



Quota Management Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Date and Time	Wednesday 14 th May 2025 at 11.00 a.m.
Location	National Seafood Centre, Clonakilty
Chair	Official from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
Members in National Seafood Centre, Clonakilty	<p>DAFM: Chair</p> <p>DAFM: 3 attendees</p> <p>Irish South & West Fish Producer Organisation (ISWFPO): 1 member</p> <p>Irish South & East Fish Producers Organisation (ISEFPO): 1 member</p> <p>Killybegs Fishermen’s Organisation (KFO): 1 member</p> <p>Irish Fish Producers Organisation (IFPO): 1 member</p>
Members via videoconference	<p>DAFM: 3 attendees</p> <p>Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA): 1 attendee</p> <p><u>Industry Representatives:</u></p> <p>Co-ops Umbrella Group: 1 member</p> <p>Irish Fish Processors & Exporters Association (IFPEA): 1 member</p> <p>National Inshore Fisheries Forum (NIFF): 1 member</p> <p>National Inshore Fisherman’s association (NIFA): 1 member</p> <p>Irish Islands Marine Resource Organisation (IIMRO): 1 member</p> <p>Irish South & West Fish Producer Organisation (ISWFPO): 1 observer</p>

1. **Conflict of Interest**

The Conflict-of-Interest (COI) statement was read at the start of the meeting.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The draft minutes from the April QMAC were circulated to members for review before the QMAC meeting. The minutes were agreed by the QMAC and the Department will arrange for their publication online.

The Department welcomed the new representative of the Clogherhead Co-op to the QMAC and noted the work of their predecessor.



3. Whitefish - Discussion on particular regimes

Following a review of the figures on the Catch and Effort report, including projected landings, as provided by the SFPA, Industry representatives proposed the following amendments to regimes (catch limits in tonnes) for June, for over 55ft/under 55ft vessels.

Cod in area 6a: Decrease from 4/2 to 3/1.5

Haddock in area 7b-k: Increase from 18/12/06 to 21/14/7

Hake in areas 6&7: Decrease from 22/11 to 20/10

Nephrops in area 6: Increase from 12/6 to 14/7

Pollack in Area 7: Industry representatives recommended a rollover of the regime of 0.05/0.05 for June. The Department advised that it would not be possible to recoup any outstanding quota balancing adjustments of POL/07. Therefore, such balancing adjustments will be carried forward to future fishery management periods.

Plaice in area 7h,j,k: Increase from 1/0.5 to 2/1

Sole in area 7f,g: The high uptake of this stock and need to secure swaps was discussed, but no change to the regime was recommended (i.e. the recommendation was to remain at 0.05/0.05). Industry Representatives referenced ongoing discussions between the Department and the Commission regarding the Hague Preferences for this stock.

Post meeting note: *Following the meeting, due to the high projected uptake of the stock for the month, the Department contacted the SFPA to establish the real-time uptake for SOL/7FG. SFPA advised that, as of Wednesday 14th May, the total uptake for SOL/7FG was 36.990t, indicating that the quota of 33t and the expected carryover of 3t (totalling 36t) for 2025 has been taken and exceeded.*

In light of this, the Department contacted Industry Representatives on 16th May, requesting, as a matter of urgency, that they engage with counterparts in other Member States to attempt to secure swaps to cover the exceeded quota amount and to enable the fishery to remain open. The Department advised that should swaps not be secured by Close of Business 23rd May 2025, that the Minister would have no option, in the absence of remaining quota, but to close the fishery until such time as swaps could be procured.

As swaps to cover the exceeded quota were not secured, the Minister set a catch limit of "0" for SOL/7FG on Fisheries Management Notices 33 and 34 for June. Therefore, the SOL/7FG fishery was closed with effect from 1st June 2025. The Department maintains its request that Industry Representatives engage with counterparts in other Member States to attempt to secure swaps to cover the exceeded quota for the SOL/7FG stock.

Whiting in area 7a: Increase from 16/8 to 20/10

Under 18m Mackerel

All Agreed to recommend a catch limit for June of 5t.

