



## MACKEREL DEAL IS FINALLY DONE

**After numerous meetings since last October, at times on a weekly basis, delegations from the European Union, Norway and the Faeroe Islands finally reached agreement on March 12 on management of mackerel in the North East Atlantic for 2014. This was the culmination of lengthy negotiations between these countries, including Iceland, up until early March and took place in a variety of locations including Clonakilty, London, Bergen and Edinburgh.**

The delegations agreed that the fisheries arrangement would last for five years i.e. until December 31, 2018. A coastal state, not currently party to this arrangement, such as Iceland, may request to become involved and a substantial quota allocation (15.6 per cent) has been set aside to accommodate Iceland, Russia and Greenland in such an event. The delegations agreed to manage the North East Atlantic mackerel stock in a sustainable manner with a Long Term Management Plan (LTMP). It was agreed to set a TAC of 1.24 million tonnes for 2014, and for the subsequent four years ICES advice would be followed.

Regarding the actual TACs and quotas during this five year period the following ad hoc arrangement on the quota shares for 2014 is:

European Union	611,205 tonnes
Faeroe Islands	156,240 tonnes
Norway	279,115 tonnes
NEAFC	42,537 tonnes

The TAC for 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 should be based on the level advised by ICES in relation to the above-mentioned LTMP, and for all years of the arrangement they agreed to set aside 15.6 per cent of the TAC as a Coastal State and Fishing Party reserve. During those subsequent years, the Parties will maintain the same relative shares, which have been agreed for 2014. Each Party may

transfer to the following year unutilised quantities of up to 10 per cent of the quota allocated to it. The quantity transferred shall be in addition to the quota allocated to the Party concerned in the following year. This quantity cannot be transferred further to the quotas for subsequent years. Each Party may authorise fishing by its vessels of up to 10 per cent beyond the quota allocated. All quantities fished beyond the allocated quota for one year shall be deducted from the Party's quota allocated for the following year.

An important aspect of this agreement is the effect of freeing the log-jam in the bilateral agreements between the EU and Norway and the EU and Faeroe Islands. The Coastal States arrangements regarding Blue Whiting and Atlanto-Scandian Herring are now back on track, along with the usual understandings on controls and monitoring. In practical terms this means EU vessels can fish 46,850t of the EU mackerel 2014 catch limit, and 25,000t of EU blue whiting 2014 catch limit in Faeroese waters, while similarly the Faeroe Islands are granted access to fish 46,850t of their 2014 mackerel catch limit in EU waters of ICES sub-area VIa north of 56°30'N and 25,000t of its blue whiting catch limit in EU waters of ICES sub-areas II, V, VIa, VIb and VII and ICES division IVa.

The EU and Faeroe Islands have not been in agreement since 2010, during which period there have been several changes in control regulations and their implementation. The delegations agreed

on weekly exchanges of catch statistics for blue whiting and mackerel and a protocol for Faeroese vessels intending to fish those species in EU waters such as requirements for notification to the Fisheries Monitoring Centre in particular Member States.

From an Irish perspective there is good news, if only in the short term. The provisional mackerel quota issued to Ireland in December last of 65,000 tonnes has been increased to 105,000 tonnes and this would be viewed in a very positive light if there was certainty regarding future actions by all the partners in the agreement. Also, there will be an end to the current unregulated exploitation of the mackerel fishery by the Faeroese; there will be no increase in Norwegian access to EU waters, and there will be no access by Iceland to fish mackerel in EU, Norwegian or Faeroese waters. The current EU and Norway Bilateral Agreement covers a ten-year period; it is up for review in 2018 at which point many of these issues will be renegotiated.

However, the irresponsible tactics of the Faeroese in unilaterally increasing their share of the mackerel catches in recent years has been very well rewarded with a total share of the TAC amounting to 12.6 per cent - that is an increase of 7.6 per cent. This has serious implications for the management of all pelagic stocks in the region; for instance, Greenland has followed the Faeroese route and awarded themselves a quota of 100,000 tonnes for 2014.

Unfortunately this situation has been created by the mis-management of the negotiations by the EU Commission and, in particular, Commissioner Damanaki whose approach is very different from her counterparts in the other coastal states, Norway, Faeroe Islands, Iceland, Greenland and Russia, which defend their industry interests in a far more robust manner. The stock which the EU countries, such as Ireland, have managed extremely well, resulting in the current healthy fisheries now being wrangled over, has been apportioned in a manner which could undo much of the good practice developed in recent years.

The Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine is currently engaged in the development of a new strategic investment programme for the seafood sector for the period 2014-2020. The new programme will assist the sector in adding jobs and exports and increasing the value of the sector to the economy by 2020 in line with the ambitions of Food Harvest 2020. The programme will follow on from and replace the present Seafood Development Programme 2007-2013, co-funded by the Exchequer and the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) and the solely Exchequer funded Irish Seafood National Programme 2007-2013.

The present Seafood Development Programme 2007-2013 provided funding for the whitefish decommissioning scheme in 2008 and continues to provide funding for fleet modernisation; development of the processing and aquaculture sectors; the promotional work carried out by Bord Bia, and more recently, support for the development of local economies in coastal areas through the Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs). This programme may continue to make funding available for these areas up to the end of 2015, or until the EFF funds are all committed. The Irish Seafood National Programme continues to provide Exchequer funds for fleet safety, aquaculture innovation and value adding in the processing sector.

The new framework programme now being developed will implement the successor to the EFF, the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF). The EU Regulation governing this new EMFF fund was agreed at EU level earlier this year, but will not become law until summer 2014. Similar to the EFF before it, the EMFF will allow Member States to access EU co-funding for a broad range of investments in the seafood economy, specifically the fishing fleet, aquaculture, processing and marketing, FLAGs, production and marketing plans, storage aid, control and enforcement and data collection.

To avail of EU co-funding from the EMFF, Member States must draw up an Operational Programme in which they set out their funding priorities for the 2014-2020 period and specify which areas of the seafood economy will attract EMFF co-funding. This is an important point, as the EMFF Regulation potentially allows EU co-funding for a very broad range of measures. However, the EMFF allocation to each Member State is finite and limits the capacity of Member States to implement every possible measure. The European Commission is expected to advise Member States of their national EMFF allocations later in 2014 and this will greatly influence the extent of ambition of our investment plans for the period.

The process of developing the new programme started in autumn 2013, when the Minister invited views on the present state of the seafood economy, its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, together with views on the areas of investment that should be prioritised. The Minister has since published his synopsis of these views as a draft SWOT Analysis and Needs Assessment. The Minister is now preparing a first draft of the new programme for further consultation with stakeholders, which will indicate the Minister's proposals for investment prioritisation, with a view to getting feedback from stakeholders. This is expected in May 2014.

Interested parties can track progress on the development of the new programme and view all related documents on the Department's website at [www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie).

**The new CFP 1380/2013 identifies the CMO 1379/2013 as an essential component to achieving its objectives. In turn, both the CFP (Common Fisheries Policy) and CMO (Common Market Organisation) recognise the key role PO's (Producer Organisations) have to play. The Producer Organisations are now seen as essential actors for the appropriate application of both the CFP and the CMO.**

As part of their new and enhanced role, POs must draw up and submit a Production and Marketing Plan (PMP) for the main species, in accordance with Article 2(a) of 2508/2000 to the national authorities at the beginning of each year. In addition, the PMP has to contain all the elements in article 28.2 (a)-(e) in CMO 1379/2013, plus the implementing regulation 1418/2013 and, where appropriate, the guidance notes.

In the case of the KFO, five species can be defined as a significant share of KFO's total production. They are mackerel, horse mackerel, herring, blue whiting and boarfish. There are no non-quota species meeting the threshold criteria.

The objectives of the PMP, as defined in Article 7 of 1379/2013, can be summarised as promoting the viable and sustainable fishing activities, avoiding and reducing as far as possible unwanted catches of commercial stocks, contributing to the traceability of fishery products and to the elimination of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. In addition to these objectives, the KFO will continue with its strategy that has served us well over the years, that is to maximise the returns to producers and maintain the prices above the withdrawal prices (now trigger prices) thus minimising withdrawals from the market.

