



### Irish 2021 Fish Quotas - Six Months Late

This is not the usual report from the December Fisheries Council with the breakdown of species and Areas for the coming year. This is the report following the EU/UK bilateral agreement in early June on the TACs and Quotas for 2021. This, according to the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), should have happened by December 20, 2020 but as everyone knows at this stage the TCA was not agreed until December 24. It does illustrate the full year TACs and Quotas for 2021 but flies in the face of any normal approach to fisheries management given that we are now half-way through the year. The new arrangements provided for in TCA is that agreement must be in place for the TACs and Quotas for the following year by December 10, with a further ten days grace until December 20. If no agreement is reached by then, both parties must set the TACs in accordance with ICES advice. In light of these new arrangements the bilateral negotiations for the TACs and Quotas 2022 are likely to start in September.

The KFO Irish Quotas 2021 tables (shown below) differ from our usual tables in that they now also highlight the differences which are due to TAC changes, the effect of the Hague Preferences being applied and the Brexit (TCA) effect.

#### IRISH FISH QUOTAS 2021

##### PELAGIC QUOTAS

SPECIES	ICES AREA	Quota 2020 (t)	TAC Change (t)	Hague Change (t)	BREXIT (TCA) Change (t)	Quota 2021 (t)	Diff %
Mackerel	6, 7, 8, 5b, 2a, 12, 14	78,052	-5,907	0	-11,295	60,847	-22.0%
Horse mackerel	2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 5b, 12, 14	17,726	-165	--	0	17,561	-0.9%
Horse mackerel	4b, 4c, 7d	334	76	--	-80	330	-1.2%
Blue whiting	1-8, 12, 14	38,599	-2,863	--	-363	35,373	-8.4%
Herring	1, 2	3,035	724	--	-389	3,370	11%
Herring	5b, 6b, 6aN	526	0	0	-48	478	-9.1%
Herring	6aS, 7b, 7c	1,236	0	0	0	1,236	0%
Herring	7a	2,099	-188	0	-1,103	808	-61.5%
Herring	7g, 7h, 7j, 7k	750	0	--	0	750	0%
Northern albacore	Atlantic Ocean	2,891	224	--	0	3,115	7.8%
Greater silver smelt	3a, 4	8	-3	--	0	5	-37.5%
Greater silver smelt	5, 6, 7	263	0	--	0	262	-0.4%
Boarfish	6, 7, 8	13,235	0	--	0	13,234	0%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>158,754</b>	<b>-8,102</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-13,278</b>	<b>137,369</b>	<b>-13%</b>

#### Pelagic Quotas

The Pelagic quotas for Ireland as a result of the TCA in December 2020 are very severe and create a serious problem for the sector which is completely dependent on this small range of species. Mackerel being cut by a total of -22 per cent, made up by a 5,907 tonnes reduction by the scientific advice and 11,295 tonnes being transferred to the United Kingdom as part of the TCA, is a major blow. Similarly, the extraordinary -61 per cent drop in herring in Area 7a made up of a scientific advice reduction of 188 tonnes and the TCA effect of 1,303 tonnes lost to the UK, leaves a little over 800 tonnes Irish quota. However, other herring stocks in Celtic Sea and in 6aS, 7b,c, are unchanged but constrained to a monitoring TAC due to the zero catch scientific advice and herring in 1,2 is increased by 11 per cent despite a loss of 389 tonnes to the UK. Blue whiting was also reduced but, in this case, the major loss was down to the scientific advice with a cut of 2,863 tonnes. Northern Albacore was increased by 7.8 per cent and unaffected by the TCA. The total loss to the pelagic sector was -13 per cent.

#### AREA VI WHITEFISH STOCKS

SPECIES	ICES AREA	Quota 2020 (t)	TAC Change (t)	Hague Change (t)	BREXIT (TCA) Change (t)	Quota 2021 (t)	Diff %
Cod	6a, 5b	284	0	95	-136	243	-14.3%
Cod	6b, 5b	16	0	5	-5	16	0%
Megrim	5b, 6, 12, 14	764	-88	--	-76	600	-21.5%
Anglerfish	6, 5b, 12, 14	797	-159	--	-76	562	-29.5%
Haddock	5b, 6a	651	130	-133	0	648	-0.5%
Haddock	6b	824	-164	0	-90	570	-30.8%
Whiting	6, 5b, 12, 14	273	0	67	-41	299	9.5%
Plaice	6, 5b, 12, 14	261	0	-13	0	248	-5%
Pollack	6, 5b, 12, 14	34	-8	--	0	26	-23.5%
Saithe	6, 5b, 12, 14	401	-20	4	-16	369	-8%
Common sole	6, 5b, 12, 14	46	0	0	0	46	0%
Norway lobster	6, 5b	215	-13	--	0	202	-6%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>4,566</b>	<b>-322</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>-440</b>	<b>3,829</b>	<b>-16%</b>

