



Killybegs Fishermen's  
ORGANISATION LTD.

## **KFO Opening Statement to Joint Committee on Agriculture and the Marine on the impact of Brexit on the fisheries industry**

The Brexit Trade Agreement reached on Christmas Eve has failed Irish fishermen and is a bad fisheries deal. To put simply Ireland has taken a disproportionate hit compared to the other eight Member States that fish in UK waters with €42million of the total €182 million transferred to the UK coming from Ireland. (see Annex 2) I will deal with this in some detail later in the document. Having borne the brunt of a Brexit deal for Irish fisheries, our sector is now determined on winning back quota from other EU Member States which took much less of the heat from the deal hammered out on Christmas Eve.

We were dismayed at the duplicitous nature of the protracted Brexit negotiations and how repeated guarantees given to Irish fishermen and very clearly set out in a formal EU mandate which was not changed were, effectively shredded. Four and a half years of 'cast-iron' agreements were for all intents and purposes, completely ignored in the end by the negotiators. We duly found ourselves within just days of the transition period drawing to a close being the last facet of a highly-complex deal to be ironed out even though we were assured otherwise on several occasions in the lead up to the deal that this would not happen.

While many businesses were hugely relieved to see a trade deal struck and we completely understand and appreciate their position, we in fisheries, were the sacrificial lamb of Brexit. A total of €182million of EU fish (see Annex 2) has been handed over to Britain while they have also been allowed retain another €80million, which was originally intended as compensation for potential losses of fishing opportunities in third countries waters when the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) were extended to 200 miles in 1976.

This is rendered much more unpalatable by the fact that Ireland is absorbing the brunt of the losses. This British windfall essentially consists of a staggering €42million of Irish fish. The details of this for all the Irish quota species are shown in Annex 1. This is a completely disproportionate hit when compared to the eight other EU coastal states. €26million of this relates to our vital, highly-valued mackerel catch while Dublin Bay prawns - our second most valuable fishery - is set to haemorrhage €7million.

Alas, the injustice doesn't stop there. We have taken a very heavy loss in our whitefish stocks (cod, haddock, whiting monkish and megrim), particularly in the waters off Donegal and in the Irish Sea as well as a massive cut of 96% of Irish Sea herring. (See Annex 1.) Neither have our non-quota species such as crab, scallop, and squid avoided a hit in terms of access to UK waters with our catches now constrained to average catches in the period 2012 to 2016. Furthermore, the review that will take place after five and half years and ten years has a very weak linkage to wider trade and economic areas which was a fundamental element of the EU mandate.

I should emphasise that in redressing these huge cuts, we are not looking for financial compensation but an equitable burden sharing by the other Member States of our quota losses. We merely need fish (quota) returned in order for our industry to remain viable. We have requested and expect that

our Government will immediately work with us to resolve this very inequitable and unjust burden put on Ireland's fisheries sector. Based on a simple burden sharing equation with the nine Member States involved, Ireland should be incurring a loss of €21million - not €42million.

What's perhaps most galling about the loss of 26% of our mackerel quota is that the fish are spawned in Irish waters. While we cannot nor do not claim ownership of them, we're now being discriminated against catching the fish off the coast of Scotland when they are in their prime and at their most valuable as a result of the 26% reduction in our quota. In essence, we're providing the fish for Britain to net, we're a "mackerel maternity ward" for others to profit from. We now have a miserly share of 16% whereas the UK - mainly Scotland - has 70%.

Now that the Trade Deal is done and will not be reversed our absolute priority is to fight for those families who are part of the 16,100 plus workforce at the heart of the Irish fishing industry along our coastline. Many have risked life and limb to develop viable businesses over generations and we don't intend to stand idly by and allow the rug be pulled from under them. In the waters off Donegal alone for instance, an eye-watering 82% of stocks in tonnage and 70% in value (€) terms (see Annex 1) of both pelagic and demersal species have been forfeited to Britain. The fishermen in the North West cannot remain economically viable with such a huge hit.

We have formally requested our Government to go back to Brussels and demand that the eight other EU coastal countries step up to the plate and take a proportionate hit on the Brexit deal. We believe that the pain must be shared pro rata, as was set out by the European Fisheries Alliance (EUFA) when it set out in its mission statement that no single sector should bear a disproportionate burden once Brexit was done.

