Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Fisheries Management Notice No. 66 of 2026

(November Under 55ft Boats Demersal 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 Demersal (boats under 55ft) Quota Management Notice 2026 (Fisheries Management Notice No. 66 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 specified in Schedule 1, Schedule 2, Schedule 3, Schedule 4 and Schedule 5, 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;

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

"demersal authorisation" means an authorisation to fish for demersal stocks under section 13 of the Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006. If a demersal authorisation has issued to an Irish sea-fishing boat, that Irish sea-fishing boat is only permitted to fish a species specified in column (1) of Schedule 1 of the demersal authorisation, from a fishing area specified in column (2) of Schedule 1 of the demersal authorisation, up to the catch limit specified in column (3) of Schedule 1 of the demersal authorisation. The catch limit(s) for that species/those species in that fishing area/those fishing areas set out in Schedule 2 of this Fisheries Management Notice are not available to that Irish sea-fishing boat during the fishing period;

"catch, retention and landing restrictions" mean the total quantity, in tonnes, of that species of fish in column (1), a quantity of which, greater than that specified in column (3) may not be landed by an Irish sea-fishing boat, dependant on the particular boat's length and/or fishing method and/or whether the boat has been issued with a demersal authorisation for that species/those species of fish in that fishing area/those fishing areas during November 2026;

"fishing area" means waters falling within the ICES sub-areas and divisions specified in Schedule 1, Schedule 2, Schedule 3, Schedule 4 and Schedule 5 as defined in Annex III to Regulation (EC) No. 218/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2009, as amended;

"stock" means a species of fish in a defined fishing area specified in columns (1) and (2) of Schedule 1, Schedule 2, Schedule 3, Schedule 4 and Schedule 5;

"discards" means catches that are returned to the sea.

3.1 During November 2026, a person on board an Irish sea-fishing boat less than 55 feet in length, fishing in a fishing area specified in column (2) of Schedule 1, Schedule 2, Schedule 3, Schedule 4 and Schedule 5, shall not have, retain on board or land (or cause or permit another person to have or retain on board or land), a quantity of a species of fish specified in column (1) of Schedule 1, Schedule 2, Schedule 3, Schedule 4 and Schedule 5, from the fishing area specified in column (2) of Schedule 1, Schedule 2,

Schedule 3, Schedule 4 and Schedule 5, that is greater than the corresponding quantity specified in column (3), 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.

When the quantity of a species of fish specified in column (1) of Schedule 1, Schedule 2, Schedule 3, Schedule 4 and Schedule 5 that has been landed, from the fishing area specified in column (2) of Schedule 1, Schedule 2, Schedule 3, Schedule 4 and Schedule 5, exceeds column (3) of Schedule 1, Schedule 2, Schedule 3, Schedule 4 and Schedule 5, then the boat may not fish in that fishing area for that stock for the remainder of the fishing period.

3.2 *Stocks relevant for Demersal Quota Balancing (Schedule 2)*

During November 2026, a person on board an Irish sea-fishing boat less than 55 feet in length in respect of which a demersal authorisation has not been granted for that species of fish specified in column (1) for the fishing area specified in column (2) of Schedule 2, shall not have or retain on board that boat or land, (or cause or permit another person to have or retain on board the boat or land), a quantity of that species of fish specified in column (1) of Schedule 2 opposite that fishing area specified in column (2) where the fish were caught that is greater than the corresponding quantity specified in column (3) 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.

When the quantity of a species of fish specified in column (1) of Schedule 2 that has been landed, from the fishing area specified in column (2) of Schedule 2, exceeds column (3) of Schedule 2, then the boat may not fish in that fishing area for that stock for the remainder of the fishing period.

3.3 *By-catch Limits (Schedule 3)*

The catch limits specified in Schedule 3 are exclusively for by-catches. No directed fisheries are permitted under these catch limits.

During November 2026, a person on board an Irish sea-fishing boat less than 55 feet in length, fishing in a fishing area specified in column (2) of Schedule 3 shall not have, retain on board or land (or cause or permit another person to have or retain on board the boat or land), a quantity of a species of fish specified in column (1) of Schedule 3 from the fishing area specified in column (2) of Schedule 3, that is greater than the

corresponding quantity specified in column (3), 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.

When the quantity of a species of fish specified in column (1) of Schedule 3 that has been landed, from the fishing area specified in column (2) of Schedule 3, exceeds column (3) of Schedule 3, then the boat may not fish in that fishing area for that stock for the remainder of the fishing period.

3.4 *Boats Fishing exclusively with Danish/Scottish Fly Seines (Schedule 4)*

During November 2026, a person on board an Irish sea-fishing boat fishing exclusively by means of Danish/Scottish Fly Seines in ICES division 7a or ICES divisions 7b-k, sub areas 8, 9 and 10: Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1., shall not have or retain on board or land, a quantity of Haddock greater than the quantity that is specified in column (3) of Schedule 4, from the fishing area specified in column (2) of Schedule 4, 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.