Mackerel Hook and Line:

All agreed to recommend a catch limit for June of 10t and to increase the trigger point from 250t to 300t.



FU 16 Nephrops Scientific Survey Update:

The Department advised that, subject to the approval of the Minister, the 2025 Nephrops Scientific Survey will take place in Functional Unit 16 (FU16) in June, July, August and September. FU16 will remain closed during this time, except to those vessels participating in the survey. The closing date for applications is the 14th May and at the time of the meeting, 19 vessels had booked into the fishery. A lottery was planned for Tuesday 20th May to select the 12 vessels to participate in the Scientific fishery but this was subsequently rescheduled to Thursday 22nd May. The Department also advised the QMAC that the Commission had reverted on the outstanding query regarding the use of scientific quota in FU16. The Commission has advised that the 2% should be applied to the permitted quota under the specific condition where the scientific research will take place, in this case, the Porcupine bank (1265t). This means the scientific quota available is 25.3t. The remaining quota (94.7t will be taken from commercial quota).

Industry Representatives thanked the Department for raising the query with the Commission.

The KFO raised a general query regarding how the projected landings are calculated on the Catch and Effort report, the SFPA advised that the projected landings are calculated based on landings to date at the time the report is being generated, and the process is formulaic and not subjective.

4. Pelagic Issues

The Department advised:

2025 Celtic Sea Herring Fishery

The Department has written to the Celtic Sea Herring Management Advisory Committee (CSHMAC) for a recommendation for the management of the remaining 2025 Quota 559t.

Breakdown : Initial Quota 750t less deduction due to overfishing in 2024 - 78.50t, less fished Spring 2025 -112t, remaining 559t.

2025 Horse Mackerel U12m Ringet Fishery

Available quota 52 t

Six vessels have been authorised for the period 01 June to 30 September 2025 with a catch limit of 8.666t per vessel. Authorisations for this Fishery issued on 02 May 2025.

Albacore Tuna

The Department advised that a submission (including Industry Representative views and recommendations) has been prepared for the Minister and the arrangements, once approved, will be circulated to Industry representatives and published on the Department website.



5. Swaps

The following swap proposals were discussed.

Swaps completed since April QMAC

The Department advised that no swaps had been completed since the last QMAC meeting.

Ongoing Swaps:

Swap 1

The latest proposal was submitted and circulated for review on 23rd April:

<u>BEL to IRL</u>	<u>IRL to BEL</u>
45t ANF/07. 25t ANF/56-14 3t SOL/7FG 40t HKE/571214	250000 kWdays Demersal Effort BSA

Following discussions, Industry Representatives undertook to engage with Belgian counterparts to establish if additional SOL/7fg could be included in the swap. The IFPEA acknowledged the work done to date by the IS&EFPO with regards to this swap.

Swap 2

The following UK swap proposal was submitted by the ISWFPO.

<u>UK to IRL</u>	<u>IRL to UK</u>
50t HAD/7X7A34 175t HKE/571214 175t NEP/07. 75t NEP/*07U16	75t LIN/6X14. 75t LIN/*04-C 75t POK/56-14 75t POK/*2AC4C 1t SOL/7HJK 30t SRX/67AKXD 250t MAC/2CX14- 250t MAC/*4A-UK

The Department advised that this swap had been submitted to the Commission for the first round of swaps, as previously agreed with the QMAC.

Swap 3

The following UK swap proposal was submitted by the ISEFPO.

<u>UK to IRL</u>	<u>IRL to UK</u>
250t WHG/7X7A-C 250t WHG/*07D	75t ANF/07.



The Department advised that this swap had been submitted to the Commission for the first round of swaps, as previously recommended.

Swap 4

The Department received the following updated swap proposal from ISEFPO.

<u>FRA to IRL</u>	<u>IRL to FRA</u>
60t MAC/2CX14- 80t SRX/67AKXD 25t RJU/7DE	40t HKE/571214 110t HAD/7X7A34 1t SOL/7FG

Industry Representatives recommended that this swap should proceed. The Department will await the proposal from the French Administration.

Swap 5

The Department received the following updated swap proposal from ISEFPO.