There is a precedent for burden sharing going back to the mid-seventies and incorporated in the agreed percentage quota shares set in 1983 which is commonly referenced as relative stability. The UK was compensated by the EU to the tune of 26% (almost 90,000 tonnes of fish) for Jurisdictional and Third Country Losses experienced by the UK in the 1970s valued at €80 million. The UK as mentioned above managed to retain this as part of the deal. This compensation was provided by reducing the percentage quota shares of other member states. This process was known as equalisation at the time.

A problem that arose entirely as a result of the redrawing of international boundaries at sea in 1976 with a consequent loss/gain of fishing opportunity, traditionally referred to as Jurisdictional and Third Country Losses/gains. At that time the European Commission introduced the concept of Jurisdictional and Third Country Losses/gains equalization, that is the redistribution of such losses/gains in an equitable manner across Member States.

In addition to this equalisation process, there are a number of other key areas that could be used in the burden sharing process such as Hague Preferences (additional quantities of fish that both UK and Ireland got under the Hague Agreement in 1976) and increases in the EU percentage share in the Coastal States negotiations that must also be actively pursued. That's what must happen next, no more nor no less. It's now time to fix Brexit for our fishermen and get back our fish.

ENDS

## ANNEX 1

### KFO ANALYSES IRISH FISH QUOTAS BEFORE AND AFTER BREXIT COMPARED to 2020 QUOTAS INCLUDING HAGUES

#### PELAGIC QUOTAS

SPECIES	ICES AREA	QUOTA 2020	QUOTA Post BREXIT	Difference	Overall % Change	Price per tonne	Cost of Brexit	% of the total value of Brexit transfer
Mackerel	6, 7, 8 5b 2a 12 14	78,052	57,682	-20,370	-26%	€1,300	-€26,481,210	63.7%
Horse mackerel	2-4-6-7-8-5b 12 14	17,726	17,726	0	0%	€850	€0	0.0%
Horse mackerel	4b, 4c 7d	334	226	-108	-32%	€850	-€91,919	0.2%
Blue whiting	1-8, 12 14	38,599	38,026	-573	-1%	€170	-€97,338	0.2%
Herring	1 2	3,035	2,720	-315	-10%	€425	-€133,704	0.3%
Herring	5b, 6b 6aN	526	446	-80	-15%	€425	-€34,185	0.1%
Herring	6aS, 7b, 7c	1,236	1,236	0	0%	€425	€44	0.0%
Herring	7a	2,099	80	-2,019	-96%	€425	-€858,146	2.1%
Herring	7g, 7h, 7j 7k	750	750	0	0%	€425	€0	0.0%
Northern albacore	Atlantic Ocean	2,891	2,891	0	0%	€3,060	€0	0.0%
Greater silver smelt	3a 4	8	8	0	0%	€665	€0	0.0%
Greater silver smelt	5, 6 7	263	263	0	0%	€665	€0	0.0%
Boarfish	6, 7 8	13,235	13,235	0	0	€200	€0	0.0%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>158,754</b>	<b>135,265</b>	<b>-23,489</b>	<b>-15%</b>	<b>Average €760</b>	<b>-€27,696,457</b>	<b>67%</b>

#### DEMERSAL QUOTAS

##### AREA VI WHITEFISH STOCKS

SPECIES	ICES AREA	QUOTA 2020	QUOTA Post BREXIT	Difference	Overall % Change	Price per tonne	Cost of Brexit	% of the total value of Brexit transfer
Cod	6a; 5b	284	152	-132	-47%	€3,297	-€436,583	1.0%
Cod	6b; 5b	16	12	-4	-27%	€3,297	-€14,296	0.0%
Megrim	5b; 6; 12 14	764	619	-145	-19%	€3,192	-€461,321	1.1%
Anglerfish	6; 5b; 12 14	797	639	-158	-20%	€4,852	-€766,748	1.8%
Haddock	5b 6a	651	540	-111	-17%	€2,047	-€226,546	0.5%
Haddock	6b	824	636	-188	-23%	€2,047	-€384,613	0.9%
Whiting	6; 5b; 12 14	273	272	-1	-1%	€1,453	-€1,133	0.0%
Plaice	6; 5b; 12 14	261	248	-13	-5%	€1,965	-€25,286	0.1%
Pollack	6; 5b; 12 14	34	34	0	0%	€2,523	€0	0.0%
Saithe	6; 5b; 12 14	401	365	-36	-9%	€1,569	-€55,979	0.1%
Common sole	6; 5b; 12 14	46	46	0	0%	€9,190	-€271	0.0%
Norway lobster	6; 5b	215	215	0	0%	€8,500	-€3,809	0.0%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>4,566</b>	<b>3,771</b>	<b>-795</b>	<b>-17%</b>	<b>Average €3661</b>	<b>-€2,377,583</b>	<b>6%</b>

