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14<sup>th</sup> December 2016

**Creed secures 233,500 tonnes of fish quotas, worth €280m for Irish fishermen for  
2017**

- **Increase of 9% in €74m Prawn quota**
- **14% increase in €86m Mackerel quota**

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed T.D., today secured 233,500 tonnes of quotas worth €280 million for Irish fishermen for 2017. This represents an increase of 17,390 tonnes over 2016. The Minister secured the deal in the early hours of Wednesday morning following two days of intensive negotiations at the annual Fisheries Council in Brussels.

Commenting on the Commission package agreed by Member States, including Ireland, the Minister said *"This is a balanced package for the Irish fishing industry. I am satisfied that I have managed to turn an extremely worrying set of proposals from the Commission into a much improved outcome for the Irish fishing industry. I am especially pleased that the quotas agreed respects the scientific advice ensuring that the fish stocks in our waters will be managed sustainably."*

The Minister said *"The total €280m value of quotas, which represents a 6% increase on 2016, is a good result overall and is a long way from the original Commission proposals which would*

*have resulted in very significant losses to our fleet. The original proposal included a 19% reduction in whitefish quotas."*

*The Minister said "I am particularly pleased to have persuaded the Commission to reverse the proposed 9% cut in the prawn quota, the most important fishery for the whitefish fleet. We succeeded in getting the Commission to apply the appropriate scientific advice for prawns resulting in a 9% increase. This was my number one priority heading into these negotiations and I am very happy with the result".*

The specific quota details negotiated by Minister Creed include:

- For the South and West coasts and the Irish Sea, a 9% increase in the €74 million prawn fishery which benefits the ports of Clogherhead, Howth, Union Hall, Castletownbere, Dingle and Ros a Mhil.
- For the South West, a 9% increase in hake, reversal of cuts proposed for monkfish - important for the southern ports of Castletownbere and Dingle.
- For the Celtic Sea fisheries: 21% increase in whiting (from a possible 27% cut); 7 % increase in haddock, 15% cut in cod (reduced from the 68% proposed cut).
- For the Irish Sea, a 25% increase in haddock; retention of cod and sole quotas.
- In the North West, a 20% increase in monkfish quota; a 9% increase for the megrim quota, a near doubling of the Rockall haddock quota and no change in whiting benefiting the ports of Greencastle and Killybegs.
- Cuts in line with scientific advice were applied to haddock in the North West and megrim in the Celtic Sea.

*The Minister explained "The most difficult area coming into these negotiations was the Commission proposal for cod and whiting in the Celtic Sea. The proposal was for a -68% cut on cod and a -27% cut in whiting. Whilst the scientific advice on cod in the Celtic sea is worrying, the scientific advice on whiting in the Celtic sea is positive. I am satisfied that the final outcome of a -15% cut in the cod quota and a 21% increase in the whiting quota was the most positive that could have been achieved. The impact of the cut in cod quota for Ireland, is substantially reduced through the application of the Hague Preferences\*".*

On Mackerel, the Minister said that "Overall I am very satisfied with the increase in the quota allocation for our single most valuable fishery, Mackerel, which will have a value of €86m in 2017.

Minister Creed concluded "In 2017 we will now have a significant increase for our vitally important whitefish fisheries and stability for many of our valuable stocks around our coast. This will ensure the continued vibrancy of our industry and the long term sustainability of our stocks".

## Notes to Editor

### \*Hague Preferences

The Hague Preferences are Common Fisheries Policy arrangements which benefit Ireland in circumstances where the Total Allowable Catch is set at a low level due to the situation of stocks. When the Hague Preferences are applied Ireland receives a lower reduction in quota than other Member States.

#### SUMMARY QUOTA SITUATION FOR IRISH FISHERMEN FOR 2017

Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and Irish Quotas agreed at the Council of Ministers, December 2017