#### Area 6 Whitefish Stocks

Cod was helped by the Hague uplifts in Area 6 but still has a total cut of -14.3 per cent with cod in Rockall 6b breaking even. Other demersal stocks in Area 6 were severely cut with -30.8 per cent for haddock in Rockall 6b, -29.5 per cent for monkfish in Area 6 and -23.5 per cent for pollack in area 6, but the scientific advice reductions were greater than the TCA losses for those species. While the Hague adjustments helped offset the saithe and whiting quota losses to the UK, they contributed to cuts for haddock and plaice in Area 6a where there was a -0.5 per cent cut for haddock and -5 per cent loss for plaice and no TCA effect. Norway lobster was subject to a scientific cut of -6 per cent. The overall reductions for whitefish in Area 6 was -16 per cent.

**Area 7 Whitefish Stocks**

Whitefish stocks in Area 7 show a wide range of reductions largely due to transfer of quota to the UK. In addition, there are a number of stocks which are being reported here as KFO estimates (see those highlighted in red and marked \*). The greatest percentage loss is that of plaice in 7b,c which has been reduced 76 per cent by scientific advice. Cod in 7a has been cut by -38 per cent and 7b-k by -8.5 per cent by combinations of scientific advice, Hague adjustments and TCA effects. Monkfish and haddock lose substantially to the TCA with losses of 114 tonnes and 409 tonnes respectively. Sole in 7a increases by 35 per cent but sole in 7b,c has a -22.2 per cent cut and sole in 7f,g a cut of -19.2 per cent. The TCA losses of 546 tonnes for Norway lobster in Area 7 is offset by the increases in the scientific advice of 447 tonnes giving an overall reduction of -1.6 per cent. Norway lobster in Porcupine FU16 which is part of the Area 7 quota is showing a 24.8 per cent increase. The overall loss for whitefish in Area 7 was -2 per cent.

AREA VII WHITEFISH STOCKS							
SPECIES	ICES AREA	Quota 2020 (t)	TAC Change (t)	Hague Change (t)	BREXIT (TCA) Change (t)	Quota 2021 (t)	Diff %
Cod	7a	170	-34	-30	-2	104	-38.8%
Cod	7b, 7c, 7e-k, 8, 9, 10	461	0	-32	-7	422	-8.5%
Megrim*	7	3,101	-61	--	-153	2,887	--
Anglerfish	7	2,675	214	--	-114	2,775	3.7%
Haddock*	7b-k, 8, 9, 10	2,413	920	0	-222	3,111	--
Haddock	7a	1,366	93	--	-137	1,322	-3.2%
Whiting	7a	415	0	-102	-33	280	-32.5%
Whiting*	7b-k	4,072	-84	0	-5	3,983	--
Plaice*	7a	1,442	11	-190	0	1,263	--
Plaice	7b, 7c	63	-48	0	0	15	-76.2%
Plaice	7f, 7g	255	-3	-11	-1	240	-5.9%
Plaice	7h, 7j, 7k	30	0	--	-2	28	-6.7%
Pollack	7	929	-209	--	-40	680	-26.8%
Saithe	7, 8, 9, 10Nor S 62° N	1,491	0	0	2	1,493	0.1%
Common sole	7a	77	19	0	0	104	35.1%
Common sole	7b, 7c	36	-8	0	0	28	-22.2%
Common sole	7f, 7g	52	-7	-2	-1	42	-19.2%
Common sole	7h, 7j, 7k	148	-22	--	0	126	-14.9%
Norway lobster	7	6,201	447	--	-546	6,102	-1.6%
Norway lobster**	FU16	957	237	--	--	1,194	24.8%
Red seabream	10	0	0	--	0	0	--
<b>Totals</b>		<b>25,397</b>	<b>1,228</b>	<b>-367</b>	<b>-1,261</b>	<b>25,005</b>	<b>-2%</b>