##### AREA VII WHITEFISH STOCKS

SPECIES	ICES AREA	QUOTA 2020	QUOTA Post BREXIT	Difference	Overall % Change	Price per tonne	Cost of Brexit	% of the total value of Brexit transfer
Cod	7a	170	129	-41	-24%	€3,297	-€135,782	0.3%
Cod	7b, 7c, 7e-k, 8, 9 10	461	418	-43	-9%	€3,297	-€141,510	0.3%
Megrim	7	3,101	2,842	-259	-8%	€3,192	-€828,068	2.0%
Anglerfish	7	2,675	2,499	-176	-7%	€4,852	-€853,994	2.1%
Haddock	7b-k, 8, 9 10	2,413	2,140	-273	-11%	€2,047	-€558,940	1.3%
Haddock	7a	1,366	1,153	-213	-16%	€2,047	-€435,403	1.0%
Whiting	7a	415	259	-156	-38%	€1,453	-€226,592	0.5%
Whiting	7b-k	4,072	4,214	142	3%	€1,453	€206,911	-0.5%
Plaice	7a	1,442	1,242	-200	-14%	€1,965	-€393,062	0.9%
Plaice	7b 7c	63	67	4	6%	€1,965	€7,074	0.0%
Plaice	7f 7g	255	250	-5	-2%	€1,965	-€9,353	0.0%
Plaice	7h, 7j 7k	30	28	-2	-7%	€1,965	-€3,996	0.0%
Pollack	7	929	844	-85	-9%	€2,523	-€214,676	0.5%
Saithe	7, 8, 9 10Nor S 62° N	1,491	1,492	1	0%	€1,569	€1,354	0.0%
Common sole	7a	77	77	0	0%	€9,190	-€2,716	0.0%
Common sole	7b 7c	36	36	0	-1%	€9,190	-€1,838	0.0%
Common sole	7f 7g	52	47	-5	-10%	€9,190	-€49,814	0.1%
Common sole	7h, 7j 7k	148	148	0	0%	€9,190	€0	0.0%
Norway lobster	7	6,201	5,352	-849	-14%	€8,500	-€7,213,307	17.4%
Norway Lobster	Functional Unit 16	957	957	0	0%	€8,500	€0	0.0%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>25,397</b>	<b>23,236</b>	<b>-2,161</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>Average €4368</b>	<b>-€10,853,711</b>	<b>26%</b>

## ANNEX 1 (contd)

### KFO ANALYSES IRISH FISH QUOTAS BEFORE AND AFTER BREXIT COMPARED to 2020 QUOTAS INCLUDING HAGUES

#### AREA VI, VII AND OTHER WHITEFISH STOCKS

SPECIES	ICES AREA	QUOTA 2020	QUOTA Post BREXIT	Difference	Overall % Change	Price per tonne	Cost of Brexit	% of the total value of Brexit transfer
Cod	Nor 1 2	322	322	0	0%	€3,297	€0	0.0%
Hake	6 7; 5b; 12 14	3,493	3,387	-106	-3%	€3,070	-€326,155	0.8%
Redfish	5; 12 14 (shallow)	0	0	0	0%	€1,272	€0	0.0%
Redfish	5; 12 14 (deep)	0	0	0	0%	€1,272	€0	0.0%
Ling	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 14	898	841	-57	-6%	€1,414	-€79,989	0.2%
Blue Ling	2 4	2	2	0	0%	€1,182	€0	0.0%
Blue Ling	5b, 6 7	31	29	-2	-7%	€1,182	-€2,623	0.0%
Tusk	5, 6 7	68	66	-2	-3%	€986	-€1,709	0.0%
Greenland halibut	2a 4; 5b 6	14	14	0	0%	€11,311	€0	0.0%
Skates and rays	6a, 6b, 7a-c 7e-k	1,329	1,236	-93	-7%	€1,186	-€109,774	0.3%
Undulate Ray	7de	27	35	8	30%	€13,874	€113,235	-0.3%
Picked dogfish	1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12 14	53	45	-8	-14%	€1,634	-€12,548	0.0%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>6,210</b>	<b>5,943</b>	<b>-267</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>Average €3473</b>	<b>-€419,564</b>	<b>1%</b>

