

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Fisheries Management Notice No. 61 of 2026

(October North West Herring Under 20 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 October North West Herring Quota Management Notice 2026 (Fisheries Management Notice No. 61 of 2026).

1.2 This Notice comes into force on 01 October 2026 and ceases to have effect on 01 November 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;

“North West Herring ring-fenced group” means vessels that have fulfilled the criteria set out in Policy Directive 1 and 2 of 2012, as amended by Policy Directive 1 of 2017, concerning access to herring stocks in fishing area 6aS¹, 7b and 7c;

¹ Reference is to the herring stock in 6a south of 56° N and west of 07° 00' W.

“north west herring authorisation” means an authorisation to fish for Herring (*Clupea harengus*) in ICES areas 6aS, 7b and 7c (HER/6AS7BC) granted under section 13 of the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006;

“catch retention and landing restrictions” means the total quantity, in tonnes by 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, during October 2026;

“fishing area” means waters falling within the ICES sub-areas and divisions listed in Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 as defined in Annex III to Regulation (EC) No. 218/2009² of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009, as amended.

3. During October 2026, a person on board an Irish sea-fishing boat greater than or equal to 15 metres in length overall and less than 20 metres in length overall that is **not** part of the North West Herring ring-fenced group, fishing for Herring 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 Herring that is greater than the quantity specified in column (3) of Schedule (1), if the fish were caught in that fishing area either on a single occasion or when combined with previous landings by that boat of that species caught in the specified area in October 2026.
4. During October 2026, a person on board an Irish sea-fishing boat less than 15 metres in length overall that is **not** part of the North West Herring ring-fenced group, fishing for Herring in a fishing area listed in column (2) of Schedule (2) 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 Herring that is greater than the quantity specified in column (3) of Schedule (2), if the fish were caught in that fishing area either on a single occasion or when combined with previous landings by that boat of that species caught in the specified area in October 2026.

² 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 greater than or equal to 15 metres in length overall and less than 20 metres in length overall, that is <u>not</u> part of the North West Herring ring-fenced group		
Species of fish (1)	Fishing area (2)	Limit for boats greater than or equal to 15 metres in length overall and less than 20 metres in length overall (3)
HERRING <i>(Clupea harengus)</i>	6aS, 7b, 7c	0.50 tonnes

Schedule 2 Catch retention and landing restrictions in relation to an Irish sea-fishing boat less than 15 metres in length overall, that is <u>not</u> part of the North West Herring ring-fenced group		
Species of fish (1)	Fishing area (2)	Limit for boats less than 15 metres in length overall (3)
HERRING <i>(Clupea harengus)</i>	6aS, 7b, 7c	10 tonnes*

*During October 2026, a person on board an Irish sea-fishing boat, targeting Herring in ICES Subareas 6aS, 7b and 7c, that is in receipt of an authorisation issued pursuant to section 13 of the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 for that boat to operate in the 2026 North West Herring Fishery, will be subject to the quantity of Herring in ICES Subareas 6aS, 7b and 7c set out in that authorisation and not subject to the quantity of Herring in ICES Subareas 6aS, 7b and 7c set out in this Fisheries Management Notice.

5. ADVANCE NOTICE OF LANDINGS

The master of an Irish sea-fishing boat or his agent shall give not less than 1 hour notification of his intention to enter port for quantities of Herring over 250kg.

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. Furthermore, for landings in third countries, notifications should be made to the competent authorities of that third country 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;
- contact details;

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

GIVEN under my hand,

29 September 2026 at 14:45 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 Herring in ICES areas 6aS, 7b and 7c (HER/6AS7BC) by under 20 metre boats that are not part of the North West Herring ring-fenced group, fishing during October 2026.

(FMN 2026/61)