**Area 6, 7 and Other Whitefish Stocks**

There are dramatic increases for some species in this section but, by and large, these are low quota species to begin with and any change in the scientific advice, while welcome, may create a skewed picture overall. Tusk, Areas 5, 6, and 7, has been increased by 250 per cent due to the scientific advice uplift and a small TCA loss. Similarly, the Greenland halibut quota was doubled with no losses resulting due to the TCA in a 107.1 per cent increase. The scientific quota for Picked dogfish (Spurdog) was unchanged but a loss to TCA created a reduction of -9.4 per cent. Hake in 6, 7, 5b was reduced by the scientific advice 441 tonnes and there was a TCA loss of 4 tonnes resulting in an overall reduction of -14 per cent. The overall loss for these species in Area 6 and 7 was -11 per cent.

AREA VI, VII AND OTHER WHITEFISH STOCKS							
SPECIES	ICES AREA	Quota 2020 (t)	TAC Change (t)	Hague Change (t)	BREXIT (TCA) Change (t)	Quota 2021 (t)	Diff %
Herring	1, 2	3,035	335	--	0	3,370	11%
Hake	6, 7, 5b, 12, 14	3,493	-441	0	-63	2,989	-14.4%
Greenland halibut	Green 5, 12, 14	0	0	--	0	0	--
Redfish	5, 12, 14 (shallow)	0	0	--	0	0	--
Ling*	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14	898	454	--	-51	1,301	--
Blue Ling	2, 4	2	0	--	0	2	0%
Blue Ling	5b, 6, 7	31	2	--	-1	32	3.2%
Tusk	5, 6, 7	68	174	--	-4	238	250%
Greenland halibut	2a, 4, 5b, 6	14	15	--	0	29	107.1%
Skates and rays	6a, 6b, 7a-c, 7e-k	1,329	-66	--	-53	1,210	-9%
Undulate Ray	7d, 7e	27	0	--	-2	25	-7.4%
Picked dogfish	1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 14	53	0	--	-5	48	-9.4%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>8,950</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-179</b>	<b>9,244</b>	<b>-11%</b>

\*Figures shown are KFO estimates of final figure

\*\*Note Norway lobster FU16 is not a separate quota

**Oireachtas Approves 2021 Amended Climate Bill**

The 2021 Amended Climate Bill has made rapid progress through the Oireachtas stages so far and should become law later this month, July 2021. It reflects the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Climate Action's efforts to address some of the perceived weaknesses in the original Bill. The Committee made 78 recommendations, including the use of stronger language, more specific commitments and setting a 2030 interim greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions reduction target. This amended and strengthened Bill is also driven by the global upsurge in commitments to urgently address deteriorating climate stability with the EU's renewed focus on environmental action, through the European Green Deal, announced in December 2019, and ahead of efforts to strengthen global climate action at COP26, the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November 2021.

The main aim of the Bill is to provide for the approval of various plans to be prepared by Government, to enable Ireland transition towards becoming a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by no later than 2050.

The Bill amends the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (the Climate Action Act 2015) and provides a framework for Ireland to reduce its carbon emissions with the objective of climate neutrality by 2050. There will be an interim target of a 51 per cent reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 relative to a baseline of the year ending December 31, 2018. There will be a framework for the development of enabling plans and strategies to reach the 2030 and 2050 targets through annual climate action plans, five-yearly long-term climate action strategies, five-yearly carbon budgets, sectoral emission ceilings, and a national adaptation framework.

The overall responsibility for overseeing and reporting on the framework and progress on the various strategies will lie with the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications but every government minister will have a similar obligation regarding their

sector. While the emphasis of this legislation seems to focus on land-based activities there is a constant theme regarding reduction of GHGs which are likely to be dealt with under the Marine Sectoral Plan.

To meet the targets set by this new legislation requires Ireland to "achieve" the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy by 2050. The overarching plan includes a national long-term climate action strategy largely based on "carbon budgets" which will specify the total amount of GHG emissions permitted in a five-year period. These carbon budgets will be prepared by an Advisory Council, finalised by the Minister, and approved by the Government. Each carbon budget will run for five years and each carbon budget programme is made up of a rolling cycle of three five-year carbon budgets starting this year so that the first carbon budget cycle will run from 2021-2025 and will be made up of the first (2021-2025), second (2026-2030) and third (2031-2035) carbon budgets. The Minister will submit a draft of the Climate Action Plan to the Government for approval every year, beginning this year.