#### DEEPWATER STOCKS

SPECIES	ICES AREA	QUOTA 2020	QUOTA Post BREXIT	Difference	Overall % Change	Price per tonne	Cost of Brexit	% of the total value of Brexit transfer
Black scabbardfish	5, 6, 7 12	71	71	0	0%	€3,704	€0	0.0%
Roundnose grenadier	5b, 6 7	166	166	0	0%	€1,266	€0	0.0%
Roundnose grenadier	8, 9, 10, 12 14	3	3	0	0%	€1,266	€0	0.0%
Orange roughy	6							0.0%
Orange roughy	7							0.0%
Orange roughy	1,2,3,4,5,8,9,10,11,12,14							0.0%
Red seabream	6, 7 8	3	3	0	0%	€1,313	€0	0.0%
Alfonsinos	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 14	8	8	0	0%	€1,669	€0	0.0%
Forkbeards								0.0%
Deep-sea sharks	5, 6, 7, 8 9	0	0	0	0%	€597	€0	0.0%
Deep-sea sharks	10	0	0	0	0%	€597	€0	0.0%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>251</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>Average €1488</b>	<b>€0</b>	<b>0%</b>

#### COMBINED AREA VI QUOTAS

SPECIES	ICES AREA	QUOTA 2020	QUOTA Post BREXIT	Difference	Overall % Change	Price per tonne	Cost of Brexit	% of the total value of Brexit transfer
Mackerel	6, 7, 8 5b 2a 12 14	78,052	57,682	-20,370	-26%	€1,300	-€26,481,210	63.7%
Horse mackerel	2-4-6-7-8-5b 12 14	17,726	17,726	0	0%	€850	€0	0.0%
Blue whiting	1-8, 12 14	38,599	38,026	-573	-1%	€170	-€97,338	0.2%
Herring	5b, 6b 6aN	526	446	-80	-15%	€425	-€34,185	0.1%
Herring	6aS, 7b, 7c	1,236	1,236	0	0%	€425	€44	0.0%
Cod	6a; 5b	284	152	-132	-47%	€3,297	-€436,583	1.0%
Cod	6b; 5b	16	12	-4	-27%	€3,297	-€14,296	0.0%
Megrim	5b; 6; 12 14	764	619	-145	-19%	€3,192	-€461,321	1.1%
Anglerfish	6; 5b; 12 14	797	639	-158	-20%	€4,852	-€766,748	1.8%
Haddock	5b 6a	651	540	-111	-17%	€2,047	-€226,546	0.5%
Haddock	6b	824	636	-188	-23%	€2,047	-€384,613	0.9%
Whiting	6; 5b; 12 14	273	272	-1	-1%	€1,453	-€2,133	0.0%
Plaice	6; 5b; 12 14	261	248	-13	-5%	€1,965	-€25,286	0.1%
Pollack	6; 5b; 12 14	34	34	0	0%	€2,523	€0	0.0%
Saithe	6; 5b; 12 14	401	365	-36	-9%	€1,569	-€55,979	0.1%
Common sole	6; 5b; 12 14	46	46	0	0%	€9,190	-€271	0.0%
Norway lobster	6; 5b	215	215	0	0%	€8,500	-€3,809	0.0%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>140,705</b>	<b>118,887</b>	<b>-21,818</b>	<b>-16%</b>	<b>Average €2771</b>	<b>-€28,990,272</b>	<b>70%</b>