When the quantity of a species of fish specified in column (1) of Schedule 4, that has been landed, from the fishing area specified in column (2) of Schedule 4, exceeds column (3) of Schedule 4, then the boat may not fish in that fishing area for that stock for the remainder of the fishing period.

3.5 *Nephrops (Schedule 5)*

Boats targeting Nephrops in ICES Areas 6 & 7 and Functional Unit 16 of ICES Subarea 7

During November 2026, in any one fishing trip, a person on board an Irish sea-fishing boat, targeting Nephrops in ICES Areas 6 and 7 may only fish in either of

- ICES Area 6 and ICES Area 7, excluding Functional Unit 16 of ICES Subarea 7, or
- Functional Unit 16 of ICES Subarea 7

When the quantity of a species of fish specified in column (1) of Schedule 5 that has been landed, from the fishing area specified in column (2) of Schedule 5, exceeds column (3) of Schedule 5, then the boat may not fish in that fishing area for that stock for the remainder of the fishing period.

SCHEDULE 1 **(Catch, retention and landing restrictions in respect of an Irish sea-fishing boat less than 55 feet in length)**		
Species of fish **(1)**	**Fishing area** **(2)**	**Catch Limit** **(3)**
GREATER SILVER SMELT (*Argentina silus*)	United Kingdom and Union waters of 4; Union waters of 3a (ARU/3A4-C)	0 tonnes
GREATER SILVER SMELT (*Argentina silus*)	6 and 7; United Kingdom and international waters of 5 (ARU/567.)	0 tonnes
GREENLAND HALIBUT (*Reinhardtius hippoglossoides*)	6; United Kingdom and Union waters of 4; United Kingdom waters of 2a; United Kingdom and international waters of 5b (GHL/2A-C46)	0 tonnes
COD (*Gadus morhua*)	6a; United Kingdom and international waters of 5b east of 12˚00'W (COD/5BE6A)	0.05 tonnes
HADDOCK *(Melanogrammus Aeglefinus)*	7a (HAD/07A.)	6 tonnes
LING *(Molva Molva)*	Union and international waters of 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 14 (LIN/6X14.)	15 tonnes
POLLACK (*Pollachius pollachius*)	6; United Kingdom and international waters of 5b; international waters of 12 and 14 (POL/56-14)	1.50 tonnes
PLAICE *(Pleuronectes Platessa)*	7b and 7c (PLE/7BC.)	0.25 tonnes
PLAICE *(Pleuronectes Platessa)*	7f and 7g (PLE/7FG.)	0.05 tonnes
SAITHE *(Pollachius virens)*	6; United Kingdom and international waters of 5b, 12 and 14 (POK/56-14)	0.05 tonnes

SAITHE *(Pollachius virens)*	7, 8, 9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (POK/7/3411)	1.50 tonnes
REDFISH (*Sebastes* spp.)	Union and international waters of 5; international waters of 12 and 14 (RED/51214D)	0 tonnes
COMMON SOLE (*Solea Solea*)	6; UK and intl. waters of 5b; intl. waters of 12 and 14 (SOL/56-14)	1 tonne
COMMON SOLE (*Solea Solea*)	7a (SOL/07A.)	2 tonnes
COMMON SOLE *(Solea Solea)*	7b and 7c (SOL/7BC.)	0.10 tonnes
COMMON SOLE *(Solea Solea)*	7f and 7g (SOL/7FG.)	0 tonnes
COMMON SOLE *(Solea Solea)*	7h, 7j and 7k (SOL/7HJK.)	1 tonne
SKATES AND RAYS *(Rajiformes)*	United Kingdom and Union waters of 6a, 6b, 7a-c and 7e-k (SRX/67AKXD)	20 tonnes
PICKED DOGFISH *(Squalus acanthias)*	6, 7 and 8; United Kingdom and international waters of 5; International waters of 1, 12 and 14 (DGS/15X14)	30 tonnes

SCHEDULE 2

(Catch, retention and landing restrictions in respect of an Irish sea-fishing boat less than 55 feet in length.

IMPORTANT: The catch limit specified in column (3) for a species specified in column (1) from the fishing area specified in column (2) only applies if a demersal authorisation has not been issued to an Irish sea-fishing boat in respect of that species of fish specified in column (1) from that fishing area specified in column (2).

If a demersal authorisation has been issued to an Irish sea-fishing boat for that species of fish specified in column (1) from that fishing area specified in column (2), the catch limit specified in the demersal authorisation applies and the catch limit specified in column (3) does not apply.

