

Minister's proposals for Herring Stocks Management and related fleet policy arrangements

Celtic Sea Herring, North West Herring, Atlanto Scandian Herring

23 December 2011

1. Celtic Sea herring, North West herring

- a. The North West Herring Stock and the Celtic Sea Herring Stocks are to be ring fenced for vessels over 15.24m in registered length with track record.
- b. The ring fencing will be separate for both fisheries on the basis of track record as follows:
 1. The vessel has participated in 2009 or 2010 and has landed a minimum of 5 tonnes in one year, or
 2. The vessel has participated in 3 of the 5 years from 2006-2010 landing a minimum of 5 tonnes each year.
- c. Track record is calculated for each fishery individually with landing for a fishery only being counted towards that fishery;
- d. A vessel can qualify for both fisheries only if it has the qualifying track record for both fisheries;
- e. The existing size/segment based ratios for quota distribution will continue to apply. The existing annual management arrangements will continue also (weekly allocations for CSH and 11 month allocation for NWH);
- f. An open fishery will be established in respect of vessels of 15.24m (50ft) or less (sentinel fishery) confined to the Dunmore Box with 11% of quota set aside;
- g. In the Celtic Sea, an open fishery will be established with an allocation of 5% of quota set aside for vessels of under 19.81m (65ft) in registered length which do not qualify on the basis of 'b' or 'f' above;
- h. In the North West, an open fishery will be established with an allocation of 5% of quota, set aside for vessels of 15.24 (50ft) in registered length or under which do not qualify on the basis of 'b' above;
- i. In the Celtic Sea the Dunmore Box will be retained as a restricted area and will be closed for vessels in the main fishery;

- j. The open fisheries, including the Sentinel Celtic Sea fishery, will be managed on the basis of catch limits per week/ per month to be set out following consultation with industry at the beginning of the season and revised as required (a booking in system will not be required and individual authorisations will not issue).

2. Atlanto Scandian Fishery

- a. For this fishery, 5 vessels to be nominated by industry from the RSW Pelagic segment and 2 vessels from the Polyvalent segment of the fleet each year.
- b. In the event that there is not agreement within industry representing the particular segment on the nominees for that segment, the Department will invite applications and hold a draw for that segment.
- c. Where a draw is required, any vessels selected in a particular year are excluded from the draw for the next 2 years. Vessel owners who apply and subsequently, when selected, withdraw for whatever reason from the fishery to be disqualified for 2 years from being included in the draw.

3. Fleet Policy Changes

- a. The number of vessels in the Celtic Sea Herring fishery is limited to the vessels qualifying under the policy.
- b. The number of vessels in the North West Herring fishery is limited to the vessels qualifying under the policy.
- c. Vessels which were introduced into the fleet using capacity which was “off register” for some of the years 2006 – 2010, will be permitted to use the most recent track record of the capacity introduced to determine its qualification for a fishery. This provision will be implemented as follows: any vessel which is off register for a minimum of 6 months in a year to be permitted to have a reference year (2006 – 2010) not taken into account for track record purposes and the next previous year (with on register capacity of > 6 months) would be taken into account.
- d. The capacity of vessels with the specified track record in herring fishing in the polyvalent segment of the fleet will be ring fenced for the purposes of access to allocation of herring separately in both the CSH and the NWH fisheries, in respect of vessels over 15.24m in registered length. For vessels to retain access to the allocation of herring in their allocated fishery, they must use 100% replacement capacity.

- e. For replacement capacity following the initial ring fencing, the qualifying capacity may be from a vessel in either fishery (CSH or NWH). However, the introduction of replacement capacity cannot result in an increase in the number of vessels in either fishery
- f. The introduction of replacement capacity shall not permit a vessel to gain access to a quota allocation group other than the group in which it is placed at this time, unless it is licensed with 100% replacement capacity from the specific fishery, either CSH or NWH.