

SWQAG meeting: 03/09/2020 – Web-ex Conference Call – 14:30-16:00

Attendees

Rachel Irish
Edward Baker
Scott Wharton
Martyn Youell
Robert Preston
Karen Pringle
Nick West
Beshlie Poole
Jim Portus
Steven Parker
Andrew Pillar

Apologies

Dale Rodmell
Jim Pettipher
Chris Bean
John Balls

Meeting chaired by Rachel Irish.
Minutes by Madalein Bradshaw.

1. Introduction & housekeeping

Introduce Nick West – representative for Mevagissey Fishermen's Association.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Already agreed via process set out in last meeting's minutes. This agenda point will be removed from now.

3. Actions from last meeting

N/A

4. Individual SW fisheries

VII Anglerfish

U10: 106T landed so far of 292T. 36.3% uptake.

Catch limit: 5T.

O10: T landed so far of 1T. % uptake.

Catch limit: 3T.

Some vessels are leasing in. Potential to land another 20T.

Will trade in more quota from U10s.

Extend SWQAG invite to an O10m non sector vessel?

VIIIb-k Cod (excl.d)

U10: 8.9T landed so far with 11.5T available. 77.4% uptake.

Under-10m Catch limit: 20kg (strictly by-catch only).

Continue with 20kg by-catch limit unless attendees wish to lobby. Unable to increase currently. Trying to trade internationally.

SP: Is there any chance of getting cod quota?

EB: Not from UK POs; potentially Ireland, Spain and France but not yet had any success.

SW: Fishermen are not targeting cod. Leaving the EU, we must avoid scenarios where fishermen are expected to land 2 or 3 fish.

JP: It is a low-level fishery. 20kg a month for 15+ days a month fishing is not manageable.

O10: 0.36T landed so far with 0.4T available. 90% uptake.

40kg left until we run out.

Intend to trade in from U10s but need approval of representatives to do so.

2019 figures give an idea of expected uptake. Most vessels landed under 15kg.

VIIIb-k Haddock

U10: 17T landed so far of 85T. 14.5% uptake

Catch limit: 4T.

O10: 1.5T landed so far of 6.3T. 23.8% uptake

Catch limit: 2.75T.

Western Hake

U10: 1T landed so far of 182.2T. 1.8% uptake.

Catch limit: 15T.

Herring Vlle-f

U10: 13.1T landed so far of 132T. 17.3% uptake.

Catch limit: 15T.

SP: Targeting with nets from November time.

NW: Same for the smaller boats in Mevagissey. Only small amounts from January time.

SP: If quota is too high it will encourage ring netters to target.

EB: Should it be brought down?

SP: 15T will last until the end of the year as long as it is not caught by a couple of boats ring netting.

NW: Agreed, ring netters could easily take that in a week.

Propose 5T for the month and if more needed, contact EB.

SP: Keep a closes eye as the prices have been higher, increasing targeted activity.

AP: Keep it at 15T.

EB: Keeping at 15T and possibly remove in December. If needed, more can be accessed in December.

Western Mackerel

U10: 35T landed so far of 44T. 80% uptake.

Catch limit: Remain at 2T.

U10m need another 40t which could come from the handline sector.

RP: Agreed that they could cover the 40T need.

Traded out 200T of western mackerel for approximately 15T 7e sole and 100T of 4c/7d herring.

The return can be balanced in 2021 if the mackerel is caught, as end of year can bring in big landings. 2T limit until the end of the year.

Hand line Mackerel

195T landed so far of 1150T. 17% uptake

VIIId&e Plaice

U10: 220T landed so far of 788T. 28% uptake.

Catch limit: 12T (unrestrictive).

Maximum landing of 8T in April.

O10: 35T landed so far of 44T. 15.4% uptake

Catch limit: 10T (unrestrictive).

Maximum landing of 4.5T in April.

Can trade from U10 if needed.

VIIIf&g Plaice

U10: 3T landed so far of 55.6T. 1.7% uptake.

Catch limit: 4T.

O10 need U10 support.

Catch limits appear unrestrictive.

VI/VII Pollack

U10: 320T landed so far of 530T. 60.4% uptake.

Catch limit: 10T.

VI/VII Skates and rays

U10: 226T landed so far of 483T. 47% uptake.

Catch limit: 10T.

O10: T landed so far of T. % uptake

Catch limit: Remain at 10T.

Neither fleet catching near the limit.

SP: Nobody targeting due to low prices on the market. Not worth landing it.

Small-eyed ray (f&g)

Catch limit: 2T.

If there is more at the end of the year, we will be able to get it.