	82%	70%
Total Irish tonnage transferred to UK (Brexit)	-26,712	-€41,555,998

## Annex 2 Member States Brexit Impact Tonnes

	Belgium	Denmark	Germany	Spain	France	Netherlands	Sweden	Ireland	UK
<b>BREXIT transfers by MS and species type</b>									
Pelagic	-309	-10,743	-11,128	-850	-7,545	-17,651	-1,155	-23,496	73,603
Demersal	-1,327	-19,150	-2,797	-3,441	-11,889	-2,869	-107	-2,366	44,692
Shellfish			0	-138	-560		0	-849	1,547
	-1,636	-29,893	-13,925	-4,429	-19,994	-20,521	-1,263	-26,712	119,842

	<b>Proportion of the total transfers by MS and species group</b>								
Pelagic	0%	-15%	-15%	-1%	-10%	-24%	-2%	-32%	100%
Demersal	-3%	-43%	-6%	-8%	-27%	-6%	0%	-5%	100%
Shellfish			0%	-9%	-36%		0%	-55%	100%
	-1%	-25%	-12%	-4%	-17%	-17%	-1%	-22%	100%

	<b>QUOTAS 2020</b>								
Pelagic	9,309	208,196	92,189	306,198	137,316	199,150	42,903	158,808	367,019
Demersal	20,725	128,997	46,373	87,947	200,038	60,204	4,672	29,704	183,460
Shellfish	1,203	16,893	47	1,374	10,306	627	4,598	6,416	41,259
	31,237	354,086	138,609	395,518	347,660	259,981	52,173	194,928	591,738

	<b>% of 2020 quotas lost in BREXIT</b>								
Pelagic	-3%	-5%	-12%	0%	-5%	-9%	-3%	-15%	20%
Demersal	-6%	-15%	-6%	-4%	-6%	-5%	-2%	-8%	24%
Shellfish			0%	-10%	-5%		0%	-13%	4%
	-5%	-8%	-10%	-1%	-6%	-8%	-2%	-14%	20%

## Annex 2 (contd.) Member States Brexit Impact €

	Belgium	Denmark	Germany	Spain	France	Netherlands	Sweden	Ireland	UK
Pelagic	-€142,434	-€5,290,976	-€10,074,684	-€709,310	-€6,937,165	-€15,520,004	-€518,836	-€27,781,939	€67,919,815
Demersal	-€6,279,949	-€13,393,780	-€8,703,390	-€10,739,256	-€31,868,393	-€20,540,130	-€216,474	-€6,556,943	€100,747,322
Shellfish			€0	-€1,174,285	-€4,758,810		€0	-€7,217,115	€13,150,211
	-€6,422,383	-€18,684,756	-€18,778,075	-€12,622,851	-€43,564,368	-€36,060,134	-€735,310	-€41,555,998	€181,817,348

### Proportion of the total transfers by MS and species group

Pelagic	0%	-8%	-15%	-1%	-10%	-23%	-1%	-41%	100%
Demersal	-6%	-13%	-9%	-11%	-32%	-20%	0%	-7%	100%
Shellfish			0%	-9%	-36%		0%	-55%	100%
	-4%	-10%	-10%	-7%	-24%	-20%	0%	-23%	-98%

### VALUES (€) QUOTAS 2020

Pelagic	€4,492,691	€108,761,746	€57,795,894	€436,072,911	€196,771,815	€111,777,445	€19,651,308	€138,391,547	€332,344,747
Demersal	€82,379,687	€174,446,207	€174,243,802	€304,029,357	€595,041,162	€243,695,815	€9,997,813	€77,547,084	€496,557,588
Shellfish	€10,225,500	€124,928,830	€399,500	€11,676,450	€78,695,053	€5,299,814	€35,420,429	€54,536,000	€349,721,846
Industrial		€187,000	€12,750		€20,400	€17,850	€157,499		€187,000
	€97,097,878	€408,323,783	€232,451,945	€751,778,718	€870,528,430	€360,790,924	€65,227,050	€270,474,631	€1,178,811,181

### Proportion of the total transfers by MS and species group

Pelagic	-3%	-5%	-17%	0%	-4%	-14%	-3%	-20%	20%
Demersal	-8%	-8%	-5%	-4%	-5%	-8%	-2%	-8%	20%
Shellfish			0%	-10%	-6%		0%	-13%	4%