June 30 saw the release of catch advice by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) for the Celtic Sea, West of Scotland, the Irish Sea, Biscay and Iberian seas, and North Sea for 2022, with the EU, Norway and the UK being the relevant Cooperating partners. For a second year, the stock assessment working groups took place through video-conferencing, with this year's stock assessments being the first impacted by changes in sampling due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sampling levels were reduced for many stocks nationally and internationally, and the Marine Institute introduced, with the support of industry, Sampler at Sea and Self Sampling programmes. Sampling and scientific surveys were still carried out, enabling assessments to accommodate any data shortfalls and produce appropriate advice. Unlike last year, full advice sheets were produced again, and these are available on the ICES Latest Advice webpage (<https://www.ices.dk/advice>).

## Pelagic Stocks

Three stocks of herring that occur around Ireland are covered in the June ICES advice: West of Scotland and Ireland (divisions 6a, 7b-c), Irish Sea herring (7aN) to the east and Celtic Sea herring (7aS, 7g-h and 7j-k) to the south. For the other pelagic stocks, mackerel, horse mackerel, blue whiting and Atlanto Scandia herring, ICES advice will be issued on September 30.

Since its combination into a single assessment in 2016, the West of Scotland herring stock 6a, 7bc continues to be at one of its lowest observed levels. It is likely to remain so in 2022 and below possible reference points, resulting in zero catch advice again for 2022. An international project to develop tools that could be used to split the stocks concluded successfully in December 2020. It developed a genetic approach to reliably differentiate 6a North and 6a South herring. It is hoped this knowledge will lead to a separate 6a South assessment depending on the outcome of the upcoming assessment benchmark starting in November 2021 and completed in January 2022. A monitoring TAC was applied to this stock over the last number of years and is more than likely to be applied again for 2022.

The Irish Sea 7a herring advice is for 8,455 tonnes, a 15 per cent increase on 2021 fishing advice, owing to an increase in the forecast SSB from good recruitment in 2020.

Celtic Sea herring advice is for zero catch for the third year running, with Spawning Stock Biomass (SSB) well below Blim (the limit reference point for SSB), with no fishing scenarios enabling the stock to rebuild above Blim in the short term. A monitoring TAC was applied to the stock in 2020 and 2021. This monitoring TAC is more than likely to be applied again for 2022.

## Demersal Stocks

### West of Scotland & Ireland

The advice for demersal stocks is a combination of increases and decreases. West of Scotland haddock is showing a substantial increase of 86 per cent following good recruitment. After many years of zero advice, West of Scotland whiting advice for 2022 is 4,144 tonnes following a review (benchmark) of the assessment, which has improved the perception of the stock status, with SSB higher than previously thought. For West of Scotland saithe, the advice is 24 per cent lower than last year following a period of low recruitment and considerably lower recruitment observed in 2020 than assumed last year. The megrim and monkfish advice will be issued in autumn.

### Irish Sea

Irish Sea cod advice is 20 per cent lower than last year, based on a decreasing trend in the survey index, noting that the 2021 TAC was higher than the advice. Irish Sea haddock advice is 18 per cent lower than last year, with the stock size projected to decline following low recruitment in recent years.

## Celtic Sea

Celtic Sea haddock advice is 13 per cent lower than last year's advice, noting that the TAC is likely to be influenced by mixed fishery considerations with cod and whiting. Celtic Sea whiting advice has been delayed until the autumn as an inter-benchmark data review is needed. It should also be noted that the advice for the 7d part of the haddock TAC and management area is more than three times higher than last year, and considerably higher than the combined 7b-k, 7d advice last year.

Plaice in Divisions 7h,j,k, after a number of years of zero catch advice, is 114 tonnes for 2022, 70 per cent higher than the 2021 TAC following the benchmark of the assessment.