To meet the objectives of the PMP, KFO must produce a production programme for each of the main species identified. The Plan of Production and Marketing must include:

- (a) a production programme for catch or farmed species;
- (b) a marketing strategy to match the quantities, quality and presentation to the supply-to-market requirements;
- (c) measures to be taken by the Producer Organisation in order to contribute to the objectives laid down in article 7;
- (d) special anticipatory measures to adjust the supply of species which habitually present marketing difficulties during the year; and
- (e) sanctions applicable to members who infringe upon the decisions adopted to implement the plan.

**The Production Programme:** KFO members land a wide variety of species, both quota and non-quota, in addition to the principal pelagic species already listed. Over the years, KFO has built up a robust annual profile of how those species are targeted, the quantities landed and their value. KFO maintains a constant dialogue with its members and other Producer Organisations and is aware of fluctuations in supply, prices and demand. Seasonal trends are allowed for, as are requirements to manage access to various fisheries at different times of year, in a fair and equitable manner while observing all necessary regulatory requirements. Though not obligatory until 2015, KFO is very aware of the implementation and obligation to land all catches for pelagic species,

and has been actively involved both nationally and internationally to develop measures to address the issue. Through its involvement with the Pelagic RAC Discard Working Group, KFO will be part of the effort to produce discard plans for at least 13 pelagic species during 2014. KFO has now drawn up a seasonal production plan for mackerel, horse mackerel, herring, blue whiting and boarfish. Boarfish is a relatively new species and does not as yet have the commercial profile of the other pelagic species, but KFO is currently developing a significant project to remedy this situation.

**Marketing Strategy to Match the Quantities, Quality and Presentation to the Supply-to-Market Requirements:** The pelagic sector is Ireland's largest seafood category in terms of volume and value. The KFO has been at the forefront of its development and the PMP and marketing strategy is geared to further developing the sector. In the past three years the catching sector has invested heavily in state-of-the-art pelagic vessels and likewise the onshore sector has invested in the order of €10 million in processing infrastructure. KFO will continue to explore new and expanding markets and innovative products that will maintain the value of the pelagic sector.

**Special Anticipatory Measures To Adjust The Supply Of Species Which Habitually Present Marketing Difficulties During The Year:** The KFO has put a lot of work into better managing fisheries and convincing fishermen to change their habits and to land to market requirements as much as possible. Particular attention was paid to species which habitually presented marketing difficulties. The KFO has made extremely good progress on this matter. From 2006 to 2013 there have been minimal quantities withdrawn from the market, and for 2012 and 2013 it was not necessary to implement either the withdrawal or the carry-over scheme to adjust the supply to match the market.

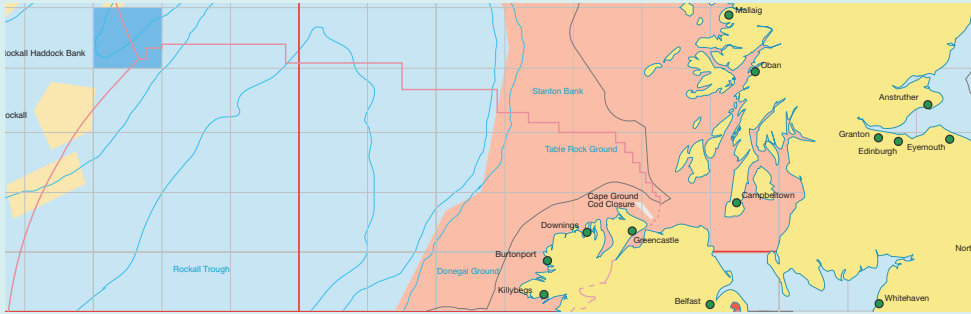
KFO is fully aware that in the future there may be isolated incidences where the supply may be greater than the demand or where the price drops below the withdrawal/trigger price. If this occurs the KFO will seek to address the situation by adjusting production to market requirements as indicated in the regulations. This will be achieved by utilising the carry-over scheme to adjust the supply to the demand.

**Sanctions Applicable To Members Who Infringe Upon The Decisions Adopted To Implement The Plan:** The KFO has adopted detailed rules in relation to penalties applicable to members who infringe on decisions agreed by the organisation which are also appropriate in relation to the PMP. A range of penalties up to and including expulsion can be invoked in cases of infringement of a detailed list of transgressions.

