circumstances. All pairing arrangements will require the approval of the SFPA prior to engaging in pair fishing. Any changes to pairing arrangements will require advance notification and approval by the SFPA.

10. Each vessel partaking in the main trawl fishery will be required by authorisation to individually actively engage in fishing operations for Irish Sea Herring by towing of a pelagic trawl whilst targeting Irish Sea Herring.

11. Vessels will be authorised to land herring in all ports designated for the landing of pelagic species.

12. Before departing to fish in the specified area, the authorised vessels must check in at the Port of Howth (or any other port specified by SFPA) for inspection of the vessel(s) by a Sea-Fisheries Protection Officer.

13. An advertisement will be placed in the Irish Independent.

14. It is proposed to write (via e-mail) to all Producer Organisations, industry representatives, and those on our regular mailing list for such fisheries seeking nominations of eligible vessels and advising of the application process.

15. A notice will also be placed on the Department's website at the following link:
https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/4703a-policy-quota-management/

Sea Fisheries Policy and Management Division

07 August 2024

Appendix 1: Detailed Lottery Arrangements for Irish Sea Herring

The Department proposes to hold a draw for Irish registered fishing vessels of overall length less than 90ft/27.43m to select vessels to operate in the 2024 Irish Sea Herring Fishery.

Available quota of 249t (less contingency 25t) = Quota available for allocation of 224t

Venue: Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Clogheen, Clonakilty, Co Cork, P85 TX47

Date: Friday 6 September 2024

Time: 11.30am

- On application vessel owners identify if they are applying as a single vessel or as part of a pair. If part of a pair, the owner must specify any partner vessel.
- By completing, signing, and dating the booking-in form, applicants, including partner vessels, confirm their willingness to be entered in an open draw to receive an authorisation for the fishery.
- For the draw, each individual vessel will be entered once, and each pair will be entered once.
- 8 vessels will be drawn. However, in the event that the final vessel drawn is part of a pair, any paired vessel will also be authorised in the fishery.
- Vessels drawn will receive catch limits in the Ratios set out below, based on registered length in feet:

Ratios

- Vessels > 80 ft – 80
- Vessels 65-79.99 ft – 60
- Vessels 50-64.99ft – 50
- Vessels 40- 49.99ft – 40
- Vessels <40ft – 30

- A reserve list will be created.
- After the lottery has been held, if the Department is notified that a vessel or vessels within a pair does/do not wish or cannot avail of the fishing opportunity before or after being authorised, then only the uncaught quota of the vessel or vessels not availing of the opportunity is taken back to the national quota and made available to vessel or vessels on the reserve list.

- Vessels on the reserve list who become eligible for a catch limit will receive a catch limit based on its vessel ratio if that quota is available. Otherwise, the vessel(s) will receive the catch limit of the vessel(s) that withdrew.
- One industry representative from each PO, NIFF and IFPEA will be invited to attend the lottery.
- An independent observer will also be invited to oversee proceedings.
- Authorisations will be made available following the lottery.
- Vessel owners who apply and subsequently, when selected, withdraw for whatever reason from the fishery will be precluded from entering into any such draw for the 2025 and 2026 fishery.

Sea Fisheries Policy and Management Division

7 August 2024