<u>FRA to IRL</u>	<u>IRL to FRA</u>
60t MAC/ 2CX14 55t SRX/ 67AKXD 15t SRX/*07D 10t JAX/2A-14	65t HKE/571214 80t HAD/7X7A34

Industry Representatives raised concerns, noting that the commercial value of the swap was not ideal and it was recommended that this swap should be paused for now, but may be revisited later in the year.

Swap 6

The Department received the following swap proposal from the KFO shortly before the meeting.

<u>FRA to IRL</u>	<u>IRL to FRA</u>
415t HAD/7X7A34 300t HKE/571214	5t COD/5W6-14 5t COD/5BE6A 2t SOL/7HJK. 150t SRX/67AKXD 2t PLE/7HJK. 33t SRX/*07D. 150 RJU/7DE. 2t SBR/678- 200t MAC/2CX14- 20t GH/2A-C46 200t JAX/2A-14



The Department advised that it is still waiting for this proposal from the French Administration and that the 2025 quota for JAX (Horse Mackerel) has already been allocated and cautioned that the contingency in the fishery is only 400t.

Industry Representatives recommended proceeding with the swap.

List of swaps for discussion

Swap 1

The Department received the following swap proposal from the French Administration and that the French Administration has asked that Ireland advise if there are other stocks Ireland would prefer to receive in exchange.

<u>FRA to IRL</u>	<u>IRL to FRA</u>
600t MAC/2CX14-	100t NEP/07.

Following discussion, Industry Representatives recommended that this swap proposal be rejected.

Other stocks for consideration for swap proposals.

The Department advised that the following 2 stocks have exceeded their catch limit and requested that Industry representatives seek swaps to cover them. Representatives undertook to engage with counterparts on this issue.

6a North Herring

2024 HER/5B6ANB quota has been exceeded by 276.546t.

Celtic Sea Herring

2024 HER/7G-K. quota has been exceeded by 78.945t.

The KFO representative advised that KFO are liaising with the Netherlands in relation to the 6a North Herring Stock.

6. Quota Balancing

Pelagic Quota Balancing

The Department advised that the final Quota Balancing Statements have issued for the 2024 Celtic Sea Herring Main Fishery Period 1 and 2, 2024 Celtic Sea Herring Sentinel Scientific Fishery, 2024 Atlanto Scandian Herring Fishery and Landing of Pelagic Fish Stock with a valid Authorisation/ Notification in excess of allowable by-catch for the calendar year 2024.

Provisional Quota Balancing Statements issued for the 2025 Celtic Sea Herring Sentinel Spring Fishery on 1st May. Licence holders had until 8th May to make enquiries on their Provisional Statements. Final Quota Balancing Statements will issue this week.

Provisional Quota Balancing Statements for the 2025 Horse Mackerel Polyvalent Spring Fishery will issue in the coming week.



7. AOB

KFO Request for scientific quota for pelagic bycatch excluder device trials

KFO raised a query on a request submitted for scientific quota for pelagic bycatch excluder device trials. The Department advised that this is under review and it will issue a response as soon as possible.

IT Application

The KFO raised a query regarding an app that was previously under development by the Department that facilitated online exchange of data with the Department. The Department advised that it will seek an update on the app will advise the QMAC on the status of the project once more information is available.

Albacore Tuna

The Department and Industry Representatives noted that this AOB point had been addressed during the course of the meeting.

Quota Balancing

The IS&WFPO requested a discussion on how the Quota Balancing system operates. The Department advised that it is in the process of preparing a Quota Balancing report that covers the Pelagic and Demersal Quota Balancing for 2024. The Department anticipates that this report will be circulated to the QMAC members prior to the next monthly QMAC meeting, where it is planned for discussion.

Query on use of Kilowatt (kW) days

Industry representatives asked if SFPA could provide details of how much of their Demersal kW days in the Biologically Sensitive Area (BSA) have been used to date by Belgium and what are the implications from a control and enforcement situation if they have exceeded their available effort.

The next Quota Management meeting is scheduled for 17th June 2025 at 11:00.

Sea Fisheries Policy & Management Division

14 May 2025