† Catch limits specified for WHG/*7XAD are exclusively for by-catches
No directed fisheries are permitted under these catch limits

Species of fish (1)	Fishing area (2)	Catch Limit (3)
ANGLERFISH (family *Lophiidae*)	7 (ANF/07.)	25 tonnes
ANGLERFISH (family *Lophiidae*)	6; United Kingdom and international waters of 5b; international waters of 12 and 14 (ANF/56-14)	25 tonnes
HADDOCK *(Melanogrammus Aeglefinus)*	6a; United Kingdom and international waters of 5b (HAD/5BC6A.)	25 tonnes
HADDOCK *(Melanogrammus Aeglefinus)*	United Kingdom, Union and international waters of 6b; international waters 12 and 14 (HAD/6B1214)	25 tonnes
HAKE *(Merluccius Merluccius)*	6 and 7; United Kingdom and international waters of 5b; international waters of 12 and 14 (HKE/571214)	2.5 tonnes
POLLACK *(Pollachius Pollachius)*	7 (POL/07.)	0.20 tonnes
MEGRIMS *(Lepidorhombus spp.)*	7 (LEZ/07.)	25 tonnes

MEGRIMS *(Lepidorhombus spp.)*	Union and international waters of 5b; 6; international waters of 12 and 14 (LEZ/56-14)	25 tonnes
WHITING† *(Merlangius Merlangus)*	United Kingdom, Union and international waters of 7b, 7c, 7e, 7f, 7g, 7h, 7j and 7k (WHG/*7XAD) ***sub-area of WHG/7X7A-C***	*By-catch only* 25 tonnes

SCHEDULE 3

(Catch, retention and landing restrictions in respect of an Irish sea-fishing boat less than 55 feet in length)

CATCH LIMITS SPECIFIED ARE EXCLUSIVELY FOR BY-CATCHES

NO DIRECTED FISHERIES ARE PERMITTED UNDER THESE CATCH LIMITS

† Catch limits specified for WHG/*7XAD (exclusively for by-catches) are set out in Schedule 2

Species of fish **(1)**	**Fishing area** **(2)**	**By-Catch Limit** **(3)**
COD *(Gadus morhua)*	7a (COD/07A.)	2 tonnes
COD (*Gadus morhua*)	6b; United Kingdom and international waters of 5b west of 12˚00'W and of 12 and 14 (COD/5W6-14)	0.10 tonnes
COD *(Gadus Morhua)*	7b, 7c, 7e-k, 8, 9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (COD/7XAD34)	0 tonnes
HADDOCK *(Melanogrammus Aeglefinus)*	7b-k, 8, 9 and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (HAD/7X7A34)	0.5 tonnes
PLAICE *(Pleuronectes Platessa)*	7h, 7j and 7k (PLE/7HJK.)	0.50 tonnes

WHITING *(Merlangius Merlangus)*	7a (WHG/07A.)	10 tonnes

SCHEDULE 4 **(Catch, retention and landing restrictions in respect of an Irish sea-fishing boat less than 55 feet in length,** **fishing exclusively by Danish/Scottish Fly Seines in** **ICES Area 7a and ICES Area 7b-k, 8, 9, and 10; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1)** **† Catch limits specified for (HAD/7X7A34) are exclusively for by-catches** **No directed fisheries are permitted under this catch limit**		
Species of fish **(1)**	**Fishing area** **(2)**	**Catch Limit** **(3)**
HADDOCK *(Melanogrammus Aeglefinus)*	7a (HAD/07A.)	18 tonnes
HADDOCK† *(Melanogrammus Aeglefinus)*	7b-k, 8, 9 and 10,; Union waters of CECAF 34.1.1 (HAD/7X7A34)	*By-catch only* 1.5 tonnes

SCHEDULE 5 (Catch, retention and landing restrictions in respect of an Irish sea-fishing boat, less than 55 feet in length, for Nephrops in ICES Area 6 and 7 and Functional Unit 16 of ICES Subarea 7)		
Species of fish **(1)**	**Fishing area** **(2)**	**Catch Limit** **(3)**
NORWAY LOBSTER[1] (*Nephrops norvegicus*)	6; United Kingdom and international waters of 5b (NEP/5BC6.)	3 tonnes
NORWAY LOBSTER[2] (*Nephrops norvegicus*)	7 (NEP/07.) ***inclusive of catch limit in Functional Unit 16 of subarea 7***	7 tonnes
	"of which"	
NORWAY LOBSTER[3] (*Nephrops norvegicus*)	Functional Unit 16 of subarea 7 (NEP/*07U16) ***within the catch limit for Norway Lobster in area 7***	6 tonnes

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)

[1] In cases where the presentation of norway lobster is not whole, a multiplier of 3 will be applied to any quantities in order to determine the quantities of norway lobster retained on board or landed for the purposes of this Notice.

[2] In cases where the presentation of norway lobster is not whole, a multiplier of 3 will be applied to any quantities in order to determine the quantities of norway lobster retained on board or landed for the purposes of this Notice.

[3] In cases where the presentation of norway lobster is not whole, a multiplier of 3 will be applied to any quantities in order to determine the quantities of norway lobster retained on board or landed for the purposes of this Notice.

This Notice sets restrictions on the catching, retaining on board or landing of various species of demersal fish during November 2026, in respect to boats less than 55ft in length. The catch limit/by-catch limit set out for any of the stocks set out in Schedule 2, which are the demersal stocks relevant for quota balancing, will only apply if a demersal authorisation has not been issued in respect of that stock for November 2026.

(FMN 2026/66)