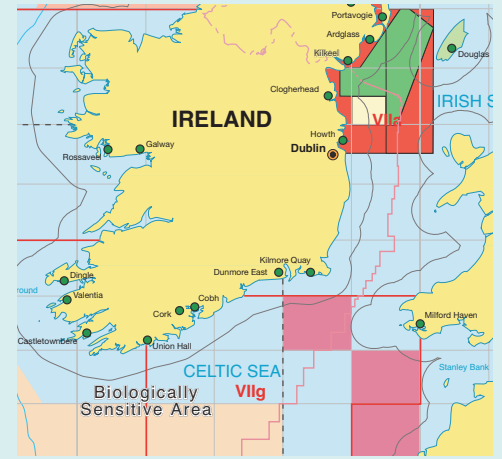
The KFO Production and Marketing Plan was prepared in great detail together with extensive support materials (Annex 1 – 13) covering all required areas and submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine before the due date of February 28, 2014.

# BOUNDARIES OF IRELAND'S EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE CLEARLY DEFINED

Following negotiation between Ireland and the United Kingdom, the so-called "grey areas" in the Irish Sea, the Celtic Sea and in the North-East Atlantic Ocean i.e. Ireland's North-West coast, have now been resolved. The boundaries of the Exclusive Economic Zones of both jurisdictions are now clearly defined; details of the Irish boundaries may be found in S.I. No. 86 of 2014 in this article and the recently issued BIM Fisheries Management Chart 2014.



**Fig 1. New Boundaries of Irish EEZ in North-East Atlantic Ocean**  
(see coordinates Ref Nos. 85-115) extract from BIM Fisheries Management Chart 2014



**Fig 2. New Boundaries of Irish EEZ in Irish Sea and Celtic Sea**  
(see coordinates Ref Nos. 1-84) extract from BIM Fisheries Management Chart 2014

## ICES Benchmark Meeting Develops a New Assessment for NEA Mackerel

A benchmarking workshop, co-chaired by Ciaran Kelly of the Marine Institute, dealing with NEA (North-East Atlantic) mackerel was held in ICES in Copenhagen on February 7-21. The benchmark meetings are ICES' way of updating assessment methodologies to ensure the application of the latest methodologies and newly developed data series to the stock assessments, which are normally conducted according to a fixed set of procedures annually. In the case of NEA mackerel, the benchmarking process was critical because the previous attempt at an assessment in September 2013 had failed to give a reliable estimate of the development of the stock. The failure was due to a combination of factors relating to the accuracy of the input data (specifically the historical catch data), the lack of fishery independent information (only one survey was available every three years), and the lack of flexibility of the model to cope with some of these aspects. Thus, the ICES advice of a TAC of 889,886 tonnes was based on data averaged over a three-year period.

The benchmarking process began last October at a data compilation workshop, where scientists and stakeholders met to discuss new and existing datasets which could be used as input for an assessment. This workshop highlighted a number of new data series, which were then worked on from November to January, in order to prepare for the assessment. The new data series included an update to the discard information, new methods applied to fish weight calculations, and new time series from surveys including tagging, acoustic, juvenile, swept area surveys and data on mackerel larvae from continuous plankton recorders (CPR), which are devices mounted on ships transiting the Atlantic which provide a record of the plankton in the surface layers of the ocean.

Analyses of these data showed that the acoustic data was not sufficient to be used in the assessment, and that the CPR data would require further investigation. The tagging data which comes from a Norwegian programme, which has been run since the 1970s, provides a long-time record of trends in the mackerel population on the basis of tags recovered from the fisheries. This dataset proved very useful in providing stock information at a period when the catch data were considered unreliable. Other new data series which were put forward to the assessment included the swept area survey in the Nordic seas. This survey covers most of the area of distribution of the migrating adult fish during the summer months. There was much discussion about how data from this survey could be interpreted, as there is an unknown proportion of the stock missing from its area of coverage. The proposed solution was to use the survey data as an index of the relative proportions at age in the stock. Analysis of the International Bottom Trawl Surveys (IBTS) conducted west of Ireland and Scotland also provided a useful index of recruiting juvenile mackerel.

The final assessment agreed was to use data from tagging surveys (up to 2006) and catch data from 2000 onwards, along with abundance at age information from the Nordic survey and the IBTS survey, and SSB (spawning stock biomass) trend information from the egg survey. These data were used in a new model which is a different way of looking at the data. This new model is flexible and can cope with high levels of variability in the observed data, giving it an appropriate application in fisheries stock assessment.