FINAL

STOCK	AREA	Quota 2016	Quota 2017	Change 2016 - 2017		Value €million	Change 2016 - 2017
<b>TOTAL ALL STOCKS</b>		<b>216,222</b>	<b>233,610</b>	<b>17,388</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>€279</b>	<b>6%</b>
Cod	VIIa	97	97	0		€0.3	
Cod	VII b-k	864	738	-126	-15%	€2.2	-15%
Megrimms	VII	3,021	2,266	-755	-25%	€8.2	-25%
Monkfish	VII	2,540	2,540	0		€11.1	
Haddock	VII b-k	1,613	1,722	109	7%	€3.4	7%
Haddock	VIIa	716	898	182	25%	€1.8	25%
Whiting	VIIa	46	46	0		€0.1	
Whiting	VIIb-k	6,333	7,651	1,318	21%	€10.4	21%
Plaice	VIIa	768	768	0		€1.5	
Plaice	VII bc	63	63	0		€0.1	
Plaice	VII fg	200	200	0		€0.4	
Plaice	VII hjk	59	56	-3		€0.1	
Pollack	VII	1,030	927	-103	-10%	€2.3	-10%
Saithe	VII	1,491	1,491	0		€2.2	
Common sole	VIIa	17	17	0		€0.2	
Common sole	VII bc	36	36	0		€0.3	
Common sole	VII fg	24	26	2		€0.2	
Common sole	VII hjk	171	171	0		€1.5	
Norway lobster	VII	8,610	9,350	740	9%	€73.6	9%
<b>Sub Total (Area VII)</b>		<b>27,699</b>	<b>29,063</b>	<b>1,364</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>€120</b>	<b>4%</b>
Cod	VIa	0	0	0		€0.0	
Cod	VIb	16	16	0		€0.0	
Megrimms	VI	675	736	61	9%	€2.7	9%

Monkfish	VI	638	765	127	20%	€3.4	20%
Haddock	VIb XII XIV	353	410	57	16%	€0.8	16%
Haddock	VIa Vb	1,008	495	-513	-51%	€1.0	-51%
Whiting	VI	64	64	0		€0.1	
Plaice	VI	261	261	0		€0.5	
Pollack	VI	56	56	0		€0.1	
Saithe	VI	384	433	49	13%	€0.6	13%
Common sole	VI	46	46	0		€0.4	
Norway lobster	VI	223	222	-1		€1.7	
<b>Sub Total (Area VI)</b>		<b>3,724</b>	<b>3,504</b>	<b>-220</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>€11.4</b>	<b>0%</b>

Stock	AREA	Quota 2016	Quota 2017	Change 2016 - 2017		Value €million	Change 2016 - 2017
Tusk	V, VI, VII	53	53	0		€0.1	
Hake	VI, VII	3,415	3,732	317	9%	€8.6	9%
Blue Ling	Vb,VI,VII	14	32	18		€0.0	
Blue Ling	II, IV	4	4	0		€0.0	
Ling	VI - IX, X, XII, XIV	758	1,008	250	33%	€1.6	33%
Skates & Rays	VI, VIIa-c, & e-k	1,048	1,100	52	5%	€1.9	5%
Greenland Halibut	IIa, IV, VI	16	16	0		€0.2	
Spurdog/dogfish	I, V - VIII, XII, XIV	0	0	0		€0.0	
Cod	I,II	298	344	46	15%	€1.0	15%
Redfish	V, XII, XIV (Shallow)	0	0	0		€0.0	
Redfish	V, XII, XIV (Deep)	0	0	0		€0.0	
<b>Sub Total (Shared Area VI &amp; VII)</b>		<b>5,606</b>	<b>6,289</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>€13.4</b>	<b>11%</b>

<b>TOTAL DEMERSAL</b>		<b>37,029</b>	<b>38,857</b>	<b>1,828</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>€145</b>	<b>4%</b>
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Stock	AREA	Quota 2016	Quota 2017	Change 2016 - 2017		Value €million	Change 2016 - 2017
Greater silver smelt	III, IV	7	7	0		€0.0	
Greater silver smelt	V, VI, VII	305	276	-29		€0.2	
Boarfish	VI, VII,VIII	29,464	18,858	-10,606	-36%	€3.3	-36%
Herring	VIaN	630	630	0		€0.2	
Herring	VIaS, VIIbc	1,482	1,482	0		€0.5	
Herring	VIIa	1,191	1,074	-117	-10%	€0.4	-10%
Herring	VII ghjk	13,345	12,502	-843	-6%	€4.3	-6%
Blue whiting	I - VIII a,b,d,e XII,XIV	24,550	45,547	20,997	86%	€12.0	86%
Mackerel	VI, VII	75,837	86,426	10,589	14%	€86.4	14%
Horse mackerel	IVb, IVc, and VIId	347	438	91	26%	€0.4	
Horse mackerel	IIa,IVa,VI,VIIa-c,e-k,VIIIabe	27,621	21,268	-6,353	-23%	€18.8	-23%
Herring	I, II	1,830	3,731	1,901	104%	€1.3	104%
Albacore	North Atlantic	2,584	2,514	-70		€6.8	
<b>TOTAL PELAGIC</b>		<b>179,193</b>	<b>194,753</b>	<b>15,560</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>€135</b>	<b>7%</b>

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