Advice for Northern hake is 27 per cent lower than last year, mainly owing to a downward revision in the stock size in the assessment. In recent years, the assessment has shown a pattern of over-estimating the current stock size, which is revised downwards as another year of data is added to the assessment. A benchmark review is planned in 2021-22 to address this issue. In the meantime, ICES considers that the assessment is sufficiently robust to provide catch advice. Celtic Sea megrim advice is 24 per cent higher than last year owing to good recruitment and a reducing trend in fishing mortality. The pollack advice for Areas 6 and 7 which is based on a ICES Category 4 assessment is for a rollover of the 2021 advice.

## Seafood Task Force Delivers Interim Report

**Following the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) between the European Union and the United Kingdom it was obvious Ireland's fishing industry and wider seafood sector had received a very serious blow. The substantial quota reductions for key stocks such as mackerel and prawns add up to a loss to Ireland of more than €40million with the highest proportion being in Donegal. The knock-on effect on employment will probably be in the region of 20 per cent around the coast.**

In February Minister McConalogue announced the setting-up of a Task Force consisting of a Steering Group comprising of Chairman, Aidan Cotter, (former CEO, Bord Bia); Margaret Daly, Assistant CEO, Errigal Seafoods, and Mícheál Ó Cinnéide, former Deputy Director, EPA. In addition, recognized fishing-based, or otherwise relevant organisations, were invited to send a representative to the Task Force which formed the working group. The remit of the Task Force was to review and agree mitigation measures which could be applied to alleviate the Brexit losses.

The Task Force held seven meetings over the following weeks. The Minister had asked that an interim report be made within two months but this timeframe was not met, with the interim submitted in June covering two key issues: burden sharing recommendations and a voluntary cessation scheme for demersal vessels. A final report was due within four months but this timeframe will not be met. The final report

should provide further recommendations to alleviate the hardship caused by the disproportionately high contribution of quota share made by Ireland in the EU/UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement. Initially the Task Force identified three key priorities:

1. The issue of 'burden sharing' arising from the disproportionate transfer of quota share by Ireland compared with that from other EU member states to the UK, and the mechanisms that potentially could provide some redress to Ireland.
2. The funding streams available to finance initiatives, particularly the Brexit Adjustment Reserve Fund (BAR), the rules governing how funds are to be allocated, and the sectoral priority of seafood to access available funding.
3. The opportunity presented by the forthcoming review of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) with a report due from the Commission by the end of 2022, to renegotiate Ireland's quota percentage shares.

The Task Force has now produced a detailed Interim Report which:

- Acknowledges the need to address the "burden sharing" issue and its disproportionate effect on the Irish fishing industry. The possible actions to realign the quota losses in Ireland's favour will be addressed in greater detail in the Task Force final report.
- Sets out the details of a voluntary cessation scheme for demersal vessels.

- Recognises that up to two thirds of the losses sustained by the fleet in 2021 will be incurred by the Refrigerated Seawater (RSW) segment of the fleet and that the Task Force will examine any proposals brought forward by industry and seek to develop appropriate measures.

- Will consider any appropriate measures to support the inshore sector, whose losses due to Brexit relate to logistics and route-to-market difficulties.

- Recommends that during the 2021-2023 period, the measures necessary to implement the Task Force recommendations should, to the greatest extent possible, be funded from the allocation of the BAR funding provided to Ireland and that significant BAR funding will be required.

In the final report the Task Force intends to further elaborate on the burden sharing options; develop appropriate measures to cover Brexit losses for the RSW and inshore sectors; bring forward proposals for strategic onshore and offshore initiatives that have the capacity to sustain coastal communities by providing jobs and economic activity; to give its view on decommissioning, and the funding requirement under BAR.

# Editorial



by Sean O'Donoghue

CHIEF EXECUTIVE, KFO



The Irish fishing industry continues to suffer disproportionately from the effects of Brexit; it has taken seven months since the signing of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) to see the final TAC and Quota figures for this year (pages one and two.) We must hope this does not create a pattern for future years and that the planned negotiations, due to start in September, are completed by the December deadline (December 20 at latest). In addition, the reckless and irresponsible behaviour of Norway, the Faroes and Iceland in setting mackerel quotas way in excess of previous allocations is a major cause for concern. This must be immediately stopped by the Commission introducing a range of trade and other measures. We have conveyed this strong message to Commissioner Sinkevičius in a recent meeting.