The ICES report on the benchmark workshop will be published in April, and the assessment according to the new data and methods will be conducted in August. ICES will deliver an advice for 2015 in October, and this will be the basis for the 2015 fishing opportunities according to the new coastal states agreement.

IRISH SEA AND CELTIC SEA		
Ref	Latitude	Longitude
1	53° 52'.22106 N	5° 49'.53816 W
2	53° 46'.00 N	5° 22'.00 W
3	53° 45'.80 N	5° 22'.00 W
4	53° 45'.80 N	5° 19'.33 W
5	53° 44'.40 N	5° 19'.33 W
6	53° 44'.40 N	5° 17'.85 W
7	53° 42'.14 N	5° 17'.85 W
8	53° 42'.14 N	5° 16'.34 W
9	53° 39'.00 N	5° 16'.34 W
10	53° 39'.00 N	5° 17'.00 W
11	53° 32'.00 N	5° 17'.00 W
12	53° 32'.00 N	5° 19'.00 W
13	53° 26'.00 N	5° 19'.00 W
14	53° 26'.00 N	5° 20'.00 W
15	53° 09'.00 N	5° 20'.00 W
16	53° 09'.00 N	5° 19'.00 W
17	52° 59'.00 N	5° 19'.00 W
18	52° 59'.00 N	5° 22'.50 W
19	52° 52'.00 N	5° 22'.50 W
20	52° 52'.00 N	5° 24'.50 W
21	52° 44'.00 N	5° 24'.50 W
22	52° 44'.00 N	5° 28'.00 W
23	52° 32'.00 N	5° 28'.00 W
24	52° 32'.00 N	5° 22'.80 W
25	52° 24'.00 N	5° 22'.80 W
26	52° 24'.00 N	5° 35'.00 W
27	52° 16'.00 N	5° 35'.00 W
28	52° 16'.00 N	5° 39'.00 W
29	52° 12'.00 N	5° 39'.00 W
30	52° 12'.00 N	5° 42'.00 W
31	52° 08'.00 N	5° 42'.00 W
32	52° 08'.00 N	5° 46'.00 W
33	52° 04'.00 N	5° 46'.00 W
34	52° 04'.00 N	5° 50'.00 W
35	52° 00'.00 N	5° 50'.00 W
36	52° 00'.00 N	5° 54'.00 W
37	51° 58'.00 N	5° 54'.00 W
38	51° 58'.00 N	5° 57'.00 W
39	51° 54'.00 N	5° 57'.00 W
40	51° 54'.00 N	6° 00'.00 W
41	51° 50'.00 N	6° 00'.00 W
42	51° 50'.00 N	6° 06'.00 W
43	51° 40'.00 N	6° 06'.00 W
44	51° 40'.00 N	6° 18'.00 W
45	51° 30'.00 N	6° 18'.00 W
46	51° 30'.00 N	6° 33'.00 W
47	51° 20'.00 N	6° 33'.00 W
48	51° 20'.00 N	6° 42'.00 W
49	51° 10'.00 N	6° 42'.00 W
50	51° 10'.00 N	6° 48'.00 W
51	51° 00'.00 N	6° 48'.00 W
52	51° 00'.00 N	7° 03'.00 W
53	50° 50'.00 N	7° 03'.00 W
54	50° 50'.00 N	7° 12'.00 W
55	50° 40'.00 N	7° 12'.00 W
56	50° 40'.00 N	7° 36'.00 W
57	50° 30'.00 N	7° 36'.00 W
58	50° 30'.00 N	8° 00'.00 W