SW: More uptake expected in the next couple of months but targeted with caution as the market prices are so volatile.

SP: Need to push for 7e quota.

EB: Raised with DEFRA already.

Undulate ray (7d/e)

By-catch limit: 40kg per trip.

Opened 1 month early (September) to help with knock on effect of exports closures due to Covid-19.

SP: Still doesn't fetch money.

Ville Sole

U10: 66T landed so far of 145T. 45.5% uptake.

Catch limit: 2T

Uptake steadily increasing.

SP: To do with removing catch composition for dredgers.

EB reiterated inviting O10 non sector vessel representative for this purpose.

JP: Catch composition needs to be brought back in. This often comes up in consultations as it creates a 'honey pot' effect.

EB gave Phil McBride's apologies for not attending. Phil is the inshore fleet policy advisor for DEFRA. Issues concerning this to be raised to him.

All attendees agreed to not sub the O10s with U10 sole.

O10: T landed so far of T. % uptake.

Catch limit: 400kg

Vllf&g Sole

U10: 4.3T landed so far of 25T. 17.2% uptake.

Catch limit 2T.

SW: Starting to fish September through to December. Wants to send an email around the fleet to confirm what they will need before trading. Expects 10T to be caught and a maximum of 15T.

JP: Don't swap sole when we have sufficient quota already. If other countries want anything, they should swap for cod.

EB: Confirmed cod is on the agenda for swapping.

SW: Welcome the increase in 7f/g sole but effort from Belgium fleet has increased greatly. Belgium fleet have been fishing UK waters from the start of the year. They are working the 6nm limit and the ground is barren. 4 super trawlers have been operating around Lundy Island.

5. Any Other Business

1. MMO to present and request input from the group about the potential introduction of more flexible quota leasing arrangements.

Cannot be considered until catch recording application is enforceable which is projected to be autumn 2020. Once fully implemented, this arrangement can be considered.

SP: Quota doesn't seem to be an issue at present but unsure of next year.

KP: Issue was that nobody from the MMO was available to give authorisation out of hours.

RI: Issues also linked to requiring a logbook, but the catch recording application replaces this.

EB: A recent meeting with the quota management team concluded that the current process was efficient enough. The number of leases taken out this year has decreased. 90 U10 leases taken out last year and this year was less than 10. System does not need to be over-complicated.

Send any concerns or questions to Ed via email.

2. The idea that the under-10m and over-10m pools could be merged has been suggested by some industry members, do you have an opinion on this?

SP: Agreed would be a good idea but issues surrounding the landing obligation and catch composition must be addressed first.

SW: Also agreed. Simpler to put under one umbrella. Much of the U10 fleet are not taking up their catch which could easily assist the O10 fleet.

SP: There should be a different system for dredgers.

EB: Risk associated is the O10 pool increasing and causing a choke scenario.

JP: This has been considered in the past and was supported by many but never brought in. Full regulatory impact assessments required. We must get through Brexit, pass the Fisheries Bill and then consider this for consultation in 2021.

3. Displacement issues

Possibility of displacement by increased quota sending other vessels down to fish.

JP: Large migration of Lowestoft and lack of Hastings vessels migrating.

EB: May be a lack of fish in the southern North Sea. No sole there. 7d uptake is only 30%.

SP: Masses of spider crab – affecting netters catching sole combined with implications of covid-19.

SP: Proposed general bycatch for bass vessels that don't have authorisation. Anglers are entitled to 2 bass a day during open season yet licensed vessel owners without an authorisation cannot catch 1. They are having to be returned dead.

RI: AP - Something for December council. (Has been raised to MMO/Defra)

6. Date of next meeting:

Thursday 17th December 2020 at 14:30 – 16:00.

7. Useful Links:

Current u10m catch limits

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/current-catch-limits-10-metres-and-under-pool>

Current o10m catch limits

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/current-catch-limits-over-10-metre-non-sector-pool>

Uptake Statistics

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/quota-use-statistics>

Trading

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fishing-quota-trading-and-swaps>

Catch limit consultation (front page of MMO website during last 7-10 days of each month)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/marine-management-organisation>

2020 Reserve quota consultation

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/fisheries/consultation-on-english-rq-and-qmr-2020/>

Contact details:

Ed Baker

Email: Edward.baker@marinemanagement.org.uk

Tel: 02080 269097

Mobile: 07884 183765

Sarah Allison

Email:

sarah.allison@marinemanagement.org.uk

Tel: 02080 268215

Mobile: 07392 879893

EA Catch Recording Team: 0300 0203 788