The final figures for 2021 illustrate very clearly the areas where Ireland has been hardest hit. A drop of 22 per cent of our most valuable mackerel fishery is difficult to offset with small gains in other stocks. The bottom line is that every area, both pelagic and whitefish, has lost out and, as an industry, we must continue to demand burden sharing amongst the other Member States. Over the past months we have continually pointed out the several options, such as burden sharing with our EU partners and re-alignment of the Hague Preferences, which can go some way to restoring a level playing field.

In the meantime, the fish we do catch must be made more profitable. In response to the crisis created by the TCA, the government set up the Seafood Task Force. The members are, by and large, representatives of the fishing industry and have a good grasp of the threats and how to mitigate them. Initially Minister McConalogue expected an Interim Report in two months but the complexity and detail was greater than expected and the Interim Report was delayed. However, it is now available and provides a starting basis for forward planning and remedial measures for those operators most badly affected. The interim report covers two key issues, burden sharing and a temporary tie-up scheme for demersal vessels (see article page three). The final report

will contain proposals for strategic onshore and offshore initiatives that have the capacity to sustain coastal communities by providing jobs and economic activity with community initiatives in light of the Brexit effect. This is a major opportunity for Killybegs to press ahead with plans already in train such as the Harbour Development Plan and the development of a globally recognised centre of excellence where our pelagic fish can be converted to high value marine ingredients.

Having been on the receiving end of the TCA outcome and its disastrous effects for the industry, we were not expecting the further blows delivered by our own Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA) which was so intransigent regarding the implementation of weighing pelagic fish. A judicial review was taken jointly by the KFO and Pelagic Weighing Services Ltd (PWS) in response to the SFPA's refusal to consider and determine the application for approval of the 'Flowscales' built on the pier in Killybegs at a cost of €409,000. Our action was completely vindicated by the Court which stated, the SFPA acted outside of its powers, the relevant regulations and Irish and European law in determining on December 4 last that the Flowscales must be owned, operated and used by a public body and in refusing the PWS request for approval for the Flowscales. We also correctly claimed that the SFPA acted in breach of fair procedures, arbitrarily, unreasonably and irrationally in refusing that approval.

There was a further massive blow when, on April 16, industry was informed of the Commission Implementing Decision of 13.04.2021 – revoking the approval of the Irish control plan submitted for the weighing of fishery products in accordance with Article 61(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009. This has had a catastrophic effect on every vessel in the fleet having to land fish and shellfish under completely unsuitable conditions and undoing years of work developing product standards. It is imperative the SFPA submit a revised Control Plan covering all sectors immediately

and, pending approval, implement alternative interim measures to restore the arrangements with some additional conditions for the pelagic weighing in the factories that existed prior to the revocation by the Commission. The industry is being penalised for actions that it cannot challenge as we are denied access to the information and data in the 2018 Commission Control Audit report and in the Administrative Inquiry carried out by the SFPA. This is totally unacceptable and must be rectified.

The fishing industry has recently mounted two protest rallies – in Cork and Dublin. The Dublin protest was supported by vessels, fishermen and their families from major fishing ports to small harbours around Ireland. This was driven by the total frustration being experienced by the knock-on effects of Brexit and the hardship now being created by the SFPA demand to weigh all landings on the pier.

The environmental issues facing the industry continue to increase and are high on our list of priorities despite the other serious problems we face. Climate change is the over-riding driver of many of the environmental threats; Ireland's Climate Change (Amendment) Bill has entered its final stages and will be law this month. This has created several strands of activity which the fishing industry cannot ignore. High on the list is the need to reduce carbon dioxide emissions as this is a primary cause of global warming. Fishing vessels do produce such emissions but compared with other activities they are not major sources. "Carbon footprint" is now the accepted benchmark in this regard and KFO is proactive in having the carbon footprint of all its vessels calculated. Likewise, Bord Iascaigh Mhara is working on a seafood - catch to plate – carbon footprint which our vessels can align with.

The KFO AGM was held on May 28, 2021. Before the meeting started the Chairman paid tribute to Patrick McClenaghan who passed away earlier in the year. Patrick was a founder and member of the whitefish sector in the KFO since March 1986.

After the AGM the Board met to elect a new Chairman and co-opt Directors onto the Board. The new Board of Directors is as follows: Ciaran Doherty, Chairman; Pete McBride, Vice-Chairman; Cathal Boyle, Jens Bach; Eamonn McGuinness; Pauric Conneely; Tony Byrne; Eamonn McHugh and Cyril Harkin.