59	50° 20'.00 N	8° 00'.00 W
60	50° 20'.00 N	8° 12'.00 W
61	50° 10'.00 N	8° 12'.00 W
62	50° 10'.00 N	8° 24'.00 W
63	50° 00'.00 N	8° 24'.00 W
64	50° 00'.00000 N	8° 32'.02264 W
65	49° 50'.00000 N	8° 32'.02264 W
66	49° 50'.00000 N	8° 36'.00000 W
67	49° 40'.00000 N	8° 36'.00000 W
68	49° 40'.00000 N	8° 45'.00000 W
69	49° 30'.00000 N	8° 45'.00000 W
70	49° 30'.00000 N	9° 03'.00000 W
71	49° 20'.00000 N	9° 03'.00000 W
72	49° 20'.00000 N	9° 12'.00000 W
73	49° 10'.00000 N	9° 12'.00000 W
74	49° 10'.00000 N	9° 17'.00000 W
75	49° 00'.00000 N	9° 17'.00000 W
76	49° 00'.00000 N	9° 24'.00000 W
77	48° 50'.00000 N	9° 24'.00000 W
78	48° 50'.00000 N	9° 24'.53688 W
79	48° 30'.00000 N	9° 24'.53688 W
80	48° 30'.00000 N	9° 48'.00000 W
81	48° 20'.00000 N	9° 48'.00000 W
82	48° 20'.00000 N	9° 55'.00241 W
83	48° 10'.81127 N	9° 55'.00241 W
84	48° 10'.81127 N	10° 48'.56229 W

### NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC OCEAN

Ref	Latitude	Longitude
85	55° 24'.89173 N	6° 44'.64809 W
86	55° 28'.00 N	6° 45'.00 W
87	55° 28'.00 N	6° 48'.00 W
88	55° 30'.00 N	6° 48'.00 W
89	55° 30'.00 N	6° 51'.00 W
90	55° 35'.00 N	6° 51'.00 W
91	55° 35'.00 N	6° 57'.00 W
92	55° 40'.00 N	6° 57'.00 W
93	55° 40'.00 N	7° 02'.00 W
94	55° 45'.00 N	7° 02'.00 W
95	55° 45'.00 N	7° 08'.00 W
96	55° 50'.00 N	7° 08'.00 W
97	55° 50'.00 N	7° 15'.00 W
98	55° 55'.00 N	7° 15'.00 W
99	55° 55'.00 N	7° 23'.00 W
100	56° 00'.00 N	7° 23'.00 W
101	56° 00'.00 N	8° 13'.00 W
102	56° 05'.00 N	8° 13'.00 W
103	56° 05'.00 N	8° 39'.50 W
104	56° 10'.00 N	8° 39'.50 W
105	56° 10'.00 N	9° 07'.00 W
106	56° 21'.50 N	9° 07'.00 W
107	56° 21'.50 N	10° 30'.00 W
108	56° 32'.50 N	10° 30'.00 W
109	56° 32'.50 N	12° 12'.00 W
110	56° 42'.00 N	12° 12'.00 W
111	56° 42'.00 N	14° 00'.00 W
112	56° 40'.00000 N	14° 00'.00000 W
113	56° 40'.00000 N	14° 10'.00000 W
114	56° 34'.63126 N	14° 10'.00000 W
115	56° 34'.63126 N	14° 19'.86168 W

# Editorial

by Sean O'Donoghue

CHIEF EXECUTIVE, KFO



After four years of bitter dispute, stalemate and numerous meetings, three of the four Coastal States, EU, Norway and the Faroe Islands signed a five year mackerel deal in London on March 12 (see article page one). Iceland did not sign the deal as they refused to commit to not fishing mackerel in Greenlandic waters unlike the other three parties. There are some positives to this deal in the short term with increased catches for Ireland for 2014, but the long-term losses in our percentage share of 20 per cent could lead to significant reductions in the future years should the mackerel TAC be reduced from its present high levels.

It is totally unacceptable if Iceland decides to partake in an unregulated mackerel fishery in Greenland which looks likely given their refusal to sign the agreement. If this happens, the EU must immediately put in place sanction measures against Iceland. The mechanism for doing this already exists as both the Parliament and Council have adopted an agreed set of measures for any third country partaking in unsustainable fishing practices

I can only conclude that the reckless and irresponsible behaviour by the Faroe Islands and

Iceland has paid off and they have been rewarded with a huge increase in their share. This sets a bad precedent for the future as most of the pelagic stocks in the North East Atlantic are shared and jointly managed. We see already that Greenland has copied the approach developed by Faroe Islands and Iceland and – being outside the agreement – has awarded themselves a 2014 mackerel quota of 100,000t. In fact, the Faroe Islands has already repeated their mackerel behaviour by stepping outside the existing coastal state agreement for Atlanto Scandic herring in 2011 and setting a unilaterally much higher quota for this vulnerable stock.

