Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Fisheries Management Notice No. 68 of 2026

(November Mackerel Hook and Line Under 15 metre Fishery Quota Management Notice)

I, Timmy Dooley, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, in exercise of the powers conferred on me by section 12 of the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (No. 8 of 2006) and the Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Delegation of Ministerial Functions) (No. 2) Order 2025 (S.I. No. 368 of 2025), hereby issue the following Notice:

1.1 This Notice is the November Mackerel Hook and Line Under 15 metre Fishery Quota Management Notice 2026 (Fisheries Management Notice No 68 of 2026).

1.2 This Notice comes into force on 01 November 2026 and ceases to have effect on 01 December 2026.

2. In this Notice:

"CECAF" means the Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic Fisheries;

"ICES" means the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea;

"Union waters" means European Union waters. Where this term is used in conjunction with an ICES or CECAF sub-area or division listed in Schedule 1, it means that only the European Union waters of that sub-area or division are included;

"length" means, in relation to a sea-fishing boat, the overall length of the boat, or the distance from the forepart of the stem of the boat to the aft side of the head of the sternpost of the boat or to the foreside of the rudder stock;

"mackerel authorisation" means an authorisation to fish for mackerel (*Scomber scombrus)* granted under section 13 of the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006;

"Catch retention and landing restrictions" means the total quantity, in tonnes live weight, of that species of fish in column (1) a quantity of which, greater than that specified in column (3), may not be retained onboard or landed by an Irish sea-fishing boat, dependant on the particular vessel's length and/or fishing method during November 2026;

"fishing area" means waters falling within the ICES sub-areas and divisions listed in Schedule 1 as defined in Annex III to Regulation (EC) No. 218/2009[1] of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009, as amended;

"fishing trip" means any voyage of a fishing vessel during which fishing activities are conducted that starts at the moment when the fishing vessel leaves a port and ends on arrival in port.

3. During November 2026, a person on board an Irish sea-fishing boat less than 15 metres in length overall, fishing for mackerel by means of hooks and lines in a fishing area listed in column (2) of Schedule (1), shall not have, or retain on board or land (or cause or permit another person to have or retain on board or land), a quantity of mackerel that is greater than the quantity specified in column (3) if the fish was caught in that fishing area either on a single occasion or when combined with previous landings by that boat of that species of fish caught in the specified area in November 2026.

4. During November 2026, the Master of an Irish sea-fishing boat that is greater than or equal to 10 metres in length overall but less than 15 metres in length overall, fishing for mackerel by means of hooks and lines in a fishing area listed in column (2) of Schedule (1), must be in possession of a Mackerel Hook and Line Authorisation issued pursuant to Section 13 of the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006.

[1] O.J. L 87, 31.3.2009, pp. 70-108

Schedule 1 Catch retention and landing restrictions in relation to an Irish sea-fishing boat less than 15 metres in length overall, fishing for mackerel by means of hooks and lines		
Species of fish (1)	**Fishing area (2)**	**Limit for boats less than 15 metres in length (3)**
MACKEREL (*Scomber scombrus*)	6, 7, 8a, 8b, 8d and 8e; Union and international waters of 5b; international waters of 2a, 12 and 14 (MAC/2CX14-)	3 tonnes *

** To avail of the catch limit set out in this notice, the Master of an Irish sea-fishing boat greater than or equal to 10 metres in length overall but less than 15 metres in length overall must hold a Mackerel Hook and Line Authorisation issued pursuant to Section 13 of the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006.*

5. FISHING GEAR TYPE

During November 2026, a person on board an Irish sea-fishing boat less than 15 metres in length overall, fishing for mackerel by means of hooks and lines in a fishing area listed in column (2) of Schedule (1), may not engage in trawling or gill netting in the same fishing trip as they fish using hook and line fishing gear.

6. ADVANCE NOTICE OF LANDINGS

The master of an Irish sea-fishing boat, greater than or equal to 10 metres in length overall, or his agent, shall give not less than 1 hours notification of his intention to enter port for quantities of Mackerel over 50kg.

For landings in a port in the Republic of Ireland notification should be made to the IRISH FISHERIES MONITORING CENTRE by telephone (T) 00 353 21 4378752, by e-mail

fmcireland@defenceforces.ie, or for landings outside Ireland to the Competent Authorities of the Member State in which the landing is to be made. The notification shall include:

- the name of the boat;
- the designated port of landing;
- the estimated time of arrival in the designated port;
- the intended time of landing the catch;
- the quantities in kilograms live weight of all species retained on board;
- the management area where the catch was taken;
- the gear type used on the fishing trip;
- contact details.

Fishing boats with fully functioning ERS should submit these requirements via PNO.

GIVEN under my hand,

26 October 2026 at 16:00 hours

Timmy Dooley,

Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the instrument and does not purport to be a legal interpretation)

This Notice sets restrictions on the catching, retaining on board, or landing of mackerel by boats less than 15 metres in length overall, fishing for mackerel by means of hooks and lines during November 2026.

During November 2026, the Master of an Irish sea-fishing boat that is greater than or equal to 10 metres in length overall but less than 15 metres in length overall, fishing for mackerel by means of hooks and lines in a fishing area listed in column (2) of Schedule (1), must be in possession of a Mackerel Hook and Line Authorisation issued pursuant to Section 13 of the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006.

Vessels using hooks and line to fish for mackerel may not engage in trawling or gill netting in the same trip as they fish using hook and line fishing gear.

(FMN 2026/68)