There are some other positives to this deal such as stopping the Faroese unregulated mackerel fishery; the increased mackerel catching possibilities for 2014; no increase in Norwegian access to EU waters, and the fact that Iceland will not have access to fish mackerel in EU, Norwegian and Faroese waters. These positive elements are negated by the 12.6 per cent share given to the



Faroese, an increase of 7.6 per cent in their share, and 15.6 per cent set aside for Faroes, Russia and Iceland, an increase of approximately 10.6 per cent, which could lead to long-term losses for Ireland.

The KFO was and is totally opposed to these share increases as it is rewarding the Faroese and Icelandic irresponsible actions in increasing their combined mackerel catches by tenfold over the last number years. We cannot accept that this is their long-term share as it could mean significant losses of mackerel fishing opportunities for Ireland should the stock decline in future years from its present high levels. Should this happen the reduction of 20 per cent in Ireland's percentage share will be a big problem. The percentage sharing arrangements must be re-negotiated when the present five-year deal expires.

I consider the reason we have ended up with this unsatisfactory situation in terms of shares is due to the unreasonable behaviour of the European Commission as the sole negotiator for the EU for this type of agreement. The current Commissioner, Ms. Maria Damanaki, has in my view alienated herself from the fishing sector by refusing to sufficiently defend the interests of the Irish and EU fishing industry. This is in sharp contrast with the situation in the other coastal states where Norway, Iceland, Faroe Islands, Russia and Greenland strongly defend their industry interests. Ultimately this has led to the EU giving away our valuable mackerel quota that we have effectively managed and grown to a very healthy state over the years.

I fully recognise that Minister Coveney was steadfast in his opposition to the unjustified increases in percentage shares both to Faroes and Iceland and that he was on his own in this regard at the Council of Fisheries Ministers. His steadfast opposition which was fully supported by the industry did, in my view, prevent some unpalatable aspects such as increased access for Norway to EU waters and access for the first time to the Irish box.

The KFO has been working on an exciting new large project for the last twelve months and is now in position to announce that it proposes, along with a Norwegian partner, to build the largest marine food ingredients plant in the world in Killybegs subject to planning permission and state-aid approval. The output will be valuable high-end marine protein, fish oils and calcium, which could potentially expand to produce supplements for athletes, thereby deriving optimal advantage of the health benefits of fish. The facility could become a 'game-changer' in the seafood sector positioning Killybegs and Ireland as a global leader in supply and research around new products and benefits from protein, oils and calcium associated with the sea. We have invited Minister Coveney to Killybegs on May 9 to launch the project and he has accepted.

## Important Dates April - June 2014

DATE	MEETINGS	VENUE
April 2	BIM Seafood Conference	Dublin, Aviva
April 7	Fisheries Committee EP	Brussels
April 8	NWW Members States (PRAC Discards Plans)	Edinburgh
April 10	PRAC Discards Working Group	Hague
April 10	PRAC EXCOM	Hague
April 14	HOOW Development Task Force	Dublin
April 14	Fisheries Council	Luxembourg
April 15	Safety Working Group	Dublin
April 15	Oireachtas Committee meeting (Bad Weather)	Dublin
April 23	FIF meeting MSO	Dublin
April 23	FIF meeting SFPA	Dublin
April 24	FIF meeting - Bord BIA	Dublin
April 24	Whitefish Quota Management	Dublin
April 29	MAC meeting EAPO & AIPCE	Brussels
May 9	Launch Bio Marine Food ingredients project	Killybegs
May 19	HOOW Development Task Force	Dublin
May 19-20	Fisheries Council	Brussels
May 30	KFO AGM	Killybegs
June 4	Industry/Science Partnership	Galway
June 9-13	ICES Advice Drafting Group Celtic Sea	Copenhagen
June 16	HOOW Development Task Force	Dublin
June 16-17	Fisheries Council	Luxembourg
June 27	IMSARC meeting	Wexford

Head Office: Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation Ltd.,  
 Bruach na Mara, St. Catherine's Road, Killybegs, Co. Donegal.  
 Tel: (074) 9731 089, (074) 9731 305, Fax: (074) 9731 577,  
 Email: kfo@kfo.ie Website: www.kfo.ie  
 Dublin Office Tel: (01) 825 8846, Fax: (01) 825 8847